

5 pieces worth reading

December 22, 2022

By: Billy Parvatam

Virginia Tech Institute for Policy and Governance

<https://ipg.vt.edu/>

How democracy fared around the world in 2022

Yasmeen Serhan discusses the status of democratic nations globally, the challenges they will continue to face in 2023, and what if anything, can be done to combat those obstacles. Serran reports in *Time* magazine that the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance argued in its most recent review that 52 of the world's 104 democracies, or one half of those investigated, had manifest threats of various sorts including, attempted coups, contested elections and violent repression of their populations.

Serhan, Y. (2022, December 21). "How democracy fared around the world in 2022." *Time*. Retrieved from <https://time.com/6242188/global-democracy-report-2022/>

The Jan. 6 committee just made history. Here's what that means for prosecutors

This *New York Times* story discusses the United States House Select Committee on the January 6 attack's unanimous decision to refer former President Donald Trump and his lawyer John Eastman to the U.S. Department of Justice for prosecution, and its ramifications for that agency's prosecutors as they consider their next steps.

Eisen, N., Perry, E. D., & Wertheimer, F. (2022, December 19). "The Jan. 6 committee just made history. Here's what that means for prosecutors." *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/12/19/opinion/january-6-trump-criminal-referrals.html>

In India, the case of a missing American Ambassador

This opinion piece in *The New York Times* article by Meenakshi Ahmed discusses the implications of the continued vacancy of the United States Ambassadorship to India for critical issues, such as U.S.- Indian trade, India-China relations, implementation of international climate accords and other major policy concerns. The American ambassador historically has also been able to provide the State Department assessments of that nation's political landscape. Ahmed contends that the Biden administration must soon nominate an individual for this role or risk bearing even higher costs.

Ut Prosim (That I may Serve)

Ahamed, M. (2022, December 20). "In India, the case of a missing American ambassador." *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/12/20/opinion/india-us-biden-modi.html>

Opinion: John Boehner's tears don't make up for this

CNN political analyst Julian Zelizer discusses the fact that former House Speaker John Boehner wept during his recent tribute to outgoing Speaker Nancy Pelosi during the unveiling of her official portrait, but also contends that his apparent sadness should not allow him to avoid taking responsibility for his role in the radicalization of the Republican Party. Boehner, and others during his tenure as Speaker, too often supported the most extreme elements of the GOP, which eventually resulted in Trump's rise and the development of the MAGA wing of the party.

Zelizer, J. (2022, December 16). "Opinion: John Boehner's tears don't make up for this." *CNN*. Retrieved from <https://www.cnn.com/2022/12/15/opinions/john-boehner-gop-radicalization-zelizer>

The US government's TikTok ban is more complicated than it sounds

Vox reporter Sara Morrison analyzes the U.S. government's decision to ban TikTok on government devices due to the social media's ties to the Chinese government and contends that the prohibition is largely symbolic.

Morrison, S. (2022, December 20). "The US Government's TikTok ban is more complicated than it sounds." *Vox*. Retrieved from <https://www.vox.com/recode/2022/12/20/23518973/tiktok-for-you-algorithm-omnibus-bill-ban>