

5 pieces worth reading

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Republicans are officially the ‘stop the steal’ party now

Republican primaries this past week in North Carolina and Pennsylvania have tied the party’s identity to Donald Trump’s claim, without evidence and against mountains of verified information to the contrary, that the 2020 presidential election was “stolen” from him. Frank Bruni argues that the GOP has now adopted this lie as mantra and is predicating its campaigns on the resentment, recrimination, and rage it falsely engenders among the party’s supporters.

Bruni, F. (2022, May 19). “Republicans are Officially the 'Stop the Steal' Party Now.” *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/19/opinion/republican-primaries-trump.html>

The end of inevitable American progress

Jay Caspian Kang argues that the election of the race-baiting Donald Trump on the heels of the Barack Obama presidency, the recent tragic racism-inspired shooting in Buffalo fed by its perpetrator’s engagement with white nationalist extremist rhetoric and groups and relentless focus by a share of the media on a supposed culture war in which many whites claim to be besieged, has shattered any hope, common when Obama was first elected the nation’s first Black chief executive, that America might now enter a post-racial utopia. More broadly, Kang contends, this turn suggests that a broad swathe of the U.S. population has lost its faith in the ability of our American political institutions to spur inevitable social progress.

Kang, J. (2022, May 19). “The End of Inevitable American Progress.” *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/19/opinion/history-american-progress.html>

Biden pledged to combat domestic terror. Buffalo shows the government is falling short

U.S. governments, from the FBI down to local law enforcement officials, continue to be ill-prepared to fight homegrown extremism, with frequent deadly results, such as the recent tragic mass shooting in Buffalo. W.J. Hennigan and Vera Bergengruen highlight congressional inability to pass a domestic terrorism law, underfunded Department of Homeland Security programs aimed at helping law enforcement officials detect the signs of terrorism before they result in

bloodshed, and frequent public framing of the matter as a mental health issue as reasons for a lack of progress on this front.

Hennigan, W. J., & Bergengruen, V. (2022, May 20). "Buffalo Exposes The Limits Of Biden's Domestic Terror Strategy." *Time*. Retrieved from https://time.com/6177847/biden-pledged-to-defeat-domestic-terror-buffalo-why-thats-not-enough/?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=editorial&utm_term=politics_terrorism&linkId=165935593

Doug Mastriano's GOP primary victory puts democracy on the ballot in Pennsylvania

Doug Mastriano's election to be the Republican Party nominee in the 2022 Pennsylvania gubernatorial election poses an extraordinary danger to the sanctity of free and fair elections in that state and, indeed, in the country, according to a recent essay in *Vanity Fair*. This is so because the new GOP standard-bearer has indicated that he would select a secretary of state who would disregard the outcome of the 2024 national election and appoint partisan electors if he, the would-be Governor, a proud believer in both the January 2021 attempted coup and in Trump's "Stop the Steal" lie, alone determined the results were not fair. Such an arrogation of authority would create a constitutional crisis for both that state and the nation.

Lutz, E. (2022, May 18). "Doug Mastriano's GOP Primary Victory Puts Democracy on the Ballot in Pennsylvania." *Vanity Fair*. Retrieved from <https://www.vanityfair.com/news/2022/05/doug-mastriano-pennsylvania-republican-primary-democracy>

Opinion: In the world's largest democracy, 'looking Muslim' could cost your life

A gifted documentary photographer offers a glimpse in this piece into the oppression he faces daily in India as a result of being Muslim, due to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's extremist religious/nationalist rhetoric and governmentally sanctioned oppression. The ongoing persecution of minorities, especially of Muslims, by the majority Hindi population, constitutes a deepening democratic and humanitarian crisis to which the world should be paying much more attention.

Singh, A., & Abbas, R. (2022, May 19). *Opinion: In the world's largest democracy, 'looking Muslim' could cost your life*. CNN. Retrieved from <https://www.cnn.com/2022/05/19/opinions/indian-muslims-violence-hindu-nationalism-singh-abbas>