



College of Liberal Arts and
Human Sciences

School of Public and
International Affairs

Institute for Policy & Governance
201 West Roanoke Street (0489)
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061
P: (540) 231-6775 F: (540) 231-6722
E: ipg@vt.edu
www.ipg.vt.edu

5 pieces worth reading

May 4, 2023

By: Billy Parvatam

Virginia Tech Institute for Policy and Governance

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

Why Joe Biden won't negotiate on the debt ceiling

This *Vox* article by Dylan Matthews explains why President Joe Biden has refused to negotiate on the debt ceiling, although he is willing to discuss government taxes and spending. Matthews suggests Biden's stance stems from his view that the Fourteenth amendment requires the nation to honor its expenditure commitments and that not doing so would be both foolhardy and potentially catastrophic. Matthews also contends that the President's perspective stems from his service as Vice President, when he promised President Obama he would never again negotiate with Republicans on the debt ceiling, as both men believed that party had acted bad faith when they did so at the time.

Matthews, D. (2023, May 2). "Why Joe Biden won't negotiate on the debt ceiling." *Vox*.

<https://www.vox.com/politics/2023/5/2/23706831/joe-biden-debt-ceiling-kevin-mccarthy>

It makes no sense for the Fed to raise interest rates this week

Mark Zandi argues in this *CNN* piece that the Federal Reserve should pause interest rates instead of imposing another rate hike this week. Zandi cites declining inflation, rent prices, and weakening labor demand as reasons for such a course. Zandi contends that the risk of pushing the nation into recession is not worth the possible benefits of another increase.

Zandi, M. (2023, May 3). "It makes no sense for the Fed to raise interest rates this week." *CNN*.

<https://www.cnn.com/2023/05/03/opinions/fed-interest-rates-banking-crisis-zandi/index.html>

Why Trump won't let go of his dream of domination

New York Times columnist Thomas Edsall argues in this essay that former President Donald Trump's desire for domination stems from his narcissistic personality. Edsall's essay explores this question in this analysis and concludes that part of Trump's success has arisen from his ability to tap into a primal psychology of dominance vis-à-vis his most devoted followers.

Ut Prosim (That I may Serve)

Edsall, T. (2023, May 3). "Why Trump won't let go of his dream of domination." *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/05/03/opinion/trump-evolutionary-psychology.html>

The curious conservative case against defending Ukraine

New York Times columnist Bret Stephens contends that the antiwar right has taken over the Republican Party, as many of its most prominent officials are now decrying U.S. aid to Ukraine. He argues that modern conservatism has now devolved to opposition to any idea the Democratic Party supports. Stephens quotes George Orwell to suggest that those opposing this fight to defend democracy are pro-Putin.

Stephens, B. (2023, May 2). "The curious conservative case against defending Ukraine." *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/05/02/opinion/republican-ukraine-russia.html>

The coronation of King Charles III, explained

Constance Grady describes the pageantry of the May 6, 2023 coronation of King Charles III in this story, including the symbolic meanings associated with the ceremony and procession, and why this event matters more broadly. Unlike his mother when she acceded to the throne, King Charles is a known quantity, with his personal life and devotion to environmental activism already well known to the public.

Grady, C. (2023, May 3). "The coronation of King Charles III, explained." *Vox*. Retrieved from <https://www.vox.com/culture/23697521/coronation-king-charles-how-to-watch-camilla-prince-harry-meghan-explained>