

5 pieces worth reading

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By: Billy Parvatam

Virginia Tech Institute for Policy and Governance

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

The biggest policy changes in the debt ceiling deal, explained

This *Vox* story highlights the key provisions of the debt ceiling agreement between President Joe Biden and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy. Central elements of that pact include new work requirements for food programs, the end of a pause on student loan payments effective August 29, approval of the Mountain Valley Pipeline in West Virginia, and reductions in the recently increased budget of the Internal Revenue Service.

Prokop, A., Scott, D., Matthews, D., Leber, R., Paz, C., & Zhou, L. (2023, May 30). “The biggest policy changes in the debt ceiling deal, explained.” *Vox*.

<https://www.vox.com/policy/23742237/debt-ceiling-deal-explained-student-loans-snap-irs>

We may be about to find out how out how this Republican Party really works

New York Times columnist Ezra Klein argues in this essay that today’s Republican Party is offering no policies of its own to address the country’s needs. As evidence, Klein points to the fact that House Speaker McCarthy did not seek changes in the Inflation Reduction Act or in the Biden administration’s student loan forgiveness plan because his party has no alternatives. Klein also contends that Democrats should eliminate the debt ceiling legislatively the next time they control Congress and thereby eliminate the periodic contrived crises that require that they negotiate concerning otherwise unpopular Republican policy demands.

Klein, E. (2023, May 31). “We may be about to find out how this Republican Party really works.” *The New York Times*. <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/05/31/opinion/biden-mccarthy-debt-ceiling-deal.html>

In debt ceiling deal, Joe Biden proved his critics wrong—again

Michael A. Cohen argues in this *MSNBC* commentary, published in the wake of the deal reached with House Republicans to raise the debt limit for two years, that President Joe Biden continues to win one bipartisan legislative victory after another. This agreement follows other policy achievements including the CHIPS Act, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and the Respect for Marriage Act. Cohen argues that these accomplishments provide evidence that Biden

Ut Prosim (That I may Serve)

is the proverbial adult in the room and that they portray him as normal and engaged in governing, especially when compared to the extreme rhetoric and posturing of his potential 2024 Republican opponents.

Cohen, M. (2023, May 31). “In debt ceiling deal, Joe Biden proved his critics wrong—again.” *MSNBC*. <https://www.msnbc.com/opinion/msnbc-opinion/debt-ceiling-deal-joe-biden-rcna86940>

What Erdogan’s win means for the west—and the world

This article, by Jen Kirby, sketches the potential implications of Turkish President Erdogan’s reelection given his emphasis on nationalism in his campaign. Kirby argues that Erdoğan’s fresh mandate may not augur well for the West, as he may use Turkey’s NATO membership as a bargaining chip to pursue unwelcome foreign policy initiatives, including objecting to Sweden joining the Atlantic alliance and pressing to purchase F-16 fighter jets.

Kirby, J. (2023, May 28). “What Erdogan’s win means for the west—and the world.” *Vox*. <https://www.vox.com/world-politics/2023/5/28/23735070/turkey-elections-erdogan-akp-nato-united-states>

The Supreme Court is crippling environmental protections

In this *New York Times* story Jim Murphy discusses the Supreme Court’s recent ruling to limit the capacity of the Environmental Protection Agency to protect the nation’s wetlands from pollution. Murphy calls on Congress to enact new legislation to protect the Clean Water Act, contending that the Court’s decision will not only prove harmful to the environment, but also will prove a threat to agriculture and other business interests.

Murphy, J. (2023, May 29). “The Supreme Court is crippling environmental protections. where is Congress?” *The New York Times*. <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/05/29/opinion/supreme-court-congress-environment.html>