

## *5 pieces worth reading*

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### **When it comes to eating away at democracy, Trump is a winner**

*New York Times* columnist Thomas Edsall argues that former President Trump's drive to undermine democracy has already been partly successful, citing studies suggesting declining citizen belief in the efficacy of democracy and widespread acceptance among Republican voters of Trump's false claims that the 2020 election was stolen. Given the now very clear anti-democratic posture of the GOP, Edsall contends that the Democratic Party must lead ongoing efforts not only to win key swing voters to maintain its standing in Congress, but also to restore democratic norms.

Edsall, T. (2022, August 24). "When it comes to eating away at democracy, Trump is a winner." *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/24/opinion/us-democracy-trump.html>

### **At the Jan. 6 hearings, race isn't discussed much. Still, it's a central issue**

Sandya Dirks discusses the connection of "The Lost Cause" (the lie that the American Civil War was fought not over slavery, but to assert or maintain "states' rights") is directly connected to The Big Lie and the January 6<sup>th</sup> insurrection at the U.S. Capitol. Both are myths meant to justify and deny the existence of violence designed to protect white power and both should consistently be identified as the willful and misleading fabrications they are.

Dirks, S. (2022, August 23). "At the Jan. 6 hearings, race isn't discussed much. Still, it's a central issue." *NPR*. Retrieved from <https://www.npr.org/2022/08/23/1117993012/january-6th-hearings-race?sc=18&f=1001>

### **The privacy flaw threatening US democracy**

Thor Benson argues that the United States is on the cusp of mass surveillance of its citizens, should leaders with an authoritarian mindset such as Donald Trump or Ron DeSantis win the presidency in 2024. Considering that possibility, Congress must pass laws that protect Americans' privacy so that existing surveillance mechanisms cannot be abused for partisan or political purposes.

Benson, T. (2022, August 24). "The privacy flaw threatening US democracy." *Wired*. Retrieved from <https://www.wired.com/story/privacy-mass-surveillance-us-authoritarian/>

### **Opinion: What made Dr. Fauci a leader**

Physician Kent Sepkowitz considers Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Dr. Anthony Fauci's legacy, in light of his recent announcement that he will retire from public service in December. He contends that Fauci should be remembered as a true believer in improving public health and well-being, even at personal cost.

Sepkowitz, K. (2022, August 23). "Opinion: What made Dr. Fauci a leader." *CNN*. Retrieved from <https://www.cnn.com/2022/08/23/opinions/anthony-fauci-health-leadership-sepkowitz>

### **Modi's India is where global democracy dies**

Debasish Chowdhury argues that India is where the global battle between liberalism and tyranny is today most obviously being lost, due to the authoritarianism of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Instead of promoting the ideals of secularism and religious tolerance on which the country was founded 75 years ago, Modi's government has instead developed an increasingly intolerant Hindu supremacist regime.

Chowdhury, D. (2022, August 24). "Modi's India is where global democracy dies." *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/24/opinion/india-modi-democracy.html>