

below important and moving. If you only read one, I recommend the first.

From Anxiety and Fear to a Culture of Care

[This is an excellent article!](#) I had a hard time picking out the highlights because every paragraph is insightful. The author describes how the rise of fascism has happened in America and how we can turn from a fear-based Us vs. Them culture of divisiveness and insecurity to a culture of care, where we invest in services and programs that provide a safety net that benefits everyone as other Western democracies have done.



"This is America"

This is a blunt and poignant response to January 6 by Xenobia Jeffries Warfield, executive editor of *YES!* We were all shocked at the violence of that day, but this article by a woman of color hits home in a particularly sobering way. This is America. And it's past time we changed this reality.



"Some called it a protest. Some called it a mob. Some called it an insurrection. But what we witnessed Jan. 6 on full display for the world to see was a demonstration of White supremacy. . . . It's one thing to have political difference on policies. But when it comes to the very lives of all the people in this country. . . . White leadership in this country must do better. Enough is enough" *We're not asking you to shoot them like you shoot us, we're asking you to NOT shoot us like you don't shoot them.* (Davontae Harris) [Read her article here.](#)



"From Plutocracy to Democracy"

David Korten offers not just a critique of our current institutions, but a path to a more authentically democratic workplace and political theater. He describes the current power systems at work that exploit people and the planet and how we can withdraw our energy from the wealthy elite and direct it to building local communities and economies with the shared values of caring and equity.

"The first step to change is to change the story. . . . We can't create real democracy until we recognize we don't have it. . . . Real democracy is about one person-one vote, not one dollar-one vote." [Watch this 12-minute video.](#)



A Message from Arnold Schwarzenegger

A moving speech from the former Republican governor of California who grew up in Austria, a country that "suffered the ruins of its democracy. " *What we need right now from our elected representatives is a public servants' heart. Public servants who serve something larger than their own power or their party. We need to hold accountable the people who brought us to this unforgiveable point. . . . And to those who think they can overturn the U.S. Constitution, know this. You will never win.* [Watch this 7 minute video here.](#)

Uplifting Stories & Innovations



Greening the Champs-Élysées

Paris mayor Anne Hidalgo continues her work to make that city a more livable, beautiful place. The designer of the transformation plan said the Champs-Élysées



New York State Divesting

had become a place that summed up the problems faced by cities around the world, "pollution, the place of the car, tourism and consumerism," and needed to be redeveloped to be ecological, desirable and inclusive.

[Read more here.](#)



The Great Green Wall of Africa gets new funding from France and the World Bank

The project, begun in 2007, aims to cover a 10 mile wide strip, 4,350 miles long, across the Sahel Region of Africa to slow desertification and invigorate local communities. Covid has stalled funding but France has pledged \$14 billion and the World Bank \$5 billion to scale up work on the project. [Here's the article.](#) [Read about the GGW here,](#) and [more images here.](#)

From Fossil Fuels

New York announced it will divest its \$226 billion pension fund from fossil fuels. But the state isn't stopping there, with a promise to completely decarbonize the fund by 2040. That would put it 10 years ahead of the Paris Agreement timeframe of global decarbonization by 2050 and will turn up the pressure on other institutions to follow suit or be left holding worthless investments of a bygone fossil-fueled era. [Read more here.](#)

Top 11 Clean Energy Developments in 2020

[Read them here](#)

Wisdom for Our Time



If we can recognize that change and uncertainty are basic principles, we can greet the future and the transformation we are undergoing with the understanding that we do not know enough to be pessimistic.
--Hazel Henderson



There can be no renewal of our relationship with nature without a renewal of humanity itself.
Hope opens new horizons, making us capable of dreaming what is not even imaginable.
--Pope Francis



The most radical thing any of us can do at this time is to be fully present to what is happening in the world.
The future is not out there in front of us, but inside us.
--Joanna Macy

Aerial Photography Awards



My Column

This past month we witnessed two events of extreme contrast; an assault



on our Capitol and the Inauguration of our new President. In my monthly essay I reflect on what those two events mean to me and how they can motivate us to move forward in 2021.



Landscapes, Patterns, Architecture, Abandoned Places, Lockdown, Waterscapes are among the 23 categories in [this stunning collection](#).

Wishing you a month of good health
and uplifting perspectives,
Virginia / Gibi