

Greetings!

Take a look

Two themes stood out for me in this last month that I want to highlight for you. The first is about democracy; the second about what Covid has taught us.



"Americans are not divided on democracy"

If you look at the numbers presented in this article by Frances Moore Lappe', "[Freeing the Muzzled Majority—Beneath 'Polarization,' Surprising Unity.](#)" it is clear that over 75% of all Americans agree about a wide range of issues: getting money out of politics, development of green energy, access to health care, gun control legislation, and protecting democracy.



Voter Fraud? Really?

In another article about where our democracy is at in 2021 Lappe' writes about the myth of "voter fraud," in "[The Real Fraud: Republicans' Voter-Fraud Scare.](#)" The evidence of voter fraud is simply not there, and the data that Republicans are using is flawed and outdated. For me, these two articles illuminate how those who want power use fear and division to advance their agenda, and that many legislators really don't care what Americans want.

"As far as crises in democracy go, this should be a hair-on-fire moment." Chris Winters writes about our current situation in "[Does every vote count?](#)"

And for insightful observations and historical perspective on where our democracy is at read "[Are We Too Far gone?](#)" by Teri Kanefield. I highly recommend this one.



Stories, insights and action for a world that works for all of us

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Justice is what love looks like in public.

Cornel West

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Favorite Resources

[Yes! magazine](#)
[The Optimist Daily](#)

[350.org](#)
[Climate Reality Project](#)
[The Small Planet Institute](#)
[Local Futures Network of Spiritual Progressives](#)
[Project Heaven on Earth](#)

[Desert Rose Press](#)
[VirginiaMudd.com](#)

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What have we learned from Covid?

"Plague and Renaissance: A Case for Transformation"



This is a powerful, provocative and thoughtful [10 minute broadcast](#) by American author, journalist and political analyst, Anand Giridharadas.

"Covid was not only a killer, not only a terrorizer, not only a thief of dreams and work and fellowship and time. It was also a teacher." Giridharadas invites us to take stock of what we have learned. I have highlighted a few of these lessons.

We learned that we're only as healthy as the person next to us — so when they don't have access to healthcare, we all suffer.

We learned, at the same time, that there are no great equalizers, not even viruses — that inequity is a preexisting condition, and viruses hit people according to their position in the caste hierarchy.

We learned how our hyper-capitalist grind culture has starved our relationships, leaving us so little time at the end of the day.

We learned that when we allow monopolies to corner every market, we become vulnerable to shortages and supply issues.

We have learned that there can be no democracy without a shared belief in facts, whether facts about an election, facts about a virus, or facts about a vaccine to beat it. And we learned that a system that seeks bipartisan consensus over problem-solving risks the very death of democracy, as we witness a Congress unable to achieve consensus even on whether an insurrection against it merits retrospection.

We learned that a worldwide mobilization of the kind that will be required to fight climate change is possible, if we can make that slow-spreading threat as vivid and here-and-now to people as a lethal pandemic was.

We learned that we in America so often fixate on a childish understanding of freedom — of negative freedom from government power, from masks, from being told what to do — that we often deprive ourselves of the no less valuable freedom to remain alive.

"The question before us now is: What will do with these lessons? Will we be so eager to crowd back into restaurants and get our kids out of the house and have date night again and go to games again that we seek to shed these past 16 months like snakeskin?"

[This broadcast and text](#) is well worth your time and reflection.

Uplifting Stories & Innovations



Global Minimum Tax Rate

130 countries have agreed to back a global minimum

corporate tax rate of 15% proposed by the **Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development**. This would help dismantle tax shelters and reduce tax evasion by increasing accountability. The agreement also proposes a plan for taxing companies in countries where

Ecocide The "fifth crime"



they conduct online sales, but have no physical presence. [Here's the article.](#)

Investigative journalists found that 55 of the US' largest companies, including FedEx and Nike, paid no corporate taxes in 2020. A global corporate tax rate would ensure that tax funding is accounted for and goes towards infrastructure, education, and other critical public services.



The EU announces sweeping climate change plans

"By acting now we can do things another way... and choose a better, healthier and more prosperous way for the future," European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said on Wednesday.

"It is our generational task... [to secure] the wellbeing of not only our generation, but of our children and grandchildren. Europe is ready to lead the way." [Read the article here.](#)

"It is a question of survival for our planet,"

A panel of 12 lawyers from different countries has unveiled a new legal definition of "ecocide," intended to be adopted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) to prosecute world leaders and corporate chiefs for the worst acts of environmental destruction. They define ecocide as "unlawful or wanton acts committed with knowledge that there is a substantial likelihood of severe and either widespread or long-term damage to the environment being caused by those acts,"

If the proposed law passes ecocide would join genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and crimes of aggression. [Read the article here.](#)

Wisdom for Our Time



Only if we understand, will we care. Only if we care, will we help. Only if we help shall all be saved."
Jane Goodall

Summer Fun!



Have a cool summer!
Virginia / Gibi



My Column

Shaping our future with understanding, care, and action **now.**

