



- Beyond the Water's Edge -

Honest Candor

Biden's Venezuela Policy: Something for Nothing

TVC Chairman Elliott Abrams | National Review | December 15, 2022

Bottom Line: The administration has repeatedly made concessions to the Maduro regime for little in return. When Washington swaps criminals for American hostages, approves new oil drilling by U.S. companies, or reduces economic sanctions it is the Venezuelan people and the country's democratic opposition who pay the price.

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Republicans Press Biden Official for Answers on TikTok Security Concerns

John D. McKinnon | Wall Street Journal | December 20, 2022

Bottom Line: The expected leaders of the House Foreign Affairs & Armed Services Committees in the new Congress are seeking more information about the administration's internal deliberations regarding a potential national-security agreement with TikTok.

[Watch Vandenberg's Event on the CCP's Domestic Threat to the United States](#)

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CCP Weapons of Mass Persuasion

TVC Advisory Board Member Jacqueline Deal with Eleanor Harvey | The Andrew Marshall Foundation

Bottom Line: "United Front" work and targeted influence operations have long been staples of CCP strategy. To defend against this asymmetric threat, Washington needs to understand how Beijing developed its distinctive approach to competition & conflict and how it has successfully deployed these weapons against the United States in the past.

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Americans Are Losing Trust in the Military

Wall Street Journal Editorial Board | November 30, 2022

Bottom Line: According to new polling from the Ronald Reagan Institute, Americans believe we live in an increasingly dangerous world. Yet at the same time, their confidence in the nation's military and its uniformed & civilian leadership remains near all-time lows.

[Read the Full Reagan National Defense Survey](#)

[Read Full Article](#)

Japan's New Security Strategy: Rising to the Challenge

Philip Shetler-Jones | Council on Geostrategy | December 19, 2022

Bottom Line: Tokyo's newly-released security strategy rises to the challenge of a darkening world security order, committing Japan to major defense investments and an expanded scope of military operations to guard against an increasingly belligerent China.

Further Reading: [Japan Scraps Pacifist Postwar Defense Strategy to Counter China Threat](#)

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'Can We Actually Build It?' Defense Industry Leaders Look Ahead to Uncertain 2023

Marcus Weisgerber | Defense One | December 12, 2022

Bottom Line: Although Congress appears set to boost spending on defense procurement for FY2023, ongoing worker shortages, supply chain disruptions, and record-high inflation raise questions as to whether the defense industry can effectively increase its rate of production for critical weapons & equipment.

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