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United States Government & Politics

Weekly Current Events: Posted: 5.17.21

[Explainer: “Why is Gaza Always Mired in Conflict?” Associated Press, May 14, 2021.](https://apnews.com/article/why-is-gaza-almost-always-mired-in-conflict-e351bb1456155dd0b2e4d6bcbe716dad)

1. Where is the Gaza Strip, and why has it been a territory in contention?
2. What is Hamas, and what is its history in the Gaza Strip?
3. Describe thee wars and military fighting that has gone on in the area over this time.
4. Which side seems to be damaged more when fighting, Israel or Hamas?

[Smith, “Mask? No Mask? New Rules Leave Americans Recalibrating,” *New York Times*, 5.16.21.](https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/mask-no-mask-new-rules-leave-americans-recalibrating-hour-by-hour/ar-BB1gM7FO?li=BBnb7Kz)

1. What has the altering of the CDC’s mask guidelines done?
2. What are citizens saying/how are they reacting to this alteration?
3. What is one fear people have about lifting the mask mandate?
4. How does federalism and merchants’ own policies factor into the dispute?

[Hunt, “Republicans have Dumped Reagan for Trump,” The Hill, 5.12.21.](https://thehill.com/opinion/campaign/553022-republicans-have-dumped-reagan-for-trump)

1. Why does she call the GOP’s recent dropping Liz Cheney for Elise Stefanik a “proxy war”?
2. How does the author contrast Reagan and Trump?
3. What’s Al Hunt’s take on Reagan’s legacy versus his communication skills?
4. What does he say about Stefanik’s transformation?
5. Do you agree with the author or not? Why?