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United States Government & Politics

Weekly Current Events: Posted: 8.16.21

[“Afghanistan: Why is there a War?” Associated Press, 8.10.21](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-49192495).

1. Why did the U.S. become involved in Afghanistan? How long has the U.S. had a military presence there?
2. What is the Taliban? What was/is the relationship between the Taliban and al Qaeda?
3. What is NATO, and what happened when NATO forces withdrew from the area in 2014?
4. What are the costs or sacrifices of this conflict?
5. What has happened as the U.S. withdraws, and what do some experts or critics fear?

[Miller & Kristol, “An Open Letter to Joe Biden on Afghanistan,” *The Bulwark*, 8.13.21.](https://www.thebulwark.com/an-open-letter-to-joe-biden-on-afghanistan/)

1. What is the authors’ main point?
2. Why do they argue for a U.S. military presence in Afghanistan?
3. What point do the authors make about successful large-scale attacks since U.S. occupation?
4. What concern do they have about U.S. allies in the region? How will the US be regarded?
5. Who are the authors of this letter?

[Dewitt, “Cuomo: Pandemic Hero to Political Pariah,” National Public Radio, 8.11.21.](https://www.npr.org/2021/08/11/973992667/once-a-titan-of-n-y-politics-gov-cuomo-toppled-by-sex-harassment-scandal)

1. Who is Andrew Cuomo and why is he in the news?
2. How many women formally accused him of sexual aggression?
3. What report created a turning point for Cuomo lately and who issued the report? What is her government role/title?
4. What is unique about Cuomo’s political background?
5. How did the article describe his management style?
6. Name one policy accomplishment he made as governor.