



- Beyond the Water's Edge -

Message from the Executive Director

81 years ago today, the devastating attack on Pearl Harbor killed 2,403 Americans and set the stage for American entry into World War II – a war in which an allied victory helped preserve democracy and fundamental freedoms for not just the United States, but the world.

Just one day prior, on December 6, many Americans, including Senator Arthur Vandenberg (R-MI), believed in American isolationism and feared engagement in the war then taking over Europe would only undermine American security. And yet, as bombs rained down on the United States, Senator Vandenberg and many of his colleagues understood the world had changed. In his words, “My convictions regarding international cooperation and collective security for peace took firm form on the afternoon of the Pearl Harbor attack. That day ended isolationism for any realist.”

[The Vandenberg Coalition](#) is proud to carry on this mantle as we face a similar rise in retreat-based thinking. We could not be more proud or grateful to each of you, our readers and supporters, for joining us in this mission. With your help, we will ensure many decades of freedom, security, and prosperity for our nation to come.

“Once upon a time we were a comfortably isolated land. Now we are unavoidably the leader and the reliance of freemen throughout this free world. We cannot escape from our prestige nor from its hazard...We cannot turn back the clock. We cannot sail by the old and easier charts. This has been determined for us by the march of events.” – Senator Arthur Vandenberg.

Read Sen. Vandenberg's conversion from isolationism to American strength in his 1945 "[speech heard around the world](#).”

Honest Candor

2023: A Year of Living Dangerously

TVC Advisory Board Member Zack Cooper | Washington Examiner | December 5, 2022

Bottom Line: A confluence of factors—from domestic pressure on Xi Jinping to upcoming Taiwanese elections—are set to make 2023 a year of heightened tension across the Taiwan Strait. Washington should prepare for a difficult year in U.S.-China relations.

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America, China, and the Spirit of Enterprise

Corbin K. Barthold | City Journal | December 1, 2022

Bottom Line: If China were to become the dominant economic power in the world, it would not have to raise its flag over Washington to change our way of life. Look no further than how the CCP treats domestic companies—even tech darlings like Alibaba—for a forecast of how Beijing could twist global economic life to conform to its values.

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No, Iran Didn't Ban Morality Police—It Duped Press and Biden Administration

TVC Advisory Board Member Richard Goldberg | New York Post | December 5, 2022

Bottom Line: News of the Iranian morality police's death has been greatly exaggerated—when the dust settles, Iran's regime will remain as repressive as ever. Biden should maximize U.S. support for the women-led protests that has left the Ayatollahs reeling.

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Cardinal Zen's Trial: More Oppression Than Meets the Eye

Nina Shea | National Review | November 25, 2022

Bottom Line: Last month's trial of Catholic Cardinal Joseph Zen in Hong Kong represents only the tip of the iceberg of the CCP's repression of Christians & other religious minorities and signifies the Party's solidified control over the once-autonomous city.

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The Long-term Risks of a Premature Ceasefire in Ukraine

TVC Advisory Board Member Frederick W. Kagan | Critical Threats | December 3, 2022

Bottom Line: The West faces a choice: it can accept the short-term risks of continuing to support Ukraine's effort to achieve a sustainable & enduring resolution to Russia's invasion, or it can push for a premature cessation of hostilities that greatly increases the likelihood of renewed Russian aggression on terms far more favorable to Moscow.

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'We Haven't Got This Figured Out Just Yet': Pentagon, Industry Struggle to Arm Ukraine

Bryan Bender & Lara Seligman | Politico | December 4, 2022

Bottom Line: The war in Ukraine has sounded a warning bell for U.S. defense planners. The atrophied defense industrial base is having difficulty supplying Ukrainian forces, raising questions about whether it could sustain large-scale U.S. combat operations.

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