

*The topic sentence of each paragraph has been removed. Replace it with your own, original topic sentence that flows smoothly to the next sentence and fits the overall idea of the paragraph. Remember that the goal of a good topic sentence is to introduce the main idea(s) of a paragraph and (ideally) to make the reader want to continue reading. A topic sentence that just summarizes the paragraph might make the rest of the sentences redundant and boring, so don't summarize! Give your sentence some personal style!*

1. The 2020 presidential election further highlighted these deep-seated divides. Supporters of Biden and Donald Trump believe the differences between them are about more than just politics and policies. A month before the election, roughly 8 in 10 registered voters in both camps said their differences with the other side were about core American values, and roughly 9 in 10—again in both camps—worried that a victory by the other would lead to “lasting harm” to the United States.

From “America Is Exceptional in Its Political Divide”: <https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/trust/archive/winter-2021/america-is-exceptional-in-its-political-divide>

2. In general, locals are happy to answer questions, assist with finding shelter, and are, on the whole, understanding. One issue remains: should Russians leaving Putin’s regime be considered refugees? Could their migration hurt Kazakhstan?

From “Russian Citizens Flocking to Kazakhstan Following Moscow’s Invasion of Ukraine” <https://meduza.io/en/feature/2022/04/08/you-see-this-line-it-s-all-russians>

3. We used to live within one big empire with Russians for a long time. We know them, we understand how their society works. And we know that Vladimir Putin isn’t an exception in Russian history: he is the rule. Neither is he a tyrant that poisoned the normal society with toxic ideology, as Adolf Hitler did to Germans. No – he just accumulates the dreams, fears, and psychological complexes of a common Russian. He is the real Russia, the voice of the majority, the national leader.

From “Blame Russia, not just Putin” <https://kyivindependent.com/opinion/victor-tregubov-blame-russia-not-just-putin/>

4. In fact, all three pillars of state — the legislature, the judiciary and the executive — have been diminished. What is worse, he [Imran Khan] is leaving behind multiple crises that his successors — and he may succeed himself — will have to grapple with for many years to come.

From “The Promise of Imran Khan” <https://www.dawn.com/news/1684309/the-promise-of-imran-khan>

5. But the adverse impact on the relative fortunes of the middle class in the advanced world gave rise to a populist backlash against the second wave of globalization. In particular, the so-called “China shock,” which exacerbated the already in-progress de-industrialization trends in the U.S. and UK, created political support for more protectionist policies.

From “Is the Current Era of Globalization Coming to an End?” <https://thehill.com/opinion/finance/3263766-is-the-current-era-of-globalization-coming-to-an-end/>