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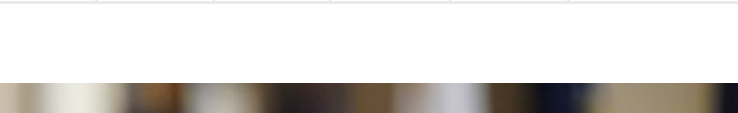
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VOICES

MARCH 12, 2021 / 9:07 AM

President Joe Biden's speech on one-year anniversary of COVID-19

By **UPI Staff**



President Joe Biden delivers a nationally televised address to the nation on the one-year anniversary of the COVID-19 pandemic shutdown in the East Room of the White House on Thursday. Photo by Chris Kleponis/UPI | [License Photo](#)

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But as I stand here tonight, we're proving once again something I have said time and time again until they're probably tired of hearing me say it. I say it, foreign leaders and domestic alike: It's never, ever a good bet to bet against the American people. America is coming back.

The development, manufacture and distribution of the vaccines in record time is a true miracle of science. It is one of the most extraordinary achievements any country has ever accomplished.

And we also just saw the Perseverance rover land on Mars. Stunning images of our dreams that are now a reality. Another example of the extraordinary American ingenuity, commitment and belief in science and one another.

And today, I signed into law the American Rescue Plan, an historic piece of legislation that delivers immediate relief to millions of people. It includes \$1,400 in direct rescue checks -- payments. That means a typical family of four earning about \$110,000 will get checks for \$5,600 deposited if they have direct deposit or in a check -- a Treasury check.

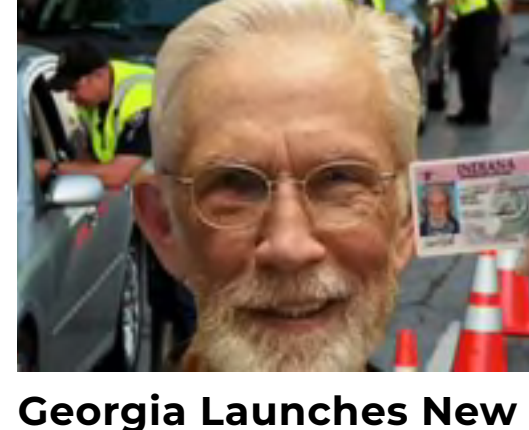
It extends unemployment benefits. It helps small businesses. It lowers healthcare premiums for many. It provides food and nutrition, keeps families in their homes. And it will cut child poverty in this country in half, according to the experts. And it fi- and it funds all the steps I've just described to beat

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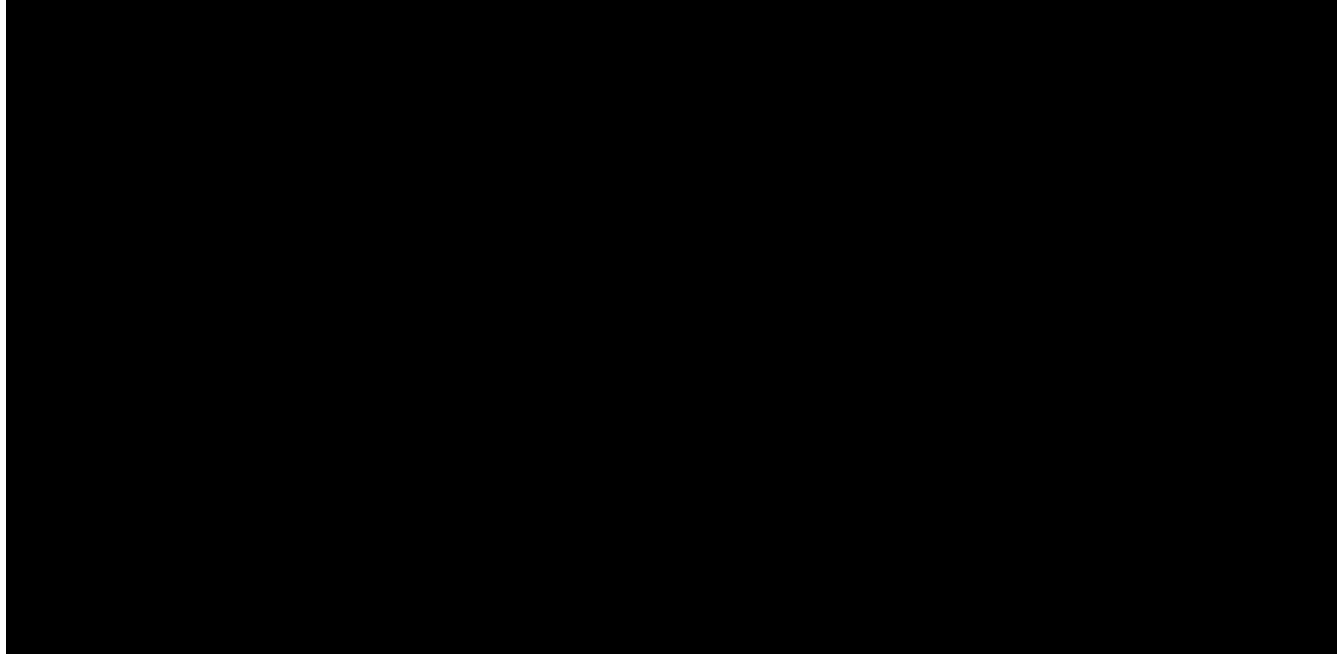
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U.S., Japan need fresh approach to alliance

March 12 (UPI) -- Japan's response to U.S. President Joe Biden's election has been understated compared to the rest of the world.



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A 'feminist' foreign policy could change the world

March 11 (UPI) -- The Biden administration has a woman, Vice President Kamala Harris, in its second-highest position, and 61% of White House appointees are women. Now it intends to "protect and empower women around the world."



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China is a threat, but has some unmistakable weaknesses

Conventional wisdom, shared by members of Congress in both parties and the interim National Security Strategy released last week, considers China "the pacing threat" and America's strongest competitor.



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Britain's royal family can't keep ignoring its colonialist past, racist present

March 9 (UPI) -- The most explosive element of the Sussexes' highly anticipated interview with Oprah Winfrey was the claim that someone within the royal household had "concerns" over how dark-skinned the couple's son Archie might be.



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Iranian women rise up in anger

March 8 (UPI) -- If we wish any further evidence of the misogynist lunacy of the Iranian mullahs, then we should look no further than the news that Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has ordered that cartoon character women must wear the hijab.



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Shortage shows how semiconductor supply was a house of cards

March 5 (UPI) -- There's a global shortage in semiconductors, and it's becoming increasingly serious. The United States is reviewing its supply of the technology, following a landmark executive order from President Joe Biden.



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Pope's visit brings attention to Iraq's dwindling Christian population

March 4 (UPI) -- Pope Francis will arrive in Iraq on Friday in a first-ever papal visit to the country that is expected to raise awareness about the challenges facing Iraqi Christians -- a majority of whom are Catholic.



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Biden must set priorities for Iran, Saudi Arabia amid contradictions

President Joe Biden and his administration are consumed with the predicaments and consequences posed by contradictions, many from abroad.



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'Patriotism test' for Hong Kong officials shows China's growing assertiveness

March 2 (UPI) -- Tensions are running high in Hong Kong after the pro-Beijing government charged 47 democracy activists and politicians with sedition under the controversial new national security law.



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Time for U.S. diplomacy with Iran is over

March 1 (UPI) -- American policy on Iran may not face a radical change under President Joe Biden after all, if 120 bipartisan members of the House of Representatives have their way.

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