



News, Research and Events

August 5, 2021



China's Communist Party turns 100

As China marks the centenary of its Communist Party, experts from our China Studies Program explore the rise of President Xi Jinping and how his deeply nationalistic vision has transformed the country.

In the first of a [two-part series](#), fellow [Steven W. Lewis](#) examines how Xi Jinping has solidified his power as China's "Core Leader." The centenary celebrations, says Lewis, were used to bolster Xi's image and "to prepare China for rule by one man." Part two, by research associate [Brandon Zheng](#), analyzes Xi's 100th anniversary speech and other examples of cultural rhetoric that seek to erase China's ethnic diversity. "Xi's China is a country united around being Chinese," he writes.

For more on the centenary and nationalism in China, read both briefs [here](#).

Beyond the headlines



On vaccines, Biden battles a triple-headed obstacle

The anti-vaccine movement has expanded and globalized into an “anti-science ... empire,” writes fellow [Peter Hotez](#), and the Biden administration will need to take on its three heads: state actors, anti-science organizations and conservative news outlets.

Read Hotez’s op-ed in the [Daily Beast](#).



A move toward justice, or political theater?

Last Sunday, Mexico held a national referendum on whether five ex-presidents should be tried on corruption charges. But with its vague phrasing and low voter turnout, what did the referendum accomplish? A [new issue brief](#) from nonresident scholar [Stephen Morris](#) explores the meaning and language of corruption in modern politics.

“The violent water crisis in Iran’s Khuzestan region flashes warning signs for other regions in Iran, as well as India, China, the Nile and Mekong River basins, and also the United States — including Texas.”

[Gabriel Collins](#), Baker Botts Fellow in Energy & Environmental Regulatory Affairs,
[Rice University News](#)

New on the Baker Institute Blog



A circular economy does not necessarily translate to sustainability. Circular economy (CE) principles are gaining momentum, and are oftentimes used in conjunction or synonymously with the term “sustainability.” However, although there is a relationship between sustainability and a CE, these two concepts are vastly distinct. Read more from fellow [Rachel A. Meidl](#) in the [Baker Institute Blog](#), via [Forbes](#).

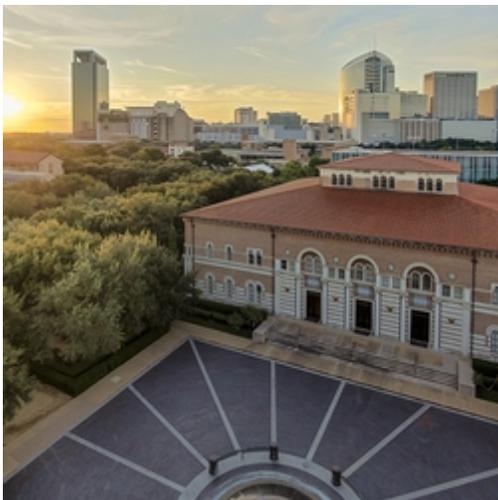


Shale production stays afloat ... for now. U.S. shale producers have helped sustain production by feathering their beds with “DUCs down” — their large inventory of drilled-but-uncompleted wells. Could they exhaust the DUCs? What then? Energy fellow [Mark Finley](#) explains on the [Baker Institute Blog](#), via [Forbes](#).



Mexico’s prisoner release: A cause for concern? With Mexico planning to free potentially thousands of federal prisoners, will the U.S. be affected? Nonresident fellow [Gary Hale](#) [blogs on](#) why Mexico’s President López Obrador is wielding a “double-edged sword” with the move.

Support the Baker Institute with gifts of securities



Consider a gift of securities to support the critical work of the Baker Institute. Securities — appreciated stocks, bonds and mutual funds — make an impact and are easy to give. They may be used to join the [Roundtable](#) or support the institute’s research centers and programs, or may be a part of legacy gifts. Email [Leah Gross](mailto:leah.gross@rice.edu) at leah.gross@rice.edu or call [713.348.2977](tel:713.348.2977) to learn more.

Upcoming event

Webinar — The improvised war: Former President Felipe Calderón and Mexico's war on drugs. Join [Tony Payan](#), director of the Center for the United States and Mexico, and nonresident scholar [Guadalupe Correa-Cabrera](#) as they analyze Calderón's strategies against organized crime and the impact they have had to this day. David Luhnnow, the Latin America editor of The Wall Street Journal, will moderate the conversation. Sept. 9, 11 a.m. [Learn more or register here.](#)

Be sure to check out our [Events page](#) in the coming weeks for updates on our Fall 2021 schedule!

Get Involved with the Baker Institute

Become a member of the [Baker Institute Roundtable](#) and [Roundtable Young Professionals](#). Contact [our development office](#) for more information on how you can join the conversation on the relevant issues and ideas that shape our world, or text **BAKER** to **243725** to donate today!



[Unsubscribe](#) | [Privacy policy](#)

Copyright © 2021 Baker Institute for Public Policy
Rice University, MS-40, P.O. Box 1892, Houston, TX 77251-1892