

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

The West

The House of Representatives continued its impeachment vote, bring the entire process closer to a pre-Christmas vote. Many on the left seem ready for the vote, while the right feels that the process is moving too quickly.

The East

Ever since news broke of Beijing's treatment of the Uighers, the Chinese government has been trying to combat international condemnation. They faced another setback this week as the House passed a resolution condemning their actions.

Focus: USMCA

The USCMA, Trump's new version of NAFTA, has faced some substantial hurdles in congress. Although another vote is expected soon, many democrats believe that the legislation doesn't provide adequate protections for workers in Mexico and Canada, and are pushing for an additional oversight role.

Volume IX

First, we hope you had a great holiday last week. Although it was a busy week, we wanted to give you a break from the news. Now that you're well-rested, enjoy this week's Week in Review.

Our 24/7 news cycle never stops, and this fact was present from the early hours of December. China was in the spotlight again, this time because the US government rebuked Beijing for their treatment of the Uighers. As expected, the Chinese government reacted angrily. Not wanted to waste any time, the House also continued its impeachment proceedings, bringing the entire process closer to a pre-Christmas vote. On the other side of the capitol building, Senator Kamala Harris suspended her presidential campaign this week amid weak poll numbers. And finally, congress is also worried that Trump's new NAFTA—the USMCA—doesn't provide necessary checks on worker conditions in Mexico.

Finance and Markets

Unlike the rest of the news, markets were generally quiet this week. Hiring in the US was solid last month, providing a firm foundation for the economy but also not prompting any major moves from traders. Without anything new this week, the street feels like it's waiting for additional news on the USMCA before placing any new bets.

While US hiring is strong and consumer spending continues unabated, the biggest problem facing companies is that there "aren't enough skilled workers available to support the renaissance."¹ This seems like a good problem to have, but it also exposes some of the more fundamental problems in the US marketplace.

Letter From The Editor

Dear delightful reader:

Thank you for hanging with *The Week in Review* through 9 iterations. 9! That's a lot. It's almost 10, and that's certainly a benchmark worth celebrating.

I haven't made too many changes over the course of this time because, well, I like the current layout. But that doesn't mean I'm opposed to change! I had a new logo developed because logos are cool and contribute an additional spark to already awesome content, and have spoken to a number of you who have voiced interest in contributing op-eds, events, and spotlight editions. Thank you for your interest, and I welcome you to submit anything that you think might be relevant. The New York Times cannot possibly adhere to its motto, "All the news that's fit to print"...but we can! *The Week in Review* is a startup newsletter designed to keep fellow entrepreneurs in the current events loop, and that means we break the rules defined by traditional journalism.

Let's keep the momentum going, because these are incredibly fun to write and keep me honest by reading and thinking about a variety of political viewpoints. These summaries are generally tidbits of highly charged political debate, and I want to keep them as even-keeled as possible. I am not here to form your political opinions for you; rather, my goal is simply to provide a starting point or to contribute to your knowledge of current events.

I also want to take a moment to ask you for your opinion on our current sections. What do you like, and what do not think is necessary? For example, my favorite parts are the economics piece as well as the Additional Reading section, but I'm a nerd. If you are content with the current content (yes that was done on purpose), then no need to say anything. Or drop us an email anyway. We're pretty chill.

Since we're nearly at 10, here's to another 10!

Warm regards,

Chris Sabaitis

PS. Yes, I totally changed the margins to mirror letters from the editors of professional news organizations. Doing so makes the letter seem longer and therefore more official.



Something Delicious

My sweet tooth is notorious: I really enjoy foods that are best kept alone. I made these sweet potatoes for Thanksgiving, and man were they good. [This recipe from Yummly was great](#), and provided the guidance for mine. I would encourage loose interpretation of directions, and to do what you feel best with the same ingredients.

Ingredients

- 3 lbs sweet potatoes
- 4 tbsps butter (melted)
- 0.3 cups milk
- 0.5 cups brown sugar
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 2 eggs (lightly beaten)
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 2 cups mini marshmallows
- 0.5 tsp salt
- 0.5 cups brown sugar
- 0.5 cups flour
- 0.5 tps cinnamon
- 1 pinch salt
- 6 tbsps butter (melted)

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Prick the sweet potatoes all over with the tines of a fork, then place them on a baking sheet lined with foil and sprayed with cooking spray. Roast in a 350 degree oven for 45 minutes to 1 hour, until soft. Larger sweet potatoes may take longer to cook.
2. Let the sweet potatoes cool enough to easily handle them, then scoop out the insides into a large bowl (if using roasted sweet potatoes). Add the butter, milk, brown sugar, cinnamon, eggs, vanilla, and salt, and mash with a potato masher or beat using a hand mixer until smooth.
3. Spray a 9x13-inch baking dish with cooking spray, then transfer the mashed sweet potatoes to it and smooth them out evenly using a rubber spatula.
4. In a separate bowl, combine the brown sugar, flour, cinnamon, salt, and melted butter. Mix them together with a fork, then sprinkle over the top of the mashed sweet potatoes.
5. Increase the oven temperature to 375 degrees F. Bake the sweet potato casserole for 25-30 minutes, until heated all the way through and the topping begins to brown.
6. Remove the sweet potato casserole from the oven and sprinkle with the marshmallows. Set the oven to broil, then return the casserole to the oven and cook just long enough for the marshmallows to toast on top. Watch carefully as this can happen very quickly.
7. Serve immediately.

China's Repression of the Uighurs

The House of Representatives rebuked China on Tuesday with a new bill supporting the country's Uighur Muslims. The Uighur Act of 2019's purpose is "To counter the mass arbitrary detention of Turkic Muslims, including Uighurs, within the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes,"² and asks the president to pursue foreign policy accordingly. This bill follows the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act of 2019, which passed the House in October.

China swiftly condemned the act, saying "We urge the US to immediately correct its mistake, to stop the above bill on Xinjiang from becoming law, to stop using Xinjiang as a way to interfere in China's domestic affairs."³ Beijing also suggested that it would retaliate by sanctioning US officials with "odious performance" if the bill passed the Senate and was signed into law.

Impeachment Impeachment Impeachment

The impeachment process is never far from our collective imagination. This week saw the House Intelligence Committee approve a condemning report of Trump's actions with respect to the Ukraine. The Democrat-controlled house is expected to vote to impeach the president, but most "expect that a trial in the Republican-controlled Senate wouldn't lead to the president's removal from office."⁴

Trump continues to deny the allegations, with a White House spokeswoman calling the entire process a "sham process." However, the discussion surrounding impeachment is not whether Trump asked the Ukrainian government to investigate Hunter Biden; rather, it is whether the president has authority to withhold funds appropriated by congress and engage in quid pro quos with other countries, and, if the president can, should they do it if it will improve their political support?

Kamala Harris Suspends Her Campaign

Senator Kamala Harris suspended her presidential campaign on Tuesday of this week amid low poll numbers.⁵ The junior senator from California and the former Attorney General of California struggled to define herself from her competitors in the democratic primary, even after attracting strong initial support.

Many were critical of her campaign's approach, which seemed to be searching for a message that resonated with voters. According to the New York Times, "her aides are given to gallows humor about just how many slogans and one-liners she has cycled through, with one recalling how "speak truth' spring" gave way to "3 a.m.' summer" before the current, Trump-focused "justice' winter."⁶

The New NAFTA

Congressional Democrats are asking the Trump Administration to add additional labor provisions to the United States Mexico Canada Agreement (USCMA), and early this week Mexican President Obrador said he formally "opposes...workplace inspections, but agrees to labor dispute panels under the trade agreement."⁷ Democrats are worried that the USMCA will fail to enforce worker protections, as happened under NAFTA.

What's up this weekend?

Holiday Nostalgia Rides

Where

The Nostalgia Train departs 2nd Avenue on the uptown F line in Lower Manhattan

About

"This holiday season, we continue the tradition of placing our vintage 1930s R1-9 train cars in regular service every Sunday between Thanksgiving and New Year's. Don't miss your chance to travel through time – for just the cost of a MetroCard swipe!" *-the website*

Nutcracker

Where New York City Ballet

About

"As the clock chimes midnight, a brave young girl turns the tide in a battle between toy soldiers and mischievous mice, and a blizzard of ballerinas reveals a wonderful world of confection." *-the website*

Holiday Handmade Cavalcade

Where Chelsea Market

About

"With over ten years' worth of history, the NY Handmade Collective's Holiday Handmade Cavalcade has become a must for holiday shoppers looking for truly unique and locally crafted gifts for their loved ones. This very special holiday market showcases a curated selection of handmade wares from independent artisans, all of whom are based in the NYC metro area." *-the website*

Fruit and Grain Beer & Cider Festival

Where Chelsea Market

About

“This tasting event hosts 60 breweries , distilleries and cideries from all over New York State, including Catskill Brewery, Standard Distilling and Orchard Hill Cider Mill. Guests can sip unlimited samples while enjoying a live DJ, cornhole games and Mario Kart, projected on a 30-foot-tall screen.” *-the website*

Further Reading

https://www.wsj.com/articles/artificial-intelligence-and-the-adversary-11575417680?mod=opinion_lead_pos5

- ✦ A short yet controversial op-ed discussing AI's potential in military applications.

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/2019/12/ancient-shark-like-predator-had-jaw-like-buzz-saw-blade/>

- ✦ The story of an ancient shark with its saw-styled teeth.

Citations

¹ <https://blogs.wsj.com/economics/2019/12/05/newsletter-the-u-s-now-has-one-of-the-lowest-tax-burdens-in-the-world/?guid=BL-REB-39671&dsk=y>

² <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/1025/text>

³ <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/12/courts-china-anger-house-passes-ughur-crackdown-bill-191204011217627.html>

⁴ <https://www.wsj.com/articles/house-democrats-impeachment-report-11575399225>

⁵ <https://medium.com/@KamalaHarris/i-am-suspending-my-campaign-today-6dca8cefb252>

⁶ <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/29/us/politics/kamala-harris-2020.html>

⁷ <https://www.wsj.com/articles/mexico-resists-democrats-labor-push-on-trade-pact-11575414757>