

Chief Justice Roberts is not at fault for politicizing the courts

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As a civil rights lawyer, I am no fan of Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. But I found the Dec. 20 Outlook essay by Varad Mehta and Adrian Vermeule, "[John Roberts's attempt to depoliticize the court backfired](#)," to be off-base. The writers called on reactionary outliers John Yoo and Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.) to demonstrate that Chief Justice Roberts is politicizing the court. They held Chief Justice Roberts responsible for the selection of Justice Amy Coney Barrett by Republican leaders who would have selected a conservative under any circumstances. And they gave no weight to Chief Justice Roberts's need to try to prevent the court from molting from a conservative one into a downright reactionary one, further threatening the welfare of millions of Americans and eroding the stature and moral authority of the court itself.

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