

Biden Looks at His Foreign-Policy Record and Approves

Editoriale

President Biden continues to tout his record as he prepares to leave town, and we'd let him boast if he weren't so out of touch with reality. On Monday he offered a foreign-policy valedictory declaring that "my administration is leaving the next administration with a very strong hand to play."

The President cites an expanded NATO, aid to Ukraine, and subsidies for domestic semiconductor manufacturing, among other things. But Finland and Sweden joined NATO because Russia invaded Ukraine after U.S. deterrence failed. Mr. Biden's aid for Ukraine has been too slow and too limited to put Kyiv in a position where it could win. Mr. Biden has handed Mr. Trump a weak hand in Ukraine.

As for the Chips Act, you can buy a lot of fabs with enough money. But Intel's struggles don't inspire confidence that this exercise in industrial policy will turn out well at the cost.

Mr. Biden's greatest failure has been the collapse of U.S. deterrence against adversaries who have been on the march. Mr. Biden's chaotic flight from Afghanistan sent a message of weakness that [Vladimir Putin](#), China and the mullahs in Iran saw as a moment to move. Israel has re-established some deterrence against Iran, but little thanks to Mr. Biden, who opposed nearly every military decision by Israel.

The President might have regained some credibility had he asked Congress to begin rebuilding U.S. defenses. Instead he proposed a cut in defense after inflation in every one of his budgets. He leaves Mr. Trump having to rebuild the military amid a budget deficit in the range of \$2 trillion a year thanks to his blowout domestic spending. If this is a "strong hand," what would a weak one look like?