

DESTROYING DEMOCRACY

Hundreds of Trump supporters invade U.S. Capitol in an effort to overturn the results of 2020 presidential election

Wednesday, Jan. 6 became a day that will live in infamy as violent Donald Trump-supporting insurrectionists broke into the U.S. Capitol during the certification of the electoral votes, a historically symbolic process in which the winners of the presidential election are confirmed as president and vice president.

After a speech on the Ellipse in which he continued to spread false information that the election was stolen, Trump called upon Vice President Mike Pence to reject the electoral vote, a power that he does not have. Shortly after, and near the end of his speech, Trump's supporters made their way to the Capitol in an effort to subvert democracy and prevent the confirmation of the election.

After clashing with the limited security present at the Capitol, the insurrectionist mob was able

to make their way into the building, laying a path of destruction in their wake. Both chambers of Congress were eventually evacuated, as the group took over the building. Many caused immense damage and destruction. Others carried weapons, and some intended violence upon prominent Democratic figures like Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi of California and Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York.

The Confederate Battle Flag was waved for the first time ever in the halls of Congress. This was the first invasion of the sort since the War of 1812. Later in the evening the National Guard and other security forces were deployed, as Trump put out a statement about the events in which he did not openly condemn the riot. Trump eventually released a statement about a week later as he faced impeachment; however, the damage was already done. *Story by Ryan Servaites*

Chaos in the Capitol. A pro-Trump mob enters the U.S. Capitol Building on Jan. 6 in Washington, D.C. Photo courtesy of Win McNamee/Getty Images/TNS



ATTEMPTING ACCOUNTABILITY

Former President Donald Trump acquitted after second impeachment over role in inciting violence at the U.S. Capitol



Final Farewell. President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump board Marine One as they depart the White House on Jan. 20, in Washington, D.C., ahead of the inauguration of Joe Biden. Photo courtesy of Eric Thayer/Getty Images/TNS

In the aftermath of the attempted insurrection on Jan. 6, the House of Representatives determined in a 232-197 vote to adopt articles of impeachment against outgoing President Donald Trump, for his part in inciting the chaos. Ten House Republicans, including House Republican Conference Chairwoman Liz Cheney, sided with the House's Democrat majority in calling for Trump's removal.

Despite the fact that Trump would have vacated the presidency by the time he was convicted, a Senate vote affirmed the articles would strip Trump of his Secret Service detail and prevent him from a future run for the office of president.

A team of nine house managers led by Rep. Jamie Raskin of Maryland argued in the Senate that Trump qualified for removal for inciting a riot against the U.S. Capitol. They cited video, audio and photos as evidence to link the riot to not just Trump's speech preceding the event, but also his actions leading up to the riot, particularly his insistence that the election was stolen, which was referred to as the "Big Lie." According to the House Managers, convicting Trump was essential to prevent him from future reelection to defend democracy.

A team of three lawyers represented Trump, arguing that the Democrats were simply pursuing a partisan play and attempted to equate Democrats to the speech and actions of Trump. Ultimately, Trump was acquitted in a vote of 57-43, with the Democrats carrying the votes of seven Republican Senators. Despite winning the majority, the Democrats did not hit the 67-vote threshold necessary for Trump to be convicted. *Story by Ryan Servaites*

AS A YOUNG PERSON IN AMERICA, WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE INSURRECTION THAT OCCURRED ON JAN. 6?



"It was a sad day for our democracy. But the scariest part is the fact that it has kinda faded away from the news as if it was a normal thing."

Alyssa Robinson, 11



"The fact that the rioters forced these politicians to hide under desks and fear for their lives should absolutely not go unpunished. I know from similar experiences that those moments can cause heavy amounts of trauma."

Daniel Duff, 12

INSIDE THE INSURRECTION

Over the course of a few crucial hours American democracy was threatened by right-wing extremists

<p>11:00 A.M. Donald Trump's "Save America Rally" begins at the Ellipse, featuring many of the former president's allies as speakers.</p>	<p>12:00 P.M. Trump takes the stage, urging his supporters to resist the election results and claiming, "...if you don't fight like hell, you're not going to have a country anymore." The then president told his supporters that they were going to march down Pennsylvania Avenue to the Capitol.</p>	<p>12:53 P.M. The outer perimeter of the Capitol is breached and within minutes the rioters make their way past multiple layers of barricades and onto the Capitol steps, beginning to scuffle with Capitol police.</p>	<p>1:00 P.M. Vice President Mike Pence releases a letter claiming that he will not interfere with the results of the presidential election, despite Trump encouraging him to do so. The certification process begins.</p>	<p>1:26 P.M. Capitol police order an evacuation of the Library of Congress, the Madison Building and the Cannon House Office Building across from the Capitol. Trump returns to the White House.</p>	<p>2:12 P.M. The first rioters enter the Capitol through a broken window, opening the doors for others.</p> <p>2:24 P.M. Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump - 1h Mike Pence didn't have the courage to do what should have been done to protect our Country and our Constitution, giving States a chance to certify a corrected set of facts, not the fraudulent or inaccurate ones which they were asked to previously certify. USA demands the truth! This claim of election fraud is disputed, and this Tweet can't be replied to, retweeted, or liked due to a risk of violence.</p> <p>2:13 P.M.-2:20 P.M. Vice President Mike Pence and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi are evacuated, which is followed by the adjournment and evacuation of their respective chambers.</p>
<p>2:25 P.M. The insurrectionists make it into the center of the Capitol building and begin heading toward the House and Senate Chambers.</p>	<p>4:17 P.M. Trump releases a twitter video to denounce the insurrection; however he fails to admit the election was lost, stating, "There's never been a time like this where such a thing happened where they could take it away from all of us—from me, from you, from our country. This was a fraudulent election, but we can't play into the hands of these people" and calling the rioters "very special."</p>	<p>6:01 P.M. These are the things and events that happen when a sacred landslide election victory is so unceremoniously & viciously stripped away from great patriots who have been badly & unfairly treated for so long. Go home with love & in peace. Remember this day forever! This claim of election fraud is disputed, and this Tweet can't be replied to, retweeted, or liked due to a risk of violence.</p>	<p>7:30 P.M. The Capitol is declared secure by U.S. Capitol Police Department after they were joined by the District of Columbia National Guard to clear the building.</p>	<p>8:00 P.M.-9:00 P.M. Both chambers of Congress reconvene, picking up where they left off.</p>	<p>JAN. 7 -3:24 A.M. The electoral count is certified, and Mike Pence formally declares Joe Biden and Kamala Harris the next president and vice president of the United States of America.</p>