



Pro-Trump Rioters and Insurrectionists Violently Storm the United States Capitol

In an unprecedented act of insurrection, pro-Trump rioters violently stormed the United States Capitol in what amounted to the gravest attack on the country's legislative building since the War of 1812. On Wednesday, January 6th, lawmakers assembled in the Capitol to confirm President-elect Biden's victory in the November election. However, President Trump had incited tens of thousands of his supporters to descend upon Washington D.C. to protest the fantasy of a "stolen election." In the early afternoon, some rioters disgracefully stormed the Capitol, overwhelming outnumbered police officers and forcing lawmakers and the Vice President to abruptly halt the counting of electoral votes in order to take shelter in undisclosed locations throughout the building. Dozens of rioters were arrested, and one was killed as a result of their actions. In the end, and despite the best efforts of President Trump and some of his supporters, democracy prevailed as members of Congress certified President-elect Biden's victory in the early hours of Thursday morning.

The attack on the Capitol building occurred shortly after Republican Senator Ted Cruz (TX) and Representative Paul Gosar (AZ) objected to Arizona's electoral college votes. The two men, along with several of their colleagues, alleged that serious irregularities occurred in Arizona, and a bipartisan electoral commission should be established in order to verify the result of the election. However, Congress is not given the power under the Constitution to do this. The power to investigate election disparities is handed to the courts, and dozens of magistrates across the country have rejected the Trump campaign's baseless claims of serious electoral fraud. Correspondingly, the objection by Cruz and others was doomed to fail, being nothing more than a political ploy.

For weeks leading up to the counting of electoral college votes at the Capitol, President Trump has encouraged his supporters to descend upon Washington D.C. in a fruitless attempt to overturn a legitimate election. Wednesday's events represented a worst-case scenario for those committed to America's democratic processes and the rule of law, as insurrectionists attempted to use force to achieve their goals. Rioters used force to smash into the Capitol and desecrate the seat of the United States' legislative power. The offices of Congressional leadership were ransacked, and an armed standoff occurred on the floor of the House of Representatives.

While watching the riot unfold from the White House, President Trump had to be coaxed by aides into issuing statements denouncing the violence. It was also reported that the president was unbothered by what was happening at the Capitol because the rioters were his supporters. In the end, cabinet officials such as Vice President Mike Pence and Secretary of Defense Christopher Miller orchestrated the government's response to secure the Capitol after the president's dereliction of duty. Several administration officials resigned in the aftermath of the riot, and senior national security officials including the president's National Security Advisor and Secretary of State had to be convinced by their predecessors to remain in their posts until President-elect Biden's inauguration in order to not leave the country vulnerable to threats from adversaries.

Following the attack on the Capitol, dozens of lawmakers from both parties called for the immediate removal of President Trump from office over his incitement and support of the rioters. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer said that Trump was unfit to serve a single day more as president. Republican Rep. Adam Kinzinger released a statement saying the president should be immediately removed by the Cabinet under the 25th Amendment, and he was joined by several Republican governors from across the country. Former administration officials including William Barr, Jim Mattis, and Mick Mulvaney also lambasted the president's conduct, saying his actions were unbecoming of the presidency and questioning his fitness for office.