

TRUMP'S INSURRECTION AND ATTEMPTED COUP

JANUARY 6, 2021

A DAY OF INFAMY

On January 6, 2021, the U.S. Congress met in a joint session of the House and Senate to publicly count the electoral college votes and confirm Joe Biden as the next president of the United States.

In one last grandstand effort to attempt to illegitimately overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election, Trump persuaded the republican members of the House and the Senate, who continued to support his false claims that the election was fraudulent and that he had won, to challenge the certification of the electoral college votes in six states that Joe Biden had won. The electoral college votes of the six states to be challenged were Arizona, Georgia, Nevada, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania. In addition, Trump put pressure on Vice-president Pence, who was to preside at the ceremonial counting of the electoral college votes, to violate the constitution and unilaterally overturn the electoral college votes in the six contested states.

In an effort to increase the pressure on Pence and his Republican supporters in the House and the Senate, on December 30, 2020, Trump sent out a tweet calling on his ultra-right-wing supporters, who believed his false claims about the election, to come to Washington on January 6 and protest against the certification of Joe Biden as president. With this, the final elements of an insurrection and potential overthrow of a free democratic election were all in place. All of this was instigated by Trump, the incumbent president of the United States, who refused to accept the fact that he has lost the 2020 presidential election.

The final provocation for Trump's insurrection took place at a rally of his protesters outside the White House on January 6, 2021. In his remarks to the crowd of protesters gathered at the White House Trump repeated his false and baseless claims that the 2020 election had been stolen from him. Firing up the crowd, he said, "our country has had enough. We will not take it anymore." He urged them to fight, "We fight like Hell and if you don't fight like Hell, you're not going to have a country anymore." Trump told the crowd that "you'll never take back your country with weakness. You have to show strength, and you have to be strong." The protesters were further incited to violence by the remarks of Rudolph Giuliani who called for a "trial by combat," against the Democrats. Donald Trump Jr, the president's son, threatened the Republican members of congress with the words, "We're coming for you" if they did not

overturn the election. Trump then urged the protesters to march to the Capitol to give the Republicans “the kind of pride and boldness that they needed to take back our country,” stating that he would lead them, but he did not follow through with this.

Being thoroughly excited and inflamed the angry and violent mob marched to the Capitol. They broke through the barricades guarding the Capitol grounds and worked their way up the steps of the Capitol building, which they began to climb as they chanted hateful and seditious slogans. At the very moment that the members of the House and Senate were in session beginning the certification process, the protesters overpowered the Capitol Police and broke into the inside of the Capitol building. When inside, they smashed windows and broke down doors shouting inflammatory remarks against the Democrats, particularly Nancy Pelosi, along with calls to “Hang, Mike Pence.” The seriousness of this threat was substantiated by the fact that the protesters had built a gallows outside the Capitol building. Eventually, they stormed into the House and Senate chambers; but, fortunately, not before the House and Senate members had been evacuated and led to safety in a more secure part of the Capitol. There they remained for a couple of hours until the Capitol Police eventually were able to remove the protesters from inside the Capitol building.

When the Capitol was secured, the House and Senate returned to the business of certifying the election of Joe Biden. In spite of the opposition of a substantial number of Republicans who continued to challenge the certification of Biden’s election, Biden was officially certified as the 46th president of the United States in the early hours of the morning of January 7, 2021. The insurrection and the coup had been defeated, but not before 5 lives were lost. The Republicans who supported Trump’s lies about election fraud and his false claim that he had won the election, as well as the Republicans who voted against certifying the election of Joe Biden, should take responsibility for their part in fostering and supporting the seditious and inflammatory claims that made this insurrection possible.

On January 13, 2021, the U.S. House of Representatives voted to impeach president Trump on the charge of “incitement and insurrection.” The vote was 220 in favor to 197 against impeachment. Ten Republicans, along with all the Democrats, voted for impeachment. All 197 who voted against impeachment were Republicans.