



Lesson 116

Attack on Democracy

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It has been about two years since the U.S. Capitol was stormed on January 6th. The event had both immediate and long term impacts on the United States. In this lesson, we'll come to understand the events that transpired on January 6th. We'll learn about Trump's involvement in the matter, and what the insurrection says about democracy in the United States.

The Rally and the Riot

Trump's rally

On January 6, 2021, Donald John Trump held a rally - a "Save America March". At the rally he repeatedly mentioned how the 2020 presidential election had been stolen. "The president's speech was riddled with violent imagery and calls to fight harder than before. By contrast, he made only a passing suggestion that the protest should be nonviolent, saying, 'I know that everyone here will soon be marching over to the Capitol building to peacefully and patriotically make your voices heard,'" *Incitement to Riot? What Trump Told Supporters Before Mob Stormed Capitol; The New York Times*. In contrast to that one passive statement, he urged his supporters and Republican congressmen and congresswomen to fight harder and show strength. About Vice President Michael Richard Pence, he said that because election fraud had been committed, he didn't need to follow normal rules (the law). He also told those present at the rally to go to the Capitol and protest what was happening - the election results being certified in Congress. He told them to stop the steal and that he was going to join them. His language at his rally is what led to what we know today as the January 6th insurrection.

Timeline of the insurrection

The rioters broke into the U.S. Capitol at 2:11 pm and stayed there for more than three hours. Even before Trump had finished his rally people were gathering at the U.S. Capitol. After he had finished, shortly after 1:00 pm, at his beckoning more of his supporters marched to the U.S. Capitol. Around 1:30 pm the rioters were pushing back the Capitol police and marching up the U.S. Capitol steps. At 2:11 pm the rioters broke a window and started to enter the building. By 2:20 pm, the House and the Senate had been adjourned and Pelosi and Pence were taken to safe places. Some of the rioters wanted to arrest Pence, some wanted to hang him (for being a "traitor") and other rioters wanted to kill congressmen and congresswomen. Pence's security tried to get him to leave the U.S. Capitol but he refused because he thought it would be giving in to the rioters, so instead he (and his family) was taken to an underground bunker. Around this same time an email was sent to all Congress members from the Capitol police telling them to hide, keep quiet, and await further instruction. The attack dragged on as more and more rioters entered the U.S. Capitol. The Capitol police were overwhelmed, but they did get some reinforcements as nearby law enforcement agencies arrived before 3:00 pm. Biden gave a live comment on TV at 4:05 pm condemning the rioters. Then Trump posted a video for the first time on Twitter at around 4:17 pm. He did not say what he was supposed to: while still claiming the election was rigged, he did tell the rioters to go home, but then said that they were special people. This video was shown on TV around ten minutes later and it only made the rioters more violent as they continued to assault police officers. It wasn't until 5:40 pm that the D.C. National Guard arrived to help the police gain control of the situation, and by 7:00 pm everything was secure in the U.S. Capitol. In total, five

people were killed by events directly connected to that day, one being a Capitol police officer, but many more were injured. After the U.S. Capitol was secured the House and Senate went back to work and voted to certify Biden's victory at 3:24 am (on January 7th).

Who Was Involved?

Extremist groups

Many groups were brought together under a common goal on January 6th. They all gathered to protest, and attempt to halt the certifying of Joe Biden's election victory. Some of them were simply Trump supporters, but many were members of far-right extremist groups. Numerous members disguised who they were affiliated with, while others openly displayed it. Regardless, the United States government and other organizations managed to get a good grasp of just who stormed the U.S. Capitol. Among these groups was the National Socialist Club; a neo-Nazi group founded in 2019. They gained attention in 2020 when they used the George Floyd protests as leverage to attract members. Another group was the Texas Freedom Force. They are known for supporting and fighting to uphold memorials of the confederate South. Other loosely organized groups include QAnon believers and general neo-Nazis. However, there are three more groups that are spoken of the most when it comes to January 6th. Those are the Proud Boys, Oath Keepers, and Three Percenters. The Proud Boys describe their group as "western male chauvinist[s]." Their leader Enrique Tarrío has been a loyal Trump supporter and fought for Trump's campaign. The Proud Boys are said to be among the organizers of the capitol rioting. They used social media to attract other extremist groups to help them storm the U.S. Capitol. Tarrío himself said that the Proud Boys "will turn out in record numbers" on January 6th, but without their group uniform. The Oath Keepers are described by the FBI as a "...militia who believe that the federal government has been coopted by a shadowy conspiracy that is trying to strip American citizens of their rights." Like the Proud Boys, they too were on social media urging people to turn out and protest. Steward Rhodes, their leader, was seen outside the U.S. Capitol building in pictures. Lastly, the Three Percenters were a group that breached the U.S. Capitol. They believe in the myth that only 3% of Americans fought the British in the American Revolution. Claiming that they are ideological descendants of these 3%, they assume they have the ability to overthrow a tyrannical government with a small, well prepared force. These are many of the groups that stormed the U.S. Capitol on January 6th, all united under the common goal of keeping Trump in office.

Trump's involvement

During the January 6th storming of the U.S. Capitol Donald Trump did nothing. At least ten minutes after the rioters had broken into the U.S. Capitol, Trump tweeted that Vice President Mike Pence “didn’t have the courage to do what should have been done to protect our Country and our Constitution” *Capitol riots timeline: What happened on 6 January 2021?; BBC*. A couple of minutes later, Trump called a senator who told him that they were being evacuated. Still, Trump did nothing, instead opting to relax at the dining room table and watch the violence play out on television. Around 3:15 pm that afternoon (about an hour later) Trump tweeted, “I am asking for everyone at the U.S. Capitol to remain peaceful. No violence!” An hour later, he released a video in which he told the rioters to go home - oh, and how they’re loved and special. Almost two hours later he said that those at the U.S. Capitol were “great patriots”. Clearly, Trump wasn’t trying to stop the riot. Also during the riot, he called congressmen and congresswomen and tried to convince them to delay the voting for the certification of the election. Who he didn’t call during the riot was the National Guard or any other law enforcement agency to stop the violence. Prior to the riot, he had been trying to convince Republican legislatures not to certify the votes or send them to Congress to certify on the basis of fraud that was never found. “Having so far faced a string of losses in legal cases challenging the November 3 results, Trump’s lawyers are seeking to enlist fellow Republicans who control legislatures in Michigan and Pennsylvania, which went for Trump in 2016 and for Biden in 2020, the sources said,” *Trump's election power play: Persuade Republican legislators to do what U.S. voters did not; Reuters*.

The goal of the insurrection

On the January 6th following each election the House of Representatives and the Senate meet together to count the votes of the electoral college. The electoral college is made of members (electors) from each state (and the District of Columbia) that met in December in their respective states and vote for the next president and vice president. They then send those votes to the President of the Senate (the current vice president), and on January 6th (unless it falls on a bad day) those votes are opened and counted. The Senate and House are to meet in the House chamber at 1:00 pm and count the votes, but if at least one representative and one senator oppose a states’ votes the meeting is paused and both groups go to their chamber and debate until a simple majority approves or rejects the electoral votes of that state. This is what Congress was doing when the rioters attacked: the joint session had begun shortly after 1:00 pm, at 1:05 pm, when they read the first state that voted for Biden (which was Arizona since the states’ votes are opened and read in alphabetical order) some Republicans objected and the meeting was paused (at 1:12 pm). This is why the Senate and House were in separate places when the rioters got into the U.S. Capitol. Thanks to Trump, his supporters at the riot knew exactly what they wanted. Trump didn’t believe that he had lost the 2020 presidential election, and neither did his supporters. Trump also believed that Mike Pence could alter the electoral votes by disqualifying the votes of certain states - although Pence could not - thus allowing him to be certified as the next president. The protestors staged this attack to stop the joint Congressional meeting and try to prevent Joe Biden from being certified as president: they were trying to put Donald Trump back in power.

The January 6th Committee

Four criminal charges

In December of 2022 the January 6th committee brought criminal charges against former President Trump. After the insurrection on January 6, 2021, the US House of Representatives formed a committee to investigate Trump and others involved. On December 19, (which is a significant date in this Movement) the panel voted to refer him to the Department of Justice on four criminal charges. The four charges were “obstruction of an official proceeding, conspiracy to defraud the United States, conspiracy to make false statements to the government and insurrection.” [usnews.com](https://www.usnews.com). They also referred charges against Trump’s lawyer John Eastman and others. In combination with Trump and his lawyer, the committee referred four congress members (Kevin McCarthy, Jim Jordan, Scott Perry, and Andy Biggs) to the House Ethics Committee for violating subpoenas. The Quinnipiac University released a poll the week before the committee’s final meeting. The results showed that 64% of voters said they were likely to read the committee’s rulings. Even if Trump is not convicted and sent to jail, the symbolic impact of the January 6th committee will still have a far reaching influence.

What This Means for the U.S.

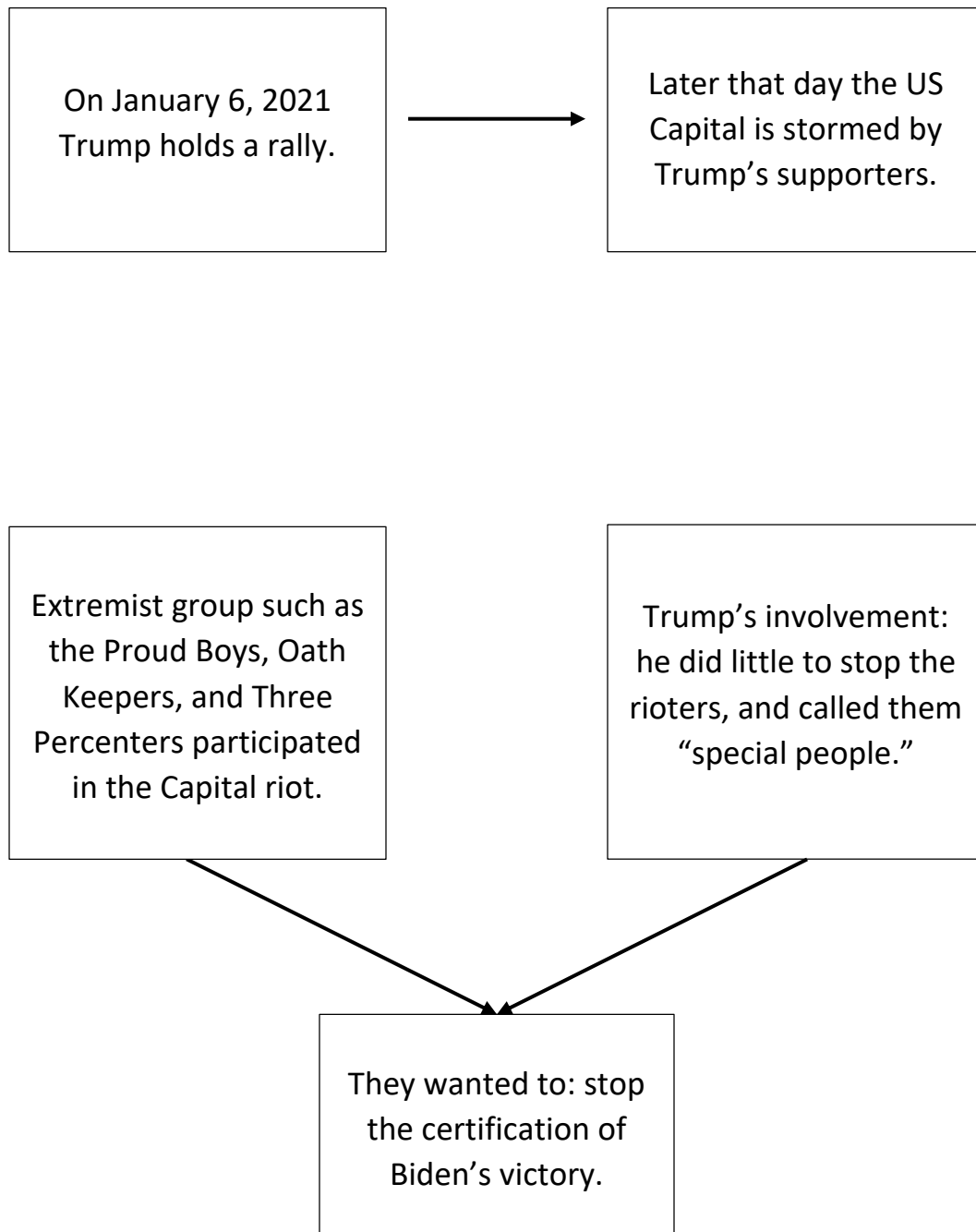
Acts 27 and Adramyttium

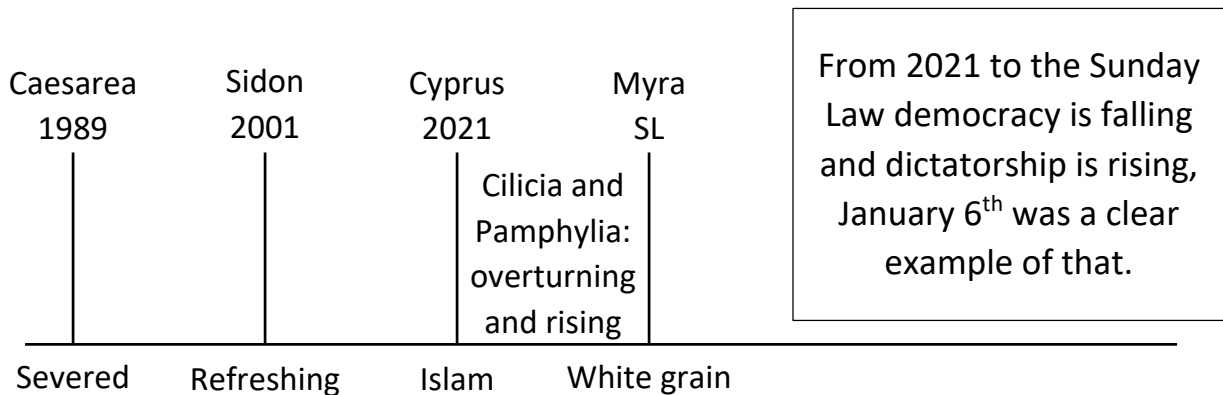
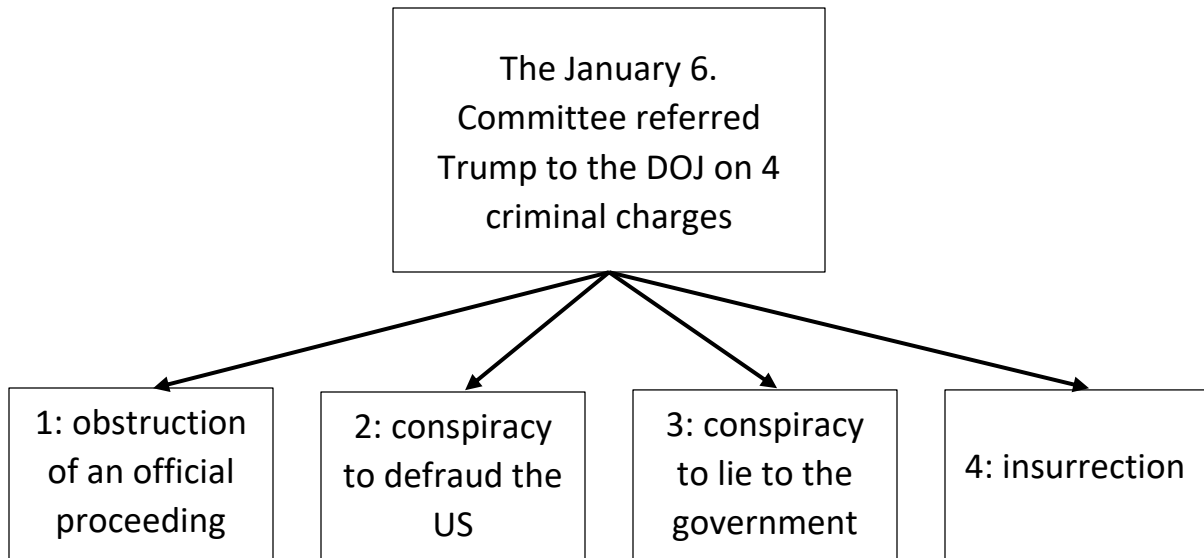
In Acts 27, this Movement identified two ships: Alexandria and Adramyttium. Adramyttium's journey began in Caesarea, which we mark as 1989 because it means "severed" and the stone is severed from the mountain at the Time of the End. Its next stop is Sidon, which we mark as 9/11 because Paul was refreshed at Sidon and the former rain-the refreshing- began at 9/11. The next stop is Cyprus, which we mark as 2021 because of the wind is Islam. The final stop for the ship is Myra in Lycia, which we mark as the Sunday Law because Lycia means the white of ripe grain which is when the harvest begins. Between the final two stops is the sea of Cilicia and Pamphylia, which can represent the overturning (meaning of Cilicia) of an entity, the United States, and the rising of another.

The fall of democracy

Acts 27 is the story of two institutions, one being the United States; as we know in the story of its journey between 1989 to the Sunday Law. Between the last two waymarks: Cyprus and Myra, the Midnight Cry and the Sunday Law, 2021 and the near future, the ship of Adramyttium travels through a sea. That sea - Sea of Cilicia and Pamphylia - symbolizes two things: the overturning of one power and rising of a multinational power. This means that one power is falling between 2021 and the Sunday Law (and another power is rising). At the Sunday Law we know that the ships are destroyed: the line of the ship of Adramyttium ends and the ship of Alexandria is shipwrecked. Therefore, it is the ship (which in the context of this lesson is the United States) that is falling from the Midnight Cry to the Sunday Law, and at the Sunday Law is finally destroyed. We know that the multinational power that is rising at that same time, and begins to reign at the Sunday Law, represents the New World Order. This New World Order is not the United Nation, but the United States controlling the world and influencing other countries to pass Sunday Laws. This means that the United States both falls and rises at the Sunday Law. So from 2021 until the Sunday Law a good aspect of the United States is falling while a bad characteristic is rising: democracy and dictatorship, respectively. From Acts 27 we see that democracy began to fall at the Midnight Cry and it continues until the line of the Ship of Adramyttium ends at the Sunday Law, all the while dictatorship is rising. January 6, 2021 is an example of this. On that day, Trump's supporters, with his backing, attacked the U.S. Capitol, trying to stop the transfer of power - an essential part of a democratic government. We can see that that happened right on time, in the year of the Midnight Cry, and it is a clear marker that democracy is falling in the United States (while dictatorship is rising).

In summary:





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