

THIS WEEK IN CONSCIENCE & JUSTICE

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Friday, January 24, 2025



How Hitler Dismantled a Democracy in 53 Days

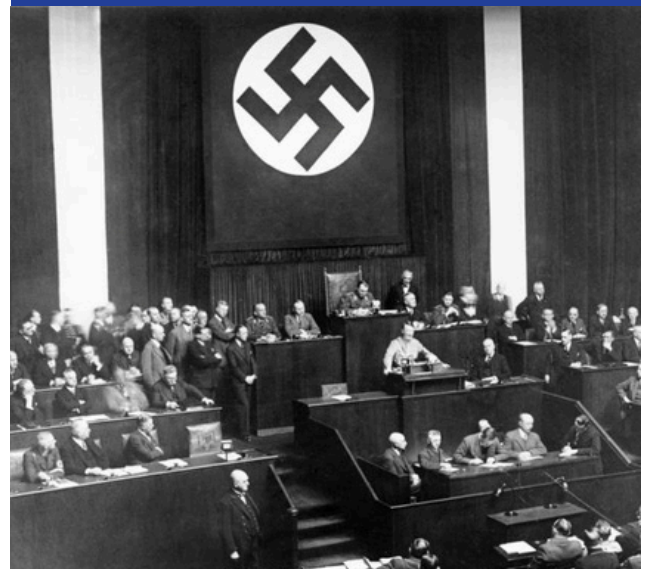
Ninety-two years ago this month, on Monday morning, January 30, 1933, Adolf Hitler was appointed the 15th chancellor of the Weimar Republic. In one of the most astonishing political transformations in the history of democracy, Hitler set about destroying a constitutional republic through constitutional means. What follows is a step-by-step account of how Hitler systematically disabled and then dismantled his country's democratic structures and processes in less than two months' time—specifically, one month, three weeks, two days, eight hours, and 40 minutes. The minutes, as we will see, mattered.

Hans Frank served as Hitler's private attorney and chief legal strategist in the early years of the Nazi movement. While later awaiting execution at Nuremberg for his complicity in Nazi atrocities, Frank commented on his client's uncanny capacity for sensing "the potential weakness inherent in every formal form of law" and then ruthlessly exploiting that weakness.

theatlantic.com

Top News

- **How Hitler Dismantled a Democracy in 53 Days**
- **It's Time for a New Era of Christian Civility**
- **Some US lawmakers want more Christianity in the classroom. Trump could embolden their plans**
- **How the modern Supreme Court might view the 14th Amendment and birthright citizenship**
- **What is DEI, and why is it dividing America?**
- **Freed Capitol riot ringleaders regroup – and vow 'retribution'**



It's Time for a New Era of Christian Civility



Over the past few years, our society has continued its trend toward increased political polarization, as the share of people swinging to the far left and right increases. In fact, a recent poll shows that nearly half of US voters believe those in the opposing political party are “downright evil.” As a result, the public square can be a volatile and even violent place to engage. This is something I experienced firsthand while working in the federal government from 2017 to 2018. In Washington, I observed two equally dehumanizing extremes: explicit hostility and deceptive politeness.

The politicians who most often make the news are those who are overtly aggressive and willing to trample anyone in their path to gain power. Others appear polished, poised, and polite—but their behavior masks ulterior motives. For example, one of my supervisors used our shared Christian faith to disarm and manipulate me. She would smile and invite me to pray with her at lunch, only for me to later discover she had been undermining me to our superiors.

christianitytoday.com

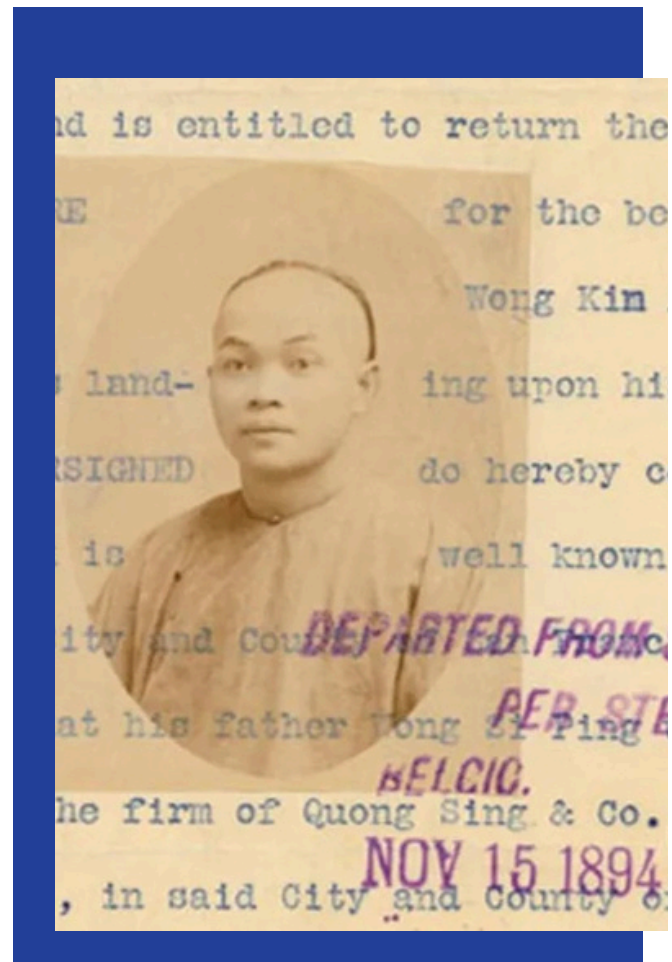
How the modern Supreme Court might view the 14th Amendment and birthright citizenship

In the few days since he returned to the White House, President Donald Trump's sweeping executive orders and mass pardons have shattered political and legal norms. But one order is in a category of its own.

His decree proposing to end the constitutional promise of birthright citizenship contradicts the plain words of the 14th Amendment and would reverse an 1898 Supreme Court milestone. That case, brought by the son of Chinese nationals, has long guaranteed citizenship for anyone born in the United States, unless the parents fall under such narrow exceptions as foreign diplomats or soldiers of invading armies.

The Trump directive recalls the era of Dred Scott v. Sandford, the infamous 1857 decision that said Black people could not be citizens. That case, which helped precipitate the Civil War, was reversed by ratification of the 14th Amendment in 1868.

Perhaps to counteract comparisons with a reviled decision that rested on notions of White supremacy, the executive order referred to Dred Scott at the outset, calling it a “shameful decision.” cnn.com



What is DEI, and why is it dividing America?



Diversity, equity and inclusion programs have come under attack in American boardrooms, state legislatures and college campuses – and now broadly across the federal government.

President Donald Trump hours after swearing in this week began making good on promises to wage a war against such policies, inking an executive order banning efforts such as “environmental justice programs,” “equity initiatives” and DEI considerations in federal hiring.

The fledgling Republican White House also ordered employees of federal diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility offices to be put on paid administrative leave. And DEI is in the crosshairs of Trump’s new Department of Government Efficiency, led by billionaire Elon Musk, who last year called DEI “just another word for racism.”

[cnn.com](https://www.cnn.com)

Freed Capitol riot ringleaders regroup – and vow 'retribution'



Enrique Tarrio (centre) speaks to reporters in Miami after his release from prison

Leaders of the far-right organisations at the forefront of the Capitol riot who were released on Donald Trump's orders say they are planning to regroup.

In an interview with the BBC on Wednesday, Oath Keepers founder Stewart Rhodes defended his actions during the 6 January 2021 riot and said he was “very grateful” to President Trump for commuting his sentence. Rhodes was sentenced to 18 years in prison on a number of charges including seditious conspiracy, or plotting to overthrow the government.



Meanwhile, Henry “Enrique” Tarrio, former head of the Proud Boys, indicated to reporters that he had rejoined the all-male group.

“We’ve made the decision four years ago not to tell the media what our structure is, but I’d suggest that the media should stop calling me ‘ex-Proud Boy,’” he told reporters as he travelled to his home in Miami on Wednesday.

Tarrio, who was serving a 22-year sentence, said members of the congressional committee who investigated the riot “need to be imprisoned.”

[bbc.com](https://www.bbc.com)



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25-28 SEPT.

CJC 2025

ANNUAL CONVENTION

OVERCOMING SYSTEMS OF OPPRESSION

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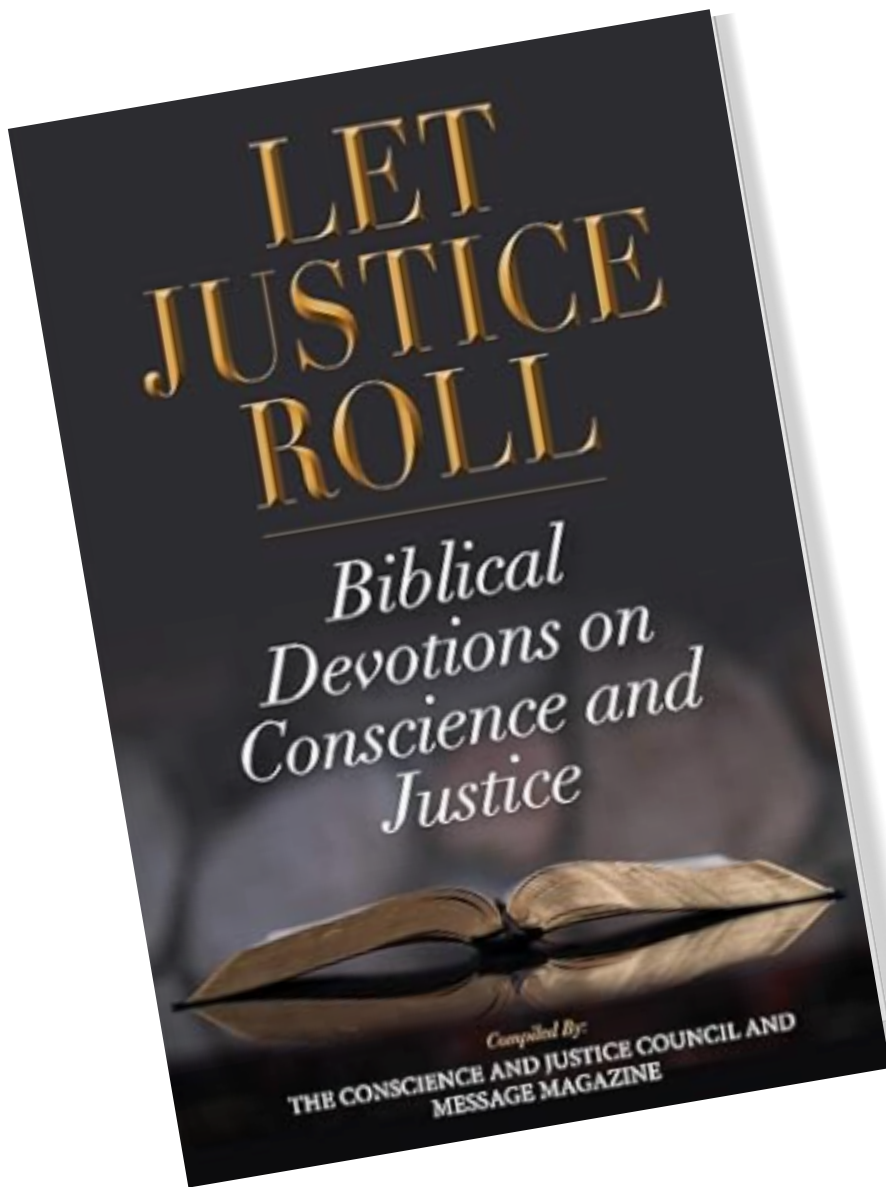
Huntsville, AL 35801

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OPENS FEB. 1, 2025

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Let Justice Roll: Biblical Devotions on Conscience and Justice

"Let Justice Roll" is a compelling devotional that walks the reader through 365 days of biblical insights in freedom of conscience, and social justice. This compilation of articles represents the work of a nationwide network of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL) advocates and other connected community activists.

The components of conscience and justice ministry include conscience, discipleship, engagement, fellowship, the power of the Holy Spirit, love, and prophecy. This is a must-read book for all followers of Christ and those who seek spiritual growth. Get ready to explore the profound biblical insights in this masterful book.

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OUR PURPOSE

This newsletter aims to highlight news articles relating to religious liberty, civil rights, and social justice. The Conscience & Justice Council desires to be attuned with society so that we may change the nation by impacting one community at a time. Articles linked above are meant to provoke thought and discussion on important topics, and do not always express options or views endorsed by the CJC.

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