

The Delray Democrat

The Insurrection of 2021¹

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Democracy prevailed in the early morning hours of January 7, 2021, when Congress rejected the false objections to the 2020 Election and formally approved the Electoral College vote. However, this ultimate act of our Constitutional Republic was predicated by an unprecedented attack on our country by a sitting President.

We have known the profound dangers of Donald Trump and his demagoguery throughout his Presidency. Many of those participating in his rallies, specifically in the attacks on the Capitol, were members of extremists/terrorist groups. They were criminals, not protestors. Trump's rhetoric and open embrace of these groups have emboldened and empowered them to act openly and in more significant manners. Others participating in Trump's MAGA activities are angry Americans who believe the political and economic systems have grown to ignore them and their needs. Trump became their false prophet, never truly caring about their concerns or well-being and focused only on using and exploiting them, their anger, their frustration, and their ability to be used as pawns.

Trump, certain Republican leaders, and demagogues posing as pundits manipulated and spread what they clearly knew to be false information to incite these would-be terrorists, knowing full well that there is no evidence or argument that the election was fraudulent. They deliberately chose to exploit these people, filling their heads with known lies, whipping them into a dangerous fervor, and inciting them to violence and criminality, all in misplaced service to a false prophet.

Republican leaders, including Senators Ted Cruz, Josh Hawley, Rick Scott, Marco Rubio, and a host of House Republicans are morally and legally responsible for enabling, encouraging, and cooperating with Trump's attempts to steal the 2020 Election. What makes this truly despicable is that they well know that Biden won and there is no basis to challenge the election. What makes this reprehensible is their willing exploitation of angry, frustrated, uninformed people for their own personal benefit. What makes this disgusting is their decision to violate the Constitution and freedom they claim they champion.

Cruz, Hawley, and this group of seditionists treat the Constitution as if it is nothing more to them than a piece of toilet paper. They have caused profound damage to our country and to the American people for personal political gain. Remember this. Vote against these individuals no matter what. Many of these individuals need to be stripped of their seniority and committee assignments. Congressional leaders can and should take this action to demonstrate that insurrection will not be tolerated.

People want to know the "so-what" of this. What needs to happen. In the US and in any

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democracy, we do not criminalize our political opponents. We campaign on issues and we win or lose legislative battles every day. What has now occurred is not politics as usual. It is not simply another new low. This is unbridled criminality and cannot be ignored. We have no choice but to hold accountable those involved but must do so deliberately, credibly, lawfully, and properly with clear explanation to the American people what is happening and why.

The Biden administration should not lead this effort because some will see it as partisan. The DoJ cannot lead this effort because Trump has decimated and discredited the agency to the point where it may be ineffective and not viewed as the objective law enforcement agency it once was. Congress lacks the capacity. Therefore, there needs to be a Special Commission. We did this after the Kennedy assassination, after 9-11, and we need such a commission now.

The commission needs to be empowered to examine how to hold President Trump, his enablers, and co-conspirators, including some members of Congress, accountable for their unethical and criminal behavior over the course of the administration. What happened on January 6, 2021 was an insurrection and an act of terrorism. The commission needs to produce a nonpartisan detailed report that addresses all aspects of what occurred with a special focus on whether and how to hold these accountable.

It is imperative that we as citizens stay informed and involved. It is our democracy and our government. It is our freedom and our future. That means reading credible sources of information and rejecting the type of dangerous demagoguery we have seen from Trump and his enablers. We as a nation and we as a people are so much better than this.