

President Biden on the Attempted Overthrow of Our Democracy¹

Rob Resnick

President Biden gave an incredible speech that will likely be recognized throughout history for its critical importance.

One year after crazed criminals, terrorists, and other Trump supporters led an unprecedented insurrection, Biden spoke plainly, truthfully, and necessarily to the American people. Trump lost the election and lacks the class, character, and dignity to accept it. He was so desperate to assuage his bruised ego that he incited supporters to violence and was willing to seize power in what amounted to a coup.

Trump officials were so proud of their efforts that several have offered accounts with significant admissions that amount to serious criminality and violations of our Constitution, elections, and democracy.

One year later the nation stands on the perilous precipice of losing our democracy. Although we should always be suspect of polls, multiple polls have consistently shown that an astonishing percentage of Americans continue to believe that Trump actually won the election. Trump knew he would likely lose and began sowing doubts and spreading lies months prior to the election, whipping crowds of supporters into mindless frenzies, manipulating them into violence. All of this led to the January 6 insurrection, which came dangerously close to succeeding.

It is imperative to understand why, what, and how this occurred or the country cannot move forward. Every contested state engaged in multiple recounts that overwhelmingly validated Biden's victory. Many court cases filed in these states and the federal courts, all the way up to the Supreme Court, thoroughly rejected challenges to the election results. In each case, the court asked Trump's legal team for ANY evidence whatsoever to support their claims and Trump's lawyers could never offer a single piece of actual evidence. They were embarrassed out of court and in many cases sanctioned for the abject frivolity of their filings.

Local election officials, state election officials, Secretaries of State, Governors, et al, in each state, most of them Republicans, all certified the elections and refuted Trump's bogus claims. I repeat this history to ask how, despite there not being an iota of evidence or any basis whatsoever to challenge the election, so many people still believe Trump's "Big Lie" one year later? I hate to speak this way, but either these people are dangerously stupid and gullible, or they are intentionally dishonest and willing to subvert democracy to steal power. Not just in 2020, but in future elections. This is the existential threat we face. This is why there must be accountability for every person involved, to include Trump and the senior most officials in Congress and the administration that bear responsibility. It is also why others must come forward and cooperate with the investigations. It is their duty!

¹ [*The Delray Democrat*](#), January 2022, page 1.

The insurrection was not a spontaneous act. It was planned by the Trump team for months. The terrorists were armed, organized, had communication devices, had information about the building to direct them how to penetrate the defenses and navigate the hallways to get to their objectives, and they followed tactical planning. Trump's minions planned to use the chaos of the attack to carry out the coup inside the chambers. Trump watched the attack for hours and refused to do anything. He chose not to call off his supporters or commit the National guard to protect the Capitol. He did not care about threats to kill his own vice president or the Speaker of the House and others. When he finally realized he had to speak up, it took multiple takes and hours of effort to get him to make the minimalist statement he eventually made. Remember, in that statement to the insurrectionists, he said, "We love you, you are special." This was an attack against our country, plain and simple, and Trump supported it.

Let's be clear, the patriots one year ago were the Capitol Police and DC Metropolitan Police, who were steadfast in protecting the Capitol and all of its occupants from violent insurrectionists hellbent on harming and even murdering elected officials. Members of the mob urinated and defecated in hallways and offices, destroying historical artifacts, etc. This was not the act of concerned citizens. The officers bear the physical and mental scars from that day with permanent, severe consequences. They watch every day as the former, defeated president Trump and his Republican allies in Congress continue to blatantly and reprehensibly lie about the election and the insurrection. They watch as these people come to work in the Capitol, seemingly with impunity for their gross criminality in support of the insurrection. They protect them all while these Republicans deny them recognition for what they endured.

President Biden offered some salient points this morning. You cannot be patriotic only when you win, you cannot follow the law only when it is convenient, and a great nation acknowledges its flaws as well as its successes. Our history has demonstrated the greatness of this democratic experiment and the resilience of our people. Time and again we rose to every challenge, doing so collectively and definitively, thwarting all enemies and ending all threats. Speckled in our history are chapters of regret, to include slavery, segregation, and bias in our institutions. A great nation does not ignore these realities, but uses them to fulfill our mission of becoming a more perfect union. The obstacle to doing so, and any argument about American exceptionalism, is the ugly reality that the modern day Republican base and its Congressional foundation is comprised of those supporting white supremacy and extremism. These run counter to our values as a people and mission as the world's great democracy. There is no place for this in our politics, our communities, or anywhere in our country.

One year after the insurrection, we ask how do we move forward. We can only do so after eradicating the true enemies of our people, and people everywhere - extremism. So long as one of our two major political parties is beholden to a leader or a base that preaches violence, destruction of any dissenting opinion, and the dismantling of democracy there is no moving forward. There is nothing to stop Republicans from another insurrection after future elections, elections they truly deserve to lose until and unless they jettison the extremists and supremacists. A nation that committed to a war against terrorists cannot openly embrace terrorists from within, but that is the Republican party of today.

It is wholly ridiculous and unacceptable for people to believe and spread these lies about the election, foolishly asserting that Trump won the election with absolutely no basis whatsoever. It

is dangerous and a violation of our Constitution for elected officials to use this abject dishonesty to pass voter suppression measures in another blatant attempt to steal power. These things go together, ongoing Republican efforts to steal power through insurrection and coup and Republican efforts to prevent people from voting so as to steal elections in the first place, are all part of the same adherence to a strategy of extremism, authoritarianism, and dismantling our democracy. This is clear to anyone paying attention and watching their efforts step by step.

Donald Trump was twice impeached, both times for good cause. If Senate Republicans had done their job, and some courageously did, they should have convicted him, thus ending his reign of terror on the Republican party. Instead, he has grown stronger. His forces have replaced honorable state and local party and elections officials with sworn, extremist apparatchiks, committed to overturning valid elections and suppressing votes. These officials have made it far too difficult if not impossible for traditional conservative Republicans to win primaries. There are over 42 Republicans identical to Marjorie Taylor Greene running for Congress, some of whom are already serving and mainstream, decent Republican can't stop them. The only way to stop this onslaught of extremism and conspiracy theorists wholly unsuited to serve in government is to vote for the Democratic candidates, at least for a few elections, to force out these crooks who will destroy our government from within.

This all boils down to radicalization. For decades we have expressed valid concern for American citizens and others around the world who become radicalized and join terrorist groups or commit lone wolf terrorist acts. They read outrageous, fictitious, wholly unbelievable extremist and conspiracy theory material on the internet. They withdraw from family and friends, all consumed by their new hate filled determination. It is exactly the same with Americans radicalizing over domestic matters and American terrorist groups. The violence and continuing harm are all too real and actually more dangerous. We must address this scourge.

This is the most significant turning point in our history. Will the American people rise up in support of democracy and against efforts to steal elections through violence and voter suppression? Will we tolerate another year of the blatant lie about 2020? This is not free speech, but an ongoing solicitation, even criminal conspiracy to violate the Constitution, suppress voting rights, and commit acts of violence against innocent people based solely on political disagreement. Any true patriot, anyone who loves this country, must come together now. We must make 2022 the year we saved our democracy. We must reject the extremism, the violence, the vitriolic politics, and the dismantling of democracy before our eyes.