



# When Tension RISES

Americans are faced with the impact the extreme Trump riot had on the country.

"Statistically impossible to have lost the 2020 election. Big protest in D.C. on January 6th. Be there, will be wild!" Donald Trump. Twitter, (12/19/20)



"If you don't fight like hell, you're not going to have a country anymore," Donald Trump at Rally, (1/6/20121)

## The President's Role

On The first Wednesday of 2021, Americans witnessed something they had never seen before. On January 6th, Trump supporters rioted at the United States Capitol building, fighting to prove that Trump was actually the winner of the 2020 election. The group stormed the building; they climbed onto the balcony, broke windows, and actually entered the building. They arrived in over-the-top Trump merchandise and thought that their presence would stop Congress from verifying the electoral college votes that would ensure Joe Biden as the rightful winner of the election. After hours of the mob trying to break into the building, the police finally had to disperse the crowd with tear gas and flash bangs in order to uphold the curfew instilled in Washington D.C.

A White House riot seems like something that is only discussed in history books and seems impossible in the modern day due to accessibility to a higher level of security and technology. There have been very few times that the White House has been raided by American citizens. In August of 1841 the Capital was stormed by protesters who didn't support President Tyler's decision to not reinstate the United States Bank. These protesters just rioted around the gates and did not attempt to come inside. In March of 1954 the capital was stormed by four Puerto Rican people trying to fight for the state ship of Puerto Rico. They shot from the outside injuring some congressmen before getting caught. These have been very few times when American citizens have actually raided or attempted to raid the White House/Capitol building which is why it is so crazy that it was able to happen in a modern day to this scale.

The actions on January 6th were unbelievable to most Americans because this really hasn't happened in their lifetime and certainly not to this scale. So why did these people riot? Well, Donald Trump has done nothing but claim he won the election ever since he lost the election. He has created countless conspiracy theories in regards to Washington but most of all he truly thinks that he won the 2020 election. Of course he did not, and it was not even close. Unfortunately, some of his die hard supporters can not see past his lies and truly believe that he did win the election. They put themselves in harms way to fight for Trump by storming the capital.

Because this riot at the Capital was encouraged by Donald Trump, he is facing a second impeachment trial because of his role in the riot. An issue facing this trial is that a lot of people do not think this was a riot. Some think that it was a protest and have been comparing it to the protests that took place this past summer for the Black Lives Matter movement. This riot is incomparable to the BLM protests fighting for the civil rights of a large minority group. The Trump supporters were fighting for the loser of the election to stay in office by defacing the nation's capital. Not only is this morally unbalanced, but the idea that these two events are being compared shows how uneducated some Americans are when it comes to racial injustice. The BLM movement is fighting for the rights of Black people in America who are consistently dealing with inequality, including police brutality and systemic racism. Black men and women that partook in petty crimes or were even innocent are getting killed by police officers. This movement is not one moment, it is bigger than everyone involved. It started back in the fifties and unfortunately there is still a need for a fight against racism and inequality. If the riot is compared to a historical civil movement it completely discredits the movement and the Black community as a whole. The Trump riot was destructive and was fighting for a specific thing which is only relevant for a short time. The riot was wrong and not only put politicians, military and police forces in danger but it also hurt minority communities everywhere by showing white privilege and the support of white supremacists on display.

"A peaceful protest includes people being safe and making sure others are safe. It also includes people not condoning any violence. The even at the o was not that," Alaina Stouffer, 10.

"A successful protest is a peaceful protest which isn't breaking into the capital, causing destruction to civilians and property, and killing others. Most of the Black Lives Matter protests were peaceful with marching and chanting but some did break into more of a riot," Sean Finch, 12.

The way these rioters were treated at the capitol shows that there is still so much white privilege in the world. These white people defaced sacred national buildings and officers did not shoot at them. They got inside of the building and there were still no shots. In an ideal world no one would have to be shot at but if a black person or a person of any minority for that matter would have been sitting in the capitol, stealing documents, vandalizing property, and being violent towards police officers, they wouldn't have made it out alive. If George Floyd gets suffocated to death for using a counterfeit twenty dollar bill there is no way that a black man could deface national property and make it out alive. If Breonna Taylor gets shot and killed for sleeping in her bed there is no way she could have passed the gates of the capitol building. This just shows that there are so many unequal standards there are in the country.

There is no clear answer on how to fix inequality in the country but having a president that has called white supremacists, "fine people," is not going to fix it. The new Biden administration has one of the most diverse teams America has seen which will allow political issues to be dealt with from a wide variety of cultures and backgrounds which represents the country better. Hopefully the country will start to see some changes from the top but one thing will not stop: The strength of protesters fighting for the civil rights of minorities will push the country towards a safer, equal, better place.