

# March on the Capitol

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According to the Critical Theory of Religion and Society, informed by the journalist Crystal Hill, from Yahoo News, on Wednesday afternoon, January 6, 2021, an extraordinary act of violence by a riotous, white nationalist, supremacist, Rightwing, authoritarian, populist crowd, called a “mob” by the bourgeoisie since its revolutionary beginning, forced U.S. legislators to evacuate the Capitol building during the counting of the Electoral College votes in the 2020 presidential election. Congress voted in the early morning hours of Thursday, January 7, 2020 to certify the results showing President-elect Joe Biden defeated President Trump. While a group of Republican lawmakers challenged the results in Arizona and Pennsylvania, those objections did not withstand a vote in either the House of Representatives or the Senate. At approximately 3:33 a.m. ET on Thursday, January 7, 2021 Congress had certified enough electoral votes to surpass the 270 threshold that guaranteed Biden would become the 46th president, effectively ending a desperate bid by Trump and his supporters to overturn the results of the November 2020 election. Vice President Mike Pence declared that the votes for president of the United States were as follows:

Joseph R. Biden, Jr. of the State of Delaware has received 306 votes. Donald J. Trump of the state of Florida has received 232 votes. The announcement of the state of the vote by the president of the Senate, shall be deemed a sufficient declaration of the persons elected president and vice president of the United States each for the term beginning on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of January 2021.

Moments after Pence declared Biden the winner of the election, Trump released a falsehood-laden statement in which he pledged an *orderly transition* of power:

Even though I totally disagree with the outcome of the election, and the facts bear me out, nevertheless there will be an orderly transition on January 20<sup>th</sup>.

Trump said in the statement made public by White House Deputy Chief of Staff Dan Scavino:

I have always said we would continue our fight to ensure that only legal votes were counted. While this represents the end of our greatest first term in presidential history, it’s only the beginning of our fight to Make America Great Again!

Earlier on Wednesday, in the wake of the attack on the Capitol, fewer Republicans followed through with promises to contest the certification, yet enough did to drag the debate into early Thursday morning. The initial session abruptly ended at approximately 1:40 p.m., during an objection made by Rep. Paul Gosar, R-Ariz., and Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, against the slate of electors from Arizona. Both chambers had begun debating the challenge when a pro-Trump mob stormed the Capitol, sending lawmakers scurrying to safety. Just an hour earlier, Trump spoke at a large rally in Washington,

in front of the White House, where he repeated numerous discredited claims, including that the election was rigged against him. He ominously informed his own vice president what he expected of him. Trump said at the rally:

Mike Pence, I hope you're going to stand up for the good of our Constitution, and for the good of our country. And if you're not, I'm going to be very disappointed in you, I will tell you right now.

Trump also encouraged his crowd of roughly 25,000 supporters to head to the Capitol and make their displeasure with the certification clear. The Executive Branch of Government turned against the Legislative Branch, while the Judicial Branch was silent, and the National Guard was absent and approached only very slowly and late. According to the *Evangelium*, a realm divided could not survive. Chaos ensued as Trump's seditious supporters clashed with the Capitol police, broke windows, entered the Capitol and ransacked congressional offices, and sat on the chairs of Senators and Representatives with their legs up on the desks, declaring loudly that as tax-payers they had a right to do so. At least one person, Ashli Babbitt, a veteran of the U.S. Air Force, was shot by the police and killed during the siege. Three other people died, and more than a dozen law enforcement officers were injured. One policeman, Brian Sicknick, was killed. As Capitol Police finally began clearing the building late in the afternoon, Trump issued a later deleted one-minute videotaped statement directed at the rioters that began by expressing sympathy for their *pain* and *hurt* before launching into a litany of his own grievances about *an election that was stolen from us*. Then Trump said:

But you have to go home now. We have to have peace. We love you. You're very special. I know how you feel.

Lawmakers returned to the Capitol around 8 p.m. to resume the process of certifying the votes. Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said. "All this accomplished was to delay our vote by a few hours."

Vice President Mike Pence, who returned from the siege of the Capitol from a secure location to preside over a joint session of Congress, certified the electoral votes, despite pleas from Trump to attempt to block them. Critical Theory of Religion and Society observed through MSNBC, CNN, and Fox News, the pathology of American civil society, and state, and political class, coming to a climax on *Epiphany*, Thursday 6, 2021, when thousands of Trumpists, authoritarian populists, and domestic terrorist, from all over the country, stormed the Capitol and *desacralized* the so-called *Sanctuary* or *Temple of Democracy* in the midst of *holy ground* – religious names transferred into secular, political language, in Washington D.C., despite of separation of church and state, in order to prevent in a kind of *coup d'état* the Congress from counting merely ceremoniously the already decided Electoral College votes, and thus to affirm the legitimacy, and certify the victory of President-elect Joe Biden, in an act of insurrection, out of fear, that a Biden Administration would mean *socialism and communism*, as their leader Trump, and Fox News, and EWTN had told them for months. The pathology had long become the norm. The Trumpists carried not only American flags, but also flags of the old Confederacy, and also big signs with the name of *Jesus* on them. The Trumpist march on the Capitol, and the assault, and violent insurrection against the very center of American formal

Democracy – the nonviolent transfer of power between two bourgeois parties – reminded some TV commentators of the end of the Roman Republic and the start of the Roman dictatorship. Other commentators remembered the War of 1812 and the burning of the White House by the British in 1814, which could have ended the young American Republic. Dialectical Religiology remembered that Benito Mussolini, the founder of fascism, marched on Rome to overthrow the legitimate Italian Government, and that Adolf Hitler, the most fanatic National Socialist, marched to the *Feldherrn Halle* in Munich, in order to overthrow the Bavarian Government, and the Government in Berlin, and that the Falange General Franco marched to Madrid in order to overthrow the Spanish Republic. All fascist marches were counter-revolutionary against the ongoing or future socialist revolutions. In the view of the Critical Theory of Religion and Society, the authoritarian, populist, Trumpist march on the Capitol in Washington D.C. was counter-revolutionary in the double sense, that it opposed the last bourgeois revolution in the form of the civil war won by the bourgeois North against the slaveholders of the South, as well as the socialist revolution supposedly in the form of the Biden Administration, the legitimacy of which was to be affirmed in the Capitol. Religion did not only appear on the authoritarian populist side in the form of Jesus signs carried by conservative Evangelicals and Catholics, but also on the liberal side in the form of the Catholic Speaker of the House Pelosi's quotation of the peace prayer by St. Francis of Assisi on Epiphany, after the members of the House had returned to their degraded seats and desks, in order to complete the affirmation of the legitimacy of the election and the peaceful transfer of power from Trump to Biden. Admonished by President-elect Biden, President Trump finally addressed his base and told his followers that he had won the election by a landslide and that the election had been stolen from him and them, but that they now should go home in peace. But the masses stayed into the night, when they were pushed by the Capitol police and National Guard out of and away from the Capitol. On Friday, January 8, 2021, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi told House members that she called Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Mark Milley to ask what was being done to prevent President Donald Trump from accessing nuclear launch codes, calling the president "unhinged." The California Democrat's move came after calling for the Vice President and Cabinet to remove Trump from office according to the 25<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution, in the wake of his inciting his supporters to storm the Capitol on Wednesday in a deadly assault. Wanting to be an instrument of peace in terms of St. Francis of Assisi, Pelosi said in a letter to House Democrats:

This morning, I spoke to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Mark Milley to discuss available precautions for preventing an unstable president from initiating military hostilities or accessing the launch codes and ordering a nuclear strike,

The House Democrats planned to impeach President Trump a second time, this time on the charge of incitement to insurrection. Obviously, the American type of *fascism as a farce* had failed. Thomas Hobbes' definition of the natural state of human society as *war of all against all* in his book *Leviathan* was prevented from being realized, and his governmental, contract theory was once more maintained, and a non-Hobbesian, civilized entity, devoted to the principle of the *always more perfect union*, was rescued. The bourgeois, social philosopher Hobbes had been the inventor of the idea of the concentration camp, which later had been realized by the British General Kitchener in South Africa against the Buren, and by Adolf Hitler in Central and Eastern Europe against the Jews, the Gypsies, the homosexuals, the socialists, the communists, and the Russian prisoners of war, e.g. Stalin's son in the

concentration camp of Buchenwald, near Weimar, Germany's greatest culture center, where Goethe, Hegel's friend, wrote his *Faust*. But there was no assurance that the *fascism as a tragedy* would not win the next time, in 2024. Trump predicted and promised that much. Disturbing historical events, like the march on the Capitol, suggested to some contemporary political scientists that the obvious representation weakness and the connected legitimation deficit in present Western democracies should be mitigated in order to rescue them through the complementary initiation of a *drawing lots procedure*, as David Van Reybrouck had described it, in order thus to make particularly the popular classes feel that elections were really democratic. It was a *bi-representative model of a national representation*, which came about through vote and ballot, as well as through *drawing lots*. However, Dialectical Religiology has serious doubts that such a new model could really resolve the conflict between revolutionary socialism and counter-revolutionary fascism in Western bourgeois democracies, in which what is at stake was not only the recognition problem, but also the distribution problem concerning the private appropriation of collective surplus labor and value, and thus the continuation of capitalism in its traditional, monopolistic and oligopolistic forms: in which the economy of the avoidance society bought for itself through lobbying, politics, and mass media influences, majorities and laws; as well as produced good – power – stories and political propaganda, which was hard to see through and to put into clear text; and in which the old, white male politics was enabled, which lost the future; and in the unfree trade of which prevailed the secret domination of combines, chanceries, and chambers; and in which the social democratic parties were challenged, if they existed at all; and in which the ballot was often not democratic; and in which smart dictatorships attacked and undermined the rational freedom of the citizens. Fox News and EWTN, who had prepared the riotous act of the Trumpists against the Capitol through their months long secular as well as religious, exclusive, authoritarian, populist propaganda, and through thus stimulating, instigating, and inciting especially the popular classes, did of course not take any responsibility for the seditious event, since their main intention had precisely been, and continued to be, the prevention of a macro-paradigm change not only in the U.S.A., but in all Western bourgeois democracies, as well as in the Church.

### *Blasphemy*

According to Dialectical Religiology, informed by Rev. Nathan and the Faithful America team, Monday night, January 4, 2021, the leader of the Proud Boys, a violent, pro-Trump, misogynistic organization that openly supported white supremacy, was arrested in Washington D.C. for burning a prominent Black church's *Black Lives Matter* banner. Henry Enrique Tarrío committed his crime in December 2020 and had returned to Washington D.C. to take part in Wednesday's, January 6, 2021 Trump-incited march and attack on the Capitol. Within 24 hours of his arrest, a Right-wing, so-called *Christian* crowd funding site had already shamefully raised more than \$100,000 in *Jesus'* name to defend his violent hate crimes. GiveSendGo, originally founded for church mission trips, also helped raise \$500,000 last year for Kyle Rittenhouse, who murdered two *Black Lives Matter* protestors in Wisconsin. More than 14,000 Faithful America members made headlines for protesting that earlier fundraiser. When questioned about the Rittenhouse campaign, CFO Jacob Wells claimed, "Everything we do and what our platform delivers is Christ-centered." But to call the hateful Rittenhouse and Proud Boys fundraisers *Christ-centered* was certainly nothing short of *blasphemy*. If GiveSendGo was going to keep violating its own terms of service by allowing violent fundraisers like these, genuine,

critical Christians have to demonstrate that this website does not represent their faith: and so they did. Together, they helped to stop these fundraisers for white supremacy by calling on payment companies Stripe, WePay, and PayPal to immediately revoke their contracts with GiveSendGo. They told payment processors to stop doing business with GiveSendGo after its violent, racist campaign. They thanked for everything Christians did to love their neighbor, and to reclaim the Gospel for love, social justice and peace, following the Sermon on the Mount, the very foundation of Rabbi Jesus' prophetic and eschatological theology: *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God* (Matthew 5:9).