

January 6th, 2021

- What happened?
- What does this mean for our democracy?
- What is the significance of what happened in the US Capitol?

Lesson By , San Lorenzo Valley High School

Insurrection at the US Capitol- Intro thought

In his 1963 essay “A Talk to Teachers,” James Baldwin wrote:

“American history is longer, larger, more various, more beautiful, and more terrible than anything anyone has ever said about it.”

In the events surrounding the recent presidential election in the United States, the essential truth of Baldwin’s statement resonates anew.

The Insurrection at the US Capitol: Key Terms

- *Insurrection*, “an act of revolting against an established government,” (The events on January 6, 2021 involved people attempting to disrupt our democratically-elected government.)
- *Coup d'état*: “a sudden, violent, and illegal seizure of power from a government”
- *Riot*: “ protests that turn violent”
- *Inciting a riot*: “ urging or instigating other persons to riot; to commit acts of violence ”

What is the difference between a protestor, rioter, insurrectionist, domestic terrorist? What words should be used to describe the people who stormed the Capitol Building yesterday?

Terms continued

- According to the statutory definition of **sedition**, it is a crime for two or more people within the jurisdiction of the United States: • To conspire to overthrow or destroy by force the government of the United States or to level war against them; • To oppose by force the authority of the United States government; to prevent, hinder, or delay by force the execution of any law of the United States; or • To take, seize, or possess by force any property of the United States contrary to the authority thereof.



Julia Carter @thejuliacarter · 10m

⋮

There are two Americas.



💬 2

↻ 374

❤️ 594





Steven Bradford 

@SteveBradford



What a stark contrast from a from a few mos ago when BLM assembled in DC, versus these white supporters of #45. Blacks wouldn't have come anywhere near breaching the capitol grounds, let alone storm the bldg w/o shots being fired. We live in 2 different Americas.

2:46 PM · Jan 6, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone



Oliver Jose @MissingLuci · Jan 6



Black Americans are murdered for jogging in white neighborhoods—
meanwhile white Trump supporters have just raided THE WHITE HOUSE
and everyone is still standing—
It's a civil war yet cops r "nice" to whites?



154

1.7K

4.8K



Oliver Jose @MissingLuci · Jan 6



Yes i know it's capital building but the pic is not the point of tweet Karens



ByeDon 🗨️ @EthanKytle · Jan 6

⋮

Trump's call for his racist terrorists to "go home now" echoes the calls made by Reconstruction-era conservatives like Wade Hampton to their racist terrorists.

In both cases, conservative leaders, after inciting violence, sought to half-heartedly wash their hands.

Shameful.



Wilmington Massacre

Wilmington Massacre (1898)

- Characterized as only coup d'état on American soil
- Overthrew African American-led city government
- Burned Black-owned newspaper office
- Murdered more than 60 people






Kyle Griffin  @kylegriffin1 · Jan 6




Flashback: July 27. Trump called for protesters who damaged federal buildings to get a minimum of 10 years in prison.



Donald J. Trump  @realDonaldTrump · 7/27/20 ...

Anarchists, Agitators or Protestors who vandalize or damage our Federal Courthouse in Portland, or any Federal Buildings in any of our Cities or States, will be prosecuted under our recently re-enacted Statues & Monuments Act. **MINIMUM TEN YEARS IN PRISON.** Don't do it! @DHSgov


 21.7K

 40.5K

 135K



 456

 18.9K

 35.9K



Breakout Rooms Discussion

- What do you think of the ideas presented in the tweets and images that suggest that there are two Americas when it comes to police reactions to protesters/rioters?
- How does the Reconstruction era connect to America today? What legacies of slavery still endure to the present?
- What questions do you have about what happened today? What concerns (if any) do you have about our democracy as a result of the events of January 6th 2021?