

TODAY

It's Saturday, Jan. 16, the 16th day of 2021. There are 349 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: In **2020**, the impeachment trial of President Donald Trump opened in the Senate, with senators standing and swearing an oath of "impartial justice." Trump again denounced the proceedings as a "hoax," while House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said new evidence reinforced the need to call additional witnesses.

In **1865**, Union Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman decreed that 400,000 acres of land in the South would be divided into 40-acre lots and given to former slaves. The order, later revoked by President Andrew Johnson, is believed to have inspired the expression, "Forty acres and a mule."

In **1912**, a day before reaching the South Pole, British explorer Robert Scott and his expedition found evidence that Roald Amundsen of Norway and his team had gotten there ahead of them.

In **1919**, pianist and statesman Ignacy Jan Paderewski became the first premier of the newly created Republic of Poland.

In **1920**, Prohibition began in the United States as the 18th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution took effect, one year to the day after its ratification. It was later repealed by the 21st Amendment.

In **1987**, Hu Yaobang resigned as head of China's Communist Party, declaring he'd made mistakes in dealing with student turmoil and intellectual challenges to the system.

In **1989**, three days of rioting began in Miami when a police officer fatally shot Clement Lloyd, a Black motorcyclist, causing a crash that also claimed the life of Lloyd's passenger, Allan Blanchard.

In **1991**, the White House announced the start of Operation Desert Storm to drive Iraqi forces out of Kuwait. Allied forces prevailed on Feb. 28, 1991.

In **2002**, Richard Reid was indicted in Boston on federal charges alleging he'd tried to blow up a U.S.-bound jetliner with explosives hidden in his shoes. Reid later pleaded guilty and was sentenced to life in prison.

In **2003**, the space shuttle Columbia blasted off for what turned out to be its last flight; on board was Israel's first astronaut, Ilan Ramon. The mission ended in tragedy on Feb. 1, when the shuttle broke up during its return descent, killing all seven crew members.

In **2006**, Africa's first elected female head of state, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, was sworn in as Liberia's new president.

In **2007**, Democratic Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois launched his successful bid for the White House.

Ten years ago: Former Haitian strongman Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier, who'd been living in exile in France, made a surprise return to Haiti as the country wrestled with a political crisis, cholera outbreak and stalled reconstruction from a devastating earthquake. "The Social Network" won top movie honors at the Golden Globes with four prizes, including best drama and director; top TV honors went to "Boardwalk Empire" and "Glee."

Five years ago: The U.N. nuclear agency certified that Iran had met all of its commitments under a landmark deal, prompting the West to lift economic sanctions that had been in place for years.

One year ago: Health authorities in China announced that a second person had died from a new coronavirus. The New York Mets announced that they and manager Carlos Beltrán had agreed to "mutually part ways"; the former Houston Astros player had been the only player mentioned by name when Major League Baseball issued its findings from an investigation of sign-stealing by the Astros.

Today's Birthdays: Author William Kennedy is 93. Author-editor Norman Podhoretz is 91. Opera singer Marilyn Horne is 87. Hall of Fame auto racer A.J. Foyt is 86. Singer Barbara Lynn is 79. Talk show host Dr. Laura Schlessinger is 74. Movie director John Carpenter is 73. Actor-dancer-choreographer Debbie Allen is 71. Singer Sade is 62. Pop/rock singer-songwriter Jill Sobule is 62. Actor-writer-director Josh Evans is 50. Actor-comedian Jonathan Mangum is 50. Actor Josie Davis is 48. Model Kate Moss is 47. Actor-playwright Lin-Manuel Miranda is 41. NFL quarterback Joe Flacco is 36.

— Associated Press

LOCAL, STATE & REGION

MIX OF EXTREMISTS WHO STORMED THE CAPITOL ISN'T RETREATING

BY REBECCA BOONE, GILLIAN FLACCUS AND MICHAEL KUNZELMAN

The Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — As rioters laid siege to the U.S. Capitol, the seat of American democracy became a melting pot of extremist groups: militia members, white supremacists, paramilitary organizations, anti-maskers and fanatical supporters of President Donald Trump, standing shoulder to shoulder in rage.

Experts say it was the culmination of years of increasing radicalization and partisanship, combined with a growing fascination with paramilitary groups and a global pandemic. And they warn that the armed insurrection that left five people dead and shook the country could be just the beginning.

"We look at it like a conveyor belt of radicalization," said Devin Burghart, executive director of the Institute for Research & Education on Human Rights. "Once they step on that conveyor belt, they're inundated with propaganda that moves them along that path until they're willing to take up arms."

Photographs and video of the Capitol siege showed people wearing attire with symbols associated with the anti-government Three Percenters movement and the Oath Keepers, a loosely organized group of right-wing extremists.

Many of those who stormed the Capitol were wearing clothes or holding signs adorned with symbols of the QAnon conspiracy theory, which centers on the baseless belief that Trump is waging a secret campaign against the "deep state" and a cabal of sex-trafficking cannibals. One of the intruders was wearing a "Camp Auschwitz" sweatshirt, a reference to the Nazi death camp.

Those who monitor online chatter say the threat of more violence by far-right fringe groups hasn't abated, though it has been tougher to track since the social media platform Parler, a haven for right-wing



Jose Luis Magana/AP file

Supporters of President Donald Trump climb the west wall of the the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6 in Washington.

extremists, was booted off the internet.

"We're certainly not out of the woods yet. I'm afraid that we're going to have to be prepared for some worst-case scenarios for a while," said Amy Cooter, a senior lecturer in sociology at Vanderbilt University who studies U.S. militia groups.

Modern movement

To understand the mix of extremists in the Capitol melee, it helps to look at history.

Much of the modern militia movement was a reaction to the push for tougher gun control laws in the 1990s. An 11-day standoff that left three people dead on Idaho's Ruby Ridge in 1992 galvanized the movement, as did the disaster in Waco, Texas, the following year, when 76 people died in a fire after a 51-day standoff at the Branch Davidian cult compound.

A decade later, Cliven Bundy and his sons, Ryan and Ammon Bundy, engaged in armed standoffs with the federal government, first in a fight over

grazing rights on federal land in Nevada in 2014, then in the 40-day occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge near Burns in 2016. Those standoffs drew the sympathies of some Western ranchers and farmers who feared they were losing the ability to prosper financially.

Meanwhile, America's white supremacy movement — as old as the country itself and energized by the civil rights movement of the 1960s — used every opportunity to stoke racism and increase recruitment.

Some who follow such movements say the coronavirus pandemic provided the perfect recruitment opportunity.

Militias helped distribute surplus farm produce to the unemployed. Neo-Nazis pushed conspiracy claims that the government was trying to limit "herd immunity." An anti-government group launched by Ammon Bundy last spring called People's Rights held an Easter church service in defiance of a lockdown order in

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Idaho.

"That was the moment that sent a message nationwide that it was OK to take an insurrectionist posture toward COVID guidelines — and from that moment you saw this take hold across the country," said Burghart, whose organization published an October report on the People's Rights network.

"You had all of these kind of small interventions to try to fight against any kind of common-sense health restrictions," Burghart said. "And in that moment you saw, simultaneously, militia activists getting involved in the COVID struggle and COVID insurrec-

tionists taking up the militia posture and wanting to get involved with militia groups."

The danger could intensify. The Capitol insurrection both further normalized the idea of violent government overthrow and allowed extremist groups to network with a broader population, said Lindsay Schubiner, an expert in extremism with the Western States Center.

Users on militia forums cheered on the Trump supporters who stormed the Capitol and hailed them as patriots, according to a review of social media posts by the Anti-Defamation League's Center on Extremism. Many saw the attack as a call to arms.

Stopping extremist groups may be impossible, but pushing those groups further to the political margins is possible, Schubiner said.

"Everyone who believes in inclusive democracy and does not believe in political violence needs to come out and say so strongly, and then back that up with actions," she said.

OREGON | POLITICAL VIOLENCE

Top prosecutors vow to fight ongoing threat

BY JIM RYAN

The Oregonian

Two of Oregon's top prosecutors on Friday vowed to stand against any political violence tied to President-elect Joe Biden's upcoming inauguration.

Oregon U.S. Attorney Billy J. Williams decried the violent mob of President Donald Trump supporters who stormed the U.S. Capitol last week and said federal authorities are working to investigate and prosecute "all forms of domestic terrorism" — including the attack on the Capitol.

And Multnomah County District Attorney Mike Schmidt echoed the sentiment, noting the county's "public safety system stands ready to confront any violence and property destruction."

"No amount of property damage or violence is acceptable," he said in a statement.

Williams said the threat of political violence persists nationwide and in Oregon. He said his agency is working with fed-

eral, state and local agencies "to identify, investigate, and disrupt anyone intent on engaging in violence" in Oregon.

Schmidt said he hopes people consider the upcoming Martin Luther King Jr. Day as a holiday "of reflection and contemplation."

"Our public safety system continues to take a critical look at itself to find solutions to the injustice and racism highlighted during months of nightly protests last summer," he said.

The statements from the prosecutors comes a day after the FBI announced it is setting up a command post in Portland to prepare for any potential violent activity. The bureau said it will gather intelligence and work with other law enforcement agencies to get ready for potential protests this weekend and next week.

Both prosecutors and the FBI said tipsters who have information about any potential upcoming violence can call 503-224-4181 or submit information online.



Beth Nakamura/The Oregonian file

Pro-Trump protesters clash with police and counterprotesters in Salem at the Oregon Capitol on Jan. 6 as lawmakers convened in Washington, D.C., to confirm the Electoral College vote won by Joe Biden.

CLACKAMAS COUNTY

Commissioner won't resign over Islamophobic remarks

The Associated Press

OREGON CITY — Embattled Clackamas County Commissioner Mark Shull on Thursday said he would not step down, rebuffing a chorus of community and elected leaders who have called for his resignation.

At the same time Shull inexplicably voted in favor of a

resolution censuring him and calling for him to resign for making "derogatory, offensive, insensitive, and racist" remarks that "damaged the reputation" of Clackamas County, The Oregonian reported.

Although the board is non-partisan, Republicans Tootie Smith and Paul Savas, and Democrats Sonya Fischer and

Martha Schrader, voted for the resolution.

The five-member board cannot force Shull to resign. By law the resolution serves as a public rebuke of his conduct.

Shull was unmoved and barely acknowledged the controversy since a Clackamas County resident brought public attention to xenophobic

Facebook posts he had made over the past 18 months.

Screenshots of the posts show Shull has commented about Islam, Muslim people, transgender people and the Black Lives Matter movement, which he called "a pawn for the rise of neo Marxism."

Shull, who lives in Sandy, was elected to the commission

in November, defeating incumbent Ken Humberston.

Cris Waller, the resident who brought Shull's views to light, asked him to resign and said she would initiate a recall effort if he refused.

His colleagues including Schrader, addressed Shull, saying his comments "have caused irreparable damage."