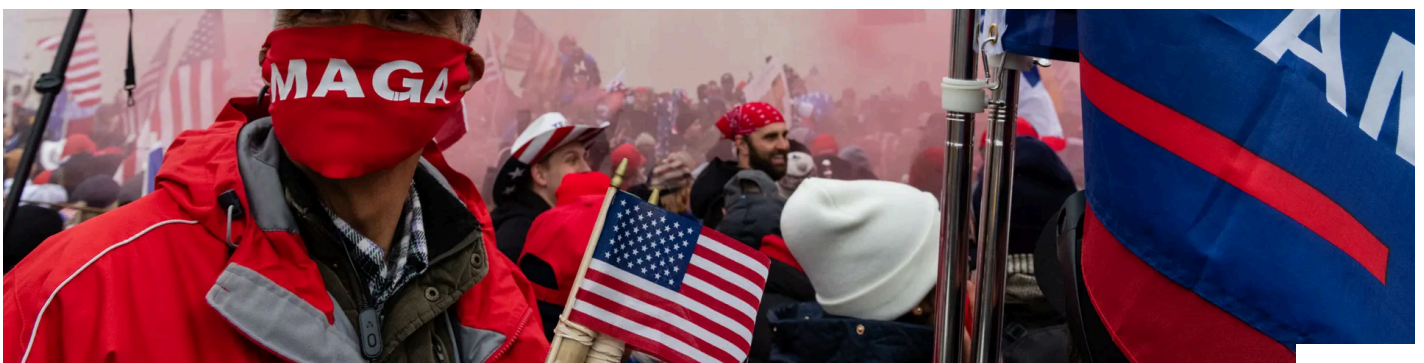
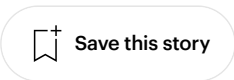


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If the day's events began as a "march," they ended as something altogether different—anarchy that challenges the terminology of history. P  
by Eric Lee / Bloomberg / Getty



“Big protest in D.C. on January 6th,” Donald Trump tweeted before Christmas. “Be there, will be wild!”

On New Year’s Day, he tweeted again: “The BIG Protest Rally in Washington, D.C. will take place at 11:00 A.M. on January 6th.” On January 5th: “I will be speaking at the SAVE AMERICA RALLY

tomorrow on the Ellipse at 11AM Eastern. Arrive early—doors open at 7AM Eastern. BIG CROWDS!”

The posters called it the “Save America March.” What happened that day was big, and it was wild. If it began

as a protest and a rally and a march, it ended as something altogether different. But what? Sedition, treason, a

failed revolution, an attempted coup? And what will it be called, looking back? A day of anarchy? The end of

America? *It's starting with an explanation of what's actually happening on 6th Jan and then the author is expressing concern. It pulls the*

Trump called the people who violently attacked and briefly seized the U.S. Capitol building in order to *attention.*

overturn a Presidential election “patriots”; President-elect Joe Biden called them “terrorists.” In a section of

“Leviathan” called “Inconstant Names,” Thomas Hobbes, in 1651, remarked that the names of things are

variable, “For one man calleth Wisdome, what another calleth Feare; and one Cruelty, what another Justice.”

On the other hand, sometimes one man is right (those people *were* terrorists). And, sometimes, what to call a

thing seems plain. “This is what the President has caused today, this insurrection,” Mitt Romney, fleeing the

Senate chamber, told a *Times* reporter. *Using quotes to get the point across.*

*Gives a sense of how rhetoric is used to their advantage.*

By any reasonable definition of the word (including the Oxford English Dictionary’s: “The action of rising in

arms or open resistance against established authority”), what happened on January 6th was an insurrection.

An insurrection is, generally, damnable: calling a political action an insurrection is a way of denouncing what

its participants mean to be a revolution. “There hath been in Rome strange insurrections,” Shakespeare wrote,

in “Coriolanus.” “The people against the senators, patricians, and nobles.” Insurrection, in Shakespeare, is

“foul,” “base and bloody.” In the United States, the language of insurrection has a vexed racial history. *Problematic*

“Insurrection” was the term favored by slaveowners for the political actions taken by people held in human

bondage seeking their freedom. Thomas Jefferson, in the Declaration of Independence, charged the king with

having “excited domestic insurrections amongst us.” The English lexicographer Samuel Johnson, an opponent

of slavery, once offered a toast “To the next insurrection of the negroes in the West Indies.” And Benjamin

Franklin, wryly objecting to Southern politicians’ conception of human beings as animals, offered this rule to

tell the difference between them: “sheep will never make any insurrections.” *which rule?*

*mockingly*

The term’s racial inflection lasted well beyond the end of slavery. In the nineteen-sixties, law-and-order

Republicans used that language to demean civil-rights protests, to describe a political movement as rampant

criminality. “We have seen the gathering hate, we have heard the threats to burn and bomb and destroy,”

Richard Nixon said, in 1968. “In Watts and Harlem and Detroit and Newark, we have had a foretaste of what

the organizations of insurrection are planning for the summer ahead.” In that era, though, “riot” replaced

“insurrection” as the go-to racial code word: “riots” were Black, “protests” were white, as Elizabeth Hinton

argues in an essential, forthcoming book, America on Fire: The Untold History of Police Violence and Black

Negative connotation towards the word "insurrection".

I'm not understanding this part.

Rebellion Since the 1960s. "Yet historically," Hinton observes, "most instances of mass criminality have been perpetrated by white vigilantes hostile to integration and who joined together into roving mobs that took 'justice' in their own hands." This remains an apt description of what happened on January 6th.

One possibility, then, is to call the Sixth of January a "race riot." Its participants were overwhelmingly white; many were avowedly white supremacists. A lot of journalists described the attack on the legislature as a "storming" of the Capitol, language that white-supremacist groups must have found thrilling. Hitler's paramilitary called itself the *Sturmabteilung*, the Storm detachment; Nazis published a newspaper called *Der Stürmer*, the stormer. QAnon awaits a "Storm" in which the satanic cabal that controls the United States will be finally defeated. So one good idea would be never, ever to call the Sixth of January "the Storming of the Capitol." Building up her argument through pathos. uses emotions attached to Hitler to build up her argument.

Rhetorical question? What words will historians use in textbooks? Any formulation is a non-starter if it diminishes the culpability of people in positions of power who perpetrated the lie that the election was stolen. It's not a coup d'état because it didn't succeed. It's not even a failed coup, because a coup involves the military. And, as Naamihal Singh, the author of "Seizing Power: The Strategic Logic of Military Coups," told *Foreign Policy*, the word "coup" lets too many people off the hook. "The people who you want to point fingers at are the president, the party leaders, and the street thugs," Singh said. "And we lose that if we start talking about a coup; it gives a pass to all of the Republican politicians who have been endorsing what Trump's saying."

In truth, the language of the coop seems more appropriate than the language of the coup. I mean chickens. "Coming home to roost" quite aptly describes the arrival of armed terrorists in the hall where, moments before, Senator Ted Cruz had summoned that very flock as he stood on the floor and urged the legislature to overturn the election. Derrick Evans, the West Virginia Republican lawmaker who joined the mob and, as he breached the doors of the Capitol, cried out, "We're in! We're in!" acted with more honesty and consistency than the hundred and forty-seven members of the House and Senate who, later that night, voted to overturn the results of the election after having hidden, for hours, from the very people they'd been inciting for months and even years. Feels informal and demeaning the house and senate representatives.

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“Sedition” is too weak. Noah Webster, in his American Dictionary of the English Language, from 1828, offered this handy way to distinguish “sedition” from “insurrection”: “sedition expresses a less extensive rising of citizens.” In any case, sedition in the sense of a political rebellion, is obsolete. “Treason,” an attempt to overthrow the government, seems fair, though it almost risks elevating what looked to be a shabby, clownish, idiotic, and aimless act of mass vandalism. If I were picking the words, I’d want to steer very clear of ennobling it, so I’d be inclined to call it something blandly descriptive, like “The Attack on the U.S. Capitol,” or “The Sixth of January.”

*giving a noble rank*  
*no longer exists.*  
*really get her point across.*  
*uses words that*

“Remember this day forever!” Trump tweeted at one minute past six on Wednesday night. There’s no danger that anyone will forget it, by whatever name. The harder question is not what to call the events of that day, but what to make of the maddening four years and more that led up to it: the long, slow rot of the Republican Party; the Deceit of Republicans in the House and Senate since January, 2017; the want of a conservative media willing to incite violence; the fecklessness of Twitter and Facebook; and, not least, the carelessness

*being desired or wanted*  
*carelessness*

venality, criminality, and derangement of the President. Whether that story belongs under a chapter titled "The Rise and Fall of Donald J. Trump" or "The End of America" awaits the outcome of events.

use of grammar to strengthen the impact of her words.

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