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Democracy Dies in Darkness

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# Trump's stark vision

Taking office, he orders policy reversals and begins reshaping government



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Donald Trump takes the oath of office accompanied by his wife, Melania, and his children at a ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda. He said he would "reverse ... all of these many betrayals that have taken place."

## President signals a dramatic turn, and new course begins to unfold



**Dan Balz**  
THE TAKE

President Donald Trump turned Monday's traditional Inauguration Day ceremonies into something untraditional. Part State of the Union address and part political pep rally, the 60th presidential inauguration most of all was pure Donald Trump — and an extension of the campaign that restored him to power.

It's long been said that elections have consequences. There may be no better example than what transpired under the dome of the Capitol Rotunda on a blustery and bitterly cold day in the nation's capital. On Day 1 of his second term, Trump showed how profound those consequences could be as he signaled his determination to

move as quickly as possible to make good on his campaign promises.

As former president Joe Biden sat grim-faced nearby, Trump shredded the Biden administration's policies, and those of the administrations of other presidents in attendance as well, setting a new course for the country that represents profound and controversial change. He declared that his victory in November represented a "mandate to completely and totally reverse a horrible betrayal, and all of these many betrayals that have taken place."

The inaugural address included a few of the flourishes of unifying rhetoric customary on this day. But those seemed almost like afterthoughts, added after proclaiming the substance

SEE TAKE ON AA3



MATT MCCLAIN/THE WASHINGTON POST

Trump supporters watch the inauguration at Capital One Arena, where some of the festivities were moved because of cold weather.

### Expanded coverage, AA1-AA12

A frigid day curtails the defiance and festivities D.C. saw in 2017. AA2

Trump signs an executive order to halt the ban on TikTok. AA9

Biden's final hours a head-snapping mix of hostility and bonhomie. AA11

Sporting looks like armor, Melania Trump returns to Washington. C1

## Speech declares 'liberation,' claims mandate for emergency powers

BY ISAAC ARNSDORF

Donald Trump took office as the 47th president claiming an electoral and divine mandate to immediately invoke emergency powers on immigration and energy, pursue territorial expansion, and reverse Joe Biden's policies on car emissions and trans rights.

Trump declared his inauguration "Liberation Day," condemning the country's past leaders joining him in the Capitol Rotunda for the swearing-in ceremony and describing a vision for the country that was at once nostalgic and futuristic: an America where there are two genders, that calls Alaska's tallest peak Mount McKinley, where the U.S. flag flies on Mars and all wars are over.

"My recent election is a mandate to completely and totally

reverse a horrible betrayal, and all of these many betrayals that have taken place, and to give the people back their faith, their wealth, their democracy and indeed their freedom," he said.

Referencing the July 13 assassination attempt that wounded his ear, Trump added, "I was saved by God to make America great again."

Republican lawmakers, billionaire donors, media personalities and foreign allies rose to cheer, while fans at a downtown arena embraced and cried. As Trump began detailing first-day actions to deport millions of people and use wartime powers against gangs, outgoing President Joe Biden appeared to sink in his seat. Vice President Kamala Harris, whom Trump defeated on Nov. 5, sat stone-faced with her arms crossed in her lap.

SEE INAUGURATION ON AA6

## Biden's preemptive pardons mark a big leap into uncharted waters

BY SABRINA RODRIGUEZ AND MATT VISER

In one of his last acts in the White House, just hours before Donald Trump's inauguration, President Joe Biden issued preemptive pardons Monday to his siblings and their spouses, saying he feared they would be targeted for political reasons by the new administration.

Biden also preemptively pardoned retired Gen. Mark A. Milley, who has been highly critical of Trump; Anthony S. Fauci, who

spearheaded the country's pandemic response; members of the House committee that investigated the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol; and police officers who testified before the committee.

In a lengthy statement, Biden said he was issuing the pardons not because of any wrongdoing by those individuals but to protect them from potential political prosecution. Trump has repeatedly threatened to go after those who have crossed him

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## Trump extends clemency to all involved in Jan. 6 riot

BY SPENCER S. HSU, TOM JACKMAN, HANNAH KNOWLES AND CLARA ENCE MORSE

President Donald Trump granted a blanket pardon Monday evening to virtually all Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol riot defendants and commuted the sentences of the remaining 14 — a sweeping move that gives some form of clemency to all those charged or convicted in the riot.

In one of the earliest acts of his second term, Trump signed a

proclamation issuing a "complete and unconditional pardon" to all but 14 people convicted for any offenses related to the attack at the Capitol as his first term drew to a close. He cut short the sentences for the other 14 — nine members of the Oath Keepers and five members of the Proud Boys.

That means everyone prosecuted by the Justice Department, from the plotters imprisoned for seditious conspiracy and felons convicted of assaulting police officers to those who merely

SEE PARDONS ON AAS

## Executive order attempts to end birthright citizenship

BY NICK MIROFF, MARIA SACCHETTI, ARELIS R. HERNÁNDEZ AND DAN LAMOTHE

President Donald Trump directed U.S. government agencies to no longer issue citizenship documentation to babies born in the United States to parents who lack legal status, one of several immigration-related orders he signed in the Oval Office on Monday evening after his inauguration.

Trump's order seeks to reinterpret the 14th Amendment of the

Constitution, which grants citizenship to all people born on U.S. soil, a change legal scholars say is illegal and will be quickly challenged in the courts. The birthright order was part of a burst of immigration-related directives aimed at undoing Biden administration policies and wielding obscure presidential powers to launch a broad crackdown along the border and across immigrant communities.

Trump said during his inaugural speech that he will invoke the

SEE CITIZENSHIP ON AA10

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