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January 6th, 2021: The Day The World Watched A Shameless Demonstration of White Supremacy

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Recommended Citation

Parkhurst, Sara, "January 6th, 2021: The Day The World Watched A Shameless Demonstration of White Supremacy" (2023). *Research Days Posters 2023*. 69.

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January 6th, 2021: The Day The World Watched A Shameless Demonstration of White Supremacy

How did the United States' Insurrection on January 6th, 2021 exemplify a looming threat to human rights and the failures of the nation to eradicate white supremacy?

By: Sara Parkhurst

Purpose: Situate January 6th as a human rights threat and racial issue since it perpetuated the U.S. enduring issue of white supremacy

Methodology

1. Reading a news coverage timeline
2. Review of current literature
3. Researching white supremacy in January 6th
4. Legal analysis
5. Reading & organizing arrest records of New York State rioters
 - o Self proclaimed justifications
 - o Stated or shared opinions
 - o General demeanor
6. Synthesizing and drawing conclusions

Limitations: The subjectivity of categorizing actions as white entitlement, & rioters' charges lack consideration to human rights.

The Events of January 6th, 2021

On January 6th, 2021, the day the presidential election was to be certified, Donald Trump held a "Stop the Steal" rally.

Before his speech was over, supporters began to surround the Capitol.

Mike Pence releases a letter opposing Trump's claims of a false election.

The joint session begins.

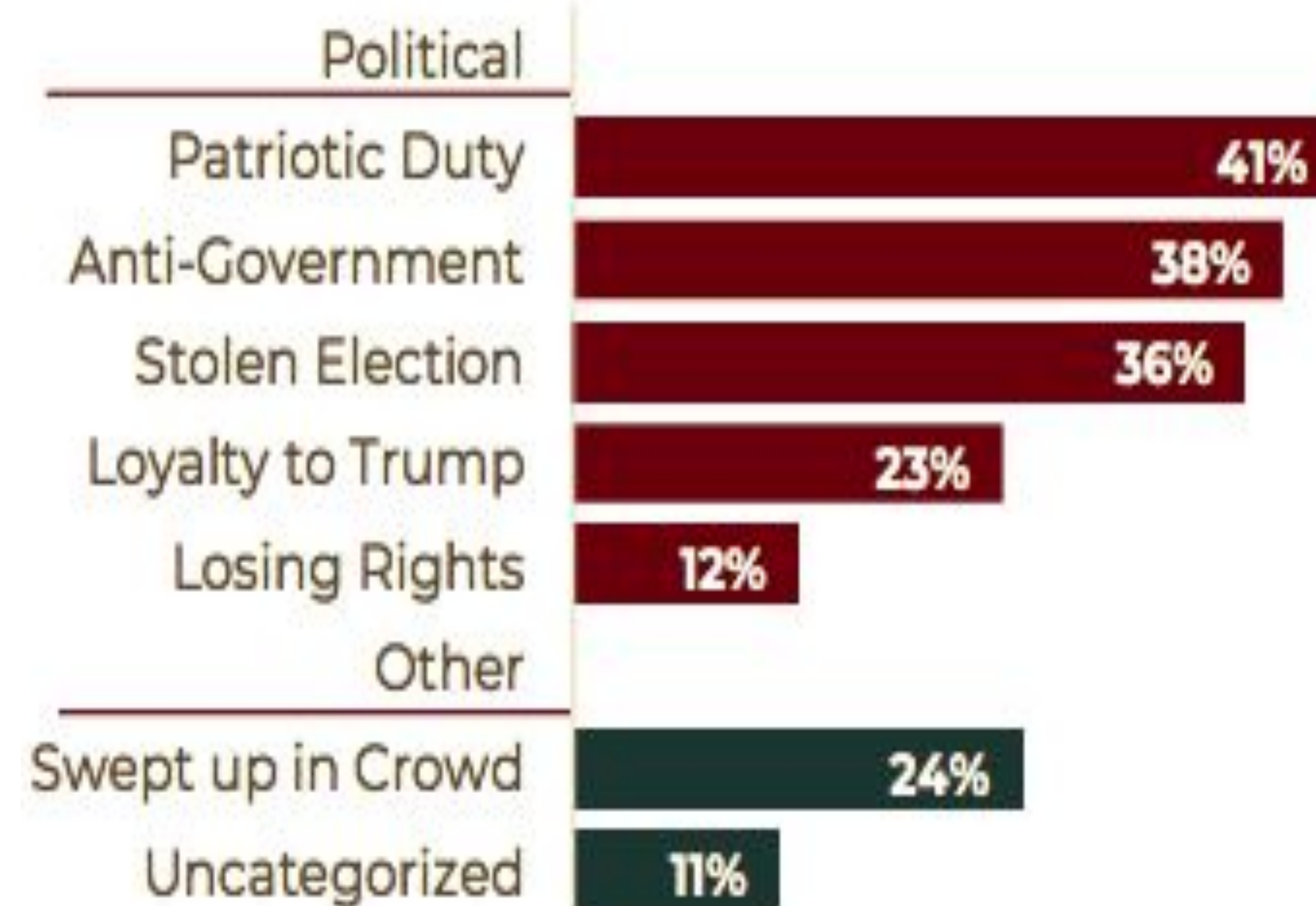
Trump's speech concludes: "We're going to the Capitol... We're going to try and give them [Republicans] the kind of pride and boldness that they need to take back our country."

Rioters violently overcome police and breach the Capitol building causing legislators to call a recess & evacuate

Mindset of The Rioters

- ★ "Patriotic Counter-Revolutionary"
 - o Having the "RIGHT" to attack the government as a way to preserve the democratic institutions

AMONG PEOPLE WITH STATED MOTIVES



Pape, Robert A. *Patriotic Counter-Revolution: The Political Mindset that Stormed the Capitol.*

Were They "Protecting" or Destroying Democracy?

Did they:

- Have a valid reason ✗
- Represent the ideals of "the people" ✗
- Attempt to prevent a genuine election ✓
- Attempt to force election results ✓

Was it a Legal Protest?

Were they:

- Peaceful ✗
- On grounds with permission ✗

Legal Parameters

- **U.S. Constitution's First Amendment:** A protest must be peaceful, on warranted grounds, & can constitute suggestions
- **18 U.S.C 1752:** Illegal to enter restricted government areas specifically with the **intent to impede government processes**
- **18 U.S.C. § 2385:** Illegal to **distribute** information about, **rally** support for, or **contend** the necessity to unlawfully overthrow the government

What Gave Them The Right?

White supremacy

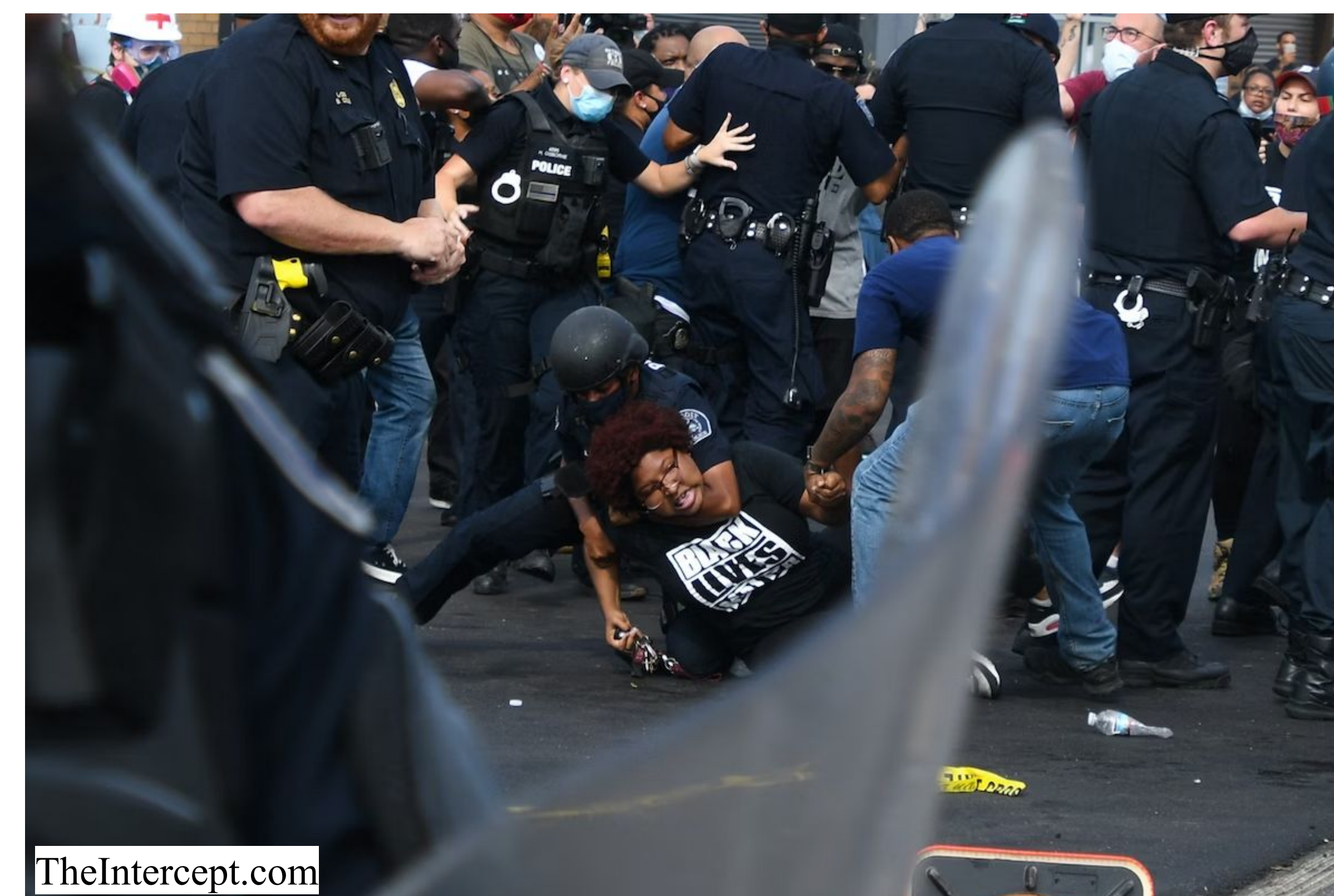
The Institutions:

- Many of the rioters did not expect consequences from their actions and many stated they believed the police would be receptive to their presence at the Capitol

To officers: "You gotta let us by... You don't have to listen to them... tell your guys... We're on the same team. You don't have to take these orders." - Arrested Rioter George Purdy

"yeah I was in one of the offices. Some people were smoking a joint in the room, lol. Cops came in and were like. Okay guys really? They didn't even ask us to leave right away. They let us sit down and hang out and relax." - Arrested Rioter Justin McAuliffe

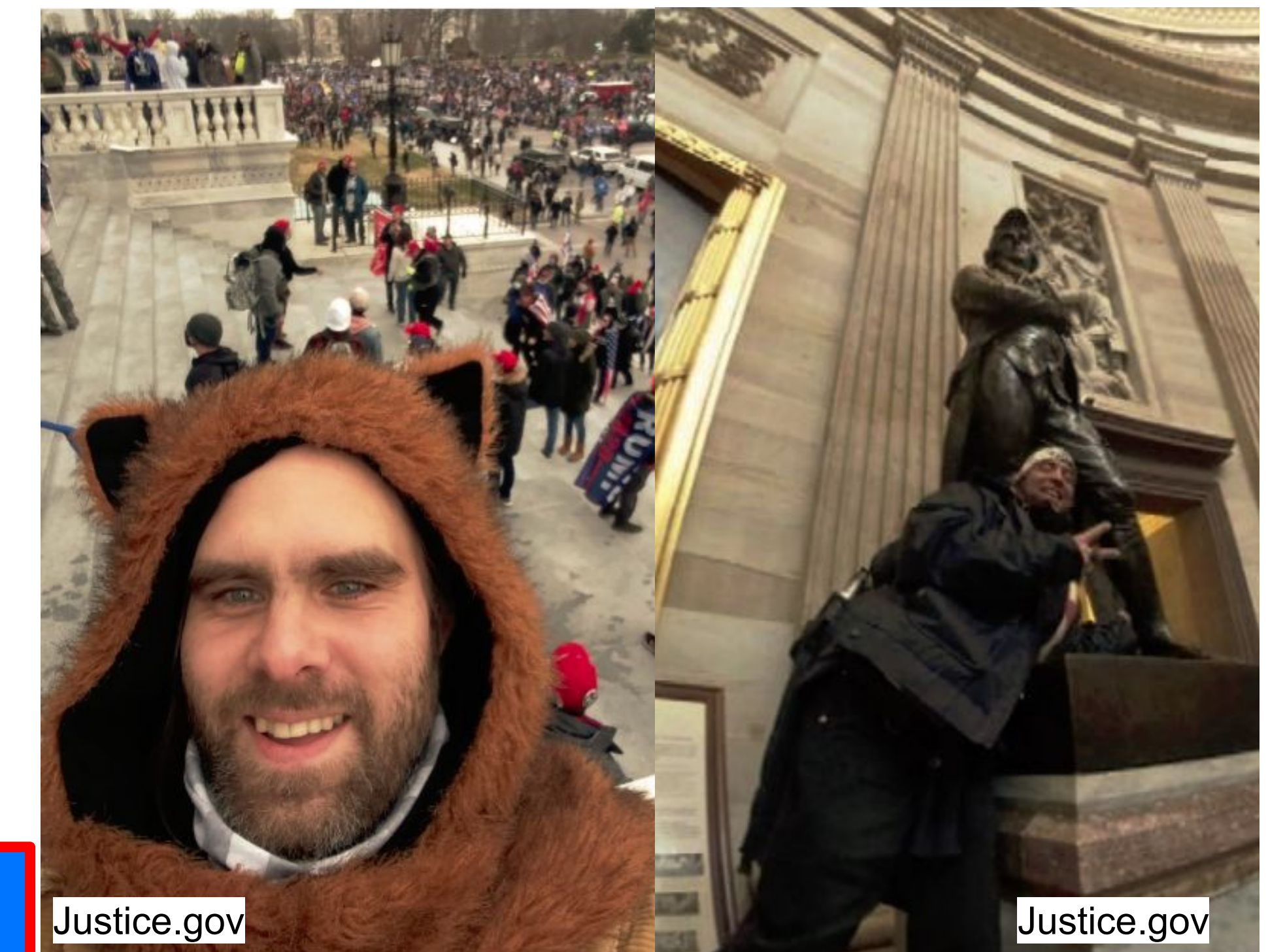
Versus Black Lives Matter: On Public Streets



TheIntercept.com

Historical Continuity

- The entitlement portrayed by rioters mimicked those of race mobs in the 19th-20th century
 - o Many broadcasted and shared their crimes



Justice.gov

Justice.gov

- Whenever there is racial progress or reform expectations for a presidential election, there is a following riot.
 - o In 1861 at slavery abolitionist Abraham Lincoln's certification, a mob stormed the Capitol
 - o President Joe Biden was the candidate supporting the demands from 2020 Black Lives Matter



ABC NEWS

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