

The Capitol Riot in 1:42 minutes

Sukriti Issar

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In this short blog, I transcribe a video of the first protestors who broke through the barricades on the way to the Capitol on January 6th 2021, the start of the so-called Capitol 'riot', 'insurrection', or 'coup'. In this short video, the polarized and emotionally charged politics in America, as well as the chaos of January 6th are in view.¹

'Lets go. Fuck this shit. We pay your bills. You back the fuck off. You back off. Move. Move. It's our house, we pay your bills. This is some bullshit. USA USA.' Overlaid with this bullhorn are other comments, diffuse yelling, chants of USA, and a calmer voice doing some reporting. These are the comments from apparently some of the earliest breaching of barricades around the Capitol on January 6th 2021.

The first set of protestors through the first barricade have phones, some have raised their hands as if for the police, a bullhorn is saying the words above. A few people start struggling with the barricades and the understaffed police presence there. Chants of 'USA, USA' and 'hold my backpack'. Phones. Some video cameras. A man takes his denim jacket off, underneath is a black hoodie overlaying a white sweatshirt. He takes the jacket off, turns his MAGA hat backwards, and starts to exchange words with the police officer at the barricade. A man in what appears to be camouflage puts his hand on his shoulder and appears to be talking to him, it is not clear if the older man is talking him down or coordinating the pushing back on the barricades. The crowd pushes against the barricades, and they are down.

A police woman is down on the ground to the right of the screen, her hat falls off, her blond hair are visible, it appears she has been crushed under the barricade. Calls of 'whoa whoa' and 'hey, hey, hey' and 'oh shit'. Some people help her up. Backwards-cap instigator helps her up, as do others including two police officers, and she is led away. A man is filming this fallen policewoman. Toward the left a police officer and two men (or two officers and one rioter) are locked in a struggle, another officer rushes up and punches a man, there is some violent hitting and struggling going on. Further left, now that the barricades are down the crowd starts to stream in, standing briefly on the top of the short flight of steps to jubilantly raise their hands and hold aloft a Trump 2020 flag. Soon the fight breaks up and protestors and police start jogging toward the Capitol. In the distance it appears there is smoke rising from the ground. These officers seem to have no weapons, no protective gear, no helmets or shields, no pepper spray. They are using their fists. The whole video is 1:42 minutes.

¹ <https://twitter.com/ElijahSchaffer/status/1346966514990149639>