

THE 47TH PRESIDENT

TRUMP CAPS RETURN TO POWER,
VOWING TO STOP A U.S. ‘DECLINE’



KENNY HOLSTON/THE NEW YORK TIMES

President Trump pledged to usher in a new “golden age” during his Inaugural Address on Monday at the Capitol. “The American people have spoken,” he said.

He Sees a Mandate
as Both Personal
and Political

By PETER BAKER

WASHINGTON — Donald John Trump completed an extraordinary return to power on Monday as he was sworn in as the 47th president of the United States and opened an immediate blitz of actions to begin drastically changing the course of the country and usher in a new “golden age of America.”

In a triumph of the man and his movement, Mr. Trump took the oath of office during a ceremony in the Capitol four years after he was evicted by voters, reinvigorated for another term aimed at re-making America in his vision. He wasted no time outlining an ambitious program of often divisive policies to “reclaim our Republic” and purge its enemies and his own.

“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,” Mr. Trump said during a 29-minute Inaugural Address as former President Joseph R. Biden Jr. and former Vice President Kamala Harris looked on. “From this moment on, America’s decline is over.”

Feeling vindicated by voters after impeachments, indictments and conviction on 34 felony counts, Mr. Trump claimed a personal mandate as well as a political one. “Many people thought it was impossible for me to stage such a historic political comeback,” he said. “But as you see today, here I am. The American people have spoken.”

Indeed, he saw divine intervention in his restoration to the White House, citing his close call during an assassination attempt this summer when a bullet nicked his ear. “I felt then, and believe even more so now, that my life was saved for a reason,” he said. “I was saved by God to make America great again.”

Mr. Trump was inaugurated in the same building where a mob of his supporters rampaged four years ago in a failed effort to reverse the results of an election that he lost, culminating one of the most astonishing comebacks in U.S. history. In a stark sign of the changing power dynamics in America, Mr. Trump planned later in the day to pardon or commute the sentences for hundreds of rioters convicted in connection with their roles in the attack.

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An Insistence
To Not Take No
For an Answer

By DAVID E. SANGER

WASHINGTON — “Nothing will stand in our way.”

With that six-word vow, President Trump described how he planned to make his second term in office differ from his first. Now, after a four-year interregnum that began with political exile and ended with his improbable resurrection, the great disrupter made clear that he does not intend to be thwarted this time in making America far more conservative at home and more imperial abroad.

In his 29-minute Inaugural Address, Mr. Trump wasted no time on lofty appeals to American ideals. Instead, he spoke with a tone of aggression intended to be heard by domestic and foreign audiences as a warning that America under a more experienced Donald Trump will not take no for an answer.

He will end an era in which the world exploited American generosity, he said, empowering an “External Revenue Service” to “tariff and tax foreign countries to enrich our citizens.”

After falsely declaring that China controls the American-built Panama Canal, he vowed, “We’re taking it back.” He hailed

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Last-Hour Pardons Aimed at Averting Reprisals

By PETER BAKER
and MICHAEL D. SHEAR

WASHINGTON — President Joseph R. Biden Jr. granted a wave of pre-emptive pardons in his final hours in office on Monday to guard members of his own family and other high-profile figures from a promised campaign of “retribution” by his incoming successor, Donald J. Trump.

In an extraordinary effort by a departing president to derail political prosecutions by an incoming president, Mr. Biden pardoned

Biden Shields Siblings,
Cheney and Fauci

five members of his family, including his brothers James B. Biden and Francis W. Biden, as well as others targeted by Mr. Trump, like Gen. Mark A. Milley, Dr. Anthony S. Fauci and former Representative Liz Cheney.

“I believe in the rule of law, and I am optimistic that the strength of our legal institutions will ultimately prevail over politics,” Mr. Biden said in a statement. “But these are exceptional circumstances, and I cannot in good conscience do nothing. Baseless and politically motivated investigations wreak havoc on the lives, safety and financial security of targeted individuals and their families.”

“Even when individuals have done nothing wrong — and in fact have done the right thing — and will ultimately be exonerated, the mere fact of being investigated or

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Portrait of U.S. Is Even Bleaker,
But Cure, One Man, Is the Same

By MICHAEL D. SHEAR

WASHINGTON — If his first Inaugural Address was a relentlessly dark vision of “American carnage,” President Trump made his second one a paean to the power of one person’s ability to rescue a nation — specifically his.

The 47th president’s 29-minute address on Monday, just after noon, painted an even bleaker portrait of a country in disarray, one seized by “years of a radical and corrupt establishment,” with the pillars of society “broken and seemingly in complete disrepair.” America, he said, “cannot manage even a simple crisis at home, while at the same time stumbling into a continuing catalog of catastrophic events abroad.”

It was a misleading and incomplete assessment of a country that has a growing economy, with falling inflation, slowing illegal immigration, a record-breaking stock market, the lowest levels of violent crime in years and a military that has limited engagement in conflicts around the world.

In that way, it was a speech that went to the core of Mr. Trump’s political appeal: convincing his supporters that he — and he alone — can fix what ails (or does not ail)

the country. And it represented a reprise of how he had framed his first presidency: as a constant fight against enemies, foreign and domestic.

“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 from this,” Mr. Trump said on Monday, in the longest inaugural address in modern history.

“America’s decline is over,” he declared.

Mr. Trump pledged that the country was entering a “golden age,” as evidenced by his own fate, noting that he had emerged victorious in the face of political opposition, legal wrangling and even two attempts on his life.

“I felt then, and believe even more so now, that my life was saved for a reason. I was saved by God to make America great again,” he said, adding later: “As you see today, here I am. The American people have spoken.”

Mr. Trump’s delivery of his

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DOUG MILLS/THE NEW YORK TIMES

President Trump sending off his predecessor on Monday. He has broadly threatened prosecutions.

CLOSER LOOK AT AN ADDRESS President Trump laid out a sweeping agenda and said the U.S. “will flourish and be respected again.” PAGE A12

WHO’S WHO IN THE CROWD A look at some of the prominent names in attendance as Donald J. Trump took the oath of office. PAGES A10-11

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Fighting Ends, but War Lingers
Difficult choices lie ahead for Israel and Gaza, and American leverage is needed to get both parties to the second phase, which could end the attacks. PAGE A6

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The nonalcoholic beverage industry might receive a boost from the surgeon general’s warnings linking alcohol to some cancers. PAGE B1

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‘Footloose’ Choreographer
Lynne Taylor-Corbett brought dance vitality and enchantment to Hollywood, Broadway musicals like “Swing!” and ballets. She was 78. PAGE B12

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Poorer, and Paying More
A law that coaxed companies to lower the price of drugs came with a little-known consequence: smaller discounts for low-income health clinics. PAGE D1

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