

'New world order' as Trump takes oath

[theguardian.com/new-world-order-as-trump-takes-oath-4](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jan/21/new-world-order-as-trump-takes-oath) 21 January 2025



He's back: After his inauguration (above), Trump proclaimed that "America's decline is over" and vowed to immediately declare a national emergency on the US-Mexico border.

Should we call this a revolution? Donald Trump is back in the White House. This time, experts say, he is out to change the whole world.

What's happening?

Donald Trump is back in the **White House**. Yesterday, the businessman became American **president** for a second time as he was sworn back into power.

In his **inauguration** speech, he said he would lead a "**revolution** of common sense".

Find out more

On his first day in office, Trump planned to use his power to make a number of orders. He said his aim was to stop illegal **immigration**, **pardon** people in prison over the **January** riots and stop schools from teaching about **transgender** people.

In fact, he is said to have planned for more than 100 **executive orders** to be released on the very first day of his presidency. This is why some call what he is doing a revolution. His plan is to shake up the nation and change things as quickly as possible.

Yet others say none of this is as sudden as it looks. A long line of presidents from both parties have given US presidents more and more power. At the same time, there are fewer people who can hold them back.

So, they say, Trump is not a revolution. Instead, he is the result of a long process that has made the presidency into a monster.

Should we call this a revolution?

Some say

Yes! No other word can be used to describe his plans to rip up the plans former president **Joe Biden** set out. He wants America to change dramatically and quickly.

Others think

No! This is nothing new. He is simply doing what every president before him has done: giving himself more and more powers.

Some people say

"You cannot make a revolution with silk gloves."

Joseph Stalin (1878 – 1953), Soviet dictator

"Power doesn't corrupt people, people corrupt power."

William Gaddis (1922 – 1998), American writer

Six steps to discovery

1. Connect

How do you feel about this story? - What do you think about Trump's return?

2. Wonder

What questions do you have? - For example: Will the world ever stop changing?

3. Investigate

What are the facts? - Pick out one thing we know for certain about this story and one thing we cannot say for

What do you think?

sure.

4. Construct

What is your point of view? - What is a “revolution”? As a class, try to come up with a definition.

5. Express

What do others believe? - Will Trump be a good president? Discuss as a class.

6. Reflect

What might happen next? - If you were US president, what is the first thing you would do? Write down your answer with an explanation.

Glossary

Donald Trump - An American television personality who became US president from 2016 to 2020, and will become president again in January 2025.

White House - The official residence of the US president, in Washington DC. Burnt by British troops in 1814, it was rebuilt and painted white to hide the smoke stains.

President - In some countries, the leader is called the president.

Inauguration - The introduction of a new system, or the formal ceremony introducing someone to office (most noticeably the US president).

Revolution - A sudden change in the way things are done.

Immigration - The permanent movement of people into a country.

Pardon - Officially forgive.

6 January - Then-US president Donald Trump was accused of inciting a mob of his supporters to storm the US Capitol on 6 January 2021 in a bid to overturn the 2020 election results.

Transgender - Someone whose gender identity (what they feel inside) does not match the gender identity they were assigned at birth (based on their biology).

Executive orders - In the US, orders written by the president that does not require approval from the legislature, Congress.

Joe Biden - The president of the USA, elected in 2020.