

WORLD

# Wounds from Capitol riot yet to heal

Assault on US seat of government by pro-Trump mob leaves enduring damage

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One year after supporters of Donald Trump stormed the US Capitol, the scenes of mayhem have become etched in the divisions that still play out in the United States, experts said.

“President (Joe) Biden has still not fully repaired the damage done on that day and in the run-up and immediate aftermath,” Peter Feaver, a professor of political science and public policy at Duke University, told China Daily.

On Jan 6, 2021, the day that Congress convened to certify Biden’s victory in the 2020 presidential election, hundreds of supporters of the Republican president rushed into the building in a bid to disrupt the proceedings that were to formalize Trump’s exit from the White House.

Feaver said that the chaos served up by the pro-Trump rioters provided dramatic visual images, but the behind-the-scenes efforts by insiders to hold on to power posed more serious ethical dilemmas to military leaders and national security and law enforcement professionals.

While many in the Republican Party have attempted to play down the impact of that day, investigations in Congress and the Justice Department are still probing the tumultuous events.

David Schanzer, a professor at Duke University’s Sanford School of

Public Policy and expert on counter-terrorism strategy, said the events of Jan 6 were “the first time in American history that violence has been used to attempt to block the peaceful transition of power”.

He said that over the past 12 months, “even greater damage has been inflicted on our democracy by former president Donald Trump and his supporters by perpetuating the lie — unsupported by any evidence — that the 2020 election was fraudulent”.

“The storming of the Capitol on Jan 6, 2021, was a historical travesty, but what has happened in America since then has been even worse,” Schanzer told China Daily.

Schanzer also said he is worried that the two-party system that has provided political stability at least since the end of the Civil War is now on the verge of collapse.

“Even during a global pandemic and while the climate catastrophe is unfolding, this assault on American democracy is the most pressing issue of our times,” he said.

In a commentary published on the website of the Strategic and International Study, Alan Reinsch, a senior adviser and the Scholl Chair of CSIS, called Jan 6 “a day of infamy”.

“I wrote that we are ‘tribal, violent, racist, and selfish,’ and we proved that a year ago. It remains true today.”

The assault on the Capitol reinforced the conclusion that American exceptionalism and competence



Police officers keep watch on the US Capitol in Washington on Wednesday. The United States is more deeply divided than ever a year after the deadly attack on Jan 6, 2021. EVELYN HOCKSTEIN / REUTERS

## China urges reflection on ramshackle ‘democracy’

China on Thursday urged the United States to reflect on its own “democratic deficit” and stop acts of imposing its model overseas and creating division and confrontation in the world with so-called democracy as a cover.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin made the remarks at a daily news conference when commenting on the anniversary of the Jan 6 insurrection at the US Capitol by supporters of former president Donald Trump.

Polls have shown strong concerns among people in the US on the state of the country’s democracy, Wang

said, including a recent NPR poll which found that 64 percent of US respondents believe their democracy is in crisis and at risk of failing.

US democracy is in a ramshackle state, Wang said, adding that the US’ hasty withdrawal from Afghanistan further exposed the harm of imposing US-style democracy upon others.

However, he said, instead of drawing a lesson, Washington styles itself as a leader of Western democracy and hosted the so-called Summit for Democracy to serve its interest at the cost of international division and confrontation.

This is bound to be rejected and criticized by the world and the summit fizzled out hastily, the spokesman added.

Democracy is a common value of humanity instead of a tool for political manipulation, Wang stressed, adding: “There is no hierarchy when it comes to democracy, and there is no one-size-fits-all democratic model.”

Moves to put a label on democracy — while weaponizing and politicizing it — are not a grand show, but a low trick, Wang said.

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were unreliable, Reinsch said.

Feaver said: “One of the painful and lingering legacies of Jan 6 is the way it spirited our allies and emboldened our adversaries.”

But one year later, Trump is the undisputed leader of the Republican Party and a leading contender for the 2024 presidential nomination, The

Associated Press commented.

He is preparing for another run for the White House in 2024, and polls suggest that, at the moment, he would easily walk away with the GOP nomination.

Banned from Twitter and denied his other social media megaphones, Trump no longer controls the news

cycle like he did in office. He canceled a news conference that was scheduled for Thursday following pressure from some Republican allies, who warned that such an event was ill-advised.

Agencies via Xinhua contributed to this story.

## Briefly

### UNITED STATES Scaled-back CES gadget show returns

Thousands of people have gathered in Las Vegas for a tech conference that has been scaled back because of COVID-19 pandemic precautions. The floors of the Consumer Electronics Show opened on Wednesday with conference attendees required to wear masks and show proof of vaccination. The trade group has not disclosed attendance numbers, but said it expects tens of thousands of people for the multiday event, though not nearly as many as the 170,000 people that showed up for the last physical CES two years ago. This year’s expo features 2,300 exhibitors, including 800 startups, from 19 countries. Digital health is expected to be a hot topic at this year’s show as COVID-19 still poses a severe threat to the world.

### ITALY Sculpture loan plan a nudge to Britain

An Italian museum is lending a fragment of the Parthenon Sculptures to Greece, in what both sides hope will become a permanent return that might encourage others — the British Museum in particular — to send their own pieces of the works back, too. Sicily’s regional archaeological museum said on Wednesday that it had signed an agreement with the Acropolis Museum in Athens for a once-renewable, four-year loan of the small white marble piece it has in exchange for a loan of a statue and vase. But the ultimate aim, Sicily’s A. Salinas Archaeological Museum said in a statement, is the “indefinite return” of the fragment to Athens. About half of the surviving 5th century BC sculptures that decorated the Parthenon temple on the Acropolis are in the British Museum in London, which has long resisted Greek appeals for their return.

XINHUA—AGENCIES

# Sinotruk overcomes pandemic challenge to notch record year

By YUAN SHENGGAO

China National Heavy Duty Truck Group, also known as Sinotruk, achieved strong results and created new records in its export business last year in spite of supply chain issues caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

At Sinotruk’s annual conference, held online on Dec 30, the company said its domestic market share is estimated to reach 20.5 percent in 2021, increasing 3 percentage points year-on-year.

Last year, China’s commercial vehicle market went through significant ups and downs, and faced pressing challenges, including stricter national emission rules, transformation from conventional-fuel to new energy vehicles and demands of intelligent connected vehicles, which put great pressure on the vehicle makers.

With the changing trends, the Jinan-based heavy truck manufacturer has continued to promote high-tech and high-quality development while also maintaining its leadership in technology.

In the new energy sector, Sinotruk has a portfolio of pure electric, hybrid and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles. It has also developed a series of new energy commercial vehicles based on diversified application scenarios.

The independently developed electric drive axle technology will be used in various products ranging from 3 to 16 metric tons that will be released in the future.

Sinotruk showcased its latest products, including 38 high-quality trucks and 20 sets of components that cover heavy, medium and light-duty commercial vehicles at an exhibition area during the annual conference.

Among them, the Yellow River heavy truck with high-quality and forward-looking technologies has

attracted the attention of participants. The main brands of Howo and Sitrak have been upgraded to adopt stricter national VI emission standards.

Export business has become a highlight of the company as it has actively responded to the Belt and Road Initiative and expanded on overseas markets to achieve steady growth in foreign trade.

Sinotruk innovated its marketing models and sold its products to more than 110 countries and regions, according to the company.

In 2021, the company exported more than 50,000 heavy trucks, accounting for more than 50 percent of China’s total heavy truck export volume. It makes Sinotruk the world’s largest single-brand exporter in the industry.

Its export volume of heavy trucks has ranked first in the country for 17 consecutive years.

According to Sinotruk, it has set up 67 overseas representative offices and distribution offices, 25 overseas knockdown assembly factories and more than 500 marketing, service and accessory supply outlets worldwide.

With the expansion on overseas markets, Sinotruk has accelerated the implementation of a full quality assurance service system to provide more efficient and worry-free products and services.

The company has sped up its pace of constructing overseas spare parts warehouses, which increased by 23 percent last year compared with 2020.

During the pandemic period, more than 300 Sinotruk marketing and after-sales service staffers worked overseas and launched online and offline service training.

The company has greatly valued science and technology development in recent years, which has con-



Clockwise from top: Sinotruk displays its heavy trucks, powertrain systems and light commercial vehicles at an exhibition area during its annual conference. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

tributed to driving its high-quality development.

Tan Xuguang, Sinotruk’s president, delivered a speech at the company’s science and technology innovation and development conference on Dec 26. He said that Sinotruk has strengthened its investment in science and technology to reach its highest-ever achievements in recent years.

Sinotruk has invested 8 billion yuan (\$1.26 billion) in research and development during the past three years. The R&D investment accounted for more than 3 percent of its total revenue for three consecutive years.

The company plans to continue strengthening investment in the field and also expects to increase its number of new patents by more than 1,000 every year, including 500 patents for invention.

The new R&D building, with a total investment of 2 billion yuan, will be put into operation in April in Jinan Innovation Zone in Shandong province. The company plans to build an R&D team comprised of 10,000 professionals, including more than 1,000 with PhD degrees.

The latest Yellow River heavy truck, launched in September 2019, has achieved a drag coefficient of 0.37, which marks the best perform-

ance among mass-produced heavy trucks worldwide.

The company’s hydrogen fuel cell heavy trucks have been applied in ports, parks, steel plants and other places.

According to Tan, Sinotruk’s products have covered 28 segments and 81 application scenarios.

The company has also made efforts to integrate global resources to build its R&D system. It has taken advantage of its powertrain industry chain and R&D capacity in Europe, the United States and Japan to accelerate the establishment of a Sinotruk overseas R&D system.

It has also cooperated with inter-

national companies and top universities, including Bosch, Continental and Tsinghua University, to work on technologies in key areas.

The vehicle maker plans to lead in heavy truck products and technologies nationwide during the next two years and become a leading commercial vehicle brand worldwide by 2026.

The company forecast that the sales of heavy trucks in China will be around 800,000 to 900,000 units in 2022, and the export volume is expected to reach around 1 million units. The sales of diesel-fueled light and medium-duty trucks are expected to reach 850,000 to 900,000 units.