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***Preserving Democracy: Pursuing a More Perfect Union* Traces American Democracy from the Revolutionary War to the 2021 Capitol Riot and Beyond in New Documentary January 6, 2022, on PBS**

*Explores the ideals and flaws of democracy, recurring cycles of civil rights progress and backlash, shifting voter rights and rules, and the role of civics curricula in fostering engaged and informed citizens on the anniversary of the deadly event*

(New York, December 8, 2021) – The domestic assault on the Capitol complex on Jan. 6, 2021, stands out as one of the most shocking moments in American history. Incited by a sitting president, the riot caused the deaths of five people; 140 Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia officers and numerous civilians were injured; and a hole was torn in the democratic system the nation has nurtured for nearly 250 years. As the country continues to grapple with the activities of the insurrectionists and considers the lasting impact of this event, a new two-hour documentary examines the pursuit of democracy, within our nation and others, on the anniversary of the 2021 Capitol riot. ***Preserving Democracy: Pursuing a More Perfect Union*** premieres Thursday, January 6, 2022, at 9 p.m. ET on PBS ([check local listings](https://www.pbs.org/tv_schedules/)), [pbs.org/preservingdemocracy](https://www.pbs.org/show/preserving-democracy-pursuing-more-perfect-union/) and the [PBS Video app](https://www.pbs.org/pbs-video-app/). In New York ***Preserving Democracy: Pursuing a More Perfect Union*** will premiere at 8 p.m. E.T. on THIRTEEN.

Narrated by **Tamara Tunie** (*Law and Order: Special Victims Unit*, *Journal for Jordan*, *Cowboy Bebop*), ***Preserving Democracy: Pursuing a More Perfect Union*** chronicles the history of the democratic system from its origins to the present. It addresses political divisiveness and threats to democracy around the world, considering global progress as well as regression and offering reflections on lessons learned.

“The Capitol insurrection stunned our nation and shook the foundation of our government to its core,” said Dana Roberson, Executive Producer of ***Preserving Democracy: Pursuing a More Perfect Union***. “Through this documentary we encourage people to think critically about the future of our nation and the role we each play in preserving our democracy.”

Providing robust historical context, ***Preserving Democracy: Pursuing a More Perfect Union*** chronicles changes in American ideas of democracy, from the American Revolution and the earliest days of the Republic through Reconstruction to the Civil Rights Movement and the suppression of the Black and Mexican American vote in the 1960s and 1970s. The film tracks former President Barack Obama’s path to the presidency. It also explores how identity politics and changing ideologies across the country helped pave the way to the election of former President Donald Trump and the events that followed.

Moving beyond the 2021 Capitol riot, ***Preserving Democracy: Pursuing a More Perfect Union*** surveys the formation of the U.S. House Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the U.S. Capitol, and what the committee is seeking to uncover. The film looks to the present and future, including the push to educate voters on shifting voting rights rules and the role of a civics curriculum in education to engage and foster an informed citizenry.

***Preserving Democracy: Pursuing a More Perfect Union***features interviews with political experts, activists, journalists and historians, including **Adam Kinzinger** (United States Representative for Illinois's 16th congressional district), **Bill Moyers** (former White House Press Secretary, journalist and political commentator), **Valerie Jarrett** (former Senior Advisor to the President of the United States), **Janet Napolitano** (former U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security), **Fiona Hill** (Presidential Advisor and former official at the U.S. National Security Council), **Robert Costa** (journalist and author, *Peril*), **Jelani Cobb** (writer, author and educator), **Margaret Hoover** (host of PBS’ *Firing Line* and author), **Janai Nelson** (Associate Director-Counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.), **Ramesh Ponnuru** (political journalist), **Steven Cook** (Eni Enrico Mattei senior fellow for Middle East and Africa Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations), **Mutale Nkonde** (Founding CEO of AI For the People), **Alexis Coe** (Presidential Historian and New York Times bestselling author), **Marcia Chatelain** (historian) and **Eric Foner** (historian), among others.

The special is part of our upcoming new multiplatform initiative, **Preserving Democracy**.

To add additional context to the rise of far-right extremism and the events leading to the January 6, 2021 insurrection, *FRONTLINE* will also re-air *American Insurrection*. Originally broadcast in April 2021 with support from The WNET Group’s Exploring Hate initiative and in partnership with ProPublica and Berkeley Journalism’s Investigative Reporting Program, the updated documentary will debut on Tuesday, January 4 at 10 p.m. E.T. on PBS (check local listings), [pbs.org/frontline](https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/?utm_source=promourl&utm_medium=direct&utm_campaign=frontline_2018) and the PBS Video app.

***Preserving Democracy: Pursuing a More Perfect Union*** is a production of The WNET Group. Dana Roberson is executive producer. Lesley Norman, Stephen Segaller and Neal Shapiro are executives-in-charge.

Support for ***Preserving Democracy: Pursuing a More Perfect Union*** (as of 12-08-21) is provided by The Chang K. Park Foundation, The Anderson Family Charitable Fund, Janet Prindle Seidler, Ronnie and Lawrence D. Ackman, The Dorothy Y. Pacella Fund, Josh Weston, Barbara Hope Zuckerberg and Elaine C. Wilson.

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**About The WNET Group**

[The WNET Group](http://wnet.org/) creates inspiring media content and meaningful experiences for diverse audiences nationwide. It is the community-supported home of New York’s [THIRTEEN](http://thirteen.org/) – America’s flagship PBS station – [WLIW21](http://wliw.org/), THIRTEEN PBSKids, WLIW World and Create; [NJ PBS](https://www.mynjpbs.org/), New Jersey’s statewide public television network; Long Island’s only NPR station WLIW-FM; [ALL ARTS](http://allarts.org/), the arts and culture media provider; and newsroom [NJ Spotlight News](https://www.njspotlightnews.org/). Through these channels and streaming platforms, The WNET Group brings arts, culture, education, news, documentary, entertainment and DIY programming to more than five million viewers each month. The WNET Group’s award-winning productions include signature PBS series ***Nature***, ***Great Performances***, ***American Masters***, ***PBS NewsHour Weekend*** and ***Amanpour and Company***and trusted local news programs ***MetroFocus*** and ***NJ Spotlight News******with Briana Vannozzi***. Inspiring curiosity and nurturing dreams, The WNET Group’s award-winning Kids’ Media and Education team produces the PBS KIDS series ***Cyberchase***, interactive ***Mission US*** history games, and resources for families, teachers and caregivers. A leading nonprofit public media producer for nearly 60 years, The WNET Group presents and distributes content that fosters lifelong learning, including multiplatform initiatives addressing poverty, jobs, economic opportunity, social justice, understanding and the environment. Through Passport, station members can stream new and archival programming anytime, anywhere. The WNET Group represents the best in public media. Join us.