

Connect the **dots**

January 6, 2021
Trump's Insurrection



Thirty
Days
Later

February 1, 2021
Myanmar General's Coup



Feeling helpless to do anything for our Care for Peace friends in Myanmar, only 8 days after the military coup there, I submitted the following article to the Marin Independent Journal. After complying with four requests for content revisions by the editors, the opinion piece was rejected without explanation.

It was likely perceived as too biased, too incendiary, or simply too over-the-top. You be the judge.

How Trump Killed Democracy in Myanmar
by Jeff Hardy

Trump's brutal and violent violation of democracy spreads far and wide, internationally.

On February 1st—only 30 days after the January 6th insurrection at the American Capitol—the military coup in Myanmar became another example of Trump's disturbing influence on would-be dictators everywhere.

While I listen to experts and pundits explain the coup, they don't clarify why, after the military generals undoubtedly watched Trump's insurrection on their high-definition televisions, they thought they could do the same.

The details of the coup couldn't have been more flimsy.

The military generals watched Trump blatantly lie that he had won the election by a landslide when everybody knows he hadn't.

They watched Trump rail nonstop against the American Democratic Party, just as he felt about Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy Party.

They observed how Trump incited the insurrection and then sent his supporters to the American Capitol, leading to 5 deaths, numerous injuries, and our shared fear that the integrity of our democracy had been compromised.

I imagine the discussion among the generals went like this:

How Trump Killed Democracy in Myanmar by Jeff Hardy (Continued)

“Hey! If Trump can do it, so can I!” the Commander-in-Chief Min Aung Hlaing might have said.

“It was an inside job led by the US President and his own army!”

“We have our own army! We are on the inside! We can do that too!”

“Here’s our window of opportunity!”

Over the past decade, Aung San Suu Kyi has transformed her country from the ruins of a military dictatorship toward building a thriving democracy and a growing free-market economy.

But then in 2017, her shining star started to fade when a million Rohingya Muslims fled her country’s persecution, risking their lives as they crossed into Bangladesh.

Meanwhile, America’s own shining star had already been in a two-year decline due to Trump’s reckless assault on democracy, the rule of law, and anyone he disliked, including our international allies.

Less than a month after the insurrection, Myanmar’s military seized their opportunity. “Now!” they declared.

They declared martial law, detained Aung San Suu Kyi, and arrested anyone seen as a threat to the coup.

They succeeded in taking control of the government where Trump’s forces failed to seize ours.

While there is great hope that under President Biden’s leadership we can rebuild everything Trump left behind during his four-year ‘reign of error,’ there is still much to worry about.

Trump’s assault on the U.S. Constitution and the Democratic Party was an attack on the heart of democracy, which now faces threats not only domestically but also in the minds of hundreds of millions worldwide who share our hope that America, built on liberty, freedom, and the rule of law, will continue to thrive.

Trump’s violent and aggressive breach of our democracy happened on January 6th.

How Trump Killed Democracy in Myanmar by Jeff Hardy (Continued)

Less than a month later, the Myanmar military's vicious and violent breach occurred on February 1st.

Democracy died in Myanmar on February 1st.

Read Jeff's recent and past opinion pieces—published, in review and unpublished www.HardyWorthwhile.com email: jeff@HardyWorthwhile.com