

2020 Presidential election

To understand the threat today, you have to see with clear eyes what happened, what is still happening after the 2020 election. The charlatans and cranks who filed lawsuits and led public spectacles on Trump's behalf were sideshows. They distracted from the main event: a systematic effort to nullify the election results and then reverse them. As milestones passed — individual certification by states, the meeting of the Electoral College on December 14 — Trump's hand grew weaker. But he played it strategically throughout. The more we learn about January 6, the clearer the conclusion becomes that it was the last gambit in a soundly conceived campaign — one that provides a blueprint for 2024.

**Barton Gellman,
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