

The Oath Keepers

Alex Friedfeld

Investigative Researcher

afriedfeld@adl.org



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The Militia Movement

The Militia Movement

- Right-wing anti-government extremist movement
- Deeply conspiratorial
 - New World Order
 - Gun confiscation
 - Martial Law and Mass Detention
 - Depopulation
 - Anti-COVID Measures
- Emphasis on gun ownership and paramilitary training
- Not inherently white supremacist



Tracing the Militia Movement

- Formed in 1993-1994
 - Proliferation of New World Order Conspiracies
 - Reaction to gun control legislation
 - Reaction to Ruby Ridge and Waco
- Grew rapidly in the 1990s
- Declined in the early 2000s



Tracing the Militia Movement

- Surged again in 2008
 - Election of President Obama
 - Financial crisis
 - Rise of social media
 - Spread of Three Percenter concept
- Shifted focus during Trump administration



Militia Movement Under Trump Administration



Pennsylvania Light Foot Militia
Charlottesville, 2017



Three Percenter hangs effigy of
Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear
during lockdown protest (2020)

Militia Movement Under Biden Administration

War isn't coming – war is already here... Through well-orchestrated mass vote fraud, the Communist Chinese and their domestic enemy allies are about to install their illegitimate puppet, Joe Biden, and his equally illegitimate puppet running mate, Kamala Harris, into the White House, with their treasonous fingers on the nuclear launch codes.

- Stewart Rhodes, Founder of the Oath Keepers

🔒 Democrats plan to DISARM and MASS MURDER all conservatives

By [Wolfenstein](#), December 16, 2020



AND ONCE TRUMP'S GONE AND WE HAVE REGAINED OUR RIGHTFUL PLACE IN THE WHITE HOUSE, LOOK OUT IF YOU SUPPORTED HIM AND ENDORSED HIS ACTIONS BECAUSE WE'LL BE COMING FOR YOU NEXT. YOU WILL FEEL THE VENGEANCE OF A NATION. NO STONE WILL BE LEFT UNTURNED AS WE SEEK YOU OUT IN THIS GREAT NATION. FOR IT IS YOU THAT BETRAYED US.
-KAMALA HARRIS
JUNE 18, 2020



Yes, she really said this!

Militia Violence

Lombard man, charged with possessing illegal explosive material, wrote of plans to form 'black ops' militia for sniper activity and ambushes:
prosecutors

Militia members face gun charges, alleged to have come to Kenosha 'to pick people off'

Militia Leader Plotted to Kidnap and Kill Cops to Win New Followers, Feds Say

Terrorist Bomb Incidents in Minnesota and Illinois Linked to Militia Group

FBI arrests Oklahoma man after anti-government bomb plot at local bank

Wolverine Watchmen



The Oath Keepers

The Oath Keepers

- Shares conspiratorial mindset with the rest of the militia movement
- Accepts everyone, but targets current and former military, law enforcement, and first responder personnel with their messaging and recruitment
- Focused on preventing what they claim are “unconstitutional orders”



The Oath Keepers

- Founded and led by disbarred former attorney Stewart Rhodes
- National organization sets priorities, but there are also local chapters
- Thousands of members across the country, including active military, law enforcement, and emergency response personnel



Recruiting from Military and Law Enforcement



“Declaration of Orders We Will Not Obey”

1. We will NOT obey orders to disarm the American people.
2. We will NOT obey orders to conduct warrantless searches of the American people.
3. We will NOT obey orders to detain American citizens as “unlawful enemy combatants” or to subject them to military tribunal.
4. We will NOT obey orders to impose martial law or a “state of emergency” on a state.
5. We will NOT obey orders to invade and subjugate any state that asserts its sovereignty.
6. We will NOT obey any order to blockade American cities, thus turning them into giant concentration camps.
7. We will NOT obey any order to force American citizens into any form of detention camps under any pretext.
8. We will NOT obey orders to assist or support the use of any foreign troops on U.S. soil against the American people to “keep the peace” or to “maintain control.”
9. We will NOT obey any orders to confiscate the property of the American people, including food and other essential supplies.
10. We will NOT obey any orders which infringe on the right of the people to free speech, to peaceably assemble, and to petition their government for a redress of grievances.

“Declaration of Orders We Will Not Obey”

“The above list is **not exhaustive** but we do consider them to be clear tripwires – they form our “line in the sand,” and if we receive such orders, we will not obey them. **Further, we will know that the time for another American Revolution is nigh.** If you the people decide that you have no recourse, and such a revolution comes, at that time, not only will we NOT fire upon our fellow Americans who righteously resist such egregious violations of their God given rights, **we will join them in fighting against those who dare attempt to enslave them.**”

- *Oath Keepers website*

The Trap of Patriotism

“Recognizing that we each swore an oath to support and defend the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic, and affirming that we are guardians of the Republic, of the principles in our Declaration of Independence, and of the rights of our people, we affirm and declare the following...”

-Oath Keepers website

Declaration of Orders We Will Not Obey



Oath of Enlistment

I, (name), do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the president of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to the regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. So help me God.

The Trap of Patriotism

“Recognizing that we each swore an oath to support and defend the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic, and affirming that we are guardians of the Republic, of the principles in our Declaration of Independence, and of the rights of our people, we affirm and declare the following...”

-Oath Keepers website

Declaration of Orders We Will Not Obey



Oath Keeper Activity

Criminal Activity

February 20, 2015

New Hampshire Man Sentenced on Firearms Charges

Georgia "birther" convicted in plot to seize courthouse, force Obama out of office

Pro-gun activist Adam Kokesh arrested after search of his home

Former Grant County Man who Threatened Violence Against Law Enforcement Sentenced to Prison for Illegal Weapon Possession

Ex-Marine Charles Dyer Captured in Texas

Armed and dangerous ex-Marine Charles Dyer found by Texas police today.

Quartzsite, Arizona (2011)



Armed Standoff at Bundy Ranch (2014)



Armed Standoffs in Oregon and Montana (2015)



Sugar Pine Mine, Oregon



White Hope Mine, Montana

Armed Action in Ferguson (2014, 2015)



Additional Oath Keeper Activity



2020

ADL[®]

Activity During George Floyd Protests



Escalation in Rhetoric

Oath Keepers Call to Action: Veterans, Patriots, Stand Up & Defend America from Leftist Violence!

We all must stand up and **defend America from a violent leftist insurrection** that has gone far beyond peaceful assembly and protest, and is now engaged in not just looting, but arson, assault, desecration of monuments...seizing of territory...attempted murder, and murder.

This is a coordinated, intentional, national and international terrorism and insurrection campaign, intent on destabilizing our nation and throwing it into chaos to further their radical Marxist goals (to not just defeat Trump, but to also destroy our nation and our Constitution).

- Oath Keeper website, July 9, 2020

Escalation in Rhetoric



Oath Keepers @Oathkeepers · Aug 31

This was a terror attack, on US soil, by a member of an international terrorist organization - Antifa. And the terrorist gunman's Antifa comrades celebrated the murder and continue to plan more of the same. President Trump must declare there to be a Marxist insurrection ...

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Oath Keepers @Oathkeepers · Aug 31

And he needs to declare that Marxist insurrection to be nationwide, carried out by both Antifa and BLM, with the goal of terrorizing Americans into submission in furtherance of their attempt to overthrow our Constitution, as they plainly state is their goal.

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Oath Keepers @Oathkeepers · Aug 31

President Trump has full authority to declare this an insurrection and call for the the militia (including the National Guard) to suppress it.

The clearest precedent was when President Washington suppressed the Whiskey Rebellion:

[en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whiskey_R...](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whiskey_Rebellion)

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Oath Keepers @Oathkeepers · Aug 31

This has gone far beyond insurrection against any one state and is in fact a Marxist rebellion against the United States, with the oft stated intent to overthrow its government under the Constitution, and it deprives Americans of their federally protected civil rights, including

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Oath Keepers @Oathkeepers · Aug 31

Violating their rights to free speech and assembly as well as freedom of religion and their right to not be murdered by international terrorists who use force and threat of force to coerce political submission by the populous. And, state officials are complicit in this rebellion

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Oath Keepers @Oathkeepers · Aug 31

President Trump has both the power and the duty to call the militia into federal service to suppress this rebellion/insurrection. And, he further has the power to call US, the American military veterans, into federal service as well, as militia. And we will answer his call.

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Post-Election Calls to Action

“I still hold that President Trump should **invoke the Insurrection Act**...I think he needs to realize we are, **we’re in the middle of a civil war**. We’re actually in the middle of a counter-insurgency effort on our part against an insurgency, and it’s a communist Chinese run insurgency with domestic enemies...So what we will do, what’s going to happen is, if [Trump] fails in his duty...he will place us in a situation we’ll have to fight a bloody horrible civil war. And most of us will be dead. I don’t, I don’t expect to survive that, and neither do most of the guys in the Oath Keepers because **we know we’ll be at the front**.”

- *Stewart Rhodes Interview, December 11, 2020*

“We now face a moment of peril as great, or greater, as what General Washington and his men faced in 1776. The very survival of our nation as a free Constitutional Republic hangs in the balance. We have but one last chance to save it. The fate of unborn millions will now depend on *your* conduct...If you fail to act while you are still in office, **we the people will have to fight a bloody civil war** and revolution against these two illegitimate Communist China puppets.”

- *Open Letter to President Trump, December 14, 2020*

Post-Election Calls to Action

Call to Action! March on DC, Stop the Steal, Defend the President, & Defeat the Deep State

🕒 November 10, 2020

👤 Stewart Rhodes

💬 5

📌 2020 Election, Oath Keepers

“We must refuse to EVER recognize this as a legitimate election, and refuse to recognize Biden as a legitimate winner, and refuse to ever recognize him as the President of the United States. This election was stolen by corrupt, law-breaking Democrat partisans.

Last night, on a conference call with Oath Keepers from around the country, I urged them to stop at Arlington National Cemetery on their way to D.C. to visit their brothers and sisters and to reflect on all they gave for this nation – many of them giving their lives... They passed the torch of freedom to us. Now it is our watch, and now it is our time to stand in the breach.”

- Stewart Rhodes

Participation in Pro-Trump Election Rallies



Richard Hall
@_RichardHall

Replying to @_RichardHall

Had a brief discussion with Stewart Rhodes, founder of the far right Oath Keepers militia, about alleged voter fraud. He says he won't recognise Biden as president and will resist enforcement of any law he passes.



2:29 PM · Nov 14, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone



Oath Keepers' Stewart Rhodes Calls for 'Bloody War' at Jericho March

3,642 views · Dec 14, 2020 · <https://www.rightwingwatch.org/post/o> · Show more

118 Dislike Share Save ...

“Use the Insurrection Act to drop the hammer on them...He needs to know from you that you are with him, [and] that if he does not do it now while he is commander in chief, we're going to have to do it ourselves later, in a much more desperate, much more bloody war.”

January 6, 2021

Rhetoric in Lead Up to January 6

Oath Keepers Deploying to DC to Protect Events, Speakers, & Attendees on Jan 5-6: Time to Stand!

🕒 January 4, 2021

👤 Stewart Rhodes

“It is CRITICAL that all patriots who can be in DC get to DC to stand tall in support of President Trump’s fight to defeat the enemies foreign and domestic who are attempting a coup, through the massive vote fraud and related attacks on our Republic. We Oath Keepers are both honor-bound and eager to be there in strength to do our part.

All Patriots who can get to DC need to be in DC. Now is the time to stand. It’s not too late to go. Jump on a plane! Jump in your car! Just get there. Show the President you support him taking decisive action as both President and Commander-in-Chief. And show Congress that we the people will not stand for the election being stolen to plant an imposter Chicom puppet in the White House. Stand now, or kneel forever.”

Planning for January 6

Oath Keepers likely stashed weapons at a Comfort Inn prior to Capitol riot, prosecutors say



By [Marshall Cohen](#), CNN
Updated 2:11 PM ET, Wed April 14, 2021

New evidence suggests 'alliance' between Oath Keepers, Proud Boys ahead of Jan. 6

The evidence is the first to suggest coordination among the various extremist groups as they prepared to descend on Washington.

Legal Issues

Armed 'quick reaction force' was waiting for order to storm Capitol, Justice Dept. says

WCE News

The Oath Keepers Started Training to Raid the Capitol in November, Prosecutors Say

"I believe we will have to get violent to stop this."

Feds: North Carolina served as a training ground for January 6

Actions on January 6



Aftermath

- Twenty-five Oath Keepers have been charged in connection to their actions on January 6
- Eleven of these, including Stewart Rhodes, are facing seditious conspiracy charges
- Private message board was taken down and internal data was leaked
- Struggled to garner new recruits and new resources



Aftermath

“He [President Biden] is a Chinese puppet. You should look at this as D.C. is now the green zone of an occupying army from communist China using their puppet and that’s why it’s a direct parallel to what the founders faced.

The goal is to terrorize people and make them afraid to associate and make them, you know, sit down and shut up as they take absolute power. And so **I think we need to take a lesson from the founders and not do that.**

We need to be disciplined as well...**You nullify, do mass noncompliance, you come together and get strong so that when they come for you, they’re the clear aggressors...**And the more they oppress the American people, the more they come over to our side and that includes in the military. And that’s our biggest audience, the most important audience is the U.S. military.”

- *Stewart Rhodes on the Alex Jones Show*
January 28, 2021