

# American support for conspiracy theories and armed rebellion isn't new – we just didn't believe it before the Capitol insurrection | The Conversation

By Amanda J. Crawford

January 4, 2022

Americans had to confront a new reality when an angry mob attacked the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021: Some of their fellow citizens were in the grips of a false reality and had resorted to violence to support it.

Conspiracy theories about the 2020 presidential election and the strange alternate universe of QAnon helped [drive the attack](#), which has prompted concerns about further [domestic upheaval](#).

In the year since, a flurry of studies and analyses have tried to gauge the American appetite for conspiracy theories and the likelihood of more violence – even civil war. [As someone](#) who has studied the [conspiracy theories](#) that followed the December 2012 [mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School](#), I keep revisiting a [May 2013 poll](#) about gun control that found widespread doubts about that shooting and shockingly high support for armed rebellion.

[...]

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