

Shock and Awe or Shekinah? Trump's 1st Day Sees Dozens of Executive Orders, Sets Tone for 2nd Term

If the Bible's term "shekinah" refers to a dwelling, a place and a settling-in to a new location or time period, then maybe President Donald J. Trump's first-day "shock and awe" effort of executive orders reveals the dawning of a new time and place for the country's future.

"We will not waste a single moment in delivering our promises to the people," Trump said in his inaugural address.

On Monday, Jan. 20, Trump was inaugurated for his second term, immediately signing dozens of executive actions aimed at reshaping policy in almost every sphere. He plans to sign nearly 100 executive orders on his first day in office, targeting areas such as trade, immigration, energy, technology and especially bureaucratic operations with his new Department of Government Efficiency to be headed by Elon Musk.

Trade and Tariffs

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Initially, Trump intended to impose new tariffs on countries including China, Mexico and Canada. However, he has decided to delay these tariffs to allow for a comprehensive evaluation of U.S. trade policies. This postponement has led to a rise in S&P 500 futures, indicating market optimism. Despite the delay, the administration's focus on reassessing trade agreements suggests potential future economic shifts.

Immigration and Border Security

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In a decisive action, Trump declared a national emergency at the border, aiming to halt all illegal immigration. He labeled Mexican cartels as foreign terrorist organizations and announced the termination of the CBP One app, which had previously facilitated the entry of nearly 1 million individuals into the U.S. These measures underscore the administration's commitment to stringent border control and immigration policies.

Energy and Environmental Policies

Emphasizing energy independence, Trump plans to revoke existing restrictions on oil and gas production, promoting practices such as fracking and drilling. He also intends to withdraw from international climate agreements, including the Paris Climate Accord, and repeal mandates related to electric vehicles, demonstrating policy shifts toward bolstering domestic energy production and minimizing regulatory constraints on the energy sector.

Technology and Cryptocurrency

In the technology sector, Trump has provided a temporary reprieve to TikTok, allowing its operations to continue despite a looming ban. This decision impacts tech companies like Meta Platforms and Snap, which compete in the same market space. Additionally, the president has launched his own cryptocurrency, the \$TRUMP meme coin, with a valuation of \$41 billion. This move precedes anticipated executive orders aimed at easing regulations on cryptocurrencies and potentially establishing a strategic reserve for bitcoin, signaling a more favorable stance towards digital currencies.

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Foreign Policy Initiatives

On the international front, Trump has expressed intentions to reclaim the Panama Canal and to address the Russia-Ukraine conflict within six months. He also aims to secure the release of nearly 100 hostages in Gaza and to establish a ceasefire in the region. These initiatives indicate a proactive approach to foreign policy, focusing on reasserting U.S. influence and resolving ongoing international disputes.

Market and Economic Implications

The administration's planned executive actions have significant implications for various sectors of the economy. Investors are closely monitoring potential volatility in the markets, particularly in industries such as energy, technology and manufacturing.

Trump's 2025 Inauguration Day included a planned flurry of executive actions aimed at transforming key policy areas and undoing policy failures of previous administrations, all parts of the bold agenda set to redefine the nation's trajectory in his second term.

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