

The Trump Document

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There is ample evidence indicating collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia.

Let's begin our journey with George Papadopoulos. This Trump campaign foreign policy advisor, who has plead guilty to charges laid out by Special Counsel Mueller's investigation, provides a timeline of events. He was offered dirt on Hillary Clinton by a mysterious professor with ties to Russia.^[1] The Trump campaign knew of hacked emails before Trump made his rally speech in which he asked Russia to release their collection of hacked emails.^[2] Special Counsel Mueller's indictment of Papadopoulos listed him as a proactive cooperator - the implication being that Papadopoulos might have engaged with his former colleagues on behalf of investigators.^[3] Professor Mifsud, the individual with ties to Russia that had met with Papadopoulos offering dirt on Clinton, has since gone missing.^[4]

After Papadopoulos was offered dirt, top Trump campaign officials met with Russian operatives. Paul Manafort, Jared Kushner, and Trump Jr. were present at the infamous Trump Tower meeting where adoptions were discussed with Russian operatives.^[5] Adoptions is an established euphemism used in reference to the Magnitsky Act, sanctions that are meant to cripple the power of Putin.^[6] President Trump's son, son-in-law, and Campaign Manager met with Russians with the expectation of receiving damaging information about Clinton.^[7] One of the Russian operatives present at the meeting, Rinat Akhmetshin, has ties to Russian intelligence and has a history of being embroiled in court cases related to hacking campaigns.^[8] During Fusion GPS CEO Glenn Simpson's Congressional testimony he confirmed that the Trump campaign likely received foreign intelligence aid as Manafort had close ties to Russian Intelligence.^[9]

We know Manafort was in contact with Russian Oligarch Oleg Deripaska during the campaign. We know Paul Manafort offered to give the Russian billionaire private briefings on the Trump campaign trail.^[10] Manafort used a campaign account for the aforementioned email correspondence.^[11] According to videos recorded by an escort that were discovered by Russian opposition activist, Alexei Navalny, show Deripaska meeting a Russian Deputy Prime Minister on a yacht 1 month after the email correspondence between Manafort and Deripaska took place, the United States came up as a topic of discussion.^[12] Russia has threatened to block access to social media sites, such as YouTube and Instagram, if they do not remove the videos of Deripaska and Russian Deputy Prime Minister Prikhodko meeting on the yacht.^[13]

Now here's another avenue of possible collusion, Roger Stone.^[14] While Roger Stone has attempted to downplay his communication with Guccifer 2.0, he has admitted to have been in contact with the DNC hacking suspect.^[15] According to the Daily Beast report, US investigators have found out that Guccifer 2.0 is a Russia Intelligence Officer that worked for the GRU.^[16] The discovery was made because the Russian officer forgot to use a VPN while logging into Twitter and Wordpress. Last month investigative journalists discovered direct contact made between Roger Stone and Wikileaks.^[17] We also know that Special Counsel Mueller has been asking questions about whether or not President Trump knew of the hacked DNC emails before they were released. They've asked about the relationship between GOP operative Roger Stone and WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, and why Trump took policy positions

favorable to Russia.^[18] WikiLeaks can be considered an extension of Russia's 2016 disinformation campaign,^[19] we knew that WikiLeaks shared material hacked by the GRU^[20] before The Daily Beast report was released.

- 1) [The Hill - Timeline: Campaign knew Russia had Clinton emails months before Trump 'joke'](#)
- 2) [CNN - Papadopoulos' guilty plea visualized: From Russian contact to arrest](#)
- 3) [The Atlantic - What Is a 'Proactive Cooperator'?](#)
- 4) [The Daily Beast - Professor at Center of Trump-Russia Probe Goes Missing](#)
- 5) [New York Times - Talking Points Brought to Trump Tower Meeting Were Shared With Kremlin](#)
- 6) [The Atlantic - Why Does the Kremlin Care So Much About the Magnitsky Act?](#)
- 7) [Global News - 2016 Trump Tower meeting between Donald Trump Jr., Jared Kushner and Russians under further scrutiny](#)
- 8) [New York Times - Lobbyist at Trump Campaign Meeting Has a Web of Russian Connections](#)
- 9) [Senate Judiciary Committee - Glenn Simpson Fusion GPS CEO Testimony Pg. 154-155](#)
- 10) [Washington Post - Manafort offered to give Russian billionaire 'private briefings' on 2016 campaign](#)
- 11) [Politico - Manafort used Trump campaign account to email Ukrainian operative](#)
- 12) [Telegraph - Oligarch met with top Russian official after Trump aide 'offered briefings'](#)
- 13) [The Guardian - Russian watchdog orders YouTube to remove Navalny luxury yacht video](#)
- 14) [New York Times - Roger Stone, the 'Trickster' on Trump's Side, Is Under F.B.I. Scrutiny](#)
- 15) [Chicago Tribune - Ex-Trump adviser Roger Stone swapped messages with DNC hacking suspect](#)
- 16) [The Daily Beast - 'Lone DNC Hacker' Revealed as Russian Intelligence Officer](#)
- 17) [The Atlantic - Roger Stone's Secret Messages with WikiLeaks](#)
- 18) [NBC - Mueller asking if Trump knew about hacked Democratic emails before release](#)
- 19) [Foreign Policy - WikiLeaks Turned Down Leaks on Russian Government During U.S. Presidential Campaign](#)
- 20) [CBS - How did WikiLeaks become associated with Russia?](#)

There are 2 excuses peddled I often see in response to my sourced comment; Firstly that the Russian hackers would be too intelligent to forget to turn on their VPN, secondly that the Trump campaign receiving dirt on Clinton from Russia is not illegal. Both claims are wrong.

To the first point - While the system the Russian hackers use is indeed genius, that doesn't mean it's impervious from human error. In fact here is a CSE report from 2011 that elaborates on that point.^[1] The CSE, Communications Security Establishment, is Canada's national cryptologic agency that collects foreign signal intelligence in order to inform and alert the Government of Canada to the activities of foreign entities outside Canada.^[2]

But a 2011 presentation to the NSA and its foreign partners by Canada's signals intelligence agency, the Communications Security Establishment, undermines the notion of a foreign hacker so skilled that a victim would never know their identity. The document calls Russian hackers "morons" for routinely compromising the security of a "really well designed" system intended to cover their tracks; for example, the hackers logged into their personal social and email accounts through the same anonymizing system used to attack their targets, comparable to getting an anonymous burner phone for illicit use and then placing calls to your girlfriend, parents, and roommate.

And to the second point - In short, what the Trump campaign did could very well be illegal according to Federal Election Commission laws.^[3]

Foreigners who aren't U.S. citizens or U.S. permanent residents, the argument goes, are barred from providing candidates any "thing of value" in connection with any American election campaign. Campaign staff are barred from soliciting any "thing of value" from such foreigners. And, the argument goes, valuable political information about an opponent's misdeeds is a "thing of value." (Hasen notes that the Federal Election Commission has treated some information, such as contact lists, campaign materials, and polling information as a "thing of value.")

Trump Jr. may have broken campaign finance laws if Russia provided illegal campaign contributions, which seems incredibly likely at this point.^[4]

Trump Jr. could have run afoul of campaign finance law if Russia was offering an illegal campaign contribution that he agreed to accept. To be considered an illegal campaign contribution, what Russia offered must be considered "of value," as defined by campaign finance law. There are reasons to question whether simply exchanging information with a foreign national would count.

Now how does this differ from the Clinton campaign doing opposition research? We can ascertain the thought that something of value was given to the Trump campaign illegally, as outlined in my comments. A foreign nation was not offering dirt on President Trump, the Clinton campaign went through the correct procedures and hired an American research company, Fusion GPS, to conduct opposition research. Furthermore, Fusion GPS and Glenn Simpson had already begun doing opposition research on Trump during the GOP primary. Fusion GPS was initially hired by Conservative Paul Singer through the Washington Free Beacon. This op-ed does a good job explaining it;^[5]

The other answer is more subtle. Adav Noti, who served as a Federal Election Commission lawyer between 2007 and 2017, told me that all of this goes back to the ban on contributions and donations from foreign governments or foreign nationals in federal elections. The law has been on the books since the 1970s, and he said it applies to promises of deleted emails and other kinds of opposition research.

"There is a real meaningful distinction," said Noti, who is now senior director of the Campaign Legal Center, a nonpartisan group that monitors election law. "The Clinton campaign, based on what has

been reported, paid for opposition research, which included paying people to dig up dirt in foreign countries." Unsavory? Perhaps. But not illegal.

Compare that to what we know about George Papadopoulos, a low-level Trump campaign foreign-policy adviser, who has pled guilty to lying to the FBI. The plea agreement, released Monday by Mueller, says Papadopoulos emailed a Russian professor and another Russian contact who promised to turn over Clinton's emails free of charge.

Or consider the meeting in the summer of 2016 between Donald Trump Jr. and Russian nationals who reportedly offered to hand over dirt on Clinton. Noti said that if the Trump officials solicited the information, "the act itself was unlawful."

Noti cannot be dismissed as a partisan. Last week, his law center filed a formal complaint with the FEC against the Clinton campaign and the Democratic National Committee for filing misleading federal reports that hid the contract with Fusion GPS. "They routed the money through their legal counsel so that no payment showed up on their federal disclosures," Noti said. "The activity was legal, but they misreported it."

Glenn Simpson, former Wall Street Journal journalist, is the CEO of Fusion GPS and is American. President Trump and the GOP have repeatedly tried to paint him as someone on the "left", but Simpson is far from that. His previous investigative work has uncovered many Democratic scandals, he has been lauded by the right. He has investigated and brought down many Democratic politicians, including previously investigating the Clintons. It just so happens that he's landed his biggest find, Trump and Russia. When the Conservative Paul Singer and his Washington Free Beacon wanted Trump research, which was then continued by the Clinton campaign, Simpson used his network of contacts to probe President Trump's financial ties to Russia.^[6]

I've been friends with "Shaggy," as I dubbed him, ever since. Over the years, I've watched him make mischief: exposing the Clintons' campaign finance abuses, including the "Chinagate" scandal of 1996; scoring a key scoop in the Clinton travel office scandal; bedeviling Clinton financier Terry McAuliffe; and forcing the resignation of James Johnson, a top Obama adviser in 2008, over the Countrywide scandal.

... This is the same Journal editorial page that repeatedly praised Simpson's work when he was bringing down Democrats. It hailed "enterprising reporters such as the Journal's own Glenn Simpson" for exposing the hypocrisy of the Clinton fundraising operation. Paul Gigot, now editorial page editor, also praised the "enterprising" Simpson for a scoop about Anita Hill. The page cited Simpson's book on corruption, and even before Simpson came to the Journal, it reprinted and hailed his "illuminating" scoop for Roll Call about Democratic Speaker of the House Tom Foley (Wash.) making money from insider stock tips.

... Simpson's foreign-money investigations infuriated politicians of all stripes. With Jill Abramson (later top editor at the New York Times), he helped break key stories about John Huang, Webb Hubbell and overseas Asian interests giving big campaign gifts to Democrats.

After the 9/11 terrorist attacks, Simpson probed terrorism financing. Then he went to Brussels under Journal bureau chief Peter Fritsch (now his Fusion partner) and became fascinated with Russian money. In March 2007, he wrote to Paul Manafort with a prescient inquiry, saying he had "credible information"

that the future Trump campaign manager represented Ukrainian official Viktor Yanukovich without registering as a foreign agent. A decade later, Robert Mueller indicted Manafort over exactly that.

At Fusion, Simpson has investigated political money for clients of all persuasions, including a hedge-fund manager and more than a few Trump supporters. So it follows that when conservative Paul Singer's Washington Free Beacon and then the Democrats wanted Trump research, Simpson used his intelligence contacts from Brussels to probe Trump's financial ties to Russia.

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- 1) [The Intercept - White House Says Russia's Hackers Are Too Good To Be Caught But NSA Partner Called Them "Morons"](#)
 - 2) [Government of Canada CSE - What we do and why we do it](#)
 - 3) [Washington Post - Can it be a crime to do opposition research by asking foreigners for information?](#)
 - 4) [Time - Was Donald Trump Jr.'s Russia Meeting Illegal? Here's What Experts Say](#)
 - 5) [Bloomberg - Both Campaigns Sought Russian Dirt. Clinton's Way Was Legal.](#)
 - 6) [Washington Post - I know Glenn Simpson. He's not a Hillary Clinton hit man.](#)

How do Cambridge Analytica and WikiLeaks play into all of this?

Cambridge Analytica wanted to work with Wikileaks, an extension of Russia's disinformation apparatus. Cambridge Analytica^[1] is a data analysis organization that purchases and compiles demographic data on voters and is run by the Mercer family, the CEO was recently caught on camera admitting that they won President Trump the election. Cambridge Analytica were hired by the Trump Campaign.^[2] We know that Cambridge Analytica reached out to Wikileaks during the 2016 presidential election.^[3] Rebekah Mercer wanted to organize the hacked DNC emails.^[4] Cambridge Analytica is under investigation by the Russia probe.^[5] Wikileaks can be considered an extension of Russia's disinformation apparatus,^[6] sharing material hacked by the GRU.^[7]

Steve Bannon was a member of the board at Cambridge Analytica until he stepped down and became the campaign Chairman for Trump, later becoming his Chief Strategist in the White House.^[8] Steve Bannon oversaw the collection of Facebook data in 2014 and was the boss of current Cambridge Analytica CEO Alexander Nix.^[9]

"We had to get Bannon to approve everything at this point. Bannon was Alexander Nix's boss," said Wylie, who was Cambridge Analytica's research director. "Alexander Nix didn't have the authority to spend that much money without approval."

The Cambridge Analytica whistleblower has come out and said that in 2014 CA was testing slogans, such as *drain the swamp* and *deepstate*, the Trump campaign later adopted these slogans.^[10] The Paradise Papers leak confirms that the Mercer family used off-shore money, hidden to avoid taxation, to fund Bannon and attacks on Hillary Clinton.^[11]

Their efforts, compounded with Russian interference, helped Donald J. Trump win the presidency of the United States of America. Just to summarize Special Counsel Mueller's indictment of 13 Russians and 3 Russian entities;^[12] Russian operatives used stolen US identities, travelled across 9 states collecting intelligence, discussed escape routes if they were caught inside the country, bought equipment including burner phones/SIM cards. This operation included hundreds of employees conducting information warfare during the election, it was funded with millions of dollars from the Kremlin. Russia was and is actively pushing propaganda and fake news to create a system that manipulates the narrative using social media sites as conduits for this endeavour. It took less than 80 thousand votes in 3 states to flip the electoral college vote in favour of President Trump.^[13] Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein put it best when he said that Russia was waging information warfare.^[14] This is a Republican who was appointed by President Trump.^[15]

- 1) [Business Insider - Cambridge Analytica bosses were secretly filmed boasting about how they helped Trump win the US election](#)
- 2) [CNN - Trump. Cambridge Analytica. WikiLeaks. The connections, explained.](#)
- 3) [CNN - Trump campaign analytics company contacted WikiLeaks about Clinton emails](#)
- 4) [Wall Street Journal - Trump Donor Asked Data Firm If It Could Better Organize Hacked Emails](#)
- 5) [The Daily Beast - Russia Probe Now Investigating Cambridge Analytica, Trump's 'Psychographic' Data Guru](#)
- 6) [Foreign Policy - WikiLeaks Turned Down Leaks on Russian Government During U.S. Presidential Campaign](#)
- 7) [CBS - How did WikiLeaks become associated with Russia?](#)
- 8) [CNN - Trump. Cambridge Analytica. WikiLeaks. The connections, explained.](#)
- 9) [Washington Post - Bannon oversaw Cambridge Analytica's collection of Facebook data, according to former employee](#)
- 10) [CNN - Whistleblower: We tested Trump slogans in 2014](#)
- 11) [The Guardian - Offshore cash helped fund Steve Bannon's attacks on Hillary Clinton](#)
- 12) [Justice Department - indictments against 13 Russian nationals and 3 entities](#)
- 13) [Washington Post - Donald Trump will be president thanks to 80,000 people in three states](#)
- 14) [PBS - WATCH: Rosenstein says 13 Russian nationals committed 'information warfare against the United States'](#)
- 15) [Politico - Mueller shifts focus back to Russian 'information warfare'](#)

Cambridge Analytica has its hands all over this administration. A Trump appointee working as a special assistant to the secretary at the Department of Commerce was once a Cambridge Analytica employee.^[1] The Secretary to the Department of Commerce is Wilbur Ross, a long time friend of President Trump.^[2] Wilbur Ross was the vice-chair of Bank of Cyprus, the paradise paper leaks confirm that Ross has personal business ties to Putin's son-in-law.^[3]

Donald Trump's commerce secretary, Wilbur Ross, is doing business with Vladimir Putin's son-in-law through a shipping venture in Russia.

Leaked documents and public filings show Ross holds a stake in a shipping company, Navigator, through a chain of offshore investments. Navigator operates a lucrative partnership with Sibur, a Russian gas company part-owned by Kirill Shamalov, the husband of Putin's daughter Katerina Tikhonova.

Ross, a billionaire and close friend of Trump, retained holdings in Navigator after taking office this year. The relationship means he stands to benefit from the operations of a Russian company run by Putin's family and close allies, some of whom are under US sanctions.

Cambridge Analytica's parent company, Strategic Communications Laboratories (SLC), has been awarded a contract from the State Department to fight ISIS propaganda.^[4] However, the timing of the contract does raise eyebrows.

When that deal was inked, SCL and Cambridge Analytica had just helped orchestrate a massive upset in the 2016 presidential election, and were viewed as power players in data analytics.

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- 1) [Huffington Post - Trump Administration Appointee Worked At Cambridge Analytica](#)
 - 2) [Department of Commerce - Secretary Wilbur Ross Biography](#)
 - 3) [The Guardian - Trump commerce secretary's business links with Putin family laid out in leaked files](#)
 - 4) [Axios - Cambridge Analytica creator has State Department contract](#)

Cambridge Analytica may have ordered the hack into the DNC and Podesta emails.

Quick Timeline of Cambridge Analytica and hacked DNC emails:

- Summer 2015 Corey Lewandowski, Trump's future campaign manager, is in talks with Cambridge Analytica (2).
- Summer 2015 Michael Flynn, an advisor of Cambridge Analytica (3), meets Donald Trump (4).
- **July 2015 DNC is hacked** (5).
- December 2015 Michael Flynn sits with Putin at an RT Gala in Moscow (6).

- At some point Peter Smith, in coordination with Michael Flynn, contacted various hacker groups, including at least two connected to the Russians, in hopes of finding Hillary Clinton's 30,000 deleted emails (7).
- April 29, 2016 Professor Mifsud tells George Papadopoulos Russians had dirt on Clinton in the form of thousands of emails.
- Aug 14, Trump adviser Roger Stone direct messages Russian intelligence agent Guccifer 2.0 (11)(13). Roger Stone admits being in contact with Guccifer (10).
- Guccifer 2.0 leaks DNC hacked memo directly to Kushner-owned Observer (12)

Nigel Farage may have given Julian Assange the DNC and Podesta hacked emails.

Cambridge Analytica has a history of using hacked emails in their campaigns. Alexander Nix, CEO of Cambridge Analytica, met with Israeli hackers at his office in London and used the hacked materials they provided in his campaign against Buhari in Nigeria (1).

...Russian hackers [tried] to retrieve emails from Clinton's server and pass them along to Flynn, who would then share them with the Trump campaign (7).

Based on this, Cambridge Analytica may have first received the hacked emails and then transferred them to Julian Assange, perhaps through Nigel Farage.

Nigel Farage is good friends with Cambridge Analytica vice-president at the time, Steve Bannon (14).

Nigel Farage was a frequent guest of the Ecuadorian embassy where Julian Assange resides and once passed a thumb drive to Assange (15).

Nigel Farage is a person of interest in the Mueller probe (16)

1. <https://qz.com/1234916/cambridge-analytica-tried-to-sway-nigerias-last-elections-with-buharis-hacked-emails/>
2. <https://www.today.com/video/cambridge-analytica-whistleblower-says-the-company-worked-with-trump-campaign-strategist-and-steve-bannon-1189326915651>
3. <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2017/aug/04/michael-flynn-cambridge-analytica-disclosure>
4. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/checkpoint/wp/2016/08/15/trump-adviser-michael-t-flynn-on-his-dinner-with-putin-and-why-russia-today-is-just-like-cnn/>
5. <http://thehill.com/homenews/administration/357851-timeline-campaign-knew-russia-had-clinton-emails-months-before-trump>
6. <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/guess-who-came-dinner-flynn-putin-n742696>
7. <https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2017/10/16/15657512/cambridge-analytica-christopher-wylie-facebook-trump-russia>

8. <http://thehill.com/homenews/administration/357851-timeline-campaign-knew-russia-had-clinton-emails-months-before-trump>
9. <https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2016/09/trump-clinton-russia-hack-kushner-observer/>
10. <https://stonecoldtruth.com/roger-stone-the-smoking-gun-aims-fires-misses/>
11. <https://www.cnn.com/2017/03/20/politics/kfile-roger-stone-wikileaks-claims/index.html>
12. <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2017/oct/30/george-papadopoulos-timeline-trump-campaign-adviser-russia-links>
13. <https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2016/09/trump-clinton-russia-hack-kushner-observer/>
14. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steve_Bannon
15. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2018/jan/19/trump-russia-inquiry-is-told-nigel-farage-may-have-given-julian-assange-data>
16. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2017/jun/01/nigel-farage-is-person-of-interest-in-fbi-investigation-into-trump-and-russia>

Can you blame Dowd for resigning? His client, President Trump, wants to go against a team of prosecutors^[1] composed of the best lawyers in their respective fields.^[2] The attorneys on Special Counsel include attorneys who left lucrative partnerships in the private sector - further indication that Mueller has a strong case. Here are the people investigating Russian meddling of the 2016 election.^[3]

They include an attorney who has over 100 supreme court cases under his belt and is finding loopholes in Presidential pardons, an attorney who took down Enron and previously flipped a Russian who helped President Trump win the election, an attorney who has never lost a Supreme Court case, an attorney who was an Assistant Special Prosecutor on the Watergate investigation, an attorney who has prosecuted counter-espionage cases, attorneys who have investigated white collar crime and money laundering, a veteran prosecutor that specializes in cyber-security, I could go on. This investigation is moving at light speed when compared to other administrations and indictments.^[4]

However, stay vigilant. We know he has gone back on innumerable claims. President Trump recently hired a lawyer who has been peddling the deep-state conspiracy against Trump, I would not be surprised if the President attempts to fire Mueller.^[5]

James Quarles:^[6]

Quarles worked as an assistant special prosecutor on the Watergate Special Prosecution Force. He came with Mueller from the law firm WilmerHale.

Andrew Weissmann:^[7]

Weissmann served as the chief of the Justice Department's fraud section, where he oversaw corruption investigations, including the probe into cheating by Volkswagen on diesel emissions tests.

Greg Andres:[\[8\]](#)

Andres is a white-collar criminal defense attorney at the Davis Polk firm. He had worked previously in the Justice Department's criminal division as a deputy assistant attorney general.

Andrew D. Goldstein:[\[9\]](#)

Goldstein headed the public corruption unit in the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Southern District of New York. He had worked there under Preet Bharara, whom President Trump fired as U.S. attorney after he refused to resign.

Elizabeth Prelogar:[\[10\]](#)

Prelogar is a lawyer in the solicitor general's office.

Rush Atkinson:[\[11\]](#)

Atkinson is a trial attorney in the Justice Department's fraud section.

Aaron Zebley:[\[12\]](#)

Zebley is a former assistant U.S. attorney in the Eastern District of Virginia and served as Mueller's chief of staff when Mueller was FBI director. He came with Mueller from WilmerHale.

Michael Dreeben:[\[13\]](#)

Dreeben is a Justice Department deputy solicitor general who has argued more than 100 cases before the Supreme Court.

Adam Jed:[\[14\]](#)

Jed is an appellate lawyer from the Justice Department's civil division.

Aaron Zelinsky:[\[15\]](#)

Zelinsky is an assistant U.S. attorney in Maryland.

Kyle Freeney:[\[16\]](#)

Freeney is an attorney on detail from the Criminal Division's Money Laundering and Asset Recovery Section. In 2016, she was part of a Department of Justice team seeking to recover over \$1 billion from an alleged corrupt Malaysian sovereign wealth fund.

Zainab Ahmad:[\[17\]](#)

Ahmad is an assistant U.S. attorney in the Eastern District of New York who specializes in counterterrorism cases. She was recently profiled in the New Yorker, which reported she had successfully prosecuted 13 terrorism cases since 2009 without a single loss.

Jeannie Rhee:[\[18\]](#)

Rhee is a former deputy assistant attorney general in the Office of Legal Counsel and assistant U.S. attorney in D.C. She also came from WilmerHale.

Brandon Van Grack:^[19]

Van Grack is a Justice Department national security division prosecutor.

Ryan K. Dickey:^[20]

Dickey's addition is particularly notable because he is the first publicly known member of the team specializing solely in cyber issues. The others' expertise is mainly in a variety of white-collar crimes, including fraud, money laundering and public corruption

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- 1) [Washington Post - Here are the people investigating Russian meddling in the 2016 election](#)
 - 2) [Business Insider - What you should know about the lawyers investigating Trump](#)
 - 3) [CBS - These are the lawyers on Robert Mueller's special counsel team](#)
 - 4) [Five Thirty Eight - The Russia Investigation Is Moving Really Freaking Fast](#)
 - 5) [New York Times - Trump Hires Lawyer Who Has Pushed Theory That Justice Dept. Framed the President](#)
 - 6) [The Independent - Watergate lawyer drafted in for Trump-Russia investigation, special counsel Robert Muller reveals](#)
 - 7) [Slate - An Intriguing Link Between the Mueller Investigation, Trump, and Alleged Money Laundering](#)
 - 8) [Washington Examiner - Robert Mueller enlists former DOJ official who worked on foreign bribery cases: Report](#)
 - 9) [New York Times - Manhattan Prosecutor Joins Inquiry Into Russian Meddling in Election](#)
 - 10) [Daily Kos - Mueller just added a Russian-speaking former Supreme Court clerk to his special counsel team](#)
 - 11) [ABC - Special counsel Robert Mueller has assembled a team of 16 seasoned prosecutors](#)
 - 12) [Wilmer Hale - Former FBI Chief of Staff Aaron Zebley to Join WilmerHale](#)
 - 13) [Bloomberg - Mueller Tasks an Adviser With Getting Ahead of Pre-Emptive Pardons](#)
 - 14) [The National Law Journal - Mueller Bolsters Russia Team's Appellate Readiness in New Hire](#)
 - 15) [Huffington Post - Aaron Zelinsky](#)
 - 16) [The Daily Beast - Money-Laundering Prosecutor Joins Trump-Russia Probe](#)
 - 17) [New Yorker - Taking Down Terrorists in Court: Zainab Ahmad has prosecuted thirteen international terrorist suspects for the American government. She hasn't lost yet.](#)
 - 18) [Find Law](#)
 - 19) [Linkdin](#)

20) [Washington Post - Mueller adds veteran cyber prosecutor to special-counsel team](#)

I stand by my statement - President Trump and his administration are a Russian asset. The HIC investigation is a farce.

Let's begin with a Russian backed Assad regime assault on a US base in Syria. We know that Yevgeny Prigozhin gave the go ahead for Assad forces and Russian mercenaries to attack a US base in Syria a few weeks ago.^[1] **Prigozhin, Putin's chef, was indicted by Special Counsel Mueller.**

In intercepted communications in late January, the oligarch, Yevgeniy Prigozhin, told a senior Syrian official that he had “secured permission” from an unspecified Russian minister to move forward with a “fast and strong” initiative that would take place in early February.

You might be wondering, who is Yevgeny Prigozhin? Prigozhin is a Russian oligarch who has been Putin's go to guy for under the table missions, including recruiting mercenaries for the conflicts in Ukraine and Syria.^[2] Here is a timeline on how Russians influenced the American election in 2016 according to the Special Counsel's indictment. Prigozhin was heavily involved.^[3]

According to the indictment Prigozhin met Mikhail Bystrov, a leader of the IRA, regularly in 2015 and 2016.^[4] Prigozhin funded the Internet Research Agency and their meddling of the American election. This was a sophisticated operation that spanned over several years.^[5]

This operation was funded through Russian fronts, including a catering company run by Prigozhin. They used stolen American identities. An American selling the stolen identities has pled guilty, although his attorney has stated that he did not know who he was selling the stolen identities to.^[6] Operatives bought political ads on social media sites. Operatives visited the United States, travelled across 9 states and discussed escape routes if they were caught inside the country. Operatives bought equipment including burner phones and SIM cards. This operation included hundreds of employees, Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein put it best - the Russians conducted information warfare during the election.^[7]

Want to know why they are Russian assets? President Trump and his administration have refused to stop Russian election interference, he has failed to create or enact new sanctions against Russia,^[8] in fact they have made a mockery of the process. There were sanctions that were passed overwhelmingly by Congress in retaliation for Russia's election meddling and human rights abuses, President Trump refused to apply all the sanctions.^[9] The administration claimed that the threat of sanctions was enough to dissuade business with Russia. To add insult to injury Secretary Steve Mnuchin and the Treasury Department had been given 6 months to create a list of Russian political figures and Oligarchs with close ties to Putin and all they produced was a list copied directly from a Russian edition of Forbes billionaire list, further indication that the administration refuses to take sanctions against Russia seriously.^[10] A Treasury Department spokesperson confirmed that the list was taken from Forbes Magazine.^[11]

Secretary of State, Rex Tillerson, was awarded Russia's Order of Friendship award.^[12] He has shut down the State Department office that oversees sanction policies.^[13] Tillerson has completely gutted a formerly functioning State Department essentially crippling US influence abroad.^[14] He has

systematically dismantled the State Department with major cuts to leadership roles, these are career diplomats who have served under different administrations and possess unparalleled experience.^[15] President Trump is now instigating a trade war while America's global influence deteriorates.

They have done nothing while the United States Intelligence Agencies have confirmed that a foreign nation interfered with the American election process, that foreign nation being Russia.^[16] The Intelligence Agencies heads unanimously agree that the Russians will attack the 2018 election.^[17] President Trump has refused to act, NSA Director Admiral Rodgers admitted last week that Trump has not ordered disruption of Russian election meddling.^[18]

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- 1) [Washington Post - Putin ally said to be in touch with Kremlin, Assad before his mercenaries attacked U.S. troops](#)
 - 2) [New York Times - Yevgeny Prigozhin, Russian Oligarch Indicted by U.S., Is Known as 'Putin's Cook'](#)
 - 3) [Washington Post - Timeline: How Russian trolls allegedly tried to throw the 2016 election to Trump](#)
 - 4) [Washington Post - The rise of 'Putin's chef,' the Russian oligarch accused of manipulating the U.S. election](#)
 - 5) [The Guardian - Putin's chef, a troll farm and Russia's plot to hijack US democracy](#)
 - 6) [The Hill - Calif. man pleads guilty to identity fraud in Mueller probe](#)
 - 7) [Politico - Mueller shifts focus back to Russian 'information warfare'](#)
 - 8) [New York Times - Trump Administration Won't Impose Sanctions on Buyers of Russian Arms](#)
 - 9) [New York Times - Congress Reaches Deal on Russia Sanctions, Setting Up Tough Choice for Trump](#)
 - 10) [Bloomberg - The U.S. List of Russian Oligarchs Is a Disgrace](#)
 - 11) [The Hill - Administration admits Treasury's list of Russian 'oligarchs' was derived from Forbes](#)
 - 12) [CNN - Behind the deep ties between Exxon's Rex Tillerson and Russia](#)
 - 13) [Foreign Policy - State Department Scraps Sanctions Office](#)
 - 14) [New York Times - State Department to Offer Buyouts in Effort to Cut Staff](#)
 - 15) [BBC - US diplomacy cuts 'decapitates' State Department leadership](#)
 - 16) [New York Times - Trump Misleads on Russian Meddling: Why 17 Intelligence Agencies Don't Need to Agree](#)
 - 17) [Washington Post - The nation's top spies said Russia is continuing to target the U.S. political system](#)
 - 18) [The Guardian - NSA chief: Trump 'has not ordered disruption of Russia election meddling'](#)

I have a comment about the Trump organization being used to launder money. Bannon's comments all but confirmed our suspicions.^[1]

[Bannon] **“You realise where this is going,” he is quoted as saying. “This is all about money laundering. Mueller chose [senior prosecutor Andrew] Weissmann first and he is a money-laundering guy.**

President Trump said the red line would be drawn at Special Counsel Mueller looking into the Trump Empire's finances. Why you may ask? The entire family is involved in laundering money.

We recently found out that Trump's first international venture in Panama City is a hub for laundering money.^[2] He handed the business dealings over to Ivanka Trump and although many properties were bought the entire area is almost a ghost town.^[3] The tower stands dark as very few people live in the properties. Turns out the owners hail from colourful backgrounds including Russian gangsters, drug cartels, and people smugglers.^[4]

Rachel Maddow did a piece about a Trump Tower project in Azerbaijan.^[5] In it Ivanka Trump takes a video promoting her family's building, but it turns out she wasn't filming at the Trump property as it was built in a rundown location.

The Trump organization has been laundering money for a long time. Here are a few examples from The New Yorker including his Taj Mahal Casino, projects in India, Uruguay, Georgia, Indonesia, the Philippines, and China.^[6] Listen to this short NPR podcast interview where Adam Davidson explains what he uncovered while investigating Baku.^[7]

Christopher Steele has stated that Trump's hotel and land deals with Russians need to be examined.^[8]

Read what Felix Sater, a Russian business associate of the President, offered President Trump's personal lawyer Michael Cohen. Felix Sater admits to working with the Kremlin under the guise of building the Trump Moscow Tower to help get Trump elected. Both the New York Times^[9] and the Washington Post^[10] corroborate this story.

“Our boy can become president of the USA and we can engineer it,” Mr. Sater wrote in an email. “I will get all of Putins team to buy in on this, I will manage this process.”

“I will get Putin on this program and we will get Donald elected,” Mr. Sater wrote.

Back in the 90s Felix Sater was caught up in a massive stock scam and flipped on mob families in New York. Guess who flipped him? He's on Special Counsel Mueller's team - Andrew Weissmann.^[11]

Felix Sater attended Trump's invite-only victory party to celebrate his presidential victory.^[12] Although Trump has tried to distance himself from Sater due to his colourful past, I find it very peculiar that he was allowed into an invite-only event at the Midtown Hilton. Moreover, in July of 2016 we know he attended a secret meeting at Trump Tower, no one knows what was discussed.^[13] We know Felix Sater has been ready to work with Special Counsel Mueller's team.^[14] Paul Wood, World Affairs correspondent for the BBC, wrote the original article for The Spectator.^[15]

Here's another example to illustrate my point. Russian Oligarch Rybolovlev bought a Trump property in Palm Beach for \$100 million, making it the most expensive property in America. Here's the kicker - after buying it Rybolovlev tore it down even though he had just paid \$60 million over market price.^[16]

Where this becomes even more peculiar is that the Russian oligarch's private yacht and plane were in the same vicinity as Trump or his associates during the campaign on several separate occasions.^[17] For example, Rybolovlev's plane landed in North Carolina 2 hours before Trump made his stop there for a campaign rally.^[18] Rybolovlev's yacht was in Croatia last summer where Ivanka and Kushner were vacationing. Back in March while Rybolovlev's yacht was anchored in the British Virgin Islands, Robert Mercer's yacht was anchored next to it.^[19]

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- 1) [The Guardian - Trump Tower meeting with Russians 'treasonous', Bannon says in explosive book](#)
 - 2) [NBC - A Panama tower carries Trump's name and ties to organized crime](#)
 - 3) [Global Witness - Narco-A-Lago: Money Laundering At The Trump Ocean Club Panama](#)
 - 4) [The Guardian - Trump's Panama tower used for money laundering by condo owners, reports say](#)
 - 5) [Sketchy Donald Trump Deal Eyed For Ties To Iran | Rachel Maddow | MSNBC](#)
 - 6) [The New Yorker - Donald Trump's Worst Deal: The President helped build a hotel in Azerbaijan that appears to be a corrupt operation engineered by oligarchs tied to Iran's Revolutionary Guard](#)
 - 7) [NPR - 'The New Yorker' Uncovers Trump Hotel's Ties To Corrupt Oligarch Family](#)
 - 8) [Business Insider - 'Dossier' author Christopher Steele: Trump's hotel and land deals with Russians need to be examined](#)
 - 9) [New York Times - Trump Associate Boasted That Moscow Business Deal 'Will Get Donald Elected'](#)
 - 10) [The Washington Post - Trump's company had more contact with Russia during campaign, according to documents turned over to investigators](#)
 - 11) [Slate - An Intriguing Link Between the Mueller Investigation, Trump, and Alleged Money Laundering](#)
 - 12) [GQ - Inside Donald Trump's Election Night War Room](#)
 - 13) [Politico - Trump's mob-linked ex-associate gives \\$5,400 to campaign](#)
 - 14) [Raw Story - Longtime Trump business partner 'told family he knows he and POTUS are going to prison': report](#)
 - 15) [The Spectator - Forget Charlottesville - Russia Is Still The True Trump's True Scandal](#)
 - 16) [McClatchy - Donald Trump and the mansion that no one wanted. Then came a Russian fertilizer king](#)
 - 17) [New York Times - Tracking the Yachts and Jets of the Mega-Rich](#)
 - 18) [McClatchy - Trump, Russian billionaire say they've never met, but their jets did — in Charlotte](#)
 - 19) [Palm Beach Report - Yachts of Trump financial backer, Russian oligarch seen close together](#)

More information about Paul Manafort and his pro-Russia actions during the campaign;

We know Paul Manafort offered to give a Russian billionaire private briefings on the campaign trail.^[1] Paul Manafort used a campaign account for the aforementioned email correspondence.^[2]

Now you might be wondering who Oleg Deripaska and Dimitry Firtash are and how they are connected Manafort. One of them is a Ukrainian oligarch who is wanted by the Justice Department so he can stand trial for a 2013 racketeering indictment. The other is a Russian oligarch who is one of the wealthiest Russians and is very close to Putin. Manafort partnered with them over a massive real-estate deal.^[3]

Now this is where it becomes interesting. Back in 2006 Paul Manafort offered a deal to Russian oligarch Deripaska where he indicated he would offer a great service in pushing Putin's policies abroad. He was paid very handsomely by Deripaska.^[4]

Manafort pitched the plans to aluminum magnate Oleg Deripaska, a close Putin ally with whom Manafort eventually signed a \$10 million annual contract beginning in 2006, according to interviews with several people familiar with payments to Manafort and business records obtained by the AP. Manafort and Deripaska maintained a business relationship until at least 2009, according to one person familiar with the work.

“We are now of the belief that this model can greatly benefit the Putin Government if employed at the correct levels with the appropriate commitment to success,” Manafort wrote in the 2005 memo to Deripaska. The effort, Manafort wrote, “will be offering a great service that can re-focus, both internally and externally, the policies of the Putin government.”

In 2014 Deripaska sued Manafort for a cool \$19 million claiming that Manafort and Gates had stolen funds intended for an investment.^[5] The Associated Press were the first ones to discover their business dealings and Deripaska attempted and failed at suing AP for libel.^[6]

What's even more peculiar is that Paul Manafort worked as Trump's campaign chairman for free.^[7] Oh and in 2006 Manafort bought a condo in Trump Tower.^[8]

Paul Manafort was present at the infamous Trump Tower meeting where adoptions were discussed with Russian operatives.^[9] Adoptions is an established euphemism used in reference to the Magnitsky Act, sanctions that are meant to cripple the power of Putin.^[10]

Manafort's daughters' phones were hacked and their texts were released almost a year ago. I think these texts paint a very clear picture under the context of what we now know about Paul Manafort, Trump, and Russia.^[11]

In one exchange, daughter Jessica Manafort writes “Im not a trump supporter but i am still proud of dad tho. He is the best at what he does.” Her sister Andrea Manafort responded by referring to their father’s relationship with Trump as “The most dangerous friendship in America,” while in another exchange she called them “a perfect pair” of “power-hungry egomaniacs,” and asserted “the only reason my dad is doing this campaign is for sport. He likes the challenge. It's like an egomaniac's chess game. There's no money motivation.”

1) [Washington Post - Manafort offered to give Russian billionaire 'private briefings' on 2016 campaign](#)

- 2) [Politico - Manafort used Trump campaign account to email Ukrainian operative](#)
- 3) [The Daily Beast - Paul Manafort Sought \\$850 Million Deal With Putin Ally and Alleged Gangster](#)
- 4) [Associated Press - AP Exclusive: Before Trump job, Manafort worked to aid Putin](#)
- 5) [Washington Post - Manafort's Russia connection: What you need to know about Oleg Deripaska](#)
- 6) [Politico - Judge tosses libel lawsuit against AP by Russian oligarch tied to Manafort](#)
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- 9) [New York Times - Talking Points Brought to Trump Tower Meeting Were Shared With Kremlin](#)
- 10) [The Atlantic - Why Does the Kremlin Care So Much About the Magnitsky Act?](#)
- 11) [Politico - Manafort's Ukrainian 'blood money' caused qualms, hack suggests](#)

Oh and here are a few examples of the Trump family laundering money;

Does anyone else remember Rachel Maddow's piece from a few months back about a Trump Tower project in Azerbaijan?^[1] Well I distinctly remember Ivanka Trump taking a video promoting her family's building, but it turns out she wasn't filming at the Trump property as it was built in a terrible, rundown location and was used to launder money.

The Trump organization has been laundering money for a very long time. Here are a few examples from The New Yorker.^[2]

The Baku project is hardly the only instance in which the Trump Organization has been associated with a controversial deal. The Trump Taj Mahal casino, which opened in Atlantic City in 1990, was repeatedly fined for violating anti-money-laundering laws, up until its collapse, late last year. According to ProPublica, Trump projects in India, Uruguay, Georgia, Indonesia, and the Philippines have involved government officials or people with close ties to powerful political figures. A few years ago, the Trump Organization abandoned a project in Beijing after its Chinese partner became embroiled in a corruption scandal. In December, the Trump Organization withdrew from a hotel project in Rio de Janeiro after it was revealed to be part of a major bribery investigation. Ricardo Ayres, a Brazilian state legislator, told Bloomberg, "It's curious that the Trumps didn't seem to know that their biggest deal in Brazil was bankrolled by shady investors." But, given the Trump Organization's track record, it seems reasonable to ask whether one of the things it was selling to foreign partners was a willingness to ignore signs of corruption.

Listen to this short podcast where Adam Davidson explains what he uncovered while investigating.^[3]

Business reporter Adam Davidson spent months investigating the Trump Hotel Baku deal, which the Trump Organization cut its ties with a month after Trump's election. In his detailed story for The New

Yorker, Davidson writes that Trump did business with corrupt partners who also did business with Iran's Revolutionary Guard. This would be in violation of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act.

I would like to point out that Christopher Steele has stated that Trump's hotel and land deals with Russians need to be examined.^[4]

Here's another example to illustrate my point. Russian Oligarch Rybolovlev bought a Trump property in Palm Beach for \$100 million, making it the most expensive property in America. Here's the kicker - after buying it Rybolovlev tore it down even though he had just paid \$60 million over market price.^[5]

[Trump] "What do I have to do with Russia?" he replied to reporters' questions at a press conference in Doral last summer. "You know the closest I came to Russia, I bought a house a number of years ago in Palm Beach ... for \$40 million, and I sold it to a Russian for \$100 million."

That was a bland, if fairly accurate, summary of a wild and goofy tale of the Palm Beach real-estate market involving tax fraud, Russian billionaires, lurid divorce-court accusations and — at least in the opinion of some Palm Beach observers — the execrably vulgar taste of the super-rich.

Where this becomes even more peculiar is that the Russian oligarch's private yacht and plane were in the same vicinity as Trump or his associates during the campaign on several separate occasions.^[6] For example, Rybolovlev's plane landed in North Carolina 2 hours before Trump made his stop there for a campaign rally.^[7] Rybolovlev's yacht was in Croatia last summer where Ivanka and Kushner were vacationing. Back in March while Rybolovlev's yacht was anchored in the British Virgin Islands, Robert Mercer's yacht was anchored next to it.^[8] Mercer^[9] being Trump's biggest financial supporter and Breitbart moneyman.^[10]

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- 1) [Sketchy Donald Trump Deal Eyed For Ties To Iran | Rachel Maddow | MSNBC](#)
 - 2) [The New Yorker - Donald Trump's Worst Deal: The President helped build a hotel in Azerbaijan that appears to be a corrupt operation engineered by oligarchs tied to Iran's Revolutionary Guard.](#)
 - 3) [NPR - 'The New Yorker' Uncovers Trump Hotel's Ties To Corrupt Oligarch Family](#)
 - 4) [Business Insider - 'Dossier' author Christopher Steele: Trump's hotel and land deals with Russians need to be examined](#)
 - 5) [McClatchy - Donald Trump and the mansion that no one wanted. Then came a Russian fertilizer king](#)
 - 6) [New York Times - Tracking the Yachts and Jets of the Mega-Rich](#)
 - 7) [McClatchy - Trump, Russian billionaire say they've never met, but their jets did — in Charlotte](#)
 - 8) [Palm Beach Report - Yachts of Trump financial backer, Russian oligarch seen close together](#)
 - 9) [The Daily Beast - Russia Probe Now Investigating Cambridge Analytica, Trump's 'Psychographic' Data Guru](#)
 - 10) [The Guardian - Robert Mercer invested offshore dark money to sink Clinton. He must be delighted](#)

Paul Manafort and Rick Gates are central figures to this investigation, allow me to expand below. A Russian Oligarch, Oleg Deripaska, worked with them for years and was very close to them. Oleg Deripaska was the oligarch that was recorded by this escort, he was meeting a Russian Deputy Prime Minister a month after Manafort had established email correspondence with Deripaska. They were likely exchanging intelligence.

Rick Gates has been Manafort's right hand man for years and was very involved in the Trump campaign even after Manafort stepped down as Campaign Manager. Rick Gates is reportedly pleading guilty to charges laid out by Special Counsel Mueller's indictment, a clear indication that he is ready to cooperate with investigators.^[1]

Email correspondence between Russian Oligarch Oleg Deripaska and former Trump Campaign Manager Paul Manafort will be important in understanding why Manafort is a key figure to this investigation. According to videos recorded by an escort that were discovered by Russian opposition activist, Alexei Navalny, show Deripaska meeting a Russian Deputy Prime Minister on a yacht 1 month after the email correspondence between Manafort/Deripaska took place.^[2]

Russia has threatened to block access to social media sites, such as YouTube and Instagram, if they do not remove the videos of Deripaska and Russian Deputy Prime Minister Prikhodko meeting on the yacht.^[3]

Paul Manafort was brought into the Trump campaign as Chairman to corral delegates at the convention, it was at this time where the Trump campaign pressured the GOP to make a specific change to the platform. An amendment proposed that the GOP commit to sending lethal weapons to Ukraine to fight Russian aggression was softened considerably at the request of the campaign.^[4] Paul Manafort has since been indicted by Special Counsel Mueller.^[5]

We know Paul Manafort offered to give a Russian billionaire private briefings on the campaign trail, the oligarch was Oleg Deripaska.^[6] Paul Manafort used a campaign account for the aforementioned email correspondence.^[7]

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Paul Manafort was present at the infamous Trump Tower meeting where adoptions were discussed with Russian operatives.^[14] Adoptions is an established euphemism used in reference to the Magnitsky Act, sanctions that are meant to cripple the power of Putin.^[15] President Trump's son, son-in-law, and Campaign Manager met with Russians with the expectation of receiving damaging information about Clinton.^[16] One of the Russian operatives present at the infamous Trump Tower meeting, Rinat Akhmetshin, has ties to Russian intelligence and has a history of being embroiled in court cases related to hacking campaigns.^[17] During Simpson's Congressional testimony he confirmed that the Trump campaign likely received foreign intelligence aid as Manafort had close ties to Russian Intelligence.^[18] Manafort seems to have returned the favour via Deripaska.

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1. [New York Times - Rick Gates, Trump Campaign Aide, to Plead Guilty in Mueller Inquiry and Cooperate](#)
 2. [Telegraph - Oligarch met with top Russian official after Trump aide 'offered briefings'](#)
 3. [The Guardian - Russian watchdog orders YouTube to remove Navalny luxury yacht video](#)
 4. [NPR - 2016 RNC Delegate: Trump Directed Change To Party Platform On Ukraine Support](#)
 5. [Politico - United States of America v. Paul J. Manafort, Jr. and Richard W. Gates III](#)
 6. [Washington Post - Manafort offered to give Russian billionaire 'private briefings' on 2016 campaign](#)
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 16. [Global News - 2016 Trump Tower meeting between Donald Trump Jr., Jared Kushner and Russians under further scrutiny](#)

17. [New York Times - Lobbyist at Trump Campaign Meeting Has a Web of Russian Connections](#)
18. [Senate Judiciary Committee - Glenn Simpson Fusion GPS CEO Testimony Pg. 154-155](#)

I'm glad former FBI Deputy Director Andrew McCabe is speaking out for the injustices he faced. He is a patriot that served America for 2 decades, to have his name and reputation repudiated by a repugnant man is infuriating to say the least.

President Trump and his allies in the media and at Congress have attempted to smear the Russia probe investigation by calling it a witch hunt. This is classic gas-lighting tactic being espoused. Contrary to his Twitter page the President has led a campaign, a witch hunt if you will, to shut down all avenues of any investigation into Russian election interference. He has led a campaign to discredit FBI witnesses, he has targeted 3 FBI officials who could provide key testimony to Mueller's probe.^[1] President Trump has gone on television and admitted in an interview that the "Russia thing" was considered when he decided to fire FBI Director James Comey.^[2] And for someone who is known for his "You're Fired!" schtick from the Apprentice, he was awfully fearful of firing Comey or McCabe in person. Former FBI Deputy Director Andrew McCabe found out he was fired from press releases.^[3] Former FBI Director James Comey found out from TV reports.^[4]

We also know that the United States Intelligence Agencies have confirmed that a foreign nation interfered with the American election process.^[5] The Intelligence Agencies heads unanimously agree that the Russians will attack the 2018 election.^[6] President Trump has refused to act, last month NSA Director Admiral Rodgers testified to Congress that President Trump has not ordered a disruption into the Russian election meddling during the 2018 midterms.^[7]

It is the President of the United States of America that has led a witch hunt against those who seek justice against Russian election meddling.

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- 1) [Foreign Policy - Trump Launched Campaign to Discredit Potential FBI Witnesses](#)
 - 2) [The Guardian - Donald Trump admits 'this Russia thing' part of reasoning for firing Comey](#)
 - 3) [Washington Post - Andrew McCabe, Trump's foil at the FBI, is fired hours before he could retire](#)
 - 4) [Global News - James Comey reportedly found out he was fired from TV reports](#)
 - 5) [New York Times - Trump Misleads on Russian Meddling: Why 17 Intelligence Agencies Don't Need to Agree](#)
 - 6) [Washington Post - The nation's top spies said Russia is continuing to target the U.S. political system](#)
 - 7) [The Guardian - NSA chief: Trump 'has not ordered disruption of Russia election meddling'](#)

This comment explores the relationship between Alex van der Zwaan pleading guilty for lying to Special Counsel Mueller, Alfa Bank, and the secret Seychelles meeting to establish a Trump-Putin back channel.

Zwaan's father-in-law is no ordinary Russian oligarch, he is German Khan^[1] and owns Alfa Group.^[2] German Khan and his partners opened Alfa Bank which is the largest privately owned Russian bank.^[3]

What's odd is that Alfa Bank repeatedly looked up contact information of a Trump Tower server, making up 80% of the traffic during the campaign. President Trump's Secretary of Education, Besty DeVos, is connected to the Trump Tower server through her husband's company Spectrum Health. Together with Alfa Bank they made up 99% of the lookups of the Trump server in the summer of 2016.^[4]

Betsy DeVos's brother is none other than Erik Prince, he proposed a private spy network for President Trump and was an advisor during the campaign.^[5] Erik Prince held a secret meeting in Seychelles to establish a Trump-Putin back channel.^[6] Prince told congressional house members that he had met the CEO of the Russian Direct Investment Fund, Kirill A. Dmitriev.^[7] The Russia Direct Investment Fund is a Russian sovereign wealth fund that has an interesting link to Alfa Group. The First Deputy CEO of RDIF, Tagir Sitdekov,^[8] was a former Managing Director in Alfa Group's private equity arm.^[9]

George Nader, an advisor to the United Arab Emirates that was present at the Seychelles meeting, is cooperating with Special Counsel Mueller's investigation.^[10] He has already testified in front of a grand jury. George Nader is another instance of an unscrupulous individual being allowed to work with the Trump campaign, he has previously been convicted on child pornography charges.^[11]

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1. [NBC NY - Mueller Charges Son-in-Law of Russian Oligarch for Allegedly Lying About Communications With Gates](#)
 2. [Forbes - German Khan](#)
 3. [Richest Russian - German Khan 133](#)
 4. [CNN - Sources: FBI investigation continues into 'odd' computer link between Russian bank and Trump Organization](#)
 5. [CNN - US official: Erik Prince proposed private spy network to Trump administration](#)
 6. [Washington Post - Blackwater founder held secret Seychelles meeting to establish Trump-Putin back channel](#)
 7. [Washington Post - Erik Prince discussed trade, terrorism with Russian banker in Seychelles, interview transcript says](#)
 8. [Russia Direct Investment Fund - Team](#)
 9. [Reuters - Russia's \\$10 billion fund staffed up, ready for deals](#)
 10. [New York Times - Adviser to Emirates With Ties to Trump Aides Is Cooperating With Special Counsel](#)

11. [Politico - Mueller witness was convicted on child porn charge](#)

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When Paul Manafort had resigned as campaign manager on the Trump campaign his protege and longtime partner Rick Gates continued to work with the Trump campaign and was in contact with a former Russian intelligence officer weeks before the election. The former GRU officer also happened to be a long time liaison between Manafort and Deripaska.^[1] Alex van der Zwaan lied to Special Counsel Mueller about the contacts he had with Rick Gates and Person A who is alleged to be a former GRU Officer. Van der Zwaan recorded these communications, has plead guilty to lying to investigators and has been sentenced to 30 days in prison.

The documents reveal Gates was in contact with a former officer in Russian military intelligence in the months leading up to Trump's win.

Gates was “directly communicating in September and October 2016” with an unidentified person who “has ties to a Russian intelligence service and had such ties in 2016,” the filing says.

Alex van der Zwaan, the son-in-law of a Russian Oligarch who owns Alfa Bank, has plead guilty to lying to investigators. He lied about his contact with Gates and Person A. The Washington Post has stated that Person A is former GRU officer Konstantin Kilimnik, a Ukraine-based aide to Paul Manafort.^[2]

Fourth, the lies and withholding of documents were material to the Special Counsel's Office's investigation. That Gates and Person A were directly communicating in September and October 2016 was pertinent to the investigation. Federal Bureau of Investigation Special Agents assisting the Special Counsel's Office assess that Person A has ties to Russian intelligence service and had such ties in 2016. During his first interview with the Special Counsel's Office, van der Zwaan admitted that he knew of that connection, stating that Gates told him Person A was a former Russian Intelligence Officer with GRU.

Kilimnik served as a liaison between Manafort and Oleg Deripaska. Manafort has previously denied communicating with Russian intelligence,^[3] Special Counsel Mueller seems to be alleging something entirely different.

The FBI has found that a business associate of former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort had ongoing ties to Russian intelligence, including during the 2016 campaign when Manafort and his deputy, Rick Gates, were in touch with the associate, according to new court filings.

The documents, filed late Tuesday by prosecutors for special counsel Robert S. Mueller III, also allege that Gates had said he knew the associate was a former officer with the Russian military intelligence service.

Van der Zwaan recorded some of his conversations he had with Rick Gates and Person A, who is alleged to be Kilimnik.^[4]

After years of working with Gates on a report meant to aid a political group in Ukraine, Gates contacted him in 2016 about a foreign criminal case they feared could be filed against van der Zwaan's law firm. Afraid of the situation, the young attorney recorded a phone call with Gates and the unnamed Eastern European associate, and a call with his firm.

Later, when Mueller's office asked about his interactions with Gates and the other person, he lied because he feared his firm might fire him for recording the call, according to the memo.

The timeline is beginning to come together. Michael Cohen, the President's personal attorney, told Congressional investigators that he had stopped working on the Trump Moscow Tower project in January of 2016. But a new report surfaced yesterday indicating that Mr. Cohen had continued to work on the Trump Moscow Tower project up until at least May, when then candidate Trump was close to securing the GOP presidential nomination.^[5] Candidate Trump promoted Paul Manafort to the role of Campaign Chairman around this time to corral delegates at the GOP convention, furthermore it was at this stage of the campaign where Trump began to publicly change his policy towards Ukraine and Russia.^[6]

“Our president is not strong and he is not doing what he should be doing for the Ukraine,” Trump told he group of pro-Western businessmen, diplomats and politicians. “I don’t think you’re getting the support you need.”

That view was in line with other statements Trump has made calling for a firmer Western response to Russian President Vladimir Putin’s March 2014 annexation of Crimea and support for a pro-Russian separatist movement in the country’s east, according to a review of Trump’s public comments about Ukraine since 2014.

In recent days, however, Trump has struck a far milder tone. He now says he might recognize Crimea as Russian territory and lift punitive U.S. sanctions against Russia. The alternative, he warned on Monday, could be World War III.

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1. [VICE News - Bombshell Mueller court filing shows Rick Gates was knowingly in contact with a Kremlin spy](#)
 2. [Washington Post - Mueller just drew his most direct line to date between the Trump campaign and Russia](#)
 3. [Washington Post - Manafort associate had Russian intelligence ties during 2016 campaign, prosecutors say](#)
 4. [CNN - New Gates tie alleged in special counsel filing on van der Zwaan sentencing](#)
 5. [The Hill - Cohen worked on Moscow Trump Tower deal for longer than he told Congress: report](#)
 6. [Politico - Trump changed views on Ukraine after hiring Manafort](#)

Yea, totally...

There is ample evidence indicating collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia.

Let's begin our journey with George Papadopoulos. This Trump campaign foreign policy advisor, who has plead guilty to charges laid out by Special Counsel Mueller's investigation, provides a timeline of events. He was offered dirt on Hillary Clinton by a mysterious professor with ties to Russia.^[1] The Trump campaign knew of hacked emails before Trump made his rally speech in which he asked Russia to release their collection of hacked emails.^[2] Special Counsel Mueller's indictment of Papadopoulos listed him as a proactive cooperator - the implication being that Papadopoulos might have engaged with his former colleagues on behalf of investigators.^[3] Professor Mifsud, the individual with ties to Russia that had met with Papadopoulos offering dirt on Clinton, has since gone missing.^[4]

After Papadopoulos was offered dirt, top Trump campaign officials met with Russian operatives. Paul Manafort, Jared Kushner, and Trump Jr. were present at the infamous Trump Tower meeting where adoptions were discussed with Russian operatives.^[5] Adoptions is an established euphemism used in reference to the Magnitsky Act, sanctions that are meant to cripple the power of Putin.^[6] President Trump's son, son-in-law, and Campaign Manager met with Russians with the expectation of receiving damaging information about Clinton.^[7] One of the Russian operatives present at the meeting, Rinat Akhmetshin, has ties to Russian intelligence and has a history of being embroiled in court cases related to hacking campaigns.^[8] During Fusion GPS CEO Glenn Simpson's Congressional testimony he confirmed that the Trump campaign likely received foreign intelligence aid as Manafort had close ties to Russian Intelligence.^[9]

We know Manafort was in contact with Russian Oligarch Oleg Deripaska during the campaign. We know Paul Manafort offered to give the Russian billionaire private briefings on the Trump campaign trail.^[10] Manafort used a campaign account for the aforementioned email correspondence.^[11] According to videos recorded by an escort that were discovered by Russian opposition activist, Alexei Navalny, show Deripaska meeting a Russian Deputy Prime Minister on a yacht 1 month after the email correspondence between Manafort and Deripaska took place, the United States came up as a topic of discussion.^[12] Russia has threatened to block access to social media sites, such as YouTube and Instagram, if they do not remove the videos of Deripaska and Russian Deputy Prime Minister Prikhodko meeting on the yacht.^[13]

Now here's another avenue of possible collusion, Roger Stone.^[14] While Roger Stone has attempted to downplay his communication with Guccifer 2.0, he has admitted to have been in contact with the DNC hacking suspect.^[15] According to the Daily Beast report, US investigators have found out that Guccifer 2.0 is a Russia Intelligence Officer that worked for the GRU.^[16] The discovery was made because the Russian officer forgot to use a VPN while logging into Twitter and Wordpress. Last month investigative journalists discovered direct contact made between Roger Stone and Wikileaks.^[17] We also know that Special Counsel Mueller has been asking questions about whether or not President Trump knew of the hacked DNC emails before they were released. They've asked about the relationship between GOP operative Roger Stone and WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, and why Trump took policy positions favorable to Russia.^[18] WikiLeaks can be considered an extension of Russia's 2016 disinformation campaign,^[19] we knew that WikiLeaks shared material hacked by the GRU^[20] before The Daily Beast report was released.

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 - 4) [The Daily Beast - Professor at Center of Trump-Russia Probe Goes Missing](#)
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 - 11) [Politico - Manafort used Trump campaign account to email Ukrainian operative](#)
 - 12) [Telegraph - Oligarch met with top Russian official after Trump aide 'offered briefings'](#)
 - 13) [The Guardian - Russian watchdog orders YouTube to remove Navalny luxury yacht video](#)
 - 14) [New York Times - Roger Stone, the 'Trickster' on Trump's Side, Is Under F.B.I. Scrutiny](#)
 - 15) [Chicago Tribune - Ex-Trump adviser Roger Stone swapped messages with DNC hacking suspect](#)
 - 16) [The Daily Beast - 'Lone DNC Hacker' Revealed as Russian Intelligence Officer](#)
 - 17) [The Atlantic - Roger Stone's Secret Messages with WikiLeaks](#)
 - 18) [NBC - Mueller asking if Trump knew about hacked Democratic emails before release](#)
 - 19) [Foreign Policy - WikiLeaks Turned Down Leaks on Russian Government During U.S. Presidential Campaign](#)
 - 20) [CBS - How did WikiLeaks become associated with Russia?](#)

Let's take a closer look at a few other people that are close to President Trump and have ties to Russia;

Erik Prince, an advisor to Trump and the brother of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, held a secret meeting with the RDIF CEO in Seychelles to establish a Trump-Putin back channel.^[1] **Prince told congressional house members that he had met the CEO of the Russian Direct Investment Fund, Kirill A. Dmitriev.**^[2] **The wife of Dmitriev is close friends with Putin's younger daughter.**^[3]

Kirill Dmitriev, CEO of the Russian Direct Investment Fund, is known to have met with Prince shortly before President Trump's inauguration, and Prince admitted to the meeting while testifying before the House Intelligence Committee late last year.

Six sources cited by the Financial Times say Dmitriev's wife, Natalia Popova, is close friends with Putin's younger daughter, Yekaterina Tikhonova, and also serves as the deputy director of her Innopraktika foundation.

George Nader, an advisor to the United Arab Emirates that was present at the Seychelles meeting, is cooperating with Special Counsel Mueller's investigation.^[4] He has already testified in front of a grand jury. Erik Prince had told Congressional investigators and journalists that his meeting with the CEO of the RDIF, Dmitriev, was unplanned and that he just happened to run into him. George Nader contests that testimony, Nader says that Prince planned the meeting well in advance.^[5]

Moreover, a member of President Trump's cabinet has business ties to Putin's family. Long time Trump friend and Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross was the vice-chair of Bank of Cyprus. The paradise paper leaks confirm that Secretary Ross has personal business ties to Putin's son-in-law.^[6]

Donald Trump's commerce secretary, Wilbur Ross, is doing business with Vladimir Putin's son-in-law through a shipping venture in Russia.

Leaked documents and public filings show Ross holds a stake in a shipping company, Navigator, through a chain of offshore investments. Navigator operates a lucrative partnership with Sibur, a Russian gas company part-owned by Kirill Shamalov, the husband of Putin's daughter Katerina Tikhonova.

Ross, a billionaire and close friend of Trump, retained holdings in Navigator after taking office this year. The relationship means he stands to benefit from the operations of a Russian company run by Putin's family and close allies, some of whom are under US sanctions.

Although Wilbur Ross has claimed that he has divested himself from the Bank of Cyprus, the Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW) had found that he had not yet done so.^[7] Another interesting link is Paul Manafort. Paul Manafort has been accused of innumerable financial crimes by Special Counsel Mueller. FBI investigators have found a number of bank accounts in Cyprus belonging to Manafort, the majority at Cyprus Popular Bank. In 2013 most assets held by Cyprus Popular Bank were taken over by the Bank of Cyprus.^[8] They have tried to distance themselves from Paul Manafort, Cypriot authorities are cooperating with investigators and have handed over Manafort's banking records.^[9]

1) [Washington Post - Blackwater founder held secret Seychelles meeting to establish Trump-Putin back channel](#)

2) [Washington Post - Erik Prince discussed trade, terrorism with Russian banker in Seychelles, interview transcript says](#)

3) [The Daily Beast - Report: Russian Financier in Erik Prince's Seychelles Meeting Traced Back to Putin](#)

4) [New York Times - Adviser to Emirates With Ties to Trump Aides Is Cooperating With Special Counsel](#)

- 5) [Washington Post - Mueller gathers evidence that 2017 Seychelles meeting was effort to establish back channel to Kremlin](#)
- 6) [The Guardian - Trump commerce secretary's business links with Putin family laid out in leaked files](#)
- 7) [Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington - HAS WILBUR ROSS FULLY DIVESTED FROM THE CONTROVERSIAL BANK OF CYPRUS?](#)
- 8) [NBC - Manafort-Linked Accounts on Cyprus Raised Red Flag](#)
- 9) [The Hill - Cyprus gave Manafort bank records to Mueller: report](#)

Make no mistake, Speaker of the House Paul Ryan has been complicit in allowing Russia attack your democratic institutions.

Republican Congressman Rohrabacher and President Trump were two individuals that Republican House Majority leader Kevin McCarthy claimed were paid by Putin. It was during this conversation where Republican Speaker of the House Paul Ryan interjected and swore those present to secrecy, stopping the conversation.^[1]

"There's two people I think Putin pays: Rohrabacher and Trump," McCarthy (R-Calif.) said, according to a recording of the June 15, 2016

... Ryan instructed his Republican lieutenants to keep the conversation private, saying: "No leaks. . . . This is how we know we're a real family here."

One of the Russian operatives present at the infamous Trump Tower meeting,^[2] Natalia Veselnitskaya - an outspoken opponent of the Magnitsky Act,^[3] was present at a black-tie inauguration event hosted by Congressman Rohrabacher.^[4] Congressman Rohrabacher met with Julian Assange a few months ago, he attempted to convince President Trump to absolve Assange of any legal troubles he may face in the United States.^[5]

Paul Ryan has been complicit in destabilizing the United States of America by taking a laissez-faire attitude in protecting the country's institutions;

Speaker of the House Paul Ryan went on Fox News and added fuel to the *deep state* conspiracy fire. He claimed that the FBI needed to be cleansed while simultaneously promoting President Trump's hotel.^[6] Paul Ryan has sat by idly while Congressman Nunes has made a mockery of the Russia investigation in the House Intelligence Committee for over a year.^[7]

The United States Intelligence Agencies have confirmed that a foreign nation interfered with the American election process.^[8] We know two dozen state's election systems came under attack.^[9] The Intelligence Agencies heads unanimously agree that the Russians will attack the 2018 election.^[10] President Trump has refused to act, NSA Director Admiral Rodgers testified to Congress that Trump has not ordered disrupting Russian election meddling.^[11]

The Department of Homeland Security and the FBI have accused the Russian government of a multi-stage intrusion campaign targeting the U.S. energy grid. These attacks included critical infrastructure in energy, nuclear, commercial facilities, water facilities, and aviation facilities.^[12] Here is the report by the United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team where analytic efforts undertaken by DHS and the FBI have found a multistage intrusion campaign perpetuated by the Russian state.^[13] This isn't fake news, the United States is under cyber attack from Russia.

This joint Technical Alert (TA) is the result of analytic efforts between the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). This alert provides information on Russian government actions targeting U.S. Government entities as well as organizations in the energy, nuclear, commercial facilities, water, aviation, and critical manufacturing sectors. It also contains indicators of compromise (IOCs) and technical details on the tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs) used by Russian government cyber actors on compromised victim networks. DHS and FBI produced this alert to educate network defenders to enhance their ability to identify and reduce exposure to malicious activity.

DHS and FBI characterize this activity as a multi-stage intrusion campaign by Russian government cyber actors who targeted small commercial facilities' networks where they staged malware, conducted spear phishing, and gained remote access into energy sector networks. After obtaining access, the Russian government cyber actors conducted network reconnaissance, moved laterally, and collected information pertaining to Industrial Control Systems (ICS).

It is clear that the United States of America is under cyber attack, yet Paul Ryan has allowed the Chairmen of various Congressional committees to block any and all investigations. Six Democrats who are Ranking Members of their committees have been forced to request documents related to the Russian attacks against 21 state election systems in 2016 from Speaker of the House Paul Ryan.^[14]

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1. [Washington Post - House majority leader to colleagues in 2016: 'I think Putin pays' Trump](#)
 2. [New York Times - Trump Team Met With Lawyer Linked to Kremlin During Campaign](#)
 3. [The Atlantic - Why Does the Kremlin Care So Much About the Magnitsky Act?](#)
 4. [Washington Post - In the crowd at Trump's inauguration, members of Russia's elite anticipated a thaw between Moscow and Washington](#)
 5. [CNBC - A GOP congressman reportedly offered Trump a deal on absolving WikiLeaks' Assange](#)
 6. [The Hill - Ryan calls for a 'cleanse' of the FBI](#)
 7. [Wall Street Journal - Paul Ryan Rejects Call for Devin Nunes to Step Aside From Probe](#)
 8. [New York Times - Trump Misleads on Russian Meddling: Why 17 Intelligence Agencies Don't Need to Agree](#)
 9. [NPR - 10 Months After Election Day, Feds Tell States More About Russian Hacking](#)
 10. [Washington Post - The nation's top spies said Russia is continuing to target the U.S. political system](#)

11. [The Guardian - NSA chief: Trump 'has not ordered disruption of Russia election meddling'](#)
12. [TechCrunch - DHS and FBI detail how Russia is hacking into U.S. nuclear facilities and other critical infrastructure](#)
13. [Department of Homeland Security: United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team \(US-CERT\) - Russian Government Cyber Activity Targeting Energy and Other Critical Infrastructure Sectors](#)
14. [The Hill - House Dems ask Ryan to intervene on Russia documents](#)

BOOM

Confirmation of the trip would lend credence to a retired British spy's report that Cohen strategized there with a powerful Kremlin figure about Russian meddling in the U.S. election.

The White House has been telling its allies to go on television and call for the President to fire Rod Rosenstein - an attempt to obstruct and put an end to Special Counsel Mueller's investigation.^[1] The rhetoric to fire Deputy AG Rosenstein has increased substantially since Rosenstein signed off on South District New York State led raids on the President's longtime personal attorney, Michael Cohen.^[2] Moreover, the manner in which a search warrant on an attorney's office being granted would require extraordinary circumstances. It would require signing off from a federal judge that would need to be convinced that investigators are likely to discover criminal activity. The search warrants would require consultation from seniors members of President Trump's Justice Department.^[3] The White House is gearing up to fire Deputy AG Rosenstein as they fear investigators seized tape recordings of conversations between Cohen and President Trump.^[4]

President Trump wants to fire Special Counsel Mueller. President Trump asked an ally to go on television and call on the President to fire Special Counsel Mueller.^[5] President Trump's former lead Russia lawyer, who recently quit,^[6] called for an end of Mueller's investigation.^[7] In June of 2017 President Trump attempted to fire Special Counsel Mueller, he was allegedly stopped by White House Counsel Don McGahn when he threatened to resign over the move.^[8] In December President Trump wanted to fire Mueller and shut down the investigation again after investigators issued subpoenas for obtaining information about the President's business dealings with Deutsche Bank.^[9]

These investigations into the President's closest confidants is not a "nothing burger". Former Campaign Chairman Manafort has been indicted, former National Security Advisor Michael Flynn has plead guilty and is cooperating, Rick Gates has plead guilty and is cooperating and several other campaign aides are cooperating with investigators.^[10]

The searches open a new front for the Justice Department in its scrutiny of Mr. Trump and his associates: His longtime lawyer is being investigated in Manhattan; his son-in-law, Jared Kushner, is facing scrutiny by prosecutors in Brooklyn; his campaign chairman is under indictment; his former national security adviser has pleaded guilty to lying; and a pair of former campaign aides are cooperating

with Mr. Mueller. Mr. Mueller, meanwhile, wants to interview Mr. Trump about possible obstruction of justice.

- 1) [The Hill - Wall Street Journal: White House building case to fire Rosenstein](#)
- 2) [New York Times - Raids on Trump's Lawyer Sought Records of Payments to Women](#)
- 3) [Justice Department - 9-13.420 - Searches of Premises of Subject Attorneys](#)
- 4) [The Telegraph - White House in turmoil amid fears FBI seized tapes of conversations between Donald Trump and his lawyer](#)
- 5) [CBS - Trump asked source to go on TV to call on him to fire Robert Mueller](#)
- 6) [CNBC - John Dowd quits as Trump's lead lawyer in special counsel Mueller's Russia probe](#)
- 7) [NBC - Trump's attorney John Dowd calls for end to Mueller probe, cites firing of McCabe](#)
- 8) [Washington Post - Trump moved to fire Mueller in June, bringing White House counsel to the brink of leaving](#)
- 9) [New York Times - Trump Sought to Fire Mueller in December](#)
- 10) [New York Times - F.B.I. Raids Office of Trump's Longtime Lawyer Michael Cohen; Trump Calls It 'Disgraceful'](#)

So here's a comment that connects those that are named in the lawsuit, unfortunately I hit the character limit so I had to condense it;

Let's begin our journey with George Papadopoulos. This Trump campaign foreign policy advisor, who has plead guilty to charges laid out by Special Counsel Mueller's investigation, provides a timeline of events. He was offered dirt on Hillary Clinton by a mysterious professor with ties to Russia.^[1] The Trump campaign knew of hacked emails before Trump made his rally speech in which he asked Russia to release their collection of hacked emails.^[2] Special Counsel Mueller's indictment of Papadopoulos listed him as a proactive cooperator - the implication being that Papadopoulos might have engaged with his former colleagues on behalf of investigators.^[3] Professor Mifsud, the individual with ties to Russia that had met with Papadopoulos offering dirt on Clinton, has since gone missing.^[4]

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20. [CBS - How did WikiLeaks become associated with Russia?](#)

I don't necessarily believe the Trump Tower meeting is the only smoking gun, its simply another point of interest in the growing list of coincidental meetings and subsequent agreements that took place between Trump campaign officials and Russians and they all seem to follow the same modus operandi - deny until there is irrefutable evidence that the meeting took place followed by deflection and playing it down.

I mean today we learned that after President Trump was inaugurated Elliott Broidy, a former deputy treasury chair of the RNC and Trump associate, offered his services to get sanctions lifted from a Russian gas company for \$26 million;^[1]

As the discussions continued, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., and others began pushing legislation that would take the decision on whether to lift sanctions out of Trump's hands and put Congress in control, a development that Novatek apparently recognized as a threat given that Broidy's power to affect policy lay in his presumed influence with Trump.

In January 2017, Baev wrote to Broidy asking whether McCain's bill would put their efforts at risk. "The client is asking how our road map would be affected by a new bill sponsored by Senator McCain to codify the existing sanctions and to impose new ones as a matter of federal law which the Administration will not be in a position to lift without consent of the US Congress. What are your thoughts on this?"

Broidy responded: "We need to convince McCain to abandon or water down the bill while we push the admin and other members of Senate to water down and vote no. Not a game changer.

In a proposal dated February 23, 2017, Broidy told Baev that he had found "many influential experts, lobbyists, and attorneys" who were "willing and able to work immediately on your behalf and on behalf of Novatek." The document, marked "strictly-confidential, attorney client privilege," lays out a plan for a two-year influence campaign that Broidy claimed could dilute McCain's bill and lift sanctions by February 2019.

I'm not an American lawyer so I can't say with authority what threshold needs to be met in court to prove collusion. Special Counsel Mueller and American lawmakers would have to find the answer to your question, that is why investigations into Russian interference should not be obstructed. The problem is that the Republican party leadership and Trump administration officials are interfering and obstructing investigations.

Unfortunately Trump administration officials are blocking an investigation into 21 state election systems that were attacked by Russia.^[2] Moreover, Republicans in the House Intelligence Committee voted to shut down the Russia probe.^[3] **Republicans shut down the HIC investigation when we know of at least 70 contacts between the Trump team and Russia-linked operatives, the committee obtained either no or incomplete information about 81% of known contacts between Trump officials and Russians.**^[4] Six Democrats who are Ranking Members of their committees have been forced to request documents related to the Russian attacks against 21 state election systems in 2016 from Speaker of the House Paul Ryan.^[5] It is doubtful that Paul Ryan will assist, he sat by idly while Republican Congressman Nunes made a mockery of the Russia investigation in the House Intelligence Committee for over a year.^[6]

While Republicans in the House have been unhelpful, their Senate counterparts have reacted differently. However, Senate leadership has been no better than the House Republicans. The Senate Intelligence Committee, led by Republican Senator and Chairman Richard Burr and Ranking Member Democratic Senator Mark Warner, have said that the Russia investigation will not be ending any time soon.^[7] Furthermore, a bipartisan bill has been drafted to protect Special Counsel Mueller from being fired, but there is significant push back from Republican leaders in the Senate.^[8] Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has said that there has been no indication that Special Counsel Mueller will be fired so there is no need for legislation to protect the investigation.^[9] Senate majority leader McConnell is refusing to allow a vote on a bill to protect Special Counsel Mueller.^[10] Senator McConnell's reasoning is terrible if we consider the fact that President Trump has attempted to fire Mueller twice. In June of 2017 President Trump attempted to fire Special Counsel Mueller, he was allegedly stopped by White House Counsel Don McGahn when he threatened to resign over the move.^[11] In December President Trump wanted to fire Mueller and shut down the investigation again after investigators issued subpoenas for obtaining information about the President's business dealings with Deutsche Bank.^[12]

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1. [The Intercept - TRUMP FUNDRAISER OFFERED RUSSIAN GAS COMPANY PLAN TO GET SANCTIONS LIFTED FOR \\$26 MILLION](#)
 2. [Washington Examiner - Democrats ask Paul Ryan to help dislodge DHS records on Russian election meddling](#)
 3. [Reuters - Republicans shut down House Russia probe over Democratic objections](#)
 4. [NBC - House probe overlooked most Trump-Russia contacts, report claims](#)
 5. [The Hill - House Dems ask Ryan to intervene on Russia documents](#)
 6. [Wall Street Journal - Paul Ryan Rejects Call for Devin Nunes to Step Aside From Probe](#)
 7. [Reuters - Senate's Trump-Russia probe not close to ending: top Democrat](#)

8. [Politico - Bipartisan Senate bill to protect Mueller set to advance](#)
9. [The Hill - McConnell: Legislation to protect Mueller not needed](#)
10. [USA Today - McConnell: No Senate vote on bill to protect Special Counsel Robert Mueller](#)
11. [Washington Post - Trump moved to fire Mueller in June, bringing White House counsel to the brink of leaving](#)
12. [New York Times - Trump Sought to Fire Mueller in December](#)

Yep just another coincidence, add it to the pile.

A little more on Deripaska's relationship with Manafort and Gates;

Russian Oligarch Oleg Deripaska was recorded by an escort, the recording shows him meeting a Russian Deputy Prime Minister a month after Manafort had established email correspondence with Deripaska. They were likely exchanging intelligence. We also know that Rick Gates was in communication with former GRU Officer Kilimnik weeks before the election. Kilimnik was a liaison between Manafort and Deripaska in Kiev for years. Alex van der Zwaan lied about these communications and has been sentenced to 30 days in prison.

Rick Gates has been Manafort's right hand man for years and was very involved in the Trump campaign even after Manafort stepped down as Campaign Manager. Rick Gates is reportedly pleading guilty to charges laid out by Special Counsel Mueller's indictment, a clear indication that he is ready to cooperate with investigators.^[1]

Email correspondence between Russian Oligarch Oleg Deripaska and former Trump Campaign Manager Paul Manafort will be important in understanding why Manafort is a key figure to this investigation. According to videos recorded by an escort that were discovered by Russian opposition activist, Alexei Navalny, show Deripaska meeting a Russian Deputy Prime Minister on a yacht 1 month after the email correspondence between Manafort/Deripaska took place.^[2] Russia has threatened to block access to social media sites, such as YouTube and Instagram, if they do not remove the videos of Deripaska and Russian Deputy Prime Minister Prikhodko meeting on the yacht.^[3]

Paul Manafort was brought into the Trump campaign as Chairman to corral delegates at the convention, it was at this time where the Trump campaign pressured the GOP to make a specific change to the platform. An amendment proposed that the GOP commit to sending lethal weapons to Ukraine to fight Russian aggression was softened considerably at the request of the campaign.^[4] Paul Manafort has since been indicted by Special Counsel Mueller.^[5]

We know Paul Manafort offered to give a Russian billionaire private briefings on the campaign trail, the oligarch was Oleg Deripaska.^[6] Paul Manafort used a campaign account for the aforementioned email correspondence.^[7]

Gates and Manafort's ties to Deripaska are deep and date back at least a decade. They partnered over a massive real-estate deal in 2008.^[8]

Back in 2006 Paul Manafort offered a deal to Russian oligarch Deripaska where he indicated he would offer a great service in pushing Putin's policies abroad. He was paid very handsomely by Deripaska.^[9]

“We are now of the belief that this model can greatly benefit the Putin Government if employed at the correct levels with the appropriate commitment to success,” Manafort wrote in the 2005 memo to Deripaska. The effort, Manafort wrote, “will be offering a great service that can re-focus, both internally and externally, the policies of the Putin government.”

In 2014 Deripaska sued Manafort for a cool \$19 million claiming that Manafort and Gates had stolen funds intended for an investment.^[10] The Associated Press were the first ones to discover their business dealings and Deripaska attempted and failed at suing the AP for libel.^[11]

Furthermore, Paul Manafort worked as Trump's campaign chairman for free.^[12] In 2006 Manafort bought a condo in Trump Tower.^[13]

Paul Manafort was present at the infamous Trump Tower meeting where adoptions were discussed with Russian operatives.^[14] Adoptions is an established euphemism used in reference to the Magnitsky Act, sanctions that are meant to cripple the power of Putin.^[15] President Trump's son, son-in-law, and Campaign Manager met with Russians with the expectation of receiving damaging information about Clinton.^[16] One of the Russian operatives present at the infamous Trump Tower meeting, Rinat Akhmetshin, has ties to Russian intelligence and has a history of being embroiled in court cases related to hacking campaigns.^[17] **During Fusion GPS CEO Glenn Simpson's Congressional testimony he confirmed that the Trump campaign likely received foreign intelligence aid as Manafort had close ties to Russian Intelligence.**^[18]

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1. [New York Times - Rick Gates, Trump Campaign Aide, to Plead Guilty in Mueller Inquiry and Cooperate](#)
 2. [Telegraph - Oligarch met with top Russian official after Trump aide 'offered briefings'](#)
 3. [The Guardian - Russian watchdog orders YouTube to remove Navalny luxury yacht video](#)
 4. [NPR - 2016 RNC Delegate: Trump Directed Change To Party Platform On Ukraine Support](#)
 5. [Politico - United States of America v. Paul J. Manafort, Jr. and Richard W. Gates III](#)
 6. [Washington Post - Manafort offered to give Russian billionaire 'private briefings' on 2016 campaign](#)
 7. [Politico - Manafort used Trump campaign account to email Ukrainian operative](#)
 8. [The Daily Beast - Paul Manafort Sought \\$850 Million Deal With Putin Ally and Alleged Gangster](#)
 9. [Associated Press - AP Exclusive: Before Trump job, Manafort worked to aid Putin](#)
 10. [Washington Post - Manafort's Russia connection: What you need to know about Oleg Deripaska](#)
 11. [Politico - Judge tosses libel lawsuit against AP by Russian oligarch tied to Manafort](#)
 12. [TIME - How Donald Trump Hired and Fired Paul Manafort](#)

13. [NBC - Ex-Trump Aide Manafort Bought New York Homes With Cash](#)
14. [New York Times - Talking Points Brought to Trump Tower Meeting Were Shared With Kremlin](#)
15. [The Atlantic - Why Does the Kremlin Care So Much About the Magnitsky Act?](#)
16. [Global News - 2016 Trump Tower meeting between Donald Trump Jr., Jared Kushner and Russians under further scrutiny](#)
17. [New York Times - Lobbyist at Trump Campaign Meeting Has a Web of Russian Connections](#)
18. [Senate Judiciary Committee - Glenn Simpson Fusion GPS CEO Testimony Pg. 154-155](#)

When Paul Manafort had resigned as campaign manager on the Trump campaign his protege and longtime partner Rick Gates continued to work with the Trump campaign and was in contact with a former Russian intelligence officer weeks before the election. The former GRU officer also happened to be a long time liaison between Manafort and Deripaska.^[1] Alex van der Zwaan lied to Special Counsel Mueller about the contacts he had with Rick Gates and Person A who is alleged to be a former GRU Officer. Van der Zwaan recorded these communications, has plead guilty to lying to investigators and has been sentenced to 30 days in prison.

The documents reveal Gates was in contact with a former officer in Russian military intelligence in the months leading up to Trump's win.

Gates was "directly communicating in September and October 2016" with an unidentified person who "has ties to a Russian intelligence service and had such ties in 2016," the filing says.

Alex van der Zwaan, the son-in-law of a Russian Oligarch who owns Alfa Bank, has plead guilty to lying to investigators. He lied about his contact with Gates and Person A. The Washington Post has stated that Person A is former GRU officer Konstantin Kilimnik, a Ukraine-based aide to Paul Manafort.^[2]

Fourth, the lies and withholding of documents were material to the Special Counsel's Office's investigation. That Gates and Person A were directly communicating in September and October 2016 was pertinent to the investigation. Federal Bureau of Investigation Special Agents assisting the Special Counsel's Office assess that Person A has ties to Russian intelligence service and had such ties in 2016. During his first interview with the Special Counsel's Office, van der Zwaan admitted that he knew of that connection, stating that Gates told him Person A was a former Russian Intelligence Officer with GRU.

Kilimnik served as a liaison between Manafort and Oleg Deripaska. Manafort has previously denied communicating with Russian intelligence,^[3] Special Counsel Mueller seems to be alleging something entirely different.

The FBI has found that a business associate of former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort had ongoing ties to Russian intelligence, including during the 2016 campaign when Manafort and his deputy, Rick Gates, were in touch with the associate, according to new court filings.

The documents, filed late Tuesday by prosecutors for special counsel Robert S. Mueller III, also allege that Gates had said he knew the associate was a former officer with the Russian military intelligence service.

Van der Zwaan recorded some of his conversations he had with Rick Gates and Person A, who is alleged to be Kilimnik.^[4]

After years of working with Gates on a report meant to aid a political group in Ukraine, Gates contacted him in 2016 about a foreign criminal case they feared could be filed against van der Zwaan's law firm. Afraid of the situation, the young attorney recorded a phone call with Gates and the unnamed Eastern European associate, and a call with his firm.

Later, when Mueller's office asked about his interactions with Gates and the other person, he lied because he feared his firm might fire him for recording the call, according to the memo.

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1. [VICE News - Bombshell Mueller court filing shows Rick Gates was knowingly in contact with a Kremlin spy](#)
 2. [Washington Post - Mueller just drew his most direct line to date between the Trump campaign and Russia](#)
 3. [Washington Post - Manafort associate had Russian intelligence ties during 2016 campaign, prosecutors say](#)
 4. [CNN - New Gates tie alleged in special counsel filing on van der Zwaan sentencing](#)

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Let's take a closer look at a few other people President Trump's inner circle and their business ties to Putin's family;

Erik Prince, an advisor to Trump and the brother of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, held a secret meeting with the RDIF CEO in Seychelles to establish a Trump-Putin back channel.^[1] **Prince told congressional house members that he had met the CEO of the Russian Direct Investment Fund, Kirill A. Dmitriev.^[2] The wife of Dmitriev is close friends with Putin's younger daughter.^[3]**

Kirill Dmitriev, CEO of the Russian Direct Investment Fund, is known to have met with Prince shortly before President Trump's inauguration, and Prince admitted to the meeting while testifying before the House Intelligence Committee late last year.

Six sources cited by the Financial Times say Dmitriev's wife, Natalia Popova, is close friends with Putin's younger daughter, Yekaterina Tikhonova, and also serves as the deputy director of her Innopraktika foundation.

George Nader, an advisor to the United Arab Emirates that was present at the Seychelles meeting, is cooperating with Special Counsel Mueller's investigation.^[4] He has already testified in front of a grand jury. Erik Prince had told Congressional investigators and journalists that his meeting with the CEO of the RDIF, Dmitriev, was unplanned and that he just happened to run into him. George Nader contests that testimony, Nader says that Prince planned the meeting well in advance.^[5]

Moreover, a member of President Trump's cabinet has business ties to Putin's family. Long time Trump friend and Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross was the vice-chair of Bank of Cyprus. The paradise paper leaks confirm that Secretary Ross has personal business ties to Putin's son-in-law.^[6]

Donald Trump's commerce secretary, Wilbur Ross, is doing business with Vladimir Putin's son-in-law through a shipping venture in Russia.

Leaked documents and public filings show Ross holds a stake in a shipping company, Navigator, through a chain of offshore investments. Navigator operates a lucrative partnership with Sibur, a Russian gas company part-owned by Kirill Shamalov, the husband of Putin's daughter Katerina Tikhonova.

Ross, a billionaire and close friend of Trump, retained holdings in Navigator after taking office this year. The relationship means he stands to benefit from the operations of a Russian company run by Putin's family and close allies, some of whom are under US sanctions.

Although Wilbur Ross has claimed that he has divested himself from the Bank of Cyprus, the Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW) had found that he had not yet done so.^[7] Another interesting link is Paul Manafort. Paul Manafort has been accused of innumerable financial crimes by Special Counsel Mueller. FBI investigators have found a number of bank accounts in Cyprus belonging to Manafort, the majority at Cyprus Popular Bank. In 2013 most assets held by Cyprus Popular Bank were taken over by the Bank of Cyprus.^[8] They have tried to distance themselves from Paul Manafort, Cypriot authorities are cooperating with investigators and have handed over Manafort's banking records.^[9]

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1. [Washington Post - Blackwater founder held secret Seychelles meeting to establish Trump-Putin back channel](#)
 2. [Washington Post - Erik Prince discussed trade, terrorism with Russian banker in Seychelles, interview transcript says](#)
 3. [The Daily Beast - Report: Russian Financier in Erik Prince's Seychelles Meeting Traced Back to Putin](#)
 4. [New York Times - Adviser to Emirates With Ties to Trump Aides Is Cooperating With Special Counsel](#)
 5. [Washington Post - Mueller gathers evidence that 2017 Seychelles meeting was effort to establish back channel to Kremlin](#)

6. [The Guardian - Trump commerce secretary's business links with Putin family laid out in leaked files](#)
7. [Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington - HAS WILBUR ROSS FULLY DIVESTED FROM THE CONTROVERSIAL BANK OF CYPRUS?](#)
8. [NBC - Manafort-Linked Accounts on Cyprus Raised Red Flag](#)
9. [The Hill - Cyprus gave Manafort bank records to Mueller: report](#)

Actually it's a bit more complicated than that. Allow me to explain some of the events leading up to Flynn flipping;

This piece includes a former CIA Director, former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn, a plan to kidnap a Turkish cleric hiding in the United States, and a Turkish-Iranian national who is standing trail for circumventing sanctions that President Erdogan desperately wants released from US custody. Rudy Guiliani and Michael Mukasey represent the Turkish-Iranian national who is being prosecuted by the Justice Department.

Several months ago a key witness to the Russia investigation popped up at Mar-A-Lago.^[1] James Woolsey is a former CIA Director that served under 4 administrations and was on Trump's transition team. He later resigned from his position as a senior adviser due to Trump's undermining comments about the intelligence community.^[2]

We know that Woolsey pitched a \$10 million contract to Turkish businessmen to discredit a controversial U.S. based Turkish cleric while he was an adviser during Trump's campaign.^[3] James Woolsey has been interviewed by Special Counsel Mueller, they discussed Flynn's alleged Turkish scheme.^[4]

Now how was Woolsey roped into Trump's campaign? Well he has ties to a Trump protege, Mark Brown, who ran Trump's Atlantic City casino empire.^[5] A casino in Saipan was visited by the FBI back in March of 2017 and is an alleged conduit for laundering money, both Woolsey and Brown are 2 board members.^[6]

Reza Zarrab, the aforementioned Turkish-Iranian national, recently plead guilty to charges of conspiring to avoid US sanctions.^[7] Turkish President Erdogan wants Reza Zarrab released as he know Erdogan's financial secrets. The second Turkish individual Erdogan wanted was Fethullah Gulen - he is the Turkish cleric hiding in the United States, the same cleric that the Trump campaign tried to discredit and the same cleric that Erdogan and the Turkish government are after for drummed up charges. Erdogan's allies allegedly offered Flynn a \$15 million deal to kidnap Gulen. While the kidnapping plan made headlines all over the media it was only 1 of 2 topics Flynn discussed with his Turkish counterparts during their meeting. The second topic was, allegedly, discussing the release of Reza Zarrab who is being tried by the United States government for conspiring to violate sanctions.^[8]

We know that Zarrab plead guilty to the charges he faced and is now cooperating with American authorities.^[9] Around this time Flynn's lawyer broke communication from Trump's legal team, indicating

that Flynn was ready to cooperate with Special Counsel Mueller.^[10] We know that Flynn's lawyer had met on a Monday morning with members of Special Counsel Mueller's team, another indication that he was ready to cooperate.^[11] And then he pleaded guilty to lesser charges, a significant development as it indicates that he is fully cooperating with the investigation.^[12]

I recommend reading the Lawfare post, it does an excellent job in summarizing who Zarrab is and why he is so important to this investigation. Below I have included some interesting tidbits from the article with many familiar names.

In recent weeks, there has been increasing American interest in a previously little-watched judicial saga unfolding in New York district court. Like a Turkish soap opera, it involves a dashing businessman with a pop-star wife, corruption allegations, leaked tapes of private conversations and intrigue at the highest levels of government. **The trial of Reza Zarrab on charges of evading Iran sanctions, including any revelations he makes about corruption in the Turkish government, could have significant political and economic implications for Turkey. It could also damage already fraught relations between Turkey and the United States.**

In events surrounding Zarrab's trial, interactions between the U.S. government and Turkish officials raise rule of law questions for the United States. Erdogan has taken a strong personal interest in Zarrab, discussing him on multiple occasions with the Obama and Trump administrations. He demanded Zarrab's release and Bharara's firing in a meeting with then-Vice President Biden in 2016, while his wife pleaded the case to Biden's wife. Erdogan raised Zarrab in his final phone calls with Obama in Dec. 2016 and Jan. 2017. It was a topic of discussion between Erdogan and Trump as well. Following a September phone call, Erdogan said Trump told him the case in New York was not under his jurisdiction.

Eyebrows have been raised over connections between the Zarrab case and the Trump administration. In March, Trump fired Preet Bharara, the U.S. District Attorney who brought the indictment against Zarrab. (Attorney General Jeff Sessions asked 46 U.S. attorneys to resign. Bharara refused, noting Trump had asked him after the election to remain. Trump called Bharara; he declined to answer, citing rules against sitting attorneys talking to the President. Trump then fired him.) The case has continued under Bharara's former deputy and current Acting District Attorney, Joon Kim.

Also in March, Zarrab made changes to his legal team. He hired Rudy Giuliani, an informal Trump advisor, and Michael Mukasey, a former Attorney General. These lawyers met with Erdogan and senior Trump administration officials in search of a "diplomatic solution." Giuliani described his role in a deposition as determining "whether this case can be resolved as part of some agreement between the United States and Turkey that will promote the national-security interests of the United States and redound to the benefit of Mr. Zarrab."

In addition, there are questions about Michael Flynn's possible involvement. Special Counsel Robert Mueller, who is investigating Russian interference in the U.S. presidential election, is exploring Flynn's Turkish activities. **Flynn, a Trump campaign advisor and briefly U.S. National Security Advisor, was allegedly offered \$15 million to return Gulen to Turkey. Mueller is reportedly examining whether Flynn also discussed ways of freeing Zarrab from court charges.**

1. [Business Insider - A key witness in the Russia probe had a 'lengthy conversation' with Trump at Mar-a-Lago](#)
2. [Washington Post - Former CIA director James Woolsey quits Trump transition team](#)
3. [Reuters - Exclusive: While advising Trump in 2016, ex-CIA chief proposed plan to discredit Turkish cleric](#)
4. [NBC - Ex-CIA Director Spoke to Mueller About Flynn's Alleged Turkish Scheme](#)
5. [Bloomberg - Big Money, Big Questions at Trump Protege's Remote Casino](#)
6. [Bloomberg - FBI Visits Office of Saipan Casino Run by Trump Protege.](#)
7. [New York Times - Reza Zarrab Testifies That He Bribed Turkish Minister](#)
8. [Lawfare - Why Turkey Cares about the Trial of Reza Zarrab](#)
9. [The Independent - Turkish businessman's Iran sanctions guilty plea opens door to cooperation in Robert Mueller's Michael Flynn investigation](#)
10. [CBC - Michael Flynn's lawyers break with Trump's legal team](#)
11. [ABC News - Michael Flynn's lawyer meets with members of special counsel's team, raising specter of plea deal](#)
12. [New York Times - Michael Flynn Pleads Guilty to Lying to the F.B.I. and Will Cooperate With Russia Inquiry](#)

They are, but nothing will happen unless you exercise your civic duty and vote during the midterms. The GOP leadership in Congress will do absolutely nothing. I'll expand below;

President Trump asked the chiefs of the NSA and DNI to publicly deny evidence of collusion and push back against the FBI collusion probe.^[1] The Intelligence Agencies heads unanimously agree that the Russians will attack the 2018 election.^[2] President Trump has refused to act, NSA Director Admiral Rodgers testified to Congress that Trump has given no order to counter Russian meddling.^[3] Former FBI Director James Comey said that President Trump was more worried about PR than stopping the Russians.^[4]

So why isn't anything being done? Unfortunately Trump administration officials are blocking an investigation into 21 state election systems that were attacked by Russia.^[5] Moreover, Republicans in the House Intelligence Committee voted to shut down the Russia probe.^[6] **Republicans shut down the HIC investigation when we know of at least 70 contacts between the Trump team and Russia-linked operatives, the committee obtained either no or incomplete information about 81% of known contacts between Trump officials and Russians.**^[7] Six Democrats who are Ranking Members of their committees have been forced to request documents related to the Russian attacks against 21 state election systems in 2016 from Speaker of the House Paul Ryan.^[8] It is doubtful that Paul Ryan will assist,

he sat by idly while Republican Congressman Nunes made a mockery of the Russia investigation in the House Intelligence Committee for over a year.^[9]

While Republicans in the House have been unhelpful, their Senate counterparts have reacted differently. However the Senate leadership has been no better than the House Republicans. The Senate Intelligence Committee, led by Republican Senator and Chairman Richard Burr and Ranking Member Democratic Senator Mark Warner, have said that the Russia investigation will not be ending any time soon.^[10] Furthermore, a bipartisan bill has been drafted to protect Special Counsel Mueller from being fired, but there is significant push back from Republican leaders in the Senate.^[11] A bipartisan bill to protect Mueller was voted on and approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee. Four GOP senators broke rank with the party, enough to approve the bill with Democrat support.^[12] While the Senate Judiciary committee has approved the bill, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has said that there has been no indication that Special Counsel Mueller will be fired so there is no need for legislation to protect the investigation.^[13] Senate majority leader McConnell is refusing to allow a vote on the Senate floor for a bill to protect Special Counsel Mueller.^[14] Senator McConnell's reasoning is absurd if we consider the fact that President Trump has attempted to fire Mueller twice. In June of 2017 President Trump attempted to fire Special Counsel Mueller, he was allegedly stopped by White House Counsel Don McGahn when he threatened to resign over the move.^[15] In December President Trump wanted to fire Mueller and shut down the investigation again after investigators issued subpoenas for obtaining information about the President's business dealings with Deutsche Bank.^[16]

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- 1) [Washington Post - Trump asked intelligence chiefs to push back against FBI collusion probe after Comey revealed its existence](#)
 - 2) [Washington Post - The nation's top spies said Russia is continuing to target the U.S. political system](#)
 - 3) [New York Times - White House Has Given No Orders to Counter Russian Meddling, N.S.A. Chief Says](#)
 - 4) [MSNBC - Comey: Trump more concerned with PR than stopping Russians](#)
 - 5) [Washington Examiner - Democrats ask Paul Ryan to help dislodge DHS records on Russian election meddling](#)
 - 6) [Reuters - Republicans shut down House Russia probe over Democratic objections](#)
 - 7) [NBC - House probe overlooked most Trump-Russia contacts, report claims](#)
 - 8) [The Hill - House Dems ask Ryan to intervene on Russia documents](#)
 - 9) [Wall Street Journal - Paul Ryan Rejects Call for Devin Nunes to Step Aside From Probe](#)
 - 10) [Reuters - Senate's Trump-Russia probe not close to ending: top Democrat](#)
 - 11) [Politico - Bipartisan Senate bill to protect Mueller set to advance](#)
 - 12) [NPR - Bill To Protect Mueller Investigation Approved By Senate Judiciary Committee](#)

- 13) [The Hill - McConnell: Legislation to protect Mueller not needed](#)
- 14) [USA Today - McConnell: No Senate vote on bill to protect Special Counsel Robert Mueller](#)
- 15) [Washington Post - Trump moved to fire Mueller in June, bringing White House counsel to the brink of leaving](#)
- 16) [New York Times - Trump Sought to Fire Mueller in December](#)

It is a bald faced lie. President Trump claimed that former FBI Director Mueller had worked for President Obama for 8 years, he said that all investigators are democrats. Mueller was appointed FBI Director by a Republican controlled House in Congress and was chosen by a Republican President. He served as FBI Director for 5 years under President Obama's tenure.

Because the NYT quick fact check article is behind a paywall for some, I think its important to lay it all out there;

At least nine of the 17 lawyers on the team led by the special counsel, Robert S. Mueller III, have donated to Democratic campaigns, according to Federal Election Commission records. One has previously identified as a Democrat in a blog post.

Three others are registered as Democrats, The Washington Post and PolitiFact have reported. But the political affiliations of the remaining four lawyers are unclear.

A spokesman for the special counsel's office confirmed the names of the lawyers who are on the team.

Mr. Mueller is a registered Republican and Mr. Trump's characterization of his work history is not entirely accurate.

A Republican president, George W. Bush, chose Mr. Mueller to lead the F.B.I. for a 10-year term that began in 2001. Mr. Mueller was asked to stay on by President Barack Obama in 2011. Two years later, Mr. Mueller retired from the F.B.I. after having served under Mr. Obama for around four and a half years.

And Mr. Mueller was appointed to lead the Russia investigation by the deputy attorney general, Rod J. Rosenstein, also a Republican.

Moreover, President Trump and the Republican controlled Congress are a national security threat;

President Trump asked the chiefs of the NSA and DNI to publicly deny evidence of collusion and push back against the FBI collusion probe.^[1] The United States Intelligence Agencies have confirmed that a foreign nation interfered with the American election process.^[2] We know two dozen state's election systems came under attack.^[3] The Intelligence Agencies heads unanimously agree that the Russians will attack the 2018 election.^[4] President Trump has refused to act, NSA Director Admiral Rodgers testified to Congress that Trump has given no order to counter Russian meddling.^[5] Former FBI Director James Comey said that President Trump was more worried about PR then stopping the Russians.^[6]

The Department of Homeland Security and the FBI have accused the Russian government of a multi-stage intrusion campaign targeting the U.S. energy grid. These attacks included critical infrastructure in energy, nuclear, commercial facilities, water facilities, and aviation facilities.^[7] Here is the report by the United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team where analytic efforts undertaken by DHS and the FBI have found a multistage intrusion campaign perpetuated by the Russian state.^[8] This isn't fake news, the United States is under cyber attack from Russia.

This joint Technical Alert (TA) is the result of analytic efforts between the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). This alert provides information on Russian government actions targeting U.S. Government entities as well as organizations in the energy, nuclear, commercial facilities, water, aviation, and critical manufacturing sectors. It also contains indicators of compromise (IOCs) and technical details on the tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs) used by Russian government cyber actors on compromised victim networks. DHS and FBI produced this alert to educate network defenders to enhance their ability to identify and reduce exposure to malicious activity.

DHS and FBI characterize this activity as a multi-stage intrusion campaign by Russian government cyber actors who targeted small commercial facilities' networks where they staged malware, conducted spear phishing, and gained remote access into energy sector networks. After obtaining access, the Russian government cyber actors conducted network reconnaissance, moved laterally, and collected information pertaining to Industrial Control Systems (ICS).

It is clear that the United States of America is under cyber attack, yet many Republicans in the House have blocked investigations. Continued below;

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- 1) [Washington Post - Trump asked intelligence chiefs to push back against FBI collusion probe after Comey revealed its existence](#)
 - 2) [New York Times - Trump Misleads on Russian Meddling: Why 17 Intelligence Agencies Don't Need to Agree](#)
 - 3) [NPR - 10 Months After Election Day, Feds Tell States More About Russian Hacking](#)
 - 4) [Washington Post - The nation's top spies said Russia is continuing to target the U.S. political system](#)
 - 5) [New York Times - White House Has Given No Orders to Counter Russian Meddling, N.S.A. Chief Says](#)
 - 6) [MSNBC - Comey: Trump more concerned with PR than stopping Russians](#)
 - 7) [TechCrunch - DHS and FBI detail how Russia is hacking into U.S. nuclear facilities and other critical infrastructure](#)
 - 8) [Department of Homeland Security: United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team \(US-CERT\) - Russian Government Cyber Activity Targeting Energy and Other Critical Infrastructure Sectors](#)

The Republican controlled Congress has been complicit in exacerbating the national security threat the United States of America faces.

So why isn't anything being done? Unfortunately Trump administration officials are blocking an investigation into 21 state election systems that were attacked by Russia.^[1] Moreover, Republicans in the House Intelligence Committee voted to shut down the Russia probe.^[2] Republicans shut down the HIC investigation when we know of at least 70 contacts between the Trump team and Russia-linked operatives, the committee obtained either no or incomplete information about 81% of known contacts between Trump officials and Russians.^[3] Six Democrats who are Ranking Members of their committees have been forced to request documents related to the Russian attacks against 21 state election systems in 2016 from Speaker of the House Paul Ryan.^[4] It is doubtful that Paul Ryan will assist, he sat by idly while Republican Congressman Nunes made a mockery of the Russia investigation in the House Intelligence Committee for over a year.^[5] Republicans in the House have gone as far as to draft articles of impeachment to oust Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, setting up a path to obstruct and put an end to Special Counsel Mueller's investigation.^[6]

While Republicans in the House have been unhelpful, their Senate counterparts have reacted differently. However the Senate leadership has been no better than the House Republicans. The Senate Intelligence Committee, led by Republican Senator and Chairman Richard Burr and Ranking Member Democratic Senator Mark Warner, have said that the Russia investigation will not be ending any time soon.^[7] Furthermore, a bipartisan bill has been drafted to protect Special Counsel Mueller from being fired, but there is significant push back from Republican leaders in the Senate.^[8] Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has said that there has been no indication that Special Counsel Mueller will be fired so there is no need for legislation to protect the investigation.^[9] Senate majority leader McConnell is refusing to allow a vote on a bill to protect Special Counsel Mueller.^[10] Senator McConnell's reasoning is absurd if we consider the fact that President Trump has attempted to fire Mueller twice. In June of 2017 President Trump attempted to fire Special Counsel Mueller, he was allegedly stopped by White House Counsel Don McGahn when he threatened to resign over the move.^[11] In December President Trump wanted to fire Mueller and shut down the investigation again after investigators issued subpoenas for obtaining information about the President's business dealings with Deutsche Bank.^[12]

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 - 2) [Reuters - Republicans shut down House Russia probe over Democratic objections](#)
 - 3) [NBC - House probe overlooked most Trump-Russia contacts, report claims](#)
 - 4) [The Hill - House Dems ask Ryan to intervene on Russia documents](#)
 - 5) [Wall Street Journal - Paul Ryan Rejects Call for Devin Nunes to Step Aside From Probe](#)
 - 6) [New York Times - Justice Dept. Won't Be Extorted, Rosenstein Warns Republicans](#)
 - 7) [Reuters - Senate's Trump-Russia probe not close to ending: top Democrat](#)

- 8) [Politico - Bipartisan Senate bill to protect Mueller set to advance](#)
- 9) [The Hill - McConnell: Legislation to protect Mueller not needed](#)
- 10) [USA Today - McConnell: No Senate vote on bill to protect Special Counsel Robert Mueller](#)
- 11) [Washington Post - Trump moved to fire Mueller in June, bringing White House counsel to the brink of leaving](#)
- 12) [New York Times - Trump Sought to Fire Mueller in December](#)

There are innumerable examples of President Trump showing his racial prejudices against people of colour. Below I will list a handful of examples, including examples from decades ago;

From his tweets of fake anti-muslim videos^[1] to his actions in gutting programs meant to stop right-wing terrorism, he will inevitably create more racial tension that will lead to racially motivated violence. In 2009 and 2015 the Department of Homeland Security, as well as the FBI, warned us about the rise of right wing terrorism.^[2] Guess what President Trump and this administration did? They cut funding to protect American citizens from domestic terrorism and instead re-purposed the program to focus on Islamic terrorism leaving American citizens in danger of being killed by other forms of domestic terrorism.^[3] This action was taken when we know that there is a growing trend of anti-government terrorism.^[4]

When you had white nationalist and supremacy sympathizers in this administration such as Gorka^[5] and Bannon,^[6] while continuing to have the likes of Stephen Miller^[7] in the White House it only further emboldens the White Supremacists and racists. Let us not forget that he has pardoned one of the most racist, disgusting law enforcement Sheriff's around - Joe Arpaio.^[8]

This is why so many of us are disgusted by the actions of President. Have you seen his unhinged press conference after the Charlottesville tragedy? I have never seen any head of state of a Western ally act in such a belligerent manner, he went so far as to defend Neo-Nazis at the Charlottesville Neo-Nazi rally. You can watch the entire press conference on PBS.^[9] How about his Arizona speech where he went on a tirade against the fake media, read out his previous words from the press conference while leaving out the most important and controversial bit - fine people on many sides, on many sides. He is defending Neo-Nazis. This was a Neo-Nazi rally. There were no "fine" people on both sides. They were making Nazi salutes, flying Nazi flags, wearing Nazi clothes, making Nazi chants. Here is a documentary by VICE News of the Neo-Nazi rally that took place, the one President Trump vehemently defended by stating that there were fine people on this side too.^[10]

I can't see how his words and actions can be defended. He is acting in a sympathetic manner towards white supremacists and Neo-Nazis. He conflates the idea of Washington and Jefferson owning slaves with a secessionist general who fought to preserve the right to keep slavery legal. There is no equivalence.^[11]

So what raised our suspicions as to why we believe Trump is racist? His public insistence that President Obama wasn't born in America is a racist conspiracy.^[12] Moreover, how can we excuse the fact that he

wanted 5 innocent African American boys to be executed for a heinous crime they did not commit? A settlement was reached recently between the 5 men and the city of New York, yet Trump was still attacking the 5 men.^[13] We cannot forget his constant attacks against people of colour on Twitter, from his comments about the slain soldier^[14] to his never-ending attacks against black athletes.^[15] All his actions lead to one conclusion, that President Trump is racist.

There is another unfortunate benefit for a foreign adversary - this administration's racism further pushes and benefits the Kremlin's foreign policy^[16] - to destabilize the west by sowing division among the population.^[17] We know Russian operatives used social media to exploit racial and religious divisions during the 2016 election.^[18]

Russia is actively trying to divide the West/America and has been for quite some time, be aware that they use inflammatory language online and promote disinformation.^[19] I know it cant be frustrating when talking to those who share a different set of beliefs, but we should attempt to find common ground with those who truly believe in the pillars that make Western democracy so great - equity, representation, freedom, and justice. Yes there are institutional problems that need to be addressed and ultimately fixed. Yes there are different views on how we can come to a solution on these institutional problems. But as it stands right now Western democracy is under attack and we must work together by staying informed and exercising our constitutional duty by voting in elections in our respective countries.

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1. [New York Times - Trump Shares Inflammatory Anti-Muslim Videos, and Britain's Leader Condemns Them](#)
 2. [CBS - Rightwing Extremism: Current Economic And Political Climate Fueling Resurgence In Radicalization And Recruitment.](#)
 3. [Reuters - Exclusive: Trump to focus counter-extremism program solely on Islam - sources](#)
 4. [New York Times - The Growing Right-Wing Terror Threat](#)
 5. [Times of Israel - Top Trump aide wears medal of Hungarian Nazi collaborators](#)
 6. [The Guardian - Q&A: What are Trump and the White House's links to the far right?](#)
 7. [Politifact - Are there white nationalists in the White House?](#)
 8. [NPR - Ex-Sheriff Joe Arpaio Convicted Of Criminal Contempt](#)
 9. [PBS - WATCH: President Trump signs executive order on infrastructure](#)
 10. [VICE News Tonight - Charlottesville: Race and Terror](#)
 11. [Washington Post - The nation can only weep](#)
 12. [New York Times - Donald Trump Clung to 'Birther' Lie for Years, and Still Isn't Apologetic](#)
 13. [The New Yorker - Donald Trump and the Central Park Five](#)

14. [New York Times - Soldier's Widow Says Trump Struggled to Remember Sgt. La David Johnson's Name](#)
15. [New York Times - Trump, in Twitter Rant, Revisits Grievances Against Sports Figures](#)
16. [The Atlantic - The History of Russian Involvement in America's Race Wars](#)
17. [Wikipedia - Foundations of Geopolitics](#)
18. [Washington Post - Russian operatives used Facebook ads to exploit America's racial and religious divisions](#)
19. [NPR - Russians Targeted U.S. Racial Divisions Long Before 2016 And Black Lives Matter](#)

Yes, with an added bonus of Trump's administration wanting war with Iran. National Security Adviser John Bolton^[1] and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo^[2] want war with Iran.

The National Security Adviser is meant to be the mediator between a more diplomatic approach via the State Department and a more forceful approach via the Department of Defense. According to retired army General McCraffey, John Bolton is the worst choice for NSA.^[3] We now have former CIA director Pompeo leading the State Department and a warmonger in Bolton as the National Security Adviser dictating foreign policy, our hope rests squarely on the shoulders of the Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis. It doesn't help that Mike Pompeo has ties to islamophobic groups, is a climate change denier, is against equal lgbtq rights and is eager to scrap the Iran nuclear deal.^[4] John Bolton wants war with Iran and has an Islamophobia problem himself.^[5]

John Bolton is a dangerous man.

He has already begun to reverse General McMaster's changes. I fear we may see the return of some terrifying things in the near future. Most people may not remember the *Deep State Memo* conspiracy that eventually led to a number of Flynn layovers being forcibly removed from their positions from the NSC.^[6]

The memo at the heart of the latest blowup at the National Security Council paints a dark picture of media, academics, the "deep state," and other enemies allegedly working to subvert U.S. President Donald Trump, according to a copy of the document obtained by Foreign Policy.

The seven-page document, which eventually landed on the president's desk, precipitated a crisis that led to the departure of several high-level NSC officials tied to former National Security Advisor Michael Flynn. The author of the memo, Rich Higgins, who was in the strategic planning office at the NSC, was among those recently pushed out.

The full memo, dated May 2017, is titled "POTUS & Political Warfare." It provides a sweeping, if at times conspiratorial, view of what it describes as a multi-pronged attack on the Trump White House.

Trump is being attacked, the memo says, because he represents “an existential threat to cultural Marxist memes that dominate the prevailing cultural narrative.” Those threatened by Trump include “‘deep state’ actors, globalists, bankers, Islamists, and establishment Republicans.”

The memo is part of a broader political struggle inside the White House between current National Security Advisor H.R. McMaster and alt-right operatives with a nationalist worldview who believe the Army general and his crew are subverting the president’s agenda.

These people were pushed out for promoting a *leftist conspiracy* against President Trump.^[7] I can't begin to imagine what Bolton has planned, he is a man seeking war.^[8] John Bolton is a national security risk.^[9]

Let's not forget that John Bolton threatened the family of a former diplomat for negotiating with Saddam Hussein to allow weapons inspectors into the country, the diplomat was going against the Bush administration's rhetoric leading up to the Iraq war. The Brazilian diplomat was the former Director General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, he was negotiating with Saddam Hussein to allow weapons inspectors to make unannounced visits to Iraq. John Bolton traveled to the OPCW headquarters in the Hague and threatened the Director General's children if he did not quit.^[10]

In early 2002, a year before the invasion of Iraq, the Bush administration was putting intense pressure on Bustani to quit as director-general of the OPCW — despite the fact that he had been unanimously re-elected to head the 145-nation body just two years earlier. His transgression? Negotiating with Saddam Hussein’s Iraq to allow OPCW weapons inspectors to make unannounced visits to that country — thereby undermining Washington’s rationale for regime change.

In 2001, then-Secretary of State Colin Powell had penned a letter to Bustani, thanking him for his “very impressive” work. By March 2002, however, Bolton — then serving as under secretary of state for Arms Control and International Security Affairs — arrived in person at the OPCW headquarters in the Hague to issue a warning to the organization’s chief. And, according to Bustani, Bolton didn’t mince words. “Cheney wants you out,” Bustani recalled Bolton saying, referring to the then-vice president of the United States. “We can’t accept your management style.”

Bolton continued, according to Bustani’s recollections: “You have 24 hours to leave the organization, and if you don’t comply with this decision by Washington, we have ways to retaliate against you.” There was a pause. “We know where your kids live. You have two sons in New York.”

Mike Pompeo is a dangerous man.

President Trump's nominee for Secretary of State sees foreign policy as a vehicle to push islamophobic policies. He has surrounded himself with some absolutely crazy individuals and is a warhawk.^[11]

Moreover Mike Pompeo is a climate change denier.^[12] The State Department will no longer manage US policy in international climate negotiations. His career has been bankrolled by the Koch's.^[13] In fact the number one recipient of Koch industries money was Mike Pompeo, he received \$900,000 in 6 years.^[14]

The United States Secretary of State, its top diplomat, is a warhawk and the National Security Adviser who is meant to be the mediator between a diplomatic or forceful foreign policy approach is a warhawk.^[15] We have to rely on the Secretary of Defense for a more nuanced foreign policy approach. This is absurd.

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1. [The American Conservative - The Untold Story of John Bolton's Campaign for War With Iran](#)
 2. [Radio Free Europe Radio Liberty - Pompeo Arrives in Saudi Arabia, Pushes Hard Line On Iran](#)
 3. [MSNBC - General McCaffrey: Bolton 'worst choice' for NSA](#)
 4. [Washington Post - Trump's would-be secretary of state has an Islamophobia problem](#)
 5. [New York Times - Pompeo and Bolton Appointments Raise Alarm Over Ties to Anti-Islam Groups](#)
 6. [Foreign Policy - Here's the Memo That Blew Up the NSC](#)
 7. [New York Times - White House Aide Forced Out After Claim of Leftist Conspiracy](#)
 8. [The Telegraph - 'If you want peace, prepare for war': John Bolton sets out strategy as Trump's new national security adviser](#)
 9. [Foreign Policy - John Bolton Is a National Security Threat](#)
 10. [The Intercept - "We know where your kids live": How John Bolton once threatened an International Official](#)
 11. [Slate - "This Evil Is All Around Us"; Trump's pick for the CIA, Mike Pompeo, sees foreign policy as a vehicle for holy war.](#)
 12. [New York Times - Pompeo, Trump's Pick for Secretary of State, Is a 'Great Climate Skeptic'](#)
 13. [TIME - The Secret Origins of the Tea Party: How Big Oil And Big Tobacco Partnered With The Koch Brothers To Take Over The GOP](#)
 14. [ThinkProgress - Trump's Secretary of State pick is 'the number 1 all time recipient of KOCH Industries \\$\\$\\$'](#)
 15. [CNN - World wary as Trump turns to hardliners Bolton and Pompeo](#)

President Trump is up against a team of prosecutors^[1] composed of the best lawyers in their respective fields.^[2] The attorneys on Special Counsel include attorneys who left lucrative partnerships in the private sector. Each attorney has a different role on the team, they are some of the best in each of their respective areas of expertise.^[3]

We should all remain vigilant, we know President Trump^[4] and his Republican allies in Congress^[5] are trying to put an end to the investigation.

Special Counsel includes an attorney who has over 100 supreme court cases under his belt and is finding loopholes in Presidential pardons, an attorney who took down Enron, an attorney who has never lost a Supreme Court case, an attorney who was an Assistant Special Prosecutor on the Watergate investigation, an attorney who has prosecuted counter-espionage cases, attorneys who have

investigated white collar crime and money laundering, a veteran prosecutor that specializes in cyber-security, etc. This investigation is moving at an incredible pace when compared to other administrations and indictments.^[6]

James Quarles:^[7]

Quarles worked as an assistant special prosecutor on the Watergate Special Prosecution Force. He came with Mueller from the law firm WilmerHale.

Andrew Weissmann:^[8]

Weissmann served as the chief of the Justice Department's fraud section, where he oversaw corruption investigations, including the probe into cheating by Volkswagen on diesel emissions tests.

Greg Andres:^[9]

Andres is a white-collar criminal defense attorney at the Davis Polk firm. He had worked previously in the Justice Department's criminal division as a deputy assistant attorney general.

Andrew D. Goldstein:^[10]

Goldstein headed the public corruption unit in the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Southern District of New York. He had worked there under Preet Bharara, whom President Trump fired as U.S. attorney after he refused to resign.

Elizabeth Prelogar:^[11]

Prelogar is a lawyer in the solicitor general's office.

Rush Atkinson:^[12]

Atkinson is a trial attorney in the Justice Department's fraud section.

Aaron Zebley:^[13]

Zebley is a former assistant U.S. attorney in the Eastern District of Virginia and served as Mueller's chief of staff when Mueller was FBI director. He came with Mueller from WilmerHale.

Michael Dreeben:^[14]

Dreeben is a Justice Department deputy solicitor general who has argued more than 100 cases before the Supreme Court.

Adam Jed:^[15]

Jed is an appellate lawyer from the Justice Department's civil division.

Aaron Zelinsky:^[16]

Zelinsky is an assistant U.S. attorney in Maryland.

Kyle Freeney:^[17]

Freaney is an attorney on detail from the Criminal Division's Money Laundering and Asset Recovery Section. In 2016, she was part of a Department of Justice team seeking to recover over \$1 billion from an alleged corrupt Malaysian sovereign wealth fund.

Zainab Ahmad:^[18]

Ahmad is an assistant U.S. attorney in the Eastern District of New York who specializes in counterterrorism cases. She was recently profiled in the New Yorker, which reported she had successfully prosecuted 13 terrorism cases since 2009 without a single loss.

Jeannie Rhee:^[19]

Rhee is a former deputy assistant attorney general in the Office of Legal Counsel and assistant U.S. attorney in D.C. She also came from WilmerHale.

Brandon Van Grack:^[20]

Van Grack is a Justice Department national security division prosecutor.

Ryan K. Dickey:^[21]

Dickey's addition is particularly notable because he is the first publicly known member of the team specializing solely in cyber issues. The others' expertise is mainly in a variety of white-collar crimes, including fraud, money laundering and public corruption

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- 1) [Washington Post - Here are the people investigating Russian meddling in the 2016 election](#)
 - 2) [Business Insider - What you should know about the lawyers investigating Trump](#)
 - 3) [CBS - These are the lawyers on Robert Mueller's special counsel team](#)
 - 4) [New York Times - Trump Sought to Fire Mueller in December](#)
 - 5) [TIME - House Republicans Close to President Trump Draft Articles of Impeachment Against Rod Rosenstein](#)
 - 6) [Five Thirty Eight - The Russia Investigation Is Moving Really Freaking Fast](#)
 - 7) [The Independent - Watergate lawyer drafted in for Trump-Russia investigation, special counsel Robert Muller reveals](#)
 - 8) [Slate - An Intriguing Link Between the Mueller Investigation, Trump, and Alleged Money Laundering](#)
 - 9) [Washington Examiner - Robert Mueller enlists former DOJ official who worked on foreign bribery cases: Report](#)
 - 10) [New York Times - Manhattan Prosecutor Joins Inquiry Into Russian Meddling in Election](#)
 - 11) [Daily Kos - Mueller just added a Russian-speaking former Supreme Court clerk to his special counsel team](#)
 - 12) [ABC - Special counsel Robert Mueller has assembled a team of 16 seasoned prosecutors](#)

- 13) [Wilmer Hale - Former FBI Chief of Staff Aaron Zebley to Join WilmerHale](#)
- 14) [Bloomberg - Mueller Tasks an Adviser With Getting Ahead of Pre-Emptive Pardons](#)
- 15) [The National Law Journal - Mueller Bolsters Russia Team's Appellate Readiness in New Hire](#)
- 16) [Huffington Post - Aaron Zelinsky](#)
- 17) [The Daily Beast - Money-Laundering Prosecutor Joins Trump-Russia Probe](#)
- 18) [New Yorker - Taking Down Terrorists in Court: Zainab Ahmad has prosecuted thirteen international terrorist suspects for the American government. She hasn't lost yet.](#)
- 19) [Find Law](#)
- 20) [Linkdin](#)
- 21) [Washington Post - Mueller adds veteran cyber prosecutor to special-counsel team](#)

So there are a number of factors at play here. Russia stands to benefit economically while Trump's administration is filled with foreign policy warhawks.

President Trump is reneging on a multi-lateral nuclear peace agreement that was agreed upon by the P5 members, Iran, and the European Union^[1] - it was a long and arduous process. We know Iran is abiding by the agreement, but President Trump wants to rescind the agreement which will in turn lead to higher oil prices.^[2] Oil prices were at their highest point since 2014 due to Trump's rhetoric,^[3] fear grew of the United States leaving the deal. Higher oil prices are great for the Russian economy while lower oil prices are terrible for the Russian economy.^[4] Current rising oil prices are great for the Russian economy while they face sanctions.^[5]

President Trump chose a new National Security Adviser, John Bolton, who is well known for wanting war with Iran.^[6] The new Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, has also turned up the anti-Iran rhetoric.^[7]

The National Security Adviser is meant to be the mediator between a more diplomatic approach via the State Department and a more forceful approach via the Department of Defense. According to retired army General McCraffey, John Bolton is the worst choice for NSA.^[8] We now have former CIA director Pompeo leading the State Department and a warmonger in Bolton as the National Security Adviser dictating foreign policy, our hope rests squarely on the shoulders of the Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis. It doesn't help that Mike Pompeo has ties to islamophobic groups, is a climate change denier, is against equal lgbtq rights and is eager to scrap the Iran nuclear deal.^[9] John Bolton wants war with Iran and has an Islamophobia problem himself.^[10]

John Bolton is a dangerous man.

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The memo at the heart of the latest blowup at the National Security Council paints a dark picture of media, academics, the “deep state,” and other enemies allegedly working to subvert U.S. President Donald Trump, according to a copy of the document obtained by Foreign Policy.

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The United States Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, its top diplomat, has an islamophobia problem^[16] and the National Security Adviser who is meant to be the mediator between a diplomatic or forceful foreign policy approach is a warhawk.^[17] We have to rely on the Secretary of Defense for a more nuanced foreign policy approach. This is absurd.

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1. [U.S. State Department - Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action](#)
 2. [Washington Post - What Trump’s decision on Iran nuclear deal means for oil prices](#)
 3. [Wall Street Journal - Oil Prices Reach Highest Level Since 2014](#)
 4. [Investopedia - How does the price of oil affect Russia's economy?](#)
 5. [New York Times - Rising Oil Prices Buoy Russia’s Economy, Despite Sanctions](#)
 6. [The American Conservative - The Untold Story of John Bolton’s Campaign for War With Iran](#)
 7. [Radio Free Europe Radio Liberty - Pompeo Arrives in Saudi Arabia, Pushes Hard Line On Iran](#)

8. [MSNBC - General McCaffrey: Bolton 'worst choice' for NSA](#)
9. [Washington Post - Trump's would-be secretary of state has an Islamophobia problem](#)
10. [New York Times - Pompeo and Bolton Appointments Raise Alarm Over Ties to Anti-Islam Groups](#)
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15. [The Intercept - "We know where your kids live": How John Bolton once threatened an International Official](#)
16. [Slate - "This Evil Is All Around Us"; Trump's pick for the CIA, Mike Pompeo, sees foreign policy as a vehicle for holy war.](#)
17. [CNN - World wary as Trump turns to hardliners Bolton and Pompeo](#)

Republicans are embracing this movement to the far right, just look at CPAC this year. The GOP in America has embraced the far right and Neo-Nazis into the mainstream. Sebastian Gorka^[1] was invited as a guest speaker at this year's annual Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC).^[2] Marion Le Pen was too, the more extreme niece of Marine Le Pen.^[3]

Maréchal-Le Pen displayed much of that paranoia and xenophobia during her 10-minute speech. "France is no longer free today," the 28-year-old said. "After 1500 years of existence, we now must fight for our independence." She went on to bash the European Union, earning cheers from the CPAC crowd. Her remarks echoed Trump's own blood-and-soil rhetoric over the past year.

The European Union, she said, was "an ideology without land, without people, without roots and without civilization." Maréchal-Le Pen soon clarified what she meant, suggesting France was turning "from the eldest daughter of the Catholic Church to the little niece of Islam." She decried what she called the scourge of immigration, bashed globalization, signaled a desire to quit NATO and cozy up to Russia, gestured at her opposition to same-sex marriage, and championed the "historical continuity" of her nation.

They invited the more extreme Le Pen, her aunt Marine Le Pen lost the election in France. The younger Le Pen, Marion, looks up to her grandfather who had been convicted for denying the holocaust.^[4] She felt her aunt ran a campaign that was too moderate in France. Far right leaders were invited to speak at the biggest mainstream Conservative convention in America.

"Marion is a far-right nationalist like her grandfather, and it's precisely because Marine tried to distance the party from the toxic image of Jean-Marie, to become more mainstream and attract working-class

voters, that she opposed her,” Haddad told Today's WorldView. “[Marion] distanced herself from her aunt because she thinks her aunt is too moderate, not the other way around.”

While the GOP is embracing the far right ideology that will create further divisions in the United States, there is another benefactor - the Kremlin.^[5] Russia aims to destabilize the West by sowing division among the population.^[6] We know Russian operatives used social media to exploit racial and religious divisions during the 2016 election.^[7]

Russia is actively trying to divide the West/America and has been for quite some time, be aware that they use inflammatory language online and promote disinformation.^[8] I know it can be frustrating when talking to those who share a different set of beliefs, but we should attempt to find common ground with those who truly believe in the pillars that make Western democracy so great - equity, representation, freedom, and justice. Yes there are institutional problems that need to be addressed and ultimately fixed. Yes there are different views on how we can come to a solution on these institutional problems. But as it stands right now Western democracy is under attack and we must work together by staying informed and exercising our constitutional duty by voting in elections in our respective countries.

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1. [The Times of Israel - Top Trump aide wears medal of Hungarian Nazi collaborators](#)
 2. [New Republic - The American Right's Deep Ties to Reactionary Europe](#)
 3. [Washington Post - Trump's GOP is morphing into France's far right](#)
 4. [Washington Post - France's National Front co-founder Jean-Marie Le Pen says the battle is already won](#)
 5. [The Atlantic - The History of Russian Involvement in America's Race Wars](#)
 6. [Wikipedia - Foundations of Geopolitics](#)
 7. [Washington Post - Russian operatives used Facebook ads to exploit America's racial and religious divisions](#)
 8. [NPR - Russians Targeted U.S. Racial Divisions Long Before 2016 And Black Lives Matter](#)

Michael Avenatti has estimated a total of \$4.4 million in transactions occurred between companies and the President's personal attorney.^[1]

Novartis paid Michael Cohen's shell company \$1.2 million.^[2] These payments occurred weeks before the CEO of Novartis had dinner with President Trump during his visit to Davos.^[3] AT&T gave him \$600,000.^[4] A South Korean aerospace company gave him \$150,000,^[5] they claim they used Cohen's services on accounting matters which doesn't make any sense. I wonder why...

The arrangement came as the company, backed by state-owned Export-Import Bank of Korea, competes to sell trainer jets to the U.S. Air Force in an auction that could be worth up to \$16 billion.

And last but not least a firm controlled by a Russian Oligarch^[6] paid him half a million dollars.^[7]

The Times's review of financial records confirmed much of what was in Mr. Avenatti's report. In addition, a review of documents and interviews shed additional light on Mr. Cohen's dealings with the company connected to Mr. Vekselberg, who was stopped and questioned at an airport earlier this year by investigators for Robert S. Mueller III, the special counsel examining Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election.

Taken together, The Times's findings and Mr. Avenatti's report offer the most detailed picture yet on Mr. Cohen's business dealings and financial entanglements in the run-up to the election and its aftermath. Federal prosecutors in Manhattan are investigating Mr. Cohen for possible bank fraud and election-law violations, among other matters, according to people briefed on the investigation. Stephen Ryan, a lawyer representing Mr. Cohen, declined to comment.

...The payments by Columbus Nova occurred between January and August of last year. Andrew Intrater, the company's American chief executive and Mr. Vekselberg's cousin, donated \$250,000 to Mr. Trump's inauguration, campaign finance records show. He and Mr. Vekselberg attended the event together and met with Mr. Cohen there, according to a person briefed on the matter. Columbus Nova retained him as a consultant soon afterward.

****Columbus Nova, the company controlled by a Russian oligarch that paid Michael Cohen, registered a number of websites aimed at white nationalists and the alt-right.****^[8]

However, the revelations aren't limited solely to news about a Russia-linked company sending substantial sums to the president's lawyer. As NBC reported Wednesday morning, Columbus Nova also spent 2016 and 2017 registering a number of websites aimed at young white supremacists, or members of the so-called "alt-right."

Among the URLs registered were domains like Alt-Right.co, Altright.co, Alternate-rt.com, and Alt-rite.com. Some of the domains, like Alt-Right.com and Altright.co, were registered in late August 2016 — just a few months before the American election — while others, like Alt-rite.com, were created in August 2017.

There's no evidence any material ever existed on the sites, and all of them return an error message.

However, a number of the domains were registered with a specific Columbus Nova email address that appears to belong to a Columbus Nova employee named Frederick Intrater.

Moreover, the Russian Oligarch that controlled the firm that gave Cohen half a million dollars, Viktor Vekselberg, was interviewed by the FBI.^[9] It was initially reported that agents working with Special Counsel Mueller stopped Vekselberg at a New York airport and searched his electronic devices.^[10] Another interesting thing of note is that Vekselberg attended a 2015 dinner in Moscow celebrating RT's 10th anniversary.^[11] This gala is infamously known for the photograph of former National Security Advisor Michael Flynn sitting next to Vladimir Putin and his inner circle including high level government officials with incredibly close ties to Russian intelligence agencies.^[12] Vekselberg was seated next to the Putin/Flynn table.

1. [Twitter - Ari Melber](#)
2. [Wall Street Journal - Novartis Gave \\$1.2 Million to Trump Lawyer Cohen's Company](#)
3. [STAT News - Novartis paid nearly \\$400,000 to a shell company controlled by Trump's attorney](#)
4. [CNBC - AT&T payments to Trump lawyer more than reported](#)
5. [Reuters - South Korea's KAI says paid firm of Trump's lawyer \\$150,000 for accounting advice](#)
6. [NBC - Daniels' lawyer: Cohen got \\$500K from Russian oligarch Viktor Vekselberg](#)
7. [New York Times - Firm Tied to Russian Oligarch Made Payments to Michael Cohen](#)
8. [Think Progress - Why did Columbus Nova register websites aimed at young white supremacists?](#)
9. [Radio Free Europe Radio Liberty - FBI Reportedly Questioned Russian Tycoon About Payments To Trump Attorney](#)
10. [New York Times - Viktor Vekselberg, Russian Billionaire, Was Questioned by Mueller's Investigators](#)
11. [Washington Post - Who is Viktor Vekselberg, the Russian billionaire linked to Michael Cohen?](#)
12. [NBC - Guess Who Came to Dinner With Flynn and Putin](#)

President Trump and the Republican controlled Congress are a national security threat;

President Trump asked the chiefs of the NSA and DNI to publicly deny evidence of collusion and push back against the FBI collusion probe.^[1] The United States Intelligence Agencies have confirmed that a foreign nation interfered with the American election process.^[2] We know two dozen state's election systems came under attack.^[3] The Intelligence Agencies heads unanimously agree that the Russians will attack the 2018 election.^[4] President Trump has refused to act, NSA Director Admiral Rodgers testified to Congress that Trump has given no order to counter Russian meddling.^[5] Former FBI Director James Comey said that President Trump was more worried about PR then stopping the Russians.^[6]

The Department of Homeland Security and the FBI have accused the Russian government of a multi-stage intrusion campaign targeting the U.S. energy grid. These attacks included critical infrastructure in energy, nuclear, commercial facilities, water facilities, and aviation facilities.^[7] Here is the report by the United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team where analytic efforts undertaken by DHS and the FBI have found a multistage intrusion campaign perpetuated by the Russian state.^[8] This isn't fake news, the United States is under cyber attack from Russia.

This joint Technical Alert (TA) is the result of analytic efforts between the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). This alert provides information on Russian government actions targeting U.S. Government entities as well as organizations in the energy, nuclear, commercial facilities, water, aviation, and critical manufacturing sectors. It also contains indicators of compromise (IOCs) and technical details on the tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs) used by

Russian government cyber actors on compromised victim networks. DHS and FBI produced this alert to educate network defenders to enhance their ability to identify and reduce exposure to malicious activity.

DHS and FBI characterize this activity as a multi-stage intrusion campaign by Russian government cyber actors who targeted small commercial facilities' networks where they staged malware, conducted spear phishing, and gained remote access into energy sector networks. After obtaining access, the Russian government cyber actors conducted network reconnaissance, moved laterally, and collected information pertaining to Industrial Control Systems (ICS).

It is clear that the United States of America is under cyber attack, yet many Republicans in the House have blocked investigations. Continued below;

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1. [Washington Post - Trump asked intelligence chiefs to push back against FBI collusion probe after Comey revealed its existence](#)
 2. [New York Times - Trump Misleads on Russian Meddling: Why 17 Intelligence Agencies Don't Need to Agree](#)
 3. [NPR - 10 Months After Election Day, Feds Tell States More About Russian Hacking](#)
 4. [Washington Post - The nation's top spies said Russia is continuing to target the U.S. political system](#)
 5. [New York Times - White House Has Given No Orders to Counter Russian Meddling, N.S.A. Chief Says](#)
 6. [MSNBC - Comey: Trump more concerned with PR than stopping Russians](#)
 7. [TechCrunch - DHS and FBI detail how Russia is hacking into U.S. nuclear facilities and other critical infrastructure](#)
 8. [Department of Homeland Security: United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team \(US-CERT\) - Russian Government Cyber Activity Targeting Energy and Other Critical Infrastructure Sectors](#)

So why isn't anything being done? Unfortunately Trump administration officials are blocking an investigation into 21 state election systems that were attacked by Russia.^[1] Moreover, Republicans in the House Intelligence Committee voted to shut down the Russia probe.^[2] **Republicans shut down the HIC investigation when we know of at least 70 contacts between the Trump team and Russia-linked operatives, the committee obtained either no or incomplete information about 81% of known contacts between Trump officials and Russians.**^[3] Six Democrats who are Ranking Members of their committees have been forced to request documents related to the Russian attacks against 21 state election systems in 2016 from Speaker of the House Paul Ryan.^[4] It is doubtful that Paul Ryan will assist,

he sat by idly while Republican Congressman Nunes made a mockery of the Russia investigation in the House Intelligence Committee for over a year.^[5]

While Republicans in the House have been unhelpful, their Senate counterparts have reacted differently. However the Senate leadership has been no better than the House Republicans. The Senate Intelligence Committee, led by Republican Senator and Chairman Richard Burr and Ranking Member Democratic Senator Mark Warner, have said that the Russia investigation will not be ending any time soon.^[6] Furthermore, a bipartisan bill has been drafted to protect Special Counsel Mueller from being fired, but there is significant push back from Republican leaders in the Senate.^[7] A bipartisan bill to protect Mueller was voted on and approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee. Four GOP senators broke rank with the party, enough to approve the bill with Democrat support.^[8] While the Senate Judiciary committee has approved the bill, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has said that there has been no indication that Special Counsel Mueller will be fired so there is no need for legislation to protect the investigation.^[9] Senate majority leader McConnell is refusing to allow a vote on the Senate floor for a bill to protect Special Counsel Mueller.^[10] Senator McConnell's reasoning is absurd if we consider the fact that President Trump has attempted to fire Mueller twice. In June of 2017 President Trump attempted to fire Special Counsel Mueller, he was allegedly stopped by White House Counsel Don McGahn when he threatened to resign over the move.^[11] In December President Trump wanted to fire Mueller and shut down the investigation again after investigators issued subpoenas for obtaining information about the President's business dealings with Deutsche Bank.^[12]

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1. [Washington Examiner - Democrats ask Paul Ryan to help dislodge DHS records on Russian election meddling](#)
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 7. [Politico - Bipartisan Senate bill to protect Mueller set to advance](#)
 8. [NPR - Bill To Protect Mueller Investigation Approved By Senate Judiciary Committee](#)
 9. [The Hill - McConnell: Legislation to protect Mueller not needed](#)
 10. [USA Today - McConnell: No Senate vote on bill to protect Special Counsel Robert Mueller](#)
 11. [Washington Post - Trump moved to fire Mueller in June, bringing White House counsel to the brink of leaving](#)
 12. [New York Times - Trump Sought to Fire Mueller in December](#)

It's straight up pay to play, it appears that Cohen was selling access to the President.^[1] And AT&T weren't the only ones to do it.

Michael Avenatti has estimated a total of \$4.4 million in transactions occurred between companies and the President's personal attorney.^[2]

Novartis paid Michael Cohen's shell company \$1.2 million.^[3] These payments occurred weeks before the CEO of Novartis had dinner with President Trump during his visit to Davos.^[4] AT&T gave him \$600,000.^[5] A South Korean aerospace company gave him \$150,000,^[6] they claim they used Cohen's services on accounting matters which doesn't make any sense. I wonder why...

The arrangement came as the company, backed by state-owned Export-Import Bank of Korea, competes to sell trainer jets to the U.S. Air Force in an auction that could be worth up to \$16 billion.

And last but not least a firm controlled by a Russian Oligarch^[7] paid him half a million dollars.^[8]

The Times's review of financial records confirmed much of what was in Mr. Avenatti's report. In addition, a review of documents and interviews shed additional light on Mr. Cohen's dealings with the company connected to Mr. Vekselberg, who was stopped and questioned at an airport earlier this year by investigators for Robert S. Mueller III, the special counsel examining Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election.

Taken together, The Times's findings and Mr. Avenatti's report offer the most detailed picture yet on Mr. Cohen's business dealings and financial entanglements in the run-up to the election and its aftermath. Federal prosecutors in Manhattan are investigating Mr. Cohen for possible bank fraud and election-law violations, among other matters, according to people briefed on the investigation. Stephen Ryan, a lawyer representing Mr. Cohen, declined to comment.

...The payments by Columbus Nova occurred between January and August of last year. Andrew Intrater, the company's American chief executive and Mr. Vekselberg's cousin, donated \$250,000 to Mr. Trump's inauguration, campaign finance records show. He and Mr. Vekselberg attended the event together and met with Mr. Cohen there, according to a person briefed on the matter. Columbus Nova retained him as a consultant soon afterward.

****Columbus Nova, the company controlled by a Russian oligarch that paid Michael Cohen, registered a number of websites aimed at white nationalists and the alt-right.****^[9]

However, the revelations aren't limited solely to news about a Russia-linked company sending substantial sums to the president's lawyer. As NBC reported Wednesday morning, Columbus Nova also spent 2016 and 2017 registering a number of websites aimed at young white supremacists, or members of the so-called "alt-right."

Among the URLs registered were domains like Alt-Right.co, Altright.co, Alternate-rt.com, and Alt-rite.com. Some of the domains, like Alt-Right.com and Altright.co, were registered in late August 2016 — just a few months before the American election — while others, like Alt-rite.com, were created in August 2017.

There's no evidence any material ever existed on the sites, and all of them return an error message.

However, a number of the domains were registered with a specific Columbus Nova email address that appears to belong to a Columbus Nova employee named Frederick Intrater.

Moreover, the Russian Oligarch that controlled the firm that gave Cohen half a million dollars, Viktor Vekselberg, was interviewed by the FBI.^[10] It was initially reported that agents working with Special Counsel Mueller stopped Vekselberg at a New York airport and searched his electronic devices.^[11] Another interesting thing of note is that Vekselberg attended a 2015 dinner in Moscow celebrating RT's 10th anniversary.^[12] This gala is infamously known for the photograph of former National Security Advisor Michael Flynn sitting next to Vladimir Putin and his inner circle including high level government officials with incredibly close ties to Russian intelligence agencies.^[13] Vekselberg was seated next to the Putin/Flynn table.

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1. [CNBC - Trump lawyer Michael Cohen 'appears to be selling access to the president,' says porn star Stormy Daniels' attorney, Michael Avenatti](#)
 2. [Twitter - Ari Melber](#)
 3. [Wall Street Journal - Novartis Gave \\$1.2 Million to Trump Lawyer Cohen's Company](#)
 4. [STAT News - Novartis paid nearly \\$400,000 to a shell company controlled by Trump's attorney](#)
 5. [CNBC - AT&T payments to Trump lawyer more than reported](#)
 6. [Reuters - South Korea's KAI says paid firm of Trump's lawyer \\$150,000 for accounting advice](#)
 7. [NBC - Daniels' lawyer: Cohen got \\$500K from Russian oligarch Viktor Vekselberg](#)
 8. [New York Times - Firm Tied to Russian Oligarch Made Payments to Michael Cohen](#)
 9. [Think Progress - Why did Columbus Nova register websites aimed at young white supremacists?](#)
 10. [Radio Free Europe Radio Liberty - FBI Reportedly Questioned Russian Tycoon About Payments To Trump Attorney](#)
 11. [New York Times - Viktor Vekselberg, Russian Billionaire, Was Questioned by Mueller's Investigators](#)
 12. [Washington Post - Who is Viktor Vekselberg, the Russian billionaire linked to Michael Cohen?](#)
 13. [NBC - Guess Who Came to Dinner With Flynn and Putin](#)

Yup, here's a little more detail on the Steele Dossier and Michael Cohen.^[1]

The Steele Dossier contains four reports alleging that Cohen played a role in covering up collusion with Russia during the 2016 election.

It makes repeated, detailed allegations that Cohen traveled to Europe to meet with Kremlin officials as part of a coordinated effort between the Trump campaign and the Russian government, specifically going to Prague in August/September 2016. Nearly a quarter of Steele's entire public catalog deals with Cohen allegations and were written frequently in the final days of the campaign. One report is written after the election, on December 13th.

Because Steele only allowed 17 of 166 reports to become public, we can infer that he's pretty confident about the Cohen allegations. They get more detailed and more concrete as time went on.

Allegation: Cohen had a covert relationship with Russia, October 18, 2016: "Kremlin insider [highlighted the] importance of TRUMP's lawyer, Michael COHEN in covert relationship with Russia."

"A key role in the secret TRUMP campaign / Kremlin relationship was being played by the Republican candidates personal lawyer Michael COHEN."

Allegation: Cohen met secretly with Russians in an EU country, October 19, 2016: "[Cohen] engaged with Russians in trying to cover up scandal of MANAFORT and exposure of PAGE and meets Kremlin officials secretly in the EU in August in pursuit of this goal."

Cohen was important "in the ongoing secret liaison relationship between the New York tycoon's campaign and the Russian leadership".

"According to the Kremlin insider, COHEN now was heavily engaged in a cover up and damage limitation operation in the attempt to prevent the full details of TRUMP's relationship with Russia being exposed."

Allegation: The meeting was in Prague, October 20, 2016 (a day later): "Kremlin insider reports TRUMP lawyer COHEN's secret meeting/s with Kremlin officials in August 2016 was/were held in Prague [...] Pro-Putin leading Duma figure, KOSACHEV, reportedly involved as 'plausibly deniable' facilitator and may have participated in the August meeting/s with COHEN."

"According to the Kremlin advisor, these meeting/s were originally scheduled for COHEN in Moscow but shifted to what was considered an operationally 'soft' EU country when it was judged too compromising for him to travel to the Russian capital."

Allegation: Names meeting participants and "deniable cash payments to Romanian hackers," December 13, 2016: "We reported previously (2016/135 and /136) on secret meeting/s held in Prague, Czech Republic in August 2016 between then Republican presidential candidate Donald TRUMP's representative, Michael COHEN and his interlocutors from the Kremlin working under cover of Russian NGO Rossotrudnichestvo."

"COHEN had been accompanied to Prague by 3 colleagues and the timing of the visit was either in the last week of August or the first week of September."

According to [REDACTED] the agenda comprised questions on how deniable cash payments were to be made to hackers who had worked in Europe under Kremlin direction against the CLINTON campaign and various contingencies for covering up these operations and Moscow's secret liaison with the TRUMP team more generally."

"In terms of practical measures to be taken, it was agreed by the two sides in Prague to stand down various 'Romanian hackers' (presumably based in their homeland or neighbouring eastern Europe) and that other operatives should head for a bolt-hole in Plovdiv, Bulgaria where they should 'lay low.'"

1. [The Moscow Project - MICHAEL COHEN, BAG MAN](#)

Russia stands to benefit economically as a result of the United States withdrawing from the Iran nuclear deal.

President Trump is renegeing on a multi-lateral nuclear peace agreement that was agreed upon by the P5 members, Iran, and the European Union^[1] - it was a long and arduous process. We know Iran is abiding^[2] by^[3] the agreement,^[4] but President Trump has decided to withdraw from the agreement which will in turn lead to higher oil prices.^[5] Moreover, the foremost argument in favour of renegeing on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action is predicated upon Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's speech about Iran covertly continuing their nuclear program. His argmuent was debunked by the world's nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) rejected the Israeli Prime Minister's claims.^[6]

The world's nuclear watchdog has effectively rejected Israel's claims Iran lied about its nuclear activities, by referencing a report showing there were, "no credible indications of activities in Iran relevant to the development of a nuclear explosive device after 2009".

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said documents released by Israel about Tehran's nuclear weapons program do not reveal anything new.

It cited one of its own reports, from 2015, that identified some Iranian activities in 2003, "relevant to the development of a nuclear explosive device".

"These activities did not advance beyond feasibility and scientific studies, and the acquisition of certain relevant technical competences and capabilities," the IAEA said in a statement.

"Based on the director-general's report, the board of governors declared that its consideration of this issue was closed."

Oil prices were at their highest point since 2014 due to Trump's rhetoric,^[7] fear grew of the United States leaving the deal. The price of oil will continue to go up with this withdrawal. Higher oil prices are great for the Russian economy while lower oil prices are terrible for the Russian economy.^[8] Current rising oil prices have been great for the Russian economy while they face sanctions.^[9]

The consequences of pulling out of the Iran deal will be severe. A top State Department official and expert on nuclear proliferation has resigned,^[10] furthering weakening an already ailing State Department - American soft power diplomacy is in rapid decline as is their decline in stature as a global leader. Trump's administration has threatened European companies with sanctions if they do business with Iran.^[11] The European Union is deciding on whether they will block the U.S. sanctions as they worry

about how they can sustain an incentive for Iran to continue to comply with the Iran nuclear deal.^[12] While President Trump supporters claim that they can cripple the Iranian economy through harsh sanctions, it is incredibly unlikely as the sanctions regime will be weakened and fractured if opposed by the International Community. The weakened sanction regime may push Iran out of the nuclear agreement as hardliners in Iran will push for a reopening of their nuclear program. This will cause further instability in the Middle East.^[13] Moreover, Russia once again stands to benefit as the Trans-Atlantic Alliance is under assault from the Trump administration, he continues to alienate long standing allies and divides the West.^[14]

The Atlantic alliance, built to contain the Soviet Union in the aftermath of World War II, began to die when the Cold War ended. What kept it alive over the last three decades has been less strategic necessity than a convergence of values — the values of the liberal postwar order. Now, the senior partner of the alliance, the United States, has lost interest in those values. The alliance was already a corpse, but Donald Trump drove the last nail into its coffin when he decided this week to withdraw from the nuclear deal with Iran.

...The American people, meanwhile, preferred to face home. They wanted a pivot to America, and they voted for the candidate who promised to deliver it. It has thus fallen to Trump to deliver the coup de grâce to the alliance that has defined the postwar world. The Iran decision followed his decision to impose tariffs on European aluminum and steel, which followed his decision to withdraw from the Paris climate accords. Trump is no more contemptuous toward European allies than Asian or Latin ones; the only opinion to which he defers is that of his base.

...As a simple matter of geographical proximity, Europe is threatened by conflict in the Middle East as the United States is not. The tidal wave of asylum-seekers from Syria in 2015 upended European politics and exposed a popular vein of xenophobia and illiberalism that has thrown a terrible scare into European elites. Europe simply cannot afford to follow the American lead if the United States is prepared to sow further chaos in the region.

Of course, Europe's old reputation for deference and submission to the United States was reinforced by the spectacle of French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel visiting the White House in the hope of propitiating the First Bully and then being dismissed with scarcely a "by your leave" — and oh, by the way, we're still coming after your steel industry. But perhaps Europe's leaders needed the shock. Hours after Trump's announcement, Macron, Merkel, and British Prime Minister Theresa May issued a joint statement reminding the world that the deal had been "unanimously endorsed by the U.N. Security Council" and thus remained "the binding international legal framework" on Iran's nuclear program. European Council President Donald Tusk announced that Trump's Iran and trade policies "will meet a united European approach."

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- 1) [U.S. State Department - Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action](#)
 - 2) [The Jerusalem Post - JCPOA ANNIVERSARY: HAS IRAN COMPLIED WITH THE NUCLEAR DEAL?](#)
 - 3) [The Hill - Top general says Iran complying with nuclear deal](#)
 - 4) [CBC - Iran complying with nuclear deal terms, U.S. says](#)

- 5) [Washington Post - What Trump's decision on Iran nuclear deal means for oil prices](#)
- 6) [Australia Broadcasting Corporation - Israel's claims about Iran's nuclear weapons program rejected as IAEA releases statement](#)
- 7) [Wall Street Journal - Oil Prices Reach Highest Level Since 2014](#)
- 8) [Investopedia - How does the price of oil affect Russia's economy?](#)
- 9) [New York Times - Rising Oil Prices Buoy Russia's Economy, Despite Sanctions](#)
- 10) [Foreign Policy - Top State Department Nuclear Expert Announces Resignation After Trump Iran Deal Exit](#)
- 11) [The Guardian - US threatens European companies with sanctions after Iran deal pullout](#)
- 12) [Reuters - In 1990s redux, EU to consider blocking U.S. sanctions over Iran](#)
- 13) [Foreign Policy - Here's What to Expect Now That Trump Has Withdrawn From the Iran Nuclear Deal](#)
- 14) [Foreign Policy - RIP the Trans-Atlantic Alliance, 1945-2018](#)

The NRA is compromised

A few weeks after President Trump launched his Presidential Campaign he was asked a question by a Russian activist on what he would do about Russian sanctions, Trump responded by suggesting that he would rescind the sanctions.^[1] The Russian that posed the question was Maria Butina, a woman named in the Fusion GPS Congressional testimony. Maria Butina is a protege of reputed Russian mobster and Putin ally Alexander Torshin, below I will explain who Torshin is and his extensive ties to the NRA;

We know powerful Russians have close ties to the NRA and are being investigated for funneling millions into the organization. This influx of money from Russia is being investigated by FBI Counterintelligence as the NRA's campaign contributions during this Presidential election doubled previous campaigns.^[2] It was at an NRA convention where it was planned that the Trump campaign meet with Alexander Torshin, an ally of Vladimir Putin, a reputed mobster and deputy governor of the Russian central bank.^[3] Alexander Torshin is wanted in Spain in connection to a money laundering operation for a Russian crime syndicate.^[4] Alexander Torshin reportedly told a Trump campaign adviser that he could arrange a back-channel meeting between President Trump and President Putin.^[5] The House Intelligence Committee testimony of Fusion GPS CEO Glen Simpson was released, in it he testifies that Russia had infiltrated the NRA and other conservative groups in America.^[6]

Pg. 142 - 144 House Intelligence Committee Testimony

MS. SPEIER: Okay. What is the interest of Russia with the National Rifle Association?

MR. SIMPSON: I think that most of what we have found is pretty much out there now. You know, it's been said by others, but, you know, what eventually - it appears the Russians, you know, infiltrated the NRA And there is more than one explanation for why. But I would say broadly speaking, it appears that the Russian operation was designed to infiltrate conservative organizations. And they targeted various conservative organizations, religious and otherwise, and they seem to have made a very concerted effort to get in with the NRA. And so there is a Russian banker-slash-Duma member-slash-Mafia leader

named Alexander Torshin who is a life member of the NRA. And we spent a lot of time investigating Mr. Torshin. And he is well known to Spanish law enforcement for money laundering activity, and you have probably seen the press articles. And I think the Spanish files on him should be available to you. And he, as you know, was supposed to have a meeting with President Trump after the inauguration. And somebody noticed that there had been some stories about him that weren't pretty good. So he is one of the more important figures, but, you know, another woman with whom he was working, Maria Butina, also was a big Trump fan in Russia, and then suddenly showed up here and started hanging around the Trump transition after the election and rented an apartment and enrolled herself at AU, which I assume gets you a visa.

MS. SPEIER: You said there were other conservative groups. Are there other conservative groups in the United States that they have infiltrated to your knowledge?

MR. SIMPSON: I think there's been -we have done some research on some religious groups having relationships with the Russians, having, developing, and pursuing relationships with various religious groups. The names of them escape my mind. But there has been a lot of that. And then there has been the independence movements, California independence, Texas independence. You know, it's a big operation.

NPR did amazing piece uncovering the depth of Torshin's ties to the NRA. This piece of investigative work is a must read. The National Rifle Association is likely compromised, Torshin boasts of his incredibly close ties to NRA executives including being invited by NRA leadership to be an election observer in 2012. A reputed Russian mobster was invited by the NRA to observe the 2012 Federal Election, this is how close his ties to the NRA are. [\[7\]](#)

On his verified Twitter account, Torshin talked about how he knew Donald Trump through the NRA, citing a connection at the group's 2015 convention. Responding to a tweet about comedian Larry David accusing Trump of being a racist, Torshin said he knew the businessman through the NRA, and defended him.

"I saw him in Nashville" in April 2015, Torshin added later, the date and site of the NRA's 2015 convention. Trump gave a speech at that convention, the outlines of which would become familiar as his stump speech throughout the 2016 presidential campaign. The White House did not respond to repeated requests for comment by NPR, but denied Trump has ever met Torshin to Bloomberg News in 2017.

Torshin has used his repeated trips to NRA conventions to cultivate relationships with top NRA officials. And his Twitter account documents that he has personally met with every person who has been president of the NRA since 2012.

On Twitter, Torshin portrayed these meetings as more than merely casual encounters. In 2017, he tweeted that he was bringing a gift to then-NRA President Allan Cors, and suggested he was familiar with Cors' hobbies.

In a public DropBox album that Torshin linked to from his Twitter account, he's seen meeting with former NRA president Jim Porter, as well as former NRA president David Keene.

His tweets suggest a longtime relationship with Keene, who repeatedly appears in photos as Torshin documents his visits, suggesting that their meeting was not merely coincidental. Keene did not respond to a request for comment.

Torshin has also met the current president of the NRA, Pete Brownell. Brownell was part of an NRA delegation that visited Moscow in 2015.

These relationships that he cultivated appeared to open another door. Torshin came to the United States in 2012 as an international election observer, and watched as ballots were cast during the Obama-Romney presidential contest in Tennessee. This was possible, he wrote, due to his NRA links.

"Tennessee resident Kline Preston requested Mr. Torshin to be an international observer in November 2012," Adam Ghassemi, a spokesman for the Tennessee Secretary of State, told NPR. The Washington Post reported last year that Preston, a Tennessee lawyer, was the one who originally introduced Torshin to former NRA president David Keene back in 2011.

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1. [Mother Jones - Trump Spoke to a Russian Activist About Ending Sanctions—Just Weeks After Launching His Campaign](#)
 2. [McClatchy DC - FBI investigating whether Russian money went to NRA to help Trump](#)
 3. [CBS - Trump Jr. met with man with close ties to Kremlin](#)
 4. [Bloomberg - Mobster or Central Banker? Spanish Cops Allege This Russian Both](#)
 5. [New York Times - Operative Offered Trump Campaign 'Kremlin Connection' Using N.R.A. Ties](#)
 6. [House Intelligence Committee - Fusion GPS Testimony](#)
 7. [NPR - Depth Of Russian Politician's Cultivation Of NRA Ties Revealed](#)

The GOP has been complicit

Trump administration officials are blocking an investigation into 21 state election systems that were attacked by Russia.^[1] Moreover, Republicans in the House Intelligence Committee voted to shut down the Russia probe.^[2] **Republicans shut down the HIC investigation when we know of at least 70 contacts between the Trump team and Russia-linked operatives, the committee obtained either no or incomplete information about 81% of known contacts between Trump officials and Russians.**^[3] Six Democrats who are Ranking Members of their committees have been forced to request documents related to the Russian attacks against 21 state election systems in 2016 from Speaker of the House Paul Ryan.^[4] It is doubtful that Paul Ryan will assist, he sat by idly while Republican Congressman Nunes made a mockery of the Russia investigation in the House Intelligence Committee for over a year.^[5]

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Intelligence Committee, led by Republican Senator and Chairman Richard Burr and Ranking Member Democratic Senator Mark Warner, have said that the Russia investigation will not be ending any time soon.^[6] Furthermore, a bipartisan bill has been drafted to protect Special Counsel Mueller from being fired, but there is significant push back from Republican leaders in the Senate.^[7] A bipartisan bill to protect Mueller was voted on and approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee. Four GOP senators broke rank with the party, enough to approve the bill with Democrat support.^[8] While the Senate Judiciary committee has approved the bill, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has said that there has been no indication that Special Counsel Mueller will be fired so there is no need for legislation to protect the investigation.^[9] Senate majority leader McConnell is refusing to allow a vote on the Senate floor for a bill to protect Special Counsel Mueller.^[10] Senator McConnell's reasoning is absurd if we consider the fact that President Trump has attempted to fire Mueller twice. In June of 2017 President Trump attempted to fire Special Counsel Mueller, he was allegedly stopped by White House Counsel Don McGahn when he threatened to resign over the move.^[11] In December President Trump wanted to fire Mueller and shut down the investigation again after investigators issued subpoenas for obtaining information about the President's business dealings with Deutsche Bank.^[12]

Stay informed, be vigilant, volunteer with campaigns, and get everyone you know to register to vote in the upcoming midterms.

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1. [Washington Examiner - Democrats ask Paul Ryan to help dislodge DHS records on Russian election meddling](#)
 2. [Reuters - Republicans shut down House Russia probe over Democratic objections](#)
 3. [NBC - House probe overlooked most Trump-Russia contacts, report claims](#)
 4. [The Hill - House Dems ask Ryan to intervene on Russia documents](#)
 5. [Wall Street Journal - Paul Ryan Rejects Call for Devin Nunes to Step Aside From Probe](#)
 6. [Reuters - Senate's Trump-Russia probe not close to ending: top Democrat](#)
 7. [Politico - Bipartisan Senate bill to protect Mueller set to advance](#)
 8. [NPR - Bill To Protect Mueller Investigation Approved By Senate Judiciary Committee](#)
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 11. [Washington Post - Trump moved to fire Mueller in June, bringing White House counsel to the brink of leaving](#)
 12. [New York Times - Trump Sought to Fire Mueller in December](#)

Right, so the new President of the NRA is a notorious criminal^[1] - Oliver North.^[2] One of his first acts as President of the NRA was slandering gun control activists, he referred to them as *civil terrorists*.^[3]

Oh and want to have a peak into the depths of how insanely swampy Trump's administration is? In the 80's John Bolton, President Trump's National Security Advisor, blocked investigations into the Iran-Contra deal while he worked at the Justice Department.^[4]

Bolton's record as Assistant AG for the Office of Legislative Affairs in 1986 and 1987 merits special scrutiny. He "tried to torpedo" Sen. John Kerry's inquiry into allegations of contra drug smuggling and gunrunning, a committee aide says. When Kerry requested information from the Justice Department, Bolton's office gave it the long stall, a Kerry aide notes. In fact, says another Congressional aide, Bolton's staff worked actively with the Republican senators who opposed Kerry's efforts.

In 1986 this chum of Meese also refused to give Peter Rodino, then chair of the House Judiciary Committee, documents concerning the Iran/contra scandal and Meese's involvement in it. Later, when Congressional investigators were probing charges that the Justice Department had delayed an inquiry into gunrunning to the contras, Bolton was again the spoiler. According to Hayden Gregory, chief counsel of a House Judiciary subcommittee on crime, Bolton blocked an arrangement by which his staff had agreed to let House investigators interview officials of the US Attorney's office in Miami. Bolton refused to speak to us on the subject.

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1. [Washington Post - 'Olliemania': The stage-worthy scandal that starred Oliver North as a congressional witnesses](#)
 2. [LA Times - Oliver North was once a key figure in the Iran-Contra scandal. Now he has a new role: NRA president](#)
 3. [The Hill - Oliver North: NRA is victim of 'civil terrorism' by gun control activists](#)
 4. [The Nation - John Bolton: Ally of Drugrunners](#)

Michael Cohen, President Trump's personal attorney and Republican National Committee Deputy Finance Chairman who is responsible for the bulk of the RNC fundraising efforts,^[1] appears to have been soliciting companies for millions of dollars with the promise of access to the President.^[2] Michael Avenatti has estimated a total of \$4.4 million in transactions occurred between companies and the President's personal attorney.^[3]

A pharmaceutical corporation, Novartis, paid Michael Cohen's shell company \$1.2 million.^[4] These payments occurred weeks before the new CEO of Novartis had dinner with President Trump during his visit to Davos.^[5] AT&T gave him \$600,000.^[6] A South Korean aerospace company gave him \$150,000,^[7] they claim they used Cohen's services on accounting, but a closer look shows us something much more nefarious was probable;

The arrangement came as the company, backed by state-owned Export-Import Bank of Korea, competes to sell trainer jets to the U.S. Air Force in an auction that could be worth up to \$16 billion.

And a firm controlled by a Russian Oligarch^[8] paid him half a million dollars.^[9]

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Columbus Nova, the company controlled by a Russian oligarch that paid Michael Cohen, registered a number of websites aimed at white nationalists and the alt-right.^[10]

A company at the center of widening questions involving President Trump's personal lawyer Michael Cohen is listed as the organization behind a string of websites targeted toward white nationalists and other members of the alt-right.

Columbus Nova, a company whose U.S. chief executive, Andrew Intrater, and Russian investment partner Viktor Vekselberg have both reportedly been interviewed by special counsel Robert S. Mueller III's team, is listed as the registrant behind a handful of domains for websites named after the alt-right that were created during the 2016 election.

...These sites include Alt-right.co, Alternate-right.com, Alternate-rt.com, Alt-rite.com, and other similar combinations, which were all registered in the two days following a speech given by then candidate Hillary Clinton in August 2016 in which she excoriated the far-right movement known for its extremist, racist, anti-Semitic and sexist viewpoints. The sites are not currently operational.

Moreover, the Russian Oligarch that controlled the firm that gave Cohen half a million dollars was interviewed by the FBI.^[11] It was initially reported that agents working with Special Counsel Mueller stopped Vekselberg at a New York airport and searched his electronic devices.^[12] Another interesting thing of note is that Vekselberg attended a 2015 dinner in Moscow celebrating RT's 10th anniversary.^[13] This gala is infamously known for the photograph of former National Security Advisor Michael Flynn sitting next to Vladimir Putin and his inner circle including high level government officials with incredibly close ties to Russian intelligence agencies.^[14] Vekselberg was seated next to the Putin/Flynn table.

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- 1) [Fortune - The Michael Cohen Raid Is Another Headache for the Republican National Committee](#)
 - 2) [CNBC - Trump lawyer Michael Cohen 'appears to be selling access to the president,' says porn star Stormy Daniels' attorney, Michael Avenatti](#)
 - 3) [Twitter - Ari Melber](#)
 - 4) [Wall Street Journal - Novartis Gave \\$1.2 Million to Trump Lawyer Cohen's Company](#)
 - 5) [STAT News - Novartis paid nearly \\$400,000 to a shell company controlled by Trump's attorney](#)
 - 6) [CNBC - AT&T payments to Trump lawyer more than reported](#)
 - 7) [Reuters - South Korea's KAI says paid firm of Trump's lawyer \\$150,000 for accounting advice](#)
 - 8) [NBC - Daniels' lawyer: Cohen got \\$500K from Russian oligarch Viktor Vekselberg](#)
 - 9) [New York Times - Firm Tied to Russian Oligarch Made Payments to Michael Cohen](#)
 - 10) [Washington Post - Russia-linked company that hired Michael Cohen registered alt-right websites during election](#)
 - 11) [Radio Free Europe Radio Liberty - FBI Reportedly Questioned Russian Tycoon About Payments To Trump Attorney](#)
 - 12) [New York Times - Viktor Vekselberg, Russian Billionaire, Was Questioned by Mueller's Investigators](#)
 - 13) [Washington Post - Who is Viktor Vekselberg, the Russian billionaire linked to Michael Cohen?](#)
 - 14) [NBC - Guess Who Came to Dinner With Flynn and Putin](#)

What I find fascinating is that Columbus Nova registered a number of websites aimed towards white nationalists, but nothing of note was ever posted on these sites to my knowledge. Why do I find it fascinating? Well we know Russia's disinformation campaign preyed upon racial divisions in America, further elaboration on the scale of this operation is outlined below.

Last week CA whistle-blower Christopher Wylie testified to Congressional investigators that the Facebook data Cambridge Analytica collected may have been compromised by Russia.^[1] This is an important revelation as we can see both CA and Russia promoted divisive disinformation campaigns online;

Steve Bannon oversaw the collection of Facebook data in 2014 and was the boss of disgraced former Cambridge Analytica CEO Alexander Nix.^[2] Steve Bannon was a member of the board at Cambridge Analytica until he stepped down and became the Chief Executive of Trump's campaign, later becoming his Chief Strategist in the White House.^[3] Cambridge Analytica whistle blower, Wylie, has come out and

said that in 2014 CA was testing slogans, such as *drain the swamp* and *deepstate*, the Trump campaign later adopted these slogans.^[4]

The Mercer family funded Cambridge Analytica and have worked with Bannon since at least 2011. The Mercers also fund Breitbart, Bannon was in charge of Breitbart for quite some time. The Mercers set up a media ecosystem that pushed xenophobic, ultra-nationalist views by promoting disinformation.^[5] This ecosystem preyed specifically on people's racial prejudices and fears by promoting xenophobia.^[6]

Moreover, we know Rebekah Mercer, Steve Bannon, and Alexander Nix knowingly broke election laws in America. They were explicitly told not to use foreigners for significant campaign decisions, but they broke the law to do so anyway.^[7]

Just to summarize Special Counsel Mueller's indictment of 13 Russians and 3 Russian entities,^[8] Russian operatives used stolen US identities, travelled across 9 states collecting intelligence, discussed escape routes if they were caught inside the country, bought equipment including burner phones/SIM cards. This operation included hundreds of employees conducting information warfare during the election, it was funded with millions of dollars from the Kremlin. Russia was and is actively pushing propaganda and fake news to create a system that manipulates the narrative using social media sites as conduits for this endeavour. Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein put it best when he said that Russia was waging information warfare.^[9] This is a Republican who was appointed by President Trump.^[10]

Russia's geo-political aim is to weaken the West through destabilization by sowing division among the population.^[11] Russian operatives used social media to exploit racial and religious divisions during the 2016 election.^[12] Democrats in the House Intelligence Committee released 3500 facebook ads that were created by the Internet Research Agency, Russia specifically targeted racial tensions in America.^[13]

- Of the roughly 3,500 ads published this week, more than half — about 1,950 — made express references to race. Those accounted for 25 million ad impressions — a measure of how many times the spot was pulled from a server for transmission to a device.
- At least 25% of the ads centered on issues involving crime and policing, often with a racial connotation. Separate ads, launched simultaneously, would stoke suspicion about how police treat black people in one ad, while another encouraged support for pro-police groups.
- Divisive racial ad buys averaged about 44 per month from 2015 through the summer of 2016 before seeing a significant increase in the run-up to Election Day. Between September and November 2016, the number of race-related spots rose to 400. An additional 900 were posted after the November election through May 2017.
- Only about 100 of the ads overtly mentioned support for Donald Trump or opposition to Hillary Clinton. A few dozen referenced questions about the U.S. election process and voting integrity, while a handful mentioned other candidates like Bernie Sanders, Ted Cruz or Jeb Bush.

Russia is actively trying to divide the West and has been for quite some time, be aware that they use inflammatory language online and promote disinformation.^[14] It can be frustrating when talking to those who share a different set of beliefs, but we should attempt to find common ground with those who believe in the pillars that make Western democracy so great - equity, representation, freedom, and justice. Yes there are institutional problems that need to be addressed and ultimately fixed and there

are different views on how we can come to a solution on these institutional problems. But as it stands right now Western democracy and society is under assault and we must work together by staying informed and exercising our constitutional duty by voting in elections in our respective countries.

- 1) [USA Today - Russia may have Facebook users' data mined by Cambridge Analytica, whistleblower says](#)
- 2) [Washington Post - Bannon oversaw Cambridge Analytica's collection of Facebook data, according to former employee](#)
- 3) [CNN - Trump. Cambridge Analytica. WikiLeaks. The connections, explained.](#)
- 4) [CNN - Whistleblower: We tested Trump slogans in 2014](#)
- 5) [Chicago Tribune - How the Mercer family's partnership with Stephen Bannon shaped the populist climate in 2016](#)
- 6) [The Independent - Breitbart: Inside the far-right news network in bed with the Trump presidency](#)
- 7) [Washington Post - Former Cambridge Analytica workers say firm sent foreigners to advise U.S. campaigns](#)
- 8) [Justice Department - indictments against 13 Russian nationals and 3 entities](#)
- 9) [PBS - WATCH: Rosenstein says 13 Russian nationals committed 'information warfare against the United States'](#)
- 10) [Politico - Mueller shifts focus back to Russian 'information warfare'](#)
- 11) [Wikipedia - Foundations of Geopolitics](#)
- 12) [Washington Post - Russian operatives used Facebook ads to exploit America's racial and religious divisions](#)
- 13) [USA Today - We read every one of the 3,517 Facebook ads bought by Russians. Here's what we found](#)
- 14) [NPR - Russians Targeted U.S. Racial Divisions Long Before 2016 And Black Lives Matter](#)

Please read this breaking news article,^[1] an Associated Press investigation has discovered how two men close to President Trump leveraged access to the President to Persian Gulf Princes and turned it into millions of dollars.

Cohen was not the only person close to the President who was selling access to Trump.

After a year spent carefully cultivating two princes from the Arabian Peninsula, Elliott Broidy, a top fundraiser for President Donald Trump, thought he was finally close to nailing more than \$1 billion in business.

He had ingratiated himself with crown princes from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, who were seeking to alter U.S. foreign policy and punish Qatar, an archrival in the Gulf that he dubbed “the snake.”

To do that, the California businessman had helped spearhead a secret campaign to influence the White House and Congress, flooding Washington with political donations.

Broidy and his business partner, Lebanese-American George Nader, pitched themselves to the crown princes as a backchannel to the White House, passing the princes’ praise — and messaging — straight to the president’s ears.

...In return for pushing anti-Qatar policies at the highest levels of America’s government, Broidy and Nader expected huge consulting contracts from Saudi Arabia and the UAE, according to an Associated Press investigation based on interviews with more than two dozen people and hundreds of pages of leaked emails between the two men. The emails reviewed by the AP included work summaries and contracting documents and proposals.

This could be very illegal;

Neither Broidy nor Nader registered with the U.S. government under the Foreign Agents Registration Act, a law intended to make lobbyists working for foreign governments disclose their ties and certain political activities. The law requires people to register even if they are not paid but merely directed by foreign interests with political tasks in mind.

Violating the federal law carries a maximum \$10,000 fine or up to five years in prison.

You may remember Elliot Broidy from his \$1.6 million pay-off of a playboy model that was handled by the President’s personal attorney Michael Cohen. Broidy ultimately resigned from his position as the Deputy Finance Chairman of the RNC.^[2] Earlier in the year the Republican National Committee Finance Chairman billionaire Steve Wynn resigned after sexual misconduct allegations.^[3]

Furthermore George Nader, the other individual selling access to the President, is a cooperating witness to Special Counsel Mueller’s investigation and has already testified before a grand jury.^[4] Nader is well known as an advisor to the United Arab Emirates, but the New York Times has discovered that he has ties to Russia too.^[5] George Nader used his ties to the CEO of a Russian sovereign wealth fund^[6] to set up the Seychelles meeting between Trump advisor Erik Prince and Kirill A. Dmitriev to, allegedly, establish a Trump-Putin back channel.^[7] Prince had told Congressional investigators and journalists that his meeting with the CEO of the Russia Direct Investment Fund, Dmitriev, was unplanned and that he just happened to run into him.^[8] George Nader contests that testimony, Nader says that Prince planned the meeting well in advance.^[9]

It should also be mentioned that the wife of Dmitriev is close friends with Putin’s younger daughter.^[10]

Kirill Dmitriev, CEO of the Russia Direct Investment Fund, is known to have met with Prince shortly before President Trump’s inauguration, and Prince admitted to the meeting while testifying before the House Intelligence Committee late last year.

Six sources cited by the Financial Times say Dmitriev's wife, Natalia Popova, is close friends with Putin's younger daughter, Yekaterina Tikhonova, and also serves as the deputy director of her Innopraktika foundation.

- 1) [Associated Press - The princes, the president and the fortune seekers](#)
- 2) [Global News - Trump fundraiser Elliott Broidy resigns from RNC after allegedly paying \\$1.6M to playmate](#)
- 3) [Reuters - Wynn resigns as RNC finance chair after sexual misconduct allegations](#)
- 4) [New York Times - Adviser to Emirates With Ties to Trump Aides Is Cooperating With Special Counsel](#)
- 5) [New York Times - Witness in Mueller Inquiry Who Advises U.A.E. Ruler Also Has Ties to Russia](#)
- 6) [Foreign Policy - Nations Are Wielding Their Sovereign Wealth Funds as Tools of Power](#)
- 7) [Washington Post - Blackwater founder held secret Seychelles meeting to establish Trump-Putin back channel](#)
- 8) [Washington Post - Erik Prince discussed trade, terrorism with Russian banker in Seychelles, interview transcript says](#)
- 9) [Washington Post - Mueller gathers evidence that 2017 Seychelles meeting was effort to establish back channel to Kremlin](#)
- 10) [The Daily Beast - Report: Russian Financier in Erik Prince's Seychelles Meeting Traced Back to Putin](#)

Cambridge Analytica shared data with Russia.^[1]

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Steve Bannon was a member of the board at Cambridge Analytica until he stepped down and became the Chief Executive of Trump's campaign, later becoming his Chief Strategist in the White House.^[3] Cambridge Analytica whistle-blower, Wylie, has come out and said that in 2014 CA was testing slogans, such as *drain the swamp* and *deepstate*, the Trump campaign later adopted these slogans.^[4]

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Russia's geo-political aim is to weaken the West through destabilization by sowing divisions among the population.^[12] **We know Russian operatives used social media to exploit racial and religious divisions during the 2016 election.**^[13] Democrats in the House Intelligence Committee released 3500 facebook ads that were created by the Internet Research Agency, Russia specifically targeted racial tensions in America.^[14]

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Russia is actively trying to divide the West/America and has been for quite some time, be aware that they use inflammatory language online and promote disinformation.^[15] I know it can be frustrating when talking to those who share a different set of beliefs, but we should attempt to find common ground with those who truly believe in the pillars that make Western democracy so great - equity, representation, freedom, and justice. Yes there are institutional problems that need to be addressed and ultimately fixed. Yes there are different views on how we can come to a solution on these institutional problems. But as it stands right now Western democracy and society is under assault and we must work together by staying informed and exercising our constitutional duty by voting in elections in our respective countries.

1. [The Straights Times - Cambridge Analytica shared data with Russia: Whistleblower](#)
2. [Washington Post - Bannon oversaw Cambridge Analytica's collection of Facebook data, according to former employee](#)
3. [CNN - Trump. Cambridge Analytica. WikiLeaks. The connections, explained.](#)
4. [CNN - Whistleblower: We tested Trump slogans in 2014](#)
5. [Chicago Tribune - How the Mercer family's partnership with Stephen Bannon shaped the populist climate in 2016](#)
6. [The Independent - Breitbart: Inside the far-right news network in bed with the Trump presidency](#)
7. [Washington Post - Former Cambridge Analytica workers say firm sent foreigners to advise U.S. campaigns](#)
8. [Justice Department - indictments against 13 Russian nationals and 3 entities](#)
9. [Washington Post - Donald Trump will be president thanks to 80,000 people in three states](#)
10. [PBS - WATCH: Rosenstein says 13 Russian nationals committed 'information warfare against the United States'](#)
11. [Politico - Mueller shifts focus back to Russian 'information warfare'](#)
12. [Wikipedia - Foundations of Geopolitics](#)
13. [Washington Post - Russian operatives used Facebook ads to exploit America's racial and religious divisions](#)
14. [USA Today - We read every one of the 3,517 Facebook ads bought by Russians. Here's what we found](#)
15. [NPR - Russians Targeted U.S. Racial Divisions Long Before 2016 And Black Lives Matter](#)

Part of this disinformation/division campaign was the spread of the racist Alt-Right ideologies into mainstream media

The *Unite the Right* rally was organized by **Jason Kessler**, who was also a writer for the *Daily Caller*. ^[1]

The **Proud Boys** are an Alt-Right group founded by **Gavin McInnes**, formerly of *The Rebel Media* and co-founder of VICE, currently with CRTV along side **Mark Levin** and **Michelle Malkin** ^[2] ^[A]. **Roger Stone** can be seen [here](#)^[3] flashing a white power hand gesture with a group of Proud Boys at some bar. This same gesture has been shown multiple times at the White House by several people affiliated with the alt right. ^[4] These people range from interns to reporters such as **Mike Cernovich**, **Lucian Wintrich**, **Milo Yiannopoulos**, and **Cassandra Fairbanks**. ^[5]

I've detailed some of Milo in a [previous post](#)

Lucian Wintrich is the White House correspondent for *The Gateway Pundit*. They are responsible stories calling the Parkland Students "crisis actors". [\[6\]](#) **Wintrich** was also arrested while speaking at UConn giving a speech entitled "It's OK to be white". [\[7\]](#)

Tucker Carlson did his own segment on the "It's OK to be white" campaign. [\[8\]](#)

This is a [Quartz article ^\[9\]](#) that explains how the 'It's OK to be white' campaign **originated on 4chan**.

Mike Cernovich and **Chuck Johnson** unsuccessfully tried to smear Senator Chuck Schumer using falsified information. This was after they forced former Rep. Conyers to resign by offering up \$10,000 for information on sexual harassment. [\[10\]](#)

Cernovich has also tweeted that "Date rape does not exist", but **Donald Trump Jr.** has still retweeted/endorsed him. [\[11\]](#)

Chuck Johnson who was also mentioned is a holocaust denier who went to the State of the Union by **Rep. Matt Gaetz**. [\[12\]](#)

Johnson also helped organize a meeting between **Rep. Dana Rohrabacher** and **Julian Assange**. [\[13\]](#)

Some have argued that the OK hand gesture isn't racist.

It's all about context

The alt-right likes to hide behind seemingly innocent symbols.

Virtually any symbol can be coopted for hate *Here are a few video examples of the hand gesture being used*

- Here is a [Periscope video ^\[14\]](#) posted by **Jack Posobiec** who was filming **Mike Flynn Jr** in DC at a fundraiser on Feb 14, 2018. Watch at (0:25) when the camera pans. A guy wearing glasses waves the sign directly to the camera.

Posobiec is a known figure from the Alt-Right that Donald Trump retweeted after the Unite the Right Rally. [\[15\]](#) **Posobiec** can be seen with [here^\[16\]](#) with **Richard Spencer** who is a key figure in the movement.

- This is a different [video example ^\[17\]](#) from Knox News showing the Traditionalist Worker Party flashing the white power hand sign discretely. Focus on the guy with the white hat and a beard at (1:22). This was one of the groups at the Unite the Right Rally in Charlottesville that resulted in the death of Heather Heyer.

It has now been reported that **Columbus Nova** who has been paying **Michael Cohen** "consulting fees" registered Alt-Right websites during the 2016 election. [\[18\]](#)

Juan Pablo Andrade - policy adviser for the pro-Trump America First proclaims in a Snapchat video recorded at a hotel during a Turning Point USA conference in December stating, "The only thing the Nazis didn't get right is they didn't keep f*****g going!" [\[19\]](#)

1. [SPLC - The Daily Caller Has A White Nationalist Problem](#)
2. [Rewire.News - How Hate Goes 'Mainstream': Gavin McInnes and the Proud Boys](#)
3. [Twitter - Roger Stone Drinking With Proud Boys Flashing White Power Hand Sign](#)
4. [DailyMail - White Power At The White House - Trump Intern Flashes 'Alt-Right' Symbol Used By Notorious Extremists During Group Photo With The President](#)
5. [MarkMaynard.com - White Power Shoutouts From The White House](#)
6. [Washington Post - What is Gateway Pundit, the conspiracy-hawking site at the cent of the bogus Florida 'crisis actors' hype?](#)
7. [CNN - Right-wing blogger arrested at 'It's OK to be white' speech at UConn](#)
8. [Newsweek - It's OK To Be White: How Fox News Is Helping Spread Neo-Nazi Propaganda](#)
9. [Quartz - The rise of the alt-right's catchphrase "It's OK to be white"](#)
10. [Daily Beast - Alt-Right Hyped Sexual Harassment Hoax to Attack Schumer](#)
11. [Indy 100 - Donald Trump Jr endorsed Mike Cernovich. Here are some of his tweets] (<https://www.indy100.com/article/donald-trump-jr-mike-cernovich-rape-fake-news-pulitzer-susan-rice-7667431>)
12. [Daily Beast - Rep. Matt Gaetz Invited Infamous Troll Chuck Johnson to Trump's State of The Union](#)
13. [Washington Examiner - Chuck Johnson helps organize meeting between Julian Assange and Rep. Dana Rohrabacher](#)
14. [Twitter - Mike Flynn Jr Speaks at Trump DC!] (<https://twitter.com/JackPosobiec/status/963819140422209536>)
15. [Los Angeles Times - Trump retweets alt-right media figure who pushed 'PizzaGate' and Seth Rich conspiracy theories](#)
16. [Twitter - Photo of Richard Spencer and Jack Posobiec at a bar during the RNC](#)
17. [Knox News - Traditionalist Worker Party members march to speech at UT](#)
18. [Washington Post - Russia-linked company that hired Michael Cohen registered alt-right websites during election](#)
19. [Observer - Trump Surrogate Regrets Nazis Didn't 'Keep F***ing Going' in Snapchat Clip](#)

A) [CRTV - CRTV Home Page](#)

Show of hands, who remembers back when Trump was saying that the mainstream media was cooperating with the Clinton campaign?

Now we've got:

- [The National Inquirer paying off a Playboy Playmate that Trump cheated on one of his wives with.](#)
- [The Wall Street Journal killing stories on Trump's affairs.](#)
- Donald Trump [regularly talking on the phone to Rupert Murdoch](#) (the [owner of the Wall Street Journal and Fox News](#)).
- Donald Trump [regularly talking on the phone to Roger Ailes](#) (the former CEO of Fox News).
- Donald Trump [regularly talking on the phone to Sean Hannity](#) (the star of Fox News, who was also [secretly doing business with the President's personal lawyer](#)).
- Donald Trump [regularly talking on the phone to Fox N' Friends](#) (Fox News' attempt at a daily non satirical version of SNL).
- Even has [TMZ is going to bat for President Trump](#).

(Note that only [some of those calls are being made on the same unsecured, personal Android cellphone he was using before the election](#). Which, just for the record, is nothing like having a personal email server in your basement, okay? Also [it would be perfectly okay for President Trump to have a private email server if he wanted to anyway](#).)

Not to mention the [\\$5,000,000,000.00 in free advertising the msm gave Trump during the 2016 campaign](#), or the [disproportionately negative coverage they showed to Hillary Clinton, especially in the last week of the election](#).

So President Donald "The mainstream media hates me!" Trump, has the Wall Street Journal (one of the most well read newspapers anywhere), Fox News (the most watched cable news network in America), News Corp (one of the largest media companies in the world), the National Inquirer (available at every checkout line in the nation), and TMZ, all working on his behalf. (Which is to say nothing of AM radio and AM religion, both of which are pulling for him.)

Projection thy name is Trump. To quote a fellow redditor "[I sure hope Robert Mueller is checking all the pizza restaurant basements in Washington, DC.](#)"

Edit: Holy shit, I *did* forget [Sinclair Broadcasting, the largest provider of local news coverage in the country, which, in addition to its blatant right-wing bias, also produces so-called "must run segments" written and performed by former White House official and Trump campaign surrogate, Boris Epshteyn](#). (Thanks to u-TheHollywoodElite and u-imnotthomas for the reminder!)

Edit 2: Just for context, I'd like to remind everybody that [it was the "liberal" New York Times that initially reported about Hillary Clinton's private email server](#), they didn't *kill the story*, they didn't *hide the problem*, they put it on their *goddamn front page*.

Edit 3: u-itzprospero's [comment below](#) goes into much greater detail about how Trump's media defenders are also promoting and defending the [American fascists](#) the "alt-right" movement.

Edit 4: Wanna' hear something weird that I found out while researching this post? [One media outlet that was fairly loudly anti-Trump was Russia Today](#), of all things! Which is not to say they didn't propagandize in their own way, just that they're not quite as big a fan of Donald Trump as Fox News is.

Edit 5: Thank you to u-Muddler_Lord for [informing me](#) that [Fox Business host Lou Dobbs is often brought in on Oval Office conference calls](#), and u-LippyChipton's [reminder](#) that Steve "Head of Breitbart News" Bannon was *part of Donald Trump's administration*. See? Even I can't keep all this bullshit straight, and I'm, like, a really smart person!

President Trump has made innumerable denials about doing any business with Russia. And yet he signed a letter of intent to build a Moscow Trump Tower in 2015.^[1] We also know that President Trump tried to do business with a sanctioned Russian bank in 2016.^[2]

Read what Felix Sater, a Russian business associate of the President, offered President Trump's personal lawyer Michael Cohen. Felix Sater wanted to work with the Russians to help get Trump elected by showcasing Trump's negotiation skills. To do this he wanted to build a Trump Tower in Moscow. The New York Times^[3] story is corroborated by the Washington Post.^[4] President Trump signed a letter of intent to build the Moscow Trump Tower during the campaign.^[5]

The associate, Felix Sater, wrote a series of emails to Mr. Trump's lawyer, Michael Cohen, in which he boasted about his ties to Mr. Putin. He predicted that building a Trump Tower in Moscow would highlight Mr. Trump's savvy negotiating skills and be a political boon to his candidacy.

"Our boy can become president of the USA and we can engineer it," Mr. Sater wrote in an email. "I will get all of Putins team to buy in on this, I will manage this process."

"I will get Putin on this program and we will get Donald elected," Mr. Sater wrote.

New information on the relationship between Felix Sater and Trump has come to light recently, including much more money laundering. Rachel Maddow explains how billionaires from Kazakhstan, who are embroiled in court cases involving money laundering, had their money laundered through Trump properties via Felix Sater.^[6] There is video/photographic evidence of President Trump promoting a new project in Georgia to build a Trump Tower, but they never did end up building the Trump tower. The project was used to launder money. Felix Sater attended Trump's invite-only victory party to celebrate his presidential victory.^[7] Although Trump has tried to distance himself from Sater due to his colourful past, I find it very peculiar that he was allowed into an invite-only event at the Midtown Hilton. Moreover, in July of 2016 we know he attended a secret meeting at Trump Tower.^[8]

Months ago there it was reported that Felix Sater was ready and willing to cooperate with Special Counsel Mueller.^[9] Paul Wood, World Affairs correspondent for the BBC, wrote the original article for The Spectator.^[10] Back in the 90's Felix Sater was caught up in a massive stock scam and flipped on mob families in New York. Guess who flipped him? He's on Special Counsel Mueller's team - Andrew Weissmann.^[11] Felix Sater has spoken out against the bad publicity he has been receiving, in his

numerous TV appearances he made it clear that he has worked as an informant for American intelligence services.^[12]

Christopher Steele has stated that Trump's hotel and land deals with Russians need to be examined.^[13] President Trump has repeatedly denied doing business with Russia, taking a quick look at his Twitter feed we can find innumerable examples of his denials. Let's take an example from 2017 - The President tweeted "*I HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH RUSSIA - NO DEALS, NO LOANS, NO NOTHING!*"^[14] He's lied every single time he's denied doing business with Russians, he's had business dealings with Russians for decades.^[15] Donald Trump Jr. has stated in an interview that Russians make up a disproportionate cross-section of a lot of the Trump Organization's assets.^[16] I implore everyone to read this article by TIME, it summarizes some of the extensive ties between the Trump Organization and Russia.^[17]

"The Trump-Russia links beneath the surface are even more extensive," Max Boot wrote in the Los Angeles Times. "Trump has sought and received funding from Russian investors for his business ventures, especially after most American banks stopped lending to him following his multiple bankruptcies."

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1. [Business Insider - 'Help world peace and make a lot of money': Here's the letter of intent to build a Trump Tower Moscow](#)
 2. [The Guardian - Trump Organization 'negotiated with sanctioned Russian bank in 2016'](#)
 3. [New York Times - Trump Associate Boasted That Moscow Business Deal 'Will Get Donald Elected'](#)
 4. [The Washington Post - Trump's company had more contact with Russia during campaign, according to documents turned over to investigators](#)
 5. [ABC News - Trump signed letter of intent for Russian tower during campaign, lawyer says](#)
 6. [MSNBC Rachel Maddow - Sketchy money finds its way into Trump deals](#)
 7. [GQ - Inside Donald Trump's Election Night War Room](#)
 8. [Politico - Trump's mob-linked ex-associate gives \\$5,400 to campaign](#)
 9. [Raw Story - Longtime Trump business partner 'told family he knows he and POTUS are going to prison': report](#)
 10. [The Spectator - Forget Charlottesville - Russia Is Still The True Trump's True Scandal](#)
 11. [Slate - An Intriguing Link Between the Mueller Investigation, Trump, and Alleged Money Laundering](#)
 12. [Bloomberg - Ex-Trump Associate Outlines Decades of Spy Work for U.S.](#)
 13. [Business Insider - 'Dossier' author Christopher Steele: Trump's hotel and land deals with Russians need to be examined](#)

14. [Trump January 2017 Tweet](#)
15. [New York Times - For Trump, Three Decades of Chasing Deals in Russia](#)
16. [Business Insider - Trump's oldest son said a decade ago that a lot of the family's assets came from Russia](#)
17. [TIME - Donald Trump's Many, Many, Many, Many Ties to Russia](#)

This entire administration is a plutocratic kakistocracy - the wealthy^[1] have taken control of every department of government, who are utterly unqualified and do not wish to serve the interests of their citizens,^[2] instead they serve their own interests and are at the behest of extreme corporate greed.^[3]

Not only are they incompetent at governing in the interest of their citizens, they passed massive tax cuts for themselves^[4] leaving little to help the working class.^[5]

His cabinet is taking advantage of the tax-payers at an unprecedented rate,^[6] HHS was forced to resign^[7] while others are under investigation. Then there is the Whitefish Energy scandal of pure, unabashed nepotism. The FBI has opened up an investigation into it.^[8]

His cabinet appointees were and still are grifters who have violated government ethics regulations at an absurd rate. They include Tom Price, David Shulkin, Scott Pruitt, Ryan Zinke, Steven Mnuchin, Ben Carson, Wilbur Ross, and Rick Perry.^[9] It is not at all surprising that his cabinet are not ashamed by their corruption, President Trump is on track to be the most corrupt president in U.S. history.^[10] President Trump's administration are dismantling the government, from the State Department^[11] to the Department of Education.^[12] National Geographic created a running list of how President Trump is changing the environment, the majority of policies are detrimental to the well-being of this planet and its inhabitants.^[13] Here are just a few examples of what Trump appointees have been up to and how they are eroding the institutions they are meant to lead;^[14]

Over the weekend, the New York Times revealed that Betsy DeVos is scaling back a major Education Department investigation into fraud at for-profit colleges. Investigations into specific institutions are being ended, people working in the division are receiving new duties, and a former dean of one of the schools that had been the focus of department questions about possible fraud is now in charge of the investigative team.

- ...At the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, acting director Mick Mulvaney, who previously described the agency as a “sick, sad” joke, has, like DeVos, shut down multiple investigations into financial-firm malfeasance that began during the Obama administration. He nixed a probe into the payday loan industry; supported a successful effort to roll back regulations meant to ensure African Americans and Latinos were not discriminated against when they sought auto loans; didn’t request money from the Federal Reserve to run his agency; and is now eyeing steps to shut down public access to a database of consumer complaints about financial-services firms.
- At the Environmental Protection Agency, Administrator Scott Pruitt is intent on seeing how much personal corruption he can pull off before getting shown the door. But that’s not all. He is

also unraveling decades of environmental protections. In recent months, he backtracked on an EPA proposal to ban a pesticide that can cause brain damage in children. Pruitt is so gung-ho, he's attempting to roll back auto emissions standards in excess of what the car industry itself wants. News emerged on Monday that the EPA blocked the publication of a study on water pollution.

- At the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Ben Carson wants to raise the rent for low-income tenants. Meanwhile, he is surrounded by people who know little about how housing policy works; CNN reported on Monday that one of his top aides is a former Uber driver.

The President continues to make a fortune using tax-payer's money on his exuberant and frequent trips to his golf courses.^[15] Where of course the Secret Service has come out and stated that no one has been keeping a visitor's log.^[16] President Trump's DC Hotel brought in \$40 million last year, the hotel is the center of many lawsuits alleging President Trump is in violation of the emoluments clause of the Constitution.^[17] Moreover, President Trump continues to refuse to release copies of his income tax returns.

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1. [Forbes - The \\$4.3 Billion Cabinet: See What Each Top Trump Advisor Is Worth](#)
 2. [The New York Times - How Much People in the Trump Administration Are Worth](#)
 3. [Kakistocracy: A word we need to revive](#)
 4. [The New York Times - Trump Could Save More Than \\$1 Billion Under His New Tax Plan](#)
 5. [The Atlantic - Why the GOP Tax Cut Will Make Wealth Inequality So Much Worse](#)
 6. [The Washington Post - Traveling in style: Trump's White House wrestles with Cabinet costs](#)
 7. [CNN - Price out as HHS secretary after private plane scandal]
(<http://www.cnn.com/2017/09/29/politics/tom-price-resigns/index.html>)
 8. [Vox - The FBI is investigating Whitefish Energy's contract to rebuild Puerto Rico's grid](#)
 9. [CNBC - Trump's Cabinet has been rocked by a number of ethics scandals — here's a complete guide](#)
 10. [Washington Post - The Trump presidency: On track to becoming the most corrupt in U.S. history?](#)
 11. [Foreign Policy - How the Trump administration broke the State Department](#)
 12. [Forbes - Investigations Into For-Profit College Abuses Dismantled Under Betsy DeVos](#)
 13. [National Geographic - A Running List of How Trump Is Changing the Environment](#)
 14. [Washington Post - Trump appointees continue to erode government from within](#)
 15. [The Economist - How Donald Trump is monetising his presidency](#)
 16. [Politico - Secret Service: No visitor logs for Mar-a-Lago](#)

17. [USA Today - Trump's company earned \\$40M from Washington hotel in 2017, disclosure shows](#)

The CEO of RDIF, a Russian sovereign wealth fund created by the Russian government that is designed to invest in the Russian economy, is not a prosecutor.

Moreover, yesterday we learned that Cambridge Analytica shared data with Russia.^[1] This is an important revelation as we can see both CA and Russia promoted divisive disinformation campaigns online;

Steve Bannon oversaw the collection of Facebook data in 2014 and was the boss of disgraced former Cambridge Analytica CEO Alexander Nix.^[2]

Steve Bannon was a member of the board at Cambridge Analytica until he stepped down and became the Chief Executive of Trump's campaign, later becoming his Chief Strategist in the White House.^[3] Cambridge Analytica whistle-blower, Wylie, has come out and said that in 2014 CA was testing slogans, such as *drain the swamp* and *deepstate*, the Trump campaign later adopted these slogans.^[4]

The Mercer family funded Cambridge Analytica and have worked with Bannon since at least 2011. The Mercers also fund Breitbart, Bannon was in charge of Breitbart for quite some time. The Mercers set up a media ecosystem that pushed xenophobic, ultra-nationalist views by promoting disinformation.^[5] This ecosystem preyed specifically on people's fears by promoting xenophobia.^[6]

Moreover, we know Rebekah Mercer, Steve Bannon, and Alexander Nix knowingly broke election laws in America. They were explicitly told not to use foreigners for significant campaign decisions, but they broke the law to do so anyway.^[7]

Just to summarize Special Counsel Mueller's indictment of 13 Russians and 3 Russian entities,^[8] Russian operatives used stolen US identities, travelled across 9 states collecting intelligence, discussed escape routes if they were caught inside the country, bought equipment including burner phones/SIM cards. This operation included hundreds of employees conducting information warfare during the election, it was funded with millions of dollars from the Kremlin. Russia was and is actively pushing propaganda and fake news to create a system that manipulates the narrative using social media sites as conduits for this endeavour. It took less than 80 thousand votes in 3 states to flip the electoral college vote in favour of President Trump.^[9] Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein put it best when he said that Russia was waging information warfare.^[10] This is a Republican who was appointed by President Trump.^[11]

Russia's geo-political aim is to weaken the West through destabilization by sowing divisions among the population.^[12] We know Russian operatives used social media to exploit racial and religious divisions during the 2016 election.^[13] Democrats in the House Intelligence Committee released 3500 facebook ads that were created by the Internet Research Agency, Russia specifically targeted racial tensions in America.^[14]

- Of the roughly 3,500 ads published this week, more than half — about 1,950 — made express references to race. Those accounted for 25 million ad impressions — a measure of how many times the spot was pulled from a server for transmission to a device.

- At least 25% of the ads centered on issues involving crime and policing, often with a racial connotation. Separate ads, launched simultaneously, would stoke suspicion about how police treat black people in one ad, while another encouraged support for pro-police groups.
- Divisive racial ad buys averaged about 44 per month from 2015 through the summer of 2016 before seeing a significant increase in the run-up to Election Day. Between September and November 2016, the number of race-related spots rose to 400. An additional 900 were posted after the November election through May 2017.
- Only about 100 of the ads overtly mentioned support for Donald Trump or opposition to Hillary Clinton. A few dozen referenced questions about the U.S. election process and voting integrity, while a handful mentioned other candidates like Bernie Sanders, Ted Cruz or Jeb Bush.

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1. [The Straights Times - Cambridge Analytica shared data with Russia: Whistleblower](#)
 2. [Washington Post - Bannon oversaw Cambridge Analytica's collection of Facebook data, according to former employee](#)
 3. [CNN - Trump. Cambridge Analytica. WikiLeaks. The connections, explained.](#)
 4. [CNN - Whistleblower: We tested Trump slogans in 2014](#)
 5. [Chicago Tribune - How the Mercer family's partnership with Stephen Bannon shaped the populist climate in 2016](#)
 6. [The Independent - Breitbart: Inside the far-right news network in bed with the Trump presidency](#)
 7. [Washington Post - Former Cambridge Analytica workers say firm sent foreigners to advise U.S. campaigns](#)
 8. [Justice Department - indictments against 13 Russian nationals and 3 entities](#)
 9. [Washington Post - Donald Trump will be president thanks to 80,000 people in three states](#)
 10. [PBS - WATCH: Rosenstein says 13 Russian nationals committed 'information warfare against the United States'](#)
 11. [Politico - Mueller shifts focus back to Russian 'information warfare'](#)
 12. [Wikipedia - Foundations of Geopolitics](#)
 13. [Washington Post - Russian operatives used Facebook ads to exploit America's racial and religious divisions](#)
 14. [USA Today - We read every one of the 3,517 Facebook ads bought by Russians. Here's what we found](#)

President Trump's foreign policy has been horrendous. His administration is exacerbating the decline of United State's influence abroad by destroying long standing relationships with its allies, the consequences of which could be severe. I will provide two examples below; the Trans-Pacific Partnership and the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action - colloquially known as the Iran Nuclear Deal.

First lets begin with America's decline in foreign diplomacy - Former Secretary of State Rex Tillerson completely gutted a formerly functioning State Department essentially crippling US influence abroad.^[1] He systematically dismantled the State Department with major cuts to leadership roles, these are career diplomats who have served under different administrations and possess unparalleled experience.^[2] I cannot stress enough how important soft power is in terms of maintaining a US sphere of influence.^[3] He also shut down the State Department office that oversees sanction policies.^[4]

Trump's administration has isolated, removed and failed to replace State Department leaders, as of right now there are 41 out of 188 ambassadors that remain vacant with no nominations.^[5] These vacancies include strategic countries such as Turkey, Egypt, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Jordan.^[6] Over the last few weeks we have seen the ambassadors to Mexico and Panama retire with no replacements in sight,^[7] there is no ambassador to South Korea and the special envoy to North Korea resigned.^[8] In comparison to Obama, Trump has double the vacancies at a whopping 22%. These aren't small time diplomats. The United States has no leadership on the world stage, their influence and power will decline considerably if this is not remedied soon.

Moreover, the administration has indicated they want back in to the Trans-Pacific Partnership for a couple of weeks, they now realize it would have been a great way to counter China's economic influence across the region.^[9] The President's comments still project the *America First* mantra, he still refers to TPP as horrible.^[10]

Consider the sum of these comments, and Trump is merely suggesting that the United States would be open to participating in a TPP whose provisions furthered the realization of the America First policy. This is not a "return to the TPP" by any measure; they are remarks that seek to jump on the bandwagon of the TPP-11 agreement while effectively calling for a renegotiation of its terms. Having led the TPP-11 negotiations, Japan probably made the right call in coolly describing the prospect of renegotiation as "practically impossible."

TPP was created for the purpose of cementing America's regional influence, its the largest regional trade agreement and does not include China.^[11] It was unfortunate that some stipulations favoured American corporations, however when the United States backed off we were able to make the trade agreement much better. The new iteration of TPP, known as The Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), suspends the intellectual property provisions and mandates all countries adhere to strict labour and environment standards.^[12] While the original TPP would have been the largest trade agreement in the world, the total combined gross domestic product of CPTPP would be \$13.5 trillion, that's 13% of the world's GDP.^[13]

Over the last few weeks Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin has been open to returning to CPTPP and President Trump's chief economic adviser Larry Kudlow has said that the United States could lead a "trade coalition of the willing" to counter China's influence, which is exactly what TPP was. Unfortunately for the United States, the 11 signatory nations are moving forward with the trade

agreement and there is almost no chance of them re-opening negotiations with President Trump to allow the US back into the deal.^[14]

Let's take a closer look at the consequences of pulling out of the Iran deal as an example of the deterioration of United States diplomacy under this administration. A top State Department official and expert on nuclear proliferation has resigned,^[15] furthering weakening an already ailing State Department - American soft power diplomacy is in rapid decline as is their decline in stature as a global leader. Trump's administration has threatened European companies with sanctions if they do business with Iran.^[16] The European Union has decided to release a package of measures to counter the U.S. sanctions as the EU continues to sustain an incentive for Iran's compliance with the Iran nuclear deal.^[17] While President Trump supporters claim that they can cripple the Iranian economy through harsh sanctions, it is incredibly unlikely as the sanctions regime will be weakened and fractured if opposed by the International Community. The weakened sanction regime may push Iran out of the nuclear agreement as hardliners in Iran will push for a reopening of their nuclear program. This will cause further instability in the Middle East.^[18]

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1. [New York Times - State Department to Offer Buyouts in Effort to Cut Staff](#)
 2. [BBC - US diplomacy cuts 'decapitates' State Department leadership](#)
 3. [Foreign Policy - Think Again: Soft Power](#)
 4. [Foreign Policy - State Department Scraps Sanctions Office](#)
 5. [USA Today - South Korea, Germany, Egypt: These are among 41 countries that don't have a U.S. ambassador](#)
 6. [American Foreign Services Association - Current U.S. Ambassadors](#)
 7. [ABC - US ambassador to Mexico resigning in another big loss for State Department](#)
 8. [Reuters - U.S. envoy for North Korea to retire after Trump rejects unconditional talks](#)
 9. [New York Times - Trump Proposes Rejoining Trans-Pacific Partnership](#)
 10. [The Diplomat - What Now for Economic Integration in the Asia-Pacific?](#)
 11. [Foreign Policy - What Will the TPP Mean for China?](#)
 12. [CBC - TPP partners reach agreement on 'core elements' of Pacific trade deal, Canada says](#)
 13. [The Diplomat - TPP 2.0: The Deal Without the US](#)
 14. [Foreign Policy - The U.S. Wants Back in the TPP? Good Luck With That.](#)
 15. [Foreign Policy - Top State Department Nuclear Expert Announces Resignation After Trump Iran Deal Exit](#)
 16. [The Guardian - US threatens European companies with sanctions after Iran deal pullout](#)
 17. [Financial Times - EU launches package to counter US sanctions on Iran](#)

18. [Foreign Policy - Here's What to Expect Now That Trump Has Withdrawn From the Iran Nuclear Deal](#)

I know you jest, but this is a serious problem. From the article;

VPN Filter uses known vulnerabilities to infect home office routers made by Linksys, MikroTik, NETGEAR, and TP-Link. Once in place, the malware reports back to a command-and-control infrastructure that can install purpose-built plug-ins, according to the researchers. One plug-in lets the hackers eavesdrop on the victim's Internet traffic to steal website credentials; another targets a protocol used in industrial control networks, such as those in the electric grid. A third lets the attacker cripple any or all of the infected devices at will.

Reminder that the Department of Homeland Security and the FBI have accused the Russian government of a multi-stage intrusion campaign targeting the U.S. energy grid. These attacks included critical infrastructure in energy, nuclear, commercial facilities, water facilities, and aviation facilities.^[1] Here is the report by the United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team where analytic efforts undertaken by DHS and the FBI have found a multistage intrusion campaign perpetuated by the Russian state.^[2] This isn't fake news, the United States is under cyber attack from Russia.

This joint Technical Alert (TA) is the result of analytic efforts between the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). This alert provides information on Russian government actions targeting U.S. Government entities as well as organizations in the energy, nuclear, commercial facilities, water, aviation, and critical manufacturing sectors. It also contains indicators of compromise (IOCs) and technical details on the tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs) used by Russian government cyber actors on compromised victim networks. DHS and FBI produced this alert to educate network defenders to enhance their ability to identify and reduce exposure to malicious activity.

DHS and FBI characterize this activity as a multi-stage intrusion campaign by Russian government cyber actors who targeted small commercial facilities' networks where they staged malware, conducted spear phishing, and gained remote access into energy sector networks. After obtaining access, the Russian government cyber actors conducted network reconnaissance, moved laterally, and collected information pertaining to Industrial Control Systems (ICS).

Moreover, the United States Intelligence Agencies have confirmed that a foreign nation interfered with the 2016 American election process.^[3] We know two dozen state's election systems came under attack.^[4] The Intelligence Agencies heads unanimously agree that the Russians will attack the 2018 election.^[5] President Trump's administration has retaliated to these attacks on America's institutions and infrastructure by penalizing Russians, unfortunately President Trump did not mention the sanctions nor the election meddling during his statement on the nerve agent attack in Britain.^[6] President Trump has repeatedly called the Russian election interference a hoax.^[7]

What's not surprising is that President Trump's administration has done little to mitigate the threat of Russia attacking the 2018 midterm election. U.S. officials, including former National Security Adviser

General H.R. McMaster, have claimed that this administration has not done enough to dissuade Russian meddling.^[8] Most recently President Trump put the brakes on new economic sanctions on Russia, a day after U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley laid out a preliminary plan to impose new sanctions. This decision by President Trump came after the Kremlin denounced the new sanctions plan as *international economic raiding*.^[9] Furthermore, NSA Director Admiral Rodgers testified to Congress that Trump has given no order to counter Russian election meddling.^[10] While former National Security Adviser General H.R. McMaster warned of Russian election meddling and publicly denounced their continued attacks, he was removed by President Trump and John Bolton took his place. John Bolton has a sordid history that I have previously analysed,^[11] National Security Adviser Bolton has been pushing to eliminate a top Cyber-Security position in the White House as he attempts to reorganize the National Security Council.^[12]

Cybersecurity experts and former National Security Council officials expressed alarm at the idea of eliminating the job, saying it would undo much of the progress the U.S. has made on cyber efforts and send the wrong message about U.S. priorities in the digital domain. The coordinator — a post created at the beginning of the Obama administration — leads a team of NSC staffers who manage federal cyber strategy on everything from election security to encryption policies to digital warfare.

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- 1) [TechCrunch - DHS and FBI detail how Russia is hacking into U.S. nuclear facilities and other critical infrastructure](#)
 - 2) [Department of Homeland Security: United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team \(US-CERT\) - Russian Government Cyber Activity Targeting Energy and Other Critical Infrastructure Sectors](#)
 - 3) [New York Times - Trump Misleads on Russian Meddling: Why 17 Intelligence Agencies Don't Need to Agree](#)
 - 4) [NPR - 10 Months After Election Day, Feds Tell States More About Russian Hacking](#)
 - 5) [Washington Post - The nation's top spies said Russia is continuing to target the U.S. political system](#)
 - 6) [New York Times - White House Penalizes Russians Over Election Meddling and Cyberattacks](#)
 - 7) [New York Times - Indictment Makes Trump's Hoax Claim Harder to Sell](#)
 - 8) [Washington Post - America is still unprepared for a Russian attack on our elections](#)
 - 9) [Washington Post - Trump puts the brakes on new Russian sanctions, reversing Haley's announcement](#)
 - 10) [New York Times - White House Has Given No Orders to Counter Russian Meddling, N.S.A. Chief Says](#)
 - 11) [PK on why President Trump's new National Security Adviser John Bolton is a dangerous man](#)
 - 12) [Politico - Bolton pushing to eliminate White House cyber job](#)

Thanks, I came across an interesting nugget of information about John Bolton the other week that others may find concerning;

So the new President of the NRA^[1] is an extremely controversial figure as he was convicted for taking part in the Iran-Contra scandal where the Reagan administration illegally sold arms to Iran and used that money to fund rebels in Nicaragua^[2] - Oliver North.^[3] One of his first acts as President of the NRA was slandering gun control activists, he referred to them as *civil terrorists*.^[4]

Just to give you a peak into the depths of how insanely swampy Trump's administration is: In the 80's John Bolton, President Trump's National Security Advisor, obstructed and blocked investigations into the Iran-Contra deal while he worked at the Justice Department.^[5]

Bolton's record as Assistant AG for the Office of Legislative Affairs in 1986 and 1987 merits special scrutiny. He "tried to torpedo" Sen. John Kerry's inquiry into allegations of contra drug smuggling and gunrunning, a committee aide says. When Kerry requested information from the Justice Department, Bolton's office gave it the long stall, a Kerry aide notes. In fact, says another Congressional aide, Bolton's staff worked actively with the Republican senators who opposed Kerry's efforts.

In 1986 this chum of Meese also refused to give Peter Rodino, then chair of the House Judiciary Committee, documents concerning the Iran/contra scandal and Meese's involvement in it. Later, when Congressional investigators were probing charges that the Justice Department had delayed an inquiry into gunrunning to the contras, Bolton was again the spoiler. According to Hayden Gregory, chief counsel of a House Judiciary subcommittee on crime, Bolton blocked an arrangement by which his staff had agreed to let House investigators interview officials of the US Attorney's office in Miami. Bolton refused to speak to us on the subject.

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- 1) [Washington Post - 'Olliemania': The stage-worthy scandal that starred Oliver North as a congressional witness](#)
 - 2) [DW - NRA appoints Iran-Contra scandal figure Oliver North as president](#)
 - 3) [LA Times - Oliver North was once a key figure in the Iran-Contra scandal. Now he has a new role: NRA president](#)
 - 4) [The Hill - Oliver North: NRA is victim of 'civil terrorism' by gun control activists](#)
 - 5) [The Nation - John Bolton: Ally of Drugrunners](#) - investigative article is from 2005

Roger Stone is in deep.

Two^[1] Roger Stone aides were subpoenaed last week.^[2] During the 2016 Presidential campaign Roger Stone^[3] made constant braggadocious statements about his ties to Guccifer 2.0, the DNC hacker, and Wikileaks. While Roger Stone has attempted to downplay his communication with Guccifer 2.0, he has admitted to have been in contact with the DNC hacking suspect.^[4] According to a Daily Beast report, US investigators have identified Guccifer 2.0 as a Russian Intelligence Officer that worked for the

GRU.^[5] The discovery was made after a Russian intelligence officer forgot to use a VPN while logging into Twitter and Wordpress. Last month investigative journalists discovered direct contact made between Roger Stone and Wikileaks, although nothing of significance was discussed over their direct correspondence.^[6]

We also know that Special Counsel Mueller has been asking questions about whether or not President Trump knew of the hacked DNC emails before they were released. They've asked about the relationship between GOP operative Roger Stone and WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, and why Trump took policy positions favorable to Russia.^[7] WikiLeaks should be considered an extension of Russia's 2016 disinformation campaign,^[8] we knew that WikiLeaks shared material hacked by the GRU^[9] before The Daily Beast report was released.

Moreover, the leading counterargument against the reports of Guccifer 2.0 being a Russian intelligence officer is that they would be too intelligent to forget turning on their VPN. That line of reasoning is wrong. While the system the Russian hackers use is indeed genius, that doesn't mean it's impervious from human error. In fact here is a CSE report from 2011 that elaborates on that point.^[10] The CSE, Communications Security Establishment, is Canada's national cryptologic agency that collects foreign signal intelligence in order to inform and alert the Government of Canada to the activities of foreign entities outside Canada.^[11]

But a 2011 presentation to the NSA and its foreign partners by Canada's signals intelligence agency, the Communications Security Establishment, undermines the notion of a foreign hacker so skilled that a victim would never know their identity. The document calls Russian hackers "morons" for routinely compromising the security of a "really well designed" system intended to cover their tracks; for example, the hackers logged into their personal social and email accounts through the same anonymizing system used to attack their targets, comparable to getting an anonymous burner phone for illicit use and then placing calls to your girlfriend, parents, and roommate.

Just a reminder that long time Roger Stone friend and former Trump campaign aide Sam Nunberg was having a melt down on multiple networks 2 months ago for being subpoenaed by Special Counsel Mueller. He wanted to refuse the court order so that he would not be forced to testify against Stone. He claimed that he didn't have the time to sort through his emails and go to the grand jury court order.^[12]

The former Trump adviser made a succession of appearances on US news channels in which he – among many gaffes – called the president an 'idiot' and threatened to tear up a subpoena from Robert Mueller

He spent half a day on national television with the most ridiculous excuses, even going as far as to egg Mueller on to arrest him. He has since said he will cooperate.^[13] The subpoena of Sam Nunberg asks for all communications/correspondence with Carter Page, Corey Lewandowski, Donald J. Trump, Hope Hicks, Keith Schiller, Michael Cohen, Paul Manafort, Rick Gates, Roger Stone, and Steve Bannon dating back to 2015.^[14] /

Roger Stone has been a target of this investigation for quite some time. This week Roger Stone attempted to get ahead of a potential indictment by claiming he is ready to be indicted and that the Russian collusion scandal is still a hoax.^[15] **This report by the Wall Street Journal confirms everyone's suspicions, that New York based radio host and comedian Credico was the liaison between Roger Stone and Wikileaks. Credico was subpoenaed by Special Counsel Mueller in November of 2017.**^[16]

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1. [Reuters - Exclusive: Special Counsel subpoenas another Stone aide in Russia probe - sources](#)
 2. [Reuters - Mueller issues grand jury subpoenas to Trump adviser's social media consultant](#)
 3. [New York Times - Roger Stone, the 'Trickster' on Trump's Side, Is Under F.B.I. Scrutiny](#)
 4. [Chicago Tribune - Ex-Trump adviser Roger Stone swapped messages with DNC hacking suspect](#)
 5. [The Daily Beast - 'Lone DNC Hacker' Revealed as Russian Intelligence Officer](#)
 6. [The Atlantic - Roger Stone's Secret Messages with WikiLeaks](#)
 7. [NBC - Mueller asking if Trump knew about hacked Democratic emails before release](#)
 8. [Foreign Policy - WikiLeaks Turned Down Leaks on Russian Government During U.S. Presidential Campaign](#)
 9. [CBS - How did WikiLeaks become associated with Russia?](#)
 10. [The Intercept - White House Says Russia's Hackers Are Too Good To Be Caught But NSA Partner Called Them "Morons"](#)
 11. [Government of Canada CSE - What we do and why we do it](#)
 12. [The Guardian - 'It would be funny if they arrest me' – Sam Nunberg's TV interview disaster](#)
 13. [Bloomberg - Nunberg Says He Enjoyed Defiance But Will Comply With Mueller](#)
 14. [The Hill - Mueller subpoenas witness for documents tied to Trump, campaign associates: reports](#)
 15. [NPR - Trump Adviser Roger Stone Says He's 'Prepared' If Indicted By Special Counsel Mueller](#)
 16. [New York Times - Comedian Is Subpoenaed in Inquiry on Russia Meddling](#)

I'm glad that Prime Minister Trudeau's government is standing up for Canada. Nonetheless a trade war will be terrible for consumers across the globe.^[1] The United States is attempting to hold economies across the globe as hostages while President Trump's administration negotiates trade deals with allies. For example these indiscriminate steel tariffs will cost the Canadian economy \$3.2 billion annually.^[2] The world is not taking these policies lightly as U.S. allies have already retaliated with their own tariffs, Canada has released a plan targeting imports from America that would cost the U.S. \$12.9 billion dollars while the European Union has prepared levies on U.S. exports worth \$7.5 billion.^[3] I completely agree with Prime Minister Trudeau's statement;^[4]

"Let me be clear: These tariffs are totally unacceptable," Trudeau said. "Canadians have served alongside Americans in two world wars and in Korea. From the beaches of Normandy to the mountains of Afghanistan, we have fought and died together."

Noting that Canada purchases more U.S. steel than any other nation, Trudeau lambasted the Trump administration for initiating the tariffs under the guise of confronting a threat to national security. "Canada is a secure supplier of aluminum and steel to the U.S. defense industry, putting aluminum in American planes and steel in American tanks," Trudeau said. "That Canada could be considered a national security threat to the United States is inconceivable."

"These tariffs are an affront to the long-standing security partnership between Canada and the United States, and in particular, to the thousands of Canadians who have fought and died alongside American comrades-in-arms," he finished.

Let's take a look at the last two attempts where the United States of America initiated tariffs, it didn't end well for them;

President Bush attempted a protectionist agenda under his administration, but within a year of imposing tariffs the retaliation from allies was so severe that he was forced to reverse his decision.^[5] President Obama attempted protectionist measures against China by imposing a tariff on tires, but it didn't end well for his administration as it did not boost U.S. employment and China's retaliation cost American chicken producers \$1 billion in sales.^[6] President Bush's trade war cost the United States 200,000 jobs and since then multiple studies have found that the cost of such protectionist measures outweigh any short-term benefit.^[7]

- 200,000 Americans lost their jobs to higher steel prices during 2002. These lost jobs represent approximately \$4 billion in lost wages from February to November 2002.³
- One out of four (50,000) of these job losses occurred in the metal manufacturing, machinery and equipment and transportation equipment and parts sectors.
- Job losses escalated steadily over 2002, peaking in November (at 202,000 jobs), and slightly declining to 197,000 jobs in December.⁴
- More American workers lost their jobs in 2002 to higher steel prices than the total number employed by the U.S. steel industry itself (187,500 Americans were employed by U.S. steel producers in December 2002).
- Every U.S. state experienced employment losses from higher steel costs, with the highest losses occurring in California (19,392 jobs lost), Texas (15,826 jobs lost), Ohio (10,553 jobs lost), Michigan (9,829 jobs lost), Illinois (9,621 jobs lost), Pennsylvania (8,400 jobs lost), New York (8,901 jobs lost) and Florida (8,370 jobs lost). Sixteen states lost at least 4,500 steel consuming jobs each over the course of 2002 from higher steel prices.
- While insufficient data exist at this time to measure the precise role steel tariffs played in causing such significant price increases, relative to the other factors, it is clear that the Section 201 tariffs played a leading role pushing prices up. Steel tariffs caused shortages of imported product and put U.S. manufacturers of steel-containing products at a disadvantage relative to their foreign competitors. In the absence of the tariffs, the damage to steel consuming employment would have been significantly less than it was in 2002.
- The analysis shows that American steel consumers have borne heavy costs from higher steel prices caused by shortages, tariffs and trade remedy duties, among other factors. Some

customers of steel consumers have moved sourcing offshore as U.S. producers of steel-containing products became less reliable and more expensive. Other customers refused to accept higher prices from their suppliers and forced them to absorb the higher steel costs, which put many in a precarious (or worse) financial condition. The impact on steel-consuming industries has been significant.

The last two administrations have clearly demonstrated the negative impact from imposing tariffs on allies and foreign adversaries. Yet President Trump's new tariffs target U.S. allies more so than China. Canada, Mexico, and South Korea are America's leading steel import/export partners. President Trump has instituted these tariffs while there are ongoing trade talks between Western allies, these Western allies have vowed to retaliate.^[8] Even the National Review, a well known Conservative publication, has come out against these insane protectionist measures;^[9]

The economics here are pretty straightforward. Trump thinks steel is just one more example of the Chinese getting one over on Americans, but China is in fact a minor player in the U.S. steel-import business, being No. 11 among nations exporting steel to the United States. A quarter of our imported steel comes from our NAFTA partners, mostly from Canada, which provides 16 percent of U.S. steel imports. Among Asian steel exporters, South Korea is our largest trading partner, not China. Moody's projects that the country that will be most adversely affected by the tariffs is Canada, followed by Bahrain, a country that does not loom particularly large in our economic consciousness, having as it does an annual national economic output about one-fifth of the Ford Motor Company's. It is better to punish one's enemies than one's allies.

And it is no good at all to punish producers and consumers both, which is what tariffs do. Tariffs are a sales tax, in this case on a raw material that is used in everything from buildings to automobiles and industrial machinery — and the latter two are a big part of the U.S. export portfolio, something that ought to occur to a president who obsesses about the balance of trade. Steel is a necessary part of the machinery that produces the agricultural commodities, electronics, and industrial implements that are the heart of U.S. exports of goods. Advantaging a small number of politically connected firms at the expense of the broader manufacturing economy — which employs vastly more people and represents vastly more in the way of both economic production and exports — is damned foolish. As an economic matter, it is illiteracy in action. There's a reason Caterpillar shares sank after the tariff announcement, along with Boeing, United Technologies, General Motors, and others.

...The president is in error and, while he undoubtedly has the authority to impose these tariffs, doing so will put us in violation of both the letter and the spirit of our existing trade agreements. To what end? The policy will hurt more American businesses and American workers than it will help, and it will absolutely imperil export-dependent American industries from the farms to the factories. It's a bad idea, conceived and unveiled badly.

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1. [Politico - 'Today is a bad day for world trade': Trump slaps U.S. allies with tariffs](#)
 2. [Global News - What U.S. steel, aluminum tariffs mean for Canadians — and their wallets](#)
 3. [Wall Street Journal - U.S. Tariffs Prompt Anger, Retaliation From Trade Allies](#)

4. [The Hill - Trudeau: Trump tariffs 'are an affront' to Canadian soldiers who 'fought and died' alongside Americans](#)
5. [Wikipedia - 2002 United States steel tariff](#)
6. [CNN - Obama got tough on China. It cost U.S. jobs and raised prices](#)
7. [The Unintended Consequences of U.S. Steel Import Tariffs: A Quantification of the Impact During 2002, by Dr. Joseph Francois and Laura M. Baughman](#)
8. [Foreign Policy - Here Comes Trump's Trade War](#)
9. [National Review - Steel Yourself](#)

What has Special Counsel Mueller's investigation uncovered so far?

Contrary to right-wing media outlets in America the investigations into the President's closest confidants is not a *nothing burger*. Former Campaign Chairman Manafort has been indicted, former National Security Advisor Michael Flynn has plead guilty and is cooperating with investigators, Rick Gates has plead guilty and is cooperating and several other campaign aides are cooperating with investigators.^[1]

The searches open a new front for the Justice Department in its scrutiny of Mr. Trump and his associates: His longtime lawyer is being investigated in Manhattan; his son-in-law, Jared Kushner, is facing scrutiny by prosecutors in Brooklyn; his campaign chairman is under indictment; his former national security adviser has pleaded guilty to lying; and a pair of former campaign aides are cooperating with Mr. Mueller. Mr. Mueller, meanwhile, wants to interview Mr. Trump about possible obstruction of justice.

Last month the first person to be jailed in Special Counsel Mueller's investigation was sentenced 30 days for lying to investigators about his contact with Rick Gates and Person A,^[2] who has not yet been identified but is alleged to be a former member of the GRU.^[3] Contrary to President Trump and his allies this investigation is moving at an incredible pace compared to other similar investigations.^[4]

If you don't have time to read through each source Reuters has compiled a list of Trump aides and associates who are under investigation or have been indicted;^[6]

Michael Cohen, Trump's longtime personal lawyer, is being investigated by federal prosecutors in Manhattan. Cohen's lawyer, Stephen M. Ryan, said that U.S. prosecutors conducted a search on April 9 that was partly a referral by Mueller's office. Federal prosecutors are investigating Cohen for possible bank and tax fraud, and for possible campaign law violation in connection with a payment to a porn actress and perhaps other matters having to do with foreign support to Trump's 2016 campaign, a source familiar with the investigation said.

Michael Flynn, a former national security adviser to Trump who was also a close campaign aide, pleaded guilty in December to lying to Federal Bureau of Investigation agents about his contacts with Russia and agreed to cooperate with Mueller's investigation.

Paul Manafort, a former Trump election campaign chairman, is facing two indictments in different federal courts brought by Mueller. Charges against him include conspiring to launder money, failing to register as a foreign agent in connection with his lobbying for the previously pro-Russia Ukrainian government, bank fraud and filing false tax returns. Manafort has pleaded not guilty to all charges and has argued that Mueller has overstepped his authority.

Rick Gates, a former deputy campaign chairman, pleaded guilty in February to conspiracy against the United States and lying to investigators, and agreed to cooperate with the Mueller probe.

George Papadopoulos, a former Trump campaign adviser, pleaded guilty last fall to lying to FBI agents about his contacts with Russia. According to documents released with his guilty plea, Papadopoulos offered to help set up a meeting with then-candidate Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin. He is now cooperating with Mueller.

Alex Van der Zwaan, a lawyer who once worked closely with Manafort and Gates, pleaded guilty in February to lying to Mueller's investigators about contacts with an official in the Trump election campaign. Van der Zwaan, the Dutch son-in-law of one of Russia's richest men, was sentenced on April 3 to 30 days in prison and fined \$20,000.

Richard Pinedo, who was not involved with the Trump campaign, pleaded guilty in a case related to the Mueller probe in February to aiding and abetting interstate and foreign identity fraud by creating, buying and stealing hundreds of bank account numbers that he sold to individuals to use with large digital payment companies. Pinedo "made a mistake" but "had absolutely no knowledge" about who was buying the information or their motivations, his lawyer said. Sources familiar with the indictment said Pinedo was named as helping Russian conspirators launder money as well as purchase Facebook ads and pay for rally supplies.

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1. [New York Times - F.B.I. Raids Office of Trump's Longtime Lawyer Michael Cohen; Trump Calls It 'Disgraceful'](#)
 2. [BBC - Trump-Russia inquiry: Dutch lawyer Alex van der Zwaan sentenced to 30 days](#)
 3. [Washington Post - Mueller just drew his most direct line to date between the Trump campaign and Russia](#)
 4. [Five Thirty Eight - The Russia Investigation Is Moving Really Freaking Fast](#)
 5. [Reuters - Factbox: Under investigation or indicted - the Trump aides facing scrutiny](#)

In November 2015, Ivanka Trump told Cohen to speak with Klovov, according to the four sources. Cohen had at least one phone conversation with the weightlifter, they said. It is not known what the men discussed over the phone, but they exchanged a string of emails that are now being examined by congressional investigators and federal agents probing Russia's election meddling.

In one of those emails, Klokov told Cohen that he could arrange a meeting between Donald Trump and Putin to help pave the way for the tower. Later, Cohen sent an email refusing that offer and saying that the Trump Organization already had an agreement in place. He said he was cutting off future communication with Klokov. Copying Ivanka Trump, the Russian responded in a final brusque message, in which he questioned Cohen's authority to make decisions for the Trump Organization. Frustrated by the exchange, Ivanka Trump questioned Cohen's refusal to continue communicating with Klokov, according to one of the sources.

Summary:

Last month Buzzfeed released an in depth article about the Trump Moscow Tower project.^[1] We learned that Michael Cohen lied to lawmakers in Congress when he claimed to have ended the venture in early 2016. Mr. Cohen had continued to work on the Trump Moscow Tower project up until at least May, when then candidate Trump was close to securing the GOP presidential nomination.^[2] Candidate Trump promoted Paul Manafort to Campaign Chairman around this time to corral delegates at the GOP convention, it was at this stage of the campaign where Trump began to publicly change his policy towards Ukraine and Russia.^[3] Felix Sater, a long time business associate of the President that was working on this project with his childhood friend Michael Cohen, was in contact with a former GRU officer during the duration of the venture.^[4]

Expanded explanation:

President Trump has made innumerable denials about doing any business with Russia. Yet he signed a letter of intent to build a Moscow Trump Tower in 2015.^[5] Moreover, President Trump tried to do business with a sanctioned Russian bank in 2016.^[6]

Read what Felix Sater offered President Trump's personal lawyer Michael Cohen, Felix Sater wanted to work with the Russians to help get Trump elected by showcasing Trump's negotiation skills. To do this he wanted to build a Trump Tower in Moscow. The New York Times^[7] story is corroborated by the Washington Post.^[8] President Trump signed a letter of intent to build the Moscow Trump Tower during the campaign.^[9]

New information on the relationship between Felix Sater and Trump has come to light, including money laundering. Rachel Maddow explains how billionaires from Kazakhstan, who are embroiled in court cases involving money laundering, had their money laundered through Trump properties via Felix Sater.^[10] Felix Sater attended Trump's invite-only victory party to celebrate his presidential victory.^[11] Although Trump has tried to distance himself from Sater due to his colourful past, I find it very peculiar that he was allowed into an invite-only event at the Midtown Hilton. Moreover, in July of 2016 we know he attended a secret meeting at Trump Tower.^[12]

Months ago there it was reported that Felix Sater was ready and willing to cooperate with Special Counsel Mueller.^[13] Paul Wood, World Affairs correspondent for the BBC, wrote the original article for The Spectator.^[14] Back in the 90's Felix Sater was caught up in a massive stock scam and flipped on mob families in New York. Guess who flipped him? He's on Special Counsel Mueller's team - Andrew

Weissmann.^[15] Felix Sater has spoken out against the bad publicity he has been receiving, in his numerous TV appearances he made it clear that he has worked as an informant for American intelligence services.^[16]

Christopher Steele has stated that Trump's hotel and land deals with Russians need to be examined.^[17] President Trump has repeatedly denied doing business with Russia, taking a quick look at his Twitter feed we can find innumerable examples of his denials. Let's take an example from 2017 - The President tweeted "*I HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH RUSSIA - NO DEALS, NO LOANS, NO NOTHING!*"^[18] He's done business with Russians for decades.^[19] Donald Trump Jr. has stated in an interview that Russians make up a disproportionate cross-section of a lot of the Trump Organization's assets.^[20] This article by TIME summarizes some of the extensive ties.^[21]

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1. [Buzzfeed - The crazy story of Trump Moscow](#)
 2. [Yahoo - Michael Cohen's efforts to build a Trump Tower in Moscow went on longer than he has previously acknowledged](#)
 3. [Politico - Trump changed views on Ukraine after hiring Manafort](#)
 4. [Buzzfeed - A Former Russian Spy Worked On A Trump Moscow Deal During The Presidential Campaign](#)
 5. [Business Insider - 'Help world peace and make a lot of money': Here's the letter of intent to build a Trump Tower Moscow](#)
 6. [The Guardian - Trump Organization 'negotiated with sanctioned Russian bank in 2016'](#)
 7. [New York Times - Trump Associate Boasted That Moscow Business Deal 'Will Get Donald Elected'](#)
 8. [The Washington Post - Trump's company had more contact with Russia during campaign, according to documents turned over to investigators](#)
 9. [ABC News - Trump signed letter of intent for Russian tower during campaign, lawyer says](#)
 10. [MSNBC Rachel Maddow - Sketchy money finds its way into Trump deals](#)
 11. [GQ - Inside Donald Trump's Election Night War Room](#)
 12. [Politico - Trump's mob-linked ex-associate gives \\$5,400 to campaign](#)
 13. [Raw Story - Longtime Trump business partner 'told family he knows he and POTUS are going to prison': report](#)
 14. [The Spectator - Forget Charlottesville - Russia Is Still The True Trump's True Scandal](#)
 15. [Slate - An Intriguing Link Between the Mueller Investigation, Trump, and Alleged Money Laundering](#)
 16. [Bloomberg - Ex-Trump Associate Outlines Decades of Spy Work for U.S.](#)

17. [Business Insider - 'Dossier' author Christopher Steele: Trump's hotel and land deals with Russians need to be examined](#)
18. [Trump January 2017 Tweet](#)
19. [New York Times - For Trump, Three Decades of Chasing Deals in Russia](#)
20. [Business Insider - Trump's oldest son said a decade ago that a lot of the family's assets came from Russia](#)
21. [TIME - Donald Trump's Many, Many, Many, Many Ties to Russia](#)

You're welcome! Sorry for the info dump, but President Trump is a national security risk. What he is suggesting is a total joke. It couldn't be more glaringly obvious that he supports Vladimir Putin's interests while he continues to denigrate long standing relationships with Western allies.^[1]

President Trump's response to Russia's multi-pronged cyber attacks, from their malware botnets to their attacks targeting the U.S. energy grid and election systems, has been a total joke.

The United States Intelligence Agencies have confirmed that a foreign nation interfered with the 2016 American election process.^[2] We know two dozen state's election systems came under attack.^[3] The Intelligence Agencies heads unanimously agree that the Russians will attack the 2018 election.^[4] The cyber security head of the Department of Homeland Security has stated that the Russians had successfully penetrated voter registration rolls in several states before the 2016 election.^[5] President Trump's administration has retaliated to these attacks on America's institutions and infrastructure by penalizing Russians, unfortunately President Trump did not mention the sanctions nor the election meddling during his statement on the nerve agent attack in Britain.^[6] President Trump has repeatedly called the Russian election interference a hoax.^[7]

President Trump's administration has done little to mitigate the threat of Russia attacking the 2018 midterm election.

U.S. officials, including former National Security Advisor General H.R. McMaster, have claimed that this administration has not done enough to dissuade Russian meddling.^[8] Most recently President Trump put the brakes on new economic sanctions on Russia, a day after U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley laid out a preliminary plan to impose new sanctions. This decision by President Trump came after the Kremlin denounced the new sanctions plan as *international economic raiding.*^[9] Furthermore, NSA Director Admiral Rodgers testified to Congress that Trump has given no order to counter Russian election meddling.^[10] While former National Security Advisor General H.R. McMaster warned of Russian election meddling and publicly denounced their continued attacks, he was removed by President Trump and John Bolton took his place. National Security Advisor Bolton has been pushing to eliminate a top Cyber-Security position in the White House as he attempts to reorganize the National Security Council.^[11]

Russia's multi-pronged cyber attacks:

Russian cyber interference goes far beyond hacking election systems. The Department of Homeland Security and the FBI have accused the Russian government of a multi-stage intrusion campaign targeting the U.S. energy grid. These attacks included critical infrastructure in energy, nuclear, commercial facilities, water facilities, and aviation facilities.^[12] Here is the report by the United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team where analytic efforts undertaken by DHS and the FBI have found a multistage intrusion campaign perpetuated by the Russian state.^[13] This isn't fake news, the United States is under cyber attack from Russia.

This joint Technical Alert (TA) is the result of analytic efforts between the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). This alert provides information on Russian government actions targeting U.S. Government entities as well as organizations in the energy, nuclear, commercial facilities, water, aviation, and critical manufacturing sectors. It also contains indicators of compromise (IOCs) and technical details on the tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs) used by Russian government cyber actors on compromised victim networks. DHS and FBI produced this alert to educate network defenders to enhance their ability to identify and reduce exposure to malicious activity.

DHS and FBI characterize this activity as a multi-stage intrusion campaign by Russian government cyber actors who targeted small commercial facilities' networks where they staged malware, conducted spear phishing, and gained remote access into energy sector networks. After obtaining access, the Russian government cyber actors conducted network reconnaissance, moved laterally, and collected information pertaining to Industrial Control Systems (ICS).

Furthermore, the FBI recently thwarted a sophisticated malware system that is linked to Russia's military intelligence agency, the Russian malware has infected hundreds of thousands of routers.^[14] The Justice Department has announced actions to disrupt the advanced botnet malware system. It is recommended to restart your router as it may be infected.^[15]

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1. [Foreign Policy - RIP the Trans-Atlantic Alliance, 1945-2018](#)
 2. [New York Times - Trump Misleads on Russian Meddling: Why 17 Intelligence Agencies Don't Need to Agree](#)
 3. [NPR - 10 Months After Election Day, Feds Tell States More About Russian Hacking](#)
 4. [Washington Post - The nation's top spies said Russia is continuing to target the U.S. political system](#)
 5. [Washington Examiner - DHS official: Russians 'successfully penetrated' voter registration rolls in several states before 2016 election](#)
 6. [New York Times - White House Penalizes Russians Over Election Meddling and Cyberattacks](#)
 7. [New York Times - Indictment Makes Trump's Hoax Claim Harder to Sell](#)
 8. [Washington Post - America is still unprepared for a Russian attack on our elections](#)

9. [Washington Post - Trump puts the brakes on new Russian sanctions, reversing Haley's announcement](#)
10. [New York Times - White House Has Given No Orders to Counter Russian Meddling, N.S.A. Chief Says](#)
11. [Politico - Bolton pushing to eliminate White House cyber job](#)
12. [TechCrunch - DHS and FBI detail how Russia is hacking into U.S. nuclear facilities and other critical infrastructure](#)
13. [Department of Homeland Security: United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team \(US-CERT\) - Russian Government Cyber Activity Targeting Energy and Other Critical Infrastructure Sectors](#)
14. [New York Times - F.B.I.'s Urgent Request: Reboot Your Router to Stop Russia-Linked Malware](#)
15. [United States Department of Justice - Justice Department Announces Actions to Disrupt Advanced Persistent Threat 28 Botnet of Infected Routers and Network Storage Devices](#)

Missing an important part from the title;

Special counsel Robert Mueller files witness tampering indictment against Paul Manafort **and Russian citizen Konstantin Kilimnik**

Why are these new indictments important?

When Paul Manafort had resigned as campaign manager on the Trump campaign his protege and longtime partner Rick Gates continued to work with the Trump campaign. Gates was in contact with Person A, who is former Russian intelligence officer Konstantin Kilimnik, weeks before the election.^[1] The former GRU officer also happened to be a long time liaison between Manafort and Russian Oligarch Oleg Deripaska.

Alex van der Zwaan has plead guilty to lying to investigators. Alex van der Zwaan lied to Special Counsel Mueller about the contact he had with Rick Gates and Person A. Van der Zwaan was sentenced to 30 days in prison^[2] and has been deported back to the Netherlands.^[3] Before today's indictment the Washington Post reported that Person A is former GRU officer Konstantin Kilimnik, a Ukraine-based aide to Paul Manafort.^[4]

Fourth, the lies and withholding of documents were material to the Special Counsel's Office's investigation. That Gates and Person A were directly communicating in September and October 2016 was pertinent to the investigation. Federal Bureau of Investigation Special Agents assisting the Special Counsel's Office assess that Person A has ties to Russian intelligence service and had such ties in 2016. During his first interview with the Special Counsel's Office, van der Zwaan admitted that he knew of that connection, stating that Gates told him Person A was a former Russian Intelligence Officer with GRU.

Kilimnik served as a liaison between Manafort and Oleg Deripaska. Manafort has previously denied communicating with Russian intelligence,^[5] Special Counsel Mueller seems to be alleging something entirely different.

The FBI has found that a business associate of former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort had ongoing ties to Russian intelligence, including during the 2016 campaign when Manafort and his deputy, Rick Gates, were in touch with the associate, according to new court filings.

The documents, filed late Tuesday by prosecutors for special counsel Robert S. Mueller III, also allege that Gates had said he knew the associate was a former officer with the Russian military intelligence service.

Van der Zwaan recorded some of his conversations he had with Rick Gates and Person A, who has been indicted by Special Counsel Mueller - Konstantin Kilimnik.^[6]

After years of working with Gates on a report meant to aid a political group in Ukraine, Gates contacted him in 2016 about a foreign criminal case they feared could be filed against van der Zwaan's law firm. Afraid of the situation, the young attorney recorded a phone call with Gates and the unnamed Eastern European associate, and a call with his firm.

Later, when Mueller's office asked about his interactions with Gates and the other person, he lied because he feared his firm might fire him for recording the call, according to the memo.

A timeline is beginning to come together.

Michael Cohen, the President's personal attorney, told Congressional investigators that he had stopped working on the Trump Moscow Tower project in January of 2016. But a new report has surfaced indicating that Mr. Cohen had continued to work on the Trump Moscow Tower project up until at least May, when then candidate Trump was close to securing the GOP presidential nomination.^[7] Candidate Trump promoted Paul Manafort to the role of Campaign Chairman around this time to corral delegates at the GOP convention, it was at this time where the Trump campaign pressured the GOP to make a specific change to the platform. An amendment proposed that the GOP commit to sending lethal weapons to Ukraine to fight Russian aggression was softened considerably at the request of the campaign.^[8] Furthermore it was at this stage of the campaign where Trump began to publicly change his policy towards Ukraine and Russia.^[9] Ukrainian authorities were cooperating with Special Counsel Mueller, but Ukraine's Chief Prosecutor has frozen all 4 investigations into Manafort for fears of angering President Trump. Ukrainian authorities stopped cooperating with Special Counsel Mueller after the Pentagon approved the sale of missiles to Ukraine.^[10]

Moreover, we know Paul Manafort offered to give a Russian billionaire private briefings on the campaign trail, the oligarch was Oleg Deripaska.^[11] Paul Manafort used a campaign account for the aforementioned email correspondence.^[12] Gates and Manafort's ties to Deripaska are deep and date back at least a decade. They partnered over a massive real-estate deal in 2008.^[13] In 2006 Paul Manafort offered a deal to Russian oligarch Deripaska, Manafort expressed that he would offer a great service in pushing Putin's policies abroad. He was paid very handsomely by Deripaska.^[14]

1. [VICE News - Bombshell Mueller court filing shows Rick Gates was knowingly in contact with a Kremlin spy](#)
2. [CNBC - First sentencing in Mueller probe: Dutch lawyer Alex van der Zwaan gets 30 days in prison, \\$20,000 in fines](#)
3. [USA Today - Dutch lawyer deported after serving prison time in Mueller's Russia probe](#)
4. [Washington Post - Mueller just drew his most direct line to date between the Trump campaign and Russia](#)
5. [Washington Post - Manafort associate had Russian intelligence ties during 2016 campaign, prosecutors say](#)
6. [CNN - New Gates tie alleged in special counsel filing on van der Zwaan sentencing](#)
7. [The Hill - Cohen worked on Moscow Trump Tower deal for longer than he told Congress: report](#)
8. [NPR - 2016 RNC Delegate: Trump Directed Change To Party Platform On Ukraine Support](#)
9. [Politico - Trump changed views on Ukraine after hiring Manafort](#)
10. [New York Times - Ukraine, Seeking U.S. Missiles, Halted Cooperation With Mueller Investigation](#)
11. [Washington Post - Manafort offered to give Russian billionaire 'private briefings' on 2016 campaign](#)
12. [Politico - Manafort used Trump campaign account to email Ukrainian operative](#)
13. [The Daily Beast - Paul Manafort Sought \\$850 Million Deal With Putin Ally and Alleged Gangster](#)
14. [Associated Press - AP Exclusive: Before Trump job, Manafort worked to aid Putin](#)

Nah, at today's G7 meeting President Trump claimed Russia would rather have Hillary Clinton as President of the United States because he's been *Russia's worst nightmare* - and yes he said this. He then went on to say Russia should be invited back to the summit table.^[1] It was formerly known as the G8 summit until Russia invaded a sovereign nation and was subsequently kicked out in 2014.^[2]

The International Criminal Court declared Russia's invasion of Ukraine a crime.^[3] We can't forget the consequences of this conflict in Ukraine, including Russia's role in the 298 deaths from a commercial airliner that was shot down over Ukraine.^[4] The European Commission has warned that Russia has been very successful at spreading disinformation across the European Union.^[5]

So what are Western allies doing about online disinformation campaigns perpetuated by the Russian state that are meant to actively destabilize democracy in the West?

The European Union is fighting back against this disinformation campaign, as Russia is actively destabilizing democracy in the West.^[6] The European Union's East StratCom Task Force was set up in response to Russia's disinformation campaign, they've done some great work.^[7]

The Task Force's flagship products are its weekly Disinformation Review of pro-Kremlin disinformation stories, its social media accounts and its new website.

In the course of two years, the Task Force has, in addition to substantially improving the EU's outreach and positive eastward communications, developed a strong EU understanding of the tools, networks and objectives of disinformation, and raised awareness among millions, establishing itself as a leading international source of expertise on the issue. A network has been developed across the continent to identify and report disinformation, creating new channels to reach new audiences and track the most prevalent disinformation myths.

The EU vs Disinformation campaign has now identified over 3,500 disinformation cases in 18 languages. The team's research is regularly used and quoted by politicians, governments, state agencies, researchers, think tanks and journalists across Europe and beyond.

It has become evident that the pro-Kremlin disinformation campaign is an orchestrated strategy to broadcast the same false stories in as many languages as possible, through as many channels as possible and as often as possible. Russian authorities are explicit about this too, for example through the Gerasimov doctrine – the amalgamation of war and political activity – as well as in statements by top Russian generals that “false data” and “destabilising propaganda” are legitimate tools.

The aim of this disinformation campaign is to confuse, denigrate, weaken and destabilise the West by exploiting existing divisions or creating new artificial ones. Outright lies are often deployed, but another common strategy is to spread as many conflicting messages as possible, persuading the audience that there are so many versions of events that it is impossible to find the truth. Particularly obvious examples include the clear obfuscation over the downing of flight MH17, Boris Nemtsov's assassination and the bombing of a humanitarian convoy in Syria.

Canada, the country I call home, is also susceptible to Russia's disinformation campaign.^[8] A leading NATO expert has warned us that we must be prepared for Russian election interference during the 2019 Federal elections.^[9] In April Prime Minister Trudeau discussed cyber attacks, in particular Russian interference, with our 5 Eye allies.^[10]

Australian Intelligence agencies identified Russia as the state actor behind a series of cyber attacks that hit 400 Australian businesses as well as the UK and the U.S.^[11] Great Britain is set to announce a response to Russia's aggression by proposing an international rapid response unit to counter Russian cyber attacks and assassinations.^[12]

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1. [Video recording of President Trump's statement](#)
 2. [Reuters - Trump says Russia should be at G7 meeting, Moscow not so sure](#)
 3. [Forbes - International Criminal Court: Russia's Invasion Of Ukraine Is A 'Crime,' Not A Civil War](#)
 4. [New York Times - Dutch Inquiry Links Russia to 298 Deaths in Explosion of Jetliner Over Ukraine](#)
 5. [The Independent - Russian disinformation campaign has been 'extremely successful' in Europe, warns EU](#)

6. [TIME - The E.U. Agency Fighting Russia's Wildfire of Fake News with a Hosepipe](#)
7. [Friends of Europe - THE EU RESPONSE TO PRO-KREMLIN DISINFORMATION](#)
8. [CBC - Yes, Canada is vulnerable to information cyber attacks](#)
9. [Global News - NATO expert warns of Russian meddling in Canada's 2019 election: 'Democracy is in trouble'](#)
10. [CBC - Trudeau talks Russian cyberattacks with Five Eyes counterparts](#)
11. [SBS News - Russia blamed after cyber attacks hit up to 400 Australian businesses](#)
12. [Reuters - UK to call for new Russia response unit at G7: BuzzFeed quoting Johnson](#)

The President's attacks on democratic institutions and norms

The rhetoric and actions taken by the President - from continuing to berate the fourth estate by referring to the media as "fake news"^[1] to calling his political opponents traitors^[2] while he attacks the judicial branch of government without remorse,^[3] are just a few examples of his egregious attacks on democratic institutions and norms.

President Trump has referred to the minority party as un-American, he had the audacity to call them traitors for not applauding his speech.^[4] This is what autocrats demand, blind loyalty. President Trump recently made a joke about wanting to consolidate his power like his dictator colleague in China, President Xi Jinping.^[5] President Trump has repeatedly praised dictators including Putin, Duterte, Erdogan, and el-Sisi;^[6]

Trump's fondness for authoritarians may have more to do with how power is wielded than those who exercise it. It just so happens that Western governments have, for the past seven decades, mostly adhered to a system of the rule of law, which empowers institutions rather than individuals. Trump's apparent preference is for a system in which one individual, presumably him, wields that power.

Indeed, his fondness for strongmen and dictators isn't limited to Xi Jinping or any other individual in power now. He has praised Iraq's Saddam Hussein (while also criticizing him as "a bad guy") for killing terrorists. "He did that so good," Trump said in July 2016. "They didn't read them the rights. They didn't talk. They were terrorists. Over."

Trump also said in 2016 that Libya would be better off "if [Moammar] Gaddafi were in charge right now." He once tweeted a quote from Benito Mussolini, the Italian fascist leader, and later defended the tweet, saying: "Mussolini was Mussolini ... It's a very good quote. It's a very interesting quote... what difference does it make whether it's Mussolini or somebody else?"

Trump even said China's brutal crackdown on protesters in Tiananmen Square in 1989 "shows you the power of strength," contrasting the Communist Party's action with the United States, which he said "is right now perceived as weak." Trump made those comments in 1990. When asked about the remarks during the presidential debate in 2016, Trump defended himself and appeared to take the Chinese

Communist Party's view of the events at Tiananmen. He dismissed the deadly military response as a "riot."

President Trump has attacked Western allied nations^[7] while he has repeatedly publicly admired and supported dictators including Vladimir Putin.^[8]

1. [Washington Post - Trump admitted he attacks press to shield himself from negative coverage, Lesley Stahl says](#)
2. [The Atlantic - He Dares Call It Treason](#)
3. [Washington Post - All the times Trump personally attacked judges — and why his tirades are 'worse than wrong'](#)
4. [USA Today - Trump blasts 'treasonous' Democrats for not applauding at his State of the Union address](#)
5. [DW - US President Donald Trump praises China's Xi Jinping for consolidating grip on power](#)
6. [The Atlantic - Nine Notorious Dictators, Nine Shout-Outs From Donald Trump](#)
7. [Reuters - Trump attacks EU and Canada on trade amid backlash ahead of G7 summit](#)
8. [BBC - Trump says Putin 'a leader far more than our president'](#)

Reminder that when Michael Cohen was raided the White House increased calls to fire Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, this could inevitably lead to an end of Special Counsel Mueller's investigation.

But why was President Trump spooked by the raid? There were tape recordings seized.

The White House told its allies to go on television and call for the President to fire Rod Rosenstein - an attempt to obstruct and put an end to Special Counsel Mueller's investigation.^[1] The rhetoric to fire Deputy AG Rosenstein has increased substantially since Rosenstein signed off on Southern District of New York led raids on the President's longtime personal attorney, Michael Cohen.^[2] Moreover, the manner in which a search warrant on an attorney's office being granted would require extraordinary circumstances. It would require signing off from a federal judge that would need to be convinced that investigators are likely to discover criminal activity. The search warrants would require consultation from seniors members of President Trump's Justice Department.^[3] At the time of the raid the White House and its allies were gearing up to fire Deputy AG Rosenstein as the White House fears investigators seized tape recordings of conversations between Cohen and President Trump.^[4]

President Trump has attempted to fire Special Counsel Mueller multiple times.

President Trump asked an ally to go on television and call on the President to fire Special Counsel Mueller.^[5] President Trump's former lead Russia lawyer, who recently quit,^[6] called for an end of Mueller's investigation.^[7] In June of 2017 President Trump attempted to fire Special Counsel Mueller, he

was allegedly stopped by White House Counsel Don McGahn when he threatened to resign over the move.^[8] In December President Trump wanted to fire Mueller and shut down the investigation again after investigators issued subpoenas for obtaining information about the President's business dealings with Deutsche Bank.^[9]

- 1) [The Hill - Wall Street Journal: White House building case to fire Rosenstein](#)
- 2) [New York Times - Raids on Trump's Lawyer Sought Records of Payments to Women](#)
- 3) [Justice Department - 9-13.420 - Searches of Premises of Subject Attorneys](#)
- 4) [The Telegraph - White House in turmoil amid fears FBI seized tapes of conversations between Donald Trump and his lawyer](#)
- 5) [CBS - Trump asked source to go on TV to call on him to fire Robert Mueller](#)
- 6) [CNBC - John Dowd quits as Trump's lead lawyer in special counsel Mueller's Russia probe](#)
- 7) [NBC - Trump's attorney John Dowd calls for end to Mueller probe, cites firing of McCabe](#)
- 8) [Washington Post - Trump moved to fire Mueller in June, bringing White House counsel to the brink of leaving](#)
- 9) [New York Times - Trump Sought to Fire Mueller in December](#)

Fox News

Fox News is refusing to cover breaking news revelations with in depth analysis, instead they misrepresent events, obfuscate known information, and peddle debunked conspiracy theories endangering U.S. institutions.^[1] On the day of President Trump's personal attorney's office raids, Sean Hannity went on Fox and disparaged Special Counsel Mueller claiming that investigators had "declared war on the President of the United States."^[2] Then we found out that Sean Hannity was a client of Michael Cohen, he never disclosed this fact until it was discovered at a recent court hearing.^[3] Furthermore, a report has come out alleging that Sean Hannity speaks to President Trump nearly every weeknight.^[4] Moreover, when news broke that Trump's former Campaign Chairman Paul Manafort was indicted by Special Counsel Mueller, Fox News ignored the breaking news throughout the day and instead focused on a hamburger emoji.^[5]

So it doesn't come as a surprise when Sean Hannity and Fox News push incredibly deceitful portrayals of events over the course of Special Counsel Mueller's investigation, omitting facts so that they create an alternate reality that doesn't actually exist. For example when news broke that President Trump attempted to fire Special Counsel Mueller, Fox News host Sean Hannity deflected and changed his story several times within an hour on his show; first by claiming the report was fake news, then defended Trump by claiming that he didn't do anything wrong omitting the fact that in doing so would be

obstructing an ongoing investigation, and finally Hannity cut to a video of a car crash instead of discussing pertinent breaking news.^[6]

Sinclair Broadcast Group

Surely Fox News can't be the only cause of this distorted reality millions of Americans are entranced by, can it? You're not wrong to ask this question, so I'll provide another example - Sinclair Broadcast Group. The FCC, under the direction of Ajit Pai, are relaxing regulations in an attempt to allow a pro-Trump news organization to buy out local news stations across the country. Sinclair forces local stations to run pro-Trump news segments. A government organization that is meant to be impartial is tailoring policy to push right-wing propaganda.^[7]

Another cause for concern, and increased scrutiny, is what's seen as the company's pronounced political agenda. Sinclair forces its local stations to run pro-Trump "news" segments. In April, they hired Boris Epshteyn, a former Trump campaign spokesman and member of the White House press office, as its chief political analyst. His "must-run" 10-minute political commentary segments unsurprisingly hewed closely to the Trump administration's message. The news and analysis website Slate, referring to Epshteyn's contributions, said: "As far as propaganda goes, this is pure, industrial-strength stuff."

Jared Kushner has admitted that the Trump Campaign struck a deal with Sinclair for pro-Trump coverage during the 2016 election.^[8] Sinclair requires stations to air segments that tilt to the right.^[9] Just a reminder that 72% of Americans follow local news closely.^[10] Keeping this in mind, Sinclair forced all its stations to recite the same script across the country that sounded like something out of a dystopian novel.^[11] Sinclair forces stations to air segments created and presented by Boris Epshteyn, a former Trump White House official, 9 times a week.^[12]

Sinclair Broadcasting has told employees not to talk to journalists about the prepared scripts.^[13] And if you're wondering why more people aren't quitting, Sinclair makes their contracts too expensive to quit.^[14]

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1. [Politico - Fox News hosts ramp up 'deep state' conspiracies](#)
 2. [Politico - Hannity's ethics under fire; Fox News host's failure to disclose his relationship with Trump attorney Michael Cohen puts his credibility on the line.](#)
 3. [New York Times - Sean Hannity Is Named as Client of Michael Cohen, Trump's Lawyer Video](#)
 4. [USA Today - Report: President Trump and Sean Hannity talk nearly every weeknight](#)
 5. [The Independent - Fox News reported on the hamburger emoji as Paul Manafort's bombshell indictment broke](#)
 6. [Video of Sean Hannity cutting to a car crash when news broke that Trump attempted to fire Mueller](#)
 7. [The Guardian - This is Sinclair, 'the most dangerous US company you've never heard of'](#)
 8. [Politico - Kushner: We struck deal with Sinclair for straighter coverage](#)

9. [New York Times - Sinclair Requires TV Stations to Air Segments That Tilt to the Right](#)
10. [Pew Research Center - 72% of Americans follow local news closely](#)
11. [New York Times - Sinclair Made Dozens of Local News Anchors Recite the Same Script](#)
12. [Politico - Sinclair increases 'must-run' Boris Epshteyn segments](#)
13. [The Hill - Sinclair station in Oregon tells employees to not talk to press about script: report](#)
14. [Bloomberg - Sinclair Employees Say Their Contracts Make It Too Expensive to Quit](#)

The Gateway Pundit

Lucian Wintrich, who works for *The Gateway Pundit*, was arrested while speaking at UConn giving a speech entitled "It's OK to be white". ^[1]

This [Quartz article ^\[2\]](#) explains how the 'It's OK to be white' campaign originated on 4chan and was created to be an intentional inflammatory campaign.

The Gateway Pundit is responsible for writing stories calling the Parkland Student survivors "crisis actors" and spreading false information about the Las Vegas shooter ^[3]. Questionable "data" from *The Gateway Pundit* was used by Rep. **Steve King** to hold hearings concerning bogus right-wing censorship for internet pundits. ^[4]

Trump is using the Gateway Pundit as reliable source of information to try to undermine the Russia investigation

"SPYGATE is in full force!" Trump exclaimed, citing text messages between the FBI officials Peter Strzok and Lisa Page. "Is the Mainstream Media interested yet? Big Stuff!" But a CNN review of the text messages between Strzok and Page show no evidence to back up Trump's claims that the Trump-Russia investigation started in December 2015. And it appears that Trump was relying on a Fox Business host who suggested there were new, unredacted text messages. But those texts had actually been sitting on a Senate committee website for four months.

Trump tweeted roughly an hour after Fox Business' Lou Dobbs claimed on air that "the FBI May have initiated a number of spies into the Trump campaign as early as December of 2015."

That report came after the far-right website Gateway Pundit seized on a Twitter user and a Reddit forum posting the texts on Monday to claim the FBI was running spies into the Trump campaign in December 2015. ^[5]

Now, Twitter has received a subpoena for info on several right-leaning accounts pertaining to when they pushed a false narrative after Seth Rich's death.

[NPR - Seth Rich's Brother Files Lawsuit Alleging Baseless Claims On DNC Hack ^\[6\]](#)

In March, Aaron Rich filed a defamation lawsuit in response to various conspiracies that surfaced after the unsolved murder of his brother Seth Rich. Rich particularly sued Texas businessman Ed Butowsky, America First Media Group founder Matt Couch, Couch's company America First Media Group and the right-leaning newspaper The Washington Times.

*The details of the June subpoena shows that Aaron Rich's legal team at Boies Schiller Flexner LLP is trying to get its hands on a lot of communications sent over various accounts. Attorney Michael Gottlieb listed "primary accounts" for the defendants named above, **plus Julian Assange, WikiLeaks, Roger Stone, Kim Dotcom, the website Gateway Pundit and its current employee Cassandra Fairbanks.***

The subpoena asked for communications ("tweets, re-tweets, likes or replies on Twitter"), direct messages, documents (including but not limited to video/audio recordings, email attachments, notes, calendars, diaries, etc.) and related metadata about the following "Topics" sent by or to the "primary accounts" mentioned above

The subpoena also asked for communications, direct messages and documents about topics mentioned sent by or to "secondary accounts" from Jan. 1, 2015 to present. A secondary account was one defined as "any Account that communicated with the Primary Account." ^[7]

Here a tweet capturing Cassandra Fairbanks' reaction - [Cassandra Fairbanks receives subpoena for Seth Rich claims ^{\[8\]}](#)

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1. [CNN - Right-wing blogger arrested at 'It's OK to be white' speech at UConn](#)
 2. [Quartz- What the rise of "it's OK to be white" says about the alt-right](#)
 3. [Washington Post - What is Gateway Pundit, the conspiracy-hawking site at the cent of the bogus Florida 'crisis actors' hype?](#)
 4. [Think Progress - House Republican cites conspiracy theorist to justify bogus Diamond and Silk hearing](#)
 5. [CNN - From Reddit to Trump: How the President latched onto a conspiracy theory](#)
 6. [NPR - Seth Rich's Brother Files Lawsuit Alleging Baseless Claims On DNC Hack](#)
 7. [Law and Crime - Twitter Receives Subpoena For Info on Sever Right-Leaning Accounts](#)
 8. [Twitter - Cassandra Fairbanks receives subpoena for Seth Rich claims](#)

The EU and other Western nations are trying to fight back against Russian disinformation campaigns. But it's not enough without U.S. support.

The European Union is fighting back against Russia's disinformation campaign, Russia is actively destabilizing democracy in the West.^[1] The European Union's East StratCom Task Force was set up in response to Russia's disinformation campaign, they've done some great work.^[2]

The Task Force's flagship products are its weekly Disinformation Review of pro-Kremlin disinformation stories, its social media accounts and its new website.

In the course of two years, the Task Force has, in addition to substantially improving the EU's outreach and positive eastward communications, developed a strong EU understanding of the tools, networks and objectives of disinformation, and raised awareness among millions, establishing itself as a leading international source of expertise on the issue. A network has been developed across the continent to identify and report disinformation, creating new channels to reach new audiences and track the most prevalent disinformation myths.

The EU vs Disinformation campaign has now identified over 3,500 disinformation cases in 18 languages. The team's research is regularly used and quoted by politicians, governments, state agencies, researchers, think tanks and journalists across Europe and beyond.

It has become evident that the pro-Kremlin disinformation campaign is an orchestrated strategy to broadcast the same false stories in as many languages as possible, through as many channels as possible and as often as possible. Russian authorities are explicit about this too, for example through the Gerasimov doctrine – the amalgamation of war and political activity – as well as in statements by top Russian generals that “false data” and “destabilising propaganda” are legitimate tools.

The aim of this disinformation campaign is to confuse, denigrate, weaken and destabilise the West by exploiting existing divisions or creating new artificial ones. Outright lies are often deployed, but another common strategy is to spread as many conflicting messages as possible, persuading the audience that there are so many versions of events that it is impossible to find the truth. Particularly obvious examples include the clear obfuscation over the downing of flight MH17, Boris Nemtsov's assassination and the bombing of a humanitarian convoy in Syria.

Australian Intelligence agencies identified Russia as the state actor behind a series of cyber attacks that hit 400 Australian businesses as well as the UK and the U.S.^[3] Great Britain is set to announce a response to Russia's aggression by proposing an international rapid response unit to counter Russian cyber attacks and assassinations.^[4]

We are also doing our part to stop Russian disinformation campaigns as they will target our 2019 Federal election.^[5] A leading NATO expert has warned us that we must be prepared for Russian election interference during the Federal elections.^[6] In April Prime Minister Trudeau discussed cyber attacks, in particular Russian interference, with our 5 Eye allies.^[7] Last year the NATO Secretary General warned of Russia being a cyber security threat as they pushed disinformation targeting Canadian soldiers in Latvia, moreover the Communications Security Establishments (CSE - Canadian intelligence agency) has found cyber threats to democratic processes are on the rise globally and that Canada is at risk.^[8] Prime Minister Trudeau has publicly called out Russia's disinformation campaign.^[9]

What has President Trump done?

He suggested a joint cyber security unit with Russia to stop election hacking, he got the idea after meeting Putin at the G20 summit. He later backtracked on this ridiculous suggestion after facing harsh criticism.**^[10]

1. [TIME - The E.U. Agency Fighting Russia's Wildfire of Fake News with a Hosepipe](#)
2. [Friends of Europe - THE EU RESPONSE TO PRO-KREMLIN DISINFORMATION](#)
3. [SBS News - Russia blamed after cyber attacks hit up to 400 Australian businesses](#)
4. [Reuters - UK to call for new Russia response unit at G7: BuzzFeed quoting Johnson](#)
5. [CBC - Yes, Canada is vulnerable to information cyber attacks](#)
6. [Global News - NATO expert warns of Russian meddling in Canada's 2019 election: 'Democracy is in trouble'](#)
7. [CBC - Trudeau talks Russian cyberattacks with Five Eyes counterparts](#)
8. [The Globe & Mail - Canada faces Russia-linked threats to cybersecurity at home and abroad, NATO chief says](#)
9. [iPolitics - Trudeau cites propaganda against Freeland as Russian interference in Canada](#)
10. [Reuters - Trump backtracks on cyber unit with Russia after harsh criticism](#)

I think its a bit premature to equate Nazism and this administration, but it is obvious that this administration and the GOP are embracing authoritarian and Neo-Fascist policies/rhetoric which is absolutely terrifying.

Unfortunately far right ideas are being normalized in the U.S.

Let's take a look at how the GOP and Trump's administration have normalized this behaviour. President Trump's National Security Advisor John Bolton tapped up an individual with deep ties to Neo-Nazis as the Chief of Staff of the National Security Council.^[1] President Trump's administration and the Republican party are embracing the populist movement to the far right, we need not look further than the largest Conservative convention in America - CPAC. Sebastian Gorka^[2] was invited as a guest speaker at this year's annual Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC).^[3] Marion Le Pen was too, the more extreme niece of Marine Le Pen.^[4]

Maréchal-Le Pen displayed much of that paranoia and xenophobia during her 10-minute speech. "France is no longer free today," the 28-year-old said. "After 1500 years of existence, we now must fight for our independence." She went on to bash the European Union, earning cheers from the CPAC crowd. Her remarks echoed Trump's own blood-and-soil rhetoric over the past year.

The European Union, she said, was "an ideology without land, without people, without roots and without civilization." Maréchal-Le Pen soon clarified what she meant, suggesting France was turning "from the eldest daughter of the Catholic Church to the little niece of Islam." She decried what she called the scourge of immigration, bashed globalization, signaled a desire to quit NATO and cozy up to Russia, gestured at her opposition to same-sex marriage, and championed the "historical continuity" of her nation.

They invited the more extreme Le Pen, her aunt Marine Le Pen lost the election in France. The younger Le Pen, Marion, looks up to her grandfather who had been convicted for denying the holocaust.^[5] She felt her aunt ran a campaign that was too moderate in France. Far right leaders were invited to speak at the biggest mainstream Conservative convention in America.

It's incredibly sad and frustrating that the alt-right promotion of racial division has been embraced by the mainstream Republican movement, the United States of America is being divided and Russia stands to greatly benefit.

While the GOP is embracing the far right ideology that will create further divisions in the United States, there is another benefactor - the Kremlin.^[6] Russia's geo-political aim is to weaken the West through destabilization by sowing division among the population and unfortunately the GOP embracing the far right plays right into the hands of the Kremlin's foreign policy. Policy that's influenced by Neo-Fascist ideologue Aleksandr Dugin's *Foundations of Geopolitics*.^[7] Russian operatives used social media to exploit racial and religious divisions during the 2016 election.^[8] Democrats in the House Intelligence Committee released 3500 facebook ads that were created by the Internet Research Agency, Russia specifically targeted racial tensions in America.^[9]

Russia is actively trying to divide the West and has been for quite some time, be aware that they use inflammatory language online and promote disinformation.^[10] The Trans-Atlantic Alliance is under assault from the Trump administration, President Trump continues to alienate long standing allies and divides the West.^[11]

The Atlantic alliance, built to contain the Soviet Union in the aftermath of World War II, began to die when the Cold War ended. What kept it alive over the last three decades has been less strategic necessity than a convergence of values — the values of the liberal postwar order. Now, the senior partner of the alliance, the United States, has lost interest in those values. The alliance was already a corpse, but Donald Trump drove the last nail into its coffin when he decided this week to withdraw from the nuclear deal with Iran.

...The American people, meanwhile, preferred to face home. They wanted a pivot to America, and they voted for the candidate who promised to deliver it. It has thus fallen to Trump to deliver the coup de grâce to the alliance that has defined the postwar world. The Iran decision followed his decision to impose tariffs on European aluminum and steel, which followed his decision to withdraw from the Paris climate accords. Trump is no more contemptuous toward European allies than Asian or Latin ones; the only opinion to which he defers is that of his base.

...As a simple matter of geographical proximity, Europe is threatened by conflict in the Middle East as the United States is not. The tidal wave of asylum-seekers from Syria in 2015 upended European politics and exposed a popular vein of xenophobia and illiberalism that has thrown a terrible scare into European elites. Europe simply cannot afford to follow the American lead if the United States is prepared to sow further chaos in the region.

Of course, Europe's old reputation for deference and submission to the United States was reinforced by the spectacle of French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel visiting the White House in the hope of propitiating the First Bully and then being dismissed with scarcely a "by your leave" — and oh, by the way, we're still coming after your steel industry. But perhaps Europe's leaders

needed the shock. Hours after Trump's announcement, Macron, Merkel, and British Prime Minister Theresa May issued a joint statement reminding the world that the deal had been "unanimously endorsed by the U.N. Security Council" and thus remained "the binding international legal framework" on Iran's nuclear program. European Council President Donald Tusk announced that Trump's Iran and trade policies "will meet a united European approach."

1. [Washington Monthly - John Bolton's New Chief of Staff Has Deeply Alarming Connections](#)
2. [The Times of Israel - Top Trump aide wears medal of Hungarian Nazi collaborators](#)
3. [New Republic - The American Right's Deep Ties to Reactionary Europe](#)
4. [Washington Post - Trump's GOP is morphing into France's far right](#)
5. [Washington Post - France's National Front co-founder Jean-Marie Le Pen says the battle is already won](#)
6. [The Atlantic - The History of Russian Involvement in America's Race Wars](#)
7. [Wikipedia - Foundations of Geopolitics](#)
8. [Washington Post - Russian operatives used Facebook ads to exploit America's racial and religious divisions](#)
9. [USA Today - We read every one of the 3,517 Facebook ads bought by Russians. Here's what we found](#)
10. [NPR - Russians Targeted U.S. Racial Divisions Long Before 2016 And Black Lives Matter](#)
11. [Foreign Policy - RIP the Trans-Atlantic Alliance, 1945-2018](#)

Russian Oligarch Vekselberg

Michael Cohen, President Trump's personal attorney and Republican National Committee Deputy Finance Chairman who is responsible for the bulk of the RNC fundraising efforts,^[1] appears to have been soliciting companies for millions of dollars with the promise of access to the President.^[2] Michael Avenatti has estimated a total of \$4.4 million in transactions occurred between companies and the President's personal attorney.^[3]

A pharmaceutical corporation, Novartis, paid Michael Cohen's shell company \$1.2 million.^[4] These payments occurred weeks before the new CEO of Novartis had dinner with President Trump during his visit to Davos.^[5] AT&T gave him \$600,000.^[6] A South Korean aerospace company gave him \$150,000,^[7] they claim they used Cohen's services on accounting, but a closer look shows us something much more nefarious was probable;

The arrangement came as the company, backed by state-owned Export-Import Bank of Korea, competes to sell trainer jets to the U.S. Air Force in an auction that could be worth up to \$16 billion.

And a firm controlled by a Russian Oligarch Vekselberg^[8] paid him half a million dollars.^[9]

The Times's review of financial records confirmed much of what was in Mr. Avenatti's report. In addition, a review of documents and interviews shed additional light on Mr. Cohen's dealings with the company connected to Mr. Vekselberg, who was stopped and questioned at an airport earlier this year by investigators for Robert S. Mueller III, the special counsel examining Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election.

Taken together, The Times's findings and Mr. Avenatti's report offer the most detailed picture yet on Mr. Cohen's business dealings and financial entanglements in the run-up to the election and its aftermath. Federal prosecutors in Manhattan are investigating Mr. Cohen for possible bank fraud and election-law violations, among other matters, according to people briefed on the investigation. Stephen Ryan, a lawyer representing Mr. Cohen, declined to comment.

...The payments by Columbus Nova occurred between January and August of last year. Andrew Intrater, the company's American chief executive and Mr. Vekselberg's cousin, donated \$250,000 to Mr. Trump's inauguration, campaign finance records show. He and Mr. Vekselberg attended the event together and met with Mr. Cohen there, according to a person briefed on the matter. Columbus Nova retained him as a consultant soon afterward.

Columbus Nova, the company controlled by a Russian oligarch that paid Michael Cohen, registered a number of websites aimed at white nationalists and the alt-right.^[10]

A company at the center of widening questions involving President Trump's personal lawyer Michael Cohen is listed as the organization behind a string of websites targeted toward white nationalists and other members of the alt-right.

Columbus Nova, a company whose U.S. chief executive, Andrew Intrater, and Russian investment partner Viktor Vekselberg have both reportedly been interviewed by special counsel Robert S. Mueller III's team, is listed as the registrant behind a handful of domains for websites named after the alt-right that were created during the 2016 election.

...These sites include Alt-right.co, Alternate-right.com, Alternate-rt.com, Alt-rite.com, and other similar combinations, which were all registered in the two days following a speech given by then candidate Hillary Clinton in August 2016 in which she excoriated the far-right movement known for its extremist, racist, anti-Semitic and sexist viewpoints. The sites are not currently operational.

Moreover, the Russian Oligarch that controlled the firm that gave Cohen half a million dollars was interviewed by the FBI.^[11] It was initially reported that agents working with Special Counsel Mueller stopped Vekselberg at a New York airport and searched his electronic devices.^[12] Another interesting thing of note is that Vekselberg attended a 2015 dinner in Moscow celebrating RT's 10th anniversary.^[13] This gala is infamously known for the photograph of former National Security Advisor Michael Flynn sitting next to Vladimir Putin and his inner circle including high level government officials with incredibly close ties to Russian intelligence agencies.^[14] Vekselberg was seated next to the Putin/Flynn table.

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1. [Fortune - The Michael Cohen Raid Is Another Headache for the Republican National Committee](#)
 2. [CNBC - Trump lawyer Michael Cohen 'appears to be selling access to the president,' says porn star Stormy Daniels' attorney, Michael Avenatti](#)
 3. [Twitter - Ari Melber](#)
 4. [Wall Street Journal - Novartis Gave \\$1.2 Million to Trump Lawyer Cohen's Company](#)
 5. [STAT News - Novartis paid nearly \\$400,000 to a shell company controlled by Trump's attorney](#)
 6. [CNBC - AT&T payments to Trump lawyer more than reported](#)
 7. [Reuters - South Korea's KAI says paid firm of Trump's lawyer \\$150,000 for accounting advice](#)
 8. [NBC - Daniels' lawyer: Cohen got \\$500K from Russian oligarch Viktor Vekselberg](#)
 9. [New York Times - Firm Tied to Russian Oligarch Made Payments to Michael Cohen](#)
 10. [Washington Post - Russia-linked company that hired Michael Cohen registered alt-right websites during election](#)
 11. [Radio Free Europe Radio Liberty - FBI Reportedly Questioned Russian Tycoon About Payments To Trump Attorney](#)
 12. [New York Times - Viktor Vekselberg, Russian Billionaire, Was Questioned by Mueller's Investigators](#)
 13. [Washington Post - Who is Viktor Vekselberg, the Russian billionaire linked to Michael Cohen?](#)
 14. [NBC - Guess Who Came to Dinner With Flynn and Putin](#)

Collusion between Russia and the brother of Secretary of Education DeVos, Erik Prince

George Nader, an adviser to the Emirates and ties to the Trump campaign, is a cooperating witness with Special Counsel Mueller's investigation and has already testified before a grand jury.^[1] Nader is well known for his work as an adviser to the United Arab Emirates, but the New York Times has discovered that he has ties to Russia too.^[2]

George Nader used his ties to the CEO of a Russian sovereign wealth fund^[3] to set up the Seychelles meeting between Trump adviser Erik Prince and Kirill A. Dmitriev to establish a Trump-Putin back channel.^[4] Prince had told Congressional investigators and journalists that his meeting with the CEO of the Russia Direct Investment Fund, Dmitriev, was unplanned and that he just happened to run into him.^[5] George Nader contests that testimony, Nader says that Prince planned the meeting well in advance.^[6]

It should also be mentioned that the wife of Dmitriev is close friends with Putin's younger daughter.^[7]

Kirill Dmitriev, CEO of the Russian Direct Investment Fund, is known to have met with Prince shortly before President Trump's inauguration, and Prince admitted to the meeting while testifying before the House Intelligence Committee late last year.

Six sources cited by the Financial Times say Dmitriev's wife, Natalia Popova, is close friends with Putin's younger daughter, Yekaterina Tikhonova, and also serves as the deputy director of her Innopraktika foundation.

It is likely that Erik Prince lied to Congressional investigators during his hearing. Last month we discovered that a plane linked to the Russian government landed in the Seychelles a day before Erik Prince met with Kirill Dmitriev. The plane is owned by sanctioned Russian oligarch and member of the Duma Andrei Skoch, 6 people arrived in his plane and checked into the same hotel where meetings between Erik Prince and Kirill Dmitriev took place.^[8]

Erik Prince is the CEO of infamous private military contractor Blackwater, now operating under the name Academi.^[9] Four former members of Blackwater were convicted by a U.S. jury for the senseless murdering of Iraqi civilians, known as the Nisour Square Massacre.^[10] Erik Prince led a mercenary group that believed in a last crusade and tortured/murdered Iraqis in the name of Christ.^[11]

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1. [New York Times - Adviser to Emirates With Ties to Trump Aides Is Cooperating With Special Counsel](#)
 2. [New York Times - Witness in Mueller Inquiry Who Advises U.A.E. Ruler Also Has Ties to Russia](#)
 3. [Foreign Policy - Nations Are Wielding Their Sovereign Wealth Funds as Tools of Power](#)
 4. [Washington Post - Blackwater founder held secret Seychelles meeting to establish Trump-Putin back channel](#)
 5. [Washington Post - Erik Prince discussed trade, terrorism with Russian banker in Seychelles, interview transcript says](#)
 6. [Washington Post - Mueller gathers evidence that 2017 Seychelles meeting was effort to establish back channel to Kremlin](#)
 7. [The Daily Beast - Report: Russian Financier in Erik Prince's Seychelles Meeting Traced Back to Putin](#)
 8. [Business Insider - A plane linked to the Russian government flew into the Seychelles the day before a secret meeting that Mueller is investigating](#)
 9. [Wikipedia - Academi](#)
 10. [The Guardian - US jury convicts Blackwater guards in 2007 killing of Iraqi civilians](#)
 11. [Economist - Erik Prince and the last crusade](#)

This administration has done nothing to combat anti-government and extreme right-wing terrorism. On the contrary, they have rescinded previous programs and laws and have created a breeding ground for an increase of hate crime and domestic terrorism. Many of us have been warning that the current political atmosphere, from rhetoric espoused by the media and political figures to the actions taken by this administration, breeds extremity.

In 2009 and 2015 the Department of Homeland Security, as well as the FBI, warned us about the rise of right wing terrorism.^[1] Guess what President Trump and this administration did as one of their first acts? Cut funding to programs meant to combat far right terrorism.^[2] This action was taken when we know that there is a growing trend of anti-government terrorism.^[3] This is a problem for both sides of the political spectrum, for example the left leaning and pro-Bernie^[4] anti-government terrorist who shot at GOP Congressman Scalise at a baseball game as an example.^[5] However, the majority of terrorist attacks are perpetuated by the far right in America. This snippet from a NYT op-ed shows just how ridiculous the terrorism rhetoric has become while this administration ignores white supremacy terrorism.^[6] This isn't discounting the threat of terrorism, however I find it astonishing that this administration and the GOP/right wing media sphere completely ignore the largest perpetrators of terrorism in America.^[7] The frequency of far-right attacks is particularly significant in the United States, where white supremacist, anti-government and neo-Nazi extremists have been responsible for 73 percent of deadly terrorist attacks since Sept. 11, 2001, according to the Government Accountability Office. Also notable is that in many cases, Muslims have become the target of violence.

The United States of America is a victim of 300 violent attacks inspired by the far right every year.^[8] A recent example are the three men from Illinois who were charged with a mosque bombing, one of the men drafted a border wall plan for Trump.^[9] I'll include this small excerpt from an article by USA Today, I implore everyone to read how right-wing terrorism is rapidly accelerating in America. This all occurred in a single week in May of 2017 and yet President Trump is still waiting for all the facts before he does anything.^[10]

- May 20 – Richard Collins III, an African American and Bowie State University student, was stabbed to death by Sean Urbanski, a member of a Facebook group called the "Alt-Reich: Nation."
- May 26 – Three men in Portland tried to stop white supremacist Jeremy Christian from harassing two women who appeared to be Muslim. For their bravery, the three men were viciously attacked; two were murdered and the third was seriously injured.
- May 27 – Anthony Hammond was arrested in Clearlake, Calif. for allegedly stabbing a black man with a machete, after yelling racial slurs. While en route to the Lake County Jail, Hammond threatened to kill the transporting officer and his family once he was released. Hammond was charged with committing a hate crime, among other charges.
- May 28 – Two Native American men in Washington State were run over by a pickup truck driven by a white man shouting racial slurs and war whoops. One of the tribal members was killed and the other hospitalized.

All of these attacks were committed by extremists who appear to be inspired by a politically motivated ideology that posits racial, moral and religious superiority and demands violent action to advance it. People are dead or injured because of ideologically motivated attacks. Where is the public outrage? Where are the calls for national unity and enhanced security? Why aren't we asking where and how these people were radicalized?

Helk, even National Security Adviser John Bolton tapped up a Neo-Nazi as the Chief of Staff of the National Security Council.^[11]

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1. [CBS - Rightwing Extremism: Current Economic And Political Climate Fueling Resurgence In Radicalization And Recruitment.](#)

2. [Reuters - Exclusive: Trump to focus counter-extremism program solely on Islam - sources](#)
3. [New York Times - The Growing Right-Wing Terror Threat](#)
4. [CNN - Suspect in congressional shooting was Bernie Sandees supporter, strongly anti-Trump](#)
5. [Chicago Tribune - Gunman who shot Steve Scalise cased baseball field for weeks before rampage](#)
6. [New York Times - What About the Terrorism of the Far Right?](#)
7. [Government Accountability Office - COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM; Actions Needed to Define Strategy and Assess Progress of Federal Efforts, Pg. 28, Appendix II: Violent Extremist Attacks in the United States that Resulted in Fatalities, September 12, 2001 through December 31, 2016](#)
8. [PBS - U.S. sees 300 violent attacks inspired by far right every year](#)
9. [Chicago Tribune - 3 Illinois men, including one who drafted a border wall plan for Trump, charged with Minnesota mosque bombing](#)
10. [USA Today - President Trump wants 'the facts' on right-wing extremism. Here they are.](#)
11. [Washington Monthly - John Bolton's New Chief of Staff Has Deeply Alarming Connections](#)

This administration and the Republican party are embracing a movement to the far right and are being galvanized by fascist ideals.

The GOP in America has embraced the far right and Neo-Nazis into the mainstream. Sebastian Gorka^[1] was invited as a guest speaker at this year's annual Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC).^[2] Marion Le Pen was too, the more extreme niece of Marine Le Pen.^[3]

Maréchal-Le Pen displayed much of that paranoia and xenophobia during her 10-minute speech. "France is no longer free today," the 28-year-old said. "After 1500 years of existence, we now must fight for our independence." She went on to bash the European Union, earning cheers from the CPAC crowd. Her remarks echoed Trump's own blood-and-soil rhetoric over the past year.

The European Union, she said, was "an ideology without land, without people, without roots and without civilization." Maréchal-Le Pen soon clarified what she meant, suggesting France was turning "from the eldest daughter of the Catholic Church to the little niece of Islam." She decried what she called the scourge of immigration, bashed globalization, signaled a desire to quit NATO and cozy up to Russia, gestured at her opposition to same-sex marriage, and championed the "historical continuity" of her nation.

They invited the more extreme Le Pen, her aunt Marine Le Pen lost the election in France. The younger Le Pen, Marion, looks up to her grandfather who had been convicted for denying the holocaust.^[4] She felt her aunt ran a campaign that was too moderate in France. Far right leaders were invited to speak at the biggest mainstream Conservative convention in America.

"Marion is a far-right nationalist like her grandfather, and it's precisely because Marine tried to distance the party from the toxic image of Jean-Marie, to become more mainstream and attract working-class voters, that she opposed her," Haddad told Today's WorldView. "[Marion] distanced herself from her aunt because she thinks her aunt is too moderate, not the other way around."

The consequences of President Trump's attacks against democratic institutions:

The rhetoric and actions taken by the President - from continuing to berate the fourth estate by referring to the media as "fake news"^[5] to calling his political opponents traitors^[6] while he attacks the judicial branch of government without remorse,^[7] are just a few examples of his egregious attacks on democratic institutions and norms.

The U.S. Press Freedom tracker found that 34 journalists were arrested and 44 journalists were assaulted in 2017.^[8] Helk, a Republican Congressman body slammed a journalist and then went on to win his election bid a few weeks later.^[9] Last week we witnessed a senseless massacre occur when a gunman murdered 5 people inside the Capital Gazette newsroom in Annapolis.^[10]

America is headed towards incredibly dangerous territory. In the 19th century violence against journalists in America ran rampant before the civil war, many abolitionist editors and newspapers faced mob attacks from the people if they wrote anti-slavery pieces. These mobs were supported by government officials spouting dangerous rhetoric and lies.^[11]

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 2. [New Republic - The American Right's Deep Ties to Reactionary Europe](#)
 3. [Washington Post - Trump's GOP is morphing into France's far right](#)
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 5. [Washington Post - Trump admitted he attacks press to shield himself from negative coverage, Lesley Stahl says](#)
 6. [The Atlantic - He Dares Call It Treason](#)
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 8. [U.S. Press Freedom Tracker - 34 arrests, 44 physical attacks, and more chilling numbers from the U.S. Press Freedom Tracker's first year](#)
 9. [The Atlantic - Greg Gianforte Wins the Montana Special Election](#)
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President Trump and his administration's treatment of separating children from families that seek asylum in the United States.

President Trump planned to erect tent cities to house illegal immigrants since the start of his Presidency.^[1] One of the child detention facilities hired a child case worker that had previously been arrested for child pornography, he has since been removed from his position.^[2] One of the companies that operates illegal immigration detention facilities is a top donor for two Republican Congressmen.^[3] Democratic Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi has called out her Republican colleagues in the Capitol, while the GOP has claimed that they detest President Trump's actions they refuse to join a Democratic bill that was written to put a stop to the senseless removal of children from their families.^[4] Cory Lewandowski, former Trump Campaign Chairman, went on national television and mocked a child with Down Syndrome who had been separated from their family.^[5] While President Trump signed an Executive Order to stop the policy of separating families that his administration started as a deterrence, there is no plan to reunite the separated children with their families.^[6] Children as young as 3 months are being forcibly removed from their parents care and placed into detention facilities across the United States of America with no hope of being reunited with their families.^[7]

Moreover, President Trump and his administration changed their story on their children separation policy over a dozen times before ending it.^[8] The New York Times fact checks a few of the reasons provided by the administration to justify the child separation policy.^[9]

The President's hateful rhetoric, his referral to illegal immigrants as "*infesting*" the United States, is incredibly dangerous and it is not the first time he has alluded to white nationalist talking points. First he tweeted it^[10] followed by him saying this as a statement during a speech later in the day.^[11] Many have compared his statements to Nazi propaganda.^[12]

Social commentators pointed out that history has shown, particularly before and during the Holocaust, that "infest" — a term almost exclusively used to describe vermin — dehumanizes a population and is often a precursor to murder or genocide.

"Democrats are the problem. They don't care about crime and want illegal immigrants, no matter how bad they may be, to pour into and infest our Country, like MS-13," the president tweeted. "They can't win on their terrible policies, so they view them as potential voters!"

One of the most notorious anti-Semitic films produced by Nazi Germany's Ministry of Propaganda was "Der ewige Jude" ("The Eternal Jew"), with input from propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels.

The US Holocaust Memorial Museum says that "One of the film's most notorious sequences compares Jews to rats that carry contagion, flood the continent, and devour precious resources."

This administration was not prepared to reunite children that had been forcibly separated from their families by the American government.

While President Trump has ended his policy of separating asylum seeking children from their families at the border, thousands remain apart.^[13] This morning President Trump's own cabinet stated something horrifying - Human and Health Services Secretary Alex Azar said that no immigrant kids from separated families had been reunited yet.^[14] President Trump's administration is holding these children as hostages so that their parents can not legally seek asylum in the United States.^[15] Immigration officials have been instructed to ask migrant parents if they want to return to their country of origin with or without their children.^[16] In a morning tweet storm President Trump reiterated his position of deporting these families

that are suffering from his administration's monstrous policy of forcibly removing children as young as 3 months from their families without due process.^[17]

1. [McClatchy DC - Trump planned to erect tent cities to house immigrants since the start of his presidency](#)
2. [Texas Monthly - Southwest Key Hired Child Case Manager Previously Arrested for Child Pornography](#)
3. [Dallas News - Company that runs immigration detention centers is top donor for two Texas congressmen](#)
4. [Washington Post - Many Republicans say they oppose family separation. But none have joined our bill](#)
5. [Washington Post - 'Womp womp': Corey Lewandowski mocks story of child with Down syndrome separated from parents](#)
6. [The Hill - No special effort planned to reunite migrant families already separated: report](#)
7. [Michigan Department of Civil Rights - MDCR Statement on President Trump's Zero Tolerance Policy and its Impact on Michigan](#)
8. [Washington Post - The Trump administration changed its story on family separation no fewer than 14 times before ending the policy](#)
9. [New York Times - Fact-Checking the Trump Administration's Case for Child Separation at the Border](#)
10. [Fox News - Republican pressure intensifies to end family separations at border](#)
11. [Fox St. Louis - Trump ramps up rhetoric: Dems want 'illegal immigrants' to 'infest our country'](#)
12. [Times of Israel - Critics say Trump's talk of immigrants 'infesting' US recalls Nazi propaganda](#)
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14. [CNBC - No immigrant kids from separated families have been reunited with parents yet, says Trump health chief Alex Azar](#)
15. [NBC - New Trump admin order for separated parents: Leave U.S. with kids or without them](#)
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17. [Politico - Trump reiterates demand to deport undocumented immigrants, asylum-seekers without due process](#)

Two^[1] Roger Stone aides were subpoenaed a couple of months ago by Special Counsel Mueller.^[2] During the 2016 Presidential campaign Roger Stone^[3] made constant braggadocious statements about his ties to Guccifer 2.0, the DNC hacker, and Wikileaks. While Roger Stone has attempted to downplay his communication with Guccifer 2.0, he has admitted to have been in contact with the DNC hacking suspect.^[4] According to a Daily Beast report, US investigators have identified Guccifer 2.0 as Russian Intelligence Officers that worked for the GRU.^[5] The discovery was made after a Russian intelligence officer forgot to use a VPN while logging into Twitter and Wordpress.

We also know that Special Counsel Mueller has been asking questions about whether or not President Trump knew of the hacked DNC emails before they were released. They've asked about the relationship between GOP operative Roger Stone and WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, and why Trump took policy positions favorable to Russia.^[6] WikiLeaks should be considered an extension of Russia's 2016 disinformation campaign,^[7] we knew that WikiLeaks shared material hacked by the GRU^[8] before The Daily Beast report was released.

Moreover, the leading counterargument against the reports of Guccifer 2.0 being a Russian intelligence officer is that they would be too intelligent to forget turning on their VPN. That line of reasoning is wrong. While the system the Russian hackers use is indeed genius, that doesn't mean it's impervious from human error. In fact here is a CSE report from 2011 that elaborates on that point.^[9] The CSE, Communications Security Establishment, is Canada's national cryptologic agency that collects foreign signal intelligence in order to inform and alert the Government of Canada to the activities of foreign entities outside Canada.^[10]

But a 2011 presentation to the NSA and its foreign partners by Canada's signals intelligence agency, the Communications Security Establishment, undermines the notion of a foreign hacker so skilled that a victim would never know their identity. The document calls Russian hackers "morons" for routinely compromising the security of a "really well designed" system intended to cover their tracks; for example, the hackers logged into their personal social and email accounts through the same anonymizing system used to attack their targets, comparable to getting an anonymous burner phone for illicit use and then placing calls to your girlfriend, parents, and roommate.

Just a reminder that long time Roger Stone friend and former Trump campaign aide Sam Nunberg was having a melt down on multiple networks 2 months ago for being subpoenaed by Special Counsel Mueller. He wanted to refuse the court order so that he would not be forced to testify against Stone. He claimed that he didn't have the time to sort through his emails and go to the grand jury court order.^[11]

The former Trump adviser made a succession of appearances on US news channels in which he – among many gaffes – called the president an 'idiot' and threatened to tear up a subpoena from Robert Mueller

He spent half a day on national television with the most ridiculous excuses, even going as far as to egg Mueller on to arrest him. He has since said he will cooperate.^[12] The subpoena of Sam Nunberg asks for all communications/correspondence with Carter Page, Corey Lewandowski, Donald J. Trump, Hope Hicks, Keith Schiller, Michael Cohen, Paul Manafort, Rick Gates, Roger Stone, and Steve Bannon dating back to 2015.^[13]

Roger Stone has been a target of this investigation for quite some time, he has attempted to get ahead of a potential indictment by claiming he is ready to be indicted and that the Russian collusion scandal is a hoax.^[14]

A report by the Wall Street Journal confirmed that Roger Stone sought damaging information on Hillary Clinton from Julian Assange during the campaign.^[15] The liaison between Assange and Stone, radio host and comedian Credico, was subpoenaed by Special Counsel Mueller in November of 2017.^[16]

On July 27 of 2016 at a Florida campaign rally candidate Trump implored Russia to hack Clinton's emails, these new indictments indicate that Russia attempted to hack the Clinton campaign after Trump's statement.^[17]

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 2. [Reuters - Mueller issues grand jury subpoenas to Trump adviser's social media consultant](#)
 3. [New York Times - Roger Stone, the 'Trickster' on Trump's Side, Is Under F.B.I. Scrutiny](#)
 4. [Chicago Tribune - Ex-Trump adviser Roger Stone swapped messages with DNC hacking suspect](#)
 5. [The Daily Beast - 'Lone DNC Hacker' Revealed as Russian Intelligence Officer](#)
 6. [NBC - Mueller asking if Trump knew about hacked Democratic emails before release](#)
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This administration is consistently eroding the United States stature as a global leader.

President Trump's administration is exacerbating the decline of United State's influence abroad by destroying long standing relationships with its allies, the consequences of which could be severe. I will provide two examples below; the Trans-Pacific Partnership and the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action - colloquially known as the Iran Nuclear Deal.

First lets begin with America's decline in foreign diplomacy - Former Secretary of State Rex Tillerson completely gutted a formerly functioning State Department essentially crippling US influence abroad.^[1] He systematically dismantled the State Department with major cuts to leadership roles, these are career diplomats who have served under different administrations and possess unparalleled experience.^[2] I cannot stress enough how important soft power is in terms of maintaining a US sphere of influence.^[3] He also shut down the State Department office that oversees sanction policies.^[4]

Trump's administration has isolated, removed and failed to replace State Department leaders, as of right now there are 41 out of 188 ambassadors that remain vacant with no nominations.^[5] These vacancies include strategic countries such as Turkey, Egypt, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Jordan.^[6] There is no ambassador to South Korea and the special envoy to North Korea resigned.^[7] While President Trump has claimed a victory with North Korea, KJU most recently snubbed a meeting with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. Instead Kim Jong Un visited a potato farm and when Pompeo left their state propaganda attacked America for "unilateral and gangster like" demands in regards to denuclearization on the Korean peninsula.^[8]

Moreover, the administration has indicated they want back in to the Trans-Pacific Partnership for a couple of weeks, they now realize it would have been a great way to counter China's economic influence across the region.^[9] The President's comments still project the *America First* mantra, he still refers to TPP as horrible.^[10]

Consider the sum of these comments, and Trump is merely suggesting that the United States would be open to participating in a TPP whose provisions furthered the realization of the America First policy. This is not a "return to the TPP" by any measure; they are remarks that seek to jump on the bandwagon of the TPP-11 agreement while effectively calling for a renegotiation of its terms. Having led the TPP-11 negotiations, Japan probably made the right call in coolly describing the prospect of renegotiation as "practically impossible."

TPP was created for the purpose of cementing America's regional influence, its the largest regional trade agreement and does not include China.^[11] It was unfortunate that some stipulations favoured American corporations, however when the United States backed off we were able to make the trade agreement much better. The new iteration of TPP, known as The Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), suspends the intellectual property provisions and mandates all countries adhere to strict labour and environment standards.^[12] While the original TPP would have been the largest trade agreement in the world, the total combined gross domestic product of CPTPP would be \$13.5 trillion, that's 13% of the world's GDP.^[13]

Over the last few months Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin has been open to returning to CPTPP and President Trump's chief economic adviser Larry Kudlow has said that the United States could lead a "trade coalition of the willing" to counter China's influence, which is exactly what TPP was.

Unfortunately for the United States, the 11 signatory nations are moving forward with the trade agreement and there is almost no chance of them re-opening negotiations with President Trump to allow the US back into the deal.^[14]

Let's take a closer look at the consequences of pulling out of the Iran deal as an example of the deterioration of United States diplomacy under this administration.

A top State Department official and expert on nuclear proliferation has resigned,^[15] furthering weakening an already ailing State Department - American soft power diplomacy is in rapid decline as is their decline in stature as a global leader. Trump's administration has threatened European companies with sanctions if they do business with Iran.^[16] The European Union has decided to release a package of measures to counter the U.S. sanctions as the EU continues to sustain an incentive for Iran's compliance with the Iran nuclear deal.^[17] While President Trump supporters claim that they can cripple the Iranian economy through harsh sanctions, it is incredibly unlikely as the sanctions regime will be weakened and fractured if opposed by the International Community. The weakened sanction regime may push Iran out of the nuclear agreement as hardliners in Iran will push for a reopening of their nuclear program. This will cause further instability in the Middle East.^[18]

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 6. [American Foreign Services Association - Current U.S. Ambassadors](#)
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The President's attacks on long standing allies juxtaposed against his preference for dictatorships including Russia

Last month President Trump called Prime Minister Trudeau "dishonest and weak"^[1] while he praised brutal dictator^[2] Kim Jong Un calling him "strong, funny, and smart."^[3] It's insulting that President Trump has cited Canada as a national security threat.^[4] It's akin to spitting in our faces after the innumerable times we have supported one another. From *Operation Caper* where 6 Americans hid in the Canadian embassy in Iran for 3 months as the Canadian government worked with the CIA to help rescue Americans^[5] to *Operation Yellow Ribbon* which saw a small Canadian town nearly double in population as they took in 6700 Americans from diverted flights as the tragic events of 9/11 were unfolding, risking our airspace and our country to protect our brothers and sisters south of the border.^[6]

While he instigates a trade war with allies and denigrates long standing relationships he continues to support Russia. President Trump attacked allies during the G7 summit while he embraced Russia as he advocated for a return of a Russian delegation to the summit.^[7] During the G7 meeting President Trump claimed Russia would rather have Hillary Clinton as President of the United States because he's been "*Russia's worst nightmare*." He then went on to say Russia should be invited back to the summit table.^[8] It was formerly known as the G8 summit until Russia invaded a sovereign nation and was subsequently kicked out in 2014.^[9] The International Criminal Court declared Russia's invasion of Ukraine a crime.^[10] We can't forget the consequences of this conflict in Ukraine, including Russia's role in the 298 deaths from a commercial airliner that was shot down over Ukraine.^[11]

President Trump's praise for Putin

President Trump has repeatedly praised dictators including Putin, Duterte, Erdogan, and el-Sisi.^[12]

Trump's fondness for authoritarians may have more to do with how power is wielded than those who exercise it. It just so happens that Western governments have, for the past seven decades, mostly adhered to a system of the rule of law, which empowers institutions rather than individuals. Trump's apparent preference is for a system in which one individual, presumably him, wields that power.

Indeed, his fondness for strongmen and dictators isn't limited to Xi Jinping or any other individual in power now. He has praised Iraq's Saddam Hussein (while also criticizing him as "a bad guy") for killing terrorists. "He did that so good," Trump said in July 2016. "They didn't read them the rights. They didn't talk. They were terrorists. Over."

Trump also said in 2016 that Libya would be better off "if [Moammar] Gaddafi were in charge right now." He once tweeted a quote from Benito Mussolini, the Italian fascist leader, and later defended the

tweet, saying: "Mussolini was Mussolini ... It's a very good quote. It's a very interesting quote... what difference does it make whether it's Mussolini or somebody else?"

Trump even said China's brutal crackdown on protesters in Tiananmen Square in 1989 "shows you the power of strength," contrasting the Communist Party's action with the United States, which he said "is right now perceived as weak." Trump made those comments in 1990. When asked about the remarks during the presidential debate in 2016, Trump defended himself and appeared to take the Chinese Communist Party's view of the events at Tiananmen. He dismissed the deadly military response as a "riot."

President Trump has attacked Western allied nations^[13] while he has repeatedly publicly admired^[14] and supported^[15] Vladimir Putin.^[16]

The Republican presidential nominee told the forum the Russian president "has been a leader far more than our president [Obama] has been".

..."I think when he calls me brilliant I'll take the compliment, ok?" added the businessman.

He said Mr Putin had "great control over his country".

Mr Trump also predicted that if elected in November, "I think that I'll be able to get along with him."

President Trump suggested a joint cyber security unit with Russia to stop election hacking, he got the idea after meeting Putin at the G20 summit. He later backtracked on this ridiculous suggestion after facing harsh criticism.^[17] President Trump has repeatedly called the Russian election interference a hoax.^[18]

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Oh, we remember his words quite well.

President Trump's ridiculous statements

I'll never forget this statement from then candidate Donald Trump. He was elected President of the United States of America after incoherent ramblings like this;^[1]

Look, having nuclear—my uncle was a great professor and scientist and engineer, Dr. John Trump at MIT; good genes, very good genes, OK, very smart, the Wharton School of Finance, very good, very smart—you know, if you're a conservative Republican, if I were a liberal, if, like, OK, if I ran as a liberal Democrat, they would say I'm one of the smartest people anywhere in the world—it's true!—but when you're a conservative Republican they try—oh, do they do a number—that's why I always start off: Went to Wharton, was a good student, went there, went there, did this, built a fortune—you know I have to give my like credentials all the time, because we're a little disadvantaged—but you look at the nuclear deal, the thing that really bothers me—it would have been so easy, and it's not as important as these lives are (nuclear is powerful; my uncle explained that to me many, many years ago, the power and that was 35 years ago; he would explain the power of what's going to happen and he was right—who would have thought?), but when you look at what's going on with the four prisoners—now it used to be three, now it's four—but when it was three and even now, I would have said it's all in the messenger; fellas, and it is fellas because, you know, they don't, they haven't figured that the women are smarter right now than the men, so, you know, it's gonna take them about another 150 years—but the Persians are great negotiators, the Iranians are great negotiators, so, and they, they just killed, they just killed us.

Last week at a campaign rally President Trump went off on a tangent about Elton John, President Trump complained about how no one gave him credit for being a great orator.^[2]

“I have broken more Elton John records. He seems to have a lot of records. And I, by the way, I don't have a musical instrument. I don't have a guitar or an organ. No organ. Elton has an organ. And lots of other people helping. No, we've broken a lot of records. We've broken virtually every record. Because you know, look, I only need this space. They need much more room. For basketball, for hockey and all of the sports, they need a lot of room. We don't need it. We have people in that space. So we break all of

these records. Really, we do it without, like, the musical instruments. This is the only musical – the mouth. And hopefully the brain attached to the mouth, right? The brain. More important than the mouth is the brain. The brain is much more important.”

In an interview with TIME Magazine in 2017 President Trump slammed the new crown jewel of the U.S. Navy, aircraft carrier USS Gerald Ford, for having a state of the art Electromagnetic Aircraft Launch System (EMALS) catapult and wanted the aircraft carrier to return to steam power catapult system.^[3]

I said, “You don’t use steam anymore for catapult?” “No sir.” I said, “Ah, how is it working?” “Sir, not good. Not good. Doesn’t have the power. You know the steam is just brutal. You see that sucker going and steam’s going all over the place, there’s planes thrown in the air.”

It sounded bad to me. Digital. They have digital. What is digital? And it’s very complicated, you have to be Albert Einstein to figure it out. And I said — and now they want to buy more aircraft carriers. I said, “What system are you going to be—” “Sir, we’re staying with digital.” I said, “No you’re not. You going to goddamned steam, the digital costs hundreds of millions of dollars more money and it’s no good.”

And who can forget his incessant lie of having the largest inaugural crowd in history?^[4] During his first day as President he visited the CIA headquarters and went on a tirade in front of a wall dedicated to the men and women who died in the line of service.^[5]

“I love you. I respect you,” said the president, who ten days earlier likened U.S. spies to Nazi Germany for their role in publicizing an intel dossier packed with allegations that Russian intelligence services have compromising information on him.

...“I have a running war with the media,” Trump said. “They are among the most dishonest human beings.”

He repeatedly referenced the magnitude of his election victory. “Probably almost everybody in this room voted for me,” Trump said. “We’re all on the same wavelength, folks!”

At one point, Trump regurgitated parts of his stump speech about how the United States “should have kept the oil” after invading Iraq. “Maybe we’ll have another chance,” he added. Aside from being physically impossible to sequester billions of barrels of underground oil, that would constitute a breach of international law. U.S. troops are currently embedded with forces of the country that Trump suggested again invading.

President Trump defending a Neo-Nazi rally with video evidence

Have you seen the President's unhinged press conference after the Charlottesville tragedy? I have never seen any head of state of a Western ally act in such a belligerent manner, he went so far as to defend Neo-Nazis at the Charlottesville Neo-Nazi rally. You can watch the entire press conference on PBS.^[6] How about his Arizona speech where he went on a tirade against the fake media, read out his previous words from the press conference while leaving out the most important and controversial bit - fine people on many sides, on many sides.^[7] He is defending Neo-Nazis. This was a Neo-Nazi rally. There were no "fine" people on both sides. They were making Nazi salutes, flying Nazi flags, wearing Nazi clothes, making Nazi chants. Here is a documentary by VICE News of the Neo-Nazi rally that took place, the one President Trump vehemently defended by stating that there were fine people on this side too.^[8]

July 27, 2016. Remember the date

During a campaign rally in Florida on July 27, 2016, President Trump called on Russia to find Hillary Clinton's missing 30,000 emails.^[9] Special Counsel Mueller's new indictment against 12 Russian Intelligence Officers found that on July 27, 2016 Russian hackers known as Guccifer 2.0 attempted to hack Hillary Clinton's emails.^[10]

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The Conspirators spearphished individuals affiliated with the Clinton Campaign throughout the summer of 2016. For example, on or about July 27, 2016, the Conspirators attempted after hours to spearphish for the first time email accounts at a domain hosted by a thirdparty provider and used by Clinton's personal office. At or around the same time, they also targeted seventy-six email addresses at the domain for the Clinton Campaign.

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- 1) [Slate - Help Us Diagram This Sentence by Donald Trump! July 21, 2015](#)
 - 2) [Rolling Stone - Extremely Focused Trump Now Comparing Himself to Elton John, July 5, 2018](#)
 - 3) [Foreign Policy - Trump Wants New Aircraft Carriers to Turn Back to 'Goddamned Steam' Power Catapults, May 11, 2017](#)
 - 4) [Fact Check - The Facts on Crowd Size](#)
 - 5) [Foreign Policy - Trump Goes to CIA to Attack Media, Lie About Crowd Size, and Suggest Stealing Iraq's Oil, January 21, 2017](#)
 - 6) [PBS - WATCH: President Trump signs executive order on infrastructure, August 12, 2017](#)
 - 7) [NPR - Trump Defends Charlottesville Comments At Phoenix Rally, August 22, 2017](#)
 - 8) [VICE News Tonight - Charlottesville: Race and Terror](#)
 - 9) [New York Times - Donald Trump Calls on Russia to Find Hillary Clinton's Missing Emails, July 27, 2016](#)
 - 10) [Department of Justice - Indictment of 12 Russian Intelligence Officers, July 13, 2018](#)

Not only does he ignore the issues and blame Americans, he continues to protect Russia.

President Trump's response to Russia's multi-pronged cyber attacks, from their malware botnets to their attacks targeting the U.S. energy grid and election systems, has been near non-existent.

The United States Intelligence Agencies have confirmed that a foreign nation interfered with the 2016 American election process.^[1] We know two dozen state's election systems came under attack.^[2] The Intelligence Agencies heads unanimously agree that the Russians will attack the 2018 election.^[3] The cyber security head of the Department of Homeland Security has stated that the Russians had successfully penetrated voter registration rolls in several states before the 2016 election.^[4] President

Trump's administration has retaliated to these attacks on America's institutions and infrastructure by penalizing Russians, unfortunately President Trump did not mention the sanctions nor the election meddling during his statement on the nerve agent attack in Britain.^[5] President Trump has repeatedly called the Russian election interference a hoax.^[6] A bipartisan Senate investigation led by Republican Senator Burr found that Putin interfered in the 2016 U.S. election to specifically help Donald Trump.^[7]

President Trump's administration has done little to mitigate the threat of Russia attacking the 2018 midterm election.

U.S. officials, including former National Security Advisor General H.R. McMaster, have claimed that this administration has not done enough to dissuade Russian meddling.^[8] Most recently President Trump put the brakes on new economic sanctions on Russia, a day after U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley laid out a preliminary plan to impose new sanctions. This decision by President Trump came after the Kremlin denounced the new sanctions plan as *international economic raiding*.^[9] Furthermore, NSA Director Admiral Rodgers testified to Congress that Trump has given no order to counter Russian election meddling.^[10] While former National Security Advisor General H.R. McMaster warned of Russian election meddling and publicly denounced their continued attacks, he was removed by President Trump and John Bolton took his place. National Security Advisor Bolton has been pushing to eliminate a top Cyber-Security position in the White House as he attempts to reorganize the National Security Council.^[11]

Russia's multi-pronged cyber attacks:

Russian cyber interference goes far beyond hacking election systems. The Department of Homeland Security and the FBI have accused the Russian government of a multi-stage intrusion campaign targeting the U.S. energy grid. These attacks included critical infrastructure in energy, nuclear, commercial facilities, water facilities, and aviation facilities.^[12] Here is the report by the United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team where analytic efforts undertaken by DHS and the FBI have found a multistage intrusion campaign perpetuated by the Russian state.^[13] This isn't fake news, the United States is under cyber attack from Russia.

This joint Technical Alert (TA) is the result of analytic efforts between the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). This alert provides information on Russian government actions targeting U.S. Government entities as well as organizations in the energy, nuclear, commercial facilities, water, aviation, and critical manufacturing sectors. It also contains indicators of compromise (IOCs) and technical details on the tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs) used by Russian government cyber actors on compromised victim networks. DHS and FBI produced this alert to educate network defenders to enhance their ability to identify and reduce exposure to malicious activity.

DHS and FBI characterize this activity as a multi-stage intrusion campaign by Russian government cyber actors who targeted small commercial facilities' networks where they staged malware, conducted spear phishing, and gained remote access into energy sector networks. After obtaining access, the Russian government cyber actors conducted network reconnaissance, moved laterally, and collected information pertaining to Industrial Control Systems (ICS).

Furthermore, the FBI has attempted to thwart a sophisticated malware system that is linked to Russia's military intelligence agency, the Russian malware has infected hundreds of thousands of routers.^[14] The Justice Department has announced actions to disrupt the advanced botnet malware system. It is recommended to restart your router as it may be infected.^[15]

- 1) [New York Times - Trump Misleads on Russian Meddling: Why 17 Intelligence Agencies Don't Need to Agree](#)
- 2) [NPR - 10 Months After Election Day, Feds Tell States More About Russian Hacking](#)
- 3) [Washington Post - The nation's top spies said Russia is continuing to target the U.S. political system](#)
- 4) [Washington Examiner - DHS official: Russians 'successfully penetrated' voter registration rolls in several states before 2016 election](#)
- 5) [New York Times - White House Penalizes Russians Over Election Meddling and Cyberattacks](#)
- 6) [New York Times - Indictment Makes Trump's Hoax Claim Harder to Sell](#)
- 7) [Bloomberg - Senate Intelligence Committee Agrees That Putin Meddled to Help Trump](#)
- 8) [Washington Post - America is still unprepared for a Russian attack on our elections](#)
- 9) [Washington Post - Trump puts the brakes on new Russian sanctions, reversing Haley's announcement](#)
- 10) [New York Times - White House Has Given No Orders to Counter Russian Meddling, N.S.A. Chief Says](#)
- 11) [Politico - Bolton pushing to eliminate White House cyber job](#)
- 12) [TechCrunch - DHS and FBI detail how Russia is hacking into U.S. nuclear facilities and other critical infrastructure](#)
- 13) [Department of Homeland Security: United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team \(US-CERT\) - Russian Government Cyber Activity Targeting Energy and Other Critical Infrastructure Sectors](#)
- 14) [New York Times - F.B.I.'s Urgent Request: Reboot Your Router to Stop Russia-Linked Malware](#)
- 15) [United States Department of Justice - Justice Department Announces Actions to Disrupt Advanced Persistent Threat 28 Botnet of Infected Routers and Network Storage Devices](#)

Special Counsel Mueller's indictment of 25 Russians:

Last week the Justice Department indicted 12 Russian intelligence officers linked to Guccifer 2.0 and their role in hacking Clinton and the DNC.^[1] The Russians had access to information on 500,000 voters.^[2]

The Russians allegedly hacked America's election infrastructure, including state election boards and secretaries of state. The allegations in Friday's indictment went well beyond merely hacking the Clinton campaign and Democratic campaign committees. From one state election board, the Russians managed

to steal information on 500,000 voters, Rosenstein said, although he did not identify which state. Trump won the 2016 election by winning three key states by slim margins that added up to around 80,000 votes.

...An American congressional candidate allegedly asked for, and received, stolen documents about his or her opponent from the Russians.

...A journalist allegedly discussed with the Russian front account, Guccifer 2.0, about when to release stolen documents related to Black Lives Matter.

...Russian hackers targeted Clinton emails the same day Trump called for them to find "missing" emails.

Earlier this year Special Counsel Mueller indicted 13 Russian nationals and 3 Russian entities for election interference.^[3] The Russian election meddling operation was a sophisticated attack against the West. This operation was funded through Russian fronts, including a catering company run by a close friend of Putin, Yevgeny Prigozhin. They used stolen American identities. Operatives bought political ads on social media sites. Operatives visited the United States, traveled across 9 states and discussed escape routes if they were caught inside the country. Operatives bought equipment including burner phones and SIM cards. The operation included hundreds of employees and millions of dollars, Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein put it best - the Russians conducted information warfare during the election.^[4] According to the indictment Prigozhin met Mikhail Bystrov, a leader of the Internet Research Agency (IRA), regularly in 2015 and 2016.^[5] Prigozhin funded the Internet Research Agency and their meddling of the American election. This was a sophisticated operation that spanned over several years.^[6] Prigozhin has been Putin's go to guy for under the table missions, including recruiting mercenaries for the conflicts in Ukraine and Syria.^[7]

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- 1) [Justice Department indictment of 12 Russian Intelligence Officers](#)
 - 2) [CNBC - 5 key takeaways from the latest indictment in Mueller's Russia probe](#)
 - 3) [Justice Department - Indictment of 13 Russians and 3 entities](#)
 - 4) [Politico - Mueller shifts focus back to Russian 'information warfare'](#)
 - 5) [Washington Post - The rise of 'Putin's chef,' the Russian oligarch accused of manipulating the U.S. election](#)
 - 6) [The Guardian - Putin's chef, a troll farm and Russia's plot to hijack US democracy](#)
 - 7) [New York Times - Yevgeny Prigozhin, Russian Oligarch Indicted by U.S., Is Known as 'Putin's Cook'](#)

In an interview with CBS President Trump attacked the Democratic party and will do nothing about Russian attacks against Americans. He is a traitor.^[1]

JEFF GLOR: The Russians who were indicted, would you ask Putin to- to send them here?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well I might. I hadn't thought of that. But I certainly, I'll be asking about it. But again, this was during the Obama administration. They were doing whatever it was during the Obama administration. And I heard that they were trying, or people were trying, to hack into the RNC too. The Republican National Committee. But we had much better defenses. I've been told that by a number of people. We had much better defenses, so they couldn't. I think the DNC should be ashamed of themselves for allowing themselves to be hacked. They had bad defenses and they were able to be hacked. But I heard they were trying to hack the Republicans too. But, and this may be wrong, but they had much stronger defenses.

The President of the United States does not care to protect Americans from ongoing Russian aggression. Russia is actively attacking America's infrastructure and elections while President Trump continues to ignore the issue. Trump's own Director of National Intelligence was sounding the alarm just last week. ^[2]

The U.S. intelligence chief warned on Friday that the threat was growing for a devastating cyber assault on critical U.S. infrastructure, saying the “warning lights are blinking red again” nearly two decades after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

Russia, China, Iran and North Korea are launching daily cyber strikes on the computer networks of federal, state and local government agencies, U.S. corporations, and academic institutions, said Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats.

Of the four, **“Russia has been the most aggressive foreign actor, no question,” he said.**

He lied again to cover for Russia. Russia did hack the Republican National Committee, they just haven't leaked anything about the GOP. ^[3]

Russia hacked into Republican state political campaigns and old email domains of the Republican National Committee but there is no evidence it successfully penetrated President-elect Donald Trump's campaign, FBI Director James Comey said on Tuesday.

1) [CBS - "I think the European Union is a foe," Trump says ahead of Putin meeting in Helsinki](#)

2) [Reuters - U.S. intel chief warns of devastating cyber threat to U.S. infrastructure](#)

3) [Reuters - Russia hacked Republican state campaigns but not Trump's: FBI head](#)

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- 14) [New York Times - F.B.I.'s Urgent Request: Reboot Your Router to Stop Russia-Linked Malware](#)
- 15) [United States Department of Justice - Justice Department Announces Actions to Disrupt Advanced Persistent Threat 28 Botnet of Infected Routers and Network Storage Devices](#)

The DNC has received a lot of flack for not doing enough and I agree to an extent. While there are a number of things we can critique DNC Chairman Tom Perez for I think it's important to recognize what he and the DNC have said and done so far.

Tom Perez called Russia's attacks against the American democratic institutions an "**act of war**."^[11] He made it clear that Special Counsel Mueller's indictments are "**not a witch hunt**."^[12] He has repeatedly called out the GOP for being toothless, he found it appalling when the GOP were muted in their

response to Trump campaign aides being indicted.^[3] Tom Perez has defended the DNC's decision to sue Russia, Wikileaks, and the Trump campaign.^[4]

Appearing on ABC's This Week on Sunday, Perez said he was "not in the least" concerned by Trump's bluster.

"The beauty of the civil justice system," he said, "is that it's not trial by tweet. This isn't going to be a kangaroo court with [House intelligence committee chair and Trump backer] Devin Nunes. This is going to be a court where facts matter and justice is served. And if they want to relitigate all of their wild theories, there's this thing called rule 11 where you get sanctioned for trying to do things like that."

...Responding to a claim by Trump 2020 director Brad Parscale that the suit was merely a fundraising ploy by a "desperate, dysfunctional and nearly insolvent Democratic party," Perez told NBC's Meet the Press: "Those are almost the precise quotes we heard from the Nixon campaign in 1972."

He has called President Trump a "bully," he has claimed that Trump and the GOP do not represent American values and said that Trump and Paul Ryan "don't give a shit about people."^[5] Tom Perez shares many of our values, including the fact that the GOP must be held responsible for the Trump administration's agenda.^[6]

Tom Perez, head of the Democratic National Committee, said he plans on tying every Republican to President Trump's message in the 2018 midterm, Politico reported Tuesday.

"On a basic level, this president is the antithesis of Martin Luther King," Mr. Perez said in Politico's "Off Message" podcast. "And more than that, Dr. King once said, 'To ignore evil is to become an accomplice to it.' "

Come midterms, if DNC Chairman Tom Perez's comments are any indication, the DNC will be holding the Republican party's feet to the fire. Tom Perez recognizes how dangerous President Trump is, comparing him to a proto-fascist from an Eastern European country.^[7]

At the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day breakfast at the Mayflower hosted Monday morning by Al Sharpton's National Action Network, Perez let some more of that rip. "I don't know whether that was sincere ignorance or conscientious stupidity, but I think it's a little of both," he said of the House speaker. As for Ryan's counterpart in the Senate, "I don't know what Mitch McConnell said because he's in the emergency room getting the sock in his mouth removed."

In the podcast, Perez went with a line about how "our democracy as we know it is at risk," and compared Trump to the proto-fascist leader of a small European country in the former Eastern bloc. "You look at [Viktor] Orbán in Hungary," Perez said. "What did he do when he got into power? He cut the media off at the knees. He attacked the institutions of civil society. He attacked institutions within his own government that were supposed to be independent."

1) [MSNBC - DNC Chair Tom Perez on indictment of 12 Russian intel officers: 'This is an act of war'](#)

2) [The Hill - DNC chair on Russian indictments: 'This is not a witch hunt'](#)

3) [USA Today - DNC chair Tom Perez calls GOP response to Trump campaign aide indictments 'appalling'](#)

- 4) [The Guardian - 'Protecting our democracy': DNC chair defends suit against Trump and Russia](#)
- 5) [Washington Examiner - DNC Chair Tom Perez: Trump and Ryan 'don't give a shit about people'](#)
- 6) [Washington Times - Tom Perez, DNC chairman: Democrats plan to tie Republicans to Trump on race issues](#)
- 7) [Politico - Perez: GOP Must Answer for 'Appalling Silence' on Trump](#)

July 27, 2016. Remember the date. Candidate Trump publicly asked Russia for their help to hack Hillary Clinton, Russia obliged.

During a campaign rally in Florida on July 27, 2016, President Trump called on Russia to help him find Hillary Clinton's missing 30,000 emails.^[1] Special Counsel Mueller's new indictment against 12 Russian Intelligence Officers found that on July 27, 2016 Russian hackers known as Guccifer 2.0 hacked Hillary Clinton's emails.^[2]

DoJ Indictment of 12 Russian Intelligence Officers Pg. 7-8

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June 9, 2016 - A month before candidate Trump publicly asked for help from a foreign adversary, his surrogates met with Russian operatives at the now infamous Trump Tower meeting.

One of the Russian operatives present at the infamous Trump Tower meeting, Rinat Akhmetshin, has ties to Russian intelligence and has a history of being embroiled in court cases related to hacking campaigns. He also has ties to Paul Manafort.^[3]

He has an association with a former deputy head of a Russian spy service, the F.S.B., and a history of working for close allies of President Vladimir V. Putin. Twice, he has worked on legal battles for Russian tycoons whose opponents suffered sophisticated hacking attacks, arousing allegations of computer espionage.

Few episodes from Mr. Akhmetshin's past seem more relevant to Mr. Mueller's investigation than his work for two Russian billionaires accused of infiltrating their adversaries' computers during nasty legal battles.

The Trump Tower meeting in June 2016 took place less than a week before revelations that hackers had penetrated the Democratic National Committee's computers and obtained a trove of emails. Investigators have traced digital espionage to Russian spy agencies.

During the same period that Mr. Akhmetshin was accused of being involved in various hacking schemes, he appears to have been nurturing a relationship with Viktor Ivanov, once the deputy head of Russia's intelligence service, the F.S.B., and until last year a top aide to Mr. Putin.

Mr. Akhmetshin told journalists that he was a longtime acquaintance of Paul J. Manafort, who served as a high-paid consultant to Mr. Yanukovych for years before becoming chairman of the Trump campaign.

August 22, 2017 Senate Intelligence Committee Testimony

The Senate Judiciary committee testimony of Fusion GPS CEO Glenn Simpson was released unilaterally by Senator Feinstein because Republicans refused. Simpson confirms that the Trump campaign likely received foreign intelligence aid during the 2016 campaign as Manafort had close ties to Russian Intelligence.^[4]

Pg. 154 - 155 Senate Judiciary Committee Testimony

A. I mean, one of the key lines here in the second paragraph says "However, he and his inner circle have accepted a regular flow of intelligence from the Kremlin, including on his democratic and other political rivals." So the issue with the Trump Tower meeting, as I understand it, is that the Trump people were eager to accept intelligence from a foreign government about their political rivals and that is, you know, I would say, a form of interference. If you're getting help from a foreign government and your help is intelligence, then the foreign government's interfering. I mean, you know, I think that also -- of course, in retrospect we now know this was pretty right on target in terms on what it says. So anyway --

Q. In reference to you think that particular sentence?

A. I mean, it clearly refers to, you know, them being interested in and willing to -- it depicts them as accepting information. What we have seen to date with the disclosures this year is they were at a minimum super interested in getting information.

Q. And when you're referencing the "disclosures this year," could you just be specific about that.

A. The Trump Tower meeting.

Q. So with reference to the June 9th Trump Tower meeting?

A. Yes. Yes.

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- 1) [New York Times - Donald Trump Calls on Russia to Find Hillary Clinton's Missing Emails, July 28, 2016](#)
 - 2) [Department of Justice - Indictment of 12 Russian Intelligence Officers, July 13, 2018](#)
 - 3) [New York Times - Lobbyist at Trump Campaign Meeting Has a Web of Russian Connections](#)
 - 4) [Senate Judiciary Committee - Glenn Simpson Fusion GPS CEO Testimony](#)

February 16, 2018 Special Counsel Mueller's indictment of 13 Russian nationals and 3 Russian entities.

Earlier this year Special Counsel Mueller indicted 13 Russian nationals and 3 Russian entities for election interference.^[1] The Russian election meddling operation was a sophisticated attack against the West. This operation was funded through Russian fronts, including a catering company run by a close friend of Putin, Yevgeny Prigozhin. They used stolen American identities. Operatives bought political ads on social media sites. Operatives visited the United States, traveled across 9 states and discussed escape routes if they were caught inside the country. Operatives bought equipment including burner phones and SIM cards. The operation included hundreds of employees and millions of dollars, Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein put it best - the Russians conducted information warfare during the election.^[2] According to the indictment Prigozhin met Mikhail Bystrov, a leader of the Internet Research Agency (IRA), regularly in 2015 and 2016.^[3] Prigozhin funded the Internet Research Agency and their meddling of the American election. This was a sophisticated operation that spanned over several years.^[4] Prigozhin has been Putin's go to guy for under the table missions, including recruiting mercenaries for the conflicts in Ukraine and Syria.^[5]

DoJ indictment of 13 Russians and 3 entities Pg. 12 - 19

Object of the Conspiracy;

28.. The conspiracy had as its object impairing, obstructing, and defeating the lawful government functions of the United States by dishonest means in order to enable the Defendants to interfere with US political and electoral processes, including the 2016 US presidential election.

Manner and Means of the Conspiracy:

29.. Starting at least in or around 2014, Defendants and their co-conspirators began to track and study groups on US social media sites dedicated to US politics and social issues. In order to gauge the performance of various groups on social media sites, the ORGANIZATION tracked certain metrics like the group's size, the frequency of content places by the group, and the level of audience engagement with that content, such as the average number of comments or responses to a post.

a. KRYLOVA and BOGACHEVA, together with other defendants and co-conspirators, planned travel itineraries, purchases equipment (such as cameras, SIM cards, and drop phones), and discussed security measures (including "evacuation scenarios") for Defendants who traveled to the United States.

Use of US Social Media Platforms

32.. Defendants and their co-conspirators, through fraud and deceit, created hundreds of social media accounts and used them to develop certain fictitious US personas into "leader[s] of public opinion" in the United States.

Use of US Computer Infrastructure

39.. To hide their Russian identities and ORGANIZATION affiliation, Defendants and their co-conspirators - particularly POLOZOV and the ORGANIZATION's IT department - purchases space on computer servers located inside the United States in order to set up virtual private networks ("VPNs"). Defendants and their co-conspirators connected from Russia to the US based infrastructure by way of these VPNs and conducted activity inside the United States - including accessing online social media accounts, opening new accounts, and communicated with real US persons - while masking the Russian origin and control of the activity.

40.. Defendants and their co-conspirators also registered and controlled hundreds of web-based email accounts hosted by US email providers under false names so as to appear to be US persons and groups. From these accounts, Defendants and their co-conspirators registered or linked to online social media accounts in order to monitor them; posed as US persons when requesting assistance from real US persons; contacted media outlets in order to promote activities inside the United States; and conducted other operations, such as those set forth below.

Use of Stolen US Identities

41.. In or around 2016, Defendants and their co-conspirators also uses, possessed, and transferred, without lawful authority, the social security numbers and dates of birth of real US persons without those persons' knowledge or consent. Using these means of identification, Defendants and their co-conspirators opened accounts at PayPal, a digital payment service provider; created false means of identification, including fake driver's licenses; and posted on ORGANIZATION - controlled social media accounts using the identities of these US victims.

Actions Targeting the 2016 US Presidential Election

42.. By approximately May 2014, Defendants and their co-conspirators discussed efforts to interfere in the 2016 US presidential election. Defendants and their co-conspirators began to monitor US social media accounts and other sources of information about the 2016 US presidential election.

43.. By 2016, Defendants and their co-conspirators used their fictitious online personas to interfere with the 2016 US presidential election. They engaged in operations primarily intended to communicate derogatory information about Hillary Clinton, to denigrate other candidates such as Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio, and to support Bernie Sanders and then-candidate Donald Trump.

45.. Defendants and their co-conspirators also used false US personas to communicate with unwitting members, volunteers, and supporters of the Trump Campaign involved in local community outreach, as well as grassroots groups that supported then-candidate Trump. These individuals and entities at times distributed the ORGANIZATION's materials through their own accounts via retweets, reposts, and similar means. Defendants and their co-conspirators then monitored the propagation of content through such participants.

46.. In or around the latter half of 2016, Defendants and their co-conspirators, through their ORGANIZATION-controlled personas, began to encourage US minority groups not to vote in the 2016 US presidential election or to vote for a third-party US presidential candidate.

47.. Starting in or around the summer of 2016, Defendants and their co-conspirators also began to promote allegations of voter fraud by the Democratic Party through their fictitious US personas and groups on social media. Defendants and their co-conspirators purchased advertisements on Facebook to further promote the allegations.

Political Advertisements

48.. From at least April 2016 through November 2016, Defendants and their co-conspirators, while concealing their Russian identities and ORGANIZATION affiliation through false personas, began to produce, purchase, and post advertisements on US social media and other online sites expressly advocating for the election of then-candidate Trump or expressly opposing Clinton. Defendants and

their co-conspirators did not report their expenditures to the Federal Election Commission, or register as foreign agents with the US Department of Justice.

- 1) [Justice Department - Indictment of 13 Russians and 3 entities](#)
- 2) [BBC - Russians conducted 'information warfare' on US election](#)
- 3) [Washington Post - The rise of 'Putin's chef,' the Russian oligarch accused of manipulating the U.S. election](#)
- 4) [The Guardian - Putin's chef, a troll farm and Russia's plot to hijack US democracy](#)
- 5) [New York Times - Yevgeny Prigozhin, Russian Oligarch Indicted by U.S., Is Known as 'Putin's Cook'](#)

A few weeks after President Trump launched his Presidential Campaign he was asked a question by a Russian activist on what he would do about Russian sanctions, Trump responded by suggesting that he would rescind the sanctions.^[1] The Russian that posed the question was Maria Butina, a woman named in the Fusion GPS Congressional testimony.

Maria Butina is a protege of reputed Russian mobster and Putin ally Alexander Torshin, below I will explain who Torshin is and his extensive ties to the NRA;

We know powerful Russians have close ties to the NRA and are being investigated for funneling millions into the organization. This influx of money from Russia is being investigated by FBI Counterintelligence as the NRA's campaign contributions during this Presidential election doubled previous campaigns.^[2] It was at an NRA convention where it was planned that the Trump campaign meet with Alexander Torshin, an ally of Vladimir Putin, a reputed mobster and deputy governor of the Russian central bank.^[3] Alexander Torshin is wanted in Spain in connection to a money laundering operation for a Russian crime syndicate.^[4] Alexander Torshin reportedly told a Trump campaign adviser that he could arrange a back-channel meeting between President Trump and President Putin.^[5] The House Intelligence Committee testimony of Fusion GPS CEO Glen Simpson was released, in it he testifies that Russia had infiltrated the NRA and other conservative groups in America.^[6]

November 14, 2017 Pg. 142 - 144 House Intelligence Committee Testimony

MS. SPEIER: Okay. What is the interest of Russia with the National Rifle Association?

MR. SIMPSON: I think that most of what we have found is pretty much out there now. You know, it's been said by others, but, you know, what eventually - it appears the Russians, you know, infiltrated the NRA And there is more than one explanation for why. But I would say broadly speaking, it appears that the Russian operation was designed to infiltrate conservative organizations. And they targeted various conservative organizations, religious and otherwise, and they seem to have made a very concerted effort to get in with the NRA. And so there is a Russian banker-slash-Duma member-slash-Mafia leader named Alexander Torshin who is a life member of the NRA. And we spent a lot of time investigating Mr. Torshin. And he is well known to Spanish law enforcement for money laundering activity, and you have

probably seen the press articles. And I think the Spanish files on him should be available to you. And he, as you know, was supposed to have a meeting with President Trump after the inauguration. And somebody noticed that there had been some stories about him that weren't pretty good. So he is one of the more important figures, but, you know, another woman with whom he was working, Maria Butina, also was a big Trump fan in Russia, and then suddenly showed up here and started hanging around the Trump transition after the election and rented an apartment and enrolled herself at AU, which I assume gets you a visa.

MS. SPEIER: You said there were other conservative groups. Are there other conservative groups in the United States that they have infiltrated to your knowledge?

MR. SIMPSON: I think there's been -we have done some research on some religious groups having relationships with the Russians, having, developing, and pursuing relationships with various religious groups. The names of them escape my mind. But there has been a lot of that. And then there has been the independence movements, California independence, Texas independence. You know, it's a big operation.

NPR did amazing piece uncovering the depth of Torshin's ties to the NRA.

This piece of investigative work is a must read. The National Rifle Association may have been compromised, Torshin boasts of his incredibly close ties to NRA executives including being invited by NRA leadership to be an election observer in 2012. A reputed Russian mobster was invited by the NRA to observe the 2012 Federal Election, this is how close his ties to the NRA are. [\[7\]](#)

On his verified Twitter account, Torshin talked about how he knew Donald Trump through the NRA, citing a connection at the group's 2015 convention. Responding to a tweet about comedian Larry David accusing Trump of being a racist, Torshin said he knew the businessman through the NRA, and defended him.

"I saw him in Nashville" in April 2015, Torshin added later, the date and site of the NRA's 2015 convention. Trump gave a speech at that convention, the outlines of which would become familiar as his stump speech throughout the 2016 presidential campaign. The White House did not respond to repeated requests for comment by NPR, but denied Trump has ever met Torshin to Bloomberg News in 2017.

Torshin has used his repeated trips to NRA conventions to cultivate relationships with top NRA officials. And his Twitter account documents that he has personally met with every person who has been president of the NRA since 2012.

On Twitter, Torshin portrayed these meetings as more than merely casual encounters. In 2017, he tweeted that he was bringing a gift to then-NRA President Allan Cors, and suggested he was familiar with Cors' hobbies.

In a public DropBox album that Torshin linked to from his Twitter account, he's seen meeting with former NRA president Jim Porter, as well as former NRA president David Keene.

His tweets suggest a longtime relationship with Keene, who repeatedly appears in photos as Torshin documents his visits, suggesting that their meeting was not merely coincidental. Keene did not respond to a request for comment.

Torshin has also met the current president of the NRA, Pete Brownell. Brownell was part of an NRA delegation that visited Moscow in 2015.

These relationships that he cultivated appeared to open another door. Torshin came to the United States in 2012 as an international election observer, and watched as ballots were cast during the Obama-Romney presidential contest in Tennessee. This was possible, he wrote, due to his NRA links.

"Tennessee resident Kline Preston requested Mr. Torshin to be an international observer in November 2012," Adam Ghassemi, a spokesman for the Tennessee Secretary of State, told NPR. The Washington Post reported last year that Preston, a Tennessee lawyer, was the one who originally introduced Torshin to former NRA president David Keene back in 2011.

July 16, 2018 Justice Department charges and arrests Maria Butina for conspiracy to act as an agent of the Russian Federation.

Maria Butina has been arrested and charged, the affidavit had this interesting nugget;^[8]

On October 4, 2016. U.S. Person 1 sent an email to an acquaintance. The email covered a number of topics. Within the email, U.S. Person 1 stated, "unrelated to specific presidential campaigns, I've been involved in securing a VERY private line of communication between the Kremlin and key POLITICAL PARTY 1 leaders through, of all conduits, the [GUN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION]."

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1. [Mother Jones - Trump Spoke to a Russian Activist About Ending Sanctions—Just Weeks After Launching His Campaign](#)
 2. [McClatchy DC - FBI investigating whether Russian money went to NRA to help Trump](#)
 3. [CBS - Trump Jr. met with man with close ties to Kremlin](#)
 4. [Bloomberg - Mobster or Central Banker? Spanish Cops Allege This Russian Both](#)
 5. [New York Times - Operative Offered Trump Campaign 'Kremlin Connection' Using N.R.A. Ties](#)
 6. [House of Representatives Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence - Fusion GPS Testimony Transcripts](#)
 7. [NPR - Depth Of Russian Politician's Cultivation Of NRA Ties Revealed](#)
 8. [U.S. Department of Justice - Russian National Charged in Conspiracy to Act as an Agent of the Russian Federation Within the United States](#)

He's denying it because his campaign worked with Russian intelligence.

The Magnitsky Act & Bill Browder

Bill Browder is the reason the Magnitsky Act was enacted.^[1] Sanctions against Russian Oligarchs allied with President Vladimir Putin were enacted specifically to put pressure on Putin's authoritative style of

governance.^[2] Putin cares about these sanctions because they hurt the relationships he's cultivated with corrupt, powerful officials in the country.^[3] The Magnitsky Act was discussed at the now infamous Trump Tower Meeting.^[4]

I recommend watching Bill Browder's recent Senate Congressional testimony. He paints an incredible picture of how the Russian government operates and provides a motive for the Russians to work with the Trump campaign.^[5]

If you would like to read the legislation to get a better idea of what the Magnitsky Act is here you go;
H.R.6156 - Russia and Moldova Jackson-Vanik Repeal and Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act of 2012^[6]

S.284 - Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act of 2015/2016^[7]

June 9, 2016 - A month before candidate Trump publicly asked for help from a foreign adversary, his surrogates met with Russian operatives at the now infamous Trump Tower meeting. They discussed the Magnitsky Act. One operative has ties to Russian intelligence and has been accused of hacking.

One of the Russian operatives, Natalia Veselnitskaya, is an outspoken opponent of the Magnitsky Act.^[8] Trump Jr. admitted to discussing adoptions, which means they discussed Russian sanctions. Moreover, in 2017 at the G20 summit Putin and Trump discussed adoptions and the Magnitsky Act.^[9] The other Russian operative present at the infamous Trump Tower meeting, Rinat Akhmetshin, has ties to Russian intelligence and has a history of being embroiled in court cases related to hacking campaigns.^[10]

He has an association with a former deputy head of a Russian spy service, the F.S.B., and a history of working for close allies of President Vladimir V. Putin. Twice, he has worked on legal battles for Russian tycoons whose opponents suffered sophisticated hacking attacks, arousing allegations of computer espionage.

The Trump Tower meeting in June 2016 took place less than a week before revelations that hackers had penetrated the Democratic National Committee's computers and obtained a trove of emails. Investigators have traced digital espionage to Russian spy agencies.

During the same period that Mr. Akhmetshin was accused of being involved in various hacking schemes, he appears to have been nurturing a relationship with Viktor Ivanov, once the deputy head of Russia's intelligence service, the F.S.B., and until last year a top aide to Mr. Putin.

July 27, 2016 Candidate Trump looked directly at the camera and publicly asked Russia for their help to find Hillary Clinton's missing emails, the Russian military intelligence (GRU) hacked Clinton thereafter.

During a campaign rally in Florida on July 27, 2016, President Trump called on Russia to help him find Hillary Clinton's missing 30,000 emails.^[11] Special Counsel Mueller's new indictment against 12 Russian Intelligence Officers found that on July 27, 2016 Russian hackers known as Guccifer 2.0 hacked Hillary Clinton's emails.^[12]

DoJ Indictment of 12 Russian Intelligence Officers Pg. 7 - 8

The Conspirators spearphished individuals affiliated with the Clinton Campaign throughout the summer of 2016. For example, on or about July 27, 2016, the Conspirators attempted after hours to spearphish for the first time email accounts at a domain hosted by a thirdparty provider and used by Clinton's personal office. At or around the same time, they also targeted seventy-six email addresses at the domain for the Clinton Campaign.

August 22, 2017 Senate Intelligence Committee Testimony that the Trump campaign accepted regular intelligence from the Kremlin during the 2016 campaign

The Senate Judiciary committee testimony of Fusion GPS CEO Glenn Simpson confirms that the Trump campaign likely received foreign intelligence aid during the 2016 campaign.^[13]

Pg. 154 - 155 Senate Judiciary Committee Testimony

A. I mean, one of the key lines here in the second paragraph says "However, he and his inner circle have accepted a regular flow of intelligence from the Kremlin, including on his democratic and other political rivals." So the issue with the Trump Tower meeting, as I understand it, is that the Trump people were eager to accept intelligence from a foreign government about their political rivals and that is, you know, I would say, a form of interference. If you're getting help from a foreign government and your help is intelligence, then the foreign government's interfering. I mean, you know, I think that also -- of course, in retrospect we now know this was pretty right on target in terms on what it says. So anyway --

Q. In reference to you think that particular sentence?

A. I mean, it clearly refers to, you know, them being interested in and willing to -- it depicts them as accepting information. What we have seen to date with the disclosures this year is they were at a minimum super interested in getting information.

Q. And when you're referencing the "disclosures this year," could you just be specific about that.

A. The Trump Tower meeting.

Q. So with reference to the June 9th Trump Tower meeting?

A. Yes. Yes.

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1. [Washington Post - The Magnitsky Act, explained](#)
 2. [The Atlantic - Why Does the Kremlin Care So Much About the Magnitsky Act?](#)
 3. [Politico - The Putin Obsession That Led to Trump Jr.'s Meeting](#)
 4. [New York Times - Talking Points Brought to Trump Tower Meeting Were Shared With Kremlin](#)
 5. [CSPAN - Browder Senate Judiciary Testimony](#)
 6. [H.R.6156 - Russia and Moldova Jackson-Vanik Repeal and Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act of 2012](#)
 7. [S.284 - Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act](#)

8. [New York Times - Trump Team Met With Lawyer Linked to Kremlin During Campaign](#)
9. [BBC - Why did Putin talk to Trump about 'adoption'?](#)
10. [New York Times - Lobbyist at Trump Campaign Meeting Has a Web of Russian Connections](#)
11. [New York Times - Donald Trump Calls on Russia to Find Hillary Clinton's Missing Emails, July 28, 2016](#)
12. [Justice Department indictment of 12 Russian Intelligence Officers](#)
13. [Senate Judiciary Committee - Glenn Simpson Fusion GPS CEO Testimony](#)

May 10, 2017 President Trump meets with Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov and Ambassador Kislyak, we know thanks to the Russian press. Ambassador Kislyak is the reason why National Security Adviser Flynn resigned/plead guilty to charges, moreover Attorney General Sessions recused himself from the Russia inquiry due to his contacts with Kislyak during the campaign.

Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov met with President Trump a day after President Trump fired FBI Director Comey.^[1] Sergey Lavrov and Russian Ambassador Kislyak entered the oval office, the American press were barred from entering the room.^[2] Earlier in the day at one point Lavrov made a joke to the media feigning ignorance of Comey's firing, *"Was he fired?" he sarcastically asked. "You are kidding. You are kidding."*^[3]

It was all smiles Wednesday when President Trump welcomed Russia's foreign minister and ambassador to the United States to the White House. Of course, we only know that thanks to photos from Russia's state news agency. Its photographer was the only one allowed in the meeting, while U.S. journalists were kept out.

That's right. Although the encounter between Trump, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, and Ambassador Sergey Kislyak took place in the center of American power, it was Tass, the official Russian news agency, that had the pictures.

...It was a curious choice for a meeting that took place less than a day after Trump fired FBI Director James B. Comey, who was leading the investigation into the Trump campaign's ties to Russian officials.

...Also in attendance was Kislyak, Russia's ambassador to the United States. Kislyak's presence was surprising — he's a key figure in the investigation of the Trump administration's ties to Russia.

Former Russian Ambassador Kislyak

You may recognize Kislyak as he's at the center of Special Counsel Mueller's investigation.^[4]

-One of the people at the center of the investigation, the former Russian ambassador to the US Sergey Kislyak, received \$120,000 ten days after the election of Donald Trump. Bankers flagged it to the US government as suspicious in part because the transaction, marked payroll, didn't fit prior pay patterns.

...Special counsel Robert Mueller's team, charged with investigating Russian election interference and possible collusion by the Trump campaign, is examining these transactions and others by Russian diplomatic personnel, according to a US official with knowledge of the inquiry. The special counsel has broad authority to investigate "any matters" that "may arise" from his investigation, and the official said Mueller's probe is following leads on suspicious Russian financial activity that may range far beyond the election.

-The Russian Embassy in Washington, DC, sent more than \$2.4 million to small home-improvement companies controlled by a Russian immigrant living not far from there. Between 2013 and March 2017, that contractor's various companies received about 600 such payments, earmarked for construction jobs at Russian diplomatic compounds. Bankers told the Treasury they did not think those transactions were related to the election but red-flagged them because the businesses seemed too small to have carried out major work on the embassy and because the money was cashed quickly or wired to other accounts.

Disgraced former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn

National Security Adviser Flynn was fired after it came out that he met with Kislyak several times during the campaign and didn't disclose it.^[5] Following this scandal Michael Flynn was charged with willfully and knowingly making false statements to the FBI,^[6] he pled guilty and is cooperating with Special Counsel Mueller.^[7]

Attorney General Jeff Sessions Russia Investigation Recusal, Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein & Appointment of Special Counsel Mueller

Moreover President Trump's Attorney General Jeff Sessions met Kislyak during the campaign,^[8] he was forced to recuse himself from the Russia investigation.^[9] Deputy AG Rod Rosenstein took over the Russia inquiry and subsequently appointed Special Counsel Mueller.^[10] Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein is a Republican, who appointed former FBI Director and Republican Robert Mueller as Special Counsel and was lauded by the Republican party,^[11] Rosenstein was nominated by President Trump.^[12]

While the investigation has led to a few dozen indictments, several arrests, guilty pleas, and President Trump's former Campaign Manager Paul Manafort's imprisonment, the GOP has completely changed their tune as they seek to impeach Deputy AG Rod Rosenstein even though the investigation continues to uncover crimes.^[13]

4th of July, 2018 a group of Republican lawmakers travel to Moscow and meet Foreign Minister Lavrov.^[14]

Russian state propaganda brazenly asserted that "*Trump is ours,*" and joke that the U.S. lawmakers traveled to Russia "to make deals with our hackers, so they can rig the midterms in favor of Trump's team."^[15]

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1. [Fox News - Trump meets Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov amid Comey firestorm](#)
 2. [New York Times - Trump Bars U.S. Press, but Not Russia's, at](#)
 3. [Washington Post - The strange Oval Office meeting between Trump, Lavrov and Kislyak](#)

4. [BuzzFeed - Investigators Are Scrutinizing Newly Uncovered Payments By The Russian Embassy](#)
5. [The Guardian - Trump security adviser Flynn resigns after leaks suggest he tried to cover up Russia talks](#)
6. [Fox News - Michael Flynn charged in Russia investigation: What to know](#)
7. [New York Times - Michael Flynn Pleads Guilty to Lying to the F.B.I. and Will Cooperate With Russia Inquiry](#)
8. [Reuters - Mueller probing Russia contacts at Republican convention: sources](#)
9. [Bloomberg - Mueller Investigated Sessions for Perjury on Russia Statements](#)
10. [U.S. Department of Justice - Appointment of Special Counsel](#)
11. [USA Today - Rare bipartisan moment: Both sides embrace Robert Mueller as special counsel](#)
12. [Reuters - Trump to nominate Rod Rosenstein to be deputy U.S. attorney general](#)
13. [Politico - House conservatives prep push to impeach Rosenstein](#)
14. [Roll Call - Senate Republicans Meet Lavrov in Moscow Ahead of Trump-Putin Summit](#)
15. [Washington Post - On Russian state TV, Putin has already won the summit with Trump](#)