

**EMBASSY OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**THE RUSSIAGATE
HYSTERIA:
A CASE OF SEVERE
RUSSOPHOBIA**

APRIL 18, 2019

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HYSTERIA

"If American democracy is destroyed within the next generation, it will not be destroyed by the Russians or the Chinese but by ourselves, by the very means we use to defend it".

Senator J. WILLIAM FULBRIGHT

"American Militarism", 1970, Epilogue

"It is an attempt to lay the blame at someone else's door. This is not our problem. The problem is in US politics... The other team lost. They are reluctant to acknowledge the mistake. It is easier to say, "We are not to blame, the Russians are to blame, they interfered in our election." It reminds me of anti-Semitism: the Jews are to blame for everything. We know what such sentiments can lead to. They lead to nothing good. The thing to do is simply to work and think of how to get things right".

VLADIMIR PUTIN

President of the Russian Federation,

(in response to a question from American journalist Megyn Kelly at the plenary meeting of the St Petersburg International Economic Forum, June 2, 2017)

“I believe that this problem is rooted in the domestic developments in the United States.

We are not enjoying the current developments, but we did not start it. It is stretching the truth to say that this is the punishment for Ukraine and Crimea. It all began back under President Barack Obama, long before Washington launched its “colour revolution” project in Ukraine. It began with Edward Snowden, who was stuck in Russia because he could not fly anywhere – his passport was cancelled. The US President, the Secretary of State and the FBI and CIA directors put pressure on us to surrender him without delay. We said we could not do so because all the accompanying information indicated that he was facing the death penalty. This is why Obama banned bilateral contacts and cancelled his visit ahead of the G20 summit in St Petersburg. By the way, we were preparing for that meeting an agreement on the further reduction of strategic offensive arms, which should have followed on the 2010 Prague Treaty, as well as a declaration that set out an agenda on strategic stability for many years to come. Obama’s inability to forgo personal resentment buried a very important document, which could have been put to very good use now.

Next, sanctions were imposed over the Magnitsky case. A closer look at the problem revealed that Bill Browder, who raised the ballyhoo, had problems with the law, and not only Russian law. The Prosecutor General’s Office of Russia brought charges against Browder in the United States. American courts had to accept numerous facts supporting our suspicions. However, the court’s operations were clearly interfered with by those who did not want to ease pressure on Russia, that is, by Browder himself and his supporters. In other words, Ukraine was just another pretext.

The US elite disliked the changes that took place in Russia after Vladimir Putin became our president, when we gradually got back on our feet and regained our independence. Most importantly, we started thinking independently and stopped listening to the advisers who were entrenched in our key ministries in the 1990s.

The election defeat of the Democratic Party provided the pretext for preventing the normalisation of relations with Russia. Three weeks before leaving the White House, Barack Obama seized Russia's diplomatic property. It happened in a country where this cannot be done for any reason, where private property is a sacred right and others' property must never be taken. It was a time bomb, and its clock is still ticking. The Democrats have done their best to use the Russian card so as to do maximum damage to the current administration. When a great nation spends three years speculating about foreign interference that allegedly predetermined the outcome of its presidential elections, we see this as disrespect for the great American people.

Speaking about the election turbulence, I would like to refer to the Democratic Party. Contrary to what the investigation led by Special Counsel Robert Mueller is trying to prove, there are solid facts showing that the Democratic Party violated the law when illegal methods were used to force Bernie Sanders to quit the race. Everyone has forgotten about this, talking about Russia all the time rather than about what is happening in the United States.

We are open for dialogue as long as the United States is. President Vladimir Putin has said this more than once at his meeting with US President Donald Trump in Hamburg in 2017, in Helsinki last year, as well as during their contacts at the G20 summit in Buenos Aires. We do not want to interfere, and we do not want to give any reason for accusing us of interference in the internal

fighting and conflicts in the United States. What we have is a constructive agenda. We have outlined a number of cooperation areas, including the establishment, upon our presidents' approval, of a business council comprising five, six or seven top officials each from the largest Russian and US corporations. I am sure that such a high-level council could become a major stabilisation factor, at least for our business communities.

We have also proposed establishing, if our presidents approve this, a council of leading Russian and US political scientists who can be charged with preparing a positive agenda. We have offered an extended programme for a dialogue on strategic stability, including on the INF Treaty and a future agreement on strategic offensive arms, as well as on cooperation in space and on ways to prevent its militarisation with unpredictable consequences. They have put all this on back burner. We have not received a clear response to these proposals. When the United States initiated the procedure to withdraw from the INF Treaty, President Putin said at a meeting with Defence Minister Sergey Shoigu and me that we had more than once told our American partners about all our initiatives, and that our partners surely know about them. If they opted for disregarding these initiatives, we will no longer knock on a locked door and will stop reminding our partners about our initiatives. Our American colleagues can tell us when they are ready. We will be willing to start the talks”.

SERGEY LAVROV

Foreign Minister of Russia

(Remarks at a meeting with the Association of European Business, Moscow, February 21, 2019)

**TIMELINE OF MAIN EVENTS
SURROUNDING U.S. ELECTIONS AND CLAIMS OF «RUSSIAN
INTERFERENCE»**

1. **May 18, 2016** - Director of the U.S. National Intelligence James Clapper reported that the American Intel community had found evidence of foreign spy services attempting to hack networks of the Democratic National Committee (the DNC).

2. **June 14, 2016** – “The Washington Post” for first time claimed that Russian hackers had penetrated the DNC databases and gained access to internal information, but, as it would become a “tradition”, offering no proof and relying solely on “anonymous sources”.

3. **June 15, 2016** - “Crowdstrike”, a computer security firm hired by the DNC to investigate the hacking, declared that “Russia was behind the cyberattack into the DNC servers”. The company representative said that it had identified two sophisticated adversaries - hacking groups “Cozy Bear” and “Fancy Bear”, “linked to the Russian intelligence services”. There have been no facts proving anti-Russian allegations yet.

4. **July 22, 2016** - “Wikileaks” released nearly 20 000 DNC internal emails. Eventually, it would published more than 44 000 e-letters and 17 000 attachments, showing the DNC bias in favor of Hillary Clinton and against her contender Bernie Sanders during the 2016 presidential campaign. Despite the absence of evidence and numerous public rebuttals from Wikileaks the U.S.

mass media and politicians can't stop speculating that Russia was the source of the stolen DNC emails.

5. **July 25, 2016** - the FBI confirmed it had opened an investigation into the hacking of the DNC servers (it later became known that the target of the probe had been Russian government's efforts to interfere in the election and Trump campaign associates who had been allegedly involved in the conspiracy with the Kremlin).

6. **July 25, 2016** - Republican candidate Donald Trump said: "Russia, if you are listening, I hope you are able to find 30 000 emails (- from the DNC) that are missing". Despite sarcastic manner of this joke the phrase along with his other public promises "to get along with Russia" have been later used by the U.S. mainstream media as "a proof of his conspiracy with the Kremlin".

7. **July 29, 2016** - the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee joined colleagues from the DNC and announced that its computer network had also been hacked.

8. **October 7, 2016** - the Department of Homeland Security and Office of the Director of National Intelligence issued a joint statement saying the U.S. Intelligence community "is confident" that hacks into the email systems of the Democratic Party "were directed by the Russian government". As usual: there was no evidence.

9. **October 31, 2016** - the magazine “Mother Jones” published article summarizing the so-called “Trump dossier” (a set of unverified allegations of conspiracy between Trump’s campaign and the Russian Government), authored by Christopher Steele, a British former MI-6 officer (his name wasn’t disclosed at the time). The dossier was released in full by the news agency “Buzzfeed” on January 10, 2017. It was later revealed that Senator John McCain, who had been given Steele’s memos by former U.S. State Department official David Kramer, delivered them to FBI Director James Comey. Besides, it was reported said that an associate of the Senator passed this “dossier” to the “Buzzfeed”. There remains possibility that the launch of U.S. Intel community probes into Russian interference were based mostly on Steele’s document.

10. **November 8, 2016** - Donald Trump is elected President of the United States. Shortly after Democrats and liberal media initiated an anti-Trump campaign with focus on peddling the “Russian interference” narrative spiked with the “Trump-Kremlin collusion” theme.

11. **December 9, 2016** - President Obama announced his executive order to review “Russian hacks” during the 2016 presidential campaign.

12. **December 29, 2016** - President Obama authorized “a number of actions in response to the Russian government’s aggressive harassment of U.S. officials and cyber operations aimed at the American elections in 2016” (anti-Russian measures included sanctions against Russian intelligence services, expulsion of 35 diplomats of the Russian Embassy in Washington and closure of two diplomatic compounds in Maryland and New York).

13. **January 6, 2017** - Office of the Director of National Intelligence released a declassified intelligence report with “assessments” that stated U.S. Intel services “are high confident” that “Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered an influence campaign in 2016 aimed at the U.S. election”. The report said that Russian intelligence services had gained access to the DNC computer network for nearly a year from July 2015 to June 2016 and had released hacked material to Wikileaks “to help President-elect Trump”. Although this report contained no evidence of “Russian meddling” and “Collusion between Russia and Trump campaign” American media has continued to speculate about the alleged “Trump-Kremlin conspiracy” as well as the false narrative of “Russian interference in the U.S. political processes”.

14. **January 20, 2017** - Donald Trump sworn in as the 45th President of the United States of America.

15. **January, 2017** - several Senate and House Committees announced congressional investigations of the “Russian activity during the 2016 campaign” with focus on “Russian meddling” and “Trump-Moscow collusion”.

16. **February 13, 2017** - Presidential National Security Advisor Michael Flynn resigned, following reports that he had misled the Vice-President about contacts with the Russian ambassador in December of 2017.

17. **March 20, 2017** - FBI Director James Comey confirmed the Bureau’s investigation into links between Russia and members of the Trump campaign.

18. **April 3, 2017** - The Russian side delivered an official proposal to the U.S. to hold a bilateral high-level group meeting on international information security. The American side ignored this document.
19. **May 9, 2017** - Trump fired FBI Director James Comey. The White house statement said that the President acted “based on the clear recommendations of the Department of Justice” for Comey’s poor conducting of the FBI’s investigation into Hillary Clinton’s violations of classified information use. White House critics used this President’s decision to blame him for obstruction of the so-called “Russian probe”.
20. **May 17, 2017** - Department of Justice appointed Robert Mueller as Special counsel to look into “Russian election interference and related matters”. The investigation’s scope included allegations about links or coordination between Trump’s presidential campaign and the Russian government.
21. **July 7, 2017** - first meeting between Presidents Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Hamburg. Mainstream media and American political establishment attacked the U.S. leader for “shameful and disgraced” contact with the Russian President and “his unusual friendliness towards Moscow”.
22. **July 8-11, 2017** - On the next day after Russia-US presidential talks the “New York Times” published a series of “sensations” detailing the meeting between Donald Trump’s associates with Russian lawyer Natalia Veselnitskaya

at the “Trump Tower” hotel in New York in June 2016. The U.S. mainstream media used this story to promote conspiracy theory about “Trump-Russia collusion”. Congressional Democrats declared that the “Trump Tower” meeting is “clear evidence of senior level members of the Trump campaign meeting with Russians to try to obtain information that might hurt Hillary Clinton”.

23. **July 17, 2017** - The Russian side delivered a draft memorandum on creation of the bilateral high-level working group on cybersecurity issues, following the discussion of this subject between Presidents Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump in Hamburg on July 7. There was no reply.

24. **July 27, 2017** - the U.S Congress approved the bill “Countering America’s Adversaries through Sanctions Act” that imposed broad restrictions mainly against Russia.

25. **August 2, 2017** - President Trump signed the bill into law.

26. **August 31, 2017** - the U.S. Administration announces unprecedented restrictive measures against Russian diplomatic and consular missions in the U.S. requiring to close the Russian Consulate in San Francisco, Consul General’s residence there as well as properties of the Trade Representation in Washington, DC and New York. This move was yet another violation of international law.

27. **September 22, 2017** – the Department of Homeland Security notified U.S. election officials in 21 states that hackers targeted their systems in 2016.

Mass media accused Russia in those “cyberattacks”. There have been no facts presented yet.

28. **October, 2019** - U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Nikki Haley said that “Russian interference is warfare”.

29. **October 26, 2017** - Twitter said it would no longer accept ads from accounts owned by Russian news outlets “RT” and “Sputnik”.

30. **October 30, 2017** - social media companies delivered to the U.S. Congress “alarming” reports claiming that Russian agents placed 1 000 videos on YouTube, 131 000 messages on Twitter, 120 000 posts on Instagram and 80 000 posts on Facebook which were viewed by up to 126 million people.

31. **November 13, 2017** - under pressure from the U.S. Russian media outlet “RT” was forced to register as a foreign agent. The other Russian news agency “Sputnik” was filed under the Foreign Agents Registration Law a few days later - on November 17.

32. **January 23, 2018** - Congressional Democrats called on “Facebook” and “Twitter” to urgently investigate and “combat Russian trolls and bots”.

33. **February 7, 2018** - Secretary of State Rex Tillerson suggested in an interview with “Fox News” that “Russia is already attempting to interfere in the 2018 midterm elections”.

34. **February 13, 2018** – The heads of National Intelligence, CIA, FBI and NSA said during testimony to the Senate that “Russia is intent on disrupting foreign elections, including the 2018 midterms”. Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats said that “the U.S. is under attack from Russian efforts”.

35. **February 16, 2018** - Special counsel R.Mueller indicted 13 Russian citizens, Internet-Research Agency and two other Russian entities for alleged “interference in the 2016 elections”. According to investigators, the defendants conducted “information warfare” to “sow discord” in the U.S. political system to help Donald Trump win.

36. **March 12, 2018** - Republicans from the House Intelligence Committee announced the end of their investigation over the objections of the Democrats. Their findings are that Russia interfered to create discord, but “there was no evidence of collusion” between the Trump campaign and the Russian government and that Russia did not have a preference for Donald Trump as a candidate.

37. **March 12, 2018** - State Secretary Rex Tillerson publicly blamed Russia of the supposed use of a nerve agent in the poisoning of Skripals in the U.K.

38. **March 15, 2018** - President Trump imposed financial sanctions under CAATSA on 13 Russian government hackers and organizations indicted by Special counsel R.Mueller.

39. **March 15, 2018** - the U.S. Administration accused the Russian government of a series of cyberattacks targeting United States and European nuclear power plants and electric grids.

40. **March 20, 2018** - “the Washington Post” reported that President Trump failed to follow warnings from his advisers “not to congratulate the President-elect of Russia”.

41. **March 26, 2018** - the U.S. Administration joined other Western countries and declared expulsion of 60 Russian diplomats in response to the poisoning of Skripals.

42. **April 6, 2018** - the U.S. Treasury implemented economic sanctions on 7 Russian businessmen and 12 companies along with 17 top Russian officials.

43. **April 20, 2018** - the Democratic National Committee sued the Trump Campaign, the Russian government and Wikileaks for “election interference” in 2016.

44. **July 13, 2018** - Special Counsel R. Mueller indicted 12 “Russian military intelligence officers for the hacking the DNC, the DCCC and the Clinton campaign for the purpose of stealing internal documents and distributing them in public as well as influencing the 2016 presidential election”.

45. **July 15, 2018** - Russian citizen Maria Butina was arrested in Washington, DC on charges of being an unregistered foreign agent of the Russian Federation

working to infiltrate politically influential organizations in the U.S. and influence U.S. officials.

46. **July 15, 2018** - magazine “the Business Insider” reported that “a new Russian intelligence-linked news-site USAREally attempted to test the waters ahead of the November midterms”.

47. **July 16, 2018** - President Putin and President Trump met in Helsinki. Republicans and Democrats criticized the results of the meeting, calling the talks “disgraceful and detrimental to American democratic principles”. U.S. media reaction was almost universally negative. Under pressure upon arrival to Washington President Trump declared that he held Russia responsible for attempts at “meddling” in the U.S. elections in 2016.

48. **July 20, 2018** – “Microsoft” claimed that Russian hackers had targeted three Congressional candidates running the 2018 elections.

49. **July 26, 2018** - Democratic Senator Claire McCaskill declared that Russian hackers attempted to break into her Senate email account.

50. **August 2, 2018** - Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats and FBI Director Christopher Wray announced that Russia “is actively interfering in the 2018 elections”.

51. **August 2-8, 2018** - Democratic candidates Jeanne Shaheen, Bill Nelson and Tabitha Isner reported the attempts of Russian hackers to penetrate state election systems and compromise their campaigns.

52. **August 6, 2018** – U.S. State Department summoned the charge d’affaires of the Russian Embassy to answer for Russia’s alleged interference in the American internal affairs. However, the claims were, as usual, unverified.

53. **August 31, 2018** - the first major documentary to address the allegations of collusion between the Trump campaign and agents of the Russian state “Active measures” was distributed in theaters and digitally. The film was endorsed by Democrats and promoted by liberal activists before the 2018 midterms.

54. **September 12, 2018** - President Trump issued executive order authorizing sanctions against individuals and governments for interference in the U.S. elections.

55. **September 27, 2018** – Russian MFA delivers a diplomatic note to the U.S. side, regarding the case opened in the U.S. “Democratic National Committee v. the Russian Federation”, explaining that the exercise of jurisdiction over the case by U.S. courts with respect to the Russian Federation is a violation of the international law, notably violation of jurisdictional immunities of the Russian Federation.

56. **October 4, 2018** - the U.S. Department of Justice announced the indictment of 7 Russian military intelligence officers for cybercrimes including hacking into the World Anti-Doping Agency and leaking the test results of athletes. Four defendants had been previously accused by Special counsel R.Mueller for “interference in the U.S. election”.

57. **October 19, 2018** - the U.S. Department of Justice charged Russian citizen Elena Khusyaynova with conspiracy to defraud the U.S. by managing the finances of the Russian social media troll operation that attempted to interfere with the 2016 and 2018 U.S. elections.

58. **November 6, 2018** - the United States midterm elections were held.

59. **November 11, 2018** – U.S. authorities in a show of harassment of media detained and interrogated Russian journalist A.Malkevich in a Washington DC airport

60. **December 21, 2018** – Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats issued a statement on the Intelligence Community's Response to Executive Order 13848 on Imposing Certain Sanctions in the Event of Foreign Interference in a United States Election, declaring that the Intelligence Community does not have intelligence reporting that indicates any compromise of election infrastructure.

61. **December 28, 2018** - Republicans from the House Judiciary Committee released final report on Russian probe, condemning the FBI for “unfair and politicized” investigation of “Trump collusion”.

62. **January 3, 2019** - the new Congress convened with the House under Democratic control. Liberal Congressman Brad Sherman filed articles of impeachment against President Trump for the reason of his obstruction of justice by firing FBI Director James Comey in May, 2017.

63. **January 10, 2019** – the “New York Times” reported that the FBI had opened counterintelligence probe against President Trump a few days after he fired Bureau’s Director James Comey. The FBI leadership allegedly had been alarmed by the President’s actions and concerned that he may had been working for Russia against American interests. The investigations had been taken over by Special counsel R.Mueller.

64. **January 29, 2019** - U.S. Intelligence services assessed that Russia along with other “adversaries” would seek to interfere in the 2020 presidential election “to advance its interests” during the testimony on the congressional hearings “Worldwide threats”.

65. **February 5, 2019** – Acting Attorney General and Secretary of Homeland security submit joint report on impact of foreign interference on elections and political/campaign infrastructure in 2018, stating that there was no material impact of the abovementioned.

66. **February 26, 2019** – American media claims that the U.S. military disrupted Internet access of the Russian Internet Research Agency on the day of U.S. elections of November 6, 2018. If true, then this is essentially an attack on a non-governmental entity based in another country.

67. **March 22, 2019** - Special counsel R.Mueller concluded his investigation and submitted final report to the Department of Justice.

68. **March 24, 2019** - Attorney General William Barr released a four-page letter to Congress highlighting the key findings of the Special counsel's report. Barr stated that Mueller's report outlined the Russian effort to influence the U.S. election but there was not sufficient evidence that President Trump colluded with Russia or obstructed justice. In total the Special Counsel's office indicted 34 people - 26 Russian citizens, 7 U.S. and 1 Dutch nationals. None of the Americans were accused of conspiracy with Russia.

**MAIN DIPLOMATIC ACTIONS
TAKEN BY THE RUSSIAN EMBASSY IN THE U.S.
TO PROTEST PROVOCATIVE AND ILLEGAL ACTIONS RELATED
TO "RUSSIAGATE"**

- **January 11, 2017**

First of the many request authorizations to visit Russian diplomatic properties confiscated by U.S. government. Every single one of them was denied.

- September 27, 2017

The Embassy diplomatic note #80 to protest against an illegal invasion to the territory of the real estate facilities of the Russian Consular Post in San-Francisco.

- October 11, 2017

The Embassy diplomatic note #87 to protest against removal of the state flags of the Russian Federation from the buildings of the Consulate General of the Russian Federation in San Francisco, the residence of the Consul General of the Russian Federation in San Francisco and the Trade Representation of the Russian Federation in Washington D.C.

- November 9, 2017

The Embassy's statement on the US' demand for RT to register as a foreign agent.

“The Russian side has repeatedly warned that any measures limiting activity of the Russian mass media in the United States will inevitably trigger an immediate symmetrical response, as provided for in the Russian legislation. Our signals have been ignored. RT's affiliates in the United States were presented with The United States Department of Justice's ultimatum demanding them to register as a foreign agent until November 13 or face arrests of the employees and bank accounts for non-compliance. Normal journalistic work of the RT team in the US has thus already been disrupted.”

<https://www.facebook.com/RusEmbUSA/posts/702805306596529>

- November 17, 2017

The Embassy's comment on the US measures to force the owner of the 105,5 signal "Reston Translator", an American partner of the "Sputnik" radio station, to register as a foreign agent.

"These steps signal continuation of the policy of pressure on the Russian mass media. It is obvious that now attempts are made to intimidate the commercial companies cooperating with our media".

<https://www.facebook.com/RusEmbUSA/posts/706210392922687>

- December 5, 2017

The Embassy diplomatic note #112 on "Buzzfeed" publications regarding the information on money transfers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to Russian embassies around the globe.

"According to the website Citibank which provides services to the Embassy passed 650 suspicious financial documents of the Russian diplomatic mission to the Congress and the FBI to fuel the «investigations». This leak of the relevant documents to the Buzzfeed is a gross violation of banking secrecy and inviolability of the Embassy's bank accounts."

- January 10, 2018

The Embassy's statement on the US requirement for 'RIA Global' to register as a foreign agent.

"We deem such actions unacceptable. We consider this to be another blow to Russia-U.S. relations. We are strongly convinced that these steps do not serve

U.S. interests, but undermine its' image and credibility. Russia has consistently been against limiting freedom of press. Including limiting the activity of foreign media and journalists. The same cannot be said of the USA and a number of its' allies, who continue to exert pressure on Russian media instead of promoting mutually beneficial cooperation”.

<https://www.facebook.com/RusEmbUSA/posts/728429054034154>

- February 27, 2018

The Embassy diplomatic note #39 on disruption by the U.S. side of the Russian-American expert-level consultations on international information security, which were to take place in Geneva on February 27-28, 2018.

It was ignored by the U.S side.

- March 30, 2018

The Embassy diplomatic note #61 in connection to the unfounded accusation of alleged involvement of Russia in the Salisbury incident on March 4 (the so-called “Skripal case”) with request to provide national investigation records on this issue. The U.S. side replied that it fully agrees with the UK assessment that the Russian Federation is responsible for the attack on UK soil using a chemical weapon.

- April 13, 2018

The Embassy diplomatic note #75 about publications in the U.S. media accusing the Russian leadership of “poisoning Sergey and Yulia Skripal in Salisbury and taking steps to eliminate other defectors and traitors”.

The U.S. replied that it agrees fully with the UK assessment that the Russia is responsible for the attack on UK soil using a chemical weapon.

- April 20, 2018

The Embassy diplomatic note #79 regarding the statement by the ministers of foreign affairs of the “G7” dated April 16, 2018 with unfounded accusations on Russia’s involvement in the poisoning of Sergey and Yulia Skripal.

It was ignored by the U.S. side.

- August 5, 2018

The Embassy’s statement: “State Department once again dumbs down to “megaphone diplomacy”

“We took note of the tweet made by the U.S. State Department’s Spokesperson H.Nauert that the Russian Chargé d’affaires a.i. in Washington was summoned by Assistant Secretary of State W.Mitchell. Quoting Ms. Nauert, our diplomat was convoked “to answer for Russia’s aggressive interference” in U.S. domestic affairs.

<...> State Department once again dumbs down to “megaphone diplomacy”. In reality, it turns out that the foreign agency plays up to those U.S. powers, that further kindle the flames of the “Russian meddling” in U.S. domestic affairs for their personal gain. It seems that this is the cause for a quite unethical desire to publish the contexts of diplomatic meetings in a slanderous way”.

https://washington.mid.ru/en/press-centre/news/state_department_once_again_dumbs_down_to_megaphone_diplomacy/

- August 31, 2018

The Embassy diplomatic note #173 about provocative publications made by “BuzzFeed” portal disclosing confidential information on accounts and transactions made by the Embassy and the Ambassador with “Citibank” in 2016-2017.

It was ignored by the U.S. side.

- November 8, 2018

Letter from the Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Judge John G. Koeltl of the U.S. District Court from the Southern District of New York in reference to the action filed with the Court “Democratic National Committee v. The Russian Federation”, explaining that exercise of jurisdiction over the pending case with respect to the Russian Federation is a violation of the international law, specifically, violation of jurisdictional immunities of the Russian Federation arising from the principle of the sovereign equality of states.

- November 11, 2018

The Embassy posted the Russian Foreign Ministry statement on the detention of A.Malkevich

“The detention and interrogation of Russian journalist and member of the Russian Civic Chamber Alexander Malkevich at a Washington airport by the FBI – Federal Bureau of Investigation, is a demonstration of a US campaign aimed at putting pressure on the Russian press”.

http://www.mid.ru/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/cKNonkJE02Bw/content/id/3406347

- November 18, 2018

The Embassy diplomatic note #218 with decisive protest regarding provocative actions of the FBI agents against a member of the Public Chamber of Russia, editor of the “USA Really” Mr. Alexander Malkevich.

It was ignored by the U.S. side.

- January 24, 2019

The Embassy’s comment on Michael Pompeo’s remark about Russia in his interview with Laura Ingraham

“It is sad that the U.S. Secretary of State’s attempt to cheer up his diplomats, who are forced to fulfill their duties without a paycheck, dumbed down, just as always, to an aspiration to offend Russia, in this particular case – “Vladimir Putin's government that never shuts down”. There are seemingly no reasonable arguments for his subordinates in Michael Pompeo's arsenal”.

<https://www.facebook.com/RusEmbUSA/photos/a.493759737501088/955175841359473/?type=3&theater>

- February 5, 2019

The Embassy diplomatic note #26 about the request to the American Side to give permission to publish letters exchanged through the Nuclear Risk Reduction Centers channels in the period from October 2016 up to the end of January 2017 regarding the U.S. concerns over unauthorized intrusion into U.S. electronic networks.

It was ignored by the U.S. side.

From the letter to Congress sent by U.S. Attorney General William Barr summarizing conclusions of the Special Counsel Robert Mueller’s conclusions. The money line quoted the Mueller report:

[T]he investigation did not establish that members of the Trump Campaign conspired or coordinated with the Russian government in its election interference activities.

GROUNDLESS ACCUSATIONS MADE BY THE AMERICAN MEDIA

Topic 1. COLLUSION

EXAMPLES OF HYSTERIA

July 4, 2016

Putin’s Puppet

Vladimir Putin has a plan for destroying the West—and that plan looks a lot like Donald Trump.

http://www.slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/cover_story/2016/07/vladimir_putin_has_a_plan_for_destroying_the_west_and_it_looks_a_lot_like.html

July 22, 2016

Donald Trump, the Siberian Candidate

For one thing, Mr. Putin is someone who doesn’t worry about little things like international law when he decides to invade a country.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2016/07/22/opinion/donald-trump-the-siberian-candidate.html>

November 24, 2016

Russian propaganda effort helped spread ‘fake news’ during election

Citing experts, The Washington Post claims that Russia-linked social helped spread fake news. But the newspaper did not provide any evidence to support this.

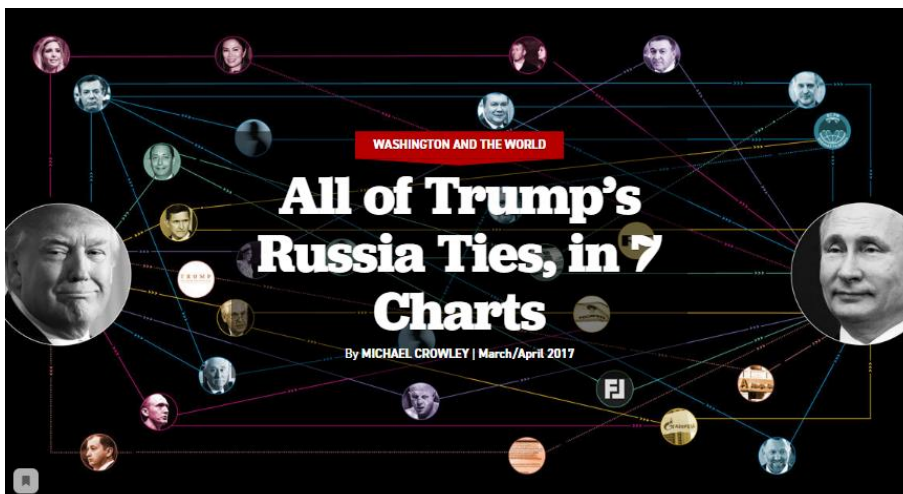
https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/russian-propaganda-effort-helped-spread-fake-news-during-election-experts-say/2016/11/24/793903b6-8a40-4ca9-b712-716af66098fe_story.html

February 14, 2017

Trump Campaign Aides Had Repeated Contacts With Russian Intelligence

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/02/14/us/politics/russia-intelligence-communications-trump.html>

March/April 2017



All of Trump's Russia Ties, in 7 Charts

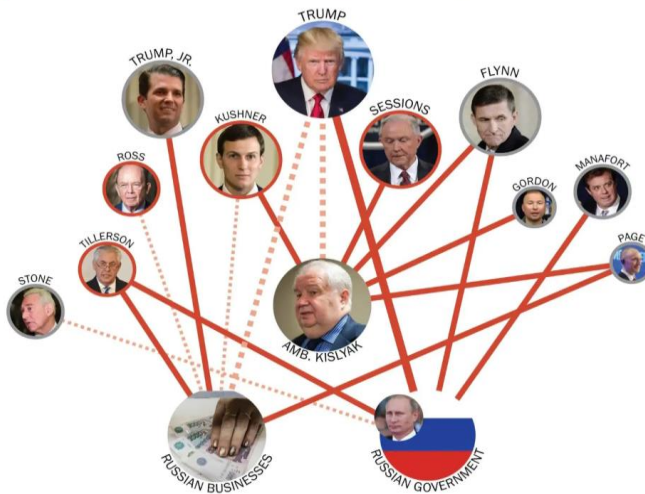
<https://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2017/03/connections-trump-putin-russia-ties-chart-flynn-page-manafort-sessions-214868>

March 3, 2017

Known or possible links between Team Trump, Russia

Analysis by The Washington Post.

○ IN GOVERNMENT ○ NOT IN GOVERNMENT — KNOWN LINK - - - POSSIBLE LINK



The web of relationships between Team Trump and Russia

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/politics/wp/2017/03/03/the-web-of-relationships-between-team-trump-and-russia/>

March 16, 2017

Clinton Ally Says Smoke, But No Fire: No Russia-Trump Collusion

Morell, who was in line to become CIA director if Clinton won, said he had seen no evidence that Trump associates [cooperated with Russians](#). He also raised questions about the dossier written by a former British intelligence officer, which alleged a conspiracy between the Trump campaign and Russia.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/clinton-ally-says-smoke-no-fire-no-russia-trump-collusion-n734176>

November 29, 2017



The Rachel Maddow Show's running list of Russian and Kremlin-connected contacts with the Donald Trump campaign. (Updated 11/29/17)

The Trump campaign's Russia-connected contacts - annotated list

<http://www.msnbc.com/rachel-maddow-show/the-trump-campaigns-russia-connected-contacts-annotated-list>

November 21, 2017

CNN politics 45 CONGRESS SUPREME COURT FACTS FIRST
By Marshall Cohen, CNN
Updated 2:08 PM ET, Wed November 22, 2017



Trump orbit's contacts with Russia 02:12

By the numbers: The Trump orbit's contacts with Russians

<https://www.cnn.com/2017/11/21/politics/trump-russia-by-the-numbers/index.html>

December 1, 2017

The many paths from Trump to Russia

By Marshall Cohen and Tal Yellin

Special Counsel Robert Mueller and committees in both chambers of Congress are investigating Russian meddling in the 2016 election and whether there were any links or coordination between the Trump orbit and the Russian government. Here is a summary of known connections between Trump associates and Russia. Updated December 1, 2017, 2:30 p.m. est



TRUMP'S ASSOCIATES

| | | | | | | |
|------------------|---------------|----------------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|
| Michael Flynn | Paul Manafort | Jared Kushner | Carter Page | Roger Stone | Jeff Sessions | JD Gordon |
| Donald Trump Jr. | Michael Cohen | Michael Caputo | Erik Prince | Rex Tillerson | Wilbur Ross | Betsy DeVos |
| | Felix Sater | Aras & Emin Agalarov | Alfa Bank | Vitaly Churkin | | |

Michael Flynn



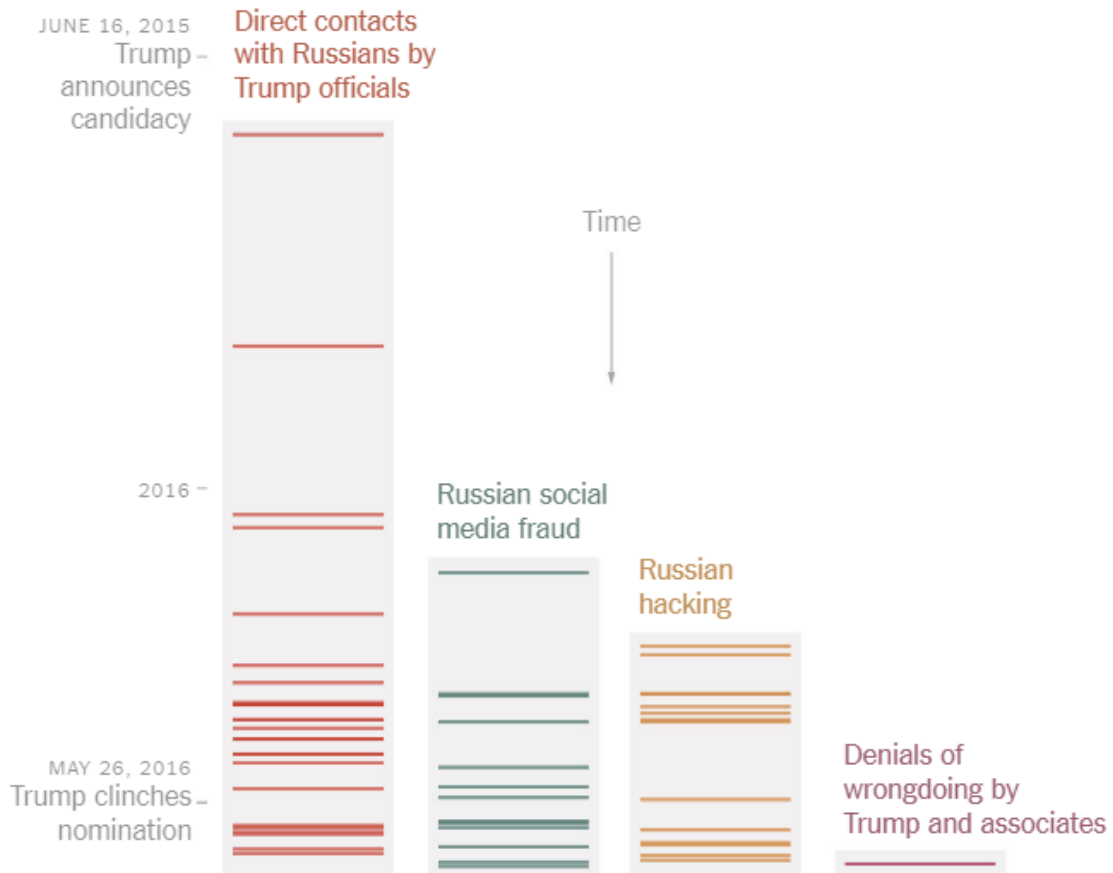
Retired Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn started advising Trump on national security in early 2016. When Trump took office in January 2017, Flynn served as his national security adviser, but resigned after one month amid questions about his links to Russia. In December 2017, Flynn pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI about his contacts with the Russian ambassador during the Trump transition.

Close all

The many paths from Trump to Russia

<https://www.cnn.com/interactive/2017/politics/trump-russia-connections/>

September 20, 2018



A Timeline Showing the Full Scale of Russia’s Unprecedented Interference in the 2016 Election, and Its Aftermath

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2018/09/20/us/politics/russia-trump-election-timeline.html>

December 10, 2018



CNN: At least 16 Trump associates had contacts with Russians

<https://www.cnn.com/videos/tv/2018/12/10/lead-alex-marquardt-russia-live-jake-tapper.cnn>

≡ TIME

Vladimir Putin



How Putin's Oligarchs Got Inside the Trump Team

To understand how Russia penetrated the 2016 campaign, look to the oligarchs



The Story Behind TIME's Trump and Putin 'Summit Crisis' Cover

At first glance, the man on TIME's July 30, 2018, cover might seem familiar: it was created by morphing images of two of the world's most recognizable men, President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir...



White House: President Trump Did Not Say Russia Is No Longer Targeting the U.S.

White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said that President Donald Trump did not intend to say that Russia is no longer targeting the United States during a Cabinet meeting earlier Wednesday. During a meeting with...



Here's What It Was Like Inside the Room With Trump and Putin

The day of the Trump-Putin summit began slowly. Russian President Vladimir Putin, notoriously late for official engagements, was delayed on his way from Russia to meet President Donald Trump in Finland, forcing Trump to cool...

REALITY

March 8, 2017

Why the Russia Story Is a Minefield for Democrats and the Media

Russia scandals have bloodied the Trump administration. But it carries dangers for those reporting it

<https://www.rollingstone.com/politics/politics-news/why-the-russia-story-is-a-minefield-for-democrats-and-the-media-126505/>

July 24, 2017

Intel Vets Challenge ‘Russia Hack’ Evidence

<https://consortiumnews.com/2017/07/24/intel-vets-challenge-russia-hack-evidence/>

March 23, 2019

It's official: Russiagate is this generation's WMD

The Iraq war faceplant damaged the reputation of the press. Russiagate just destroyed it.

Russiagate debuted as a media phenomenon in mid-summer, 2016. The roots of the actual story, i.e. when the multi-national investigation began, go back much further, to the previous year at least. Oddly, that origin tale has not been nailed down yet, and blue-state audiences don't seem terribly interested in it, either.

Since July of 2016, when the DNC leaks were blamed on Russia based in dubious assertions from the DNC-funded group CrowdStrike, we've been

regularly hearing claims from intelligence officials, politicians, and pundits which point to Russia as the culprit for Western political events.

<https://taibbi.substack.com/p/russiagate-is-wmd-times-a-million>

Topic 2. STEELE DOSSIER

EXAMPLES OF HYSTERIA

October 31, 2016

A Veteran Spy Has Given the FBI Information Alleging a Russian Operation to Cultivate Donald Trump

<https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2016/10/veteran-spy-gave-fbi-info-alleging-russian-operation-cultivate-donald-trump/>

January 10, 2017

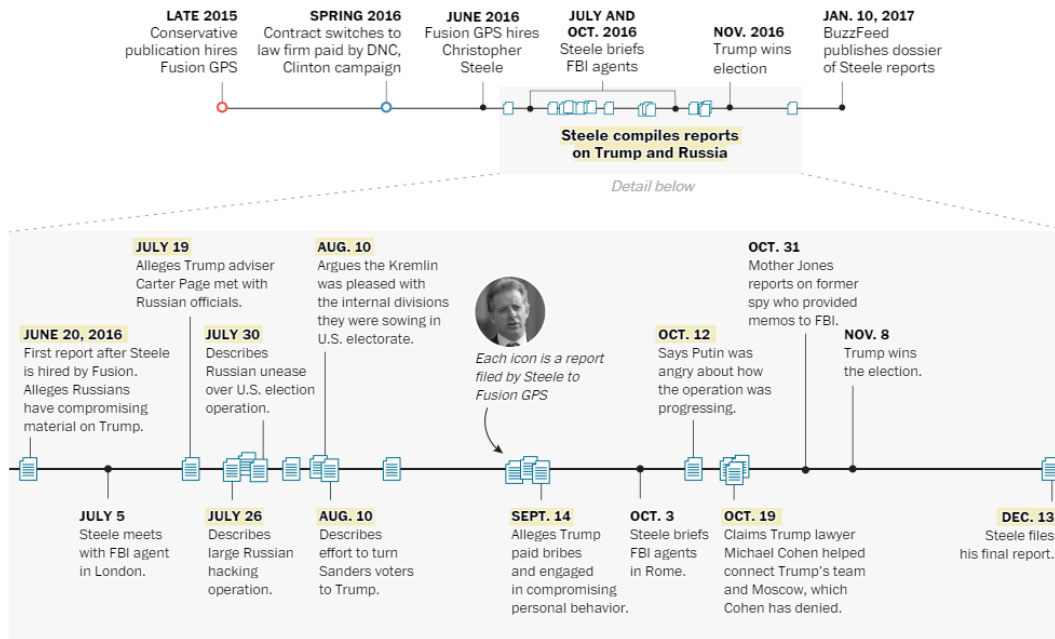
These Reports Allege Trump Has Deep Ties To Russia

<https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/kenbensinger/these-reports-allege-trump-has-deep-ties-to-russia>

Politics

The making of the Steele dossier

By Rosalind S. Helderman, Tom Hamburger, Kevin Uhrmacher and John Muyskens Feb. 6, 2018



February 6, 2018

The making of the Steele dossier

https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2018/politics/steele-timeline/?utm_term=.f264993c3d41

ATTACKS ON RUSSIAN DIPLOMATS BASED ON THE STEELE DOSSIER

February 21, 2017

Russia's pension money for its veterans escapes scrutiny as it flows into US

<https://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/nation-world/national/article133879684.html>

March 30, 2017

Trump Russia dossier key claim 'verified'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-39435786>

REALITY

RUSSIAN MFA's REACTION

March 31, 2017



Trump Russia dossier key claim 'verified'

By Paul Wood
BBC News, Washington

© 30 March 2017 | US & Canada

f t w e Share

Fake claim 'verified'

http://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/nedostovernie-publikacii/-/asset_publisher/nTzOQTrrCFd0/content/id/2712949

March 30, 2017

More about Russia's alleged meddling in the US presidential election

Briefing by Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Maria Zakharova, Moscow

http://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/cKNonkJE02Bw/content/id/2712458

January 11, 2017

Ukrainian efforts to sabotage Trump backfire

Kiev officials are scrambling to make amends with the president-elect after quietly working to boost Clinton.

<https://www.politico.com/story/2017/01/ukraine-sabotage-trump-backfire-233446>

March 19, 2019

Trump Pulled Ambassador Nomination of State Department Official Who Communicated With Steele and Ohr

A State Department official who was awaiting confirmation to be U.S. Ambassador to Albania communicated with the former British spy Christopher Steele and supplied information to a senior DOJ official after and before the 2016 presidential election.

<https://saraacarter.com/trump-pulled-ambassador-nomination-of-state-department-official-who-communicated-with-steele-and-ohr/>

March 19, 2019

Someone in State Department likely involved in bid to take down Trump

<https://www.foxnews.com/politics/catherine-herridge-someone-in-the-state-dept-likely-involved-in-effort-to-take-down-president-trump>

April 5, 2019

Judicial Watch Sues State Dep't Over Amb. Nuland's Communications on 'Trump-Russia Dossier'

<https://www.cnsnews.com/news/article/michael-w-chapman/judicial-watch-sues-state-dept-over-amb-nulands-communications-trump>

April 8, 2019

Ukrainian officials having trouble getting the DOJ's attention on Ukrainian-Democrat 2016 collusion efforts

<https://pjmedia.com/trending/ukrainian-officials-claim-to-have-evidence-of-democrats-colluding-with-ukraine-in-2016-election/>

Topic 3. RUSSOPHOBIA

EXAMPLES OF HYSTERIA

August 8, 2016

Morell: We need to make Iran, Russia "pay a price" in Syria

Michael Morell, former number two at the CIA, spoke with "CBS This Morning" co-host Charlie Rose about the civil war in Syria. He suggested the United States should support more aggressive action by Syrian rebels.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jj2QJ29ZWAs>

December 12, 2016

Is There a Russian Coup Underway in America? |

The Resistance with Keith Olbermann | GQ

"We are at war with Russia. Or perhaps more correctly: we have lost a war with Russia. We are no longer a sovereign nation. We are no longer a democracy or a free people. We are the victims of a bloodless coup"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IAFxPXGDH4E&feature=youtu.be>

September 27, 2017

Russian Trolls Using NFL Protests to Sow Discord Online, Republican Senator Says

Russian internet trolls are using the controversy over NFL players kneeling during the national anthem to stir up unrest in the United States. «According to Sen. James Lankford of Oklahoma Russian troll farms were hashtagging "take a knee" and "boycott NFL" to amplify the issue. He said the effort involved "taking both sides of the argument" to increase divisiveness in the country»

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/russian-trolls-using-nfl-protests-sow-discord-online-republican-senator-n805296>

October 11, 2017

From Russia With Poison

Every week we are coming to realize that we do not know the depth of this Russian hacking — and that the people who did it were incredibly sophisticated, not only about the technology platforms but also about which districts and demographics to target with just the right inflammatory messages.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/11/opinion/columnists/russia-fake-news-media.html>

November 9, 2017

Forget the presidency, Mr. Zuckerberg, how about keeping the Russians out?

...the criminals who raid the law-abiding citizens with abandon, like the Russians and child pornographers.

<https://www.newsweek.com/forget-presidency-mr-zuckerberg-how-about-keeping-russians-out-706794>

March 8, 2018

Russian Trolls Tried to Torpedo Mitt Romney's Shot at Secretary of State

«Weeks after Donald Trump was elected president, Russia-backed online “trolls” flooded social media to try to block Mitt Romney from securing a top job in the incoming administration»

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/russian-trolls-tried-to-torpedo-mitt-romneys-shot-at-secretary-of-state-1520505000>

June 20, 2018

Russian trolls exploiting family-separation stories 'to sow discord among Americans,' senator says

«Russian bots and internet trolls are stoking the U.S. debate over family separation, a Republican senator said Wednesday, dropping a bombshell into the middle of the immigration debate»

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2018/jun/20/russian-internet-trolls-stoking-family-separation-/>

June 26, 2018

Russian trolls organized fake protest after Philando Castile slaying

«Russian trolls used the shooting death of an African-American man by police to sow discord in American society...The troll operation, run by the Kremlin-linked Internet Research Agency, used social media to interfere in the 2016

presidential election and beyond, seeking to amplify divisions in American society...It created thousands of fake social media accounts posing as activists from Black Lives Matter and other organizations»

<https://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/ny-news-russian-trolls-philando-castile-20180626-story.html>

August 11, 2018

Russian Trolls Swarmed The Charlottesville March

August 2017 was the peak time for pro-Trump Russian Twitter trolls linked to the shadowy Internet Research Agency in St. Petersburg.

They were already busy before white supremacists gathered a year ago in Charlottesville, Virginia, for the Unite the Right rally. But after the event erupted into conflict, culminating in the death of counterprotester Heather Heyer on Aug. 12, the trolls fanned the flames, blaming the violence on the self-described "antifa" and Black Lives Matter.

<https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/peteraldhous/russia-twitter-trolls-charlottesville>

August 23, 2018

Russian trolls pushed divisive content over vaccines

Russian trolls weren't just trying to cause division in U.S. politics. A new study shows that they were also trying to stoke divides in one of the country's most heated debates around public health: vaccinations.

Russia-linked social media bots pushed divisive speech and misinformation on Twitter on both sides of the preexisting vaccine debate, according to research

led by George Washington University and published Thursday in the American Journal of Public Health.

"These trolls seem to be using vaccination as a wedge issue, promoting discord in American society," the study's authors said.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/tech/tech-news/russian-trolls-pushed-divisive-content-over-vaccines-researchers-say-n903286>

November 7, 2018

Russian Troll Farm Internet Research Agency Has New Propaganda Campaign.

The IRA has launched a desperate campaign to spread distrust in the midterm elections results. A statement attributed to the St. Petersburg-based organization read that “Despite all their efforts, we have thousands of accounts registered on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit spreading political propaganda. These accounts work 24 hours a day, seven days a week to discredit anti-Russian candidates and support politicians more useful for us than for you.”

<https://www.thedailybeast.com/russian-troll-farm-internet-research-agency-has-new-meta-trolling-propaganda-campaign>

December 17, 2018

Russian trolls tried to use Pokémon Go and “lgbt-positive sex toys” to tip the 2016 election

If you played Pokémon Go during the run up to the 2016 presidential election, you may have been targeted by the Russian government’s massive propaganda campaign.

https://news.vice.com/en_us/article/j5znk3/russian-trolls-tried-to-use-pokemon-go-and-lgbt-positive-sex-toys-to-tip-the-2016-election

REALITY

Russophobia digest

<https://www.rt.com/trends/russophobia-digest-mass-media/>

June 19, 2017

Russophobia Isn't Just Hurting Donald Trump - It's Helping Vladimir Putin

The same social justice warriors who pride themselves on standing up to racism have no issue stereotyping an entire country

<https://observer.com/2017/06/russophobia-hurts-trump-helps-putin/>

April 4, 2018

Russophobia in the New Cold War

Several factors make this US-Russian Cold War more dangerous than its predecessor—is “Russo-madness” one of them?

<https://www.thenation.com/article/russophobia-in-the-new-cold-war/>

December 14, 2018

Don't let russophobia warp the facts on Russiagate

Despite the media hoopla, Mueller's latest filings do not bring us any closer to proving the long-sought Trump-Russia conspiracy.

<https://www.thenation.com/article/russiagate-russophobia-mueller-trump/>

December 28, 2018

New studies show pundits are wrong about Russian social-media involvement in US politics

Far from being a sophisticated propaganda campaign, it was small, amateurish, and mostly unrelated to the 2016 election.

<https://www.thenation.com/article/russiagate-elections-interference/>

American Liberal Left Succumbs to Anti-Russian Hysteria

The funeral of Senator John McCain was an opportunity to demonstrate the unity of the US ruling class. In the presence of former Presidents Bill Clinton, George Bush Jr and Barack Obama, they turned into an anti-Trump rally, in the same detestation of Russia.

<https://www.voltairenet.org/article202693.html>

2018: The Year in Russophobia

<https://sptnkne.ws/kvSM>

March 9, 2018

It's Time to Get Over Our Russophobia

We Americans have far bigger fish to fry with Russia than Bibi.

Strategic arms control. De-escalation in the Baltic, Ukraine, and the Black Sea. Ending the war in Syria. North Korea. Space. Afghanistan. The Arctic. The war on terror.

Yet all we seem to hear from our elites is endless whining that Putin has not been sanctioned enough for desecrating “our democracy.”

Get over it.

<https://www.theamericanconservative.com/buchanan/its-time-to-get-over-our-russophobia/>

Jul 17, 2018

These American scholars say the real threat to the U.S. is Russophobia

https://news.vice.com/en_us/article/xwkxnj/these-american-scholars-say-the-real-threat-to-the-us-is-russophobia

October 27, 2018

Today Russophobia consumes Washington.

Neoconservatives and reflexive hawks continue to dominate Republican foreign policy, despite successive disastrous interventions in the Middle East. Democrats who once preached moderation toward the Soviet Union see anti-Russian sentiments as a political tool against Donald Trump. The combined result is to push Washington toward a new cold war.

Yet the demonization of Moscow is both unprincipled and dangerous. Washington has valid complaints but should drop the sanctimony.

<https://nationalinterest.org/feature/america-doesn't-need-fort-trump-poland-34307>

January 15, 2019

There's More to Russia than Meets the Eye

While I have only a concerned citizen's knowledge of foreign affairs, I am baffled by the hysterical Russophobia of the MSM and the Democratic Party since the 2016 election.

https://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2019/01/theres_more_to_russia_than_meets_the_eye.html

March 26, 2019

50+ Journalists, Politicians, Celebrities, and Grifters Who Peddled the Russia Collusion Hoax

<https://pjmedia.com/trending/50-journalists-politicians-celebrities-and-grifters-who-peddled-the-russia-collusion-hoax/>

March 27, 2019

After Mueller: time for true reset with Russia

Now that the Russian Collusion Myth has been revealed to be a conspiracy by the Deep State, the Democratic Party and the media, Donald Trump needs to move on with his election promise to improve relations with Moscow. That is a geopolitical and civilizational necessity.

<https://www.chroniclesmagazine.org/after-mueller-time-for-true-reset-with-russia/>

March 28, 2019

Trump, Russia, and the collapse of the collusion narrative

US media reflect on their role in promoting the Russiagate conspiracy theory

<https://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/listeningpost/2019/03/trump-russia-collapse-collusion-narrative-190330063518669.html>

March 28, 2019

Leave Putin Alone!

The collapse of the Russian-involvement thesis that has been with us for two years calls for a re-examination of the basic assumptions.

Which leads to the following question: What prompted so many good people to cling to this theory with such deep conviction? The answer is that Russian involvement has become a myth that explains almost every threatening phenomenon.

<https://www.haaretz.com/world-news/.premium-leave-putin-alone-1.7066124>

Topic 4. DEMONIZATION OF THE EMBASSY

There is another example of the absurdity of what is happening. Prosecutor Robert Mueller has been working for almost two years now. He interviewed dozens, if not hundreds of people, but found no leaks that would confirm alleged collusion between US President Donald Trump and the Russian Federation. No facts and no leaks were presented, which is very strange for the American political system. Leaks usually happen instantly there. There have been some; several facts have been mentioned regarding Ukraine's involvement in the US election campaign, but not Russia.

Here is one example. Michael Flynn served as President Trump's national security adviser for several days. I read with interest what he was specifically accused of. Prosecutor Mueller accused him of two things: first, Flynn called Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak before President Trump's inauguration and asked him not to reciprocate in response to the sanctions that Barack Obama imposed on Russia in the last days of his presidency, urged us not to take the path of escalation and confrontation. Was that so bad? Was it against the interests of the American people or the American government that a potential

member of the administration urged us not to harm the American diplomatic mission in the Russian Federation, not to take away property or expel diplomats? This was one accusation against Flynn. The second charge against him was that he also asked Ambassador Kislyak to influence Moscow's position on the resolution discussed in the UN Security Council, which required Israel to stop building new settlements in the occupied territories. Since the Obama administration decided not to block adoption of this resolution and, unlike in the previous cases, to abstain rather than vote it down, Flynn, according to Mueller, asked the Russian side to veto this anti-Israeli resolution.

I am not talking about whether it was necessary to adopt that resolution or not. But he essentially called on the Russian side to defend the position that the United States had been promoting in the UN for decades. Here are two accusations against this person. I do not know what sentence he will get. But the absurdity of the situation is obvious to me. This is just one example of the bacchanalia going on around the so-called Russian dossier.

SERGEY LAVROV

(from Remarks and answers to media questions at a news conference on the results of Russian diplomacy in 2018)

https://washington.mid.ru/en/press-centre/news/foreign_minister_serгей_lavrov_s_remarks_and_answers_to_media_questions_at_a_news_conference_on_the/

EXAMPLES OF HYSTERIA



<https://www.newsweek.com/2017/06/30/spy-diplomat-sergey-kislyak-russia-ambassador-russia-probe-washington-627982.html>

Meet Sergey Kislyak — the longtime Russian diplomat and alleged spy at the center of the FBI's Russia investigation

Brennan Weiss Jan. 14, 2018, 9:00 AM



Sergey Kislyak was entangled in US-Russia relations long before Donald Trump ever became president. Carolyn Kaster/AP

Sergey Kislyak, the former Russian Ambassador to the US and alleged spy, has been at the center of the FBI's investigation into Russia's interference in the 2016 election, including whether members of the Trump campaign colluded with Moscow to tilt the election in his favor.

<https://www.businessinsider.com/sergey-kislyak-career-russia-spy-ambassador-2018-1>

FOREIGN POLICY

Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak is Washington's most dangerous diplomat

Putin's envoy is at the heart of a scandal that's taken down one Trump adviser and put another in the hot seat.

By MICHAEL CROWLEY | 03/02/2017 05:58 PM EST



People who know Sergey Kislyak describe him as intelligent but an unyielding advocate for the Kremlin line. | Getty

<https://www.politico.com/story/2017/03/sergey-kislyak-russian-ambassador-profile-235625>

LAW AND ORDER

Accused Russian agent met with suspected Kremlin spy

Mariia Butina's attorney insists the get-together was nothing more than one dinner with a prominent Russian official.

By JOSH MEYER | 07/28/2018 06:43 AM EDT



Mariia Butina's is accused of offering sex in exchange for a job at an unnamed U.S. special-interest organization and infiltrating the NRA and other influential conservative political organizations to push them toward more pro-Russia policies.

<https://www.politico.com/story/2018/07/28/mariia-butina-russia-kremlin-suspected-spy-746043>

The Russian Cultural Centre in Washington also has come up in Mueller's probe as part of a broader inquiry into millions of dollars in payments involving the Russian Embassy, former Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak and several Moscow businessmen linked to Putin, BuzzFeed reported in January — around the time Butina met with Zhiganov.

November 14, 2017

Secret Finding: 60 Russian Payments "To Finance Election Campaign Of 2016"

The FBI is scrutinizing more than 60 money transfers sent by the Russian Foreign Ministry to its embassies across the globe, most of them bearing a note that said the money was to be used “to finance election campaign of 2016.” A spokesperson for the Russian government said the money paid for overseas voting in its parliamentary election.

<https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/jasonleopold/secret-finding-60-russian-payments-to-finance-election>

January 17, 2018

Investigators Are Scrutinizing Newly Uncovered Payments By The Russian Embassy

US authorities are poring over hundreds of newly uncovered payments from Russian diplomatic accounts. Among them are transactions by former ambassador Sergey Kislyak 10 days after the 2016 presidential election and a blocked \$150,000 cash withdrawal five days after the inauguration.

For the past five months, the bipartisan leadership of the Senate Intelligence Committee has been trying to get records on any financial transactions involving Kislyak that the Treasury Department may have.

<https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/jasonleopold/newly-uncovered-russian-payments-are-a-focus-of-election>

August 31, 2018

Here's Why The FBI And Mueller Are Investigating "Suspicious" Transactions By Russian Diplomats

The former Russian ambassador received a salary payment twice as large as past years, and bankers blocked a \$150,000 withdrawal.

<https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/jasonleopold/suspicious-payments-kislyak-russia-embassy-mueller>

SPY MANIA

December 29, 2016

Luxurious, 45-Acre Compound In Maryland Is Being Shut Down For Alleged Russian Espionage

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2016/12/29/the-luxurious-45-acre-compound-in-maryland-being-shut-down-for-alleged-russian-espionage/?utm_term=.630a091eaa3a

December 8, 2017

F.B.I. Warned Hope Hicks About Emails From Russian Operatives

The Russian outreach efforts show that, even after American intelligence agencies publicly accused Moscow of trying to influence the outcome of last year's presidential election, Russian operatives were undaunted in their efforts to establish contacts with Mr. Trump's advisers.

After he took office, senior F.B.I. counterintelligence agents met with Ms. Hicks in the White House Situation Room at least twice, gave her the names of the Russians who had contacted her, and said that they were not who they claimed

to be. The F.B.I. was concerned that the emails to Ms. Hicks may have been part of a Russian intelligence operation, and they urged Ms. Hicks to be cautious.

<...>

The Russian emails to Ms. Hicks occurred six months after the F.B.I. had begun investigating possible connections between Mr. Trump's associates and Russia. American intelligence officials were alarmed about repeated contacts during the campaign between Mr. Trump's staff and outside advisers and Russians, and feared that Russia was trying to influence the Trump campaign.

In some ways, the Russian outreach to Ms. Hicks undercuts the idea that the Russian government had established deep ties to the Trump campaign before the election. If it had, Russian officials might have found a better entrée to the White House than unprompted emails to Ms. Hicks.

But after a yearlong campaign in which the Russian government frequently succeeded in making contact with people around Mr. Trump, the overtures to Ms. Hicks also demonstrate that Russian officials seemed intent on gaining access to Mr. Trump's inner circle by any means they could.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/08/us/politics/hope-hicks-russia-trump-fbi.html>

December 14, 2017

The secret history of the Russian consulate in San-Francisco

Overflights, mapping fiber-optic networks, "strange activities." Moscow's West Coast spies were busy.

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2017/12/14/the-secret-history-of-the-russian-consulate-in-san-francisco-putin-trump-spies-moscow/>

March 26, 2018

Why the U.S. Just Shut Down Russia's Spy Hub in Seattle

America joined a host of other countries in punishing Russia for an alleged assassination attempt.

<https://www.thedailybeast.com/why-the-us-just-shut-down-russias-spy-hub-in-seattle>

March 28, 2018

Russian spies in Seattle: Black ops, Soviet subs and counter intel in the Pacific Northwest

<https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/spying-in-seattle-russian-espionage-interest-in-washington-state-stretches-back-long-before-the-1992-opening-of-the-consulate-in-seattle/>

March 29, 2018

What Really Went on at Russia's Seattle Consulate?

The closure of the facility could limit military and tech-industry espionage—and leaves Russia with no diplomatic presence on the West Coast.

<https://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2018/03/29/what-really-went-on-at-russias-seattle-consulate-217761>

July 27, 2018

How Silicon Valley Became a Den of Spies

The West Coast is a growing target of foreign espionage. And it's not ready to fight back.

<https://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2018/07/27/silicon-valley-spies-china-russia-219071>

REALITY

Summer, 2007

Dacha Sweet Dacha

Russian Ambassador Yuri Ushakov and his wife Svetlana continue the Russian tradition of summer escapes and family bonding on Maryland's Eastern Shore

<http://washingtonlife.com/issues/summer-2007/EMBASSY-ROW/index.php>

December 28, 2018

BBC film about the Russian Embassy Compound in Maryland

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pYshaoiYYoQ>

December 30, 2016

Statement by the President of Russia

We regard the recent unfriendly steps taken by the outgoing US administration as provocative and aimed at further weakening the Russia-US relationship. This runs contrary to the fundamental interests of both the Russian and American people. Considering the global security responsibilities of Russia and the United States, this is also damaging to international relations as a whole.

<http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/53678>

March 3, 2017

CNN cited anonymous current and former U.S. intelligence officials on Thursday as saying they believed Kislyak was a top spy and recruiter of spies. **But former U.S. ambassadors, as well as analysts that know Kislyak, expressed strong skepticism about the claim, cautioning that besides Sessions' failure to acknowledge it there was little unusual that he had met with Kislyak.**

<https://abcnews.go.com/International/sergei-kislyak-russian-ambassador-spoke-jeff-sessions/story?id=45865497>

June 08, 2017

King Questions Former FBI Director James Comey on Russia's Interference in 2016 Election

King: ... What is relationship of ambassador -- the ambassador from Russia to the United States to the Russian intelligence infrastructure?

Comey: He's a diplomat who is the chief mission at the Russian Embassy ... I don't consider him to be an intelligence officer himself. **He's a diplomat.**

<https://www.king.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/king-questions-former-fbi-director-james-comey-on-russias-interference-in-2016-election>

July 28, 2017

Foreign Ministry's statement

we suggest that our American counterparts bring the number of diplomatic and technical staff at the US Embassy in Moscow, the consulates general in St Petersburg, Yekaterinburg and Vladivostok, into strict correspondence with the

number of Russian diplomats and technical staff currently working in the United States, until September 1, 2017.

http://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/maps/us/-/asset_publisher/unVXBbj4Z6e8/content/id/2824435

September 3, 2017

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation

On September 2, US authorities seized the buildings of the General Consulate of the Russian Federation in San Francisco and the Trade Representation in Washington, D.C., which are the property of Russia and have a diplomatic immunity. Russian representatives are also being denied access to the rented premises of the Trade Representation in New York.

http://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/cKNonkJE02Bw/content/id/2851819

October 2, 2017

Statement by the Foreign Ministry on the seizure of Russian diplomatic buildings in the United States

Despite warnings, US authorities have refused to listen to reason and abandon their illegal intentions. Today they seized the remaining premises of the Russian Consulate General in San Francisco – the residential part of its administrative building, where the offices have been occupied for a month already by American special services, and the separate residence of the Consul General.

http://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/cKNonkJE02Bw/content/id/2883934

December 8, 2017

F.B.I. Warned Hope Hicks About Emails From Russian Operatives

In some ways, the Russian outreach to Ms. Hicks undercuts the idea that the Russian government had established deep ties to the Trump campaign before the election. If it had, Russian officials might have found a better entrée to the White House than unprompted emails to Ms. Hicks.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/08/us/politics/hope-hicks-russia-trump-fbi.html>

March 28, 2018

U.S. Expels 60 Russian Officials, Closes Consulate In Seattle

The move follows the poisoning of former Russian spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter, Yulia, in the English city of Salisbury on March 4.

<https://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2018/03/26/596966272/us-expels-dozens-of-russian-diplomats-closes-consulate-in-seattle>

March 29, 2018

Press release on Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov's meeting with US Ambassador to Russia Jon Huntsman

In response, and based on the principle of reciprocity, 58 diplomatic staff at the US Embassy in Moscow and two employees at the US Consulate General in Yekaterinburg have been declared persona non grata for activities incompatible with their diplomatic status. They are to leave Russia before April 5, 2018.

The agreement to open the US Consulate General in St Petersburg has been revoked. US representatives must vacate the administrative building granted for the mission by March 31.

http://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/maps/us/-/asset_publisher/unVXBbj4Z6e8/content/id/3145543

March 30, 2018

Comment by the Information and Press Department on provocations against Russian diplomatic staff in the US

http://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/kommentarii_predstavitelya/-/asset_publisher/MCZ7HQuMdqBY/content/id/3149854

August 17, 2018

Russian Foreign Ministry Note to the United States Department of State of 7 August, 2018

http://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/maps/us/-/asset_publisher/unVXBbj4Z6e8/content/id/3320504

August 17, 2018

Communication of the Russian Federation regarding the Secretary-General's report to the UN General Assembly on the agenda item: "Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives."

http://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/maps/us/-/asset_publisher/unVXBbj4Z6e8/content/id/3320490

March 4, 2019

Salisbury: unanswered questions

Report by the Russian Embassy in London

<https://rusemb.org.uk/fnapr/6762>

Topic 5. PERSECUTION OF THE RUSSIAN PRESS

EXAMPLES OF HYSTERIA

November 24, 2016

Russian propaganda effort helped spread ‘fake news’ during election, experts say

https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/russian-propaganda-effort-helped-spread-fake-news-during-election-experts-say/2016/11/24/793903b6-8a40-4ca9-b712-716af66098fe_story.html

November 30, 2017

Congressional press office yanks RT's credentials

<https://money.cnn.com/2017/11/29/media/rt-capitol-credentials-revoked/index.html>

December 21, 2017

DOJ told RT to register as foreign agent partly because of alleged 2016 election interference

Justice Department official says scrutiny of Russian English-language channel followed U.S. intelligence agency report.

<https://www.politico.com/story/2017/12/21/russia-today-justice-department-foreign-agent-election-interference-312211>

February 18, 2018

U.S.-based Russian news outlet registers as foreign agent

RIA Global, which produces content for Russian state-owned news outlet Sputnik, registered under the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA) on Friday, according to filings on the Justice Department's website.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-trump-russia-propaganda/u-s-based-russian-news-outlet-registers-as-foreign-agent-idUSKCN1G201H>

REALITY

November 2017

CPJ: Compelling RT to register under FARA is a bad idea.

This is a shift in how the law has been applied in recent decades, so we have little information about how its reporting requirements might affect individual journalists," said CPJ North America Program Coordinator Alexandra Ellerbeck. "We're uncomfortable with governments deciding what constitutes journalism or propaganda.

<https://cpj.org/2017/11/russias-rt-network-says-it-complied-with-us-order-.php>

November 13, 2017

Forcing RT to register as 'foreign agent' is a 'horrendous blow to press freedom'

<https://www.rt.com/news/409780-rt-foreign-agent-reactions/>

November 2, 2017

**Briefing by Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Maria Zakharova, Moscow.
Twitter's ban on ads from RT and Sputnik**

[http://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/foreign_policy/news/-
/asset_publisher/cKNonkJE02Bw/content/id/2932032#13](http://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/cKNonkJE02Bw/content/id/2932032#13)

November 16, 2017

**Briefing by Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Maria Zakharova, Moscow.
Russian law on foreign media**

[http://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/foreign_policy/news/-
/asset_publisher/cKNonkJE02Bw/content/id/2952891#17](http://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/cKNonkJE02Bw/content/id/2952891#17)

November 25, 2017

**Russian President Vladimir Putin has signed into law the bill designating
media outlets as foreign agents.**

This measure was a response to the demand of the US Department of Justice to RT America, a US branch of the Russian television company, to register as a foreign agent.

<http://tass.com/politics/977457>

Why has this law been adopted?

It is a symmetrical response to US demand that Russian media outlets register as foreign agents.

Law on Designating Media Outlets as Foreign Agents



January 12, 2018

Briefing by Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Maria Zakharova, Moscow.

RIA GLOBAL designated as foreign agent in the USA

http://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/cKNonkJE02Bw/content/id/3017813#12

What will happen if the United States suspends its requirements for the Russian media?

In this case, the response measures will be mitigated as well.

Law on Designating Media Outlets as Foreign Agents



What effect will the law have on media outlets that register as foreign agents?

They will be required to do the following:

- * publish a notice that their materials are provided by or distributed by a foreign agent;
- * submit biennial reports on their activities and the composition of their management bodies;
- * provide expense reports every three months, etc.

Law on Designating Media Outlets as Foreign Agents



October 29, 2018

USA Really Website Is Under Attack

<https://usareally.com/1882-breaking-usa-really-website-is-under-attack>

Breaking! USA Really Website Is Under Attack!

2:50 pm October 29, 2018 5916



The USA Really website has been blocked by the host-provider due to an anonymous complaint received from "a journalist from the U.K." Thus, the informational war against us has reached a new level.

November 11, 2018

The detention of Russian journalist Alexander Malkevich in the United States



<https://www.facebook.com/RusEmbUSA/photos/a.493759737501088/910981642445560/>

http://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/cKNonkJE02Bw/content/id/3410247##31

February 27, 2019

U.S. Cyber Command operation disrupted Internet access of Russian troll factory on day of 2018 midterms

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/us-cyber-command-operation-disrupted-internet-access-of-russian-troll-factory-on-day-of-2018-midterms/2019/02/26/1827fc9e-36d6-11e9-af5b-b51b7ff322e9_story.html

February 27, 2019

Another Failed Attempt to Attack Federal News Agency by US Cyber Command

<https://usareally.com/2728-another-failed-attempt-to-attack-federal-news-agency-by-us-cyber-command>

February 28, 2019

Briefing by Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Maria Zakharova, Moscow

Cyber attack on NTV-MIR

http://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/cKNonkJE02Bw/content/id/3549162#31

The Washington Post article on US offensive cyber attacks against Russia during the midterm elections to Congress in 2018

http://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/cKNonkJE02Bw/content/id/3549162#16

Google surveillance of Federal News Agency correspondence in Google mail

http://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/cKNonkJE02Bw/content/id/3549162#24

Topic 6. PERSECUTION OF RUSSIAN CITIZENS AND BUSINESS

<...> There are solid facts showing that the Democratic Party violated the law when illegal methods were used to force Bernie Sanders to quit the race. Everyone has forgotten about this, talking about Russia all the time rather than about what is happening in the United States.

I know American society, where no secrets are safe but are leaked to the public. If there was a single solid fact of Russia's interference in US affairs, it would have been leaked during the more than two years of hearings and meetings held by Mueller's office. But the only one to get in trouble was Paul Manafort. Moreover, it turned out that he worked for Ukraine, not Russia. But this fact is being forgotten as well.

The focus is now on Maria Butina, whose only sin is that she has joined the National Rifle Association of America. This has been presented as nearly an assault on the US Constitution.

We are open for dialogue as long as the United States is. President Vladimir Putin has said this more than once at his meeting with US President Donald Trump in Hamburg in 2017, in Helsinki last year, as well as during their contacts at the G20 summit in Buenos Aires. We do not want to interfere, and we do not want to give any reason for accusing us of interference in the internal fighting and conflicts in the United States. What we have is a constructive agenda. We have outlined a number of cooperation areas, including the establishment, upon our presidents' approval, of a business council comprising five, six or seven top officials each from the largest Russian and US corporations. I am sure that such a high-level council could become a major stabilisation factor, at least for our business communities.

We have also proposed establishing, if our presidents approve this, a small council of leading Russian and US political scientists who can be charged with preparing a positive agenda. We have offered an extended programme for a dialogue on strategic stability...

SERGEY LAVROV

EXAMPLES OF HYSTERIA

September 9, 2017

Best Buy pulls Kaspersky Lab products after concerns over ties to the Russian government

Too many unanswered questions

<https://www.theverge.com/2017/9/9/16280728/best-buy-pulls-kaspersky-lab-products-russia-cybersecurity>

April 20, 2018

Twitter bans ads from Russia's Kaspersky Lab

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-twitter-kaspersky-lab/twitter-bans-ads-from-russias-kaspersky-lab-idUSKBN1HR2RM>

July 17, 2018

Butina arrest: 6 things to know

The Justice Department charged a Russian national, Mariia Butina, also known as Maria, with conspiring against the US as a secret agent.

<https://edition.cnn.com/2018/07/16/politics/butina-russia-arrest-7-things/index.html>

March 28, 2019

Maria Butina, accused of spying for Russia, to be sentenced in April

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/maria-butina-accused-of-spying-for-russia-to-be-sentenced-in-april/>

REALITY

July 7, 2017

'Person-to-person diplomacy': Exchange program builds relationship with Russian Sister City

Petrozavodsk student... said they were aware of the news stories about Russia in the U.S. media — one of the Petrozavodsk students was even jokingly asked if he hacked the election while going through U.S. customs.

<https://www.duluthnewtribune.com/news/4294716-person-person-diplomacy-exchange-program-builds-relationship-russian-sister-city>

September 21, 2017

McAfee joins the anti-Kaspersky witch hunt in shitty attempt to sell a few boxes

<https://www.grahamcluley.com/mcafee-joins-anti-kaspersky-witch-hunt-shitty-attempt-sell-boxes/>

February 11, 2019

The U.S. government went looking for someone to blame for Russia's interference in the 2016 election—and found Maria Butina, the perfect scapegoat.

<https://newrepublic.com/article/153036/maria-butina-profile-wasnt-russian-spy>

Topic 7. RUSSIAN HACKING IN THE WORLD

EXAMPLES OF HYSTERIA

May 9, 2017

U.S. increasingly convinced that Russia hacked French election: sources

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-france-election-russia/u-s-increasingly-convinced-that-russia-hacked-french-election-sources-idUSKBN1852KO>

May 9, 2017

The NSA Confirms It: Russia Hacked French Election ‘Infrastructure’

<https://www.wired.com/2017/05/nsa-director-confirms-russia-hacked-french-election-infrastructure/>

Rep. Jamie Raskin about Russia Allegations

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ce0X7_48vGY

June 7, 2017

CNN Exclusive: US suspects Russian hackers planted fake news behind Qatar crisis

<https://www.cnn.com/2017/06/06/politics/russian-hackers-planted-fake-news-qatar-crisis/index.html>

June 7, 2017

Did Russian Hackers Create Qatar’s Diplomatic Disaster?

U.S. investigators think Moscow planted fake news to start a fight, and have been on the ground in Doha.

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2017/06/07/did-russian-hackers-create-qatars-diplomatic-disaster/>

January 7, 2018

Former National Security Advisor H.R. McMaster insinuated that Russia was interfering in the Mexican presidential elections of 2018

(<https://thehill.com/homenews/administration/367844-mcmaster-points-to-russian-interference-in-mexican-election>).

REALITY

June 1, 2017

France says no trace of Russian hacking Macron

<https://apnews.com/fc570e4b400f4c7db3b0d739e9dc5d4d>

July 17, 2017

Not ‘Russian hackers’? WaPo report accuses UAE of orchestrating Qatar media hack

<https://www.rt.com/news/396505-uae-accused-hacking-qatar-media/>

July 17, 2017

UAE orchestrated hacking of Qatari government sites, sparking regional upheaval, according to U.S. intelligence officials

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/uae-hacked-qatari-government-sites-sparking-regional-upheaval-according-to-us-intelligence-officials/2017/07/16/00c46e54-698f-11e7-8eb5-cbccc2e7bfbf_story.html

February 7, 2018

Ambassador to Russia Norma Pensado during a press conference in Moscow, **debunked the claim of Russian interference in Mexican elections of 2018**

<https://rossaprimavera.ru/news/93592ca6>

May 18, 2018

Mexican officials, including the president of the Mexican Senate Ernesto Cordero Arroyo, **denied the claim of Russian interference in Mexican elections**, saying that «there was no evidence»

<https://sputniknews.com/europe/201805181064587418-mexico-election-russian-meddling-groundless/>

January 30, 2019

Special Report: Inside the UAE's secret hacking team of U.S. mercenaries

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-spying-raven-specialreport/special-report-inside-the-uaes-secret-hacking-team-of-u-s-mercenaries-idUSKCN1PO19O>

Topic 8. SONIC ATTACKS

EXAMPLES OF HYSTERIA

September 11, 2018

U.S. officials suspect Russia in mystery 'attacks' on diplomats in Cuba, China

The strong suspicion that Russia was behind the alleged attacks is backed by signals intelligence, meaning intercepted communications, say U.S. officials.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latin-america/u-s-officials-suspect-russia-mystery-attacks-diplomats-cuba-china-n908141>

September 11, 2018

Report: Russia Is 'Main Suspect' in Alleged Cognitive Attacks to US Diplomats in Cuba

National Security Analyst Morgan Ortagus said that alleged attacks on U.S. diplomats in Cuba and China has taken harassment to "incredibly scary" levels.

<https://insider.foxnews.com/2018/09/11/report-russia-main-suspect-alleged-cognitive-attacks-us-diplomats-cuba>

REALITY

September 5, 2017

'Sonic Attack' on the U.S. Embassy Likely Psychological

Claims of an 'acoustic wave' attack by Cuba, sound fishy

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/its-catching/201709/sonic-attack-the-us-embassy-likely-psychological>

July 1, 2018

Those 'Sonic Attack' Victims Are Actually Experiencing Mass Hysteria, Expert Claims

<https://www.sciencealert.com/sonic-attack-victims-actually-experiencing-mass-hysteria-expert-claims-psychogenic-illness-delusions-robert-bartholomew>

January 4, 2019

Crickets could be behind the Cuba 'sonic attack' mystery, scientists say

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/01/07/health/cuba-sonic-attack-crickets-sci-intl/index.html>




bioRxiv
THE PREPRINT SERVER FOR BIOLOGY

New Results

2 comments

Recording of "sonic attacks" on U.S. diplomats in Cuba spectrally matches the echoing call of a Caribbean cricket

 Alexander L Stubbs, Fernando Montealegre-Z

doi: <https://doi.org/10.1101/510834>

This article is a preprint and has not been peer-reviewed [what does this mean?].

<https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/510834v1>

January 8, 2019

Scientists say recording of sound heard by U.S. diplomats in Cuba matches crickets

A strange sound heard by embassy workers who fell ill matches a Caribbean cricket, but the finding doesn't solve the mystery.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/national-security/scientists-say-recording-sound-heard-u-s-diplomats-cuba-matches-n956441>

**EXAMPLES OF GROUNDLESS ACCUSATIONS
MADE BY AMERICAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND POLITICAL
LEADERS**

October 7, 2016

Department Of Homeland Security and Office of the Director of National Intelligence on Election Security statement on election security: «*The U.S. Intelligence Community (USIC) is confident that the Russian Government directed the recent compromises of e-mails from US persons and institutions, including from US political organizations*»

<https://www.dhs.gov/news/2016/10/07/joint-statement-department-homeland-security-and-office-director-national>

October 30, 2016

Harry Reid, Democratic Senator, in his letter to FBI Director Comey, posted on Facebook: «*In my communications with you and other top officials in the national security community, it has become clear that you possess explosive*

information about close ties and coordination between Donald Trump, his top advisors, and the Russian government – a foreign interest openly hostile to the United States, which Trump praises at every opportunity»

<https://www.facebook.com/SenatorReid/posts/my-letter-to-fbi-director-comeydear-director-comey-your-actions-in-recent-months-/1524069540941657/>
https://pilotonline.com/article_7b3af640-5334-11e9-9a42-a3a9f0b8ad07.html

December 16, 2016

Barack Obama, U.S. President, at a news year's conference in response to a question from ABC's Martha Raddatz, claimed **publicly for the first time that he believed Putin personally directed the hacks**: *«Not much happens in Russia without Vladimir Putin. We have said and I will confirm that this happened at the highest levels.»*, and *« It's not in the habit of Russian officials to go off rogue and decide to tamper with the U.S. election process without Vladimir Putin knowing about it»*

<https://www.politico.com/story/2016/12/obama-press-conference-today-live-speech-on-russia-hacking-232737>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dfh342F96fs>

March 16, 2017

Maxine Waters, Democratic representative, chair of the House Financial Services Committee, on Twitter with photo: *«Trump's Kremlin klan»*

<https://twitter.com/RepMaxineWaters/status/842392085168824320>



May 28, 2017

James Clapper, Former Director of National Intelligence, told NBC's Chuck Todd that Russians were «genetically driven» to co-opt: *«If you put that in context with everything else we knew the Russians were doing to interfere with the election...And just the historical practices of the Russians, who typically, are almost genetically driven to co-opt, penetrate, gain favor, whatever, which is a typical Russian technique. So, we were concerned»*

<https://www.nbcnews.com/meet-the-press/meet-press-may-28-2017-n765626>
<https://observer.com/2017/05/james-clapper-russia-xenophobia/>

May 23 2017

John Brennan, former CIA Director: *«Russia Brazenly Interfered»* in U.S. Elections

<https://www.c-span.org/video/?c4670890/cia-director-brennan-russia-brazenly-interfered-us-election>

<https://www.npr.org/2017/05/23/529598301/former-cia-director-tells-lawmakers-about-very-aggressive-russian-election-meddl>
<https://www.businessinsider.com/john-brennan-russia-trump-collusion-testimony-2017-5>

June 8, 2017

James Clapper, Former Director of National Intelligence in his speech at the National Press Club: »But as far as our being intimate allies, trusting buds with the Russians that is just not going to happen. It is in their genes to be opposed, diametrically opposed to the United States and to Western democracies»

<http://www.anu.edu.au/news/all-news/speech-professor-james-clapper-ao-address-to-the-national-press-club>

July 10, 2017

Ron Wyden, Democratic Senator, on the Daily Beast: «*Based on Donald Trump, Jr. 's own admissions, there was an effort by the Trump campaign to have the Russians help Donald Trump get elected. That's an attempt at collusion*»

<https://www.thedailybeast.com/senate-intelligence-committee-member-donald-trump-jrs-meeting-an-attempt-at-collusion>

September 21, 2017

Maxine Waters, Democratic representative, chair of the House Financial Services Committee, at a town hall meeting of the Black Congressional Caucus Foundation in Washington said: «*Here you have a president who I can tell you, I guarantee you, is in collusion with the Russians to undermine our democracy,*»

and "Here you have a president who has obstructed justice and here you have a president that lies every day»

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QxRPwhdb5z0&feature=youtu.be&t=5102>

December 10, 2017

Adam Schiff, Democratic Representative, current chair of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, on CNN's State of the Union claimed: *«The Russians offered help, the campaign accepted help, the Russians gave help, and the president made full use of that help, and that is pretty damning, whether it is proof beyond a reasonable doubt of conspiracy or not»*

<https://www.cnn.com/videos/politics/2017/12/10/adam-schiff-russian-collusion-damning-sot-sotu.cnn>

December 14, 2017

Ron Wyden, Democratic Senator, on CNN: *«When you look at Donald Trump Jr., and what is on the record, there was clearly an intent to collude," and "Their portfolio consisted of a lot of Russian money»*

<https://www.cnn.com/videos/politics/2017/12/14/ron-wyden-reaction-russia-probe-mueller-latest-tsr.cnn>

January 3, 2018

Maxine Waters, Democratic representative, chair of the House Financial Services Committee, wrote on her **Twitter**: *«A message to Mueller: Stay strong and stand tall. Continue to investigate them all. You are indeed answering the*

people's call. The Kremlin Klan is going to fall. Around you the Democrats are building a wall. We look forward to the day, to prison they will all be hauled»

<https://twitter.com/RepMaxineWaters/status/948632843919478784>

February 17, 2018

Herbert McMaster, President Donald Trump's national security adviser on at the Munich Security Conference: *«Russian meddling is beyond dispute»*

<https://www.politico.com/story/2018/02/17/mcmaster-russian-meddling-beyond-dispute-416848>

April 22, 2018

Tom Perez, Democratic National Committee Chairman said after the DNC filed a civil suit against the Trump campaign, the Russian government and Wikileaks: *«Over the course of the last year we have seen a mountain of evidence of collusion between the campaign and the Russians to affect our democracy»*

<https://www.nbcnews.com/meet-the-press/meet-press-april-22-2018-n868176>

May 23, 2018

Mike Pompeo, State Secretary, former CIA Director, on hearings at the House Foreign Affairs Committee, when pressed by Democrats on whether he accepted finding of the U.S. intelligence that Russian President Vladimir Putin wanted to help Trump win: *“Yes, sir,”*

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-05-23/pompeo-affirms-reluctantly-that-russia-tried-to-help-trump-win>

July 20, 2018

Mike Pompeo, State Secretary, former CIA Director in an interview with Fox News: *"I have great confidence that the Russians will try and undermine western democracy in 2017, 2018, 2019 and for an awfully long time. It is our responsibility as leaders of United States government to do all that we can to deter them from interfering with us, not only in our elections, but more broadly as well."*

<https://video.foxnews.com/v/5811686413001/#sp=show-clips>

August 16, 2018

John Brennan, former CIA Director, in New York Times article: *«President Trump's Claims of No Collusion Are Hogwash»*

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/16/opinion/john-brennan-trump-russia-collusion-security-clearance.html>

November 17, 2018

Richard Blumenthal, Democratic Senator, on MSNBC host Chris Hayes claimed: *«The evidence is pretty clear that there was collusion between the Trump campaign and the Russians»*

<http://www.msnbc.com/transcripts/all-in/2018-10-17>

November 30, 2018

Jerry Nadler, Democratic Representative, chair of the House Judiciary Committee on CNN: *«The fact that Manafort and Trump Jr. met with Russian agents who told them they wanted to give them dirt on Hillary as part of the*

Russian government's attempt to help them, and that they said fine. It's clear that the campaign colluded, and there's a lot of evidence of that»

<https://www.rollcall.com/news/politics/incoming-judiciary-committee-chairman-the-walls-are-closing-in-on-trump>

December 1, 2018

James Mattis, Secretary of Defense, in an interview with Fox News's Bret Baier at the **Reagan National Defense Forum** in Simi Valley, California, claimed that the U.S. government has determined Russia attempted to interfere with the U.S. elections of 2018: *"Putin tried again to muck around in our elections this last month, and we are seeing a continued effort on those lines,"*

<https://www.reaganfoundation.org/media/299230/2018-rndf-keynote-remarks-with-secretary-james-mattis.pdf>

<https://thehill.com/policy/international/419282-mattis-russia-interfered-in-2018-midterms>

December 27, 2018

Ted Lieu, Democratic Representative, in a one-word tweet: *«Collusion!»*

<https://twitter.com/tedlieu/status/1078344229359767552>



Ted Lieu 
@tedlieu

COLLUSION!

12:37 PM - 27 Dec 2018

January 10, 2019

Adam Schiff, Democratic Representative, current chair of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, on CNN interview: «*There's clear evidence on the issue of collusion*»

<http://www.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/1901/10/nday.06.html>

January 28, 2019

Eric Swalwell, Democratic Representative, on in an interview for PBS Firing Line with Margaret Hoover called President Trump an «*agent of Russia*»

<https://townhall.com/tipsheet/cortneyobrien/2019/01/28/rep-swalwells-outrageous-and-irresponsible-interview-n2540327>

<https://www.msnbc.com/morning-joe/watch/congressman-believes-trump-colluded-with-russia-1460854851799>

January 29, 2019

Dan Coats, Director of National Intelligence in a statement to the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence : «*US adversaries and strategic competitors will use online influence operations to try to weaken democratic institutions. Russia's social media efforts will continue to focus on aggravating social and racial tensions, undermining trust in authorities, and criticizing perceived anti-Russia politicians. Moscow may employ additional influence toolkits—such as spreading disinformation, conducting hack-and leak operations, or manipulating data—in a more targeted fashion to influence US policy, actions, and elections*»

<https://www.intelligence.senate.gov/sites/default/files/documents/os-dcoats-012919.pdf>

February 12, 2019

Ted Lieu, Democratic Representative, on CNN: *«If you look at the indictment that was handed down on Roger Stone, it very clearly says that a senior Trump campaign official was directed by someone even higher to go seek dirt on Hillary Clinton from Wikileaks, which is a front for the Russians. That looks like collusion to me»*

<http://www.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/1902/12/sitroom.02.html>

March 19, 2019

Eric Swalwell, Democratic Representative, on MSNBC: *«There's circumstantial evidence that (Trump) colluded. He knew they were doing this. His family was meeting with them. Offers being made. It was being passed to him. He would publicly go out and encourage them to do it»*

<https://www.msnbc.com/morning-joe/watch/congressman-believes-trump-colluded-with-russia-1460854851799>

March 24, 2019

William Barr, U.S. Attorney General in Summary from Muller's report conclusions:

- *«A Russian organization, the Internet Research Agency (IRA) conducted disinformation and social media operations in the United States designed to sow social discord, eventually with the aim of interfering with the election.*
- *«Russian government actors hacked into computers and obtained emails from persons affiliated with the Clinton campaign and Democratic Party*

organizations, and publicly disseminated those materials through various intermediaries, including WikiLeaks»

- *«There were multiple offers from Russian-affiliated individuals to assist the Trump campaign».*

- *«Russian military officers for conspiring to hack into computers in the United States for purposes of influencing the election»*

<http://fm.cnb.com/applications/cnb.com/resources/editorialfiles/2019/03/24/letter.pdf>

March 25, 2019

Ron Wyden, Democratic Senator, in his statement: *«The indictments and other documents Mueller released revealed all kinds of links between the Trump campaign and family and the Russians. You would think from the Barr summary that they had nothing to do with each other»*

<https://www.wyden.senate.gov/news/press-releases/wyden-statement-on-attorney-general-barrs-letter-to-congress>

March 25, 2019

Eric Swalwell, Democratic Representative, on MSNBC: *«I have seen the Trump campaign for myself and others and to that, I would say the only person who has made false statements about Russia is Donald Trump», and «I stand by what I said about seeing evidence of collusion. If he has a problem with that, he can sue me. And I promise you I would win in court»*

https://www.realclearpolitics.com/video/2019/03/25/swalwell_trump_can_sue_me_i_stand_by_claim_of_seeing_evidence_of_collusion.html

March 27, 2019

Mike Pompeo, State Secretary, former CIA Director, at a hearing on State Department Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Request, House Foreign Affairs Committee: *«Russia poses threats that have evolved beyond external or military aggression, and now include influence operations targeting America and the Western world»*

<https://www.c-span.org/video/?458918-1/state-department-fiscal-year-2020-budget-request-house-foreign-affairs-committee#>

<https://docs.house.gov/meetings/FA/FA00/20190327/109185/HHRG-116-FA00-Wstate-PompeoM-20190327.pdf>

March 27, 2019

Mike Pompeo, State Secretary, former CIA Director, at the hearing in the House Foreign Affairs Committee, when asked if Russia meddled in the presidential election in 2016: *«Yes. And in 2012, in 2008 and in 2004»*

<https://www.urdupoint.com/en/world/pompeo-says-russia-has-meddled-in-us-election-579875.html>

April 6, 2019

Tim Ryan, Democratic Representative, in his first President Campaign Rally in Youngstown, Ohio, blamed Russia for political division in America: *«If there is an incident in America that's controversial -- about kneeling for the National Anthem or there's a school shooting or there's an incident between a cop and a kid -- you know who comes on to our social media? The Russians. OK? I want you to hear this. The Russians. They come into our social media and they spin things to get us into these divided camps so that we're fighting with each other,»*

he said. "That's what they want. And meanwhile, we can't get our economy going. Meanwhile, we can't get a healthcare system that works»

<https://wsbt.com/news/nation-world/live-democrat-rep-tim-ryan-launches-presidential-campaign-in-ohio-home-state>

<https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/ohio-rep-tim-ryans-2020-bid-set-begin/story?id=62209454>

EXAMPLES OF GROUNDLESS ACCUSATIONS MADE IN THE U.S. BY EXPERTS AND NGO

August 3, 2016

Brookings Institution published “3 reasons Russia’s Vladimir Putin might want to interfere in the U.S. presidential elections” by Fiona Hill. *“Irrespective of whether Donald Trump or Hillary Clinton is elected, from Moscow’s perspective, at the end of this ruinous campaign, the new U.S. president will look as wounded as Putin did when he took office again in 2012. A U.S. president who is elected amid controversy and recrimination, reviled by a large segment of the electorate, and mired in domestic crises will be hard-pressed to forge a coherent foreign policy and challenge Russia”.*

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2016/08/03/3-reasons-russias-vladimir-putin-might-want-to-interfere-in-the-u-s-presidential-elections/>

October 2016

“The Plot to Hack America: How Putin's Cyber and WikiLeaks Tried to Steal 2016 Election” by Malcolm Nance.

“The thrilling story of how Putin’s spy agency, run by the Russian billionaire class, used the promise of power and influence to cultivate Trump as well as his aides to become unwitting assets of the Russian government”. (Annotation)

<https://www.amazon.com/Plot-Hack-America-Cyberspies-WikiLeaks/dp/1510723323>

October 31, 2016

RAND Corporation published “Checklist for a U.S.-Russia Cyberwar” by Martin Libicki.

“Assuming it is the perpetrator, Russia has clearly tampered with the U.S. election process”.

<https://www.rand.org/blog/2016/10/checklist-for-a-us-russia-cyberwar.html>

December 13, 2016

Atlantic Council published interview with former acting director of the CIA Michael Morell under the title “US Must Deliver a ‘Painful’ Response to Putin for Russian Meddling”.

“Putin had a preferred candidate and he was working on behalf of that preferred candidate”.

“We have to retaliate against Russia”

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/new-atlanticist/us-must-deliver-a-painful-response-to-putin-for-russian-meddling>

December 21, 2016

Center for American Progress published “Moscow on the Potomac”.

“In essence, Trump did not begin investing in Russia – rather, dark Russian money began investing in him”.

“The scramble for Russian money has entangled Trump with a web of murky figures and questionable associations, all of which seem to invariably link back to Putin and the Kremlin”.

<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/security/reports/2016/12/21/295592/moscow-on-the-potomac/>

February 14, 2017

Center for American Progress released “Why Americans Should Care About Russian Hacking”.

“Russia’s interference in the 2016 presidential election was an attack on the American people, threatening the integrity and legitimacy of the democratic process, as well as the outcome of the election”.

“The Russian government has used different forms of cybercampaigning in an attempt to influence not only American elections, but also to provoke instability by creating feelings of fear and mistrust towards American governance institutions.”

<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/security/reports/2017/02/14/415073/why-americans-should-care-about-russian-hacking/>

March 1, 2017

Center for American Progress issued a video “Trump’s Troubling Ties to Russia” (Andrew Satter and Carolyn Kenney)

“President Donald Trump’s dangerous infatuation with Russian President Vladimir Putin has been well-documented. Less well known, however, are his

vast ties to shady Russian businessmen and oligarchs who have helped to fund his real estate empire”. (Annotation)

<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/security/news/2017/03/01/426997/trumps-troubling-ties-to-russia/>

March 9, 2017

Brookings Institution released “Russia’s ability to manipulate U.S. elections is a national security issue, not a political one” by Robert Kagan.

“If the Russia did interfere in the United States’ electoral processes last year, then it has the capacity to do so in every election going forward”.

<https://www.brookings.edu/opinions/russias-ability-to-manipulate-u-s-elections-is-a-national-security-issue-not-a-political-one/>

March 21, 2017

Center for a New American Security published “Investigate Russia, but Congress also needs to deter the next hack” by Peter Harrell.

“Regardless of whether Russia’s hacking of the DNC and of Clinton Campaign Chairman John Podesta actually affected votes last November, Russia succeeded in undermining millions of American’s confidence in our electoral process and sent a blunt message to U.S. politicians and political operatives that they risk cyber attacks if they cross Moscow”.

“Success – combined the absence of any meaningful U.S. response to date – can only encourage Russia and other U.S. adversaries to try to subvert American elections in the future”.

<https://www.cnas.org/publications/commentary/investigate-russia-but-congress-also-needs-to-deter-the-next-hack>

April 2017

A book “Russian Roulette: The Inside Story of Putin’s War on America and the Election of Trump” by Michael Isikoff and David Corn.

“The story of high-tech spying and multiple political feuds against the backdrop of Trump’s strange relationship with Putin”. (Annotation)

<https://www.amazon.com/Russian-Roulette-Inside-America-Election/dp/1538728753>

June 14, 2017

The Center for American progress released “Trump’s Conflicts of Interest in Russia” by John Norris and Carolyn Kenney.

“The tangle of Donald Trump’s Russia connections is long and complicated, but the evidence all points in the same direction: Trump has been fundamentally corrupted by Russian money and influence”.

<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/security/news/2017/06/14/433954/trumps-conflicts-interest-russia/>

July 2017

Alliance for Securing Democracy was established.

“In 2016, American democracy came under unprecedented attack. The Russian government attempted to weaken the pillars of our democracy and undermine faith and confidence in our society’s most fundamental right – the ability to choose our own leaders. <...> Putin’s Russia is seeking to harm the national security of the United States and our democratic allies and weaken us as nations by striking at our score strength – the strength that enables us to

protect and advance our interests and prosperity. These efforts are particularly insidious because they seek to use our greatest strength – our openness – against us in order to undermine our democracy”. (Mission statement)

<https://securingdemocracy.gmfus.org/about-us/#mission>

July 21, 2017

RAND Corporation released “Russian Information Warfare: A Reality That Needs a Response” by former U.S. Defense Attache in Moscow Bruce McClintock.

“Americans became aware of Russian information warfare after the 2016 presidential election, but Russia’s actions are anything but new. For more than a century, Russia has relied on disinformation, propaganda and other similar measures to achieve its objectives. For the last three decades, it has exploited its growing capabilities in cyberspace to spy on, influence and punish others”.

<https://www.rand.org/blog/2017/07/russian-information-warfare-a-reality-that-needs-a.html>

January 2018

Council on Foreign Relations published a report “Containing Russia: How to Respond to Moscow’s Intervention in U.S. Democracy and Growing Geopolitical Challenge” by Robert Blackwill and Philip Gordon.

“There is little doubt that Russian interventions continue – both to influence upcoming elections and to divide Americans, fanning the flames of racial and class resentment and seeking to deligitimize institutions, the free press, and elected officials. “Having surveyed” the full scope of the

“extraordinary Russian attack on American democratic system”, they said that “the United States is currently in a second Cold War with Russia”.

<https://www.cfr.org/report/containing-russia>

January 18, 2018

Brookings Institution posted a link on “U.S. still at risk as Russia’s interference accelerates” by Alina Polyakova.

“Fancy Bear, the same Russian military intelligence hacker group that penetrated the DNC and Clinton campaign servers in 2016, is now lurking in the U.S. Senate’s systems”. The author also claimed that “the infamous Russian troll-factory that spread disinformation during the U.S. elections is expanding operations and hiring more staff”.

<https://www.axios.com/us-at-risk-russia1515624890-8aefed2b-c49e-47af-a5b6-abf23ab631ec.html?source=sidebar>

February 16, 2018

Atlantic Council published a collection of its staff’s views on this announcement.

“Robert Mueller essentially achieved what he was appointed for – he presented an indictment showing how Russian operatives interfered in the US presidential campaign.” (Anders Aslund, Senior fellow in the Eurasia Center)

“The bottom line is that Mueller investigation will continue to run its course, but we can objectively erase any doubt, if there was still any, that Russia mounted systematic efforts to undermine the foundation of US government for and by the people: elections.” (Graham Brookie, deputy director of the Digital Forensic Research Lab)

“The importance of the special counsel and the need to continue to follow an investigatory path that punishes all those involved, both foreigners and Americans, in Russia’s election meddling.” (John Herbst, Director of Eurasia Center)

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/new-atlanticist/russians-charged-with-meddling-in-2016-us-election>

March 1, 2018

Center for a New American Security released “Trump has done nothing to stop Russia from meddling in the 2018 midterms” by Alex Ward

“President Donald Trump has barely acknowledged that Russians meddled in the 2016 presidential election, and now it looks like he’s doing nothing to prevent Moscow from interfering again”.

<https://www.cnas.org/press/in-the-news/trump-has-done-nothing-to-stop-russia-from-meddling-in-the-2018-midterms>

March 22, 2018

Brookings Institution issued “The next Russian attack will be far worse than bots and trolls” by Alina Polyakova

“The next Russian attack on the U.S. could be massive in scope and debilitating in its effects”

“Social media bots and trolls (will) look benign by comparison”.

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2018/03/22/the-next-russian-attack-will-be-far-worse-than-bots-and-trolls/>

August 14, 2018

RAND Corporation published “Here’s How Russia Will Try to Interfere in the 2018 Elections” by William Courtney.

“Russia will again threaten midterm elections in November, although by how much is unclear”.

<https://www.rand.org/blog/2018/08/heres-how-russia-will-try-to-interfere-in-the-2018.html>

September 2018

Atlantic Council published a report “Defining Russian Election Interference: An Analysis of Select 2014 to 2018 Cyber Enabled Incidents” by Laura Galante and Shaun Lee.

“Russian agents engaged in a multi-pronged influence campaign to undermine public faith in the US democratic process, denigrate [Hillary Clinton] and harm her electability and potential presidency”.

“One aspect of this campaign began as early as 2014, and aimed to delegitimize the US political process by amplifying politically polarized views through social media accounts – often under false personas – managed by the Russia-based IRA. Another aspect involved the compromise of US political organizations, most notably the DNC and DCCC, and subsequent leaking of emails and documents to damage Hillary Clinton’s candidacy”.

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/publications/issue-briefs/defining-russian-election-interference-an-analysis-of-select-2014-to-2018-cyber-enabled-incidents>

October 2018

Book “The Apprentice: Trump, Russia and the Subversion of American Democracy” by Greg Miller was published.

“It has been called the political crime of the century: a foreign government, led by a brutal authoritarian leader, secretly interfering with the American presidential election to help elect the candidate of its choice”.
(Annotation)

“The truth about the Kremlin’s covert attempt to destroy Hillary Clinton and help Donald Trump win the presidency”. (Annotation)

<https://www.amazon.com/Apprentice-Russia-Subversion-American-Democracy/dp/0062803700>

October 2, 2018

Center for a New American Security published “How Russia and China Undermine Democracy” by Andrea Kendall-Taylor and David Shullman

“The Kremlin’s interference in the 2016 U.S. presidential election, for example, was intended, at least in part, to tarnish U.S. democracy and allow Moscow to claim that Washington has no right telling other nations how to conduct their elections”.

<https://www.cnas.org/publications/commentary/how-russia-and-china-undermine-democracy>

October 3, 2018

Center for American Progress released “The Origins of Russia’s Broad Political Assault on the United States” by James Lamond.

“Russia’s use of political weaponry against the United States extends further back than just 2014”

<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/security/reports/2018/10/03/458841/origins-russias-broad-political-assault-united-states/>

October 14, 2018

Center for a New American Security issued “Idaho is not immune to Russian meddling and disinformation” by Andrea Kendall-Taylor and Rachel Rizzo .

“On March 10, 2015, American Falls became an early testing ground for Russian disinformation. That day, Twitter accounts reported that a phosphorous leak poisoned the water supply in American Falls. Soon after, more news outlets picked up the story. Photos of people wearing biohazard suits began circulate. The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality identified the story as fake, and officials tried to reassure people that their water was safe.”

<https://www.cnas.org/publications/commentary/idaho-is-not-immune-to-russian-meddling-and-disinformation>

November 1, 2018

RAND Corporation published “Countering Russian Social Media Influence” by Elizabeth Bodine-Baron, Todd C. Helmus, Andrew Radin, Elina Treyger.

“Russia actively uses propaganda to promote its interests worldwide. Evidence suggests that Russia has deliberately sowed disinformation through a variety of channels to influence populations abroad and in the United States,

including a number of detailed accounts of Russian social media activities and cyberattacks on particular U.S. or European organizations.”

https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR2740.html

December 17, 2018

Center for American Progress published a report “Following the Money: Trump and Russia-Linked Transactions From the Campaign to the Presidential Inauguration” by Diana Pilipenko and Talia Dessel.

“Trump’s campaign to win the presidency required money, as did the Kremlin’s campaign to help him”.

“Kremlin-linked actors paid considerable sums of money to support Trump”.

<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/democracy/reports/2018/12/17/464235/following-the-money/>

DEBUNKING KEY CLAIMS OF “RUSSIAGATE”

1. FALSE CLAIM: Russia “meddled” in the U.S. elections by conducting influence operations, including through social media.

FACT

All of the claims of Russian trolls that surfaced over the last few years (such as Russians using Pokémon Go mobile game and sex toys ads to meddle in the elections - https://news.vice.com/en_us/article/j5zkn3/russian-trolls-tried-to-use-pokemon-go-and-lgbt-positive-sex-toys-to-tip-the-2016-election) are so preposterous and contradictory that they virtually disprove themselves.

Not to mention the absurdity of the whole notion of 13 persons and 3 organizations (whichever country they might represent) charged on February 16, 2018, by Robert Mueller with criminally interfering with the elections, affecting in any way electoral processes in a country of more than 300 million people.

It is telling that when pressed about the scope of the alleged influence campaign, representatives of U.S. social media companies give such numbers, that even if they were true (and there’s no evidence of a connection to Russian government), are basically non-existent. For example, Facebook has identified 3,000 Russia-linked ads that cost about \$100,000. That’s a miniscule number of ads and a fraction of Facebook’s revenues, which totaled \$28 billion (<http://fortune.com/2017/11/01/facebook-google-twitter-russian-ads-congress/>). Facebook estimates that 126 million people might – the emphasis is on the word might - have seen this content. But this number represents just 0,004% of the content those people saw on the platform.

Google CEO Sundar Pichai testified to the U.S. House Judiciary Committee hearing on December 11th, 2018 that “ad accounts linked to Russia”

spent “about \$4,700 in advertising” to politically influence Americans during the 2016 presidential election season (<https://www.breitbart.com/tech/2018/12/11/google-ceo-russia-linked-ad-accounts-spent-4700-on-2016-political-advertising/>).

To further cast doubt on the allegations, an American watchdog group “Campaign for Accountability” (“CFA”) admitted on September 4th, 2018, that it deliberately posted propaganda materials on Google disguised as “Russian hackers from the Internet Research Agency” to check how they would be filtered for “foreign interference”. Google officials then accused the CFA for its ties to a rival tech company “Oracle”. In other words, corporate intrigues disguised as “Russian interference“. (<https://www.businessinsider.com/google-failed-to-stop-watchdog-posing-as-russians-from-buying-divisive-ads-2018-9>).

As American media has admitted, out of several dozens of pre-election rallies Special Counsel Mueller mentions in his indictment against the Russians, only a few actually appear to have successfully attracted anyone, and those that did were sparsely attended and, almost without exception, in deep-red enclaves that would have voted for Trump anyway. (<https://www.nationalreview.com/2018/03/mueller-investigation-indictments-russian-organized-rallies-not-influential/>)

Amidst all the hysteria about the alleged Russian meddling it is worth reading about U.S. researchers’ studies showing that, quoting “The Washington Post”, it is the Americans that peddle disinformation and hate speech. (https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2018/11/06/forget-russians-this-election-day-its-americans-peddling-disinformation-hate-speech/?utm_term=.b6a8b85c2268)

According to Graham Brookie, director of the Atlantic Council's Digital Forensic Research Lab., the scale and scope of domestic disinformation is much larger than any foreign influence operation. And academics from the Harvard's Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy show in their study that they had seen major spikes in outright fabrication and misleading information proliferating online before the 2018 U.S. election, with people using warlike rhetoric in social media posts to spread anti-immigrant sentiment. A "significant portion" of the disinformation appeared to come from Americans, not foreigners, the Harvard researchers said.

2. FALSE CLAIM: Russian hackers accessed computer servers of the Democratic National Committee (DNC) and leaked materials through Wikileaks and other intermediaries

FACT

As President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin noted in his interview with U.S. TV channel NBC on June 5, 2017 when flatly denying any allegations of Russia interfering in internal affairs of the U.S., today's technology is such that the final internet address can be masked and camouflaged to an extent that no one will be able to understand the origin of that address. It is possible to set up any entity or individual that everyone will think that they are the exact source of attack. (<http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/54688>)

No evidence has been presented linking Russia to leaked emails. In fact, there are credible studies arguing that DNC servers are much more likely to have been breached by someone with physical access. For example, a group of former officers of the U.S. intel community from the "Veteran Intelligence

Professionals for Sanity” (VIPS), members of which met with then-CIA Director Mike Pompeo in 2017 to present their findings (<https://consortiumnews.com/2019/03/13/vips-muellers-forensics-free-findings/>), demonstrated using forensic analysis that the DNC data was copied at a speed that far exceeds an Internet capability for a remote hack (<https://consortiumnews.com/2016/12/12/us-intel-vets-dispute-russia-hacking-claims/>, <https://consortiumnews.com/2017/01/17/a-demand-for-russian-hacking-proof/>, <https://consortiumnews.com/2017/07/24/intel-vets-challenge-russia-hack-evidence/>), thus suggesting it was more likely a removable storage device was used. Another counterargument to the “Russian hackers” claim is that the DNC files published by Wikileaks were initially stored under the FAT (File Allocation System) method which is not related to internet transfers and can only be forwarded to an external device such as a thumb drive.

It is also suspicious that the DNC prohibited the FBI from examining the servers. Instead, a third-party tech firm was hired, “Crowd Strike”, known for peddling the “Russian interference” claims. And soon enough it indeed announced that “Russian malware” has been found, but again, no solid evidence was produced.

According to the respected former UN weapons inspector Scott Ritter, the indictment by the Mueller team on July 13, 2018 of the 12 supposed Russian operatives (<http://time.com/5338451/rod-rosenstein-russian-indictment-transcript/>) was a politically motivated fraud (<https://www.truthdig.com/articles/indictment-of-12-russians-under-the-shiny-wrapping-a-political-act/>). As Ritter explains, Mueller seems to have borrowed his list from an organizational chart of a supposed Russian military intelligence unit, contained in a classified document from the NSA titled “Spear-Phishing

Campaign TTPs Used Against U.S. And Foreign Government Political Entities”, which was published by The Intercept online resource (<https://theintercept.com/2017/06/05/top-secret-nsa-report-details-russian-hacking-effort-days-before-2016-election/>). As stated in that document, this is just a subjective judgement, not a known fact. Ritter concludes, that this is a far cry from the kind of incontrovertible proof that Mueller’s team suggests exists to support its indictment.

Moreover, it is telling that the indictment was released (<http://time.com/5338451/rod-rosenstein-russian-indictment-transcript/>) just before the meeting between President Putin and Trump in Helsinki on July 16, 2018, seemingly as if the aim was to intentionally derail the bilateral summit.

3. FALSE CLAIM: Donald Trump colluded with Russia in the 2016 U.S. Presidential elections.

FACT

As concluded in the summary of the Special Counsel Robert Mueller’s report, the investigation did not find that the Trump campaign or anyone associated with it conspired or coordinated with Russia (<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/03/24/us/politics/barr-letter-mueller-report.html>)

If the Mueller team, having all the resources of the U.S. government, after 22 months of work, many millions of dollars spent (<https://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/article/2019/mar/26/mueller-investigation-cost/>), more than 2800 subpoenas issued, nearly 500 search warrants and 500 witness interviews, didn’t find any evidence of “collusion”, it is simply because there was never any.

As the above listed timeline of events and analysis of sources show, the whole claim of collusion was launched and peddled by the same group of Democrats, liberal-leaning media and the so-called “Never Trump Republicans”, as it became clear that Donald Trump had real chances of winning the election. And later it morphed into a campaign to derail the newly-elected President agenda, including his efforts to mitigate the damage done to U.S.-Russian relations.

4. FALSE CLAIM: Hacking of American political institutions was personally ordered by the Russian President Vladimir Putin.

FACT

This claim is based on nothing else but the infamous fraudulent “Steele Dossier”(https://archive.org/stream/TheSteelDossierTrumpIntelligenceAllegations/The%20Steele%20Dossier%20-%20Trump-Intelligence-Allegations_djvu.txt), paid for by political opponents of Donald Trump, and wild conjectures that “nothing in Russia happens without Putin’s approval” <https://www.politico.com/story/2016/12/obama-press-conference-today-live-speech-on-russia-hacking-232737>.

Needless to say, zero proof is presented. By the same logic, nothing in the U.S. happens without the President’s approval. For example, is he also responsible for Edward Snowden? After all, Mr. Snowden was doing work for the U.S. intelligence services. Or the deaths of all the civilians killed abroad by U.S. drone strikes? Sounds true?

5. FALSE CLAIM: Russia did not cooperate with the U.S. in tracing the source of the alleged hacking.

FACT

Russia has repeatedly offered to set up a professional and de-politicized dialogue on international information security only to have been rebuffed by the U.S. side. For instance, following the discussion between Presidents Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump in Hamburg on July 7, 2017, Russia forwarded to the U.S. a proposal to reestablish a bilateral working group on cyberthreats which would have been a perfect medium to discuss American concerns. Moreover, during his meeting with Donald Trump in Helsinki on July 17, 2018, Vladimir Putin offered to allow U.S. representatives to be present at an interrogation of the Russian citizens who were previously accused by the office of Special Counsel Robert Mueller of being guilty of electoral interference (<http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/transcripts/58017>). Furthermore, in February 2019 we suggested publishing bilateral correspondence on the subject of unsanctioned access to U.S. electronic networks, which was conducted between Washington and Moscow through the Nuclear Threat Reduction Centers in the period from October 2016 to the end of January 2017.

Needless to say, all Russian offers were rejected. A conclusion is naturally reached that the U.S. side does not want the truth to come out.

6. FALSE CLAIM: Russia is interfering in elections all over the world

FACT

Russia strictly adheres to the principle of non-interference in domestic affairs of other countries, which it considers to be cornerstone to international law. No credible evidence was produced not only of Russia's mythical meddling in the U.S. political processes, but to support similar allegations made by the U.S. in respect to other countries. For example, former National Security

Advisor H.R. McMaster insinuated that Russia was interfering in the Mexican presidential elections of 2018 (<https://thehill.com/homenews/administration/367844-mcmaster-points-to-russian-interference-in-mexican-election>). However, Mexican officials, including the president of the Mexican Senate Ernesto Cordero Arroyo (<https://sputniknews.com/europe/201805181064587418-mexico-election-russian-meddling-groundless/>), and Ambassador to Russia Norma Pensado during a press conference in Moscow in February, 2018 (<https://rossaprimavera.ru/news/93592ca6>), debunked this baseless claim.

Another example of fake news – reports saying that U.S. was increasingly convinced that Russia hacked French election on May 9, 2017 (<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-france-election-russia/u-s-increasingly-convinced-that-russia-hacked-french-election-sources-idUSKBN1852KO>).

However, on June 1, 2017, the head of the French government's cyber security agency said no trace was found of the claimed Russian hacking group behind the attack. (<https://apnews.com/fc570e4b400f4c7db3b0d739e9dc5d4d>)

On the other hand, the history of U.S. interfering in other countries' elections is well documented – by American sources as well (see: <https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2018/07/the-us-has-a-long-history-of-election-meddling/565538/>).

For example, a Carnegie Mellon scholar, Dov H. Levin, has scoured the historical record and found 81 examples of U.S. election influence operations from 1946- to 2000 (<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/02/17/sunday-review/russia-isnt-the-only-one-meddling-in-elections-we-do-it-too.html>). Often cited examples include Chile in 1964, Guyana in 1968, Nicaragua in 1990, Yugoslavia in 2000, Afghanistan in 2009, Ukraine in 2014 not to mention

Russia in 1996! And how else could the current situation in Ukraine and Venezuela be described, with U.S. representative for Ukraine Kurt Volker openly pressuring Ukrainian voters to support the incumbent (<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/as-nato-turns-70-alliance-increases-aid-to-ukraine-to-confront-russia>), and Washington plotting a coup in Caracas? (<https://news.yahoo.com/russia-accuses-us-plotting-coup-venezuela-182217466.html>)

7. FALSE CLAIM: The lawsuit of the Democratic National Committee against the Russian Federation related to “interference in the election” has a legal standing.

FACT

The DNC filed a civil lawsuit on April 20, 2018 against the Russian Federation and other entities and individuals. Named as defendants in the lawsuit are the Russian Federation; the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation (GRU); the GRU operative using the pseudonym "Guccifer 2.0"; Aras Iskenerovich Agalarov; Emin Araz Agalarov; Joseph Mifsud; WikiLeaks; Julian Assange; the Trump campaign (formally "Donald J. Trump for President, Inc."); Donald Trump, Jr.; Paul Manafort; Roger Stone; Jared Kushner; George Papadopoulos; Richard W. Gates; and unnamed defendants sued as John Does 1–10. The DNC's complaint accuses the Trump campaign of engaging in a racketeering enterprise in conjunction with Russia and WikiLeaks.

Even irrespective of the fact that there was no “interference” in the first place, the case has no legal standing. Exercise of U.S. jurisdiction over the pending case with respect to the Russian Federation is a violation of the

international law, specifically, violation of jurisdictional immunities of the Russian Federation arising from the principle of the sovereign equality of states.

8. FALSE CLAIM: Russian Ambassador to the U.S. Sergey Kislyak was a spy.

FACT

In March of 2017 U.S. media began libeling Sergey Kislyak a “top spy and spy-recruiter” (<https://edition.cnn.com/2017/03/02/politics/russia-kislyak-spy-claim-sessions/index.htm>) This preposterous claim was based on nothing but his contacts with Trump confidant Senator Jeff Sessions – carrying out work any Ambassador would do. Per the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961, among core diplomatic functions is ascertaining by all lawful means conditions and developments in the receiving State (http://legal.un.org/ilc/texts/instruments/english/conventions/9_1_1961.pdf), and that certainly includes openly meeting leaders of Congress on Capitol Hill. Even former CIA Director John McLaughlin noted that Mr. Kislyak is an experienced diplomat, not a spy. (<http://www.msnbc.com/andrea-mitchell-reports/watch/russian-ambassador-experienced-at-collecting-information-888728131913>).

9. FALSE CLAIM: Russian Embassy retreat in Maryland was an intelligence base

FACT.

Among the unlawful acts that U.S. administrations undertook was the expropriation of a legal Russian property in Maryland, a summer retreat near the Chesapeake Bay under the pretext it was used for intelligence gathering

(https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2016/12/29/the-luxurious-45-acre-compound-in-maryland-being-shut-down-for-alleged-russian-espionage/?utm_term=.ea6d65e8e85f). But where is the trove of the alleged spy equipment that U.S. authorities reportedly found there? Why not show it publicly to back up the claim?

The retreat, “dacha” as Russians would call it, was bought by the former Soviet Union in 1972. Since then, it was used for recreation, including hosting a children’s summer camp and regularly entertaining American visitors. One of the more popular events was the stop-over during the annual Chesapeake Regatta, completed with an expansive tour of the property. Presumably U.S. intelligence services could have used this for years to inspect the property. Why nothing was mentioned before the Obama Administration action?

10. FALSE CLAIM: The meeting in Trump Tower in New York on June 9, 2016 between Trump campaign officials and Russian lawyer Natalia Veselnitskaya was to discuss compromising materials that Russian had on Hillary Clinton.

FACT

According to testimony provided to the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee (<http://www.documentcloud.org/documents/4366365-Natalia-Veselnitskaya-Testimony-to-Senate.html>), Ms. Veselnitskaya focused on explaining the illicit activities of U.S.-British investor Bill Browder, wanted in Russia for crimes, and brought attention to the adverse effects of the so-called “Magnitskiy Act”, adopted by U.S. Congress in 2012 and lobbied for by Browder.

11. FALSE CLAIM: Donald Trump’s former lawyer, Michael Cohen, met with Russians in Prague to “collude”.

FACT

It was reported in American media that the Justice Department special counsel had evidence that Donald Trump’s personal lawyer, Michael Cohen, secretly made a trip to Prague during the 2016 presidential campaign to meet with Russian representatives, a fact also mentioned in the discredited “Steele Dossier” (<https://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/politics-government/white-house/article208870264.html>). This was given as further evidence of “collusion”. But Cohen vehemently denied this – under oath (<https://www.cnn.com/2019/02/27/politics/michael-cohen-prague-testimony-russia/index.html>). Given that he publicly turned on his former boss and still denied the fact of ever going to Prague disproves this claim further.

12. FALSE CLAIM: Former member of the Trump campaign team Carter Page was a Russian intelligence asset.

FACT

According to members of Congress and journalistic investigations, the redacted declassified documents of the U.S. Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court (FISC, also called the FISA Court) show that the main source used by U.S. counterintelligence to justify spying on Mr. Page was the fraudulent so-called “Steele Dossier”.

(https://www.realclearpolitics.com/video/2018/07/22/lindsey_graham_carter_page_fisa_warrant_based_on_garbage.html)

Mr. Page for obvious reasons was not accused by the team of Robert Mueller of being involved in a “Russian conspiracy”.

13. FALSE CLAIM: On August 22, 2018, The National Democratic Committee filed a claim to the FBI, accusing the “Russian hackers” of infiltrating its electoral database.

FACT

Several days later members of the Democratic Party admitted that it was a “false alarm”, as it was simply a security check-up performed at the initiative of the Democratic Party’s affiliate in Michigan.

<https://www.npr.org/2018/08/23/641189337/dnc-says-attempted-cyberattack-wasnt-russia-it-was-a-test-from-michigan>

14. FALSE CLAIM: On August 8, 2018 U.S. Senator Bill Nelson accused Russia of breaching the infrastructure of the voter registration systems in several local election offices of Florida.

FACT

Florida’s Department of State spokesperson, Sarah Revell, stated on August 9, 2018, that Florida’s government had not received any evidence from competent authorities that Florida’s voting systems or election records had been compromised. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the FBI also could not confirm the accusations.

<https://thehill.com/policy/cybersecurity/402878-fbi-dhs-push-back-on-nelsons-claim-that-russians-penetrated-florida>

15. FALSE CLAIM: In September, 2017 the U.S. media, referring to the Department of Homeland Security, accused Russia of “cyberattacks”

on electoral infrastructure in 21 states during the 2016 U.S. Presidential elections.

FACT

On September 27, 2017, Wisconsin and California authorities stated that their electoral systems were not targeted by cyberattacks. On November 12, 2017, the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin said in a CBS interview that the “hackers’ activity” had no significant consequences and did not influence the outcome of the elections.

(<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/transcript-treasury-secretary-steven-mnuchin-on-face-the-nation-nov-12-2017/>)

16. FALSE CLAIM: Russia meddled in the Alabama 2017 Senate elections to help the Republican candidate.

FACT

Despite the initial claims (<https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2017/12/russian-propagandists-are-pushing-for-roy-moore-to-win/>), it turned out, a group of Democratic tech experts decided to imitate so-called “Russian tactics” in the fiercely contested Alabama Senate race. Even more jarring is the fact that one participant in the “Alabama project”, Jonathon Morgan, is chief executive of “New Knowledge”, a cyber security firm that wrote a scathing account of Russia’s social media operations in the 2016 election that was released in 2018 by the Senate Intelligence Committee. (<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/12/19/us/alabama-senate-roy-jones-russia.html>). Once again, we have one of the main private sector players in hyping the Russian threat caught red-handed.

17. FALSE CLAIM: Paul Manafort, Donald Trump’s presidential campaign chairman, was a secret link to Russian intelligence.

FACT

Trump’s former campaign chair was hit with two indictments from Mueller’s office. However, even as American media notes, both cases have nothing to do with Russia and stemmed from his years as a political consultant for the Ukrainian government and his failure to pay taxes on the millions he earned, report the foreign bank accounts he used to stash that money, and report his work to the US government. In his second case in Virginia, he was also charged with committing bank fraud to boost his assets when the Ukraine work dried up (<https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/zoetillman/robert-mueller-everyone-charged-russia-investigation>).

In fact, concerns are raised in the U.S. that it was the Ukrainian officials who tried to influence the 2016 elections by leaking compromising materials on Mr. Manafort (<https://www.politico.com/story/2017/01/ukraine-sabotage-trump-backfire-233446>).

The Ukrainian connection is also prevalent in the case of money transferred to accounts of U.S. politicians. For instance, according to a “New York Times” article, Ukrainian billionaire Viktor Pinchuk donated over 10 million dollars to the “Clinton Foundation and just 150 thousand dollars to the “Trump Foundation” (<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/04/09/us/politics/trump-mueller-ukraine-victor-pinchuk.html>).

18. FALSE CLAIM: Russia compromised the Vermont power grid.

FACT

On December 31, 2016, “The Washington Post”, referring to U.S. authorities, accused “Russian hackers” of compromising the Vermont power grid. The local company, “Burlington Electric”, allegedly traced a malware code in a laptop of its employee. It was stated that the same “code” was used to hack the Democratic Party servers in 2016. However, the “Wordfence” cybersecurity firm checked “Burlington Electric” for hacking, and said that the malware code was openly available, for instance, on a web-site of Ukrainian hackers. The attackers were using IP-addresses from across the world. “The Washington Post” later admitted that conclusions on Russia’s involvement were false. (https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/russian-government-hackers-do-not-appear-to-have-targeted-vermont-utility-say-people-close-to-investigation/2017/01/02/70c25956-d12c-11e6-945a-76f69a399dd5_story.html?utm_term=.567c88b8a4ef)

19. FALSE CLAIM: Russian Alfa Bank was used as a secret communication link with the Trump campaign.

FACT

In October 2016 a new “sensation” appeared, alleging that a message exchange between Alfa Bank server and Trump organizations indicated a «secret» Trump – Russia communication channel.

(http://www.slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/cover_story/2016/10/was_a_server_registered_to_the_trump_organization_communicating_with_russia.html)

However, FBI concluded the supposed messaging was marketing newsletters and/or spam.

(<https://www.nytimes.com/2016/11/01/us/politics/fbi-russia-election-donald-trump.html>)

20. FALSE CLAIM: Russia cracked voter registration systems during the 2016 U.S. elections.

FACT

In July, 2016 the U.S. Department of Homeland Security accused Russia of gaining unauthorized access to electronic voter registration systems in Arizona. But on April 8, 2018, “Reuters”, referring to a high-ranking U.S. Administration official, wrote there was no proof Russia had anything to do with the mentioned cyberattack. (<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-cyber-election/arizona-election-database-targeted-in-2016-by-criminals-not-russia-source-idUSKBN1HF11F>)

21. FALSE CLAIM: Russian Embassy bank transactions were linked to “election interference”.

FACT

American publication “Buzzfeed” repeatedly claimed that U.S. authorities flagged Russian Embassy financial transfers as suspicious, many of them dated around the 2016 election (<https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/jasonleopold/newly-uncovered-russian-payments-are-a-focus-of-election>). In reality, the media outlet, by twisting the facts and placing them out of context, made routine banking transactions – salary transfers, payments to contractors – look nefarious. It is not uncommon for Embassy personnel to receive larger payouts, transfer or withdraw larger sums of money at the end of their work, for example (http://www.mid.ru/ru/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/cKNonkJE02Bw/content/id/3024493). Furthermore, leaking of

confidential banking information of persons and organizations protected by diplomatic immunity raised concerns about the likely involvement of security services.

The arrest in October 2018 of a U.S. Treasury Department's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network official (<https://www.rferl.org/a/us-treasury-official-edwards-charged-with-leaking-confidential-bank-reports-suspects-in-russia-investigation-buzzfeed/29549944.html>), charged with leaking information both about the Russian Embassy accounts and former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort, provides further proof to the theory of a political vendetta.

CONCLUSION

Almost three years have passed from the first fake news that appeared in American media on the subject of “Russian meddling” and “collusion”, which were first launched to discredit Donald Trump candidacy and then to sabotage his agenda, including efforts to stabilize Russian-U.S. relations.

After three years, more than 8000 publications in just four main outlets (“Washington Post”, “New York Times”, CNN and MSNBC), endless Congressional inquiries, 22 months of the work of Robert Mueller that cost taxpayers an estimated more than 32 million dollars, more than 2800 subpoenas, 500 witnesses interrogated and as much search warrants, an obvious conclusion is reached – there was no collusion.

The investigation also didn’t show any real evidence to back up claims of Moscow’s cyberattacks and attempts to “subvert democracy”. The act of repeating in the summary of the Mueller report the indictments against 25 Russian citizens, made last year just to justify the useless work of the investigative team, doesn’t make them any less hollow and laughable.

All this time Russia pointed to the obvious made-up nature of these insinuations. Fruitlessly we asked first the Obama Administration and then the current authorities in Washington for conclusive proof. In order to alleviate the suspicions we proposed exchanging mutual written commitments not to interfere in the domestic affairs of each other. Suggested reestablishing the bilateral expert group on information security that the Obama Administration derailed, which could have served as an optimal platform for the de-politicized dialogue on these matters. The American side was also invited to attend the proposed questioning of Russian citizens accused by Mueller, and to publicize

the exchange between the two countries following the U.S. accusations of cyberattacks which was conducted through existing channels in the “hot period” between October 2016 to January 2017.

The U.S. refused every single time.

We understand that certain political circles in Washington have invested too much in the spreading of conspiracy theories about Russia and Donald Trump to admit they are groundless. Nevertheless, we hope that the end of the Mueller saga would contribute to further dispelling the smoke and mirrors on this topic. The first step – the disavowal of the “collusion theory” – was taken. But if all of the categorical allegations heard all this time turned out to be patently false, why not make the next logical move and fact-check the “Russian meddling” narrative? As demonstrated in this report, an objective analysis of the claims and the timeline of events invariably leads to the conclusion - it was just fake news.

Our hope is that this realization would not only contribute to the normalization of the Russian-American relations, but to the healing of the political discourse in the U.S. as well.

In the end, to quote Russian President Vladimir Putin (as delivered in his comments during the plenary session of the International Arctic Forum on April 9, 2019), “we have been saying from the start that this commission led by Mr. Mueller won't find anything, because no one knows better than us: Russia has not interfered in any U.S. election”.

<http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/60250>

As the President noted, allegations of collusion between Trump's camp and Russia “is sheer nonsense designed exclusively for domestic consumption and used in the internal politics of the US”.

We call on our American partners to finally disavow these allegations and join efforts to repair the damage to bilateral relations, for the sake of our peoples and global security.