

Australian Alert Service dossier

The British-led Russiagate coup in the USA

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UK government runs 'Colour Revolution' regime change against Trump

17 Jan.—After desperate attempts to overturn the election of Donald Trump through recounts, pressure on the Electoral College, and charges that Russia “hacked the election” all failed, the British government’s puppets in the USA have released a sensational dossier alleging personal indiscretions and shady business dealings by Trump in Moscow. A two-page summary was appended to the flimsy “Russian hacking” report handed to the President-elect on 6 January. Concocted by a high-level MI6 agent, the dossier was quickly exposed as a shoddy fraud (p. 3), but the Anglo-American media still exulted, “Russia dossier: What happens next, and could Donald Trump be impeached?” (*The Guardian*, 12 Jan.). The paper added two days later that whether the dossier were true or not, Trump’s ability to “enact a policy agenda, domestic or foreign ... are likely to be severely undermined”, especially with respect to Russia.

The ongoing attempt to overthrow Trump is an almost textbook case of the doctrine of “colour revolutions” and “regime change”, invented by MI6’s masters in the hallowed precincts of Oxford and Cambridge Universities, as documented in two landmark articles in Lyndon LaRouche’s *Executive Intelligence Review* in 2012.¹ These techniques were adopted by the sprawling US “Project Democracy” apparatus, whose two long-time leaders in the Senate were Hillary Clinton and John McCain, shrill advocates of a showdown with Russia. McCain conveyed the MI6 dossier to the American intelligence community late last year. Many regime-change projects in recent decades have featured charges of “electoral fraud”, as in the Orange Revolution in Ukraine in 2004 and the White Revolution attempted against Russia’s Vladimir Putin in 2011-12.

The British and their American stooges are terrified that

1. Rachel Douglas, “Bankrupt British Empire Keeps Pushing to Overthrow Putin”, *EIR*, 20 Jan. 2012; “Destabilising Russia: The ‘Democracy’ Agenda of McFaul and His Oxford Masters”, *EIR*, 3 Feb. 2012 (archived at www.larouchepub.com/eiw/public/2012/index.html).



A pre-inauguration protest in Washington DC on 17 January. The British government’s attacks on Donald Trump and Russia are intended to undermine his legitimacy, and incite a colour revolution in the USA. Photo: AFP/Andrew Caballero-Reynolds

Trump may combat them on two fronts: radical economic and financial changes, and a rapprochement with Russia.

To understand the titanic issues at stake, one must return to the closing days of World War II. President Franklin Roosevelt had pulled the USA out of the Great Depression by reining in Wall Street through Glass-Steagall legislation and a national infrastructure program, which together created the mightiest economy the world had ever seen and secured the Allied victory over Nazism. FDR envisioned a post-war world anchored upon collaboration among the “Big Four” (the USA, the UK, the Soviet Union and China), leading the way to rapid industrial growth worldwide. But an enraged Winston Churchill exploded to FDR in 1941, that this would finish off the British Empire. Central to FDR’s program was the Bretton Woods system of fixed exchange rates, to facilitate such growth.

After FDR’s death in 1945, the British set out to destroy the Bretton Woods system in favour of a new “informal financial empire”, a London-centred system of speculation in money for money’s sake beginning with the creation of the unregulated Eurodollar market in the 1950s. That led to the break-up of the Bretton Woods system in 1971 and spawned today’s vast “offshore” system of tax evasion, criminality and terror financing.² London’s 1986 “Big Bang” deregulation led directly to the 1999 repeal

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2. “The British Crown/City of London Criminal Financial Empire”, *The New Citizen*, Nov/Dec 2016/Jan 2017.

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The foreign power corrupting US politics is London, not Moscow

By Helga Zepp-LaRouche, chairwoman of the German political party Civil Rights Movement Solidarity (*BüSo*)

13 Jan.—The unprecedented hysteria of the mainstream media and the neocons on both sides of the Atlantic over the election of Donald Trump is material for a first-class object lesson on the real dynamic now unfolding on the global strategic stage. It makes crystal clear, even for the most naïve adherent of political correctness, that what is happening has nothing to do with the interests of one party, or one state, against another. It has to do with the methods used by a collapsing empire against the emergence of a new paradigm, the precise content of which has not yet been clearly defined, but which nonetheless represents the rejection of the system of globalisation.

Precisely on the eve of Trump’s first press conference as President-elect, the US television network CNN, and BuzzFeed, an internet media company, created a huge sensation on 10 January by breaking the story of a 35-page dossier which, in addition to reporting unspeakable anecdotes about Trump’s alleged sexual habits, claimed that there is evidence that Trump is a *de facto* Russian agent. After the campaign—long since contested by cyber-experts—that Russia had hacked emails of the Democratic National Committee, systematically smeared Hillary Clinton, and thereby helped Trump get elected, this new action is intended to lay the groundwork—even before Trump occupies the White House—for a rapid impeachment.

The author of the dossier is Christopher Steele, a Russia expert from MI6, the British foreign intelligence service; he concocted the dossier in the summer of 2016. It circulated for months in US media circles and was considered so dubious that no one was willing to publish it during the hot phase of the election campaign. It was



The British intelligence apparatus that is interfering in US politics: MI6 (London headquarters pictured above) operates under the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). MI6’s Christopher Steele concocted the smear dossier that long-time FCO operative, former Ambassador to Moscow Sir Andrew Wood (right), passed on to Trump enemy and colour revolution backer Senator John McCain. Photos: Flickr; Wikipedia



given directly to FBI Director James Comey, and given to the FBI again by Senator John McCain, after he heard former British ambassador to Moscow Sir Andrew Wood praise Steele and his “integrity” on the sidelines of a security conference in Canada.

After the surge of propaganda alleging the theft of the US election by Russia, and Trump’s declaration that he found Julian Assange of WikiLeaks more credible than the US intelligence services, the three US intelligence chiefs—

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of Glass-Steagall in the USA. FDR’s vision of collaboration with Russia and China died with him, as Churchill stood by his successor and British stooge Harry S Truman in Fulton, Missouri in March 1946 to proclaim the “Iron Curtain” doctrine that initiated the Cold War. Today Churchill’s successors and their US toadies are pressing a renewed Cold War to the very edge of a thermonuclear World War III.

After the global financial crash of 2008, as debate raged in both Britain and the United States about the restoration of Glass-Steagall, an economic advisor to President Obama met with a high-level official of Her Majesty’s Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London, who informed him that Britain would regard the restoration of Glass-Steagall as a *casus belli*, an act of war. Now, both the Republican and Democratic parties have formally adopted Glass-Steagall in their platforms, and Trump pledged to enact it in a 26 October speech in North Carolina.

As the International Monetary Fund, the Bank for International Settlements, and dozens of leading economists and bankers have warned, the Too Big To Fail banks are far larger than in 2008, the trans-Atlantic system in far worse shape than then, and a new global financial crisis is inevitable. *When*—not *if*—the system blows, the power of the London/Wall Street Establishment and their dreams of a world empire evaporate with it. Thus, their desperation to crush Russia as an independent force in the world before that happens, and thus their present hysteria against Donald Trump, whom they intend to eliminate, one way or another.

What can you, personally, do about all this? *Demand that your MP immediately act to secure the passage of Glass-Steagall, and bankrupt this evil empire before it gets us all blown to smithereens, or simply kills us through the worst economic collapse since the one that unleashed the “Dark Age” in the 14th century.*

Director of National Intelligence James Clapper, CIA Director John Brennan, and FBI Director James Comey—briefed the US Senate, as well as President Barack Obama and President-elect Trump, on their version of the story. The 35-page dossier would have played no role, because it was not credible, had these three intelligence chiefs not appended a two-page summary of it to their 6 January Intelligence Community Assessment “Assessing Russian Activities and Intentions in Recent US Elections”. The dubious dossier was thus given the status of serious intelligence information, and that was apparently the starting gun for CNN, BuzzFeed, and then the rest of the media to publish the whole 35-page dossier.

A day later Clapper telephoned Trump to stress, after the fact, that US intelligence services were not the source of the dossier, and that he could not vouch for its accuracy or inaccuracy. In a highly unusual move, he then published a written declaration to this effect. Thus, after the three intelligence chiefs themselves had kicked off the escalation, Clapper carried out a manoeuvre known in these circles as a CYA operation (cover your arse)—often called more elegantly a “diplomatic excuse”.

Whose world is disintegrating?

What then is the issue here? Eric Denécé, director of the French Centre for Intelligence Research, an independent think tank, published the following analysis under the heading “A Shocking Lack of Proof”, after he had read the report by the Department of Homeland Security and the FBI on the alleged Russian intervention into the US election campaign: “The Washington Establishment was taken totally by surprise by Trump’s victory and understood that a ‘great cleanup’ would occur, in which many of its members would lose their political positions and economic spin-offs connected to their international alliances.”

This assessment is accurate, but it characterises only one aspect of the situation. Apparently the trans-Atlantic neoliberal establishment is having a very hard time accepting the fact that Trump was democratically elected. Their “world is coming apart”, as German Chancellor Angela Merkel put it; they are “very shocked”, as her Defence Minister Ursula von der Leyen expressed it. The world that is coming apart is the unipolar world which the neocons of the Bush Administration put into effect when the Soviet Union broke up. At that point the neocons proclaimed the “Project for the New American Century”, to consolidate a world empire on the basis of the Anglo-American special relationship.

Governments that would not buckle under to this unipolar world would be eliminated over the course of time through a policy of regime change—for example, by colour revolutions financed from the outside, as Victoria Nuland unblushingly admitted in the case of Ukraine. The US State Department alone spent \$5 billion there on NGOs. But this policy also involved direct military intervention under the pretext of the defence of democracy and human rights, as in such cases as Iraq, Libya, and Syria. And naturally, Russia and China were the ultimate targets of this regime change policy.

A prerequisite for membership in the unipolar world’s Establishment Club was naturally the adoption of the official “narrative” that all these destabilisations of democratically elected governments and all of these wars were about “freedom”, “democracy”, and “human rights”, while those targeted were always “dictators” and demons. And obviously, when it came to analysing the *causes* of the refugee

crisis, those who were wearing these unipolar glasses could not get beyond just naming the concept, because otherwise, it would mean you would have to condemn the illegitimate wars that have cost the lives of millions of people, and then you would be thrown out of the Club.

And now we have in Trump someone who has won the US election and who, as Obama said of Putin, does not belong to “the team”; agrees with Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard (Democrat of Hawaii) and an array of conservative military figures that these regime-change wars must be stopped; and even, as the ultimate violation of taboos, wants to re-establish normal relations with Russia!

The well-regarded US investigative reporter Robert Parry compared the methods being used by the American intelligence services against Trump to the infamous Federal Bureau of Investigation chief J. Edgar Hoover’s blackmail tactics. But the crude methods of Christopher Steele are also reminiscent of the “Troopergate” scandal inspired by British intelligence against President Bill Clinton, through which it sought from the beginning of his presidency, with a certain amount of success, to present Clinton as an unrestrained sex addict. This set the stage for the later Lewinsky affair, also launched by British intelligence, which aimed at destroying Clinton’s Presidency.

Out in the open

What is spectacular about the operation against Trump, however, is that British intelligence and its American counterparts, which have operated for decades as spooks in the shadows, have now been forced to display openly their total nakedness. The essentially dilettantish operation conducted by Steele—the man previously in charge of uncovering the World Cup (FIFA) corruption scandal and the principal MI6 agent involved with Russian ex-intelligence operative Alexander Litvinenko during his residence and murder in the UK—revealed the direct intervention of the British Empire, for which the term “globalisation” is merely a synonym, into the internal affairs of the United States.

This empire is something other than the nations of the United States and Great Britain. It is the oligarchical forces exerting their power through the trans-Atlantic neoliberal financial system and the military defence of the unipolar world order, and they don’t care a whit about the general welfare of the populations in whose nations they happen to live. A global revolution is under way against this empire, which found expression in the Brexit, just as it did in Trump’s victory and the “no” to Matteo Renzi’s referendum seeking an enhanced bankers’ dictatorship in Italy.

The assertion that Putin stole the election from Hillary Clinton, or that he will meddle in the coming elections in several European countries, is the collapsing empire’s desperate attempt to somehow hold on to the authority to control the narrative.

Meanwhile, the new paradigm is developing in the form of a new world economic order, in which the BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) and China’s New Silk Road policy are offering win-win cooperation to all of the world’s nations, in which all can only gain through the benefit of all—each through “the advantage of the other”. If Trump succeeds in working with this new combination—which will only become clear after he takes office—it could mean a new era for mankind, in which sovereign nations work together for the future of mankind as a community of common destiny, and the era of empires is finally buried.

Prelude to Trumpgate: MI6's Litvinenko affair

On 11 January, when “ex”-MI6 officer Christopher Steele was first named publicly as author of the set of memos titled “US Presidential election: Republican candidate Donald Trump’s activities in Russia and compromising relationship with the Kremlin”—the “dirty” dossier (p. 3), the *Daily Mail* reported that “British security services had originally tried to block UK news organisations from naming Mr Steele by issuing a D-notice, which prevents the revelation of certain information for security reasons.” It was one of many indications that Steele is no washed-up operative, hung out to dry and gone rogue. Indeed, Steele’s career ties him directly to a cover-up and smear apparatus that operates on behalf of the British Crown and the highest levels of its Intelligence services. In particular, Steele was MI6’s point man in an earlier project to vilify Russian President Vladimir Putin and lay a propaganda foundation for the Anglo-American escalation against Russia that threatened to touch off world war—until Donald Trump was elected. That operation was the Litvinenko affair.

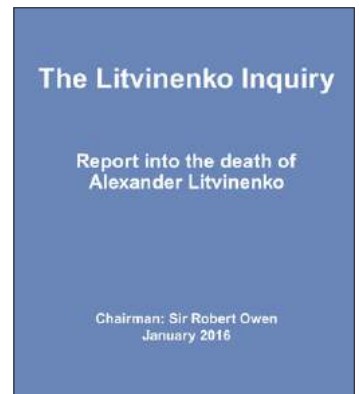
Alexander Litvinenko was the Russian spy-turned-MI6-collaborator, whose death in London in 2006 was followed by accusations that Russian agents had poisoned him with the radioactive isotope polonium-210.

Britain’s official Litvinenko Inquiry, commissioned by today’s British PM Theresa May in 2014 as Home Of-

fice Minister in the David Cameron government, was issued in January 2016. Its laying of blame on Russia was qualified with the word “probably” 35 times in the text, culminating on page 245 with the statement, “... I find that the FSB operation to kill Mr Litvinenko was *probably* approved by [then Federal Security Service (FSB) head] Mr Patrushev and also by President Putin [emphasis added]”. The Litvinenko report’s “probablies” read like a practice run for the 6 January 2017 US Intelligence Community Assessment alleging Russian election interference, with its unsubstantiated “We assess that” refrain.¹

The UK had granted Litvinenko asylum in 2000 when he fled Russia for London, where he lived on the payroll of both MI6 and exiled Russian billionaire oligarch Boris Berezovsky, for whom he wrote articles attacking Vladimir

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1. “Obama’s Russian hacking lie unravels”, Australian Alert Service 11 January 2017.

The LaRouche factor

On page 15 of MI6 man Christopher Steele’s 35-page dossier of unverified Russian source reports, smearing Donald Trump, a paragraph in a memo dated 10 August 2016 attributes to “a Kremlin official involved in US relations” the comment that the Kremlin was “supporting various US political figures”, including by bringing them to Moscow. The memo names two close Trump team members (National Security Adviser-designate Gen. Michael Flynn and business consultant Carter Page), Green Party candidate Jill Stein, and “a delegation from Lyndon LaRouche”.

The source report was inaccurate, but the sudden mention of American economist LaRouche speaks volumes about what is on the mind of Steele and his superiors.

LaRouche, now 94, is the American who has best embodied, in the late Soviet period and in his interactions with post-Soviet Russia, the principle voiced by Soviet war hero Marshall Georgi Zhukov to Gen. Dwight Eisenhower at the end of World War II: “If the United States and Russia ... are partners, there are no other countries in the world that would dare to go to war when we forbade it.”

On election eve in 1976, LaRouche through his Presidential campaign broadcast a warning on US national TV, that the election of Jimmy Carter—the candidate groomed by the Trilateral Commission bankers’ club—an agency of Wall Street’s “controlled disintegration” policies, would devastate the economy and greatly increase the risk of nuclear war with Russia. Campaigning in the early-primary state of New Hampshire against Carter’s nomination by the Democratic Party in 1980, LaRouche formed a relationship with Ronald Reagan, then a long-shot challenger to George H.W. Bush’s first Presidential bid. Taking LaRouche’s lead in blasting Bush’s Trilater-

al Commission membership alongside the unpopular Carter, Reagan’s team pulled off a surprise victory in New Hampshire. He went on to win the Republican nomination, and the Presidency.

LaRouche became an informal adviser to the National Security Council, a discussion process in which he proposed what became Reagan’s famous Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) of 1983. “Star Wars” is a misnomer, because the LaRouche/Reagan policy mapped a pathway out of the Cold War through Soviet-American cooperation on anti-missile defences using breakthrough technologies. LaRouche also meant for the SDI to spark an *economic* revolution. This concept had been discussed between the Reagan Administration and Soviet representatives in back-channel talks through LaRouche, but the offer was rejected by Soviet leader Yuri Andropov.

Upon the break-up of the USSR, LaRouche drafted comprehensive economic development proposals for East-West cooperation. Despite the economically destructive takeover of the Russian government by neoliberals in the 1990s, LaRouche was repeatedly invited to Moscow by leading academic figures between 1994 and 2007, resulting in widespread and lasting support for his ideas on physical economy.

In a 20 November 2016 interview with former Reagan Republican strategist Roger Stone, who recalled the LaRouche-Reagan partnership, LaRouche said that the election of Donald Trump was a defeat for those who were seeking to provoke a world war against Russia.



Lyndon LaRouche and Ronald Reagan at a candidates’ debate in New Hampshire in 1980. Photo: Schiller Institute

Prelude to Trumpgate: MI6's Litvinenko affair

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Putin. Like the late Berezovsky, organised-crime specialist Litvinenko was deeply involved with heavily criminalised Chechen separatist networks. Litvinenko's case officer at MI6 was the head of its Russia desk, Christopher Steele.

The British Crown's cover-up and smear machine has milked Litvinenko's death for every ounce of propaganda value, in order to poison Western relations with Russia. A statement Litvinenko is said to have signed on his death-bed, accusing Putin of his murder, was not written by him, but drafted by another Berezovsky associate, Alex Goldfarb, and Litvinenko's lawyer George Menzies. Goldfarb was a former employee of George Soros, the principal funder of regime-change "colour revolutions" in post-Soviet Eastern Europe. While drafting the statement, Menzies consulted with Tim Bell (Lord Bell), the MI6-connected boss of star PR firm Bell Pottinger,² infamous, among other things, for its 2007 US\$540 million CIA contract to make fake al-Qaeda propaganda films in Iraq.

May's announcement of the inquiry eight years after Litvinenko's death came when tensions with Russia were in danger of escalating to all-out war, following the February 2014 neo-Nazi-led coup in Ukraine backed by the US and British governments.

The permanent cover-up and smear apparatus of the Crown and its Intelligence agencies controlled the Litvinenko Inquiry. While Justice Sir Robert Owen formally headed the exercise and is the "I" in the finding cited above, the footwork was done by Secretary to the Inquiry Lee Hughes CBE (Commander of the British Empire). This is a man with a track record of ensuring the outcomes required by the British establishment in such inquiries. He was previously Secretary to the Hutton Inquiry into the mysterious 2003 death of British weapons inspector Dr David Kelly, who had blown the whistle on Tony Blair's lies that Iraq possessed Weapons of Mass Destruction, and to the 2008 inquest into the deaths of Princess Diana and Dodi al-Fayed, which covered up the Royal Family's role in what the Inquest's jury of average British citizens nonetheless found to be Diana's "unlawful killing", i.e., murder.³ Hughes was joined in the Litvinenko

2. Mary Dejevsky, "The weird world of Boris Berezovsky: Alexander Litvinenko's inquest has provided an intriguing insight into the dead tycoon", *The Independent*, 19 March 2015.

3. CEC media release 23 Sep. 2013: '[Unlawful Killing': Sydney festival screens suppressed film exposing Royal stonewalling of Princess Diana murder investigation.](#)

Inquiry by two other cover-up veterans: Counsel to the Inquiry Robin Tam, previously Counsel to the Diana and Dodi inquest, and Solicitor to the Inquiry Martin Smith, previously with the Hutton Inquiry and also the Diana/Dodi inquest.

Most vocal in hurling wild accusations against Putin during the Litvinenko Inquiry hearings was Ben Emmerson QC, representing Litvinenko's widow. He called Litvinenko's alleged murder "an act of nuclear terrorism", and labelled Vladimir Putin a "tinpot despot", "common criminal dressed up as a head of state", "morally deranged authoritarian", and "dangerous international menace". Despite the histrionics, the Inquiry's findings all said "probably".

Emmerson has figured in other sensitive cases and assignments involving MI5 and MI6. He served as Britain's Special Rapporteur for Human Rights, Counterterrorism and Torture at the United Nations. In 2014 Theresa May insisted upon Emmerson's appointment as chief counsel to the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, which, despite several previous attempts to avoid it, she had been forced to convene amidst one of the greatest scandals in modern British history: detailed, highly credible charges, which had first emerged in 2012 and continue to this day, that leading Establishment figures had been involved in a nationwide child abuse ring spanning decades. According to evidence aired by British MPs in Parliament and to the media, the ring also involved leading figures in MI5 and MI6, and reached into the Royal Family itself in the person of Lord Mountbatten, the chief sponsor of Jimmy Savile, the most infamous paedophile in British history. May's initial two choices to head the inquiry, Dame Elizabeth Butler-Sloss (Her Majesty's first Coroner into the deaths of Dodi al-Fayed and Princess Diana) and former Lord Mayor of the City of London Fiona Woolf, were forced to resign when evidence emerged of their own close connections to those they were supposed to investigate. With this "Inquiry" in chaos, and amidst new cries of "cover-up" from the victims and their advocates, Emmerson was first suspended from his post, and then resigned in November 2016, dogged by charges that he himself had committed sexual abuse, though he was later declared innocent.

Over decades, as evidence leaked out of MI5/MI6 involvement in the cover-up and even protection of child abuse rings, for purposes of political blackmail, Her Majesty's Government had slapped "D-notices" upon such revelations. Thus, Christopher Steele's colleagues have long been covering up criminal perversions far worse than the fantastical Moscow hotel-room shenanigans his dossier attempts to lay on Donald Trump.

The press conference of Donald Trump in Washing-



The British Establishment's guiding hand in the drive to impeach Trump

By Robert Barwick

Barely weeks into Donald Trump's presidency, there are already loud demands for his impeachment. Some of the most conspicuous voices discussing removing Trump through impeachment—and worse—represent the Establishment of the United Kingdom, America's so-called "special relationship" partner.

As early as 21 January, the day after Trump's inauguration, *The Spectator* in the UK published a column by BBC correspondent Paul Wood headlined: "Will Donald Trump be assassinated, ousted in a coup or just impeached?". Wood is a fellow of the New American Foundation, which is part of the stable of think tanks and charities funded by billionaire megaspeculator George Soros, a front-man for City of London interests, most notably members of the Rothschild family, who is also bankrolling the violent street protests that have erupted across the USA against Trump.

Another early discussion of impeachment, more subtle but more serious, has come from the Royal Institute of International Affairs (RIIA), aka Chatham House, which is regarded as the world's most important "think tank". In January, coinciding with Trump's inauguration, Chatham House's US and the Americas Programme published an official Chatham House Report entitled *America's International Role Under Donald Trump*, featuring a series of analytical articles on Trump's likely impact on key foreign policy areas such as defence, economy, China, Russia and more.

The report's preface foreshadows "unpredictable events" for Trump's presidency, which could include "impeachment or constitutional crises", the probability of which are greater than "for any president of recent memory". So what does the report contain that justifies, or at least explains, this extraordinary speculation of impeachment of a just-inaugurated president who has not had time to do anything? Nothing related to "high crimes and misdemeanours", the only grounds for impeaching a president under the US Constitution. Rather, the report's focus is Donald Trump's stated foreign policy views, which are characterised as a threat to the established Anglo-American order. In her Executive Summary Xenia Wickett, the editor of the report and head of Chatham House's US and the Americas Programme, expresses alarm that Trump may be "more willing to overlook Chinese or Russian transgression of international norms", and that a Trump foreign policy that emphasises economic cooperation over "security", i.e. war, "with little appreciation for longer term geopolitical dynamics or the continuity of the US's relationships with key partners would mark a pivotal change, with potentially profound negative implications for international stability." (Emphasis added).

This Chatham House Report reflects high-level fears in the UK for the future of the US-UK special relationship under a president who has excoriated prevailing Anglo-American strategic policies, most of which are of British design. The UK has always used the post-WWII special relationship to leverage its influence on global affairs, a

dynamic dubbed "British brains, American brawn" (see "The USA and UK: What is the 'special relationship'?", AAS 1 February 2017). With Queen Elizabeth as its patron and her private secretary on its board, Chatham House is the strategic brains trust of Britain's elite Establishment. As former US President Bill Clinton's influential history professor

Carroll Quigley revealed in his landmark tome *Tragedy and Hope*, Chatham House was founded in 1919 by key personnel from the semi-secretive Round Table groups, which British imperialists Cecil Rhodes and Alfred Milner had established to spread British imperial rule worldwide. Quigley described the Rhodes-Milner group's aims as extending the British Empire and organising the UK and all of the various federated parts of the empire, such as Australia and Canada, into a single organisation. In their worldview the American Revolution was a "failure", because it was a loss to the British Empire, but Canada's federation in 1867 was a "success", because the British elite had staved off a push for American-style independence and kept Canada in the empire fold. Their ultimate goal was to bring the USA back under imperial rule, as part of a single British world organisation, with even a scenario in which Washington would be the capital.

Soon after its establishment, Chatham House spun off similar Institutes around the world, including the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) in the USA, which ever since has been a conduit into US politics for the British imperial view of world affairs. This was no small task at first, as many Americans, having fought the British numerous times throughout their history, retained an instinctive suspicion of British imperial intentions.² A plethora of other think tanks that sprung up post-WWII, espousing the neo-



1. Bill Clinton cited the influence of Quigley in his acceptance speech to the 1992 Democratic National Committee: "As a teenager, I heard John Kennedy's summons to citizenship. And then, as a student at Georgetown, I heard that call clarified by a professor named Carroll Quigley, who said to us that America was the greatest Nation in history because our people had always believed in two things—that tomorrow can be better than today and that every one of us has a personal moral responsibility to make it so."

2. This suspicion, which coloured Franklin Roosevelt's dealings with Winston Churchill, continued into the post-WWII "special relationship" era; for instance, anti-British sentiment was a feature of the popular protest at President Truman's dismissal of General Douglas MacArthur in 1951, while in 1956 President Eisenhower opposed and thwarted the British-French Suez intervention.

conservative agenda of Anglo-American hegemony, were also offspring of Chatham House. Contemporary British neocon and Conservative Member of Parliament Michael Gove boasted of this British authorship of neoconservatism, which he equated with the ethos of 19th-century British liberal imperialists the likes of Lord Palmerston (“Britain has no permanent allies, only permanent interests”), in a 2004 essay entitled “The Very British Roots of Neoconservatism and Its Lesson for British Conservatives”.

Many of the contributors to the Chatham House Report were drawn from the neoconservative swamp in which Washington is mired. Report editor Xenia Wickett served in the George W. Bush administration in the office of Vice President Dick Cheney, the neoconservative gang leader who was the real power in the Bush White House. In 1992 then-Defence Secretary Cheney and his neocon Undersecretary Paul Wolfowitz had formulated the strategic doctrine of Anglo-American pre-eminence, meaning that the USA’s post-Cold War foreign policy would be geared to stop the rise of a rival superpower. That policy, aimed at primarily China and increasingly Russia, has underpinned US foreign policy ever since. In the period immediately after the 9/11 terrorist attack, while Wickett still worked for him, Cheney led the neocon drive to invade Iraq, with British strategist Bernard Lewis as his key advisor.

A number of other contributors come from the Centre for a New American Security (CNAS), which is in the “liberal” bog of the same neoconservative swamp. CNAS has been variously described as an organisation of “liberal hawks” and a reincarnated Project for the New American Century (PNAC), a neoconservative spin-off from

Chatham House’s CFR with close ties to Cheney and Wolfowitz, which long before 9/11 plotted the Iraq war as one of a series of regime-change interventions that were to include North Korea, Iran, Libya and Syria. In 2007, by which time the Iraq war had proved to be a disaster and its neocon authors had lost all credibility, CNAS formed to carry the torch for “liberal interventionism”—regime change by another name. A long list of CNAS personnel took key posts in the Obama administration, including National Security Advisor Susan Rice.

In his election campaign speeches Donald Trump left no doubt that he vehemently opposed every shade of the regime-change agenda, and wished to establish good relations with Russia’s President Vladimir Putin, the chief hate figure to both the neocons and liberal interventionists.

Chatham House and its backers are already implicated in the early destabilisations of the Trump administration that their report foreshadowed. An associate fellow of Chatham House’s Russia and Eurasia program, former UK ambassador to Russia Sir Andrew Wood, was the senior British official who passed on to US Senator John McCain the MI6-fabricated smear dossier alleging Russian blackmail control over Trump, which was intended to destroy Trump’s legitimacy. The US and the Americas Program that Wickett heads, which produced the report, is funded by such sources as NATO, whose purpose Trump has openly questioned (as have many Cold War veterans including the late former Australian prime minister Malcolm Fraser); and the Smith Richardson Foundation, a notorious front for the CIA, which was involved with MI6 in the leaking of the Trump smear dossier.

Prince Charles’s Nazi comparisons: He should know, his family supported Hitler

The heir to the British throne has again drawn a comparison between current political events and the Nazi era. Days after US President Donald Trump signed an Executive Order freezing immigration from seven countries that Barack Obama and the US Congress had certified as terrorist threats to the United States, Prince Charles told a 1 February World Jewish Relief fundraiser that “the horrific lessons of the last war seem to be in increasing danger of being forgotten”. His remarks were reported as an attack on Trump; however, the Prince is not known to have made equivalent remarks about the British government’s blocking of north African refugees, or the Australian government’s policy of mandatory, indefinite detention of asylum seekers—both governments which he will one day rule.

The Prince has form. While on a visit to Canada in March 2014, he compared Russia’s annexation of Crimea, following the violent coup that the USA and UK backed to overthrow the government of Ukraine, to the Third Reich’s takeovers of Czechoslovakia and Poland. “And now Putin is doing just about the same as Hitler”, Charles said to a woman who had lost relatives in the Holocaust.

An obvious problem with Charles’s comparison to the Nazis is that Putin “annexed” Crimea with the overwhelming support of the local population, expressed via referendum, in response to the coup led by neo-Nazi supporters of the WWII Ukrainian fascist Stepan Bandera, a Nazi collaborator. However,

his comment, revealing of the British elite’s extreme animosity towards Putin, may explain his more recent attack on Donald Trump, as Trump has indicated goodwill towards Putin. Britain’s elitist oligarchical Establishment sees the possibility of US-Russian cooperation as a threat to their ability to influence the USA to pursue imperial policies.

Prince Charles may know a little something about Nazis, but only due to his own family’s close connection to Adolf Hitler. His great-uncle, Edward VIII, was an unabashed admirer who forged a close relationship with the dictator, which boosted Hitler politically in Germany and around the world. The relationship was such that home movies recently surfaced showing Edward teaching his little nieces Elizabeth—Charles’s mother—and Margaret the Nazi salute. Even after Edward abdicated, pro-Nazis remained ensconced in the Palace at the insistence of Charles’s grandfather George VI, who was also known to be sympathetic to the Nazis. With the outbreak of WWII, all of this history had to be whitewashed.





Evidence piles up: British Intelligence launched Russiagate

Special to the AAS

US Special Counsel Robert Mueller, the current attack dog for “Russiagate” against President Donald Trump, is obviously using as a guideline for the investigation, the infamous dossier prepared by career MI6 officer Christopher Steele under a contract order from Hillary Clinton’s campaign. The paper is a [packet of raw source reports](#), all unidentified, under the title “US Presidential election: Republican candidate Donald Trump’s activities in Russia and compromising relationship with the Kremlin”, which circulated in Washington throughout late 2016 and was posted by BuzzFeed in January of this year. Its lurid allegations and blatant errors earned it the nickname “the dodgy dossier”. Outgoing Director of National Intelligence James Clapper added it as a secret and unverified appendix to the 6 January 2017 report “Assessing Russian Activities and Intentions in Recent US Elections” (“US Intelligence delivers political construct, not analytical report on ‘Russian hacking’”, AAS, 11 Jan. 2017), confronting President-Elect Trump with the dossier in person at the time.

Readers of the Washington Insider know that British Intelligence’s initiating role in Russiagate started earlier than the 2016 Steele dossier, and was led by the British snooping centre, the Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ). In our 11 January column, we cited a note buried near the end of an article by David Sanger in the 6 January *New York Times*: “Intelligence officials who prepared the classified report on Russian hacking activity have concluded that British intelligence was among the first to raise an alarm that Moscow had hacked into the Democratic National Committee’s computer servers and alerted their American counterparts, according to two people familiar with the conclusions.” When Clapper, et al. briefed Trump, Sanger went on, “It is unclear whether they highlighted the British role, which has been closely held, in the briefing. But it is a critical part of the timeline, because it suggests some of the first tipoffs, in fall [autumn] 2015, came from voice intercepts, computer traffic, or human sources outside the United States, as emails and other data from the DNC [Democratic National Committee] flowed outside of the country.”

Recent publications in the British and American media, appearing in the context of public confirmation that Clinton’s campaign had financed the dodgy dossier, have admitted the driving role in Russiagate of MI6 man Steele’s production. They build the compelling case that Russiagate against Trump has been Made in London from start to finish, through the collusion of MI6 and GCHQ.

One such article is a timeline published 12 November in the *Washington Examiner* by its chief political correspondent, Byron York. Three days later, the London *Guardian* printed Luke Harding’s promotional article for his new, sensationalist book on the Steele affair, *Collusion: Secret Meetings, Dirty Money and How Russia Helped Donald Trump Win*. Although the Harding book lionises Steele, who talked to Harding starting in London in December 2016, the two publications taken together fill out the sequence of events, and especially the British role.

US Dems, Steele and the FBI

In April 2016, Clinton’s campaign and the DNC, by then essentially a joint venture run out of Hillary’s Brooklyn, New

York headquarters, hired the investigative company Fusion GPS to conduct “opposition research” on Trump, who was emerging as the Republican frontrunner. The contract with this well-known “hit team” of former journalists was handled by the Democrats’ law firm, Perkins Coie. Fusion GPS, in turn, hired former MI6 Russia desk officer Steele.

On 20 June 2016 Steele completed his first report, which cited an unnamed Russian Foreign Ministry official and an unnamed “former Russian intelligence officer” now working at the Kremlin, as sources for a claim that the Russians had been cultivating Trump for five years under President Vladimir Putin’s personal supervision.

According to his own account to David Corn of *Mother Jones*, Steele started handing his reports not only to his clients, but also to the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) in early July 2016. Weeks later, the FBI opened its Trump-Russia probe.

Steele’s 20 June report also asserted that the Kremlin had been feeding Trump damaging information on Hillary Clinton for “several years”, and mentioned that Trump could be vulnerable to Russian blackmail using evidence of his alleged encounters with callgirls in the Presidential Suite of the Moscow Ritz Carlton Hotel, during his Miss Universe Pageant in 2013. This first Steele memo, which grabbed headlines with the “blackmail” assertions and has evidently been heavily used by the FBI and, more recently, Mueller, identified its sources only by letters A to G.

That was good enough for then-FBI Director James Comey. He launched the “election interference” probe, then in August contacted Steele, requesting that he turn over his intelligence work-product to the FBI along with a quality assessment of its Russian sources. Russiagate was off to the races, with MI6 man Steele the main source. His 19 July report to the FBI alleged that Russian intelligence officers Igor Sechin, now head of the state-owned oil company Rosneft, and Igor Diveykin had offered Trump campaign adviser Carter Page a multi-billion-dollar payoff if Trump were to lift the Obama-era sanctions against Russia. Between that report and election day in November 2016, Steele filed nine more memos, for a total of 35 pages of material on alleged Trump-Russia collusion to steal the elections.

Circle jerk

As the FBI tried to investigate Steele’s claims, scores of journalists who got their hands on the dossier in the run-up to vote also tried, and were unable to corroborate its inflammatory charges. On 23 September Yahoo News Chief Investigative Correspondent Michael Isikoff put out an innuendo-packed story headlined “US intelligence officials probe ties between Trump adviser and Kremlin”. Its content was nothing but paraphrases of the Steele dossier, along with outraged responses from Congressional Democrats and former Undersecretary of Defence for Intelligence (for Obama) Michael Vickers, who demanded that the Trump-Putin links be probed. The article was a circle jerk, with Isikoff and his interviewees feeding each other pieces of the Steele dossier.

On 31 October, days before the election, *Mother Jones* reported that a British dossier on Trump and Russia was

circulating widely in Washington. Steele was not named, and scant content was revealed.

After the election came an escalation. On 18 November Sir Andrew Wood, a retired Foreign Office Russia hand, former UK ambassador to Russia, and co-author of the 2015 Chatham House paper *The Russian Challenge*, a call for stepped-up military spending and more severe sanctions to “deter and constrain” Russia, met with Sen. John McCain at the Halifax

International Security Forum in Canada. Wood gave McCain a private briefing on the Steele dossier and vouched for its author as an outstanding British intelligence officer with deep access to Russian sources. (Steele happens to have been banned from entering Russia since two decades ago.)

The rising hubbub around the dodgy dossier fed into Clapper’s equally dodgy 6 January “Assessing” report, and the continuation of Russiagate against Trump ever since.

NSA whistleblower Binney briefs Trump CIA chief: No evidence of ‘Russian hack’

The film *A Good American*, on National Security Agency (NSA) whistleblower William Binney’s efforts to develop ways to track terrorists, while protecting the general public from warrantless surveillance, was shown publicly in New York City on 12 November 2017. Present for discussion with the audience afterwards were Binney himself, ex-CIA analyst and fellow member of Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity (VIPS) Ray McGovern, and Diane Roark, former staffer for the House Intelligence Committee, who handled the NSA budget and stood up for Binney when he was blackballed in the 2000s.

In July 2017 Binney and McGovern were co-authors of the VIPS memo “Was the ‘Russian hack’ an inside job?”, containing technical analysis that a leak, not a computer hack from a remote location, led to the release emails taken from Democratic National Committee computers during last year’s US Presidential campaign (AAS, 2 Aug. 2017).

On 7 November Bill Binney had met with CIA Director Michael Pompeo to brief him on the VIPS analysis, at President Donald Trump’s request. Interviewed by RT the next day, Binney called Trump’s urging Pompeo to talk to him “a hopeful sign”. At the film-showing discussion Binney elaborated on the VIPS evaluation. The transcript excerpted below has been condensed.

Sean Stone (moderator): I’m excited to start this conversation off, with Mr Binney over here, because we have to know what is going on down at CIA headquarters, as far as what you can divulge to us of how this conversation went with Mr Pompeo. Give us a little sense of the briefing that you were able to give.

William Binney: First of all, I was kind of surprised to get a call from him, to go into see him; he invited me, of all people, to see him—I’ve been calling them all criminals for years, so, why would they invite me in to talk? Well, it turns out as I got in there, the first thing that Director Pompeo said to me, he said: “The President said that if I wanted to learn some facts about Russia-gate”, that he should talk to me. And so, I got called in.

He said, “Well, what do you know?” And I said: From the VIPS group, about six of us together were doing that. It wasn’t just me.... [There were] some network experts; they would understand the network, how it works and everything.

So, we were basically technical people ... looking at all the data that Guccifer 2.0 [self-identified “hacker” and source for WikiLeaks] put out there on the web. We were looking at time-stamps of the data, so we could look at how it was tapped off on 5 July 2016, and we said, “Gee, they’re taking down 16 gigabits of data”—this is what I was telling Director Pompeo—“they’re taking 16 gigabits of data in 87



William Binney (far right, wheelchair) and fellow members of Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity (VIPS) Diane Roark and Ray McGovern, being interviewed by Sean Stone (far left) at the New York screening of *A Good American*. Photo: Screenshot

seconds. That can’t be handled by the web. That can’t be transferred to Europe across the network by the web. It had to be a local download.” It was really simple.

People said, “No, you can get that rate across the Atlantic.” I said, “OK, let’s try it.” So we tried it: I had some senior hackers in Europe that I knew, and we had some help here in the USA; one of our guys put a gigabit of data out there, and said, “Here, you go pull it.” So we pulled it from Amsterdam and even in the UK and the best we got was 12 megabytes—that’s “bytes”, not “bits”—per second, which is roughly one-fourth the capacity necessary to transfer the data in that timeframe....

Stone: At the end of your summation, or your briefing, what was their response like?

Binney: He asked me to talk to the FBI and the NSA.... I told ‘em right up front that “the NSA and the FBI, they’re all lying to you”. Because when FBI, CIA, and NSA said in their report that we have “high confidence”, to me that immediately meant they’re lying. I mean, they have nothing! And the reason I know this, is because of all the taps that NSA has on the fibres, and they have embedded into them, trace route programs. Trace route allows you to follow the path of packets wherever they go. And they’ve got *hundreds* of these in the USA and around the world. So, if any packet in the USA goes anywhere, they know where it goes.

That also told me that it didn’t go across the net. Back in August of 2016 I said they were lying, and in fact, they are. When you read the FBI report about the hack, there isn’t any evidence there. And if you look at their 14-page paper, on the 13th page it says, you shouldn’t interpret our inferences as having any basis of fact to say this is certainly what happened. They’re basically saying, right up front, “We don’t have any evidence.” Well, that’s why they’ve never told you they’ve had any evidence, ‘cause they don’t! It’s all a fabrication.



What has five eyes and wears fishnet stockings? The Australian link in the British intelligence operation to sabotage US-Russia cooperation

By Robert Barwick

After more than a year of so-called “Russiagate” hysteria failing to find evidence of collusion between Donald Trump’s election campaign and the Russian government, a new, “credible” source of proof has suddenly emerged—Australia. The *New York Times* broke the story on 30 December that Australian diplomat Alexander Downer’s May 2016 encounter with a Trump campaign booster in London was the source of the claim that Russia had hacked Hillary Clinton’s emails in collusion with the Trump campaign, which led the FBI to open the investigation in July 2016 that has dogged Trump throughout his short presidency. The involvement of Alexander Downer, however, destroys all credibility of this newly-revealed “evidence”. The former Australian foreign minister is deeply embedded in Britain’s Secret Intelligence Service (MI6), which has fabricated the key claims of Russian collusion in order to sabotage Donald Trump’s efforts to improve US-Russian relations, the greatest loser from which would be the UK’s imperial, pro-war Crown Establishment.

The essence of the story is that in May 2016, Australia’s High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Alexander Downer, then 65, arranged drinks with 28-year-old Trump campaign associate George Papadopoulos at London’s exclusive Kensington Wine Rooms, during which Papadopoulos boasted to Downer that Russia had thousands of hacked Hillary Clinton emails that would damage her campaign. After WikiLeaks released Hillary Clinton’s emails in July 2016, Downer reported his encounter with Papadopoulos in a cable to Canberra, which passed the information on to US authorities.

The *New York Times* emphasised the importance of Australia being the source of the claims that provoked the FBI investigation. “It was not, as Mr Trump and other politicians have alleged, a dossier compiled by a former British spy hired by a rival campaign”, the *Times* reported. “Instead, it was firsthand information from one of America’s closest intelligence allies.”

It is significant that the so-called newspaper of record, the *New York Times*, failed to properly identify Alexander Downer, referring to him first as Australia’s “top” diplomat in Britain, and then only as an Australian diplomat. That is either the height of ignorance, or intentional understatement to make the story more plausible. Downer is in fact Australia’s longest-serving foreign minister and a former leader of the Liberal Party, one of Australia’s two major parties; the flamboyant Downer once posed for a publicity photo wearing fishnet stockings—an image that stuck with him for the rest of his career. As foreign minister in the Howard government, Downer was on the global front lines of the biggest foreign policy issue of the 21st century, the 2003 invasion of Iraq, helping to make the fraudulent case for the Iraq war on the international stage. Through his efforts he doubtless ingratiated himself to the string-pullers of the British and American intelligence community who drove the war agenda. Downer’s pres-



Alexander Downer, seen here posing in his fishnet stockings and leopard print high heels in the 1990s, is reported as the credible source who confirms Trump’s collusion with Russia, but he is an agent of British intelligence, which on behalf of the British Establishment has directed a Five Eyes intelligence operation to derail the prospect of improved US-Russia relations. Source: Screen shot.

ent post of High Commissioner to London is the equivalent of Ambassador.

It is therefore curious that a dignitary of Downer’s standing would be winning a 28 year-old upstart attached to the Trump campaign, something the media coverage seems desperate to downplay. Following up the story for an Australian audience, who would find it curious, the 5 January *Sydney Morning Herald* reported telling details that it tried to spin as normal. *SMH* reporter David Wroe described Papadopoulos meeting a young woman in London who “happened to know” Downer as a “chance” encounter, except there was nothing chance about it. The *New York Times* had already revealed that an Israeli Embassy official had introduced Papadopoulos to the woman, who was in fact another Australian diplomat, i.e. she worked for Downer. According to Wroe, the young woman told Downer about Papadopoulos, and Downer, “being a canny diplomat”, arranged to meet him. To downplay all of this as run-of-the-mill, Wroe quoted Peter Jennings of the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, perhaps

Australia's most rabid neocon warmonger, who advocates Australia's participation in every possible Anglo-American war provocation against Russia and China and who appears to be on familiar terms with Downer: "Alexander was doing what a High Commissioner should do, finding pathways into the campaign team", Jennings said.

Downer is not just the High Commissioner and a former foreign minister, however. He is deeply connected into British intelligence. As foreign minister he had been in charge of Australia's MI6, the Australian Secret Intelligence Service (ASIS). ASIS agents, who are usually recruited from the diplomatic corps, where indeed Downer started his career, are known to refer to Canberra as "home office" and MI6 headquarters in London as "head office". ASIS and Australia's other intelligence agencies are part of the Five Eyes intelligence-sharing alliance with the UK, USA, New Zealand and Canada; the popularised terms "deep state" and "secret state" refer to these interconnected intelligence agencies. After leaving politics, Downer stayed involved in this intelligence world. In 2008 he joined the advisory board of secretive British firm Hakluyt & Co., a private intelligence company founded by "former" officers of MI6. This is a similar operation to Orbis Business Intelligence, the firm founded by former MI6 officer Christopher Steele, who fabricated the discredited Trump dossier for the Clinton campaign which the *NYT* is now keen to claim did not trigger the FBI investigation. Downer resigned

from Hakluyt & Co. when he was appointed High Commissioner in 2014, but has continued to attend group functions. Today the international advisory board of Hakluyt & Co. includes Sir Iain Lobban, the former director of GCHQ, the UK's top and most secretive intelligence agency.

The real story of Russiagate is not Russian interference in the US election, but British interference, through the British intelligence operation aimed at Trump. Ever since WWII, British strategy has hinged upon its "special relationship" with the USA, which to the imperial geopolitical mindset of the British elite depends upon an adversarial relationship between the USA and Russia (previously the USSR). From the outset of his campaign, Trump expressed a desire to change that adversarial relationship, in order to reduce the danger of war between the world's two nuclear superpowers.

Russiagate has revealed that as Trump emerged as a serious contender for the presidency, British intelligence mobilised an operation to derail the possibility of Trump achieving closer US-Russia relations. The timing of Downer's approach to Papadopoulos confirms it is part of that operation. He arranged the meeting just as Trump was sewing up the Republican Party nomination, and a few days after Papadopoulos, on behalf of the Trump campaign, had attracted attention in London from a clumsy interview with the 4 May 2016 London *Times*, which generated the headline that Trump was a risk to the US-UK "special relationship".

'Russiagate' conspiracy unravels

By *Elisa Barwick*

The plan to prevent US President Donald Trump from governing by embroiling the White House in the scandal known as Russiagate, is unravelling. The plan was always aimed at preventing the USA re-establishing cooperation with Russia, which together with US-China cooperation could lead to a three-way collaboration between the world's leading nuclear powers, allowing a new global economic and strategic framework to develop, potentially spelling the end of a century of geopolitical manipulation and war.

While Russiagate refers to purported collusion between the 2016 Trump presidential campaign and the Kremlin to bring about a Trump presidency, the real story is now beginning to emerge. Under the guidance of President Barack Obama's National Intelligence director James Clapper, FBI chief James Comey and CIA Director John Brennan, a cabal intersecting all three agencies and the US Department of Justice acted to prevent Trump's election and to create an "insurance policy"—a ready-made scandal to be pulled off the shelf in the unlikely event he was elected. That British authorities tipped off US agencies to the so-called Russian interference in the 2016 election and that former British MI6 agent Christopher Steele wrote the "dodgy dossier" presenting Trump's alleged indiscretions and dealings in Russia, indicates the seminal role of British intelligence, in particular Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) which oversees the entire Five Eyes intelligence-sharing alliance. (AAS, 22 Nov. 2017 "Evidence piles up: British Intelligence launched Russiagate".)

As International Schiller Institute Chairwoman, Helga Zepp-LaRouche told a webcast audience on 4 January, "The real story here is not that Russia was colluding with the Trump campaign; the real scandal, which all these question marks lead to, is if it turns out that the Obama administration colluded with British intelligence and the Hillary Clinton campaign and the Democratic National Com-

mittee (DNC), in order to conspire against an opponent candidate and after he won the election, against an elected President. That is a scandal which could totally dwarf the Watergate scandal and this is now the breaking story."

The Mueller investigation is a key part of the scandal. Former FBI director Robert Mueller was appointed special prosecutor by the Department of Justice (DOJ) to investigate the alleged Russian interference. AAS documented in the 11 October Washington Insider that Mueller is a hit man for the Anglo-American Establishment, his crimes including the cover-up of the Saudi role in the 9/11 terrorist attack.

Other key players in the anti-Trump cabal were Deputy FBI Director Andrew McCabe, top FBI counterintelligence official and chief Russiagate investigator Peter Strzok, and Associate Deputy Attorney General Bruce Ohr. Ohr and his wife Nellie had previously worked as part of a CIA/FBI/DOJ organised crime taskforce with MI6's Christopher Steele and Fusion GPS co-founder Glenn Simpson, for a time under McCabe's direction. During the presidential campaign Nellie was employed by Fusion GPS which produced the Steele dossier, to help with research and analysis of Trump. According to MI6-connected journalist Luke Harding in his



Russiagate special prosecutor, Robert Mueller. Photo: Wikipedia

book, *Collusion: How Russia helped Trump win the White House*, Christopher Steele had also been a key part of preparing the 2013-14 Ukraine coup, intended to foster an image of Russia as an enemy state and create a pretext for world war. Steele drafted more than a hundred intelligence memos for Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Victoria Nuland and Secretary of State John Kerry.

Insurance policy

In the name of so-called “opposition research” the DNC and Clinton campaign paid Fusion GPS’s Simpson, who hired Steele to discredit Trump, but the Anglo-American intelligence apparatus soon took over the operation. It appears that Strzok, under the direction of more senior figures in the bureau, dressed up the Steele dossier and likely used it as the basis of launching a counterintelligence operation against Trump’s campaign under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA). When Trump was elected, the “insurance policy” was put into motion. Simpson told federal court hearings that at Bruce Ohr’s request, he met with DOJ officials just weeks after the presidential elections “to discuss our findings regarding Russia and the election”.

Despite FBI and DOJ witnesses stonewalling the several investigations of the House Intelligence Committee and the House and Senate Judiciary Committees looking into these charges, crucial elements of the real Russiagate story are coming into focus. Released on 12 December 2017 were ninety pages of text messages between Strzok and FBI Attorney Lisa Page, with whom he was having an affair, revealing overt political bias in favour of the Clinton campaign. Both had been prominent members of Mueller’s investigative team. The messages, which Mueller had been aware of since July, blatantly discussed the effort to keep that “menace” and “loathsome human”, Trump, from being elected, in order to “protect our country”.

FBI Deputy Director Andrew McCabe figured prominently in the correspondence. A 15 August 2016 text from Strzok suggested that anti-Trump plotting was taking place in McCabe’s office: “I want to believe the path you threw out for consideration in Andy’s [McCabe’s] office that there’s no way [Trump] gets elected, *but I’m afraid we can’t take that risk. It’s like an insurance policy* in the unlikely event you die before you’re 40.” Most believe the insurance policy to be the British-fabricated Steele dossier.

At this time Strzok was also FBI Director Comey’s lead case agent on the Clinton email case, in which capacity he changed the wording on the FBI’s final statement on Clinton’s conduct from “criminally negligent”, which is a felony, to the meaningless “extremely careless”, letting her off the hook with the stroke of a pen. He also played a key role in setting up Trump’s National Security Adviser Michael Flynn for his fall within days of entering the job (“To crush the assault on the presidency”, *Executive Intelligence Review*, 22 Dec. 2017).

The rats scamper

Mueller’s team reported that Strzok was removed from the investigation when his text messages with Page were discovered. Page’s work on the inquiry had concluded by that time; both were reassigned within the FBI. Bruce Ohr



Department of Justice attorney Bruce Ohr and his wife Nellie, who worked for Fusion GPS, which worked with MI6 officer Christopher Steele to fabricate the dossier that was used to justify an investigation of collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia. Source: Screen shot

was demoted in early December. Judge Rudolph Contreras recused himself from the trial of Michael Flynn on 7 December—he was on the secretive FISA court when surveillance of Trump and Flynn was authorised.

James A. Baker, General Counsel to the FBI and a Comey confidant, who accompanied McCabe during his seven-hour grilling by the House Intelligence Committee on 19 December, was suddenly “reassigned” to a new post days later. Then, on 23 December the press reported McCabe had announced his resignation “under Republican attacks”. McCabe has a reputation as being “Comey’s right-hand man”.

Due to the myriad conflicts of interest in this nexus, which includes the Mueller campaign, there is a push for a second independent counsel to probe the MI6-FBI-DOJ-DNC-Clinton collusion. In addition, on 5 January Republican Senators Charles Grassley and Lindsey Graham, representing the Senate Judiciary Committee and a subcommittee, made a criminal referral to the DOJ regarding false statements made by Steele and whether they sparked the FISA action and Russiagate probe. House Intelligence Committee Chair Devin Nunes succeeded in enforcing a 3 January deadline for the DOJ to produce documents and witnesses relating to the Steele dossier, which it had held out on since last August; Nunes has also won a court battle to have Fusion GPS produce requested bank records.

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Cambridge Analytica: British elite's high-tech tool for meddling in nations

By Robert Barwick

An explosive undercover investigation by Britain's Channel 4 has exposed the operations of data analysis firm Cambridge Analytica in manipulating elections. Cambridge Analytica boss Alexander Nix was captured on a hidden camera boasting of his firm's ability to falsely smear opposition candidates, including by setting up candidates in compromising situations with "Ukrainian" prostitutes. The Channel 4 investigation was prompted by Cambridge Analytica's role in Donald Trump's 2016 US presidential campaign. Its revelations have increased scrutiny on Cambridge Analytica's billionaire American investors and Trump backers Steve Bannon and Robert Mercer, and on Facebook, from which Cambridge Analytica harvested data on millions of American voters.

The Cambridge Analytica story has become US-focused, on the claimed illegitimacy of Trump's election, and Facebook's data surveillance and security. There is also a side story in the UK about whether Cambridge Analytica influenced the Brexit vote, and related speculation about a possible connection between Cambridge Analytica and Russia, hitherto the main "culprit" in the hysterical allegations of interference in the US Presidential election and Brexit referendum. None of this is the real story, however.

Cambridge Analytica is a British operation, tied in to the highest levels of Britain's oligarchical elite and their intelligence services MI5 and MI6. These entities have meddled in the political affairs of other nations for decades, and Cambridge Analytica is merely a modern, high-tech arm of this apparatus. It is the subsidiary of British defence contractor SCL Group, formerly Strategic Communication Laboratories (SCL). Essentially, SCL specialises in PSYOPS, or psychological operations, a term for the sophisticated mass-brainwashing of populations using the techniques of the advertising industry combined with modern electronic data analysis to target messages to specific audiences. SCL's CEO, Nigel Oakes, told *Marketing* magazine in 1992: "We use the same techniques as Aristotle and Hitler. ... We appeal to people on an emotional level to get them to agree on a functional level."

The founder of SCL, Nigel Oakes is hereditarily linked to Britain's ruling elite. Educated at Britain's most elite public (a.k.a. private) school Eton, Oakes is a cousin of the Swire family, of the Hong Kong trading empire Swire's. As a young man he briefly dated Queen Elizabeth's second cousin Lady Helen Windsor, the only daughter of the Duke of Kent. London's *Times* reported on 21 March: "The men who run Cambridge Analytica are no strangers to scandal and intrigue and have social and business links to the heart of the Conservative Party, royalty and the British military." Another cousin of the Queen, Lord Ivar Mountbatten, the great-nephew of Lord Louis Mountbatten, is currently on SCL's advisory board, alongside Rear Admiral John Tolhurst and Colonel Ian Tunnicliffe, a former strategic communications expert at the Ministry of Defence. Oakes's co-founder of SCL Alexander Nix, the CEO of Cambridge Analytica, is also an Etonian, and his mother is a major shareholder in SCL Group. Another co-founder, Rollo Gabb, is the son of a big donor to the Conservative Party. A former Conservative Party treasurer, Lord Marland, is another major SCL shareholder. The founding chairman of SCL, Sir Geoffrey Pattie, was a Thatcher government minister and is a former vice chairman of the Conservative Party.

Intelligence front

SCL Group overlaps the disinformation apparatus operated by British intelligence, some of which parades as commercial marketing businesses. Oakes started his career at Saatchi and Saatchi, the advertising agency credited with Margaret Thatcher's election as Prime Minister in 1979. Thatcher's ascension had been a carefully planned operation of the City of London financial elite, to affect a revolution that transferred the economic power of the state to the private interests of the City through radical deregulation and mass privatisation. Working at Saatchi and Saatchi at the time was Thatcher's close friend Tim, later Lord Bell, who went on to found public relations firm Bell Pottinger, which became notorious for its work on military disinformation campaigns.

Oakes founded the Behavioural Dynamics Institute in 1990, and Strategic Communication Laboratories in 1993; following more than a decade of shady activities in countries all over the world, SCL Group was formed in 2005. SCL has provided PSYOPS services for the British military and NATO, and boasts of its role in the 2004 Orange Revolution in Ukraine, an early Anglo-American operation aimed at encircling Russia. Its closeness to the British military is evident in the Ministry of Defence granting SCL "List X" status until 2013, which allowed the company access to secret documents. In 2014 SCL was contracted by the MoD to work on Project DUCO "to analyse how people would interact with certain government messaging", according to the 21 March *Guardian*.

SCL/Cambridge is fully intertwined with the private disinformation network directed by MI5 and MI6. Cambridge Analytica manager Mark Turnbull, also captured on Channel 4's hidden camera, previously worked for 18 years for Bell Pottinger, during which time Bell Pottinger was paid to produce fake videos for a military disinformation campaign in Iraq. Bell Pottinger overlaps MI5's disinformation agency started in 2007, the Research, Information and Communications Unit (RICU), which operates out of the British Home Office and runs multimedia campaigns ostensibly aimed at combating Muslim extremism, and influencing events in Syria and Somalia, but designed to appear as spontaneous, grassroots community campaigns and not government messages; RICU's media division, Breakthrough Media, is run by former Bell Pottinger chief of staff and M&C Saatchi account manager Scott Brown.

With its British intelligence pedigree, the biggest curiosity about SCL and Cambridge is its role in the Trump campaign, given Trump campaigned against British policy in relation to Russia and Syria. Cambridge didn't join the Trump campaign though until June 2016, after Trump had secured the Republican Party nomination. Along with their US shareholders Bannon and Mercer, Cambridge Analytica had previously worked for Senator Ted Cruz—their shift to Trump coincided with a Republican Party effort to bring him under control, and a parallel British intelligence effort to set in train events that would block Trump's policy of improving relations with Russia. Given that Trump had not needed Cambridge to win the nomination, was this shift less about winning the campaign, and more about influencing the future president? Here's a clue: when Trump's defeat of Hillary Clinton in November 2016 surprised the whole world, British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson met a few weeks later with Alexander Nix of Cambridge Analytica for inside information about the new president.



Was FBI spy on Trump really from MI6?

Special to the AAS

Stefan Halper, the man accused by the White House of operating as an FBI “spy” inside the Trump Presidential campaign in 2016, far more fits the profile of a British intelligence operative, out to subvert American constitutional rule through a hostile covert operation.

Halper’s name appeared recently as the result of revelations that the FBI had a mole inside the Trump campaign, prior to the surfacing of the so-called “Russiagate” scandal, which is built around alleged ties between Trump and Russia. The *Washington Post* and the *New York Times* in mid-May published details about the UK-based academic who had cultivated three individuals active in Trump’s campaign, all but naming Halper as the culprit. The FBI’s argument that revealing the source’s identity would be a major national security breach was nothing but an attempt to protect a botched operation—one it was complicit in, but did not control.

Now emerging is a more detailed picture of a British intelligence operation, which successfully led to the FBI’s launch of “Crossfire Hurricane” proper, the probe into Russian interference in the 2016 US election, at the end of July 2016.

Halper’s spy activities against people eventually tied to Donald Trump actually began a year before Trump announced his candidacy. In February 2014 Halper met with then-Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA) Director Gen. Michael Flynn. Their rendezvous in Cambridge, England was attended by Sir Richard Dearlove, former head of the British foreign intelligence agency, MI6, who was in the process of launching his project called the Cambridge Security Initiative (CSI). Also present were former Cambridge history professor Christopher Andrew, the official historian of the domestic security agency MI5; and Svetlana Lokhova, a Russian-born, dual-citizen (Russia and UK) student of Andrew and scholar on the history of Soviet espionage. Flynn had been invited to the UK to discuss a partnership between the DIA and CSI.

Halper, an organiser of the CSI’s seminars through December 2016, made one noteworthy contribution to the February 2014 gathering: He accused Gen. Flynn of being too cosy with the Russian-born Lokhova, effectively charging that she was a Russian “honey trap”, assigned by the KGB to blackmail the American General as part of some nefarious Moscow scheme. While there was no evidence to back his accusations, Halper’s allegations damaged Lokhova’s academic career.

Carter Page

It was at a Cambridge Security Initiative seminar in July 2016 that Halper met Carter Page, an American with business ties in Russia, who was loosely involved with the Trump campaign. Halper cultivated Page from then through September 2017, offering sympathy to Page when his name surfaced at the centre of the Russiagate campaign against Trump. Based on both the Christopher Steele dossier—a series of intelligence memos, allegedly based on



Left: FBI informant Stefan Halper. Right: American businessman Carter Page. Photos: Wikipedia

information from Russian insiders, prepared by ex-MI6 officer Steele, initially for the campaign organisations of Trump’s opponents and then shopped by Steele to the FBI—and on Halper’s allegations that Page was a Russian agent, the US Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court (FISC) on 21 October 2016 issued the first of four warrants, allowing the FBI to monitor Page. When the warrants expired in September 2017, Halper cut contact with Page.

In August 2016, one month after his first contact with Carter Page, Halper approached Sam Clovis, at that time Trump’s campaign manager, offering his services as a strategic adviser. Halper had served in Republican White Houses in the 1970s, under Presidents Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford. Five days before the November 2016 election, however, Halper told the Russian news agency Sputnik that he thought Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton would be a better President for US-UK relations.

George Papadopoulos

In September 2016, just days after his meeting with Clovis, Halper contacted a low-level Trump campaign operative named George Papadopoulos and invited him to fly to London. Halper paid for the travel, including three nights at a London hotel, and gave Papadopoulos US\$3,000 to write a report for him on oil politics in the eastern Mediterranean.

According to Papadopoulos’s attorneys, in the middle of their discussion about the oil research paper, Halper changed the subject and asked, “George, you know about hacking the emails from Russia, right?” Papadopoulos says he emphatically denied Halper’s leading question.

The Halper-Papadopoulos exchange opens a deeper issue than Halper’s alleged spying for the FBI. The allegation that Papadopoulos would know about “hacking the emails from Russia” came from Alexander Downer, the Australian high commissioner to the UK (2014-18).

On 10 May 2016 Downer, for reasons unknown, reached out to Papadopoulos and requested a meeting. The contact was established through Downer’s assistant Erika Thompson and Christian Cantor, an Israeli Embassy official acquainted with Papadopoulos. During their

meeting at a high-end London bar, according to Downer's account, Papadopoulos told the Australian diplomat that the Russians had damaging information on Hillary Clinton. Papadopoulos would later tell the FBI, following his July 2017 arrest, that he had been informed about Russia having dirt on Hillary Clinton by Professor Joseph Mifsud, a Maltese academic with contacts in Russia. Mifsud confided in Papadopoulos that Russia had hacked emails from Hillary Clinton that would be damaging to her campaign for president.

Downer reported the Papadopoulos conversation to the Australian Foreign Ministry. Weeks later, after the first posting of Democratic National Committee emails by WikiLeaks, Australian Ambassador to the United States Joe Hockey passed the report on to the FBI. On 26 July 2016 the FBI formally announced its investigation into the alleged Russian hacking of the DNC.

Who steered Halper to ask Papadopoulos about the alleged Russian hacking? At the time of their meeting in London in September 2016, no one knew of George Papadopoulos—except for the FBI and British Intelligence via the Downer report.

Take a step back

While the FBI may well have employed Halper as a spy inside the Trump camp, the roots of every aspect of the Russiagate story lie elsewhere: British intelligence.

Alexander Downer sat on the advisory board of a shadowy private security outfit named Hakluyt & Company Ltd from 2008 until his appointment as high commissioner in 2014. Hakluyt was founded and is staffed by "former" MI6 executives. Downer continued to work with Hakluyt even after he assumed the diplomatic post, attending private meetings and consulting on big corporate projects for the firm. Among the other advisory board members listed by Hakluyt is Sir Iain Lobban, former head of Britain's premier signals intelligence organisation, Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ).

Hakluyt has been entangled in some significant geopolitical controversies in recent years. In November 2011, an ex-MI6 agent employed by Hakluyt was found dead in his hotel room in Chongqing, China. The agent, Neil Heywood, had cultivated the city's chief executive, rising Communist Party star Bo Xilai, to the point of facilitating the admission of Bo's son to Balliol College, Oxford. When the police chief of Chongqing showed up in Beijing with evidence that Heywood had been murdered as a consequence of certain corrupt arrangements, Bo Xilai fell from power, and is now in jail.

Another corporate home for "ex" MI6 officers, Orbis, has already surfaced as a central player in Russiagate, courtesy of Christopher Steele, whose "dodgy dossier" on Trump drove the claim that Russia had blackmail leverage over the President and had conspired to get him elected.

Lobban's successor at GCHQ in 2014 was Robert Hannigan, who initiated GCHQ's tracking of Trump campaign team members. In mid-2016, as the FBI was launching Crossfire Hurricane, Hannigan flew to Washington to meet with CIA Director John Brennan and "inform" him that British Intelligence had been tracking Trump campaign aides over their Russia ties since the summer of 2015.

Stefan Halper

Dual British-American citizen Halper received his PhD from Oxford in 1971. In 2001 he was appointed to the prestigious post of director of American studies in



Australian High Commissioner to London Alexander Downer (left), who has deep connections to MI6, obtained information from minor Trump campaign official George Papadopoulos (above right), which Australian Ambassador to the USA Joe Hockey (bottom right) passed on to the FBI. Photos: AFP/Daniel Leal/Olivas; Screenshot; Twitter

Cambridge University's Department of Politics and International Studies (POLIS). He went on to chair POLIS, and received a second PhD from Cambridge in 2004.

Halper helped to found, and ran programs for, ex-MI6 chief Dearlove's Cambridge Security Initiative.

In his younger days, fresh out of Oxford, Halper had returned to the United States and held jobs in the Republican administrations, including at the Pentagon. He was briefly married to the daughter of Ray Cline, former deputy director of the CIA. In 1980 Halper campaigned for ex-Director of the CIA George H.W. Bush, then for the Bush-Reagan ticket after Bush lost to Ronald Reagan in the race for the Republican nomination and became the vice-presidential candidate. Halper was caught up in the "Debategate" scandal; he was accused of working with the CIA to steal the briefing book of President Jimmy Carter, who was running for re-election as the Democratic nominee, which Carter was using to prepare for his first campaign debate with Reagan.

Halper later turned up in the middle of the Iran-Contra scandal, in which the Reagan White House made secret arms sales to Iran and used the funds to arm the Contra rebels in Nicaragua, who were fighting to overthrow the leftist Sandinista government. He was chairman and majority shareholder in Palmer National Bank, a front operation for laundering funds through Swiss bank accounts to the Contras. Since Congress had passed the Boland Amendment, barring the CIA from providing aid to the Contras, Lt. Col. Oliver North, a National Security Council staffer reporting to Vice President George H.W. Bush, ran the covert operation out of the White House. Halper was an inside player in yet another corrupt spook operation.

Washington Insider will continue to dig beneath the surface of this ongoing saga, as more of British Intelligence's dirty laundry turns up.



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Did Steele solicit fake news on Trump?

Special to the AAS

On 28 August 2018, Representative Devin Nunes (Republican of California), chairman of the House Select Committee on Intelligence (HSCI), flew to London to meet with British intelligence officials as part of his ongoing investigation into the Christopher Steele “dodgy dossier” on President Donald Trump and his alleged “Russian connections”.

According to news accounts, Nunes asked to meet with the heads of the three British intelligence organisations—domestic intelligence MI5, foreign intelligence MI6, and the Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ). He was pursuing information on the ties between former MI6 officer Steele and US Justice Department official Bruce Ohr, who played a pivotal role in promoting the Steele dossier and the FBI probe into alleged “collusion” between Trump and the Russian government. Nunes also was seeking career documentation on Steele, looking for any prior indications of political bias or the peddling of disinformation.

Nunes, who as chairman of the HSCI would have normally been accorded access to the heads of British intelligence, was rebuffed by all three agencies. He was permitted only to meet with Madeleine Alessandri, deputy national security aide to Prime Minister Theresa May.

Coincidence unlikely

Nunes’s trip to London came just 24 hours after a new and startling revelation about Steele and his consulting company, Orbis Business Intelligence Ltd. On 27 August Sputnik Radio News, an official Russian international news outlet, aired an interview with a former Ukrainian diplomat, who revealed that he had been told by a Kiev friend that Orbis had hired him to find dirt on Donald Trump.

As a diplomat, Andriy Telizhenko had been assigned to the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington during the 2016 US Presidential campaign. He told Sputnik Radio’s Lee Stranahan, in an audiotaped interview, that his Kiev friend (unnamed) had worked for a George Soros-run NGO; and was a respected human rights activist. He was approached and hired by Orbis to assemble dirt on Trump for US\$3-4,000 per month. It didn’t matter whether the information was true or fake.

The complete Stranahan-Telizhenko interview can be heard here: <https://youtu.be/PIBdbfrp3fM>

Telizhenko is a credible source, even though he has not, so far, publicly identified his friend by name. On 11 January 2017, Politico published a lengthy article on Ukrainian government interference in the 2016 US election on behalf of Hillary Clinton. It said that Ukrainian Ambassador to the United States Valeriy Chaly and political aide Oksana Shulyar worked closely with a Democratic National Committee paid consultant, Alexandra Chalupa, to develop a dossier on Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort and candidate Trump, as part of the pro-Clinton effort.

Telizhenko worked for Shulyar and sat in on several of the meetings between the Democratic Party operative and the Ukrainian diplomats, digging for dirt on Manafort and Trump. Shulyar assigned him to work with Chalupa on the opposition research. He says he cautioned the ambassador against crossing the line and interfering in US presidential politics but was rebuffed.

On 20 July 2017, Senator Charles Grassley, an Iowa Republican who chairs the Senate Judiciary Committee, wrote to Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein with questions about the revelations of Ukrainian election interference. He demanded to know whether the DOJ and FBI were pursuing the evidence presented by Telizhenko and others, and set a deadline for the committee to receive a briefing and documentation on the probe. Grassley specifically asked whether Rosenstein was investigating why Alexandra Chalupa had not registered as a foreign agent of the Ukrainian government.

Obama State Department

More and more questions are surfacing about the credibility of the Steele dossier, and the degree to which Obama Administration officials and Clinton campaign operatives were complicit in peddling fake allegations to trigger a probe of Donald Trump, either to cause his defeat in the November 2016 election, block his swearing in, or impeach him if the other two options failed.

Telizhenko’s allegation that Orbis solicited fabricated charges against Trump overlaps with indications that Steele was passing fake allegations from partisan “investigators” to the DOJ and FBI. Jonathan Winer, a former aide to Senator John Kerry who also served as deputy assistant secretary of state for international law enforcement and later as special envoy on Libya, was a go-between for Christopher Steele. He knew Steele from 2009, when the Briton “retired” from MI6, and Winer was out of government and working as an attorney on international organised crime cases.

Winer and Steele resumed contact upon Winer’s return to the State Department in 2013 to work for Kerry, who had become secretary of state. According to Winer’s 8 February 2018 account in the *Washington Post*, over the next two years Winer passed over 100 memos written by Steele on Ukraine to Assistant Secretary of State Victoria Nuland, an architect of the 2013-14 Euromaidan Revolution that overthrew elected President Victor Yanukovich and his government.

After a September 2016 Washington meeting with Steele, Winer read Steele’s dodgy dossier and wrote a two-page summary, which he circulated among State Department officials, including Secretary Kerry. In late September, Winer gave Steele a copy of a political hit-dossier on Trump, prepared by Cody Shearer, a Hillary Clinton operative. A notoriously unreliable political dirty-trickster, Shearer had pulled together various lurid allegations against Trump, which overlapped Steele’s own claims. Steele incorporated the unvetted Shearer material into his own equally unvetted dirt, and shared it with the FBI and DOJ.

The rest is history, including the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court wiretap order against Trump campaign aide Carter Page, the probe by Special Counsel Robert Mueller, the indictment and conviction of Paul Manafort, et cetera.

It is not hard to imagine that during Representative Nunes’s London visit, he would have raised the question of Orbis and Steele soliciting fake charges against Trump from Ukrainian enemies of Vladimir Putin. No surprise, chaps, that MI6, MI5 and GCHQ all managed to find diplomatic excuses to refuse to meet with the Republican intelligence chairman.

Stay tuned. This story is still unravelling.



Australian role in Trumpgate resurfaces

Special to the AAS

On 18 September Martha MacCallum of Fox News interviewed former Trump Presidential campaign aide George Papadopoulos. In that interview and subsequent ones, Papadopoulos demonstrated what AAS readers have known for some time: that the Australian diplomatic and intelligence part in efforts to destroy Donald Trump, both before and after his election, has been far more than a curious sidelight. (“What has five eyes and wears fishnet stockings? The Australian link in the British intelligence operation to sabotage US-Russia cooperation”, AAS, 10 Jan. 2018.)

Papadopoulos is explicitly accusing the British and Australian intelligence services of interfering in the US presidential election. In a 19 September tweet naming an Australian intelligence officer who he alleges spied on him, Papadopoulos said, “Not good for Australia to be spying on Americans”. On 21 September he followed up: “British and Australian governments’ attempt to sabotage the Trump campaign is about to backfire in spectacular fashion.”

On 7 September Papadopoulos had been sentenced to 14 days in jail for lying to the FBI. He had been arrested and eventually reached a plea agreement with Special Counsel Robert Mueller, who is still digging for Russia-connected malfeasance by Trump. Although Papadopoulos had only a peripheral and brief involvement with the Trump campaign, Mueller charged that he had obtained advance information about supposed Russian hacking of the Democratic National Committee (DNC) and candidate Hillary Clinton’s computers. Papadopoulos allegedly conveyed that information in May 2016 to Australia’s then-High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Alexander Downer.

The story goes that Downer alerted Australian security officials, who passed the intelligence to American counterparts through the Five Eyes intelligence-sharing system among the United States, the UK, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.

The brief Papadopoulos-Downer encounter in May 2016 took on great significance, allegedly serving as the basis for launching, two months later, an FBI probe into Russian interference in the 2016 US Presidential election.

Protecting Christopher Steele

The claim that Papadopoulos was the initial source of information on Russian election interference on behalf of Trump was critical. It allowed Federal prosecutors and Special Counsel Mueller to argue that the Russiagate-Trumpgate probe was not exclusively based on the dodgy dossier produced by dubious former MI6 officer Christopher Steele. Beginning in May 2016, Steele had been hired by the DNC and the Hillary Clinton campaign, through a private think tank called Fusion GPS, to develop dirt on Trump’s Russian connections. Steele was paid by both the Democratic Party and the FBI for his 35 pages of reports from unidentified Russian sources, claiming that Moscow had blackmail leverage over the future US President.

The Steele dossier was the basis for a Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court warrant to monitor Trump campaign advisor Carter Page. It all eventually led to the appointment of Mueller as the Russiagate prosecutor.

Steele has been widely discredited. None of the allegations in his dossier have been corroborated, and he was

ultimately fired as a paid FBI informant for double-dipping with the Democrats and for leaking to the anti-Trump media.

The Papadopoulos story line enabled prosecutors to argue that Steele’s information was only secondary, and that they had another, independent source to show Russian election interference and allege that the Trump campaign had advance knowledge of the Russian actions.



This plaque has been placed at the entrance to London’s Kensington Wine Rooms where Papadopoulos met Downer. Photo: Twitter

Papadopoulos accuses

Papadopoulos has now spelled out a compelling case that he was set up by anti-Trump forces in the FBI, Australian intelligence, British intelligence, and Israeli intelligence. His account promises to open up a new track in Republican Congressional investigations into the illegal “Get Trump” operation.

While working at a British think tank in the spring 2016, Papadopoulos was introduced to the political branch chief of the Israeli embassy in London, Christian Cantor. Cantor’s girlfriend, Erika Thompson, was an aide to High Commissioner Downer. On the pretext of Downer’s being interested in work Papadopoulos was doing on oil and gas in the Mediterranean region, Cantor arranged for the two to meet for drinks at London’s Kensington Wine Rooms in May 2016. Erika Thompson, who attended the meeting, eventually wrote a report to the Australian Foreign Ministry, alleging that Papadopoulos told Downer that Russians had hacked into Clinton’s computers and would use the dirt against the Democratic Presidential candidate.

Papadopoulos insists that he never mentioned anything about hacking at this brief meeting. He recalled that a mysterious Maltese academic named Joseph Mifsud, whom he had met during a business trip to Rome, had asserted that the Russians had “dirt” on Hillary Clinton. But he says that he never told Downer and Thompson about Russian hacking.

In hindsight, Papadopoulos is convinced the whole affair was a trap, targeting him and, by extension, the Trump campaign. Downer, Cantor and Thompson were all fanatically anti-Trump and made their views clear to Papadopoulos, knowing that he was working for the Trump campaign.

The attempt to entrap Papadopoulos did not end with the encounter with Downer at the wine bar. On 2 September 2016 Papadopoulos was contacted by Stefan Halper, an FBI informant who taught at Cambridge University and was active in the Cambridge Security Initiative of Richard Dearlove, the former head of MI6. Halper invited Papadopoulos to England to discuss a research paper on Mediterranean oil that would earn him a US\$3,000 honorarium. When they met, Halper grilled Papadopoulos on Trump campaign links to Russia. Halper made the approach to Papadopoulos as part of his work for the FBI on its already-initiated Russia-Trump probe. Halper had also targeted Carter Page on behalf of the FBI, using a similar pretext and then interrogating him on Trump-Russia links. (“Was FBI spy on Trump really from

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MI6?" Washington Insider, AAS, 30 May 2018.)

On 21 September, when Trump put a pause on an order to declassify all documents related to "Russiagate", he re-vealed that "key allies" had asked for the documents not to be released. Papadopoulos tweeted that the key allies were British and Australian governments.

If the Papadopoulos account holds up under investigative

scrutiny, at least three of the Five Eyes nations are implicated in a criminal intelligence operation, aimed at sabotaging the 2016 US Presidential election. The goal was to destroy the Trump campaign and, in the event Trump won, to bring down his Presidency. Whatever the Russians did or didn't do pales by comparison to the plot conducted on three continents to shape the outcome of an American Presidential election.



New revelations of British entrapment of Trump

Special to the AAS

On 25 October, George Papadopoulos appeared before the House Oversight and House Judiciary Committees to deliver a closed-door account of his role in launching the Russia-gate probe of Donald Trump. If anyone was at the very centre of the allegations that candidate Trump colluded with the Russian government to steal the 2016 presidential election, it was Papadopoulos.

- Papadopoulos briefly worked as a foreign policy advisor to the Trump presidential campaign beginning in March 2016.

- He allegedly told Australian diplomat Alexander Downer that the Russians had obtained emails from Hillary Clinton's account—months before WikiLeaks made those emails public.

- It was Downer's account of his London meeting with Papadopoulos that was cited as the justification for the FBI to open a probe of Trump-Russia connections on 31 July 2016.

- On 27 January 2017, Papadopoulos was interviewed by the FBI, a critical step towards the appointment of Robert Mueller as special counsel, probing Russian interference in the 2016 election.

- On 28 July 2017, Papadopoulos was arrested at Dulles Airport near Washington and charged with lying to the FBI.

- On 5 October 2017, Papadopoulos reached a plea agreement with Special Counsel Mueller, requiring his cooperation in the Russiagate probe.

- On 7 October 2018, after one year of "cooperation" with the Mueller probe, Papadopoulos was sentenced to 14 days in jail, 200 hours of community service and a US\$9,000 fine.

- Almost immediately after sentencing, Papadopoulos appeared on Fox News and other conservative news outlets to accuse the FBI and British intelligence of having entrapped him as part of a premeditated plan to sink the Trump campaign and later, the Trump presidency. He charged that all the events which had placed him at the centre of the Russiagate probe were run by FBI informants, British intelligence agents and other Western spies, including several Israelis.

Joseph Mifsud

The man who allegedly told Papadopoulos that Russia had possession of Hillary Clinton's damning emails was a Maltese professor named Joseph Mifsud, whom the anti-Trump forces have labelled a Russian spy. The only trouble with that is that there is no evidence that Mifsud had ties to Russian intelligence agencies, but there is abundant evidence that he worked for Western intelligence—most likely British MI6.

Mifsud worked for two obscure training centres of Western intelligence agents and diplomats: the London Centre for International Law Practice, and Link Campus in Rome. According to *Washington Post* columnist David Ignatius, Link Campus was a site for regular CIA non-classified conferences, including a conference on international terrorism he attended in 2004.

Mifsud counted among his closest colleagues and friends Claire Smith, who served for years on the UK Joint Intelligence Committee, which had oversight over all branches of British intelligence.

When the Russiagate probe became centred on Mifsud's April 2016 meeting with Papadopoulos in London, where he allegedly revealed the Russia-Hillary email tale, a former

foreign and interior minister of Italy, Vincenzo Scotti, quietly advised Mifsud to disappear. This was soon after Mifsud had been invited to Washington to consult with the US State Department in February 2017.

Since disappearing from public sight in early 2017, Mifsud has been represented by a former business associate, who says he is Mifsud's attorney, Stephan Roh. Roh and another Mifsud colleague, Thierry Pastor, co-authored a book in early 2018 titled *The Faking of Russiagate: The Papadopoulos Case*. In the book, the authors wrote that Mifsud had "only one master: the Western Political, Diplomatic and Intelligence World". Roh was co-owner of Link Campus, the Rome training centre where the CIA and other Western intelligence agencies hold regular conferences.

Papadopoulos's account

In a recent interview with Tucker Carlson of Fox News, Papadopoulos insisted that Mifsud had not been working for "the Russians", but operating under the guidance of the FBI. He cited Mifsud's attorney Roh as one source of his belief.

Papadopoulos first became an FBI target on 21 March 2016, when the Trump campaign named him as one of its five foreign policy experts. At the time, Papadopoulos was working at the London Centre of International Law Practice, part of the London-Rome nexus of spook-training centres. He had never met Mifsud until he announced he was leaving London to return to the USA to work for Trump. Officials from the Centre invited him to be part of a delegation to Rome before his return to the USA and he gladly accepted the offer. At Link Campus, he was introduced to Mifsud, who soon afterwards came to London to meet Papadopoulos. That is when the purported conversation took place about the Hillary Clinton's emails and alleged Russian plans to disrupt the US elections.

Two weeks after his Mifsud encounter, Papadopoulos was asked by an Israeli diplomat and his Australian diplomat girlfriend to have drinks with Alexander Downer, the ex-Australian high commissioner to the UK. Downer has claimed that Papadopoulos told him about the Russians having Clinton's emails and Downer passed the information to Australian intelligence, which passed it along to the FBI. Thus began Russiagate.

Several months later, Papadopoulos was invited to London to meet with another FBI informant and MI6 asset, Stefan Halper, who had been born an American, but had lived for decades in England and had taught at Cambridge University. Halper was formerly the son-in-law of Ray Cline, a top CIA official. Halper flew Papadopoulos to London and offered him US\$3,000 to prepare a paper on energy investments in the Mediterranean, and then attempted to entrap Papadopoulos about his knowledge of Russian operations against the Clinton campaign. This clumsy attempt failed.

As late as March 2017, in the midst of the FBI probe of Papadopoulos and his knowledge of supposed Russian interference in the 2016 US election, Papadopoulos was contacted, through a mutual Israeli friend, by another shadowy figure with a history of ties to US intelligence and the FBI: US-Israeli dual citizen Charles Tawil. In July Tawil asked Papadopoulos to meet him in Israel, to finalise a contract for

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New revelations of British entrapment of Trump

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research on energy issues. He gave Papadopoulos US\$10,000 in 100-dollar bills. Tawil's Israeli friend was David Ha'ivri, an ally of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Papadopoulos had suspicions about Tawil's money, so he deposited it with his attorney in Greece before returning to the United States. When he landed at Dulles Airport on a flight from Munich on 27 July 2017, he was arrested upon exiting the plane.

Was the FBI hoping to catch Papadopoulos bringing US\$10,000 in cash into the United States without declaring it at customs? Papadopoulos believes this was the case. When he appeared before the House committees to tell his story, he asked for a determination of whether the US\$10,000 consisted of marked bills and had originated with the FBI.

A 2006 State Department cable published by WikiLeaks identified Charles Tawil as a "protected" informant, providing information on South African government activities.

The bigger picture

Why does the bizarre saga of George Papadopoulos matter? The brief Downer-Papadopoulos encounter at a London wine bar was the alleged basis for launching the entire FBI/Mueller Russiagate probe. If there had been no alert to the FBI from Downer, the sole basis for the Russiagate investigation would have been the widely discredited Christopher Steele "dodgy dossier".

George Papadopoulos is convinced he was the target of a series of FBI/MI6/Israeli sting operations. It now appears that some Republican members of Congress are taking his version seriously and are probing the events he described in his House testimony in late October. Representatives Mark Meadows, a North Carolina Republican, and John Ratcliffe, a Texas Republican, both heard Papadopoulos' testimony and intend to dig deeper.