

# “The Russians are Coming!”: Where Is This ‘Digital Watergate’ Propaganda Campaign Going?

By [Daniel Espinosa Winder](#)

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Region: [USA](#)

Theme: [Intelligence](#), [Media Disinformation](#)

*The Russians are coming! Once again, the structural bias of the American news media in favor of the ‘official version’ turns them into a propaganda tool. Intelligence sources point out Russian interference in recent elections. However, WikiLeaks-related sources say the Democratic Party’s mail leak was the working of a whistleblower within that institution.*

“Experts point out...”, “Specialists agree...”, “There is a consensus among intelligence agencies ...” While the plot’s been cooking for several months now, it was the DNC leaks and Hillary Clinton’s subsequent defeat against Donald Trump what finally put the ‘serious’ press, mainly the Washington Post and the New York Times, working in its propagandistic role: ‘the Russians are trying to destroy American democracy’, they say.

The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), a key tool of the US executive, was created in 1947 and has since been involved in more than a dozen coups, attempted assassinations, and a long list of covert operations around the world. However, this record does not seem to matter to the American corporate press, which continues uncritically channeling its official statements.

Mossadegh in Iran, Arbenz in Guatemala, Trujillo in the Dominican Republic, Goulart in Brazil, Allende in Chile, are just some of the leaders in the long list of CIA successful [hits](#). Where it did not operate directly, as in Iraq in 2003, the CIA fabricated intelligence information indispensable to justify military aggression, with the dire consequences already known to the world.

Now they have brought it home: they don’t like Trump and little more than a month away from January the 20th, intelligence reports, full of circumstantial evidence and ‘official’ opinions, *have already caused the New York Times to begin [comparing](#) the alleged incursion of Russian hackers into the Democratic mailing servers with Watergate*, the incident that saw Richard Nixon’s departure from the White House in 1972.

However, indications that this is all about the working of a whistleblower, probably within the Democratic Party, and not an army of Russian hackers, seems more convincing:

I’ve met the person who leaked them, and they’re certainly not Russians, he’s an insider. It’s a leak, not a hack; they are two different things. If what the CIA says is true, and their statements refer to people they know is related to the Russian state, they would arrest someone if he was inside the United States ... (who) has not been shy about arresting whistleblowers or extraditing Hackers. They just do not have any knowledge.

(CIA Concludes Russia Interfered to Help Trump Win Election, the Guardian, 12/10/16)

This insistence on involving the Russians was *at first useful to divert attention from the contents of John Podesta's and DNC's mails*, but now we see it mutate into something far more dangerous, with monolithic support from mass media, as every time their masters smell blood, the New York Times and the Washington Post are dedicating front pages to it and the world's corporate media is going along. But where is this going?

As Craig Murray [points out](#), when the media speak of 'credible' sources, and all this Russian charade is based on this blind trust in American officials, what it is saying is that they are *establishment sources*, for whom presenting solid evidence has been always optional.

In a [statement](#) to the Daily Mail, Murray, a former United Kingdom ambassador to Uzbekistan, said he was the one to receive the documents from a Democratic Party employee in Washington, after the boycott suffered by Bernie Sanders in the primaries, which ended in the resignation of Debbie Wasserman Schultz and caused the condemnation by many operatives and sympathizers of the Democratic Party.

This kind of renewal of the 50's McCarthyism was carried out on several fronts, one of vital importance being referred to the alarm regarding the proliferation of 'false news'. The Washington Post [published](#) an article on November 24, citing the findings of an organization called Propornot, an anonymous group that drew up a list of 200 media devoted to 'Russian propaganda' and 'false news'.

**The Washington Post**  
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**Research ties 'fake news' to Russia**  
Propaganda effort aimed to 'erode faith' in U.S. democracy, analysts say  
BY CRAIG TIMBERG

The flood of "fake news" this election season got support from a sophisticated Russian propaganda campaign that created and spread misleading articles online with the goal of punishing Democrat Hillary Clinton, helping Republican Donald Trump and undermining faith in American democracy, say independent researchers who tracked the operation.

Russia's increasingly sophisticated propaganda machinery — including thousands of botnets, swarms of paid human "trolls" and networks of websites and social-media accounts — echoed and amplified right-wing sites across the Internet as they portrayed Clinton as a criminal hiding potentially fatal health problems and preparing to hand control of the nation to a shadowy cabal of global financiers. The effort also sought to heighten the appearance of international tensions and promote fear of looming hostilities with nuclear-armed Russia.

Two teams of independent researchers found that the Russians exploited American-made technology platforms to attack U.S. democracy at a particularly vulnerable moment, as an insurgent candidate harnessed a wide range of grievances to claim the White House. The exploitation of the Russian tactics may complicate efforts by Facebook and Google to crack down on "fake news," as they have vowed to do after widespread complaints about the problem.

There is no way to know whether the Russian campaign proved decisive in electing Trump, but researchers portray it as part of a broadly effective strategy of sowing

**Victory is out of reach as Redskins fall, 31-26, to Cowboys**

Dallas wide receiver Dez Bryant makes a 26-yard fourth-quarter grab against Washington cornerback Kendall Fuller. The Redskins fell behind and never caught up in the Thanksgiving Day matchup against their rivals as they dropped to 6-4-1 on the season. The NFC East-leading Cowboys won a 10th straight game and improved to 10-1. Sports, D1

**A new political order in West**  
CENTER-LEFT LOSES ITS GRIP ON EUROPE  
Clinton, Democrats join a beleaguered club  
BY JAMES MCCAULEY AND GRIFF WHITE

PARIS — When Donald Trump shocked the world with an upset victory in the U.S. presidential election this month, much of Europe was aghast.

But in at least one critical sense, the result couldn't have been more European: Across the continent, parties of the center-left that have dominated politics for decades — and that have given Europe its reputation for generous social welfare systems — now find themselves beaten, divided and directionless. Hillary Clinton and the Democrats are just the latest members of a beleaguered club.

In Germany and Britain, once-mighty center-left parties have been badly diminished, locked out of their nations' top jobs for the foreseeable future. In Spain and Greece, they have been usurped by newer, more radical alternatives. And in France and Italy, they're still governing — but their days in power may be numbered. The rout of the center-left has even extended deep into Scandinavia, perhaps the world's premier bastion of social democracy.

Overall, the total vote share for the continent's traditional center-left parties is now at its lowest level since at least World War II. Like the Democrats, these parties have been marginalised, with little influence over policy as the right pressures to place its stamp on the Western world is a way

**Trump likely to find generals are a different breed**

Retired Marine Corps Gen. James Mattis is a top contender for secretary of defense.

Commerce: Wilbur Ross likely to be agency's next head. A4

**Retired four-stars being eyed for top posts may challenge style, policy**  
BY GREG JAFFE

On the campaign trail he complained that they had been "reduced to rubble." At other moments he suggested that he might have to fire them all.

Now that Donald Trump is president-elect, a parade of retired four-star generals has been making its way through Trump

lower and the mogul's New Jersey golf course.

Trump's sudden infatuation with the military's top brass is part theater, part necessity and possibly a view into how he will govern. But it also raises a bigger question: What does Trump, whose military experience consists of military boarding school and multiple draft deferments, understand about the country's general officer corps?

At least six former generals are being considered for as many as four top positions in a Trump administration — a concentration of military brass that foreign policy experts said is unprecedented in the recent history of the United States. In their charcoal-gray suits and short haircuts, they look like any other business executives. But these former officers, most of whom have spent their adult lives in the military and much of the past 15 years at war, are unlike the people Trump has encountered in corporate boardrooms. They are also unlike the politicians and political operatives who have dominated his life since he declared his intention to run for the White House more than a year ago.

"He's going to find them a

**GENERALS CONTINUED ON A3**

**LEF CONTINUED ON A12**

Propornot's analysis against these media was made using a methodology that would embarrass even the laziest of school boys, *since no real association was necessary* with the Russian State: they simply incorporated the vast majority of alternative journalism blogs that had something critical say about US foreign policy, which generated the univocal [rejection](#) of both mainstream and independent journalism and a later clarifying note by the WP.

When the media that 'set the agenda', such as the Washington Post, The New York Times or CNN, publish an article, the world's media follows obediently. *What we observe, in short, is a transmission of information based on a questionable concept of authority, not facts.*

Let us remember Iraq. At the inaugural rally of President George W. Bush's (January 30, 2001) the issue of removing Saddam Hussein was put at the top of the list, as recalled by former US Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill:

It was about finding a way to do it. The president said, 'Go find me a way to do this.'

That's where the CIA comes in. The American anthropologist David Price has studied the agency for two decades and [agrees](#) with former agent Philip Agee that the CIA is: "the secret police of American capitalism." In addition, he believes that Trump is embracing political allies that would point to a strengthening of the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) to the detriment of the CIA.

An interesting month awaits us

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Articles by: [Daniel Espinosa Winder](#)

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