



Dems Desperately Revive Russian Interference Hysteria Ahead of Election

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Glenn Greenwald (GG): All right, so let's get to the news of the day about Russia. So, early this morning, it began breaking through leaks to their most loyal media figures, like Jim Acosta, that the Biden administration was about to announce a major revelation accusing the Russians of interfering in the 2024 election. And Jim Acosta breathlessly went on Twitter and then on to CNN in all caps he wrote: Exclusive breaking; the Biden administration to accuse Russia of interference in the 2024 election, as though this is some shocking development that nobody could possibly have expected. As if the Democrats weren't saying, and doing almost nothing but accusing everybody of being an asset of the Russian government and the Russians interfering in our elections. That was Hillary Clinton's primary excuse for having lost in 2016, that dominated our politics from 2016 to 2018; the idea that Trump had been colluding with the Russians to break into the DNC emails. Something that Robert Mueller with infinite resources concluded there was no evidence for. That didn't deter them at all. In 2020, right before the election, when there was reporting about the Biden family's exploitation of their name to profit in places like China and Ukraine, the intelligence community, the media and Big Tech all joined together to lie and say that that was more Russian disinformation, which ended up causing Big Tech to censor that story weeks before an election that ended up being decided by about 70,000 votes. So it's their go to tactic and they continue to use it all the time. Now, here's how The New York Times reported on this indictment today. This is the headline from The New York Times, quote: *US Announces Plan to Counter Russian Influence Ahead of 2024 Election*. "American spy agencies have assessed that the Kremlin favours former President Donald Trump, seeing him as sceptical of U.S. support for Ukraine". So right away you see that this allegation, this whole story is coming from the US security state, from the CIA, from all of those agencies that have proven over and over that they will do anything, including lie, as they did in 2020 and 2016, to sabotage the Trump campaign. The article goes on, quote, "The United States on Wednesday announced a broad effort to push back on Russian influence campaigns in the 2024 election, trying to curb the Kremlin's use of state-run media and fake news sites to sway American voters. The actions include sanctions, indictments and seizing of web domains that US officials say the Kremlin used to spread pop propaganda and disinformation about Ukraine.

The State Department has offered a \$10 million reward for information pertaining to foreign influence in an American election and sanctioned five Russian state funded news outlets, including RT, Ruptly, and Sputnik. The United States has said that Russian intelligence agencies have been using RT, the state owned broadcaster, to spread disinformation through bots and other efforts. US officials are looking more closely at how the Kremlin and its spy agencies use RT to influence the election." Now, one word on this before I get to the specifics, which is, maybe in 2016, you can make the case that RT had some degree of reach within the United States and within the West generally. Go try and find RT and listen to an art broadcast now. It will take you a long time to find it. That's because it's off of the cable networks. Right at the beginning of the war in Ukraine, the EU enacted a law, that it is illegal to platform any Russian state media. So if you're a European adult and you want to hear RT, so you hear the other side of the story, you're not allowed to hear it because no platform can allow it to be heard unless upon threat of committing a criminal violation. And this is why Rumble continues to be unavailable in France, because Rumble, unlike Google and YouTube, which immediately removed RT, so you cannot watch RT on YouTube the way a lot of people used to, Rumble was one of the only outlets, at least, maybe even the only one in the West, that said, we're not removing Rumble and Sputnik because the French government ordered us to do so. And that's the reason why Rumble is no longer available in France. It's talking about an infinitesimal organisation and reach inside the United States because of everything that has been done to RT, including banning its existence in the EU, banning it from YouTube and from most other major platforms. The idea that the influence of RT, even if you want to believe the indictment, they paid money to spread messaging, in comparison to the overall propaganda that is drowning our discourse and flooding our elections, and always does, it is infinitesimal. Infinitesimal, the idea that RT has any ability to sway the results or outcome of the 2024 election.

Now, in addition to trying to pretend that our discourse is being manipulated by the Russians, that obviously the examples always are, that they provide disinformation about the war in Ukraine, meaning that they counter the Western propaganda about the war in Ukraine, they also try to target some of the more popular conservative commentators, such as Tim Pool and Dave Rubin and others who work for a company that they say was offered millions of dollars to provide content from a company that they thought was an American based company, but was in fact a Russian based company. Here you see on the screen the indictment from – actually this is the press release from the Justice Department. Now, just remember, we're talking here about the Biden Justice Department indicting the Russians two months before an election, based on the obvious narrative that the Russians are interfering in our sacred democracy in order, once again, to elect Donald Trump. It is a complete politicisation and abuse of the justice system in the most flagrant ways possible. The headline reads, quote: *Two RT Employees Indicted for Covertly Funding and Directing US Companies that Published Thousands of Videos in Furtherance of Russian Interests*. Quote, "An indictment charging Russian nationals Konstantin Kalashnikov, 31, also known as Kostya, and Elena Afanasyeva, 27, also known as Lena, with conspiracy to violate the Foreign Agents Restrictions Act and conspiracy to commit money laundering, was unsealed today in a New York court. They're both at large. 'The Justice Department has charged the two employees of RT, Russian state

controlled media, in a \$10 million scheme to create and distribute content to US audiences with hidden Russian government messaging', said Attorney General Merrick Garland. Quote, 'The Justice Department will not tolerate attempts by an authoritarian regime to exploit our country's free exchange of ideas in order to concurrently fund its own propaganda efforts, and our investigation today into this matter remains ongoing.'" Now, just to give you a little bit of context. Again, let's assume everything in the indictment is true, even though it's just a series of government unproven assertions, that a grand jury accepted because, as the old saying goes, a grand jury will indict a ham sandwich because there's no defendant there to contest anything. They only hear the prosecutor's version of events. So let's assume that everything is true, that basically the crux of the allegation, that the media predictably is trumpeting all over the place, is that RT spent roughly \$10 million in order to pay for the placement of videos that do things like question the war in Ukraine, that criticise US foreign policy, and the argument is just that it was done with disguise. In other words, they pretended that it was an American company that was actually offering this money, entering into a contract, when in fact it was the Russians behind it and that that was concealed. \$10 million, put that into context. \$10 million. In August alone, the Kamala Harris campaign, in one month, raised \$230 million. The Trump campaign, just this month, raised \$180 million. Presidential campaigns of the major parties now spend close to \$1 billion in total, \$1 billion just on paid advertising. Then you add all the free media propaganda that comes from CNN and MSNBC, Fox News, The New York Times, from The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, and then on to that the entire independent media, you're talking about billions and billions of dollars of messaging about the presidential candidates, the presidential campaign over the course of many, many months, usually about a year and a half. That was one of the things that always made Russiagate such a joke to me from the start, was that even if it were true, aside from the fact that the US does all of this and much, much more of it, even if it were true, the idea that a few fake Russian accounts on Facebook with a couple of hundred followers and dozens of Russian bots with no followers on Twitter, somehow was sufficient to sway the election in favour of Donald Trump, given the massive amounts of establishment money that are poured into this race to determine the outcome of this election, it's just laughable on its face. This is all designed to create that same narrative. Now here's one of the specific allegations. Quote, "According to the court documents, RT, formerly known as Russia Today, is a state controlled media outlet funded and directed by the government of Russia. Over the last year, RT and its employees, including the two indicted Russians, deployed nearly \$10 million" – 10 million in an election where billions of dollars determine the outcome – "to covertly finance and direct a Tennessee based online content creation company. In turn, US Company-1 published English language videos on multiple social media channels, including TikTok, Instagram and YouTube". Now they're talking there about that company I mentioned that pretended to want to pay for their content to be on. A company that publishes people like Benny Johnson and Tim Poole and Dave Rubin. But even the indictment itself says they were deceived. They had no idea that this had anything to do with Russia. They thought that it was just a US company. But again, you're talking about a minuscule amount of money in the context of what is spent on our elections, let alone what the US spends to influence the internal politics of other countries, including Russia.

Here is a tweet by Alan Feuer from earlier today. And he says this. Quote, "The US company at the centre of this Russian plot uses the same slogan, the indictment notes, as Tenet Media – the home of Lauren Southern, Tim Pool and Benny Johnson among others". So they, both or all three of them actually, Tim Pool, Benny Johnson, – well, I know both of them at least, have issued a statement saying, obviously we had no idea that this was a company that had any links to Russia. Tim Pool has been very critical of Russia; very, very critical of the invasion of Ukraine. The idea that this even influenced anything that they had to say, let alone influence the American electorate in any way, is utterly laughable. Here is the indictment itself. You see the caption there in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, the United States of America vs certain domains. Now, just to give you a sense for how central this tactic continues to be for the Democratic Party, namely accusing anyone and everyone who questions them, who opposes them, of being Russian agents. Just yesterday with Paul starting to show Jill Stein and the Green Party once again gaining 1%, even 2% of the vote in certain key swing states, they first sent out Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who once pretended to be what Jill Stein is, namely, somebody who was going to devote herself to subverting and opposing the Democratic Party from the left, not somebody who would be the most valuable skill of that party. They sent out AOC on purpose to attack Jill Stein as some sort of predator was what she called her. She just didn't critique her strategy and say, I don't think third parties are very effective. She attacked Jill Stein very personally, very directly, because Jill Stein is a threat to the Democratic Party, for whom AOC skills. But that wasn't enough. They also had to, again, claim that Jill Stein is some sort of Kremlin asset. Here is the official site of the Democratic Party yesterday in a press release saying, quote: *In case you missed it: Jill Stein to Campaign Today with Alleged Russian Assets*. Quote, "Today in Tampa, third party candidate Jill Stein is expected to express support for the Uhuru 3, three individuals facing federal charges for a, quote, 'malign influence campaign', which consists of conspiring to overtly sow dissent and discord in US society, spread Russian propaganda, and illegally interfere in US elections. Stein participated in a press conference for the Uhuru 3, is expected to attend the trial and will host a panel discussion tonight. She has previously expressed support for the Uhuru 3 in a video campaign. Engaging with foreign assets is a pattern for Jill Stein."

Now, let me just remind you that this case, the Uhuru 3, is something that we covered several times. The case was also covered by Tucker Carlson at the time that the DOJ announced this case, because it's one of the most abusive cases of free speech I've ever seen, and a clear sign of what the Democrats intend to do with this Russia tactic. It's not just some trivial and fraudulent campaign tactic, although it is that, it's also an attempt to limit free speech. Basically, this group is a group of Black socialist, Black leftists. And when I say Black leftists, I mean real Black leftists, not the kind who end up supporting Kamala Harris or the Democratic Party. These are people who despise the Democrats. They're all like 70-80 years old. The lead defendant, I think, is in the early 80s, and they've spent their entire lives doing things like opposing what they consider to be imperialism. American attempts to go around the world, use its military, use its money, to influence and dominate various regions in the world. They hate NATO. They think NATO is one of the arms of US imperialism. And so if you look at the context of these people's lives, of course they were opposed to the NATO and

US funding of the war in Ukraine, because it's completely consistent with their lifelong ideology that maybe you agree with, maybe you don't, but they've espoused for their entire life. But last year the Justice Department, obviously under Joe Biden, decided to claim that they were illegally acting on behalf of the Russian government when criticising the war in Ukraine and indicted them on felony charges, including the ones that they've indicted these two Russians on, namely, that they were acting at the behest of a Russian government without disclosing that. And the evidence that this group of people, these old Black socialists, were working on behalf of the Russian government is so dubious. It's as thin as a piece of paper. They have, you know, some receipts where they did an event and received a reimbursement of \$150 that the DOJ claims somehow came from Russia. So here you have a group of people, Black Americans, who are very charismatic. They're real activists. They believe in the things that they've been saying for decades, and they're now facing prison. Because of their opposition to the war in Ukraine and the allegation that they received tiny amounts of money from people connected to the Russian government. And that was what Jill Stein is supporting. I support them, too. I think it's a great violation of free speech. That's what Tucker Carlson said as well. A lot of civil libertarians believe that. And simply because Jill Stein is supporting this group and opposing the prosecution and intends to attend their trial, the Democrats released a statement saying, oh, look, here's Jill Stein yet again, keeping company with Russian agents. Do you see what scumbags these people are? How sinister that is. None of them have been convicted, by the way. These are all just allegations. The trial starts this week. We had on their lawyer. We had them on as well. We're definitely going to have them on again. But the very idea that now if you even oppose US prosecution on free speech grounds, you somehow become under suspicion for being an agent of a foreign power, even though you've never been charged with that, is a core tactic of the democratic government for criminalising free speech. That's exactly what they're trying to do to Jill Stein. And they've been doing it to Jill Stein for years, going back to 2016, when she committed the crime of attending a peace conference in Moscow with dozens, if not hundreds, of prominent peace activists from around the world. But because it was in Moscow, because Putin was there for about ten minutes, they used that to accuse her of being a Russian agent. Even though Jill Stein is someone like those Black socialists, who have been advocating for ideas her entire life that have never changed.

Here in December of 2018, NBC news, quote: *Russians launched pro Jill Stein social media blitz to help Trump win the election, reports say*. Quote, "Building support for Jill Stein was one of a, quote, 'roster of themes' the Moscow-sanctioned internet trolls 'turned to repeatedly', the report says." "The report, prepared by separate groups of cyber experts, adds to the growing body of evidence that the Russians worked to boost the Stein campaign as part of effort to siphon support away from the Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton and tilt the election to Donald Trump". Anyone who is a threat to the Democratic Party, from the right, from the left, or from the media or anywhere else, who questions the Democratic Party, who impedes them, is instantly accused of being a Russian agent. When Hillary Clinton lost 2016, she was kind of struggling to figure out who she should blame first. She started to blame The New York Times for covering too much the FBI investigation into her private email server at her house. She then began blaming Jim Comey for having given two different statements,

including reopening an investigation close to the election, and she finally settled on blaming the Russians and WikiLeaks. Obviously, she would never blame herself or any of the people she paid a lot of money to whose job was to help her win the election. She would never take responsibility for herself. She was looking around for villains and she finally settled on Russia. And this became the template for how Democrats think about the world, that if they don't get what they want, if anyone questions them, it's because they're agents of the Russian government. Here's Hillary Clinton in 2017.

Hillary Clinton (HC): I think Assange has become a kind of nihilistic opportunist who does the bidding of a dictator. I mean, he's a tool of Russian intelligence. And if he's such a, you know, martyr of free speech, why doesn't WikiLeaks ever publish anything coming out of Russia? There was a concerted operation between WikiLeaks and Russia and most likely people in the United States to, as I say, weaponize that information, to make up stories outlandish, often terrible stories that had no basis in fact, no basis, even in the emails themselves, but which were used to denigrate me, my campaign, people who supported me and to help Trump.

GG: All right, so there you have it. That was one of her attempts to blame her loss on the Russian government. She also has repeatedly in her campaign accused Jill Stein of being some sort of Kremlin asset. In 2019, Tulsi Gabbard decided that she was going to run for the nomination of the Democratic Party. At the time, she was a Democratic congresswoman from Hawaii. And it's worth remembering that the Democrats really were grooming Tulsi Gabbard for a major leadership position in the Democratic Party. She's a very attractive politician in so many ways and extremely well spoken. She has a very impressive military background, and they looked at her and saw all the charisma and political talent that she had, and they made her the vice chairwoman of the Democratic Party in 2016. And yet Tulsi from the inside saw how the DNC was cheating to make sure Hillary and not Bernie won the nomination. And so she resigned as the chairwoman of the DNC in protest because she has integrity and decided to endorse Bernie Sanders. And when she was gearing up to run in 2019, as for president, here's what Hillary Clinton had to say about Tulsi.

CNN Speaker: Hillary Clinton is suggesting that Russians are grooming a 2020 Democratic presidential hopeful to run as a third party candidate and spoil the race for the Democrats. Take a listen to her remarks in a new podcast from David Plouffe.

HC: I'm not making any predictions, but I think they've got their eye on somebody who's currently in the Democratic primary and are grooming her to be the third party candidate. She's the favourite of the Russians. They have a bunch of sites and bots and other ways of supporting her so far.

CNN Speaker: Now, when asked if Clinton was referring to Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard, Democrat of Hawaii, Clinton spokesman said, quote, "if the nesting doll fits", he added, quote, "if the Russian propaganda machine, both their state media and their bot and troll operations is backing a candidate aligned with their interests, that is just a reality. It is not speculation".

GG: So first of all, look at what a slimy way Hillary Clinton and cowardly way Hillary Clinton chose to accuse Tulsi Gabbard of being some sort of *Manchurian Candidate*, but acting on behalf of the Kremlin. She wouldn't even name her, even though she made it so clear who she meant. On top of that, Hillary Clinton's prediction on which the entire thing was based, namely that Tulsi's real plan, organised by the Kremlin, was to become a third party candidate, ended up being totally false. Not only did not Tulsi become a third party candidate in 2021, once she dropped out of the race, she endorsed Joe Biden, the Democratic presidential nominee, and not Donald Trump. What a weird act for a Kremlin groomed candidate to engage in. But on top of that, I've got to know Tulsi Gabbard pretty well over these years. And I just want to ask you to think about that from her perspective. Tulsi Gabbard has served in the military for almost 25 years now. She went to Iraq, and it wasn't the kind of deployment that was very safe. Tulsi was a real soldier who was in Iraq in a lot of dangerous places. After Iraq, she continued to serve in the Army reserves. It continues to occupy a great deal of her time. She put her life at risk for a war that Hillary Clinton supported. The Clintons notoriously have never been in the military. Bill Clinton was the perfect age to have gone to the Vietnam War, and yet invented every single excuse to avoid going. Imagine what that's like, that you risk your life, you devote your career to a service in the military on behalf of your country, and whether that's misguided or not, that's her intention, that's her belief, we're told that's one of our duties, and then you end up being basically accused of being a traitor, or guilty of treason, or being disloyal to the United States, by a woman who comes from a family who has never served anything or anyone in their entire lives, other than their own personal aggrandisement career and power and profit and wealth. Just think about what that says about the Democratic Party, the casualness and the ease with which they put that onto someone's lap.

Now, just to give you another example of how often this has happened. And again, just as I said, it's too often to count, but I do think it's worth highlighting some of the most egregious components of it. In 2020, the Democratic establishment, especially Barack Obama, favoured Joe Biden. Joe Biden was President Obama's vice president for eight years. But there were other establishment candidates like Pete Buttigieg and Amy Klobuchar, who they would have been fine with as well. The one person they didn't want to win was Bernie Sanders. Bernie Sanders won the first three primaries, Iowa, where he basically tied with Buttigieg. Remember, there was an extreme difficulty in counting the votes because of some Democratic Party operatives who made a lot of money selling an app that didn't work. We still can't count votes in the United States. But it was basically a victory by Bernie and Pete Buttigieg. He then went to New Hampshire, where he had another win, not surprising, since he's from Vermont. But what really scared them was when they went to Nevada, the Nevada caucus, a non-obvious left wing state, it is filled with union workers and Latino voters, and Bernie Sanders had a spectacular victory. I don't remember exactly what the margin was, but it was massive. It was like 30 or 40 points. So he won the first three primaries and caucuses. He was obviously ahead in the delegate count, and the Democratic establishment began to completely freak out and lose their minds. Remember, they cheated in 2016 to make sure Bernie could not beat Hillary. Right as the election was going from Nevada to South Carolina, this is what happened. This is what the Washington Post released an article saying,

quote: *Bernie Sanders has been briefed by US officials that Russia is trying to help his presidential campaign.* Quote, "US officials have told Senator Bernie Sanders that Russia is attempting to help his presidential campaign as part of an effort to interfere with the Democratic contest, according to people familiar with the matter". Now, I don't have a lot of sympathy for Bernie there, because he has been one of the most obnoxious and vocal advocates of Russiagate. Constantly saying, If I'm president, Vladimir Putin will know he can't mess with the United States, and endorsing every idea from 2016. No matter how much the Democratic Party spits in the face of Bernie Sanders, he somehow gets even more loyal to the party. Sort of like the American "left", the DNC left in general does. It is a very creepy dynamic to watch, but that is how it happens. But in any event, they did that to Bernie. They released right at the peak of his campaign this claim that the security services had briefed him that the Russians were intervening in order to help him win the election. Here is a video from Fiona Hill, a hawk, who served in the Trump White House on both Russia and China. She's been around for a long time. She went on 60 Minutes in March of 2020. She's a major adversary of Russia. And here's what she had to say on 60 Minutes. Just to give you a sense for how this tactic works.

60 Minutes: Talking about 2020, there have been a lot of stories saying that the Russians are hoping that Bernie Sanders will be the candidate, the Democratic candidate. Does that make sense to you?

Fiona Hill: It does make sense, because what the Russians are looking for is the two candidates who are kind of the polar opposites. They're looking, you know, to basically have the smallest possible number of people supporting those two candidates, with everybody else kind of lost in the middle. So that it exacerbates, exaggerates as well, the polarisation in the country.

GG: So that made it on 60 Minutes. The idea that, of course, it's possible that the Russians are trying to help Bernie Sanders. Now, one of the weird things about this attempt to headline the Russian interference is that mostly what we've heard from the intelligence communities, over the last year, has been that the real party seeking to interfere in our democracy, our sacred democracy in 2024, is not Russia, but Iran. Here, for example, is The New York Times, which, today reported the headline you see there: *Iran Emerges as a Top Disinformation Threat in US Presidential Race*. The article says, quote, "With a flurry of hacks and fake websites, Iran has intensified its efforts to discredit American democracy and possibly tip the race against former President Donald Trump". In other words, obviously Iran prefers the Democratic Party and Kamala Harris because it was the Obama administration that entered into the Iran deal and ratified it with Iran, a very important deal that reintegrated Iran into the international community. It lifted a lot of sanctions. It also opened up their nuclear facilities to inspection. Trump ran on a campaign of undoing the Iran deal. He did that. So obviously, if Iran has a presidential preference, it's clearly for Trump to lose and Kamala to win. And that's why you're not hearing very much about the same narrative. The New York Times has to admit that Iran is trying to possibly tip the race against former Donald President Donald Trump. But compare how much you're hearing about that to this

Russian narrative that the Russians are interfering to help Trump and defeat Kamala. That is how this national security game is played.

Now beyond Russia, we have also heard a lot about Chinese interference. And yet if you think about the Chinese perspective, it was the Obama administration and its Wall Street donors who are very close to the Chinese. And it was Donald Trump who got into office and basically initiated a trade war with China, imposed massive tariffs on Chinese goods, because his claim was that China competes unfairly with American products and American workers. And so if the Chinese are interfering in our election, you can also presume that a major reason is not because they want to help Donald Trump win, but because they want to help Kamala Harris win and Donald Trump lose. Just to give a little more perspective, there has been incredible amounts of reporting, including from Israel, about how much money the Israelis have been spending to manipulate public opinion in favour of Israel and in favour of the war in Gaza. In The Guardian, Lee Fang and Jack Poulson, we had them on our show to discuss some of the investigative work they did on this, from June of 2024. There you see the headline, quote: *Israel documents expansive government effort to shape US discourse around Gaza war*. "Exclusive: As the Gaza war rages, Israeli funds target US college campuses and push to redefine antisemitism in the US law". In other words, Israel ran a very well financed campaign not just to demonise the pro-Palestinian protesters, but to put pressure on Congress to expand the definition of antisemitism, basically to make it illegal to criticise Israel in all sorts of ways. And that worked. It passed the House by a bipartisan majority. When's the last time you heard anybody, in corporate media or anywhere else, complain about the Israeli attempt to influence and or manipulate our democracy? Just to give you a sense for how selective this is.

Now, this does not say nothing of the fact that my view has never been, oh, I'm sure this isn't happening. Countries like Russia and China and Iran wouldn't do things like this. Of course, all great powers try and interfere in the internal affairs of other countries for their own benefit. And I'm sorry to break it to people who don't already know this, but the United States is among the group of countries that does so. In fact, you could definitely argue that the United States does it far more aggressively and far more intensely than any of these other countries that we are told to hate, because they're doing it to us. From Reuters in June of 2024. Here you see: *Pentagon ran secret anti-vax campaign to undermine China during pandemic*. They launched a destined program amid the Covid crisis to discredit China's Sinovac inoculation, payback for Beijing's efforts to blame Washington for the pandemic. It goes on to note all the different ways that the United States tried to interfere in those country's politics. Here is, just to give you a sense for how long it is going on, an article from 1991, 30 years ago, from David Ignatius, who has written for The Washington Post his whole life. He was essentially considered a loyal spokesman for the CIA, a kind of Natasha Bertrand of his time, and he basically wrote an article saying how aggressively and openly, now that the Soviet Union has fallen, that the United States engages in influence campaigns that they used to have to hide but no longer do. I think it's worth listening to this article. It was entitled: *Innocents Abroad: The New World of Spyleless Coups*. Quote, "The old concept of covert action, which has gotten the agency into so much trouble during the past 40 years, may

be obsolete. Nowadays, sensible activities to support America's friends abroad (or undermine its enemies) are probably best done openly. That includes paramilitary operations such as supporting freedom fighters, which can be managed overtly by the Pentagon. And it includes political-support operations for pro-democracy activists, which may be best left to the new network of overt operators... what used to be called American 'propaganda' now simply could be called information. The CIA worked so hard in the old days to draw foreign newspapers and magazines into its web, so as to counter Soviet disinformation. Frank Wisner, the head of CIA covert operations during the mid 1950s, once remarked that he could play his media assets like a, quote, 'mighty Wurlitzer'." The CIA boasted in the 1950s about how easy it was to manipulate the media. "Today, the mighty Wurlitzer actually exists. It's called CNN. The sugar daddy of covert operations has been the National Endowment for Democracy, a quasi private group headed by Carl Gershman that is funded by the US Congress. Through the late 1980s, it did openly what had once been unspeakably covert – dispensing money to anti-communist forces behind the Iron Curtain. Quote, 'A lot of what we do today was done covertly 25 years ago by the CIA'. The biggest difference is when the activities are done overtly, the flap potential is close to zero. Openness is its own protection."

Now, I think it's worth remembering, the National Endowment for Democracy, that David Ignatius is saying is the arm of the CIA funded by the US government, designed to interfere in every other countries politics to finance and support the groups we like best, that serve our interests to undermine the ones we don't, is, among other things, the fund that funds Bellingcat, one of the favourite "independent" media outlets for the CIA, but it also, this National Endowment of Democracy, in 2012, when Hillary Clinton was the Secretary of State for President Obama actively interfered in Russian politics and funded lavishly and gave other support to anti-Putin activists. Which is one of the reasons why Vladimir Putin hated Hillary Clinton so much, because the US State Department was actively and aggressively funding and interfering in domestic Russian politics. And there's all kinds of stories about how the US Institute for Endowment for Democracy has done this repeatedly, not just in the past, but in the current as well. So aside from the fact that this is all often so baseless, accusing Tulsi Gabbard or Jill Stein of people being Russian agents, and it's also so trivial in the context of the vast amount of information that drowns our elections and shapes American public opinion, the hypocrisy of it is suffocating. Because when the United States wants to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries, including large countries like Russia, China, Iran, etc., I promise you, they do a lot more than just take \$10 million and use it to fund a few independent media sites where they can place their messaging. That is child's play to what the CIA and the US security state not just did in the Cold War, but continues to do to this very day. And yet the Democrats are obsessively, reflexively dependent and screaming Russia every time they feel threatened. It's almost like a crack addiction. They don't care whether it's true or what the proof is. They just scream it every day because they've been doing it for eight years along with their media allies. Even though Robert Mueller said that the core conspiracy theory that started it all, the allegation that the Trump campaign conspired with the Russians to hack John Podesta and the DNC's email was proven to be without evidence, it didn't bother them at all. It didn't deter them at all. They continue to use this tactic in today's indictment and major announcement two months before the election. May have some truth in it. We'll

see if it bears out in court. It may not, as prosecutorial assertions often don't. But no matter what ends up happening with the indictment itself, it's so plainly one of the Democrats go to tactics for manipulating elections. Remember, one of the things on which they're running is they're concerned that Trump is going to politicise the Justice Department if he wins.

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