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| --- | --- |
| Jihad Report  Aug 18, 2018 - Aug 24, 2018 | |
| Attacks | **26** |
| Killed | **72** |
| Injured | **45** |
| Suicide Blasts | **3** |
| Countries | **12** |

**The Arab Genocide**

It’s difficult to blame Israel for the genocide in Sudan or for the civil war in Algeria. How is it done? Dozens of publications, articles, books, periodicals and websites are dedicated to one purpose only: Turning Israel into a state that ceaselessly perpetrates war crimes. In Jakarta and in Khartoum they burn the Israeli flag, and in London, in Oslo and in Zurich hate articles are published, supporting the destruction of Israel.    
     
Any request in Internet search engines for the words “genocide” against “Muslims”, “Arabs” or “Palestinians”, in the context of “Zionists” or “Israel” – will give us endless results. Even after we’ve filtered out the trash, we are left with millions of publications written in deadly seriousness.   
  
 This abundance brings results. It works like brainwashing. It is the accepted position, and not just a fringe opinion. Only five years ago we were witness to a international anti-Israeli show in the Durban Convention. Only two years ago we were shocked when a member of our Academia blamed Israel of ‘symbolic genocide’ against the Palestinian people. Much ado about nothing. There are thousands of publications blaming Israel of genocide, and not ‘symbolic’.   
  
 Under an academic and/or journalistic umbrella, today’s Israel is compared to the damned Germany of yesteryear. In conclusion, there are those who call to terminate the ‘Zionist project’. And in more simple words: because Israel is a country that perpetrates so many war crimes and engages in ethnic cleansing and genocide – it has no right to exist. This, for instance, is the essence of an article by the Norwegian writer Jostein Gaarder (writer of “Sophie’s world”), who wrote, among other things: “We call killers of children by their name”). The conclusion is that Israel has no right to exist.

**How the deception works**

The tragedy is that in Arab and Muslim countries a massacre is happening. A genocide protected by the silence of the world. A genocide protected by a deception that is perhaps unparalleled in the history of mankind. A genocide that has no connection to Israel, to Zionism or to Jews. A genocide of mainly Arabs and Muslims, by Arabs and Muslims. 

**Calm Before Destruction**

About 24 Hours ago, America's "newspaper of record" the New York Times, ran a piece entitled "Kremlin Sources Go Quiet, Leaving C.I.A. in the Dark About Putin’s Plans for Midterms."

The fact that internal players at the CIA would even leak something like this goes to show you the plot to destroy America formulated by Director John Brennan is being implemented on schedule. In 7 days, the MidTerm election begins. President Trump is scheduled to begin a brutal series of rallies that will endorse dozens of candidates on a globally televised stage worth billions in free advertising. The Democrats will not be able to match it. They do not have a platform like this. They do not have the money. They have no figurehead who can draw a crowd like Trump. So, the Democrats will use their strongest ally to destroy Trump. The Russians. And, they don’t care if ten million Americans lose their lives in the process.

John Brennan has a deadly reputation as having the operational mind of an earthworm and the intellect of a fly, but in the chilling words of his drone, Samantha Power, “You don’t want to piss of John Brennan.” His tenure as CIA Deputy Executive Director ran from 2001-2012 when he became Director. Brennan is screeching so loudly about President Trump; he doesn't want Trump revealing to the world what he actually did which so compromised our intelligence apparatus!

Experienced Intelligence professionals would NEVER reveal sources going quiet to the New York Times because it would confirm to the Russians they've succeeded in silencing our intel sources. That the CIA would leak such information means Haspell has not succeeded in disinfecting the building at Langley. Shit floats; and under former Director John Brennan, the shit at CIA floated right to the top of the management chain. Anti-Americanism so rampant within CIA management nowadays the whole agency is damn near Communist.

The fact that the New York Times would take the CIA leak and phrase it in terms of ". . .Putin's plans for Midterms" is a testament to the coup being planned by the media giants through their slave reporters, E. Barnes and Matthew Rosenberg. These "reporters" are apparently so compromised, they are ordered to write everything in terms of US national politics. They do not care that America will be lost, once the Democrats succeed with their plot. They don’t care that people will die. They don’t care that the Russians might not just attack the command and control centers, once the Trojan horse is trotted into the White House. You see, these writers, like so many in the "news media" don't seem to think beyond their own bonus check. They don't report. They recite. What the corporate news media does today is spew carefully scripted propaganda. Period. They are news actors; nothing more.

Let me give you my analysis of this, because tomorrow you are going to hear all kinds of excuses and posturing to cover their asses. There is a shrinking window of opportunity for the Democrats. They need an army to do their dirty work. They tried to use ISIS. They tried to use North Korea. They are trying to use Russia. ISIS did not get the job done, and Trump pulverized them. North Korea was told they would be preemptively destroyed. The Dems lost their pit bull shrimp off the chain. Putin does not support to Cabal. He will not fight for the Syndicate. The fact that they have gone quiet is testament to the idea that they have terminated the spies Brennan had in place. The press has no source anymore.

Some analysts believe the Russians have about a year left (maybe 18 months) before they're unable to fight us. They think Putin will not go quietly into the night. Russia will fight. Their intel reports predict that Putin will attack because our economic sanctions are, in fact, an attack upon them. They would have you believe the US is grinding them down into the ground economically. My friends in Russia are saying nothing of the sort. Things are booming in Russia. The best technology and products are being built by Russia.

Worst of all, it is OUR Congress that has caused this; enacting very real and effective economic sanctions based on completely false accusations of "Russia Collusion" affecting the 2016 Presidential Election. So, basically we have the Establishment Congress and the Agency Government trying to force the country into a war, all to destroy America. But first, they have to get rid of Trump. And then they have to get rid of us.

When the missiles start flying, don't try running for shelter, be laying-in-wait in the tall grass near where your members of Congress are and hold them accountable on the spot for the disaster they have brought upon us.

It is OUR state Department that is making it worse, faster, by stiffening economic sanctions over another totally FRAUDULENT accusation: That Russia used Novichok nerve agent on a former spy in the UK. The entire claim is false, and everyone knows it. The chemical used in the UK was manufactured at Porter Down, the UK chemical weapons lab, located not too far from where the alleged Novichok nerve agent was used. The effort was a British Intelligence False Flag designed to incriminate Russia to further beat the drums of war. The fact that the UK refuses to turn over lab samples of the alleged agent used, so that Russia can analyze it, is strong evidence on its face the British know the whole thing is a fraud of their own making. By the time the world knows about it, the complicit media consortium will have everyone believing it was Putin himself who ordered it.

It is the unmitigated arrogance of OUR military command structure that thinks it's "stealth" planes actually cannot be detected. It is our "missile defense" actually matters. It is the "overwhelming NATO superiority" that will fall apart when the lazy and cheap Europeans - who won't even stand-up to the deliberate Islamic invasion, that is provoking the very war they were designed to avoid.

The Russians cannot win. They know it. We know it. The globalists know it. But they are not alone when it comes to the attack on Trump. There is the reign of the judges. There is the transatlantic bank. There is China. There is North Korea. There is a human sacrifice on a scale the world has never seen being jammed into the gears of Trump’s immigration policy. There is a cacophony of Democrat Socialists chanting impeachment. There are lone attackers killing innocent people at public events and schools. And, there are armies of thugs beating peaceful people in the streets with clubs and fists every time they see a MAGA hat. These guys will let everything die to regain their power. The only way they can be stopped is at the ballot box in November. Focus on this like a laser and do not let anything stand in your way of expunging Democrats from public service everywhere they can be found. Everywhere.

Add to this more than 160 North Carolina National Guard soldiers from the 514th Military Police Company in Winterville left for Guantanamo Bay Tuesday, where they will be deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom-GITMO. There are two other units being deployed. What do you think they are expecting? A sudden influx of inmates? Let’s hope the arrests are getting ready to begin. It was posted in the North Carolina Times on the 12th of this month.

**Brennan Need to Know**

**By Patrick J. Buchanan**

In backing John Brennan’s right to keep his top-secret security clearance, despite his having charged the president with treason, the U.S. intel community has chosen to fight on indefensible terrain.

Former Director of National Intelligence James Clapper seemed to recognize that Sunday when he conceded that ex-CIA Director Brennan had the subtlety of “a freight train” and his rhetoric had become “an issue in and of itself.”

After Donald Trump’s Helsinki summit with Vladimir Putin, Brennan had called the president’s actions “nothing short of treasonous.”

The battle is now engaged. Trump cannot back down. He must defy and defeat the old bulls of the intel community. And he can.

For a security clearance is not a right. It is not an entitlement.

It is a privilege, an honor and a necessity for those serving in the security agencies of the U.S. government—while they serve.

Brennan is not being deprived of his First Amendment rights. He can still make any accusation and call the president any name he wishes. But to argue that a charge of treason against a president is not a justification for pulling a clearance is a claim both arrogant and absurd.

Again, a security clearance is not a constitutional right.

Said Defense Secretary James Mattis: “I have taken security clearances away from people in my previous time in uniform . . . a security clearance is something that is granted on an as-needed basis.”

Brennan is now threatening to sue the president. Bring it on, says national security adviser John Bolton.

With 4 million Americans holding top-secret clearances, and this city awash in leaks to the media from present and past intel and security officials, it is time to strip the swamp creatures of their special privileges. The White House should press upon Congress a policy of automatic cancellation of security clearances, for intelligence and military officers, upon resignation, retirement or severance.

Clearances should be retained only for departing officers who can demonstrate that their “need to know” national secrets remains crucial to our security, not merely advantageous to their pursuit of lucrative jobs in the military-industrial complex.

Officials in the security realm who take clearances with them on leaving office are like House members who retain all the access, perks and privileges of Congress after they step down to earn seven-figure salaries lobbying their former congressional colleagues.

The White House statement of Sarah Huckabee Sanders on John Brennan’s loss of his clearances was spot on:

“Any access granted to our nation’s secrets should be in furtherance of national, not personal, interests.

“Mr. Brennan has recently leveraged his status as a former high-ranking official with access to highly sensitive information to make a series of unfounded and outrageous allegations—wild outbursts on the Internet and television—about this administration. Mr. Brennan’s lying and recent conduct, characterized by increasingly frenzied commentary, is wholly inconsistent with access to the nation’s most closely held secrets, and facilitates the very aim of our adversaries, which is to sow division and chaos.”

Trump is said to be evaluating pulling the security clearances of Clapper, ex-FBI Director James Comey, former CIA Director Michael Hayden, former Deputy FBI Director Andrew McCabe, former FBI counterintelligence official Peter Strzok, and former FBI lawyer Lisa Page.

This is a good start. Some of these individuals have been fired. Some are under investigation. Some were involved in the FBI’s “get-Trump” cabal to prevent his election and then to abort his presidency.

Some have become talking heads on cable TV, exploiting the credibility of their former titles and offices to undermine an elected president.

Again, they have a First Amendment right to do this. But they should be stripped of their clearances to show the nation that the president is dealing with insiders who have joined the Resistance.

At bottom, the issue is: Who speaks for America?

Is it the mainstream media, the deep state, the permanent government, the city that gave Trump 4% of its votes? Or is it that vast slice of Middle America that sent Trump to drain the swamp?

Trump’s enemies, and they are legion, want to see Robert Mueller charge him with collusion with Russia and obstructing the investigation of that collusion. They want to see the Democratic Party take over the House in November, and the Senate, and move on to impeach and remove Trump from office. Then they want to put him where Paul Manafort sits today.

For Trump, a truce or a negotiated peace with these people is never going to happen. But this issue of security clearances is a battlefield where the president cannot lose, if he fights wisely.

Americans sense that these are privileges that should be extended to those who protect us, not perks for former officials to exploit and monetize while they attempt to bring down the commander in chief.

Will the Real John Brennan Please Stand Up?

*When will he answer for his war crimes?*

[PHILIP GIRALDI](http://www.unz.com/author/philip-giraldi/) • AUGUST 21, 2018

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The battle between many former intelligence chiefs and the White House is becoming a gift that keeps on giving to the mass media, which is characteristically deeply immersed in Trump derangement syndrome in attacking the president for his having [**stripped**](https://eu.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2018/08/15/donald-trump-revokes-john-brennans-security-clearance/999340002/) former CIA Director John Brennan of his security clearance. One of the [**most ludicrous claims**](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/former-intelligence-officials-bite-back-after-trump-goes-after-brennans-clearance/2018/08/18/91efe7a0-a255-11e8-8e87-c869fe70a721_story.html?utm_term=.9d3b64b47035), cited in the *Washington Post* on Sunday, was that the Trump move was intended to “stifle free speech.” While I am quite prepared to believe a lot of things about the serial maladroit moves and explanations coming out of the White House, how one equates removing Brennan’s security clearance to compromising his ability to speak freely escapes me. Indeed, Brennan has been speaking out with his usual vitriol nearly everywhere in the media ever since he lost the clearance, rather suggesting that his loss has given him a platform which has actually served to enhance his ability to speak his mind. He should thank Donald Trump for that.

Indeed, Brennan’s retaining a Top Secret code word clearance had nothing to do with free speech and everything to do with enhancing his market value for those poor sods who actually pay him to mouth off as an “expert” on television and in the newspapers. Are you listening *New York Times* and *NBC*? Brennan’s clearance did not mean that he had any real insight into current intelligence on anything, having lost that access when he left his job with the government. It only meant that he could sound authoritative and well informed by relying on his former status, enabling him to con you media folks out of your money on a recurrent basis.

It has sometimes been suggested that free speech is best exercised when it is somehow connected to the brain’s prefrontal lobes, enabling some thought process before the words come out of the mouth. It might be argued that Brennan has been remarkably deficient in that area, which is possibly why he looks so angry in all his photographs. Even John Brennan’s supporters are shy about defending the former CIA Director’s more extravagant claims. James Clapper, the ex-Director of National Intelligence, [**has described**](https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2018/aug/19/james-clapper-criticizes-john-brennan-anti-trump-r/?utm_source=Boomtrain&utm_medium=manual&utm_campaign=20180326&utm_term=newsalert&utm_content=newsalert&bt_ee=roTo4r900MFkxK/CbSQutKSEnKGZazgsbn2KPKln7EmFN1d3YhF36x0kv8znIqdu&bt_ts=1534691851796) Brennan’s comments as “overheated.”

The John Brennan backstory is important. In 2016 he was Barack Obama’s CIA Director and also simultaneously working quite hard to help Hillary Clinton become president, which some might regard at a minimum as a conflict of interest. After Clinton lost, he continued his attacks on Trump. He apparently played a part in the notoriously salacious Steele dossier, which was surfaced in January just before the inauguration. The dossier included unverifiable information and was maliciously promoted by Brennan and others in the intelligence and law enforcement community. And even after Trump assumed office, Brennan continued to prove to be unrelenting.

In May 2017, Brennan [**testified before Congress that**](https://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/plum-line/wp/2017/05/23/brennans-explosive-testimony-just-made-it-harder-for-the-gop-to-protect-trump/?utm_term=.ddbdf470f304) during the 2016 campaign [**he had**](http://www.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/1705/23/cnr.04.html) “…encountered and [was] aware of information and intelligence that revealed contacts and interactions between Russian officials and U.S. persons involved in the Trump campaign that I was concerned about because of known Russian efforts to suborn such individuals. It raised questions in my mind whether or not Russia was able to gain the co-operation of those individuals.” *Politico* was also in on the chase and picked up on Brennan’s bombshell in an article entitled [**Brennan: Russia may have successfully recruited Trump campaign aides**](http://www.politico.com/story/2017/05/23/brennan-russia-tried-to-recruit-us-persons-to-influence-presidential-campaign-238719).

What Brennan did not describe, because it was “classified,” was how he developed the information regarding the Trump campaign in the first place. We know [**from *Politico***](https://www.politico.eu/article/british-spies-discovered-trump-teams-alleged-links-to-russia-report/) and other sources that it derived from foreign intelligence services, including the British, Dutch and Estonians, and there has to be a strong suspicion that the forwarding of at least some of that information might have been sought or possibly inspired by Brennan unofficially in the first place.

But whatever the provenance of the intelligence, it is clear that Brennan then used that information to request an FBI investigation into a possible Russian operation directed against potential key advisers if Trump were to somehow get nominated and elected, which admittedly was a longshot at the time.

That is how Russiagate began.

Since that time, Brennan [**has tweeted**](https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/onpolitics/2018/03/17/ex-cia-chief-john-brennan-says-trump-displaced-demago/434948002/) President Donald Trump, asserting that “When the full extent of your venality, moral turpitude, and political corruption becomes known, you will take your rightful place as a disgraced demagogue in the dustbin of history.” He [**has attacked**](https://www.yahoo.com/news/former-cia-director-says-russia-something-trump-141235041.html) the president for congratulating President Vladimir Putin over his victory in Russian national elections. He said that the U.S. President is “wholly in the pocket of Putin,” definitely “afraid of the president of Russia” and that the Kremlin “may have something on him personally. The fact that he has had this fawning attitude toward Mr. Putin …continues to say to me that he does have something to fear and something very serious to fear.” And he then administered what might be considered the *coup de main*, saying that the president should be impeached for “treasonous” behavior after Trump [**stood next to President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia**](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/07/16/world/europe/trump-putin-summit-helsinki.html) at a news conference in Finland and cast doubt on the conclusion of the intelligence agencies that Moscow interfered in the 2016 presidential election.

Trump’s decision to pull Brennan’s clearance attracted an immediate tweeted response from the ex-CIA Director: “This action is part of a broader effort by Mr. Trump to suppress freedom of speech & punish critics. It should gravely worry all Americans, including intelligence professionals, about the cost of speaking out.” He also added, in a *New York Times* [**op-ed**](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/16/opinion/john-brennan-trump-russia-collusion-security-clearance.html), that “Mr. Trump’s claims of no collusion [with Russia] are, in a word, hogwash,” though he provided no evidence to support his claim and failed to explain how exactly one washes a hog. There has subsequently been an avalanche of suitably angry Brennan appearances all over the Sunday talk shows, a development that will undoubtedly continue for the immediate future.

The claim that Trump is a Russian agent is not a new one, having also been made repeatedly by Brennan CIA associate the grim and inscrutable Michael Morell, who flaunts his [**insider expertise**](https://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/05/opinion/campaign-stops/i-ran-the-cia-now-im-endorsing-hillary-clinton.html?_r=2) both at *The Times* and on CBS. Regarding both gentlemen, one might note that it is an easy mark to allege something sensational that you don’t have to prove, but the claim nevertheless constitutes a very serious assertion of criminal behavior that might well meet the Constitutional standard for treason, which comes with a death penalty. It is notable that in spite of the gravity of the charge, Brennan and Morell have been either unable or unwilling to substantiate it in any detail. Even a usually tone-deaf Congress has noted that there is a problem with Brennan’s credibility on the issue, not to mention his integrity. Richard Burr, Chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, has [**observed that**](https://www.burr.senate.gov/press/releases/statement-from-senate-intel-chairman-richard-burr-on-comments-by-former-cia-director-john-brennan-)

“Director Brennan’s recent statements purport to know as fact that the Trump campaign colluded with a foreign power. If Director Brennan’s statement is based on intelligence he received while still leading the CIA, why didn’t he include it in the Intelligence Community Assessment released in 2017? If his statement is based on intelligence he has seen since leaving office, it constitutes an intelligence breach. If he has some other personal knowledge of or evidence of collusion, it should be disclosed to the Special Counsel, not *The New York Times*.”

This behavior by Brennan is no surprise to those who know him and have worked with him. An ambitious crawler with a checkered history, he was strongly disliked by his peers at CIA, largely because of his lack of any sense of restraint and his reputation for over-the-top vindictiveness. He notoriously flunked out of spy training at the Agency, forcing him to instead become an analyst, so he went after the Clandestine Service in his reorganization of CIA after he became Director.

John Brennan has always been a failure as an intelligence officer even as he successfully climbed the promotion ladder. He was the CIA’s Chief of Station (COS) in Saudi Arabia [**when the Khobar Towers were bombed**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_O._Brennan), killing 19 Americans, a disaster which he incorrectly blamed on the Iranians. He was deputy executive director on 9/11 and was complicit in that intelligence failure. He subsequently served as CIA chief of staff when his boss George Tenet concocted phony stories about Iraqi weapons of mass destruction.

He also approved of the Agency torture and rendition programs and was complicit in the destruction of Libya as well as the attempt to do the same to Syria.

Barack Obama wanted Brennan to be his CIA Director but his record with the Agency torture and rendition programs made approval by the Senate problematical. Instead, he became the president’s homeland security advisor and deputy national security advisor for counterterrorism, where he did even more damage, expanding the parameters of the death by drone operations and sitting down with the POTUS for the [**Tuesday morning counterterrorism sessions**](https://www.nytimes.com/2012/05/29/world/obamas-leadership-in-war-on-al-qaeda.html) spent refining the kill list of American citizens.

After Obama was re-elected in 2012, he was able to overcome objections and appoint Brennan CIA Director. Conniving as ever, Brennan then ordered the Agency to read the communications of the congressional committee then engaged in investigating CIA torture, the very program that he had been complicit in. Brennan then denied to Congress under oath that any such intramural spying had occurred, afterwards apologizing when the truth came out. Moon of Alabama [**characterizes him**](http://www.moonofalabama.org/2018/08/john-brennan-is-no-match-for-trump-.html) as “…always ruthless, incompetent and dishonest.”

So the real John Brennan emerges as an unlikely standard bearer for the First Amendment. He has an awful lot of baggage and is far from the innocent victim of a madman Trump that is being portrayed in much of the media. Indeed, he should be answerable for torture, renditions, extrajudicial killing of foreigners and targeted murder of American citizens. Those constitute war crimes and in the not too distant past Japanese and German officers were hanged for such behavior. One has to hope that Brennan’s day of judgment will eventually come and he will have to pay for his multiple crimes against humanity.

**Brennan: Communist**

Stephen F. Cohen, professor emeritus of Russian studies and politics at NYU and Princeton, and John Batchelor continue their (usually) weekly discussions of the new US-Russian Cold War. (Previous installments, now in their fifth year, are at [TheNation.com](https://www.thenation.com/authors/stephen-f-cohen/).)

Ever since Dwight Eisenhower in the 1950s, every American president has held one or more summit meetings with the Kremlin leader, first and foremost in order to prevent miscalculations that could result in war between the two nuclear superpowers. Generally, they received bipartisan support for doing so. In July, President Trump continued that tradition by meeting with Russian President Putin in Helsinki, for which, unlike previous presidents, he was scathingly criticized by much of the US political-media establishment. John Brennan, CIA director under President Obama, however, went much further, characterizing Trump’s press conference with Putin as “nothing short of treasonous.” Presumably in reaction, Trump revoked Brennan’s security clearance, the continuing access to classified information usually accorded to former security officials. In the political-media furor that followed, Brennan was mostly heroized as an avatar of civil liberties and free speech, and Trump traduced as their enemy.

Leaving aside the missed occasion to discuss the “revolving door” involving former US security officials using their permanent clearances to enhance their lucrative positions outside government, Cohen thinks the subsequent political-media furor obscures what is truly important and perhaps ominous:

Brennan’s allegation was unprecedented. No such high-level intelligence official had ever before accused a sitting president of treason, still more in collusion with the Kremlin. (Impeachment discussions of Presidents Nixon and Clinton, to take recent examples, did not include allegations involving Russia.) [Brennan clarified his charge](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/trump-is-creating-a-list-of-political-enemies-former-joint-chiefs-chairman-mike-mullen-says/2018/08/19/36df9b64-a3b6-11e8-97ce-cc9042272f07_story.html?utm_term=.d9ebe66f9e00): “Treasonous, which is to betray one’s trust and to aid and abet the enemy.” Coming from Brennan, a man presumed to be in possession of related dark secrets, [as he strongly hinted](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/06/27/magazine/john-brennan-president-trump-national-security-state.html), the charge was fraught with alarming implications.

Brennan made clear he hoped for Trump’s impeachment, but in another time, and in many other countries, his charge would suggest that Trump should be removed from the presidency urgently by any means, even a coup. No one, it seems, has even noted this extraordinary implication with its tacit threat to American democracy. (Perhaps because the disloyalty allegation against Trump has been customary ever since mid-2016, even before he became president, when an array of influential publications and writers—among them a former acting CIA director—began branding him Putin’s “puppet,” “agent,” “client,” and “Manchurian candidate.” The [*Los Angeles Times*](http://www.latimes.com/opinion/op-ed/la-oe-kirchick-trump-coup-20160719-snap-story.html) even saw fit to print an article suggesting that the militarymight have to remove Trump if he were to be elected, thereby having the very dubious distinction of predating Brennan.)

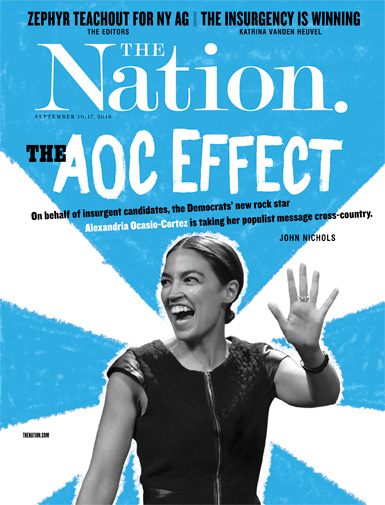
Why did Brennan, a calculating man, risk leveling such a charge, which might reasonably be characterized as sedition? The most plausible explanation is that he sought to deflect growing attention to his role as the “Godfather” of the entire Russiagate narrative, as Cohen argued back in February. If so, we need to know Brennan’s unvarnished views on Russia.

They are set out with astonishing (perhaps unknowing) candor in [a New York Times op-ed](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/16/opinion/john-brennan-trump-russia-collusion-security-clearance.html) of August 17. They are those of Joseph McCarthy and J. Edgar Hoover in their prime. Western “politicians, political parties, media outlets, think tanks and influencers are readily manipulated, wittingly and unwittingly, or even bought outright, by Russian operatives…not only to collect sensitive information but also to distribute propaganda and disinformation.… I was well aware of Russia’s ability to work surreptitiously  within the United States, cultivating relationships with individuals who wield actual or potential power.… These Russian agents are well trained in the art of deception. They troll political, business and cultural waters in search of gullible or unprincipled individuals who become pliant in the hands of their Russian puppet masters. Too often, those puppets are found.”

All this, Brennan assures readers, is based on his “deep insight.” All the rest of us, it seems, are constantly susceptible to “Russian puppet masters” under our beds, at work, on our computers. Clearly, there must be no “cooperation” with the Kremlin’s grand “Puppet Master,” as Trump said he wanted early on. (People who wonder what and when Obama knew about the unfolding Russiagate saga need to ask why he would keep such a person so close for so long.)

And yet, scores of former intelligence and military officials rallied around this unvarnished John Brennan, even though, they said, they did not entirely share his opinions. This too is revealing. They did so, it seems clear enough, out of their professional corporate identity, which Brennan represented and Trump was degrading by challenging the intelligences agencies’ (implicitly including his own) Russiagate allegations against him. It’s a misnomer to term these people representatives of a hidden “deep state.” In recent years, they have been amply visible on television and newspaper op-ed pages. Instead, they see and present themselves as members of a fully empowered and essential fourth branch of government. This too has gone largely undiscussed while nightingales of the fourth branch—such as [David Ignatius](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/this-is-not-your-grandfathers-kgb/2018/07/26/f8775c04-9118-11e8-b769-e3fff17f0689_story.html?utm_term=.5a3694566d8b)and [Joe Scarborough](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-gop-awol-as-the-us-is-attacked/2018/08/12/d3279984-9cce-11e8-843b-36e177f3081c_story.html?utm_term=.c93d1b0ab1f2) in the pages of the The Washington Post—have been in full voice.

#### Current Issue

[](https://www.thenation.com/issue/september-10-17-2018-issue/)

A full-fledged Russophobic hysteria is sweeping through the American political-media establishment, from Brennan and—pending actual evidence against her—those who engineered the arrest of Maria Butina (imagine how this endangers young Americans networking in Russia) to the senators now preparing new “crippling sanctions” against Moscow and the editors and producers at the Times, Post, CNN, and MSNBC. (However powerful, how representative are these elites when surveys indicate that a majority of the American people still prefer good relations with Moscow?) As the dangers grow of actual war with Russia—again, from Ukraine and the Baltic region to Syria—the capacity of US policy-makers, above all the president, are increasingly diminished. To be fair, Brennan may only be a symptom of this profound American crisis, some say the worst since the Civil War.

Finally, there was a time when many Democrats, certainly liberal Democrats, could be counted on to resist this kind of hysteria and, yes, spreading neo-McCarthyism. In a classic irony, Brennan’s defenders accuse Trump of McCarthyism, but actually, Brennan’s charge of treason without presenting any actual evidence is quintessential McCarthy. The truth is that Democrat members of Congress and pro-Democrat media outlets are in the forefront of the new anti-Russian hysteria, with only a few exceptions. Thus a generally liberal historian [tells CNN viewers](http://transcripts.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/1808/17/cnnt.01.html) that “Brennan is an American hero. His tenure at the CIA was impeccable. We owe him so much.” Remember, Democrats offering Peter Strzok the purple heart. Elsewhere the same historian [assures readers](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/trump-revokes-security-clearance-of-former-cia-director-john-brennan/2018/08/15/043b6fc4-a0bb-11e8-8e87-c869fe70a721_story.html?utm_term=.d225df9a87de), “There has always been a bipartisan spirit of support since the CIA was created in the Cold War.” In the same vein, two Post reporters write of the FBI’s “[once venerated reputation](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/you-stepped-in-it-here-how-anti-trump-texts-ruined-the-career-of-the-fbis-go-to-agent/2018/08/13/eb1868be-9401-11e8-a679-b09212fb69c2_story.html?utm_term=.1b6e4432560a).”

Is this liberal historical amnesia? Is it professional incompetence? A quick Google search would reveal Brennan’s less-than-“impeccable” record, FBI misdeeds under and after Hoover, as well as the Senate’s 1975 Church Committee’s investigation of the CIA and other intelligence agencies’ very serious abuses of their power. Or have liberals’ hatred of Trump nullified their own principles? The critical-minded Russian adage would say, “All three explanations are worst.”

**Rape**

**By Donald Jeffries**

In the wake of sexual harassment claims that rocked major U.S. industries including Hollywood and the mainstream media—colloquially known today as the #MeToo movement—it is interesting to consider how many U.S. presidents have been accused of literal rape over the years

In 1873, for example, Maria Halpin accused President Grover Cleveland of sexually assaulting her on the evening of Dec. 15 that year. In her affidavit, Halpin alleged that Cleveland sexually assaulted her “by use of force and violence and without my consent.” Halpin added that Cleveland “told me he was determined to ruin me if it cost him $10,000, if he was hanged by the neck for it. I then and there told him that I never wanted to see him again [and] commanded him to leave my room, which he did.”

Ms. Halpin became pregnant as a result of the assault, and the boy she gave birth to became the basis of the campaign slogan, “Ma, Ma, Where’s my Pa?” Cleveland and his powerful associates smeared Ms. Halpin as promiscuous and a drunk.

She was later thrown into the Providence Lunatic Asylum, and the child was taken from her and sent to an orphanage in Buffalo. Ms. Halpin died at age 66 in 1902, with $200 to her name, irreparably scandalized and wronged.

In Kitty Kelly’s 1991 book *Nancy Reagan: The Unauthorized Biography*, she reported the allegations of actress Selene Walters. Ms. Walters, a 19-year-old actress at the time, claimed that the then-41-year-old Reagan forced himself sexually on her during a date in 1952. This quintessential “date rape” stayed surprisingly under the radar, even after Walters reiterated her story in the April 29, 1991 issue of People magazine. Reagan was confronted by the press about the accusation just as Kelly’s book was being released. He was about to enter church at the time, and issued one of his trademark responses, “I don’t think a church would be the proper place to use the word I would have to use in discussing that.”

Bill Clinton was accused of varying degrees of sexual harassment by many women. One of them, Juanita Broaddrick, claimed that, when Clinton was the governor of Arkansas, he had brutally raped her in a Little Rock hotel room in 1978. Four witnesses backed her story, including a nurse who treated her injuries. NBC News, to its eternal discredit, sat on the story for a year as the impeachment process unfolded, in an obvious attempt to save Clinton further negative publicity.

George W. Bush was accused of raping a black woman, Margie Schoedinger. Virtually the entire press, including abroad, ignored this story completely.

The only paper to cover it, in fact, was England’s *New Nation*, which represented London’s black community. Schoedinger told American journalist Jackson Thoreau that Bush himself had threatened to have her killed, and was quoted as saying, “People have to be held accountable for what they do and that is why I am pursuing this lawsuit.” Sadly, Ms. Schoedinger supposedly shot herself shortly thereafter.

**The Tibbetts Story**

Rob Tibbetts is a member of the board of directors for the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, which describes him as having worked as Vice President/ Marketing Principal at a company called HOK.

On July 22, 2018, the HOK Facebook page shared Mollie’s missing poster and wrote, “Mollie Tibbetts, a member of HOK’s extended family, is missing. Please help with the search for Mollie by sharing with your followers.” HOK “is a global design, architecture, engineering and planning firm,” its bio reads.

Rob Tibbetts lives in Fresno, California. The Fresno community has contributed to the reward fund organized to help find Mollie.

https://heavy.com/news/2018/08/rob-tibbetts-mollie-dad-father-robert/

2. HOK is the USGBC’s official design partner for Project Haiti, the replacement of an orphanage and children’s center that was severely damaged in the 2010 earthquake. In a country with no enforceable codes or functioning infrastructure, this design puts forward a net zero energy, water and waste facility that meets LEED Platinum standards.

An all-volunteer HOK team, including architects, landscape architects, lighting designers, sustainable experts and structural, mechanical and plumbing engineers, is tackling the challenge of bringing highly sustainable design to a developing country. The goal is to design a nurturing, restorative place.

**Mueller**

**By S. T. Patrick**

Robert Mueller is the special counsel tasked with investigating potential Russian interference in the 2016 U.S. presidential election. This appointment has also given Mueller significant leeway in exploring any possible links between the Trump campaign and the government of Russian President Vladimir Putin. Much has been written about Mueller’s conduct, as well as his methods, but some of the more interesting reasons for questioning Mueller’s role may be historical.

Mueller was born into and then married into a family with high-level ties to covert CIA operations.

Since 1966, Mueller has been married to Ann Cabell Standish. The Cabell family includes Charles Cabell, the deputy director of the CIA under Allen Dulles. As part of the fallout of the Bay of Pigs fiasco, Cabell was forced to resign by President John F. Kennedy in January 1962. His brother, Earle Cabell, was the mayor of Dallas in 1963 where and when Kennedy was assassinated. The 2017 JFK document releases have also proven that Mayor Cabell was a CIA asset.

Mueller, himself, is a relative of Richard Bissell, the CIA’s director of plans at the time when it utilized the U-2 spy plane, formed closer ties to the mafia, planned assassination plots against Castro, and directed the Bay of Pigs invasion.

During his tenure with the Justice Department under President George H.W. Bush, Mueller supervised the prosecutions of Panamanian leader Manuel Noriega, the Lockerbie bombing (Pan Am Flight 103) case, and Gambino crime boss John Gotti. In the Noriega case, Mueller ignored the ties to the Bush family that Victor Thorn illustrated in *Hillary (and Bill): The Drugs Volume*,Part Two of the Clinton Trilogy.\* Noriega had long been associated with CIA operations that involved drug smuggling, money laundering, and arms running. Thorn significantly links Noriega to Bush family involvement in the Iran-Contra scandal.

Regarding Pan Am Flight 103, the culprit has swayed with the immediate need for a villain. Pro-Palestinian activists, Libyans, and Iranians have all officially been blamed when U.S.  intelligence and the mainstream mass media needed to paint each as the antagonist to American freedom. Mueller toed the line, publicly ignoring rumors that agents onboard were said to have learned that a CIA drug-smuggling operation was afoot in conjunction with Pan Am flights. According to the theory, the agents were going to take their questions to Congress upon landing. The flight blew up over Lockerbie, Scotland.

In 1995, Mueller worked under Eric Holder as the senior litigator in the District of Columbia U.S. Attorney’s Office. When Holder was appointed to the position of deputy attorney general under Janet Reno in 1997, he urged President Bill Clinton to make Mueller the U.S. attorney for San Francisco.

As the U.S. attorney for the Northern District of California in 2000, Mueller “strongly opposed” Patty Hearst’s application for a presidential pardon. Mueller wrote, “The attitude of Hearst has always been that she is a person above the law and that, based on her wealth and social position, she is not accountable for her conduct, despite the jury’s verdict.”

As author Brad Schreiber noted in *Revolution’s End*, the 1974 kidnapping of Hearst was an eventual effect of the CIA-created Symbionese Liberation Army (SLA). By vehemently arguing that Hearst was responsible for her association with the SLA—rather than being a victim in a FBI Counter Intelligence Program (COINTELPRO) operation gone haywire—Mueller protected the FBI from bearing any responsibility for the SLA’s origin or actions.

Shortly after his inauguration, President George W. Bush chose Mueller to head the FBI. As news organizations were vetting Mueller in 2001, *The New York Times*stumbled upon former associates who remembered Mueller’s reactions to critics who had questioned the FBI’s actions at Ruby Ridge. During an 11-day siege, officers of the U.S. Marshals and FBI killed Randy Weaver’s wife and 14-year-old son.

“Associates recall his anger at members of Congress and others for criticism of the FBI’s 1992 siege of a separatist family at Ruby Ridge in Idaho,” reported Neil A. Lewis. *The New York Times*further reported the popularity Mueller garnered from officers at both the FBI and the IRS.

Mueller was at the helm of the FBI on Sept. 11, 2001. Many independent researchers have questioned Mueller’s handling of the “five dancing Israelis” who worked for Urban Moving Systems. Callers to the FBI office in New Jersey reported five dancing Middle Eastern men watching and celebrating in clear view as the World Trade Center was destroyed. *The Forward*, a Jewish weekly publication, later reported that the FBI concluded that at least two of the five Israelis were Mossad agents. It was also concluded that Urban Moving Systems was a Mossad front operation. Unfathomably, the Israeli agents were quietly released from detention.

Also downplayed was the story of the Israelis who claimed to be capitalistic art students. They were traveling the country in hopes of hawking their questionably artistic wares at top-secret facilities and at the homes of those who worked at sensitive security locations. Though the “students” had been reported by the U.S. Marshals, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Air Force, the Secret Service, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and the FBI itself, the issue was largely ignored in the FBI’s testimony to the 9/11 Commission and by Mueller himself.

Mueller’s history goes deeper than partisanship or personal grudges. He is the consummate establishment insider, a role into which he was born and then married. His résumé has been built upon pleasing those whose career trajectories, family histories, and loyalty to the deep state guide their assignments, associations, and maneuvers. Any hope that Mueller will conduct an impartial investigation of the Trump campaign staff seems whimsical, at best.

The apparent tactics of Mueller’s office seemingly reside in the faulty “There’s the man. . . . Now go find the crime” strategy. If there is fault, it will lie at the feet of individuals, not institutions. This is Mueller’s history and the modus operandi of a career insider who has flourished protecting the interests of his most loyal allies.

**Omarosa is not a Dog**

With game show contestant-turned Presidential adviser Omarosa Manigault-Newman's recent swift change of heart about President Trump *coincidentally*coming at the very same time that she is trying to sell a book, its [looking like](https://apnews.com/8f6c754ff73443c5b539adf76c4cf25d) members of the black community aren’t amused with her antics, according to an AP [report](https://apnews.com/8f6c754ff73443c5b539adf76c4cf25d).In fact, **some African Americans have gone as far to call her a "two bit opportunist", "sellout" and "ego driven".**Others are simply calling her about-face on President Trump, after a decade of loyalty, "too little too late".

The surprisingly candid takes follow remarks by the President of the United States, who called Omarosa a "lowlife" and a "dog" in a Tweet he published Tuesday morning.

[https://pbs.twimg.com/profile_images/874276197357596672/kUuht00m_normal.jpg](https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump)

**[Donald J. Trump](https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump)**

[✔@realDonaldTrump](https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump)

When you give a crazed, crying lowlife a break, and give her a job at the White House, I guess it just didn’t work out. Good work by General Kelly for quickly firing that dog!

[6:31 AM - Aug 14, 2018](https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/1029329583672307712)

[87.9K](https://twitter.com/intent/like?tweet_id=1029329583672307712" \o "Like)

[89.2K people are talking about this](https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/1029329583672307712" \o "View the conversation on Twitter)

[Twitter Ads info and privacy](https://support.twitter.com/articles/20175256)

The Associated Press detailed what some key members of the African-American community think about Omarosa's sudden change of heart.

Earl Ofari Hutchinson, who is the author of “Why Black Lives Do Matter” said that most African Americans' loathing of Omarosa is "virtually frozen in stone". He then went on to say "She’s still roundly lambasted as a two-bit opportunist, a racial sellout and an ego driven hustler.”

[](https://www.zerohedge.com/sites/default/files/inline-images/oma%20trump_0.jpg?itok=vcU3KuLv)

It certainly hasn’t seemed to faze Omarosa, who has escalated her attacks on the President, as recently as Tuesday calling him “a racist, a misogynist, a bigot."

Furthermore, the black community has held a "deep hostility" for Manigault-Newman due to her defense of the President over the course of the last decade - especially after he was viewed as attacking various African-Americans like President Barack Obama and LeBron James. As a result of - at least initially - aligning herself with Trump over the last decade, made her “deeply unpopular“ with the black community.

"Every critic, every detractor will have to bow down under President Trump," Manigault-Newman is quoted as saying on PBS Frontline during her time working for the Trump administration.

Of course, Manigault-Newman - *after she's been fired -*reportedly claims in her book that she only joined Trump because she was denied a position within Hillary Clinton’s campaign; This was the first time this particular story emerged.

Despite the Trump campaign supposedly being her second choice, AP reports that in her book she claimed that Trump was "eager for help". And it is only now, months after she was fired from the Trump campaign, that she is making accusations that Trump "used" her. No such allegations were made over the previous decade when her association with Trump is what was making her a household name - turning her from a generic game show contestant to a White House adviser.

Another member of the African-American community, Raynard Jackson, described as "a black Republican who has worked on GOP presidential, gubernatorial and local campaigns", stated that there is **"absolutely no way [Omarosa] can redeem herself"**and that her secret recording of Trump and other White House officials under the circumstances were the **“political equivalent of spitting on a man."**

The feud between the two reality TV stars-turned-politicians continues even as the Trump administration is now taking legal action against Omarosa for violation of her NDA. President Trump's campaign on Tuesday filed charges against Omarosa, claiming she violated a 2016 nondisclosure agreement by disparaging the president in her new book, and secretly recording conversations [with Trump](https://www.zerohedge.com/news/2018-08-13/wacky-omarosa-releases-new-recording-time-featuring-trump) and White House [chief of staff John Kelly](https://www.zerohedge.com/news/2018-08-12/listen-lowlife-omarosas-secret-recording-john-kelly-firing-her-white-house) which took place in the ultra-secure Situation Room - a [SCIF](https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/politics-news/what-scif-and-who-uses-it-n743991) (Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility) when Kelly fired her last December.

Further to allegations about Manigault-Newman's veracity, she was [**caught in a lie**](https://www.npr.org/2018/08/10/636955054/omarosa-tells-npr-she-heard-trump-n-word-tape-contradicting-her-own-tell-all-boo)**about whether she heard President Trump use the N-word**, the former White House aide and *Apprentice* contestant appeared on NBC's *Meet the Press* with Chuck Todd on Sunday while peddling her new book, *Unhinged*, where she released a secret recording of White House Chief of Staff John Kelly firing her, citing "integrity issues."

As a reminder, Manigault-Newman was abruptly canned from the White House in December, with the [*Wall Street Journal*](https://www.wsj.com/articles/white-house-aide-omarosa-manigault-newman-to-depart-in-january-1513183854) reporting that she had to be "physically dragged and escorted off the campus."

**Working on The McCain Gang**

Since announcing his brain cancer was terminal, Arizon Sen. John McCain has continued to make headlines, but not due to his medical status. Instead, it has been one controversy after another revolving around him, and now one more had been added to the list.

This one is based in his dislike not for Ted Cruz or Rand Paul, but of the tea party. McCain has never really endeared himself to conservatives, and he made his feeling public about the tea party movement at a breakfast hosted by the Christian Science Monitor in 2015, according to a Yahoo report.

“I think also — I probably shouldn’t say this — but some of (the tea party) appeals to the bad angels of our nature rather than the better angels of our nature,” McCain said.

This attitude ties into the latest scandal swirling around McCain. One of a number of scandals that plagued President Barack Obama and his administration involved the IRS targeting tea party groups after 2010. It seemed that their tax-exempt status requests were denied or delayed due to intense political partisanship in the agency.

In May 2013, The Washington Post reported that the IRS’s exempt-organizations division director Lois Lerner “let slip” the week prior “that low-level IRS staffers had focused extra scrutiny on conservative groups with words such as ‘tea party’ or ‘patriot’ in their names.”

In addition, “internal reviews have shown that Lerner knew about the targeting in 2011 — but neither Congress nor the public knew until (2013).” Despite this, Lerner was never prosecuted and was allowed to retire with her taxpayer-funded pension intact. This did not change, even after House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady, a Texas Republican, and Tax Policy Subcommittee Chairman Peter Roskam, an Illinois Republican, wrote a letter to Attorney General Jeff Sessions. In it, they begged him to reopen a probe into the matter, according to Jay Sekulow, chief council for the American Center for Law and Justice, writing in a commentary for Fox News.

When President Donald Trump was sworn into office, some held out hope that the perceived injustices from Obama’s tenure would somehow be made right. However, in September 2017, Trump’s administration had already preemptively declined to pursue criminal charges against Lerner “based on the available evidence,” according to Fox News.

But more has since been uncovered about the scandal. Government watchdog group Judicial Watch has obtained and released “internal IRS documents, including material revealing that Sen. John McCain’s former staff director and chief counsel on the Senate Homeland Security Permanent Subcommittee, Henry Kerner, urged top IRS officials, including then-director of exempt organizations Lois Lerner, to “audit so many that it becomes financially ruinous.”

Meeting notes from April 30, 2013, involving Kerner, Lerner, “and other high-ranking IRS officials” were obtained by JW. With the meeting taking place only 10 days before the IRS scandal exploded into the public view, they are particularly incriminating against Kerner and Lerner:

“Henry Kerner asked how to get to the abuse of organizations claiming section 501 (c)(4) but designed to be primarily political. Lois Lerner said the system works, but not in real time.”

“Henry Kerner noted that these organizations don’t disclose donors. Lois Lerner said that if they don’t meet the requirements, we can come in and revoke, but it doesn’t happen timely.”

“Nan Marks said if the concern is that organizations engaging in this activity don’t disclose donors, then the system doesn’t work. Henry Kerner said that maybe the solution is to audit so many that it is financially ruinous. Nikole noted that we have budget constraints.”

“Elise Bean suggested using the list of organizations that made independent expenditures. Lois Lerner said that it is her job to oversee it all, not just political campaign activity.”

Thus far, there is no evidence that McCain knew about or directed Kerner to take such action. It is plausible that Kerner, knowing of McCain’s dislike of the tea party, opted to be a proactive and loyal staffer by urging the IRS to take action against the groups. But McCain’s personality does little to keep him far removed from the scandal and tongues are wagging with speculation as to his involvement. Regardless, McCain’s frosty relationship with President Donald Trump has not made the Arizona senator many fans among Trump supporters. New suspicions about him betraying the tea party won’t help matters at all.

**The Moon Base**

At a meeting at the Johnson Space Center in Houston this week, Mr Bridenstine gave details on plans to build ‘Gateway’ modules to orbit the moon and close gaps in space exploration. The NASA boss told reporters that the agency wants “lots of humans in space” according to [the Space.com website](https://www.space.com/41599-nasa-moon-space-priorities-jim-bridenstine-update.html).

The gateway modules would be crafts that orbit the moon rather than a settlement, which would make it easier for astronauts to stay in orbit and carry out brief surface missions lasting between 30 to 60 days.

In future years a second Gateway could be used to take humans to Mars in ambitious NASA plans. The NASA Administrator said: “What we don’t want to do is go to the surface of the moon, prove that we can do it again, and then be done.

“We want to go to stay. And the Gateway, in my view – I’ve been convinced – enables us to take advantage of commercial and international partners in a more robust way so we are there to stay, it enables us to get to more parts of the moon than ever before, and it enables us to get to Mars.”

**What is the Lunar Orbital-Platform Gateway?**

**The Lunar Orbital-Platform Gateway will be a craft that orbits the moon to provide a base from which to carry out human exploration of the moon and deep space missions.**

NASA also plans to use a future 'Gateway' as a staging point for missions to Mars.

The station modules will be constructed from 2022, with the first due to be finished by 2025.

The new space station - similar to the International Space Station - will be open to astronauts of all nationalities.

NASA hopes the orbiting crafts will allow easier exploration of the moon and greater access to Mars.

Earlier this week, the space agency boss spoke of continued exploration on the moon, citing the evidence of water on the surface as a key success.

He told Reuters TV on Wednesday: “We know that there's hundreds of billions of tons of water ice on the surface of the moon.”

He was discussing the results of Monday’s direct observation findings that there is water on the moon.

The presence of water offers an exciting reason for greater space exploration, but scientists do not yet know how much ice is present on the moon or whether it can be extracted. NASA scientist Sarah Noble told Reuters that they could not be sure how much water there is, as different models gave different answers.

Human moon exploration previously came to an end in 1972 with the Apollo 17 mission.

The Trump administration has heavily backed the idea of space exploration, including with a budget of $10 billion (£7.8 billion).

**Tech Giants Announce Plans to Overthrow America**

## Facebook is reportedly meeting with multiple other Silicon Valley Masters of the Universe Friday to discuss how to prevent the spread of “misinformation” across their platforms ahead of the 2018 midterm elections.

Business Insider [reports](http://uk.businessinsider.com/tech-giants-hold-a-secret-meeting-ahead-of-the-us-2018-midterms-2018-8?r=US&IR=T) that Silicon Valley tech giants including Facebook, Twitter, Google, Microsoft, and Snap will be holding a meeting at Twitter headquarters in San Francisco Friday to discuss the 2018 U.S. midterm elections. According to emails obtained by [BuzzFeed News,](https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/kevincollier/tech-companies-are-gathering-for-a-secret-meeting-to) Facebook’s head of cybersecurity policy Nathaniel Gleicher invited 12 representatives from the companies to the meeting.

“As I’ve mentioned to several of you over the last few weeks, we have been looking to schedule a follow-on discussion to our industry conversation about information operations, election protection, and the work we are all doing to tackle these challenges,” wrote Gleicher.

The meeting will be broken up into three parts according to Gleicher. Each company will present the efforts they have made so far in combating misinformation on their platform, then it will discuss the issues that its platform faces in fighting misinformation, and finally, the group will decide whether a meeting of each Silicon Valley tech firm should take place on a regular basis.

Similar meetings between tech firms have been [held before](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/06/25/technology/tech-meeting-midterm-elections.html), attended by Mike Burham of the FBI’s “foreign influence” taskforce and Christopher Krebs, an undersecretary at the Department of Homeland Security. The meeting reportedly left the U.S. government representatives quite frustrated as the tech firms shared little information with them.

Given recent reports about foreign influence campaigns across Facebook, one issue that tech firms are on high alert for foreign influence campaigns.

A [report](https://www.breitbart.com/news/facebook-stops-misinformation-campaigns-tied-to-iran-russia/) from the New York Times recently revealed that multiple countries have allegedly been employing influence campaigns across Facebook to mislead users on some topics. The activity originated from Iran and Russia according to Facebook, while many previous influence campaigns attempted to target American users, the most recently discovered campaigns focused on users in Latin America, Britain and the Middle East.

Some of the influencing campaigns focused on American users but were not aimed at disrupting midterm elections in America, according to cybersecurity firm FireEye. According to the firm, operations “extend well beyond U.S. audiences and U.S. politics.” Following Facebook’s announcement, Twitter also revealed that it deleted 284 accounts believed to be linked to disinformation campaigns.

But not all targets of the Masters of the Universe are foreign influencing operations. Social media firms also came under fire recently after the recent purge of [Alex Jones](https://www.breitbart.com/tech/2018/08/06/facebook-apple-purge-infowars-for-hate-speech/) and Infowars accounts from almost all online platforms — most of the meeting’s attendees — including Facebook, YouTube, Apple podcasts, LinkedIn, Vimeo and Spotify over the course of a single day which led many to accuse the tech platforms of collusion in their simultaneous decisions to ban Jones.

Conservative non-profit group PragerU also recently appeared to be the [latest victims of Facebook censorship](https://www.breitbart.com/tech/2018/08/07/facebook-restores-gop-ad-without-clarifying-vague-policy-on-sensational-content/), as many recent posts from the group’s Facebook paged suffered a 99.9999 percent drop in engagement based on Facebook’s own dashboard. The social media giant also pulled down two PragerU videos, which it labeled “hate speech.”

Facebook was also recently forced to reinstate the ad campaign of Republican congressional candidate Elizabeth Heng, who is running in California’s 16th congressional district seat, following Breitbart News’ report of her campaign video being blocked across Facebook’s ad platform. Heng initially [revealed](https://www.breitbart.com/tech/2018/08/06/facebook-blocks-congressional-candidate-elizabeth-hengs-video-ad-about-communist-crimes/) that the ad had been denied access to Facebook’s ad network for being “too shocking, disrespectful, or sensational” for including factual information about Cambodia under communism, which her family fled for America. The ad was also [blocked](https://www.breitbart.com/tech/2018/08/16/midterm-meddling-twitter-follows-facebook-blacklists-gop-candidates-family-story/) on Twitter, which labeled the story of Heng’s family “obscene.

**The Truth Behind Liberals**

You always wanted to know why the news about global warming exists. You wanted to know why America gets taxed, and suddenly the oceans are fine and the glaciers are fine and the air is fine. Because it is always always about the money.

## Here’s a perfect example. Johnny Bobbitt is back under a bridge just months after a couple raised $400,000 for him — and then reportedly [kept](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-6094585/Homeless-veteran-won-400-000-GoFundMe-donations-streets.html) it.

It seemed like an American Cinderella story: when New Jersey resident Kate McClure ran out of gas in a “sketchy” neighborhood in Philadelphia, 35-year-old homeless veteran Johnny Bobbitt [offered](https://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2017/11/23/nj-woman-raises-200k-homeless-bought-gasoline/) her his last $20 dollars for gas, which he went and fetched for her himself.

McClure and her boyfriend Mark D’Amico [responded](https://www.breitbart.com/big-journalism/2017/11/26/homeless-veteran-received-370000-plans-use-money-help-others/) with a GoFundMe campaign to raise $10,000 so that Bobbitt could get safely through the winter. The story captured the hearts and minds of many readers, and the campaign [raised](https://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2017/12/06/homeless-veteran-received-400000-woman-helped-buys-home/) more than $400,000 in Bobbitt’s name. This, however, is where the story gets ugly.

The last update to the GoFundMe page described a plan in concert with Bobbitt’s “lawyer” and “financial adviser” to acquire a home and vehicle for him. However, Bobbitt said he never spoke to a lawyer and only met a financial adviser once. The couple claims to have already spent half the money on him in that time — but their story does not seem to check out.

Rather than putting the money into trusts, as was explicitly stated, the remaining $200,000 is held in one of D’Amico’s savings accounts. While Bobbitt lives under a bridge, McClure has purchased a new BMW and taken vacations to California, Florida, and Las Vegas — all, she claims, on the salary of a receptionist for the New Jersey Department of Transportation.

D’Amico has admitted to spending some of the money raised for Bobbitt to gamble but insists he paid it right back to the account. McClure and D’Amico bought Bobbitt a vehicle but kept it in their names so he could not sell it; however, they have since sold the vehicle themselves.

In response, the couple has also accused Bobbitt of stealing from them to fund his drug habit and blowing through $25,000 that they handed him. Bobbitt denies the accusations.

D’Amico is unconcerned with the public reception to his and his girlfriend’s actions. “Write what you want,” he [told](http://www2.philly.com/philly/news/breaking/homeless-again-johnny-bobbitt-cant-get-his-gofundme-money-20180823.html) the Philadelphia Inquirer. “Giving him all that money, it’s never going to happen. I’ll burn it in front of him,” he added.

**Justice for the Revisionists**

They’re everywhere. They are always active and vigilant. The revisionists. They lost the battle of ideas, and they still want the victory. So, they resort to violence and vandalism. Destroying property whose message your values don’t coincide with has recently been adopted as an unalienable right by liberals everywhere.

At long last, the criminal justice system, alas, does not agree. Three individuals who tore down a statue of “Silent Sam” — a Confederate war soldier meant to mark the South’s war dead — were charged with offenses, according to Fox News.

“North Carolina Police filed charges Friday against three people they say played some part in tearing down a century-old Confederate statue during a protest this week,” Fox reported. “Hundreds of student protesters gathered at the University of North Carolina’s campus in Chapel Hill Monday night to bring down the statue known as ‘Silent Sam.’

“Using ropes and violent force, the protesters toppled the statue which had stood that ground since 1913.

“The university said in a news release that the unidentified individuals were not affiliated with the school and they have been charged with misdemeanor charges of rioting and defacing a public monument.”

“I will tell you absolutely that we had no anticipation of any plans to tear down the statue,” Chancellor Carol Folt said on Thursday.

There are two interesting facts to note here. The first is that, like so many other violent events on college campuses (see also: Berkeley, University of California at), the perpetrators weren’t actually students. Do you think these individuals should serve time if convicted? I think that when they are arrested, perp-walked, and then sentenced, it deters others from destroying property.

It might stop the outside agitators who thought that their values ought to be brought to taxpayer-supported institutions by violent, destructive force. Just don’t expect them to extrapolate that same tolerance for taxpayer-supported values if, say, Ben Shapiro is expected to give a peaceful address.

The second is that these statues are meant to commemorate those who died for the South during the Civil War. Liberal groups commonly argue the statues were put up to enforce white supremacy and intimidate African-Americans in the South during the postbellum era.

Except they weren’t. The South didn’t need to. They had Jim Crow, a rigged justice system, the Klan and terrorism in the form of lynchings to do all of this, and all brought to you, courtesy of the Democrats.

Bluntly put, they certainly didn’t need statues to accomplish any of the things anti-statue agitators claim these monuments were meant to do, and they would be a stupid waste of money if that was what those who erected them meant for them to do. Logic 101 tells us these statues were to simply commemorate those who had fought and fallen in the Civil War.

Many of the students at the University of North Carolina, when “Silent Sam” was first put up, had probably lost not-so-distant relatives in the war. It was a traumatic event that the South was still processing — and the statue now stands as a historical monument both to that trauma and those who died.

If protesters want to “contextualize” the statue by putting up a plaque explaining why they think the deaths of Confederate soldiers aren’t really worth remembering, that’s fine. I guarantee you, given the state of academia in the 21st century, almost any chancellor would have acquiesced.

That’s not what these “protesters” wanted to do. They wanted to destroy history — and property along with it. Liberal activists think that sort of thing is fine. We think destroying history is a fundamentally unserious and dangerous way to deal with it. The law thinks destroying property is illegal. Three individuals just found out that last part the hard way.

**The New Army**

## The Army on Friday launched Army Futures Command, its first new four-star command since the 1973, tasked with preparing the Army to fight and win future wars.

But instead of being located on a traditional, fenced-off Army post, the command is located in downtown Austin, Texas, in the middle of one of the nation’s newest growing technological hubs.

In fact, it is located on the top floor of the University of Texas System Building, a 19-story high-rise in downtown Austin overlooking the city’s Capital building.

About 500 Army personnel will be based there, embedded with large tech firms and small start-ups — and uniforms will not be required.

“Locating it here in Austin demonstrates the type of bold change needed to excel in today’s complex environment,” said Army Secretary Mark Esper at the command’s activation ceremony on Friday.

The idea is to spark innovation in how the Army — traditionally a large, slow, and bureaucratic organization — thinks, plans, and equips its soldiers as it faces growing competition from near-peer threats from China and Russia.

Esper described the Army as at a strategic inflection point, similar to the one the army found itself in after the Vietnam War, when it had to gear up for the threat from the Soviet Union.

“Today we are at a similar point in history,” he said, calling for a “major shake up.”

Army Futures Command will be in charge of the entire Army modernizing process, from concepts, to research and development, to fielding the next generation combat systems.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Milley called the command the Army’s “scout into the future.”

“This command is the command of the Army that is going to look over the hill,” he said. “This command is all about setting the United States Army up to be not only winning on the battlefield, but to be decisive and absolutely dominant on the battlefield.”

Milley said humans are currently living through a fundamental change in the character of warfare, where technology is allowing militaries to see and strike better than ever before, with significant implications for the U.S.:

We have cameras all over the place, we have sensors throughout the world. Today, militaries can see as like at no time in 10,000 years of human history. We can hit, strike the enemy like no time in human history with a degree of precision that has never before existed. So we can see and we can strike.

We know that robots are coming on very, very quickly in the commercial sector, and they’re likely to have significant military application. We know artificial intelligence is here. We know there is a multitude of emerging technologies that are going to have, whether we like it or not, impact in the conduct of military operations.

“It is this command,” Milley said, that is “going to determine victory or defeat on the future battlefield for the United States of America.”

Leading the brand new command will be Gen. John “Mike” Murray, who brainstormed Army Futures Command with Milley.

The new command will be a peer command to the Army’s three major four-star commands — Army Forces Command, Training and Doctrine Command, and Army Material Command, and will be roughly the same size with the same annual operating budget at about $80 to $100 million.

Army leaders say the new command is necessary since all the elements of modernization were spread throughout the Army in an inefficient way that held no one in charge of modernization, and acquisition and procurement of weapons systems.

“We had people spread out throughout the entire Army doing all kinds of things, and everybody was operating off their own sets of priorities. And it was an irrational system that was producing, but it wasn’t producing efficiently, effectively, nor as fast as it could,” said Milley during a press conference after the activation ceremony.

“One of the fundamental things that this command was put in place to solve is to bring it all together, bring all these existing organizations that have to do with science and technology, research and development, modernization, acquisition, procurement, lifecycle and management — bring it all under one four-star general,” he said.

Army officials say there is no formal organizational chart, but the idea is this: Army Forces Command will stay in charge of the readiness of the operational force — the “fight tonight”; Army Material Command will stay charge of all the logistics of the operational force; Training and Doctrine Command will stay in charge of recruiting, training, and operational doctrine; and Army Futures Command will be in charge of preparing the Army for 10 to 15 years from now.

The new command will be set up over the next year and become fully operational by August 2019.

**China: Global Trade Fraud as a Way of Life**

This week, the U.S. slapped 25 percent duties on another $16 billion of imports from China. With that, $50 billion of Chinese goods now face the stiff tariff.

The categories of imported Chinese products hit with the import tax –[279 in just the latest round](https://www.cnbc.com/2018/08/23/us-china-trade-war-new-round-of-american-tariffs-on-chinese-imports.html) – run the gambit from arcane to prosaic, including chemicals, plastics, semiconductors, motorbikes and electric scooters.

This is a good time to review the catalogue of mislabeled, counterfeit, dumped and stolen goods that arrive on our shores from the Middle Kingdom.

China regularly [transships](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/04/22/business/china-trade-tariffs-transshipment.html) its goods through other countries such as Vietnam or Malaysia, falsely claiming they originated in that third country, to avoid paying import taxes.

**TransShipment**

Want to avoid American tariffs? In China, a company called Settle Logistics says it knows a way.

Specifically, that way goes through Malaysia — a 4,600-mile diversion compared with sending a shipping container from China straight across the Pacific to the United States. But when those Chinese products arrive at an American port, they will look as if they had come from Malaysia, according to the company, and will be spared tariffs aimed at Chinese goods.

“For those unfair trade barriers targeting our industries from certain countries,” Settle Logistics says on its website, “we can adopt other approaches to bypass those trade tariffs in order to expand markets.”

Such zigzagging routes are called transshipments, and President Trump has used them to justify the trade fight he has picked [with a number of countries](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/27/business/trump-tariffs-imports.html). They could also take on new relevance should the United States and China carry out their threats to levy a total of more than $200 billion in tariffs against each other.

Mr. Trump imposed tariffs last month on steel and aluminum imports [almost no matter where they come from](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2018/03/06/business/china-tariffs.html), citing transshipments, though he later carved out temporary exemptions for some countries. He argues that China uses transshipments to send much more steel to the United States than trade data suggests and that broad tariffs are needed to stop it.

“If you talk China, I’ve watched where the reporters have been writing 2 percent of our steel comes from China. Well, that’s not right,” Mr. Trump [said last month](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/remarks-president-trump-prime-minister-lofven-sweden-joint-press-conference/). “They transship all through other countries.”

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The scale of such tariff-dodging isn’t clear. Based on available data, many economists don’t believe that it plays a major role in American trade. For example, the United States imports only modest amounts of steel from Malaysia, Vietnam, Indonesia or other Southeast Asian countries that are popular stops for freight forwarders like Settle Logistics.

Still, the shadowy world of transshipments and other trade trickery is set to get a much closer look. Transshipments are likely to be a major part of any negotiations between China and the United States aimed at settling their trade dispute. They could also figure into conversations with Europe, South Korea, Canada and other major partners looking to extend their exemptions from Mr. Trump’s steel tariffs. The governments may need to be on alert to make sure they do not become way stations and anger Washington.

[[](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/15/magazine/the-super-bowl-of-beekeeping.html?fallback=1&recId=19JbJ1ohGFuAEq0Fo4EVBzDhbe3&geoContinent=NA&geoRegion=TX&recAlloc=random&geoCountry=US&blockId=signature-journalism-vi&imp_id=55233531)](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/15/magazine/the-super-bowl-of-beekeeping.html?fallback=1&recId=19JbJ1ohGFuAEq0Fo4EVBzDhbe3&geoContinent=NA&geoRegion=TX&recAlloc=random&geoCountry=US&blockId=signature-journalism-vi&imp_id=55233531)

### [The Super Bowl of Beekeeping](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/15/magazine/the-super-bowl-of-beekeeping.html?fallback=1&recId=19JbJ1ohGFuAEq0Fo4EVBzDhbe3&geoContinent=NA&geoRegion=TX&recAlloc=random&geoCountry=US&blockId=signature-journalism-vi&imp_id=55233531)

Image

Rolls of aluminum at a factory in Zouping, China. Transshipments meet Chinese regulations when they go to places like Malaysia, one broker said, but after that, “it is the U.S. government’s role to judge which country the products are originally from, and whether this business is legal or not.”Credit-/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of Canada announced on March 27 that his country would [enact a series of regulatory measures](https://pm.gc.ca/eng/news) to block transshipments. By contrast, South Korea has insisted that it makes sure the true origins of cargo are accurately identified and that tariffs are paid. Transshipments are perfectly legal in most cases. The problems occur when somebody disguises the country of origin, which is illegal in the United States and elsewhere.

“Products requirement: Do not have a ‘Made in China’ logo,” says the website of one Chinese freight forwarding company, CT-Chan, that promises it can help manufacturers avoid American tariffs.

Transshipments and relabeling aren’t the only trade dodge out there, and China by no means has a monopoly on them. American steel and aluminum companies complain that some basic metal is sent to other countries for minimal processing before it is shipped to the United States. Critics say big multinational companies use an accounting trick called transfer pricing — [a common way to dodge taxes](https://www.nytimes.com/2013/05/03/business/how-apple-and-other-corporations-move-profit-to-avoid-taxes.html) — to avoid paying higher tariffs when shipping goods between their international subsidiaries.

The network of Chinese brokers that bypass tariffs in the West by shipping goods through other countries is extensive and highly developed. The company websites boast of sending steel, aluminum foil, clothing, solar panels and even stainless steel sinks to the United States and Europe while evading tariffs.

Many of the brokers try to shield themselves from any criticism in China by wrapping themselves in nationalism. Top & Profit International Forwarding in Shenzhen says on its website that it is “breaking the barriers of international trade and anti-dumping to let Chinese products enter international markets successfully.”

CT-Chan, based in Guangzhou, advertises that “transshipment is the only way to avoid high tariffs and import limits.”

Top & Profit, CT-China and China’s Commerce Ministry, which oversees trade, declined to comment.

The freight companies say they use a variety of techniques. Settle Logistics, in Hangzhou, says on its website that its works with a factory in Malaysia and can obtain Malaysian certificates of origin for goods made in China.

Brokers also describe breaking up larger orders into a series of shipments from ports scattered around China. The goal is to reduce the odds that American trade associations would detect big shipments and report them.

Image



A clothing factory in Beijing. Exporting goods from China to the United States by way of Malaysia can cost twice as much as shipping them directly.CreditBryan Denton for The New York Times

On its website, Settle Logistics says it encourages companies to comply with trade regulations. John Zhao, one of the owners of Settle Logistics, said he was providing a needed service by creating alternative routes to the American market.

“If Chinese enterprises cannot export their products to the U.S. and they are not qualified to build factories overseas, we can offer help to them,” he said.

The shipments meet Chinese export regulations when they go to places like Malaysia, Mr. Zhao said. After that, he said, “it is the U.S. government’s role to judge which country the products are originally from, and whether this business is legal or not.”

American customs officials said in a written reply to questions that the United States had “a sophisticated targeting process to identify countries, manufacturers, importers and shipments that are at high risk.”

The services aren’t cheap, but high tariffs can make them appealing. Shipping goods from China to the United States by way of Malaysia costs $3,000 to $4,000 per 40-foot shipping container, at least $2,000 more than shipping directly to the United States, brokers said. The extra costs include $500 for a Malaysian certificate of origin, at least $950 for unpacking goods in Malaysia and repacking them in a different container and $600 or more for the additional sea freight.

Malaysian trade officials said the country did not have a specific law against tariff circumvention. Still, it has laws against the falsification of documents and requires companies to manufacture products there in order to obtain local certificates of origin.

A [new era of tariffs](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/04/03/us/politics/white-house-chinese-imports-tariffs.html) could make transshipments even more appealing. Brokers described receiving up to 10 times as many phone calls for price quotes as usual in the past several weeks as trade tensions between Washington and Beijing heated up.

Stamping out such transshipments could prove difficult. The United States made [a big effort in the late 1990s](https://apps.cbp.gov/csms/viewmssg.asp?Recid=15468) to address the relabeling in Hong Kong of garments that had been made in mainland China, said Patrick Conway, a textiles trade specialist.

But after American officials gathered enough evidence to put companies on a watch list, the companies quickly disappeared, said Mr. Conway, who is the chairman of the economics department at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Some of the same people involved emerged later, but at other companies.

“We can anticipate a game of Whac-a-Mole,” Mr. Conway said.

After China was slapped with a fine for [dumping shrimp](http://www.shrimpalliance.com/preventing-mislabeling-and-transshipment/) in the U.S. at below market prices, ICE and Customs and Border Protection intercepted “Indonesian” shrimp that originated in China.

Chinese [honey](https://abc7chicago.com/food/-60-tons-of-honey-illegally-imported-from-china-seized-by-federal-authorities-in-chicago/1325478/) hit the trifecta of trade cheating – mislabeling, transhipment and dumping all in one product. China was caught selling honey below fair market value. How were they caught? Well, it wasn’t US Customs and Border Protection, or incoming freight inspectors. It was Homeland Security that seized tons of the suspect sweetener that had been deliberately mislabeled as coming from Vietnam. Why were they involved? Because this is war, Earth Explorers. Chinese “honey” has been found to contain lead and banned antibiotics, not to mention artificial sweeteners and the dreaded corn syrup. Yeah. Corn Syrup. No self-respecting bee would ever make honey with corn syrup.

These and many other intentionally mislabeled imports can be [hazardous to your health](https://www.foodsafetynews.com/2011/08/honey-laundering/) – even your life. I don’t even want to describe to you want they find in fake baby formula. Chinese companies have been [indicted](https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/five-chinese-citizens-and-four-chinese-companies-indicted-scheme-sell-mislabeled-dietary) for mislabeling dietary supplements that contain ingredients that cause heart attacks and strokes.

Then there are lithium ion batteries which, as Samsung and Tesla learned the [hard way](https://www.consumerreports.org/smartphones/samsung-stops-making-galaxy-note7-smartphone/), can burst into flame. I tested the 18650 battery claimed to have 5800 mAh of every at 3.7 volts. They tested at less than 600 mAh and could only been charged up to 3.3 volts. Thousands of them. The FAA [reported](https://consumerist.com/2017/06/09/at-least-17-lithium-ion-batteries-have-exploded-on-planes-this-year/) at least a dozen incidents of batteries exploding on airplanes just in the first four months on 2017. Why do you think Musk commissioned the construction of a billion dollar battery plant, that still isn’t completed, by the way? Not price. It’s quality.

China, cornered the world market on Lithium and is the world’s largest producer of lithium ion batteries. Rather than comply with safety regulations for shipping this hazardous cargo, China chooses to [mislabel and transship](http://www.prba.org/general/prba-urges-crackdown-on-non-compliant-lithium-ion-battery-manufacturers-in-china-1143/).

The cargo manifest of UPS Flight 6, a cargo plane that crashed in 2010, listed several large, undeclared lithium ion batteries that originated in China. Chinese manufacturers regularly transship batteries through Hong Kong to evade regulations. They were shipped as power supplies in crates. When opened, the inspectors found the batteries.

The perils of buying products made in China hit closer to home. Who can forget Chinese drywall, an import so infamous it [earned its own website](http://chinesedrywall.com/). Imported drywall caused [nosebleeds, headaches, sinus infections and asthma attacks](https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/drywall/) and [corroded wiring, plumbing and appliances](https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/05/02/chinese-drywall-adverse-health-effects-wallboard/8574707/) after being installed in thousands of American homes. Rebar that shatters when dropped on the ground. Steel that rusts within seconds of being exposed to water and air.

The problem can also be in your backyard – literally. China is moving in on the synthetic turf (aka astroturf) market, shipping tons of substandard merchandise to the U.S. At least one homeowner found her cheap [Chinese fake grass](http://artificialturfexpress.com/blog/things-you-should-know-about-chinese-synthetic-grass/) was [falling apart](http://www.azfamily.com/story/28377431/3oys-update-two-companies-donate-30k-project-to-help-consumer), flaking off and rubbing off on her dogs’ feet within hours after it was installed.

Speaking of dogs, that’s what is commonly (mis)labeled as rabbit fur on gloves, hats and other garments made in China. The [reality of China’s fur trade](https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/dog-and-cat-fur-used-for-toys-and-clothes-in-china-new-investigation-by-animal-equality-reveals-300173476.html) will turn your stomach. These horror stories are just part of the [China Buffet](http://eatchinabuffet.com/) of Fraud served up every single day, a menu that includes sky-high tariffs 10 times higher than ours.

For theft of trade secrets, witness [Zhang Xiaolang](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-07-10/ex-apple-employee-charged-with-stealing-secrets-for-chinese-firm), the Apple engineer arrested by the FBI with stolen plans for America-designed driverless cars as he boarded a plane bound for China.

And American companies that end up being robbed blind by Chinese joint ventures, as in the case of [Fellowes](http://www.department99.com/bobamter/?p=817), the paper shredder manufacturer whose Chinese “partner” took over their factory, stole their equipment and started producing knock-off replicas on its own. My own electric truck designs were stolen and nearly duplicated by the Chinese in 2009. But for the hidden technology inside the transmission housing of my prototype, they would have had it all.

And don’t forget the deliberate overproduction of steel and aluminum that China dumps in the U.S. below the cost of production. After reviewing the record, there is no question President Trump’s tariffs are long overdue. Why do we do business at all with a crowd like this? Make no mistake, Earth Explorers. Donald Trump is doing exactly the right thing by placing tariffs on this junk. Any American politician against this move is taking bribes from the Chinese.

**Election Fraud Audits: A Mystery**

Somebody with a lot of money wants copies of the ballots Michiganders cast for president in 2016.

All of them.

Clerks across Michigan are reporting receiving identical Freedom of Information Act requests seeking copies of the ballots and other records from the election in which almost 4.8 million Michiganders voted.

"Hundreds of communities are receiving this request," said Westland City Clerk Richard LeBlanc, whose city received the request earlier this week. "If this request is completed, it would be the largest one we've ever processed."

LeBlanc said his staff is still working on a response to the request and attempting to calculate the cost of complying with it. He has heard from other clerks who already have received deposit checks to begin fulfilling the request.

The request was dated Aug. 13, but it arrived on different dates in different places, LeBlanc said.

It is signed by someone named Emily, with no last name given. The request asks that the records be sent to United Action Group at a post office box in Astoria, New York. It lists a phone number and an email. The Free Press left messages in both places, but hasn't heard back.

Sally Williams, director of elections for the Secretary of State, said she has "no idea who Emily is," only that she is "aligned with a company that we can't quite find any information on."

"There was an unusual FOIA request, We get requests on a regular basis," Williams said. "There is an entity out there that has sent a request to many ...  if not all of the clerks around the state, looking for copies of voted ballots from November 2016. We have an Attorney General opinion that they are open record."

Williams said her office is advising the clerks, who are busy trying to get ready for the November election.

"It’s unnerved a lot of the clerks," she said, "Rightfully so. I’m hoping we find out a little bit more about these requesters and what they’re seeking to do.”

Williams said she reached out to other states, including Wisconsin, and was unaware of any similar requests.

She said ballots have to be kept for 22 months after the election (which is up in September), “but we’ve advised the clerks that given you’re in an active FOIA request, you should not destroy those ballots.”

Among the records sought in addition to the ballots are:

* Absentee ballots
* Envelopes the absentee ballots were mailed in
* Records listing the names of voters who requested absentee ballots
* Provisional ballots, both counted and uncounted

MIRS News Service of Lansing reported that most clerks who have received it plan to seek a deposit before they begin making copies. But LeBlanc said if the deposit is paid, the request is going to be difficult to fulfill.

Under the law, only the clerk and the deputies can handle ballots. LeBlanc said his city has no copy machine large enough to scan the 2016 ballot, which was about 19 inches long. It will take hundreds of hours to do and may require special equipment.

"In our town, the check will clear before we lift a finger," he said. "This is going to be a lot of work."

**Where is Sessions?**

Back in 2011, the indomitable Peter Schweizer published [*Throw Them All Out*](https://www.amazon.com/Throw-Them-All-Peter-Schweizer/dp/0547573146/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1521427164&sr=8-1&keywords=throw+them+all+out+by+peter+schweizer), a detailed examination of political corruption as it is actually practiced in the halls of Congress.

In his investigation, Schweizer found one single member of Congress against whom no allegations could be held – who had never taken a dime that was not his, had never cut any backroom deals, had never, simply put, played the game.

That individual was Jeff Sessions.

That fact is all you need to know to understand why Donald Trump selected Sessions for the Department of Justice, and why Sessions has followed the course he has in taking on the "Russia collusion" coup effort.

Sessions is the quintessential Eagle Scout.  He will follow the rules down to the last subclause and will not make his move until every "t" has been crossed and every "i" dotted.

Just look at the slow and methodic way Andrew McCabe was fired. Sessions waited until the FBI's Office of Professional Responsibility (which is run by Assistant Director Candice Will, who was appointed by Robert Mueller, of all people) recommended that McCabe be fired.  He then had McCabe officially informed beforehand, following established procedure to the letter.

This comes under the rubric of "strategy," a concept unfortunately foreign to too many active conservatives.  A large number of cons recognize only one course of action: a headlong charge against the closest target while howling at the top of their lungs.  Not only do they dismiss any more subtle form of action, but they often attack those engaging in it of cowardice or corruption, or of being an "Alinskyite-Obamaist commie stooge" – despite the fact that their kamikaze runs usually end up heading over the nearest cliff.

So it was with Sessions, who has been routinely dismissed as "paid off," being "asleep under his desk," or as "part of the swamp."

Sessions took his time, did things according to the book, and dealt the swamp a good, stiff blow while leaving its denizens little recourse but to throw tantrums in the media, which they have been doing the weekend long.  Compare this to all the would-be conservative champions – McCarthy, LeBoutillier, Moore – piled up under the cliff while the leftist monolith trundles on nearly unscathed.

The Eagle Scout strategy does have its drawbacks.  It constitutes the reason why Sessions recused himself after being accused of "meeting" (as in "Hello, Dmitri.  How are you?") a Russian.  As Sidney Falco says in the clip above, "I never thought I'd make a killing on some guy's integrity."  But at the same time, it allows Sessions complete freedom of action now, as the endgame begins to take shape.

Look forward to seeing more of this kind of thing as Sessions and the Trump administration as a whole drill deeper into the muck of liberal D.C.  At times you will see little, since much of the action will be occurring behind the scenes.  But pay close attention to what you can see.  You will be witnessing master strategists in action, and much of what they do can be applied to other scenarios similar in nature.

### *Trump is the voice of a voter revolt that they intend to crush.*

The Mueller probe, with its indictments of Trump associates for offenses unrelated to its ostensible mandate, combined with mendacious media coverage of President Trump, is an obvious attempt to restore the Syndicate that voters clearly rejected in 2016. This obvious coup attempt seeks to annul the will of the voters and return us to the incipient authoritarianism that was spawned by the Clintons and bloomed during the Obama era. Their effort would have collapsed America or plunged us into a shooting war with bombs bursting in our air. The bureaucrats who support the restoration of Beltway despotism call themselves public servants, and they openly despise the public. They regularly send hate to the airwaves and masked thugs into our streets every time the people put on a red hat. The politicians who do this call themselves Democrats, yet they clearly despise democracy.

The most important fact to absorb about all this is not going to make much sense when I say it: The primary target isn’t really President Trump; not really. Mueller and his apologists know Trump is the brash and counterpunching voice of a nationwide rebellion against the dominion of the Syndicate. They realize that the threat can only be neutralized when Trump is silenced. Then, the end game is to crush what they see as a peasant’s revolt. Mueller’s function is to use the world’s most powerful and ruthless spy network to attack Trump’s friends, family, and supporters until Trump surrenders to save the people he loves. It is a classic arch enemy of any superhero. Spiderman is too fast. He is too strong. But his aunt and uncle, his girlfriend, and his associates are mere mortals and can be assaulted with the IRS, the FTC, the FEC, or the FBI itself every minute of every day until they are broke, depressed, and unemployable.

The role of the media is to attack and twist everything he does in order to trick independent voters into empowering the triumvirate; voting Democrats a majority in the House to add the Legislative Branch of government to the army seeking to overthrow America.

The Democrats have a clear and vocal platform. They will impeach the President. They will open the borders. They will raise taxes. And they will dissolve any vestige of State’s rights. All they have to do is gain a majority in the House. Impeachment will effectively shut down his Presidency either way. Fighting impeachment will be labeled obstruction of justice by the press and would involve so much White House time that virtually nothing else would get done. They have made it clear that this is the primary Democratic goal. Moreover, if Senate Republicans are as weak-kneed as they were in 1974, a conviction may not be necessary to get Trump out of the White House.

Remember, Nixon had won a second term in a landslide victory against Democrat George McGovern, garnering 49 of 50 states, and 502 of 538 Electoral College votes. Within five months, June of 1974, having been relentlessly hounded by the media and the Democrats over the Watergate scandal, less than 50 percent of the public thought he should leave office. Nonetheless, the Democrats held a large majority in the House and were determined to impeach him. The Republicans controlled 40 Senate seats, meaning they could endure six defections and still avoid conviction. But Richard Nixon, like Trump, was never part of the club. The GOP [caved](https://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Politics/Decoder/2014/0807/Richard-Nixon-s-resignation-the-day-before-a-moment-of-truth):

Republicans in the Senate had nominated an elder statesman to deliver to Nixon the news that he could no longer avoid impeachment in the House and conviction in the Senate. Senator Barry Goldwater… along with House Republican Leader John Jacob Rhodes and Senate Republican Leader Hugh Scott, entered the Oval Office around 5 p.m. The Arizona senator sat directly in front of Nixon’s desk, the others to the side. Goldwater told Nixon he had perhaps 16 to 18 Senate supporters left — too few to avoid ouster.

If enough fraud can be perpetrated in the right precincts, the Democrats will seize a majority in the House. By the time the illegal voters are discovered, it will be too late. Democrats will (for the third time) begin drawing up articles of impeachment. The most recent impeachment [bill](http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2018/roll035.xml), introduced at the end of last year and voted on in January, received only 66 Democratic votes. Because it’s an election year and impeachment was not yet popular among the voters who are likely to show up in November. But they never, ever give up. Although the rest of the Democrats stayed well away from the C-Span cameras, those poltroons will quickly come out of the closet on November 7th if the midterms produce a Democratic majority in the House.

It is a foregone conclusion, at any rate, that should the Democrats take the House by a single seat, Nancy Pelosi will slam that gavel with both hands, and Donald Trump will be impeached. Conviction by the Senate is not even necessary, because the impeachment itself would be splattered by the six major media consortiums into every single face in the world.

Senate Republicans might not even be as strong as those in the1974 impeachment. The Ancient Syndicate, if you read the book *Charm of Favor,* includes a lot of Republicans, and more than one has speculated about impeaching him: South Carolina’s Lindsay Graham has [said](http://www.hughhewitt.com/senator-lindsey-graham-on-austin-bombings-and-whether-firing-of-special-counsel-mueller-would-be/)that firing Mueller would be an impeachable offense. (Arizona’s Jeff Flake, who is retiring, [said](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/wp/2018/03/20/flake-warns-trump-of-impeachment-remedy-if-mueller-probe-is-halted/?utm_term=.075af423a031)the same thing.) The late John McCaine is calling for his impeachment from the grave this very day. There are a lot of GOP Senators who disapprove of Trump’s style and his methods of speaking to the people directly instead of going through the official media outlets, including Nebraska’s Ben Sasse, Colorado’s Cory Gardner, Maine’s Susan Collins, Utah’s Mike Lee, Alaska’s Dan Sullivan, Nevada’s Dean Heller, and the list of Establishment soldiers is longer than you think. Will these people, and other less vocal Republicans, be counted on to hold the line for Trump? No. Will the Freedom Caucus be enough to save him? No.

All of which brings us back to the point of conspiracy to conduct a coup against a sitting President between Mueller, the Media, and the Democrats. Their plans to overthrow America were not just interrupted by Trump, they were exposed and reversed. The Syndicate wants to crush the populist revolt and restore the Ancient Régime by any means possible, including a major terrorist event that will be blamed on Trump. Oh, mark my words. The theme music is recorded. The headlines blaming Trump for attracting violence against Americans are composed. The speeches calling for his resignation are written.

They have no respect for democracy and they have a long and detailed history of killing millions of voters to accomplish their goals. In times past they used armies to rape, pillage, burn, and assassinate Americans until they surrendered. In modern times, they only need one or two bombs. It might even be easier and quicker than impeachment. They want to disenfranchise 70 million “deplorable” Trump supporters and go back to business as usual — robbing the treasury and transforming the U.S. into a Venezuela. There’s only one way to stop the Clinton Crime Syndicate from impeaching the President and removing freedom and liberty from the Earth again; this time forever. Every Trump voter who came out in 2016 must go to the polls on November 6 and drown the Democrats in a red wave.

**Soros and the Censoring of Americans**

**Social media censorship is here and out in the open, and it has become clear that the major tech companies are working together to shut down and silence members of the free press for political reasons.**

Of course, this has everything to do with Donald Trump being in office, and **whether you support him or not, what is being lost in the effort to depose him will eventually affect everyone.**

[](https://www.zerohedge.com/sites/default/files/inline-images/Soros-Orwell-1.jpg?itok=KQyq958g)

[**Censorship**](http://www.wakingtimes.com/2018/08/16/a-snapshot-of-the-internet-kill-switch-in-2018/)**is not the American way,** and while people today may think that **the ‘other’ side is dead wrong and shouldn’t be allowed to speak up**, it takes a **special kind of influenc**e to achieve the level of social media and platform banning that we’ve seen in recent weeks.

It turns out, according to a [leaked 49 page document](http://theduran.com/leaked-49-page-memo-documents-how-george-soros-is-behind-social-media-censorship/), that **this special influence may be none other than George Soros himself**, the world’s wealthiest liberal political agitator. Soros has long been known to exert influence, via his immense personal wealth, at the grass-roots level of many [political struggles around the world](http://wakingtimesmedia.com/?s=george+soros).

“A [*confidential, 49-page memo for defeating Trump*](https://www.scribd.com/document/337535680/Full-David-Brock-Confidential-Memo-On-Fighting-Trump#from_embed) by working with the major social-media platforms to eliminate “right wing propaganda and fake news” was presented in January 2017  by Media Matters founder David Brock at a retreat in Florida with about 100 donors, [*the Washington Free Beacon reported at the time*](https://freebeacon.com/politics/david-brock-memo-attack-trump/).

The document obtained by The Free Beacon states that Media Matters and other Soros funded groups have “access to raw data from Facebook, Twitter, and other social media sites” so they can “systemically monitor and analyze this unfiltered data.” [[*Source*](http://theduran.com/leaked-49-page-memo-documents-how-george-soros-is-behind-social-media-censorship/)]

The full [confidential memo](https://www.scribd.com/document/337535680/Full-David-Brock-Confidential-Memo-On-Fighting-Trump), which reads like a subversive political manifesto, was written by American liberal political activist and author, David Brock, also the founder of [Media Matters for America](https://www.mediamatters.org/).

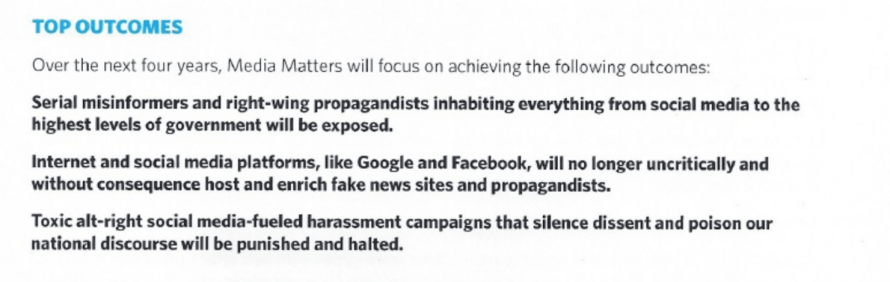
**Entitled, Democracy Matters: Strategic Plan for Action, and composed in early 2017,  it lays out the Democratic plan to oppose Trump’s presidency at all costs by waging a daily media war,**and we have been feeling the results of this strategy since Trump took office, and after nearly two years as president, the media landscape is in utter chaos, and the population is more divided than it has been since the American civil war.

Regarding Soros, he is a [known financier of Media Matters](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_projects_supported_by_George_Soros), of which he has supported since 2010 in an overt effort to counter news organizations like Fox News. Soros has developed the reputation of being the world’s leading agit-prop bankroller.

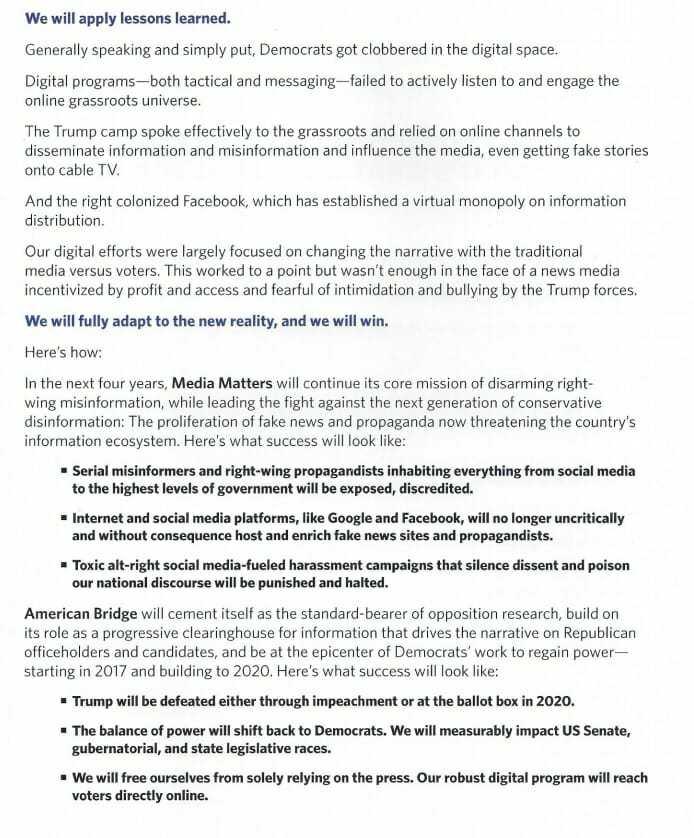
“Media Matters is one of the few groups that attempts to hold Fox News accountable for the false and misleading information they so often broadcast. ***I am supporting Media Matters in an effort to more widely publicize the challenge Fox News poses to civil and informed discourse in our democracy.”***- [*George Soros*](https://www.activistfacts.com/organizations/media-matters-for-america/)

The effort to censor social media began in earnest with the election of Trump which saw **the rollout of the term ‘fake news,’** and the Brock memo clearly outlines how this plan was intended to bring about the resulting censorship we see today.

From the Brock memo:

[](https://www.zerohedge.com/sites/default/files/inline-images/Brock-Memo-1.png?itok=hvJr9x3_)

Furthermore, the memo discusses how **big tech companies like Google, Facebook and Twitter (all of which are openly censoring user accounts today) will be recruited and called upon to collude** with the Soros and Brock agenda in order to manipulate the political landscape.

[](https://www.zerohedge.com/sites/default/files/inline-images/Brock-Memo-4.jpg?itok=iDqorf2v)

Collusion between Media Matters and social media platforms runs rather deep, as noted by [WND](https://www.wnd.com/2018/08/mask-off-social-media-censor-king-revealed/):

The document claims Media Matters and far-left groups have “access to raw data from Facebook, Twitter, and other social media sites” so they can “systemically monitor and analyze this unfiltered data.”

“The earlier we can identify a fake news story, the more effectively we can quash it,” the memo states. “With this new technology at our fingertips, researchers monitoring news in real time will be able to identify the origins of a lie with mathematical precision, creating an early warning system for fake news and disinformation.”

### ****Final Thoughts****

**Again, if open censorship of American independent media is allowed to take root, everyone will suffer in the long run.** While politics may seem like the biggest game in town, above this spectacle are the values and traditions that have made this country worth living in. ***Once this is gone, America will be totally unrecognizable, and billionaires like Soros will be become our de facto kings and lords.***