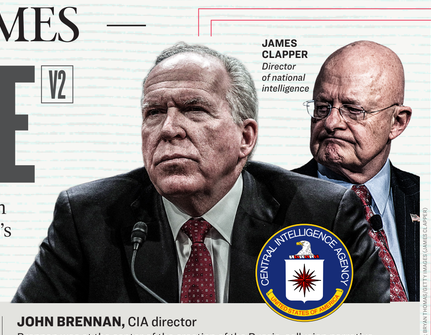
— THE EPOCH TIMES —

SPYGATE V2

How the Obama administration conspired against Donald Trump's presidential campaign

BY JEFF CARLSON & JASPER FAKKERT



MARK MAKELA/GETTY IMAGES (HILLARY CLINTON); MARK WILSON/GETTY IMAGES (BARACK OBAMA)

ALEX WONG/GETTY IMAGES; JOHN BRENKUS; BRYAN THOMAS/GETTY IMAGES; CHRIS KLEPONIS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

SPYGATE WILL LIKELY BE REMEMBERED as the biggest political scandal in modern history.

Obama administration officials actively colluded with the campaign of Hillary Clinton and foreign governments to affect the outcome of the 2016 presidential election. Unofficial intelligence, spy traps, and a politically funded dossier were used to launch a counterintelligence investigation and surveil the campaign of candidate Donald Trump.

Efforts intensified following the election through the use of coordinated leaks and the ongoing creation of false narratives in the media.

In this infographic, we explore the connections of Spygate.

JOHN BRENNAN, CIA director

Brennan was at the center of the creation of the Russia-collusion narrative.

Brennan used unofficial foreign intelligence—including from the UK and Australia—to establish a multi-agency task force. He met personally with GCHQ head Robert Hannigan during the summer of 2016 and would later use the foreign intelligence to push the FBI to open the Trump–Russia counterintelligence investigation. He and DNI Director James Clapper later helped to create the Intelligence Community assessment that was used to push the Trump–Russia narrative.

JAMES CLAPPER
Director of national intelligence

HILLARY CLINTON

JOHN PODESTA
Chairman of Clinton campaign

Podesta and his brother, Tony, founded the now-defunct Podesta Group. He helped promote the Russia-collusion narrative.

ROBBY MOOK
Campaign manager for Clinton campaign

Mook was one of the first to promote the theory that Russia was helping Trump.

JAKE SULLIVAN
Senior policy adviser to Clinton campaign

Along with Jennifer Palmieri, Sullivan took the lead in briefing the press on the Trump–Russia collusion story.

JOEL BENENSON
Chief strategist for Clinton campaign

Benenson was a strategist for Barack Obama's 2008 and 2012 presidential campaigns. He has received a letter of inquiry from Sen. Chuck Grassley.

JENNIFER PALMIERI
Communications director for the Clinton campaign

Along with Jake Sullivan, Palmieri took the lead in briefing the press on the Trump–Russia collusion story.

DONNA BRAZILE
Interim chairwoman of the Democratic National Committee (DNC)

Brazile helped promote the Russia-collusion narrative. She has received a letter of inquiry from Sen. Chuck Grassley.

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ
Chairwoman of the DNC

After CrowdStrike was hired to investigate the alleged Russian hack of the DNC's servers, Wasserman Schultz refused to provide the FBI access to the servers.

UKRAINE CONNECTION

ALEXANDRA CHALUPA
Ukrainian-American operative and consultant for the DNC

Chalupa met with top officials in the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington in an effort to expose alleged ties between President Donald Trump, Paul Manafort, and Russia. The DNC paid her $412,000 from 2004 to mid-2016, according to Federal Election Commission records.

UK INTEL

ROBERT HANNIGAN
Head of Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ)

Hannigan personally flew to Washington to meet with John Brennan. He abruptly retired days after President Donald Trump's inauguration.

SIR ANDREW WOOD
Former British ambassador to Russia; contractor for Orbis

Wood briefed Sen. John McCain on the Steele dossier. He advised Steele, whom he knew from the UK Diplomatic Service, both before and after the 2016 election. In 2013, Wood was listed in court documents as a paid consultant for Steele's company, Orbis. Wood knows Sir Richard Dearlove.

NIGEL INKSTER
Former director of operations and intelligence for MI6

Inkster has known Steele and Chris Burrows for at least 20 years. He was Sir Richard Dearlove's deputy at MI6.

NICHOLAS FISHWICK
Former director of private intelligence firm PGI; former MI6 officer

Fishwick exchanged emails related to the Steele dossier with Chris Burrows during the election.

SIR RICHARD DEARLOVE
Former head of MI6

Dearlove advised Christopher Steele and his partner Chris Burrows to work with a top British government official in order to pass along information to the FBI.

Dearlove described Steele as the go-to person on Russia. Steele worked as an MI6 agent during Dearlove's tenure as MI6 head.

Dearlove knows Stefan Halper through their mutual association with the Cambridge Intelligence Seminar. He also knows Sir Iain Lobban and maintains ties to UK intel firm Hakluyt.

HAKLUYT is a private strategic intelligence and advisory firm consisting mainly of former British intelligence officers.

ALEXANDER DOWNER
Australia's high commissioner to the UK; former Australian minister for foreign affairs; former advisory board member of Hakluyt

Downer met with George Papadopoulos in London in May 2016. Papadopoulos allegedly told Downer that Russia had dirt on Hillary Clinton. Months later, Australia informed the United States. This would be used as an excuse for the start of the FBI's July 2016 counterintelligence investigation.

Downer previously arranged one of the largest foreign donations to the Clinton Foundation: $25 million from the Australian government.

Downer was on the advisory board of Hakluyt from 2008 to 2014. He also sat on the board of Chinese telecommunications company Huawei, which has close ties to China's ruling Communist Party.

LOUIS SUSMAN
Advisory board member of Hakluyt; former U.S. ambassador to the UK

Media reports have suggested Susman was made the U.S. ambassador to the UK as a "prize for his ferocious fundraising on behalf of the Obama campaign." Leaked diplomatic cables published by Wikileaks show Susman is also connected to Hillary Clinton.

JONATHAN CLARKE
Former director of U.S. operations for Hakluyt

Clarke co-authored several books with Stefan Halper. Clarke knew Nellie Ohr and Peter Fritsch from the Wilson Center.

SIR IAIN LOBBAN
Advisory board member of Hakluyt; former director of Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ)

Lobban and Sir Richard Dearlove have known each other for years and have been affiliated in the private sector post-retirement.

FBI

At the urging of John Brennan, the FBI opened a counterintelligence investigation on Trump and conducted surveillance. On Oct. 21, 2016, the FBI obtained a FISA warrant to spy on Carter Page. The FBI may have attempted to obtain earlier FISA warrants in June/July 2016. These were reportedly denied.

JAMES COMEY
FBI director

Comey oversaw all FBI operations, including the exoneration of Hillary Clinton and the Trump–Russia investigation. He reported to Attorney General Loretta Lynch.

Comey briefed President-elect Donald Trump on the dossier on Jan. 6, 2017, at the instruction of James Clapper.

Comey later leaked copies of his memos, two of which were classified, to Daniel Richman. It is likely that a special counsel would not have been appointed without Comey leaking the memos.

ANDREW MCCABE
FBI deputy director

McCabe was involved in all aspects of the FBI's counterintelligence investigation into Trump. A text sent by FBI agent Peter Strzok describes a meeting in McCabe's office and makes reference to a so-called "insurance policy" against Trump.

McCabe was fired by Attorney General Jeff Sessions on March 16, 2018.

McCabe was referred by the DOJ inspector general to federal prosecutors for lying under oath about having authorized selective leaks to media.

JAMES BAKER
FBI general counsel

Baker was the most senior legal counsel at the FBI. He worked closely with Andrew McCabe and Trisha Anderson. Baker received documentation from Perkins Coie lawyer Michael Sussmann alleging Russia's Alfa Bank was communicating with Trump Tower. Baker received additional parts of the Steele dossier from Mother Jones reporter David Corn. Baker is the subject of a criminal leak investigation.

PETER STRZOK
FBI deputy assistant director of counterintelligence

Strzok was the lead agent on both the FBI's investigation into Hillary Clinton—which resulted in an exoneration of Clinton by James Comey—as well as the Trump–Russia investigation.

Strzok was a member of the "insurance policy" group that worked closely with Andrew McCabe.

Thousands of text messages sent between Strzok and FBI lawyer Lisa Page reveal a strong bias in favor of Clinton and against Trump.

LISA PAGE
Special counsel to FBI Deputy Director Andrew McCabe

Page was a primary conduit for McCabe in the FBI's investigation of the Trump campaign.

She was a member of the "insurance policy" group that worked closely with Andrew McCabe.

The DOJ inspector general uncovered thousands of text messages sent between her and Peter Strzok that reveal a strong bias against Trump and in favor of Clinton.

Page was part of the team of special counsel Robert Mueller before being demoted on Aug. 16, 2017. Page resigned on May 4, 2018.

MICHAEL GAETA
FBI agent and assistant legal attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Rome

Gaeta ran the FBI's Eurasian organized crime unit in New York. He has known Christopher Steele since at least 2010, and at some point served as Steele's FBI handler.

Gaeta was sent to London to meet with Steele and obtain the first parts of the dossier. His trip was approved by Victoria Nuland at the State Department. Gaeta may have given a copy of the dossier to Nuland before anyone else. He met with Steele several times, including once in September 2016.

TRISHA ANDERSON
Principal deputy general counsel, head of the National Security and Cyber Law Branch

Anderson was responsible for the legal oversight in both the counterintelligence investigation of the Trump campaign as well as the Mid-Year Exam investigation of Hillary Clinton. Anderson testified before a House committee that she signed off on the Carter Page FISA warrant application without having read it. She appears to have been involved in every aspect of both investigations.

JONATHAN MOFFA
FBI analyst

Moffa, along with Peter Strzok, was a leader of the FBI's investigative team in both the counterintelligence investigation of the Trump campaign as well as the Mid-Year Exam investigation of Hillary Clinton. Moffa and Strzok oversaw the core investigative team run by Rick Mains. Assisting Moffa and Strzok was Sally Moyer, a counterintelligence lawyer. Moffa, who was a career intelligence analyst and not an FBI agent, reported to Bill Priestap, the FBI's head of counterintelligence.

BILL PRIESTAP
Assistant director and head of counterintelligence of the FBI

Priestap was responsible for both the counterintelligence investigation of the Trump campaign as well as the Mid-Year Exam investigation of Hillary Clinton, which he inherited when he became head of the FBI's counterintelligence division in January 2016. Both Peter Strzok and Jonathan Moffa reported directly to Priestap, although Strzok would often circumvent Priestap and meet directly with McCabe. Priestap has acknowledged it was mostly Strzok and Moffa who were "driving the train."

JOSEPH PIENTKA
FBI agent

Pientka was introduced to Bruce Ohr at a Nov. 21, 2016, meeting that included Peter Strzok and Lisa Page, when he was assigned as Ohr's FBI handler. Pientka recorded information Ohr provided from Christopher Steele in F302 forms. Pientka then passed the information to Strzok. Pientka was also present with Strzok during the Jan. 24, 2017, interview of then-national security adviser Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn.

DOJ

The Department of Justice, which was aware of the actions by the FBI, assisted in obtaining a FISA warrant to spy on Carter Page and has prevented the declassification of information related to Spygate.

LORETTA LYNCH
Attorney general

Lynch met with Bill Clinton on a tarmac in Phoenix, Arizona, in June 2016, just prior to the FBI exoneration of Hillary Clinton.

Text messages sent by Peter Strzok suggest that Lynch was aware James Comey would not recommend criminal charges in the Clinton investigation prior to her announcement that she would accept whatever recommendation the FBI made.

SALLY YATES
Deputy attorney general, acting attorney general

Yates signed off on the original FISA application and the first renewal of the Carter Page FISA warrant. She also led efforts, alongside Mary McCord, to oust Gen. Michael Flynn from his position as national security adviser. In 2015, Yates denied access for the inspector general to information collected under Title III. Yates was the acting attorney general for the first 10 days of the Trump administration, before being fired on Jan. 30, 2017.

MARY MCCORD
Acting assistant attorney general

McCord was the acting head of the DOJ's National Security Division (replacing John Carlin) before announcing her resignation on April 17, 2017. McCord accompanied Sally Yates to meet with White House counsel Don McGahn regarding Gen. Michael Flynn.

BRUCE OHR
Associate deputy attorney general

Ohr acted as the unofficial liaison between Christopher Steele and the FBI after the agency had terminated its relationship with Steele. Ohr was assigned a handler, FBI agent Joe Pientka, who recorded the information Ohr provided from Steele in F302 forms. Pientka then passed the information to Peter Strzok. Ohr gave Pientka a USB stick containing Fusion GPS research created by his wife, Nellie Ohr. Ohr also gave Pientka a USB stick from Glenn Simpson—which Ohr believed to have contained the Steele dossier. Ohr told the FBI of potential biases and conflicts relating to Steele and his wife. Ohr has known Steele since at least 2007. He and his wife have known Simpson since at least 2010.

GEORGE TOSCAS
Deputy assistant attorney general at the DOJ National Security Division

Toscas reported to John Carlin and supervised David Laufman. He served as a pivotal point of communication between the DOJ and the FBI, and particularly FBI Deputy Director Andrew McCabe.

DAVID LAUFMAN
Head of DOJ National Security Division's Counterintelligence and Export Control Section

Laufman played a leading role in the Clinton email server and Russian hacking investigations. He resigned on Feb. 7, 2018.

JOHN CARLIN
Assistant attorney general, head of DOJ's National Security Division

Lisa Page testified that Carlin and Andrew McCabe were in communication throughout both the Trump and Clinton investigations. Carlin supervised both David Laufman and George Toscas. Carlin abruptly announced his resignation on Sept. 27, 2016, the day after filing the government's proposed 2016 Section 702 certifications. The DOJ's documentation, which did not disclose known FISA abuses, was later criticized in a FISA court ruling as exhibiting an institutional "lack of candor." The court also emphasized that "this is a very serious Fourth Amendment issue."

THE INVESTIGATORS

Multiple investigations are ongoing, including that of special counsel Robert Mueller and those into FISA abuse and unauthorized leaks. Here are the officials in charge of those investigations:

WILLIAM BARR
Attorney general

Barr was confirmed by the Senate in February 2019. He was preceded by acting AG Matthew Whitaker and AG Jeff Sessions.

ROD ROSENSTEIN
Deputy attorney general

Rosenstein appointed Robert Mueller as special counsel, shifting control of the Russia investigation from the FBI and McCabe to Mueller. He is also in charge of FBI leak investigations.

ROBERT MUELLER
Special counsel; former FBI director

Mueller leads the team that took over the FBI's investigation into Russia collusion.

MICHAEL HOROWITZ
DOJ inspector general

Horowitz has more than 450 employees and a $100 million annual budget.

JOHN HUBER
US attorney assigned by Attorney General Jeff Sessions

Huber, who has a team of senior federal prosecutors, is working with Michael Horowitz on several investigations, including into FISA abuse. Both men report directly to Sessions and Rod Rosenstein.

STATE

The State Department spread the Steele dossier to the FBI and helped promote the collusion narrative, in part through leaks to the media.

JOHN KERRY
Secretary of state

Kerry received a copy of the Steele dossier from Victoria Nuland.

VICTORIA NULAND
Assistant secretary of state for European and Eurasian affairs

Nuland gave the green light for FBI agent Michael Gaeta's meeting with Christopher Steele in July 2016. She received a copy of Steele's dossier in July 2016. She may have seen the dossier before FBI leadership. She provided the dossier to the FBI and John Kerry. Nuland had known Steele since 2014 through Jonathan Winer.

JONATHAN WINER
Former deputy assistant secretary of state for international law enforcement; former special envoy for Libya

Winer and Christopher Steele have been friends since 2009. Winer met with Steele in September 2016 in Washington to discuss the information contained in the dossier. Winer provided a summary of the dossier for Victoria Nuland.

Winer, in turn, provided Steele with a copy of the second dossier containing uncorroborated information, given to him by Sidney Blumenthal. Steele then went on to pass the information to the FBI.

ELIZABETH DIBBLE
Chargé d'affaires and former deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in London

Dibble received information on George Papadopoulos from Alexander Downer.

DOD

EVELYN FARKAS
Deputy assistant secretary of defense for Russia, Ukraine, and Eurasia

Farkas detailed in a March 2017 interview on MSNBC's "Morning Joe" show how the Obama administration gathered and disseminated intelligence on the Trump team. Farkas is now a nonresident senior fellow at the Atlantic Council.

CONGRESS

Certain members of Congress helped facilitate the spread of the Steele dossier and selectively leaked information to the media.

JOHN MCCAIN
Republican senator for Arizona

McCain received a copy of the Steele dossier through his associate David Kramer. McCain admitted in a Jan. 11, 2017, statement that he had passed the dossier on to James Comey.

DIANNE FEINSTEIN
Ranking member of Senate Judiciary Committee; Democratic senator for California

Feinstein leaked the transcript of the testimony Glenn Simpson gave to the Senate Judiciary Committee. She received a briefing from John Brennan in August/September 2016. Feinstein's senior intelligence staffer, Daniel Jones, left in 2016 to form Penn Quarter Group, which later hired Fusion GPS and Christopher Steele, following the election.

HARRY REID
Senate minority leader; Democratic senator for Nevada

Reid, after being briefed by John Brennan, sent two letters to James Comey urging him to take action. Reid's office posted the letters publicly on his website, resulting in widespread media attention and the promotion of the Russia-collusion narrative.

ADAM SCHIFF
Ranking member of House Intelligence Committee; Democratic senator for California

Schiff heavily promoted the Russia-collusion narrative. He has been accused of leaking to the media. Schiff wrote the House minority memo in response to the House memo on FISA abuses authored by House Intelligence Committee Chairman Devin Nunes.

JAMES WOLFE
Director of security for the Senate Intelligence Committee

Wolfe was the director of security for the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (SSCI) from May 1987 to December 2017. He was responsible for all classified information provided to the SSCI.

Wolfe was accused by the FBI of engaging in ongoing, unauthorized contact with at least four reporters. He was sentenced to two months in prison for lying to the bureau.

WHITE HOUSE

Obama administration officials were actively engaged in unmasking and intelligence gathering and dissemination.

SUSAN RICE
National security adviser to President Barack Obama

Using the practice of unmasking, Rice requested the identities of members of the Trump campaign collected in raw intelligence reports on dozens of occasions.

Rice was also present at a secret Jan. 5, 2017, meeting at the Oval Office with Obama, James Comey, and Sally Yates, to discuss the dossier and efforts to prevent the incoming Trump administration from having access to certain Russia-related intelligence.

SAMANTHA POWER
U.S. ambassador to the U.N.

Power has been named as a person who made unmasking requests for hundreds of identities. She testified later that others used her name to make such requests.

DENIS MCDONOUGH
White House chief of staff

McDonough was the White House chief of staff for Barack Obama's second term. He met with FBI agent Jonathan Moffa on Aug. 10, 2016. McDonough has also been referenced in texts sent by Peter Strzok.

BEN RHODES
Deputy national security adviser for strategic communications

Rhodes has been questioned by the House Intelligence Committee on his role in the unmasking of members of the Trump campaign during the 2016 election.

SHAILAGH MURRAY
Senior adviser to President Barack Obama

Murray was referred by Rep. Devin Nunes to the House Judiciary and Oversight committees for questioning in an open setting. She is married to Neil King, who works at Fusion GPS.

PERKINS COIE

PERKINS COIE is a law firm that represented the Clinton campaign and the Democratic National Committee.

MARC ELIAS
Partner at Perkins Coie

Elias was the general counsel for Hillary Clinton's 2016 presidential campaign and John Kerry's 2004 campaign. Elias retained Fusion GPS and paid for the Steele dossier on behalf of the DNC and the Clinton campaign. Elias serves on the board of Democrat super PAC Priorities USA Action.

BOB BAUER
Partner at Perkins Coie; former White House counsel to President Barack Obama

In 2013, Obama named Bauer to be co-chair of the Presidential Commission on Election Administration. Bauer was a partner at Perkins Coie for 35 years until his retirement in May 2018. Bauer was general counsel to Obama's campaign organization, Obama for America, in 2008 and 2012, and served as general counsel to the Democratic National Committee.

MICHAEL SUSSMANN
Partner at Perkins Coie

Sussmann passed on information to FBI General Counsel James Baker alleging that Russia's Alfa Bank was communicating with Trump Tower—a claim later proven false. He also passed the same information to The New York Times and possibly other media. Sussmann and Baker knew each other from their work at the DOJ.

Sussmann was responsible for retaining CrowdStrike to examine the Democratic National Committee servers after the alleged hacking incident.

CROWDSTRIKE

CROWDSTRIKE
Cybertechnology company

CrowdStrike was hired by Perkins Coie lawyer Michael Sussmann to investigate the alleged hacking of the Democratic National Committee's servers. The FBI was refused access to independently examine the DNC servers.

FUSIONGPS

FUSION GPS is an opposition research firm that was hired by the Clinton campaign and the Democratic National Committee.

GLENN SIMPSON
Co-founder of Fusion GPS

Fusion GPS was hired by the Clinton campaign and the Democratic National Committee—through law firm Perkins Coie—to produce the dossier on Trump. Fusion employed Christopher Steele, who wrote the dossier that then was used by the FBI to obtain a FISA warrant to spy on Trump campaign adviser Carter Page.

Fusion GPS also was hired by Russian lawyer Natalia Veselnitskaya on the Prevezon case during the same period when Fusion GPS commissioned the Steele dossier.

Co-founder Glenn Simpson has known Bruce and Nellie Ohr since at least 2010. Simpson has known Christopher Steele since at least 2009.

Simpson met with Ohr twice in 2016, including once before the election. He also gave Ohr a USB stick, which Ohr believed contained the dossier.

MARY JACOBY
Wife of Glenn Simpson

Jacoby visited the White House the day after National Security Agency Director Mike Rogers shut down FBI/DOJ contractor access to the FISA search system.

PETER FRITSCH
Co-founder of Fusion GPS

Fritsch worked for 13 years at The Wall Street Journal, including as the Washington bureau's national security and foreign affairs editor.

NELLIE OHR
Wife of Associate Deputy Attorney General Bruce Ohr

Ohr was hired by Fusion GPS and investigated different Russian figures as well as members of the Trump campaign. After she left Fusion, she provided her husband, DOJ official Bruce Ohr, with a USB drive containing all her research. Bruce then passed it on to the FBI. Ohr and her husband have known Glenn Simpson since at least 2010.

She was an assistant professor of Russian history at Vassar College during the 1990s. Edward Baumgartner, who was hired by Fusion GPS to work with Christopher Steele and Russian lawyer Natalia Veselnitskaya, studied Russian studies at Vassar at this time.

THOMAS CATAN
Partner at Fusion GPS

Catan worked at The Wall Street Journal at the same time as Glenn Simpson.

NEIL KING
Works for Fusion GPS

King is married to Shailagh Murray—former Assistant to Obama and Senior Advisor for Strategic Communications.

ORBIS

ORBIS Business Intelligence is a private intelligence company founded by former British intelligence agents Christopher Steele and Chris Burrows.

CHRIS BURROWS
Co-founder of Orbis; former MI6 colleague of Christopher Steele

Burrows and Steele became friends while both worked at MI6. In 2009, both left MI6 and started private intelligence firm Orbis.

EDWARD BAUMGARTNER
Co-founder of Edward Austin

Baumgartner contracted for Orbis and Hakluyt. He is fluent in Russian and was hired by Fusion GPS to work on the Prevezon case, as well as the Steele dossier. He attended Vassar College, majoring in Russian studies, during the same period when Nellie Ohr was an assistant professor of Russian history at the college.

CHRISTOPHER STEELE
Former MI6 officer; co-founder of Orbis Business Intelligence

Steele was employed by Fusion GPS to produce the dossier that the FBI used to obtain a FISA warrant on Carter Page. During a July 2016 meeting in London, Steele gave his main FBI contact, Michael Gaeta, his first memos. Steele subsequently used meetings with DOJ official Bruce Ohr to pass on information to the FBI. These meetings took place both before and after he was fired by the FBI.

Starting in 2014, he had provided the State Department with analysis on Ukraine and Russia. After leaving MI6 in 2009, Steele maintained contact with British intelligence, Sir Richard Dearlove, Sir Andrew Wood, and intelligence firm Hakluyt.

PABLO MILLER
Former MI6 agent

Miller has reportedly been a contractor for Orbis since 2009. He has known Christopher Steele since 1994.

ADAM WALDMAN
Lawyer, lobbyist

Waldman's firm, the Endeavor Group, was hired by Russian oligarch Oleg Deripaska in May 2009. He would remain in Deripaska's employ until April 2018, when he terminated the working relationship following renewed sanctions on Deripaska. In 2012, Waldman hired Christopher Steele's firm, Orbis Business Intelligence, on Deripaska's behalf. Waldman also represented Steele and WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange.

OLEG DERIPASKA
Russian oligarch

Deripaska has long-standing ties to Russia's Vladimir Putin. Paul Manafort, Christopher Steele, and Adam Waldman have lobbied on his behalf. In 2006, Bruce Ohr was involved in revoking Deripaska's U.S. visa. In 2009, Andrew McCabe recruited his help for an FBI case. In 2014, Ohr and Steele discussed recruiting him as an FBI source. He had business ties to Manafort, who owed him millions. The United States imposed sanctions on him in 2018.

SIDNEY BLUMENTHAL
Senior adviser to the Clintons

Blumenthal received the second uncorroborated dossier, produced by Cody Shearer. He passed a copy on to Jonathan Winer at the State Department.

CODY SHEARER
Author of second dossier; former journalist; longtime friend of the Clintons

Shearer compiled an uncorroborated "shadow" dossier.

DANIEL JONES
Head of advisory firm Penn Quarter Group; former intelligence staffer for Sen. Dianne Feinstein

Jones's Penn Quarter received $50 million in funding from 7 to 10 wealthy donors, most located in New York and California.

Penn Quarter hired Steele and Fusion GPS after the election to continue opposition research on President Donald Trump. The group has been linked to lobbyist Adam Waldman for Russian oligarch Oleg Deripaska, who was offering Sen. Mark Warner access to Christopher Steele.

DAVID KRAMER
Former deputy assistant secretary of state for Russia and Ukraine; associate of Sen. John McCain

Kramer is an affiliated senior fellow at the McCain Institute. At the direction of Sen. John McCain, Kramer flew to London in November 2016 to meet with Christopher Steele. Kramer was later provided a copy of the dossier by Glenn Simpson in the United States. Kramer gave the dossier to McCain and advised him to share it with the FBI and the CIA. He also provided the dossier to Buzzfeed News, which later published the document. He may have also distributed a Dec. 13 memo.

MEDIA

The media was instrumental in creating the Russia-collusion narrative through coordinated leaks from the Intelligence Community and various government agencies.

CNN | THE NEW YORKER | The New York Times | The Washington Post | NBC NEWS | BBC | BuzzFeed | The Guardian | abc NEWS | Newsweek | MSNBC | VANITY FAIR | McClatchy | SLATE | POLITICO | HUFFPOST | YAHOO! NEWS | Mother Jones

MICHAEL ISIKOFF
Reporter with Yahoo News

Isikoff met with Christopher Steele in September 2016. He subsequently wrote an article that would be used in the application for the FISA warrant to spy on Carter Page.

Isikoff also worked with DNC operative Alexandra Chalupa in the spring of 2016, leading him to write an article detailing Paul Manafort's business dealings with Russian oligarch Oleg Deripaska.

DAVID CORN
Reporter with Mother Jones

Corn met with Christopher Steele in late October 2016 via Skype. He subsequently wrote an article—which referenced Alfa Bank—disclosing the existence of the dossier, along with Steele's relationship with the FBI.

Corn communicated with top FBI lawyer James Baker prior to the election and provided him with additional parts of the dossier just before or after the election.

SPY TRAPS

MEMBERS of the Trump campaign were approached by individuals with close ties to U.S. and UK intelligence agencies.

STEFAN HALPER
Former deputy assistant secretary of state for politico-military affairs; adviser to Hakluyt

Halper was closely associated with former MI6 chief Sir Richard Dearlove. He also has close connections to Hakluyt through Jonathan Clarke, with whom he co-authored two books.

Halper is the "FBI source" identified by the House Intelligence Committee who contacted Carter Page and George Papadopoulos.

A graduate assistant of Halper's invited Page to a July 11–12, 2016, Cambridge symposium where Halper and Page met. Halper would stay in touch with Page over the next 14 months. Halper's contact with Page ended as the final FISA warrant on Page expired.

Halper met with Papadopoulos on Sept. 13, 2016, and a senior Trump campaign official on Sept. 11, 2016.

In early November 2016, Halper said he believed that electing Hillary Clinton would be best for U.S.–UK relations.

UK FOREIGN OFFICE

On Sept. 2, 2016, George Papadopoulos accepted a meeting with Stefan Halper, who appears to have approached Papadopoulos unbidden. Papadopoulos, who had no prior contact with Halper, met with him in London on Sept. 13, 2016. An unexpected meeting with the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office immediately followed.

JOSEPH MIFSUD
Professor at the London Academy of Diplomacy

Misfud, a London-based Maltese professor, introduced Trump volunteer campaign adviser George Papadopoulos to the Russian ambassador in London as well as a woman he described as the niece of Russian President Vladimir Putin. He also told Papadopoulos that the Kremlin had "dirt" on Hillary Clinton.

Mifsud and Papadopoulos both worked at the London Centre of International Law Practice (LCILP) in early 2016. Mifsud reportedly joined LCILP in the fall of 2015, while Papadopoulos reportedly joined in February 2016.

Misfud has ties to Western intelligence and has been pictured with Claire Smith and Boris Johnson.

TRUMP TOWER MEETING

ON JUNE 9, 2016, members of the Trump campaign met with Russian lawyer Natalia Veselnitskaya and others at Trump Tower. The meeting was accepted after publicist Rob Goldstone said his contacts could "provide the Trump campaign with some official documents and information that would incriminate Hillary [Clinton] and her dealings with Russia." Instead, the meeting turned out to be intended to lobby against the Magnitsky Act.

ROB GOLDSTONE
British publicist

Goldstone arranged the meeting between Natalia Veselnitskaya and Donald Trump Jr. at Trump Tower. He is the publicist for Emin Agalarov.

NATALIA VESELNITSKAYA
Lawyer for Prevezon Holdings Ltd.

Veselnitskaya attended the June 2016 meeting at Trump Tower with Rinat Akhmetshin to argue against the Magnitsky Act. She hired Fusion GPS in 2013 through law firm BakerHostetler, which represented Prevezon.

ARAS AGALAROV
Russian oligarch

Agalarov is the father of Emin Agalarov. He previously worked with Donald Trump to bring the Miss Universe pageant to Russia.

EMIN AGALAROV
Russian pop star and businessman

Agalarov is the son of Aras Agalarov. He helped arrange the meeting between Donald Trump Jr. and Natalia Veselnitskaya.

RINAT AKHMETSHIN
Russian-born lobbyist; alleged facilitator of the 2016 Trump Tower meeting with Natalia Veselnitskaya

Akhmetshin is married to Lyudmila Vereshchagina, a Ukrainian national with ties to Ukraine intelligence who has been living in the United States since 2008. Both Akhmetshin and Vereshchagina knew and communicated with Glenn Simpson, Mary Jacoby, and Alexandra Chalupa.

IRAKLY 'IKE' KAVELADZE
Business associate of Aras Agalarov

Kaveladze attended the June 2016 Trump Tower meeting.

DONALD TRUMP JR.
Eldest son of President Donald Trump

Going into the June 2016 meeting at Trump Tower, Trump Jr. expected to receive political opposition research on the Clinton campaign, as promised by publicist Rob Goldstone, who had set up the meeting. Instead, to Trump Jr.'s surprise, the discussion focused on lobbying against the Magnitsky Act.

ANATOLI SAMOCHORNOV
Translator

Samochornov was a translator present at the June 2016 Trump Tower meeting.

CHARLOTTE CUTHBERTSON/THE EPOCH TIMES

SURVEILLANCE

Members of the Trump campaign were targeted by the FBI, UK Intelligence, and possibly the CIA for the purposes of establishing a pattern of communication and/or ties with Russia

The construction of the Russia-collusion narrative was intended to prevent Donald Trump from becoming president and, after he became president, to hinder his administration's effectiveness and possibly remove him from office.

The FBI obtained a FISA warrant to spy on Carter Page and kept it active for a full year.

CARTER PAGE
Trump campaign foreign policy adviser

The FBI used Page to obtain a FISA spy warrant that was renewed three times and lasted until October 2017. Page was never charged by the FBI.

Page was approached by FBI informant Stefan Halper on July 11, 2016, at a Cambridge symposium.

Halper would stay in contact with Page for 14 months, stopping contact exactly as the final FISA warrant on Page expired.

GEORGE PAPADOPOULOS
Trump campaign foreign policy adviser

The FBI used a meeting between Papadopoulos and Alexander Downer as the pretext for opening the FBI's July 31, 2016, counterintelligence investigation into alleged Trump–Russia collusion.

Papadopoulos, a volunteer foreign policy adviser to the Trump campaign, appears to have been targeted through a series of highly coincidental meetings. Downer, Josef Mifsud, Stefan Halper, Charles Tawil, and officials from the UK's Foreign and Commonwealth Office all crossed paths with Papadopoulos.

PAUL MANAFORT
Trump campaign chairman from May to August 2016

Manafort, who has longstanding ties to Russian oligarch Oleg Deripaska, communicated during his time at the Trump campaign with Konstantin Kilimnik, his longtime employee in Kiev. In 2018, Manafort was convicted of a number of financial crimes. According to a federal judge, Manafort broke the terms of his plea deal with the special counsel, in part by lying about his interactions with Kilimnik. It appears that Kilimnik facilitated communications between Manifort and Deripaska. Manafort had been under a Title I FISA warrant prior to joining the Trump campaign. Media reports suggest the FBI obtained a new FISA warrant on Manafort after he left the campaign.