

# THE EPOCH TIMES

## WHITE HOUSE

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

BY JEFF CARLSON & JASPER FAKKERT

**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. Unfunded 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.

### HILLARY CLINTON

**JOHN PODESTA**  
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.

**DOMNA 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.

**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.

**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.

**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 2014 to mid-2016, according to Federal Election Commission records.

**PERKINS COIE**  
A law firm that represented the Clinton campaign and the Democratic National Committee.

### UKRAINE CONNECTION

**JOEL BENENSON**  
Partner at Perkins Coie. Benenson was a strategist for Barack Obama's 2008 and 2012 presidential campaigns. He has received a letter of inquiry from Sen. Chuck Grassley.

**MARC ELIAS**  
Partner at Perkins Coie. Elias was the general counsel for Hillary Clinton's 2016 presidential campaign and John Kerry's 2004 campaign. He retained Fusion GPS and paid for the Steele dossier on behalf of the DNC and the Clinton campaign. Elias served on the board of Democrat super PAC Priorities USA Action.

**BOB BAUER**  
Partner at Perkins Coie; former 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 25 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**  
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. Baker was a partner at Perkins Coie for 25 years until his retirement in May 2018. Sussmann was responsible for retaining Crowdstrike to examine the Democratic National Committee servers after the alleged hacking incident.

**CROWDSTRIKE**  
Crowdstrike was hired by Perkins Coie lawyer Michael Sussmann to examine the DNC servers.

### FUSIONGPS

**MARY JACOBY**  
Co-founder of Fusion GPS. Jacoby visited the White House the day after National Security Agency Director Mike Rogers shut down FBI/DOJ contact to examine the FISA search system.

**PETER FRITZCH**  
Fritzsch worked for 13 years at The Wall Street Journal, including as the Washington bureau's national security and foreign 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 2016 Mid-Year Exam investigation of Hillary Clinton. Ohr and her husband have been involved in every aspect of both investigations.

**THOMAS CATAN**  
Partner of 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 Shaalgha Murray—former Assistant to Obama and Senior Advisor for Strategic Communications.

### ORBIT

**CHRIS BURROWS**  
Co-founder of Orbis Business Intelligence. Burrows and Steele became friends while both worked at MIT. In 2009, both left MIT and started private intelligence firm Orbis.

**EDWARD BAUMGARTNER**  
Former journalist and co-founder of Orbis Business Intelligence. Baumgartner contracted for Orbis and Halkovyt. He is fluent in Russian and worked for Orbis in Russia. He passed a copy to Jonathan Steele, who worked for Orbis in Russia during the same period when Nellie Ohr was an assistant professor of Russian history at the college.

**CHRISTOPHER STEELE**  
Former journalist and co-founder of Orbis Business Intelligence. Steele was employed by Fusion GPS to obtain a FISA warrant on Carter Page. During a July 2016 meeting in London, Steele maintained contact with British intelligence, Sir Richard Dearlove, Sir Andrew Wood, and Alexander Chalupa.

**ADAM WALDMAN**  
Lawyer, lobbyist. Waldman is the son of Russian oligarch Oleg Deripaska. He worked for Orbis Business Intelligence, on Deripaska's behalf, in 2012. 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 reviewing Deripaska's U.S. visa. In 2009, Andrew McCabe recruited him to help for Orbis Business Intelligence, on Deripaska's behalf. Waldman also represented Steele and WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange.

**CODY SHEARER**  
Author of second dossier; former journalist; longtime friend of the Clintons. Shearer compiled an uncorroborated "shadow" dossier.

### THE 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**

**BBC**

**BuzzFeed**

**YAHOO! NEWS**

**Mother Jones**

**The Guardian**

**abc NEWS**

**Newsweek**

**MSNBC**

**VANITY FAIR**

**McClatchy**

**SLATE**

**POLITICO**

**IHUFFPOST**

### 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 execution 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 at 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, 2017. 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 Trishia 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 of Hillary Clinton—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 Peter Strzok that reveal a strong bias against Trump and in favor of Clinton. Page revealed 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 8, 2018.

**ALEXANDER DOWNER**  
Australia's high commissioner to the UK; former Australian minister for foreign affairs; former advisory board member of Halkovyt. 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 in 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 Halkovyt from 2009 to 2014. He is also on the board of Chinese telecommunications company Huawei, which has ties to China's ruling Communist Party.

**LOUIS SUSMAN**  
Advisory board member of Halkovyt; former U.S. ambassador to the UK; former FBI; former MIT officer. 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 also connected to Hillary Clinton.

**JONATHAN CLARKE**  
Former director of U.S. operations at Halkovyt. Clarke co-authored several books with Stefan Halper. Clarke knew Nellie Ohr and Peter Fritsch from the Wilson Center.

**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 Halkovyt.

**SIR IAIN LOBBAN**  
Advisory board member of Halkovyt; former director of Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) at Halkovyt. Lobban and Sir Richard Dearlove have known each other for years and have been affiliated in the private sector post-retirement.

**MEMBERS OF THE Trump campaign were approached by individuals with close ties to U.S. and UK intelligence agencies.**

### 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**  
Acting attorney general. Lynch met with Bill Clinton on a tarmac in Phoenix, Arizona, in June 2016, just prior to the FBI execution 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**  
Acting 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 McCormack, to oust Don. Michael Flynn from his position as a 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 MCCORMACK**  
Acting attorney general. McCormack was the acting head of the DOJ's National Security Division (including John Carlin) before announcing her resignation on April 17, 2017. McCormack accompanied Sally Yates to meet with White House counsel Don McGahn regarding Gen. Michael Flynn.

**JOHN CARLIN**  
Assistant attorney general, head of DOJ's National Security Division. Carlin 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 publicly announced his resignation on Sept. 27, 2016, the day after firing the director'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."

**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 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 to the FBI's 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.

**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.

### STATE

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

**ROBERT MUELLER**  
Special counsel; former FBI director. Mueller led 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 abuses. Both men report directly to Sessions and Rod Rosenstein.

**ROBERT GOLDSTONE**  
British publicist. Goldstone arranged the meeting between Natalia Veselinskaya and Donald Trump Jr. at Trump Tower. He is the publicist for Erin Agaralov.

**EMIN AGARALOV**  
Russian pop star and businessman. Agaralov is the son of Araks Agaralov. He met with Trump Jr. and Natalia Veselinskaya.

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Russian oligarch. Agaralov is the father of Erin Agaralov. He previously worked with Donald Trump to bring the Miss Universe pageant to Russia.

**RINAT AKHMETSHIN**  
Russian pop star and businessman. Akhmetshin is married to Lyudmila Veshchagina, a Ukrainian national with ties to Ukraine intelligence who has been living in the United States since 2008. Both Akhmetshin and Veshchagina knew and communicated with Glenn Simpson, Mary Jacoby, and Alexandra Chalupa.

### DOD

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/or 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.

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### 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 associates 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 led 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 the Senate website 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 unapproved, unauthorized contact with at least four reporters. He was sentenced to two months in prison for lying to the bureau.

**SUSAN RICE**  
National security advisor to President Barack Obama. 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 unmaking requests for raw intelligence reports on dozens of occasions. She testified later that others used her name to make such requests.

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

**BEN RHODES**  
Formerly national security advisor for Barack Obama. Rhodes has been questioned by the House Intelligence Committee on his role in the unmaking of members of the Trump campaign gathering during the 2016 election.

**SHAILAGH MURRAY**  
Senior advisor to President Barack Obama. Murray was referred by Rep. Devin Nunes to the House Judiciary and Oversight committees for questioning in an open hearing. She is married to Neil King, who works at Fusion GPS.

### WHITE HOUSE

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

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### 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.

**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 FBI; former MI6 officer. Fiskwick exchanged emails related to the Steele dossier with Chris Burrows during the election.

### TRUMP TOWER MEETING

On June 9, 2016, members of the Trump campaign met with Russian lawyer Natalia Veselinskaya and others at Trump Tower. The meeting was accepted after publisher Rob Goldstone said his contacts could "provide the Trump campaign with some 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.

**EMIN AGARALOV**  
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**JOSEPH MIFSUD**  
Professor at the London Academy of Diplomacy. Mifsud, 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 Office of International Law Practice (OLIP) in early 2016. Mifsud reportedly joined OLIP in the fall of 2015, while Papadopoulos reportedly joined in February 2016. Mifsud has ties to Western intelligence and has been pictured with Clara Smith and Boris Johnson.

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### SURVEILLANCE

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**CARTER PAGE**  
Trump campaign foreign policy advisor. 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 Kristian 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 advisor. 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 advisor 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 MANFORD**  
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 Kristian Halper, his longtime employee in Russia-collusion. 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 Mifsud, Stefan Halper, Charles Tawil, and officials from the UK's Foreign and Commonwealth Office all crossed paths with Papadopoulos.