

# “Miranda Devine Gives Russiagate History”

This article is from the “Edifying the Body” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website ([churchofgodbigandy.com](http://churchofgodbigandy.com)). It was posted for the weekend of Aug. 23, 2025. (The selected articles were posted at [nypost.com](http://nypost.com).)

**Compiled by Dave Havir**

BIG SANDY, Texas—Many Bible students love history. The purpose of this article is to present some history occurring within the last nine years. I have chosen to present four articles written by Miranda Devine.

- Miranda Devine is an experienced journalist, who is a conservative columnist at *The New York Post*. While I do not automatically vouch for the accuracy of details written in articles by any journalist, I appreciate the reporting of Miranda Devine.

- I chose to compile her articles here because of her involvement in exposing the history of the Hunter Biden laptop.

- In October 2020, Miranda and the New York Post published a series of articles based on information reportedly retrieved from a laptop (allegedly belonging to Hunter Biden) that was abandoned at a Delaware repair shop.

- The initial *New York Post* reports were met with significant controversy and were censored or downplayed by many media outlets and social media platforms. Devine has been a vocal critic of this censorship—arguing that the story was intentionally suppressed to influence the 2020 presidential election.

- When her articles about the laptop were printed, many legacy media and politicians exploded with criticism toward her.

- Time has shown that her material about the laptop was largely accurate.

- During the constant attacks against her, Miranda revealed an approach of standing strong in the face of adversity—not caving into overwhelming opposition.

- Because of her history of reporting facts and because of her history for standing strong against overwhelming opposition, she has earned the respect of many people who seek to read what she writes about shady events in the U.S. government—like the Russiagate controversy.

Enjoy the history lesson.



An article by Miranda Devine titled "Obama's Trump-Russia Collusion Report Was Corrupt From Start: CIA Review" was posted at [nypost.com](https://nypost.com) on July 2, 2025.

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A bombshell new CIA review of the Obama administration's spy agencies' assessment that Russia interfered in the 2016 presidential election to help Donald Trump was deliberately corrupted by then-CIA Director John Brennan, FBI Director James Comey and Director of National Intelligence James Clapper, who were "excessively involved" in its drafting, and rushed its completion in a "chaotic," "atypical" and "markedly unconventional" process that raised questions of a "potential political motive."

Further, Brennan's decision to include the discredited Steele dossier, over the objections of the CIA's most senior Russia experts, "undermined the credibility" of the assessment.

The "Tradecraft Review of the 2016 Intelligence Community Assessment [ICA] on Russian Election Interference" was conducted by career professionals at the CIA's Directorate of Analysis and was commissioned by CIA Director John Ratcliffe in May.

The "lessons-learned review" found that, on December 6, 2016, six weeks before his presidency ended, Barack Obama ordered the assessment, which concluded that Russian President Vladimir Putin "aspired" to help Trump win the election.

The review identified "multiple procedural anomalies" that undermined the credibility of the ICA, including "a highly compressed production timeline, stringent compartmentalization, and excessive involvement of agency heads."

It also questioned the exclusion of key intelligence agencies and said media leaks may have influenced analysts to conform to a false narrative of Trump-Russia collusion.

"The rushed timeline to publish both classified and unclassified versions before the presidential transition raised questions about a potential political motive behind the White House tasking and timeline."

The review found that Brennan directed the compilation of the ICA, and that his, Comey's and Clapper's "direct engagement in the ICA's development was highly unusual in both scope and intensity" and "risked stifling analytic debate."

Brennan handpicked the CIA analysts to compile the ICA and involved only the ODNI, CIA, FBI and NSA—excluding 13 of the then-17 intelligence agencies.

He sidelined the National Intelligence Council and forced the inclusion of the discredited Steele dossier despite objections of the authors and senior CIA

Russia experts—so as to push a false narrative that Russia secured Trump's 2016 victory.

Ratcliffe said in an interview: "This was Obama, Comey, Clapper and Brennan deciding, 'We're going to screw Trump.' It was, 'We're going to create this and put the imprimatur of an IC assessment in a way that nobody can question it.' They stamped it as Russian collusion and then classified it so nobody could see it. This led to Mueller [special counsel Robert Mueller's inquiry, which concluded after two years that there was no Trump-Russia collusion.] It put the seal of approval of the intelligence community that Russia was helping Trump and that the Steele dossier was the scandal of our lifetime. It ate up the first two years of his [Trump's first] presidency. You see how Brennan and Clapper and Comey manipulated [and] silenced all the career professionals and railroaded the process."

The CIA review notes that, before work even began on the ICA, "media leaks suggesting that the Intelligence Community had already reached definitive conclusions risked creating an anchoring."

The term "anchoring" refers to a cognitive bias in psychology and suggests that the media leaks may have influenced the analysts working on the ICA to shape their findings to conform with the leaked narrative rather than conducting an objective analysis.

On December 9, 2016, both *The Washington Post* and *New York Times* reported the IC had "concluded with high confidence that Russia had intervened specifically to help Trump win the election."

The *Post* cited an unnamed U.S. official describing this as the IC's "consensus view."

The "highly compressed timeline was atypical for a formal IC assessment which ordinarily can take months to prepare, especially assessments of such length, complexity, and political sensitivity," the review found. "CIA's primary authors had less than a week to draft the assessment and less than two days to formally coordinate it with IC peers before it entered the formal review process at CIA on December 20."

When the draft ICA was completed and sent for review to Intelligence Community "stakeholders," the timeline was "compressed to just a handful of days during a holiday week [which] created numerous challenges . . . Multiple IC stakeholders said they felt 'jammed' by the compressed timeline. Most got their first look at the hardcopy draft and underlying sensitive reporting just before or at the only in-person coordination meeting that was held on December 19 to conduct a line-by line review."

Drafts of the ICA were only permitted in hard copy, so needed to be hand-carried between various spy agency buildings. "The pressing timeline and limitations of hardcopy review likely biased the overall review process."

The “direct engagement” of agency heads Brennan, Comey and Clapper in the ICA’s development was “highly unusual in both scope and intensity. This exceptional level of senior involvement likely influenced participants, altered normal review processes, and ultimately compromised analytic rigor.

“One CIA analytic manager involved in the process said other analytic managers (who would typically have been part of the review chain) opted out due to the politically charged environment and the atypical prominence of agency leadership in the process.”

The review criticizes the ICA for including the Steele dossier (a salacious and discredited opposition-research product written by former British spy Christopher Steele (who was working for the Hillary Clinton campaign)—which claimed Russia possessed sexuality compromising blackmail material on Trump.

Despite the fact that “the ICA authors and multiple senior CIA managers (including the two senior leaders for the CIA mission center responsible for Russia) strongly opposed including the Dossier, asserting that it did not meet even the most basic tradecraft standards,” Brennan insisted it be included. CIA’s Deputy Director for Analysis (DDA) warned in an email to Brennan on December 29 that including it in any form risked ‘the credibility of the entire paper.’ ”

But Brennan responded that “my bottom line is that I believe that the information warrants inclusion in the report.”

Brennan showed “a preference for narrative consistency over analytical soundness,” said the review.

According to the review: “When confronted with specific flaws in the Dossier by the two mission center leaders—one with extensive operational experience and the other with a strong analytic background—he appeared more swayed by the Dossier’s general conformity with existing theories than by legitimate tradecraft concerns. The decision by agency heads to include the Steele Dossier in the ICA ran counter to fundamental tradecraft principles and ultimately undermined the credibility of a key judgment. The ICA authors first learned of the Dossier, and FBI leadership’s insistence on its inclusion on December 20—the same day the largely coordinated draft was entering the review process at CIA. FBI leadership made it clear that their participation in the ICA hinged on the Dossier’s inclusion and, over the next few days, repeatedly pushed to weave references to it throughout the main body of the ICA.”

In the end, the spy agency heads decided to include a two-page summary of the Steele dossier as an “annex” to the ICA, with a disclaimer that the material was not used “to reach the analytic conclusions.”

However, the review says that “by placing a reference to the annex material in the main body of the ICA as the fourth supporting bullet for the judgment that Putin ‘aspired’ to help Trump win, the ICA implicitly elevated unsubstan-

tiated claims to the status of credible supporting evidence, comprising the analytical integrity of the judgment.”

The review is critical of the decision by Brennan, Clapper and Comey to “marginalize the National Intelligence Council (NIC), departing significantly from standard procedures for formal IC assessments. The NIC did not receive or even see the final draft until just hours before the ICA was due to be published . . . Typically, the NIC maintains control over drafting assignments, coordination, and review processes.”

The review also quotes from Brennan’s memoir “Undaunted”—in which he revealed that he “established crucial elements of the process with the White House before NIC involvement, stating he informed them that CIA would ‘take the lead drafting the report’ and that coordination would be limited to ‘ODNI, CIA, FBI and NSA.’ ”

The review says such “departures from standard procedure not only limited opportunities for coordination and thorough trademark review, but also resulted in the complete exclusion of key intelligence agencies from the process . . . The decision to entirely shut out the Defense Intelligence Agency and the Department of State’s Bureau of Intelligence and Research from any participation in such a high-profile assessment about an adversary’s plans and intentions was a significant deviation from typical practices. It was also markedly unconventional to have Agency heads review and sign off on a draft before it was submitted to the NIC for review. The NIC did not receive or even see the final draft until just hours before the ICA was due to be published.”

There was only one meeting at which the IC analysts could coordinate, but one day before the meeting, Brennan sent a note to the CIA workforce saying he had already met with Clapper and Comey and that “there is strong consensus among us on the scope, nature, and intent of Russian interference in our recent Presidential election.”

The CIA review concludes: “With analysts operating under severe time constraints, limited information sharing, and heightened senior-level scrutiny, several aspects of tradecraft rigor were compromises—particularly in supporting the judgment that Putin ‘aspired’ to help Trump win.”

The Putin-Trump nexus “struggled to stand on its own” and its inclusion damaged the report because it “risked distracting readers from the more well-documented findings on Putin’s strategic objectives . . . The two senior leaders of the CIA mission center responsible for Russia argued jointly against including the ‘aspire’ judgment. In an email to Brennan on December 30, they stated the judgment should be removed because it was both weakly supported and unnecessary, given the strength and logic of the paper’s other findings on intent. They warned that including it would only ‘open up a line of very politicized inquiry.’ ”

Ratcliffe points to the inclusion of Steele as a sign that “it was a politically corrupted process . . . They all knew the Steele dossier was garbage . . . The FBI know full well that Christopher Steele couldn’t get paid the [FBI’s] million-dollar bounty because he couldn’t corroborate the claims and [Igor] Danchenko [the Steele dossier’s primary source] said it was all made up. Yet you see Brennan saying [the dossier] needs to be in there.”

Ratcliffe said the career professionals at the CIA who conducted the review are “just appalled.”

He drew the comparison between the bogus ICA and the cover-up of the Hunter Biden laptop by 51 former intelligence officials, who falsely claimed before the 2020 election that it was Russian disinformation.

Ratcliffe said: “The comparison would be the Hunter Biden laptop. It’s the same people. In the Hunter Biden case, it’s ‘We got to lie to win the election.’ In this case, it is ‘We failed to influence the election and after we failed, we’re going to handicap the president [Trump] so we can win the next election by polluting the well.’ They were trying to ruin the presidency after the fact.”

He said the blatant politicalization of intelligence is “unprecedented in American history.”

Ratcliffe said: “Obama commissioned this. There was not basis by which it had to be done [before the end of] the Obama administration. [Obama said] ‘I want this done.’ ”

Ratcliffe also said the bogus ICA had risked dire national security consequences by further aggravating the already tense relationship with Russia.

Ratcliffe continued: “The most destructive thing you can do with intelligence is to weaponize it for one party’s political gain against another, to blame an admitted adversary for something they didn’t do. It was like pouring gasoline on the fire . . . For all of the bad things Vladimir Putin has done and is capable of doing, they didn’t need to exaggerate it or run a fake story [in 2017] and again in 2020 with the laptop, claiming that Russia influenced the outcome.”

The bogus ICA is what launched the false narrative of “Trump as a Russian agent.”

At the very least, Ratcliffe said, Brennan, Clapper and Comey should be pariahs.

He said: “These guys shouldn’t have a voice. They shouldn’t be able to influence the American people . . . Under my watch, I am committed to ensuring that our analysts have the ability to deliver unvarnished assessments that are free from political influence.”





An article by Miranda Devine titled “Russiagate Lies Are Being Exposed—and Everybody Is Watching, Even the Democrats” was posted at nypost.com on Aug. 3, 2025. Following are excerpts of the article.

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Despite the best efforts of Russiagate-complicit media to dismiss as “Russian disinformation” the latest revelations in this escalating scandal implicating President Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton in the treasonous “years-long-coup” against President Trump, the public is paying attention and wants heads to roll.

According to a Rasmussen poll released Monday [July 28], nearly two-thirds of voters (65%) are following declassified releases over the past month by Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard and Senator Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) “very closely” (32%) or “somewhat closely” (33%)—repudiating the calculated media silence about the Obama administration’s fake narratives and manipulation of intelligence to frame Trump as a Kremlin stooge to cover up Clinton’s wrongdoing.

The poll of 1,172 likely voters (conducted July 29-31) shows 54% believe Obama administration officials committed serious crimes in “manipulating intelligence,” with 37% saying it’s “very likely” and 17% saying it’s “some-what likely.”

A staggering 69% agree it is critical that the perpetrators be held accountable “for the survival of our country.”

### **Democrats interested too**

Even more disturbing for Democrats is that it’s not just Republicans who are concerned.

- Following the investigation—56% of Democrats and 75% of Republicans
- Serious crimes were committed—32% of Democrats and 83% of Republicans
- Perpetrators be “held accountable”—59% of Democrats and 86% of Republicans
  
- Serious crimes committed—66% of Hispanics, 51% of blacks, and 53% of whites
- Wanting accountability—74% of Hispanics, 65% of blacks, and 69% of whites
- Following revelations closely—74% of men and 59% of women
  
- Believing serious criminality—60% of men and 49% of women
- Favoring accountability—72% of men and 66% of women

It’s a demonstration of the impotence of Democrat-allied media (like *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, ABC, NBC and CBS), which showered themselves with praise and Pulitzer Prizes for their since-debunked stories about Russiagate and are hoping their audience is willing to be duped again. But, like the boy who cried wolf, no one is listening anymore.

According to Gabbard’s office—ABC, CBS and NBC spent a total of 2,284 minutes covering Russiagate, yet they have devoted only 2 minutes and 17 sec-

onds on the disclosures of the last couple of weeks. Even when they mention the story, it's to try to debunk it.

Obama administration CIA Director John Brennan and DNI James Clapper and Clinton lawyer Marc Elias have fanned out across their favorite media outlets, desperately trying to extinguish public interest.

Elias told MSNBC: "I am imploring, like honestly, I'm just imploring the media, do not report this as a legitimate investigation. Do not report this as 'They are opening an investigation into John Brennan' . . . Report this as the misuse, the abuse, the authoritarian takeover of the Department of Justice. That should be the headline."

Hah! Too bad for Elias; it's no longer 2016.

The public—and Trump—are wiser and more determined to put heads on pikes.

■ The renewed scrutiny of the "Obama administration's conspiracy to subvert Trump's 2016 victory and presidency," as Gabbard puts it, began early last month—when CIA Director John Ratcliffe released a bombshell review of the Intelligence Community Assessment (ordered by Obama on December 9, 2016) that falsely claimed Russia interfered in the 2016 presidential election to help Trump.

The review found Brennan, Clapper and then-FBI Director James Comey were "excessively involved" in the ICA drafting, rushed its completion before Trump took office and forced the inclusion of the discredited Steele dossier, over the objections of the CIA's Russia experts, suggesting a "potential political motive."

What followed Ratcliffe's bombshell was a systematic release by Gabbard and Grassley of evidence that exposed the Obama and Biden administrations' weaponization of law enforcement and intelligence agencies against Trump.

#### ■ July 18

Gabbard releases a declassified report that finds that a meeting in the Oval Office on December 9, 2016, Obama directed top national security officials (including Clapper, Brennan, Comey, Andrew McCabe, Susan Rice, John Kerry, Loretta Lynch and Avril Haines) to create a new intelligence assessment saying Russians meddled in the election on behalf of Trump, contradicting multiple intelligence assessments to the contrary released previously.

Gabbard describes the plot as a "treasonous conspiracy by officials at the highest levels of the Obama White House to subvert the will of the American people and try to usurp the president from fulfilling his mandate."

#### ■ July 23

Gabbard holds a press conference at the White House to announce that she has sent criminal referrals to the DOJ and FBI implicating Obama and his na-



tional security team in “seditious conspiracy.” She alleges Brennan suppressed intelligence showing Russia was not favoring Trump. She also releases a declassified House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence report that had been withheld even from the committee.

It shows that in September 2016, Russia’s foreign intelligence service had obtained DNC emails showing Clinton was suffering from “intensified psycho-emotional” and physical problems. Russian spies also had a Clinton campaign email discussing a plan to tie Trump to Russian President Vladimir Putin to distract Americans from Clinton’s email server scandal.

■ July 30

Brennan and Clapper write an op-ed in *The New York Times* branding as “patently false” allegations from Gabbard and Ratcliffe “that senior officials of the Obama administration manufactured politicized intelligence, silenced intelligence professionals and engaged in a broad ‘treasonous conspiracy’ to undermine the presidency of Donald Trump.”

Gabbard responds by releasing a whistleblower’s account detailing the pressure applied to him to agree to a bogus assessment that Russia interfered in the 2016 election to help Trump.

## Consequences

“There must be consequences,” White House deputy chief of staff Stephen Miller told Fox News host Maria Bartiromo on Sunday [August 3].

Miller stated: “Because, if we have a country where we can continue to have FBI careerists and CIA careerists, deep staters, who will fabricate and doctor evidence . . . to try to go after their political enemies, up to and including the president, if we continue to create the impression and the reality that there is not a criminal [penalty], a severe criminal penalty for such conduct, it will never stop.”

This is not about looking in the rearview mirror or pursuing petty vendettas—as Trump critics say.

It is about holding the coup-plotters accountable as a deterrent, restoring the integrity of our intelligence and law enforcement institutions and righting a historic wrong committed against the American people.



An article by Miranda Devine titled “Trump Turns Tables on Democrats After Years of Lawfare—Now It’s Time to Hold Them Accountable” was posted at [nypost.com](https://nypost.com) on Aug. 10, 2025.

“No one is above the law” was the favorite refrain of Democrats as they pursued Donald Trump up hill and down dale in an effort to destroy his first presidency and ensure he could never serve again.

They threw everything at him.

- Manufacturing intelligence to frame him as a Russian stooge
- Weaponizing the FBI and DOJ against him
- Impeaching him
- Siccing the most unscrupulous prosecutors on him
- Contriving spurious civil cases against him and his family
- Trying to jail him and bankrupt him
- All the while lying and assassinating his character

If that didn’t bring him down, two assassination attempts would have finished off a lesser mortal.

But, sadly for Trump’s Democratic/deep state persecutors, they failed spectacularly.

They decimated their own party and destroyed the reputations of the intelligence agencies and the mainstream media allies that aided and abetted their crooked schemes.

As the saying goes: If you come for the king, you’d best not miss.

Now accountability is afoot.

### **“Illegitimate president”**

On Thursday [August 7], Attorney General Pam Bondi appointed pit bull lawyer Ed Martin as a special attorney to lead investigations of New York AG Letitia James and California Senator Adam Schiff for potential charges including mortgage fraud, bank fraud and wire fraud—which carry jail terms of up to 30 years.

Grand juries in Virginia and Maryland are weighing criminal indictments against the two Trump-deranged Democrats over allegations they falsified property records to secure favorable loan terms.

The Albany U.S. attorney has also reportedly issued subpoenas in a separate civil rights investigation into James, including into whether her office violated Trump’s rights in a lawsuit she brought against him.

James has sued Trump, his children and his businesses dozens of times. She ran for office vowing to “take on” the man she called an “illegitimate president.”

For his part, Schiff abused his position as House Intelligence Committee chairman to manipulate and distort intelligence to damage Trump. He created false narratives about Trump’s connections to Russia and Ukraine—which led to his first impeachment.

Schiff has been the most enthusiastic Democrat to use the phrase “No one is above the law.”

How he’s about to find out the hard way.

Meanwhile, director of national intelligence Tulsa Gabbard has spent months extracting documents from hidden reaches of the intelligence agencies and declassifying them, against the wishes of embedded deep staters at the CIA and FBI whose ruse is to redact documents to the point of indecipherability.

Too bad. Gabbard went to the White House to overrule these resistance guerillas and successfully expose the truth about Russiagate and Barack Obama’s role as “ringleader”—to use Trump’s word.

We now know that on December 9, 2016, Obama directed his national security officials (DNI James Clapper, CIA Director John Brennan, FBI Director James Comey and others) to create an intelligence assessment with the foregone conclusion they all knew to be false—that Russia had influenced the 2016 election to help Trump win.

Gabbard told me the following last week on “Pod Force One.”

■ “Documentation that came from the Obama White House, documentation that came from Obama’s ODNI, documentation from the CIA, all these pieces fit quite seamlessly together creating a very clear timeline that shifted from before the election when the intelligence community almost uniformly said essentially that Russia is trying to sow discord in the U.S. election, but has preference for one candidate over another.”

■ “And then all of a sudden, Trump wins the election, surprising many people, both here and abroad . . . [and the Obama officials falsely claim] that Russia aspired to help Trump get elected, or that Russia hacked the election in favor of Donald Trump, really trying to discredit President Trump’s win and give a big middle finger to the American people who had just voted him into office.”

■ “President Obama, unhappy with the outcome of the election and making the appearance of a peaceful transition of power and claiming to be the champion of democracy, and yet launch[ed] what we now know . . . was a covert mission to subvert the will of the American people, create this lie that would challenge the legitimacy of President Trump’s election . . . resulting in what was truly a years-long coup.”

Gabbard believes that the only way to stop such a travesty from happening again is to punish the wrongdoers.

She said: “Accountability has to take place. We’ve referred all the documents we have found and will continue to refer them to the Department of Justice for a criminal referral. AG Pam Bondi has created a strike force team . . .

focused singularly on [bringing] accountability to those who are responsible for this. We also have to recognize that [Brennan and Clapper] have their own disciples . . . and many of those people still exist within the intelligence community now. So, in these documents that we're finding, we are uncovering names of people who were involved with this Russia hoax, this manufactured intelligence document, [who] would otherwise never be known publicly."

Accountability equals deterrence. It's why we have jails.

Without punishment, wrongdoers are emboldened.

They regard mercy as weakness to be exploited. That's the lesson we take from the behavior of Trump's antagonists over the last nine years.

### **"Lock her up!"**

Despite efforts to paint Trump as a vengeful madman hellbent on retribution, the truth is clear from his first term: His tendency is to let bygones be bygones.

He won in 2016. He didn't feel the need to drag his vanquished opponent through the mud even though at his rallies, his supporters would regularly chant: "Lock her up!"

Trump told me in Scotland two weeks ago: "We had Hillary Clinton down for whatever we wanted to do with her, but I felt it was inappropriate. She was the wife of a president. She was a secretary of state, and we could have done a very big number [on her. But] the concept of putting her in jail, indicting her, all the things that you have to do, it's tough stuff. And I said, 'We don't want to do that.' "

He showed Hillary mercy because he wanted the country to "heal" from the discord of the Obama years.

"And yet they did it to me," he said, confessing to feeling "a little bit" angry after his mercy was rewarded by being dragged through the mud for years.

He said: "So, I feel differently. I mean, I'm a human being. I have my feelings too. Obama, what he did was terrible. What Brennan did and Clapper and Comey and all these lightweights . . . did was so unnecessary. And they made it really hard. We had a great first term. But it certainly made it . . . less comfortable."

Trump and his current administration understand the need for heads on pikes to act as a deterrent and ultimately to restore public trust in our national security institutions.

Now the hunters are the hunted. Every tool is being used to find wrongdoers and bring them to account in a lawful, systematic, administration-wide effort.

At least some plotters are sure to see the inside of a jail cell. None will sleep easy.



An article by Miranda Devine titled “Bumbling Obama Aides Actually Admit Russiagate Was a Smear Campaign Against Trump” was posted at [nypost.com](https://nypost.com) on Aug. 13, 2025.

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“That’s our story, and we’re sticking to it.”

It’s hard to believe that the Russiagate plotters are so careless, but the declassified documents tumbling out of Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard’s files show that, while they had a lot of power and managed to hide their nefarious activities for almost a decade, President Barack Obama’s henchmen were none too bright.

The latest tranche of declassified emails has Obama’s DNI (James Clapper) telling then-National Security Agency Director Mike Rogers essentially to shut up and put his name to the intelligence community assessment (ICA) that Clapper and then-CIA Director John Brennan were cooking up, at Obama’s direction, to concoct a narrative that Russia had tilted the 2016 election to help Trump win.

“Understand your concern,” Clapper wrote to Rogers on Dec. 22, 2016, in the waning days of the Obama administration.

“It is essential that we (CIA/NSA/FBI/ODNI) be on the same page and are all supportive of the report—in the highest tradition of “that’s OUR story, and we’re sticking to it.”

Rogers had kicked off the conversation by laying out his concerns that normal tradecraft was being compromised and that his team had not had “sufficient access to the underlying intelligence and sufficient time to review that intelligence.”

Rogers wrote: “I’m concerned that, given the expedited nature of this activity, my folks aren’t fully comfortable saying that they have had enough time to review all of the intelligence to be absolutely confident in their assessments. I know that you agree that this is something we need to be 100% comfortable with before we present it to the President—we have one chance to get this right, and it is critical that we do so. In addition, if NSA is intended to be a co-author of this product, I personally expect to see even the most sensitive evidence related to the conclusion.”

But Clapper was unyielding.

“More time is not negotiable,” he replied, copying Brennan and then-FBI Director James Comey on the email. “We may have to compromise on our ‘normal’ modalities, since we must do this on such a compressed schedule. This is one project that has to be a team sport.”

Team sport.

What an unprofessional, idiotic thing to say, let alone write down for posterity.

As Gabbard said when she released the emails Wednesday [August 13]: “Clapper’s own words confirm that complying with the order to manufacture intelligence was a ‘team sport.’ ”

There was no reason for the ICA to be completed under such a compressed schedule—less than a month from the Oval Office meeting on December 9, 2016—when Obama ordered Clapper, Brennan, Comey and others to prepare a new intelligence assessment to replace all the inconvenient others before the election that had found that Russia wanted to sow discord but was not partial to one candidate over the other.

In fact, previous declassified material released by Gabbard shows that Russian spies possessed damaging material on Hillary Clinton’s “psycho-emotional” and physical ailments that they were withholding until after the election because they were so certain she would win.

But Obama wanted the cooked ICA to be released before Trump’s transition on January 20, 2017.

He wanted to do maximum damage to Trump, whose election was a repudiation of Obama’s presidency, and of course to cover up Clinton’s scandals—including her BleachBitted private server, missing emails and alleged pay-for-play at the Clinton Foundation.

### **Preinaugural smear**

And thus, the ICA was released on January 6, 2017, using the discredited and fictional Steele dossier to underpin its findings—with Brennan running roughshod over the objections of the CIA’s top Russia experts by insisting it be included, not just in an appendix but in the main body.

The ICA “findings” were leaked to the media before the intelligence analysts had even started work.

On the very day Obama ordered the ICA, December 9, 2016, the Washington Post ran an anonymously sourced story that claimed “the CIA has concluded in a secret assessment that Russia intervened in the 2016 election to help Donald Trump win the presidency.”

How prescient of it.

The framing of Trump as a Russian asset sabotaged his first presidency, in what Gabbard has called a “years-long coup.”

It undermined his authority and allowed his detractors to paint him as an illegitimate president installed by his “handler” Vladimir Putin.



There is no knowing exactly how the lies affected the relationship between the U.S. and Russia, and how they factored into Russia's invasion of Ukraine, but they linger in the historic backdrop of Trump's meeting with Putin in Alaska on Friday, to try to end that awful war.

Anti-lawfare lawyer Mike Davis (founder and president of the Article III Project) says Russiagate is "the biggest scandal in American history—and there will be indictments . . . Obama, Biden, Hillary, Brennan, Clapper, and so many others, they made up the Russian collusion hoax to protect Hillary Clinton and to hurt then-president candidate Donald Trump. When they failed and Trump won, they used it to try to destroy President Trump's presidency. And when he declassified Crossfire Hurricane [the FBI counterintelligence investigation into the Trump campaign's nonexistent collusion with Russia], they tried to destroy him. They tried to bankrupt him, throw him in prison for life, take him off the ballot, and get him killed."

Davis says recently declassified evidence that suggests that the classified material leaked to harm Trump could lead to espionage charges for the leakers that, unlike most other federal crimes, has a 10-year statute of limitations under the Espionage Act.

### **"Criminal conspiracy"**

Other potential charges for the coup plotters could include being engaged in a criminal conspiracy and covering it up (which is essentially a continuation of the conspiracy), meaning there is no statute-of-limitation obstacle for prosecutors.

Coup plotters might also face charges of "conspiracy against rights," says Davis, which is "when you politicize and weaponize intelligence agencies and law enforcement to go after your political enemies for non-crimes—like Obama and Biden and Hillary and so many others did to Trump. That is the classic definition of a conspiracy against rights."

Obama, whom Trump calls "the ringleader" of Russiagate, may face legal jeopardy, says Davis—despite being protected by presidential immunity for official acts.

Davis said: "You definitely do not have presidential immunity for your acts after you leave the White House as the former president of the United States. And when you continue to cover up your conspiracy, you are engaged in criminal conduct for which you do not enjoy presidential immunity."

Davis advises anyone involved in Russiagate to "lawyer up. Justice is definitely coming, and nobody is above the law."



**1 Timothy 2:1-2**—"I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men—for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence."