

Eye on the World

June 2, 2018

This compilation of material for "Eye on the World" is presented as a service to the Churches of God. The views stated in the material are those of the writers or sources quoted by the writers, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the members of the Church of God Big Sandy. The following articles were posted at churchofgodbigandy.com for the weekend of June 2, 2018.

Compiled by Dave Havis

Luke 21:34-36—"But take heed to yourselves, lest your souls be weighed down with self-indulgence, and drunkenness, or the anxieties of this life, and that day come on you suddenly, like a falling trap; for it will come on all dwellers on the face of the whole earth. But beware of slumbering; and every moment pray that you may be fully strengthened to escape from all these coming evils, and to take your stand in the presence of the Son of Man" (Weymouth New Testament).



A Reuters article by Jason Lange and Ingrid Melander titled "US Allies Hit Back at Washington's Steel, Aluminum Tariffs" was posted at reuters.com on May 31, 2018. Following is the article.

Canada and Mexico retaliated against the United States' decision on Thursday to impose tariffs on steel and aluminum imports and the European Union had its own reprisals ready to go, reigniting investor fears of a global trade war.

The tariffs, announced by U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross in a telephone briefing on Thursday, ended months of uncertainty about potential exemptions and suggested a hardening of the Trump administration's approach to trade negotiations.

The measures, touted by President Donald Trump in March, drew condemnation from Republican lawmakers and the country's main business lobbying group and sent a chill through financial markets.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average lost 1 percent and the S&P 500 shed around 0.66 percent. Shares of industrial heavyweights Boeing fell 1.7 percent and Caterpillar 2.2 percent.

A 25 percent tariff on steel imports and 10 percent tariff on aluminum imports will be imposed on the EU, Canada and Mexico from midnight (0400 GMT on Friday), Ross told reporters.

"We look forward to continued negotiations, both with Canada and Mexico on the one hand, and with the European Commission on the other hand, because there are other issues that we also need to get resolved," he said.

Canada and Mexico, embroiled in talks with the United States to modernize the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), responded swiftly.

Canada, the largest supplier of steel to the United States, will impose tariffs covering C\$16.6 billion (\$12.8 billion) on imports from the United States, including whiskey, orange juice, steel, aluminum and other products, Canadian Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland said.

"The American administration has made a decision today that we deplore, and obviously is going to lead to retaliatory measures, as it must," Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said at a news conference with Freeland.

Mexico announced what it described as "equivalent" measures on a wide range of U.S. farm and industrial products.

The measures, which target pork legs, apples, grapes and cheese as well as steel and other products, will be in place until the U.S. government eliminates its tariffs, Mexico's Economy Ministry said.

The S&P 500's packaged foods and meats industry sub-index fell 2 percent, with shares of meat producer Tyson Foods Inc falling 4 percent, Campbell Soup Co 2.5 percent and spice maker McCormick & Co Inc 3 percent.

The Mexican peso dropped about 1 percent and the Canadian dollar shed about 0.6 percent. At its low, the peso was at its weakest against the dollar in nearly 15 months.

The EU threatened tariffs on Harley Davidson motorcycles and bourbon, measures aimed at the political bases of U.S. Republican legislators. Shares of Harley-Davidson Inc fell 2.17 percent and Brown-Forman Corp, maker of Early Times and other bourbon brands, lost 2.1 percent. EU members have given broad support to a European Commission plan to set duties on 2.8 billion euros (\$3.4 billion) of U.S. exports if Washington ends tariff exemptions. EU exports potentially subject to U.S. duties are worth 6.4 billion euros (\$7.5 billion).

"It's entirely up to U.S. authorities whether they want to enter into a trade conflict with their biggest partner, Europe," France's Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire said after meeting with Ross on Thursday.

U.S. Chamber of Commerce President Tom Donohue warned in a letter seen by Reuters to the body's board that current trade policies could threaten "economic progress" and cause the loss of more than 2 million jobs, mostly in states that voted for Trump and Republican candidates.

Significant threat

The tariffs are part of Trump's effort to protect U.S. industry and workers from what he described as unfair international competition, a key theme of his "America First" agenda.

Temporary exemptions were granted to a number of nations and permanent ones to several countries including Australia, Argentina and South Korea. U.S. trading partners had demanded that the exemptions be extended or made permanent.

The tariffs are aimed at allowing the U.S. steel and aluminum industries to increase their capacity utilization rates above 80 percent for the first time in years.

Shares of U.S. Steel Corp rose 1.7 percent, but AK Steel fell 1.3 percent and Steel Dynamics Inc shed 0.9 percent. Shares of Century Aluminum Co jumped 3.3 percent but Alcoa Corp shed 0.9 percent.

Eyes on China

The U.S. administration also launched a national security investigation last week into car and truck imports, using the same 1962 law it has applied to curb incoming steel and aluminum.

"The Trump administration seems to regard overt threats, including tariffs and repudiation of previous agreements, as a key element for gaining leverage in trade negotiations," said Eswar Prasad, a former head of the International Monetary Fund's China division and now a professor at Cornell University.

Prasad warned that the United States was doing so at the cost of alienating key allies and undercutting broad international pressure on China to change its trade and economic practices.

Ross himself heads to Beijing on Friday where he will attempt to get firm deals to export more U.S. goods in a bid to cut America's \$375 billion trade deficit with China.

The Trump administration has demanded that Beijing make concessions and threatened to punish it for allegedly stealing U.S. technology by imposing tariffs on \$50 billion of imports from China.

While China is seen at more risk from a trade war as its exports are larger than its imports from the U.S., the operations of American companies in China make substantial sales there, which could be hit by any turn in sentiment.



An article by James Pethokoukis titled "Here Comes Another Global Financial Crisis" was posted at theweek.com on May 31, 2018. Following are excerpts of the article.

Is another global financial crisis on the horizon?

Investors are increasingly worried that an escalating political crisis in Italy could lead to a populist, euroskeptic government taking power. As a result, there's rising uncertainty about whether the country might eventually abandon the euro currency zone or default on its giant debt pile.

To make things worse, the Trump administration continues to toy with the idea of a trade war with Europe and China. That would be the last thing the global economy would need if the Italian situation deteriorates further. Debt crises and trade wars are a toxic combination.

To fully understand the risk, it's helpful to recall that before there was a Brexit, there was the threat of Grexit.

There was widespread concern a few years ago that Greece's government debt crisis would force it to exit the eurozone, and that such a shock departure would be a crushing blow to both the broader European economy, in the middle of recession, and the American economy, which was still recovering from its own downturn.

These fears prompted what is perhaps the most amazing—albeit apocalyptic—research note ever published by a major Wall Street bank or investment firm. In December 2011, Citigroup clients were treated to dark speculation by the firm's chief economist, Willem Buiter, on what might happen if Greece's departure led to a daisy chain of eurozone exits and the eventual collapse of the European Union.

Mr. Buiter wrote: "A breakup of the euro area [currency zone] would be rather like the movie *War of the Roses* version of a divorce: disruptive, destructive, and without any winners . . .

"If Spain and Italy were to exit, there would be a collapse of systemically important financial institutions throughout the European Union and North America and years of global depression . . .

"Even if the breakup does not destroy the EU completely and does not represent a prelude to a return to the intra-European national and regional hostilities, including civil wars and wars, that were the bread and butter of European history between the fall of the Roman empire and the gradual emergence of the European Union from the ashes of two made-in-Europe world wars, the case for keeping the euro area show on the road would seem to be a strong one: financially, economically, and politically, including geopolitically." [Willem Buiter, Citigroup]

So, yeah, pretty much everything other than pestilence, famine, and zombies roaming through Manhattan. Now generally, Wall Street research doesn't read like the *Book of Revelations* or a dystopian alt-history novel. But Citigroup was hardly the only financial player pondering the worst.

Thankfully, the worst didn't happen. Europe muddled through thanks to a combination of Greek debt bailouts and massive money printing by the European Central Bank.

But Italy poses a far bigger threat than Greece ever did.

Italy is the eurozone's third-largest economy, 10 times the size of Greece's. It also has the world's third-largest sovereign debt market, some \$2.7 trillion. Only Greece has a higher public debt-to-GDP ratio in the eurozone.

My AEI colleague Desmond Lachman, a former International Monetary Fund official and Wall Street emerging market strategist, argues that Italy's troubles have the

potential to roil the global economy much like the 2008 Lehman bankruptcy. (The 10th anniversary of “Free Market Day” is coming!) America wouldn’t be spared.

That’s just one of the problems with Donald Trump’s America First worldview. It ignores how America is deeply and irreversibly enmeshed in the global economy through linkages we probably don’t fully understand, as the original global financial crisis of 2008 showed.

Italy is a mess. It’s too big to fail, but also too big to bail out. To a large extent, it will need to save itself through economic reforms that boost its lagging productivity and reduce its debt load as a share of the economy. And America cannot simply sit idly by and pretend that this is not our problem.

Unfortunately, the Italian populists—much like America’s—are promising a budget-busting economic fantasy if elected, including a universal minimum income guaranteed to all citizens and a flat income tax.

Such a large dose of debt-financed fiscal stimulus, Goldman Sachs warns, threatens the nation’s debt rating, the nation’s banking system, support from the European Central Bank, and “could eventually call into question Italy’s participation in the euro area [with] possible spillovers to other countries.”

Italy must get its financial house in order. But America also has a role to play, such as avoiding trade disputes with Europe or China that will exacerbate market tension and potentially weaken global growth.

There is little evidence that any of the trade actions currently being contemplated by Team Trump would have much impact on economic or job growth. But a second global financial crisis surely would.



“Eye on the World” comment: The following list of articles consists of headlines of extra articles, which are considered international. The articles were not posted, but the headlines give the essence of the story.

■ An article by Fred Imbert and Alexandra Gibbs titled “Dow Drops More Than 200 Points As Trump Tariffs Reignite Trade-War Fears” was posted at cnbc.com on May 31, 2018.

■ An article by Daniel Michaels titled “Tariffs Highlight U.S. Tilt Away From European Allies” was posted at wsj.com on May 31, 2018.

■ An article titled “Paris Police Hold Two Garbagemen Planning Smelly Macron Protest” was posted at thelocal.fr on May 25, 2018.



An article by Walter Williams titled “Capitalism vs. Socialism” was posted at jewishworldreview.com on May 30, 2018. Following is the article.

Several recent polls, plus the popularity of Sen. Bernie Sanders, demonstrate that young people prefer socialism to free market capitalism.

That, I believe, is a result of their ignorance and indoctrination during their school years, from kindergarten through college. For the most part, neither they nor many of their teachers and professors know what free market capitalism is.

Free market capitalism, wherein there is peaceful voluntary exchange, is morally superior to any other economic system. Why?

Let's start with my initial premise. All of us own ourselves. I am my private property, and you are yours.

Murder, rape, theft and the initiation of violence are immoral because they violate self-ownership.

Similarly, the forcible use of one person to serve the purposes of another person, for any reason, is immoral because it violates self-ownership.

Tragically, two-thirds to three-quarters of the federal budget can be described as Congress taking the rightful earnings of one American to give to another American—using one American to serve another. Such acts include farm subsidies, business bailouts, Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, food stamps, welfare and many other programs.

■ Free market capitalism is disfavored by many Americans—and threatened—not because of its failure but, ironically, because of its success.

■ Free market capitalism in America has been so successful in eliminating the traditional problems of mankind—such as disease, pestilence, hunger and gross poverty—that all other human problems appear both unbearable and inexcusable.

The desire by many Americans to eliminate these so-called unbearable and inexcusable problems has led to the call for socialism. That call includes equality of income, sex and race balance, affordable housing and medical care, orderly markets, and many other socialistic ideas.

Let's compare capitalism with socialism by answering the following questions.

■ In which areas of our lives do we find the greatest satisfaction, and in which do we find the greatest dissatisfaction?

It turns out that we seldom find people upset with and in conflict with computer and clothing stores, supermarkets, and hardware stores. We do see people highly dissatisfied with and often in conflict with boards of education, motor vehicles departments, police and city sanitation services.

■ What are the differences?

For one, the motivation for the provision of services of computer and clothing stores, supermarkets, and hardware stores is profit. Also, if you're dissatisfied with their services, you can instantaneously fire them by taking your

business elsewhere. It's a different matter with public education, motor vehicles departments, police and city sanitation services. They are not motivated by profit at all. Plus, if you're dissatisfied with their service, it is costly and in many cases even impossible to fire them.

A much larger and totally ignored question has to do with the brutality of socialism. In the 20th century, the one-party socialist states of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Germany under the National Socialist German Workers' Party and the People's Republic of China were responsible for the murder of 118 million citizens, mostly their own.

The tallies were: USSR 62 million, Nazi Germany 21 million and PRC 35 million (<http://tinyurl.com/zafgs5p>). No such record of brutality can be found in countries that tend toward free market capitalism.

Here's an experiment for you.

- List countries according to whether they are closer to the free market capitalist or to the socialist/communist end of the economic spectrum.
- Then rank the countries according to per capita gross domestic product. Finally, rank the countries according to Freedom House's "Freedom in the World" report.

You will find that people who live in countries closer to the free market capitalist end of the economic spectrum not only have far greater wealth than people who live in countries toward the socialistic/communist end but also enjoy far greater human rights protections.

As Dr. Thomas Sowell says, "socialism sounds great. It has always sounded great. And it will probably always continue to sound great. It is only when you go beyond rhetoric, and start looking at hard facts, that socialism turns out to be a big disappointment, if not a disaster."



An article by Michelle Malkin titled "Step One to Stop False Accusations: Exposure" was posted at michellemalkin.com on May 31, 2018. Following is the article.

Incontrovertible fact: People lie.

They fudge little things, like their height or weight. They exaggerate their athletic prowess or professional accomplishments. They deceive family, friends, lovers, voters, government officials, business partners and themselves. They lie about murder, theft, kidnapping, rape and discrimination. They lie for attention, deflection, power and profit.

Often, the reasons for manufacturing devastating fables are indiscernible or unfathomable. But this much is clear: If there are no consequences for lying about crime, false accusations will continue to ruin the lives of innocents—poor and rich, black and white, liberal and conservative, civilian and cop.

According to the University of Michigan Law School's National Registry of Exonerations, 2,224 innocent criminal defendants since 1989 have been cleared of all charges in their cases. The average prison term served by exonerees is 14 years.

In total, wrongful convictions have cost exonerees 19,610 years of freedom since 1982.

Wrongful convictions are based on a rotten foundation of lies and untruths constructed by a village of false accusers, including jailhouse snitches, biased investigators, corrupt crime lab analysts, faulty eyewitnesses, and ruthless prosecutors acting in bad faith.

John Bunn, wrongfully convicted of assault and murder when he was just 14 years old, is just one of more than a dozen innocent citizens who became entangled in New York Police Department Det. Louis Scarcella's nefarious web of deception. The infamous cop falsified evidence, suppressed evidence and coerced false confessions to ensure convictions and bolster his career as part of what one judge called a "pattern and practice" of misconduct demonstrating "disregard for rules, law, and the truth." Bunn and co-defendant Rosean Hargrave, became the 12th and 13th exonerees who had been targeted by Scarcella, just this month.

Daryl Fulton and Nevest Coleman each served nearly a quarter-century behind bars for a 1997 rape and murder of a woman in Chicago they did not commit. They endured physical abuse by detectives with a long history of coercing false confessions.

Fulton and Coleman were released last November and granted certificates of actual innocence two months ago after post-conviction DNA testing and reinvestigation by the Cook County Conviction Integrity Unit cleared them—and instead implicated a repeat sexual offender who lived near the victim.

Famed private attorney Kathleen Zellner, the most successful exoneration specialist in the nation, recently filed a civil rights lawsuit on Fulton's behalf. She has won landmark settlements on behalf of exonerees Ryan Ferguson, wrongfully convicted of murder in Missouri, and former Washington state police officer Ray Spencer, wrongfully convicted of sexually molesting his own children—the result of lies told by a vengeful ex-wife who was having an affair with a conniving police detective overseeing the investigation.

Despite a complete lack of physical evidence, forensic evidence or corroborating witnesses, New Yorkers VanDyke Perry and Gregory Counts served 11 years and 26 years respectively for an alleged gang rape in 1992. Their convictions, vacated just this month, were based solely on the account of a woman who recanted years later and blamed a boyfriend for pressuring her into making it all up. The liar will face no charges because the statute of limitations has expired.

Question: If accusers can level rape and other claims decades after a purported crime occurs, why shouldn't the statute of limitations on prosecuting lies about crimes and seeking civil redress against all enablers be extended proportionally, too?

This summer, I'll dedicate a special series of columns and CRTV.com videos to false allegations against innocent men and women of all backgrounds. And I'll

continue my investigative reporting on the ongoing wrongful conviction nightmare of Asian-American and former Oklahoma City police officer Daniel Holtzclaw, which was built on a super-sized Jenga tower of police bias, investigative incompetence, prosecutorial misconduct, media malpractice, pre-trial publicity-stoked mob rule, forensic failures and unprecedented courtroom secrecy.

Incontrovertible reality: These travesties happen in Democratic-controlled big cities and the rural South alike; by bad cops and to good cops; at the hands of white and black prosecutors, judges and ill-trained experts and investigators of all stripes.

What's shocking is not that these injustices are routine, but that public amnesia sets in every time accusers level sensational allegations of crimes in the court of public opinion before all the facts are known.

Witness the knee-jerk social media conviction of innocent white Texas state trooper Daniel Hubbard by anti-cop advocate and former *New York Daily News* columnist Shaun King, who spread uncritically the false claims of a black woman who lied about Hubbard raping her during a traffic stop.

The admitted liar, Sherita Dixon-Cole, will not be prosecuted based on a technicality. Incredibly, King is reportedly moving on to a job with the Harvard-affiliated Fair Punishment Project, which in part conducts research to prevent more wrongful convictions.

Reform begins with confronting, instead of denying, reality. The cure for ignorance is exposure. Bias of all kinds destroys lives. People lie about everything under the sun. Women do lie about rape. Judges, prosecutors and police are not infallible. The system does fail.

The good news is that each of us is capable of helping amend and avert these wrongs. The bad news is that no one is ever safe.



Looking back to the first part of May, here is an article by Sharyl Attkisson titled "For Mueller, A Question of Three Conflicts" that was posted at the-hill.com on May 4, 2018.

As the special counsel investigation surrounding President Trump goes on, we still don't know what evidence Robert Mueller and his team have amassed behind closed doors.

It's entirely possible they have built a strong case that Trump illegally conspired with Russian President Putin, which Trump's critics have long claimed but which Trump denies.

If the *New York Times'* list of questions that Mueller wants to ask Trump is accurate, however, it's hard not to notice that Mueller is treading in waters in which he—the special counsel—may have at least three serious conflicts of interest.

■ The first area has to do with Mueller's reported inquiries into Trump's alleged desire to terminate Mueller himself as special counsel, as well as Trump's firing of Mueller's longtime friend and colleague, former FBI director James Comey.

Think of it this way: You're the boss at a company and decide to fire an important manager. Maybe you believe he acted improperly, conspired against you, or is simply not the right man for the job. He's unhappy you fired him. Now imagine the fired employee—or his good friend and colleague—is awarded the power to judge and assess your motives regarding that firing and other matters. Would it be fair to have the very people who feel wronged be put in charge of determining your fate?

Mueller garners a great deal of respect from many in politics, the law and media. But no matter how close to perfect an investigator might be, it may not be reasonable to expect him to be able to completely set aside his feelings on matters of his own position or the treatment of a longtime friend and colleague.

This question isn't unique to this case. As discussed in an article in *Boston College Law Review*, "Rethinking Prosecutors' Conflicts of Interest," legal scholars Bruce Green and Rebecca Roiphe write that "prosecutorial conflicts are ubiquitous" and "ought to be taken seriously . . . They threaten prosecutors' exercise of discretion in all cases and pose multiple threats in some cases." The authors also raise conflicts arising from "institutional ties, that may distort prosecutors' ability to ascertain and pursue the public interest."

■ That brings us to a second area of possible conflicts of interest. Mueller's institutional ties would seem to be relevant in a case whose counterpoints rest largely on the institution's own alleged misbehavior. By that I mean some in the intelligence community and the Department of Justice allegedly conspired to "get Trump," promulgated and leaked questionable "intelligence" that turned out to be political opposition research, and exploited the government's most intrusive surveillance authority to spy on Americans who were tied to Trump during the presidential campaign. Mueller was an integral part of this very "community" for the better part of three decades.

■ A third possible conflict of interest involves the case's entanglements with two of the people instrumental in Mueller's appointment as special counsel. Though we didn't know it at the time, it was his old friend Comey who secretly leaked—or gave—information to the *New York Times* to spur the appointment.

And Mueller's actual appointment was made by Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, who we now know signed his name to at least one of the controversial wiretaps against a Trump campaign associate. To make matters more complex, Rosenstein is the one who provided President Trump a strongly worded memo supporting the decision to fire Comey—an act for which Mueller also apparently is investigating Trump.

■ If Trump illegally colluded with Russia, these three perceived conflicts might seem to be little more than footnotes to what would be one of the biggest stories of our time.

■ But if there turns out to be scant evidence that Trump broke the law, then a fair legal mind would have to turn his attention to those who might have conspired to make it seem as though he did.

Can Mueller be counted on, if necessary, to look in an uncomfortable direction toward friends, colleagues and those who are responsible for his own appointment?

Perhaps. But the perception of a single conflict of interest can be considered serious enough to trigger a lawyer's responsibility to recuse or excuse himself.

One could argue that Mueller's perceived conflicts are equal to if not more direct than those that led Attorney General Jeff Sessions to recuse himself from any Russia probes. Mueller's failure to publicly address his own conflicts in the case as he continues work may provide the biggest question mark on his ability to remain impartial.

In "Rethinking Prosecutors' Conflicts of Interest," the authors state that issues invariably arise over a prosecutor's "failure of disinterestedness." Mueller may be a fair, aggressive prosecutor. Yet, to some, it would appear that he is most interested, indeed.



An article by Sharyl Attkisson titled "8 Signs Pointing to a Counterintelligence Operation Deployed Against Trump's Campaign" was posted at thehill.com on May 23, 2018. Following is the article.

It may be true that President Trump illegally conspired with Russia and was so good at covering it up he's managed to outwit our best intel and media minds who've searched for irrefutable evidence for two years. (We still await special counsel Robert Mueller's findings.)

But there's a growing appearance of alleged wrongdoing equally as insidious, if not more so, because it implies widespread misuse of America's intelligence and law enforcement apparatus.

Here are eight signs pointing to a counterintelligence operation deployed against Trump for political reasons.

Code name

The operation reportedly had at least one code name that was leaked to The New York Times: "Crossfire Hurricane."

Wiretap fever

Secret surveillance was conducted on no fewer than seven Trump associates: chief strategist Stephen Bannon; lawyer Michael Cohen; national security adviser Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn; adviser and son-in-law Jared Kushner; campaign chairman Paul Manafort; and campaign foreign policy advisers Carter Page and George Papadopoulos.

The FBI reportedly applied for a secret warrant in June 2016 to monitor Manafort, Page, Papadopoulos and Flynn. If true, it means the FBI targeted Flynn six months before his much-debated conversation with Russia's ambassador, Sergey Kislyak.

The FBI applied four times to wiretap Page after he became a Trump campaign adviser starting in July 2016. Page's office is connected to Trump Tower and he reports having spent "many hours in Trump Tower."

CNN reported that Manafort was wiretapped before and after the election “including during a period when Manafort was known to talk to President Trump.” Manafort reportedly has a residence in Trump Tower.

Electronic surveillance was used to listen in on three Trump transition officials in Trump Tower—Flynn, Bannon and Kushner—as they met in an official capacity with the United Arab Emirates’ crown prince.

The FBI also reportedly wiretapped Flynn’s phone conversation with Kislyak on Dec. 31, 2016, as part of “routine surveillance” of Kislyak.

NBC recently reported that Cohen, Trump’s personal attorney, was wiretapped. NBC later corrected the story, saying Cohen was the subject of a “pen register” used to monitor phone numbers and, possibly, internet communications.

National security letters

Another controversial tool reportedly used by the FBI to obtain phone records and other documents in the investigation were national security letters, which bypass judicial approval.

Improper use of such letters has been an ongoing theme at the FBI. Reviews by the Department of Justice’s Inspector General found widespread misuse under Mueller—who was then FBI director—and said officials failed to report instances of abuses as required.

Unmasking

“Unmasking”—identifying protected names of Americans captured by government surveillance—was frequently deployed by at least four top Obama officials who have subsequently spoken out against President Trump: James Clapper, former Director of National Intelligence; Samantha Power, former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations; Susan Rice, former national security adviser; Sally Yates, former deputy attorney general.

Names of Americans caught communicating with monitored foreign targets must be “masked,” or hidden within government agencies, so the names cannot be misused or shared.

However, it’s been revealed that Power made near-daily unmasking requests in 2016.

Prior to that revelation, Clapper claimed ignorance. When asked if he knew of unmasking requests by any ambassador, including Power, he testified: “I don’t know. Maybe it’s ringing a vague bell but I’m not—I could not answer with any confidence.”

Rice admitted to asking for unmasked names of U.S. citizens in intelligence reports after initially claiming no knowledge of any such thing.

Clapper also admitted to requesting the unmasking of “Mr. Trump, his associates or any members of Congress.” Clapper and Yates admitted they also personally reviewed unmasked documents and shared unmasked material with other officials.

Changing the rules

On Dec. 15, 2016—the same day the government listened in on Trump officials at Trump Tower—Rice reportedly unmasked the names of Bannon, Kushner and Flynn. And Clapper made a new rule allowing the National Security Agency to widely disseminate surveillance material within the government without the normal privacy protections.

Media strategy

Former CIA Director John Brennan and Clapper, two of the most integral intel officials in this ongoing controversy, have joined national news organizations where they have regular opportunities to shape the news narrative—including on the very issues under investigation.

Clapper reportedly secretly leaked salacious political opposition research against Trump to CNN in fall 2017 and later was hired as a CNN political analyst. In February, Brennan was hired as a paid analyst for MSNBC.

Leaks

There's been a steady and apparently orchestrated campaign of leaks—some true, some false, but nearly all of them damaging to President Trump's interests.

A few of the notable leaks include word that Flynn was wiretapped, the anti-Trump "Steele dossier" of political opposition research, then-FBI Director James Comey briefing Trump on it, private Comey conversations with Trump, Comey's memos recording those conversations and criticizing Trump, the subpoena of Trump's personal bank records (which proved false) and Flynn planning to testify against Trump (which also proved to be false).

Friends, informants and snoops

The FBI reportedly used one-time CIA operative Stefan Halper in 2016 as an informant to spy on Trump officials.

Another player is Comey friend Daniel Richman, a Columbia University law professor, who leaked Comey's memos against Trump to The New York Times after Comey was fired. We later learned that Richman actually worked for the FBI under a status called "Special Government Employee."

The FBI used former reporter Glenn Simpson, his political opposition research firm Fusion GPS, and ex-British spy Christopher Steele to compile allegations against Trump, largely from Russian sources, which were distributed to the press and used as part of wiretap applications.

These eight features of a counterintelligence operation are only the pieces we know. It can be assumed there's much we don't yet know. And it may help explain why there's so much material that the Department of Justice hasn't easily handed over to congressional investigators.



An article by Katie Leslie titled "Dinesh D'Souza Credits Ted Cruz for Lobbying Trump for His Pardon" was posted at dallasnews.com on May 31, 2018. Following are excerpts of the article.

The controversial conservative writer Dinesh D'Souza credited Texas Sen. Ted Cruz for helping to secure his surprise pardon on Thursday, although President Donald Trump said that "nobody asked me to do it."

D'Souza, a well-known Barack Obama tormentor, pleaded guilty to campaign finance fraud in 2014. He admitted making illegal contributions to a U.S. Senate candidate in New York but has said he was wrongly targeted by the Obama administration for his conservative views.

"He was treated very unfairly by our government!" Trump declared in announcing the decision on Twitter early Thursday, a stance he reiterated to reporters aboard Air Force One as he flew to Houston hours later.

"I've always felt he was very unfairly treated. And a lot of people did, a lot of people did," he said of D'Souza. "What should have been a quick minor fine, like everybody else with the election stuff ... what they did to him was horrible."

D'Souza's wife, Debbie D'Souza, took to Twitter to thank Trump, as well as Cruz for "putting it on [Trump's] radar and helping make it happen." The couple has close ties to the Cruz family. Cruz's father, Rafael Cruz, officiated the D'Souzias' wedding in March 2016. The writer and filmmaker's prior marriage ended a few years earlier amid scandal.

A spokeswoman for Cruz acknowledged that the senator raised the pardon issue with the president but declined to give specifics.

The Texas Republican, who is seeking a second term in November, has not claimed credit for any role in the decision, but praised the move and retweeted Debbie D'Souza's statement.

D'Souza, who was sentenced to five years of probation and fined \$30,000 for his crime, is known for making provocative statements, especially about former President Obama and first lady Michelle Obama.

He once tweeted a photo of Obama taking a selfie and wrote "you can take the boy out of the ghetto" before describing the president as "vulgar." He has said that Ivy League-educated Michelle Obama benefited from being part of the "affirmative action generation."



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Finances

■ An article by Doug Smith and Gale Holland titled "Homelessness Dips in L.A. and Countrywide, But More People are Living on the Streets for the First Time" was posted at latimes.com on May 31, 2018.

- An article by Lauren Thomas and Christina Cheddar Berk titled "Sears Names Dozens of the 72 Stores It Plans to Close in the Near Future" was posted at cnbc.com on May 31, 2018.
- An article by Terence P. Jeffrey titled "E-Commerce Retail Sales Up 95% in 5 Years" was posted at cnsnews.com on May 31, 2018.
- An article titled "Report: US Oil Output Jumps to Record High in March" was posted at oilandgasinvestor.com on May 31, 2018.
- An article by Tom Hebert titled "New Jersey Resuscitates Obamacare Mandate Tax" was posted at atr.com on May 31, 2018.

Illegal immigration

- An article by Matt Vespa titled "ICE Chief to Democrat: We're Not Anti-Immigration, We're Enforcing the Laws 'You' Passed" was posted at townhall.com on May 25, 2018.
- An article by Melanie Arter titled "DHS: CBP Saw 315% Increase in Illegals Using Children to Gain Entry to US" was posted at cnsnews.com on May 30, 2018.

Comments about weapons

- An article titled "Ayatollah Khamenei Calls for Gun-Control—in the U.S." was posted at cnsnews.com on May 30, 2018.
- An article by Matt Vespa titled "The Other America: The Anti-Gun Left is Learning Their Tactics Do Not Resonate in Sante Fe" was posted townhall.com on May 23, 2018.

Comments about Trump support

- An article by Tom Fitton titled "Judicial Watch Battles FBI for Anti-Trumper Text Messages" was posted at breitbart.com on May 31, 2018.

Comments about Trump opposition

- An article by Chris Strohm titled "Mueller Runs Up \$16 Million Tab in Trump-Russia Investigation" was posted at bloomberg.com on May 31, 2018.
- A video and an article by Dartunorro Clark titled "Boehner: With Trump Takeover of GOP, the Republican Party is 'Kinda Taking a Nap' " were posted at nbc.com on May 31, 2018.
- An article by Corinne Weaver titled "Jane Fonda: Trump, the Right are Afraid of 'Multi-Racial Unity' " was posted at newsbusters.org on May 25, 2018.
- An article by Amber Athey titled "CNN Guest [Michaela Angela Davis]: Yes, All Trump Supporters are Racist" was posted at dailycaller.com on May 30, 2018.

News about the media

- An article by Cortney O'Brien titled "[Sacramento Bee] Editorial Board Accuses NFL of 'Plantation Mentality' " was posted at townhall.com on May 24, 2018.
- An article by Bill Donahue titled "Most Media Did Not Report That Texas School Shooter was An Atheist" was posted at cnsnews.com on May 25, 2018.

- An article by Michael Morris titled “Levin: Obama ‘Did More in Modern History’ to Abuse Media, Yet is Celebrated by Media” was posted at cnsnews.com on May 25, 2018.
- An article by Melanie Arter titled “WH: No One is Defending Roseanne’s Comments; Trump was Pointing Out Media Bias” was posted at cnsnews.com on May 30, 2018.
- An article by Corinne Weaver titled “Networks Link Roseanne to Trump 31 Times, Ignore Weinstein’s Ties to Clinton, Obama” was posted at newsbusters.org on May 31, 2018.
- An article by Larry Elder titled “Roseanne is Out? Explain Maher, Sharpton and Olbermann” was posted at townhall.com on May 31, 2018.

General interest

- An article by Melanie Arter titled “Trump Posthumously Pardons First Black Heavyweight Champion [Jack Johnson]” was posted at cnsnews.com on May 25, 2018.
- An article by Valerie Richardson titled “Educational Decline: Homeschooling Surges As Parents Seek Safer Option for Children” was posted at washingtontimes.com on May 30, 2018.
- An article by Craig Bannister titled “Starbucks CEO Thrice Denies Knowing About Company’s Donations to Planned Parenthood” was posted at cnsnews.com on May 30, 2018.
- An article by Jade Scipioni titled “Whole Foods Halts Plan to Require Mandatory GMO Labeling” was posted at foxbusiness.com on May 31, 2018.
- An article by Alexa Lardieri titled “More Drivers Killed Under the Influence of Drugs Than Alcohol” was posted at usnews.com on May 31, 2018.



Isaiah 55:6-11—“Seek you the LORD while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. ‘For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,’ says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.”