# Deep State, Pedophile Ring and QAnon

This article is from the "Among Friends" section of the Church of God Big Sandy's website, churchofgodbigsandy.com. It was posted for the weekend of Aug. 8, 2020.

# By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—Whenever a person reads a headline like the one given to this article, a wide variety of responses can rush into a reader's mind.

Someone could ask: Why are you spending any time talking about subjects that the mainstream media identify as "conspiracy theories"?

My first response: I don't believe that two of the three subjects mentioned in the headline should be called conspiracy theories. Granted, I have recently learned that the third item (QAnon) includes a wide spectrum of unusual ideas.

My follow-up comment: Obviously, I believe there is value is writing this article (or I wouldn't be doing it).

# Media bias and freedom of speech

At this time, I want to give you the following statements.

■ What sparked my interest about the three items in the headline was an article that I posted in the July 25 edition of the weekly publication called "Eye on the World"—titled "Twitter Bans 7,000 QAnon Accounts, Limits 150,000 Others As Part of Broad Crackdown."

My main interest was media bias and freedom of speech.

■ However, a little research revealed to me that much of the content attributed to QAnon is labeled by media outlets as conspiracy theories.

■ I have little interest in spending time in discovering or disproving conspiracy theories. Therefore, I will make only a few comments about QAnon.

# What is it?

Since I didn't know much about QAnon, I read some articles about the subject.

According to the-sun.com: "QAnon is the bizarre claim that the Democrats, Hollywood elites and members of the media are engaged in a Satanic pedophile ring—and President Donald Trump is secretly plotting to have them all arrested."

This article will include a few articles and headlines about the following subjects.

- 1. Existence of a deep state
- 2. Existence of an international pedophile ring
- 3. Brief description of QAnon

In case you don't want to wade through the material that I have accumulated for this article, here is a synopsis of the following material.

1. While there is rarely a disagreement about the existence of a deep state, there are certainly differences of opinion about how far-reaching it is.

2. While some people had previously uncovered and accurately reported facts about an international pedophile ring, the mainstream media have within the last year confirmed information that some people had already known.

3. The existence of a deep state and the existence of an international pedophile ring do not conclusively prove that President Trump is working to destroy that ring. Some of his critics would include him as a participant inside the despicable ring. On the contrary, many of his supporters would be proud of him for standing up against evil. (For the record—all the people who are truly working to destroy the international pedophile ring need power from God in their fight against the evil.) The passing of time sometimes (but not always) reveals who the heroes are. Until that time, I would recommend that people be careful to avoid being sucked into unproven scenarios and into making unproven statements.

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**PART 1**: In this section of the article, there are four items—an article about the deep state, a collection of headlines about the deep state and two articles by Gen. Michael Flynn.

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Looking back to 2018, an article by Jack Goldsmith titled "The 'Deep State' Is Real; but Are Its Leaks Against Trump Justified?" was posted at theguardian. com on April 22, 2018. Following is the article.

America doesn't have coups or tanks in the street. But a deep state of sorts exists here [in America] and it includes national security bureaucrats who use secretly collected information to shape or curb the actions of elected officials.

■ Some see these American bureaucrats as a vital check on the law-breaking or authoritarian or otherwise illegitimate tendencies of democratically elected officials.

■ Others decry them as a self-serving authoritarian cabal that illegally and illegitimately undermines democratically elected officials and the policies they were elected to implement.

■ The truth is that the deep state, which is a real phenomenon, has long been both a threat to democratic politics and a savior of it. The problem is that it is hard to maintain its savior role without also accepting its threatening role. The two go hand in hand and are difficult to untangle.

The deep state has been blamed for many things since Donald Trump became president, including by the president himself.

Trump defenders have used the term promiscuously to include not just intelligence bureaucrats but a broader array of connected players in other administrative bureaucracies, in private industry and in the media.

# Intelligence bureaucracies

But, even if we focus narrowly on the intelligence bureaucracies that conduct and use information collected secretly in the homeland, including the FBI, National Security Agency (NSA) and National Security Council, there is significant evidence that the deep state has used secretly collected information opportunistically and illegally to sabotage the president and his senior officials—either as part of a concerted movement or via individuals acting more or less independently.

The hard questions are whether this sabotage is virtuous or abusive, whether we can tell, and what the consequences of these actions are.

#### Sensitive leaks

Since Trump was elected, unusually sensitive leaks of intelligence information designed to discredit him and his senior leadership have poured forth from current and former intelligence officials in the deep state.

■ The first major one, in February 2017, concerned a court-approved NSA wiretap of a phone conversation between Russia's ambassador to the United States, Sergey Kislyak, and incoming national-security adviser Michael Flynn that concerned, among other things, the possible removal of Russia sanctions imposed by President Obama. Flynn had denied that the men discussed sanctions, and the leak revealing his lie led to his resignation.

Another major leak concerned communications intercepts during the campaign of Russian government officials discussing potentially "derogatory" information about Trump and top campaign aides.

■ Other leaks in this vein included intercepts of Russian officials claiming they could influence Trump through Flynn, of Kislyak supposedly informing Moscow that he had discussed campaign-related issues with then-senator Jeff Sessions, and of Kislyak discussing in a communication to Moscow that Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, wanted to communicate via a secure channel.

## **Unlawful and violated taboos**

These leaks probably mark the first time ever that the content of foreignintelligence intercepts aimed at foreign agents that swept up U.S.-person information was leaked. They clearly aimed to damage U.S. persons—ones who happen to also be senior U.S. government officials.

They were unlawful and, beyond that, they violated two until-now strict taboos about leaks.

■ First—revealing the content of foreign-intelligence information collected through electronic surveillance.

■ Second—revealing the content of incidentally collected information about American citizens.

■ Many people, including many who are not in the Trump camp, have interpreted these leaks to violate a third taboo by marking a return to the Hooverera FBI's use of secretly collected information to sabotage elected officials with adverse political interests.

#### **Comparison to Hoover**

The comparison is plausible in light of the extensive efforts soon after the election to encourage the bureaucracy, including the intelligence bureaucracy, to resist the Trump administration, and the evidence that there was in some agencies such resistance.

But, while Hoover did many awful things in quiet, neither during his reign nor at any other time in American history have we seen such a profusion of sensitive leaks from the deep state with such an overtly political aim to bring down senior leadership.

#### Were leaks justified?

There is, of course, the possibility that the anti-Trump leaks, on their face political and unprecedented, were nonetheless justified whistleblowing, akin perhaps to leaks about illegal surveillance programs or about illegal interrogation practices at CIA black sites.

Put another way, it is possible that the benefits of the leaks, considered narrowly, outweigh the evil inherent in breaching the first two taboos above.

#### **Believed Flynn was compromised**

The situation the leaks are a response to is itself extraordinary to the point of being unprecedented. The then acting attorney general of the United States, Sally Yates, believed that Flynn, the new national-security adviser, was compromised by the Russians and vulnerable to blackmail and so warned the White House, which seemed to take no steps in response to the information.

More broadly, a number of very odd circumstances suggested unusual and potentially corrupt connections between the Trump campaign and administration and the Russian government, about which the FBI had been conducting a counterintelligence investigation since the summer of 2016.

All of this came in the context of the unprecedented Russian DNC hack designed, our intelligence agencies tell us, to help Donald Trump win the election. And then, once in office, Trump himself engaged in vicious and in many instances false attacks on the intelligence community and justice department investigators.

#### Viewed them as a threat

Do these unprecedented circumstances justify the unprecedented deep-state leaks?

The lines crossed by the deep-state leaks against Trump were thought to be absolute ones until 2017. But we have never faced a situation in which the national-security adviser, and perhaps even the president of the United States, presented a credible counterintelligence threat involving one of our greatest adversaries.

Perhaps the facts will develop to give us enough clarity about the Russia-Trump connections to be able to make a better judgment along the lines of the judgment history has made about previous virtuous leaks. But perhaps we will never have clarity and thus won't be able to reach consensus on whether the leaks were justified.

# Did great damage

However those matters develop, the whole ordeal has already done great damage to both the presidency and the national-security bureaucracy.

As deep-state officials get a taste for the power that inheres in the selective revelation of such information, and if the leaks are not responded to with severe punishments, it is easy to imagine the tools that brought down Flynn being used in other contexts by national-security bureaucrats with different commitments and interests.

Even the most severe critics of Trump should worry about this subtle form of anti-democratic abuse. The big loser in all this will probably be the national-security bureaucracy itself and, to the extent it is weakened, the security of the American people.

# If Flynn had been guilty

Even if it turns out that Flynn and others close to Trump were in the bag for the Russians, many people will for a long time view the anti-Trump leaks as political abuse of intelligence to harm political enemies.

This perception will be deepened by the Trump administration's relentless and often false attacks on the integrity of the intelligence community, including its false suggestion that the original collection that incidentally captured Flynn's communications, as opposed to the leaks of such information, was illegitimate.

The Flynn and related leaks didn't just violate the law—they violated a core commitment the intelligence community made in and after the era of Hoover not to politicize, or appear to politicize, the use of surveillance tools or the fruits of their use.

## **Political lens**

The whole intelligence-collection system—which has an importance that far transcends its undoubtedly large importance in this discrete context—is vulnerable here for the simple reason that the intermixture of politics with intelligence collection is the intelligence system's Achilles' heel.

If surveillance comes to be seen through a domestic political lens, with domestic political winners and losers, the intelligence community will have a very hard time acting with needed public credibility. And that in turn means it will have a harder time doing what it needs to do to keep us safe.

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## Headlines relating to "deep state"

■ Looking back to 2019, an article by John Solomon titled "[FBI Informant Christopher] Steele's Stunning Pre-FISA Confession: Informant Needed to Air Trump Dirt Before the Election [According to a Written Account by Kathleen Kavalec About a Meeting on Oct. 11, 2016]" was posted at thehill.com on May 7, 2019.

■ Looking back to February, an article by Andrew C. McCarthy titled "The Case for Repealing FISA and Reforming the FBI and CIA" was posted at washingtonexaminer.com on Feb. 20, 2020.

■ Looking back to April, an article by Matt Vespa titled "Confirmed: Spying on the Trump Campaign Was Always the FBI's Intention" was posted at townhall.com on April 30, 2020.

■ Looking back to May, an article by Katie Pavlich titled "New Documents Show President Obama Was In On the Flynn Takedown" was posted at townhall.com on May 7, 2020.

■ Looking back to May, an article by Susan Jones titled "[Lindsey] Graham: Declassified Memo Shows 'Entire Mueller Investigation Was Illegitimate to Begin With' " was posted at cnsnews.com on May 7, 2020.

■ Looking back to May, an article by John Daniel Davidson titled "How the Obama Administration Weaponized Surveillance Laws to Target Trump [and Michael Flynn]" was posted at thefederalist.com on May 21, 2020.

■ Looking back to June, an article by Sean Davis and Mollie Hemingway titled "Explosive New FBI Notes Confirm Obama Directed Anti-Flynn Operation" was posted at thefederalist.com on June 24, 2020.

■ Looking back to June, an article by Katie Pavlich titled "The Case [by Democrats] Against General Michael Flynn Has Officially Been Dismissed" was posted at townhall.com on June 24, 2020.

■ Looking back to July, an article by Krystina Skurk titled "How Michael Flynn Got Caught in the Crossfire Between Two Obama Agencies Looking to Get Trump" was posted at thefederalist.com on July 16, 2020.

■ Looking back to July, an article by Mollie Hemingway titled "New FBI Notes Re-Debunk Major NYT Story, Highlight Media Collusion to Produce Russia Hoax" was posted at thefederalist.com on July 23, 2020.

■ Looking back to July, an article by Chuck Ross titled "A Russia Analyst Living in the U.S. [Igor Danchenko] Has Been Identified As Christopher Steele's Primary Dossier Source [of the Debunked Dossier Regarding Donald Trump]" was posted at dailycaller.com on July 25, 2020.

■ Looking back to July, an article by Matt Vespa titled "With the [Jeffrey] Epstein Documents Unsealed, the FBI Is Dragged Back Into the Limelight—And It's Not Good" was posted at townhall.com on July 31, 2020.

■ An article by Andrew C. McCarthy titled "New Disclosures Confirm: Trump Himself Was the Target of Obama Administration's Russia Probe" was posted at nationalreview.com on Aug. 1, 2020.

■ An article by Mollie Hemingway titled "Media Silent As Christopher Steele 'Hero' and 'Spymaster' Narrative Crumbles" was posted at thefederalist.com on Aug. 3, 2020.

■ An article by Tristan Justice titled "Sally Yates: Comey Went 'Rogue' in Launching Perjury Trap on Flynn" was posted at thefederalist.com on Aug. 5, 2020.

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Looking back to June, an article by Michael Flynn titled "Exclusive From Gen. Flynn: Forces of Evil Want to Steal Our Freedom in the Dark of Night, but God Stands With Us" was posted at westernjournal.com on June 11, 2020. Following is the article.

There are seminal moments in American history that test every fiber of our nation's soul.

We are facing one now.

Revolutionary forces are causing every American citizen to question which direction the country is heading. To determine the outcome, we must examine our nation's history to project ourselves forward into the future.

Once again, tyranny and treachery are in our midst, and, although we feel we've descended into a hellish state of existence, we must never forget, hell is conquerable.

Prayer is the greatest weapon, and a consciousness of God is the ultimate "thought of the day."

The idea or notion of a heaven on earth is the very real sense of being free. Freedom is oxygen. Like the air we breathe that keeps our lungs full and our hearts beating, the celestial feeling of freedom brings a sense of peace to our souls.

Freedom must never be taken for granted. Securing our freedom demands a high price—and that price requires hard work and sacrifice. Both will bind us all by the value they produce, but only if we are willing to seek new opportunities and new ideas.

Those who have sacrificed the most, those who have given the last true measure of devotion that derives from the love of faith, family and the cause of freedom—for all of us to be free, and for the betterment of our republic and the free world—cannot be allowed to have died in vain.

Theirs is the ultimate sacrifice, and heaven [some would describe it as the Kingdom] is their reward.

Our future, the future of our children and grandchildren and the future of our country are at stake. God will not give way to the care of the devil or allow us to be left to the evil vices of those who would steal our freedom in the dark of night.

He will not.

Instead, God will stand with us, as he always does.

Hard work and personal sacrifice still very much matter. Being a good person and showing kindness to others still matter.

If our nation is to survive this crucible moment, we need to fall back on the God-given values and ideals that are the very foundation of our constitutional republic. Let us not fear the uncertainty that comes with the unknown, instead accept it and fight through that sense of fear. And we must remember: The power of hell, while strong, is limited. God is the ultimate judge and decision maker. His anointed provenance is our country, the United States of America.

As long as we accept God in the lifeblood of our nation, we will be okay. If we don't, we will face a hellish existence.

I vote we accept God.

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An article by Michael Flynn titled "Exclusive From General Flynn: This Is My Letter to America" was posted at westernjournal.com on Aug. 5, 2020. Following is the article.

We are witnessing a vicious assault by enemies of all that is good, and our president is having to act in ways unprecedented in decades, maybe centuries.

The biblical nature of good versus evil cannot be discounted as we examine what is happening on the streets of America.

It's Marxism in the form of antifa and the Black Lives Matter movement versus our very capable and very underappreciated law-enforcement professionals, the vast majority of whom are fighting to provide us safe and secure homes, streets and communities.

When the destiny of the United States is at stake, and it is, the very future of the entire world is threatened.

As Christians, shouldn't we act? We recognize that divine Providence is the ultimate judge of our destiny. Achieving our destiny as a freedom-loving nation, Providence compels us to do our part in our communities.

It encourages us in this battle against the forces of evil to face our fears head-on. No enemy on earth is stronger than the united forces of God-fearing, freedom-loving people.

We can no longer pretend that these dark forces are going to go away by mere prayer alone. Prayers matter, but action is required.

This action is needed at the local, state and federal levels. Action is also required in the economic, media, clerical and ecclesiastical realms.

Decide how you can act within your abilities. Stand up and state your beliefs. Be proud of who you are and what you stand for. And face, head-on, those community "leaders" who are willing to allow dark forces to go beyond peaceful protests and destroy and violate your safety and security.

Churches and houses of worship must return to normal. We invite everyone of goodwill to not shirk their responsibilities and instead act in a fraternal fashion. If for no other reason or with no other ability, act in a spirit of charity.

We cannot disrespect or disregard natural law along with our own religious liberties and freedoms.

I am witnessing elderly people lose their connection to all that is good in their lives: connections to their faith, their families and their individual freedoms, especially the simple act of attending church, something they've been doing for decades.

Let us not be intimidated or fear those who cry out that we are in the minority; we are not.

Good is always more powerful and will prevail over evil.

However, evil will succeed for a time when good people are divided from each other and their personal lives—children away from their teachers, preachers from their congregations, customers from their local businesses.

America will never give in to evil. Americans work together to solve problems.

We do not and should not ever allow anarchy and the evil forces behind it to operate on any street in our nation.

No one should have to fear for their very life because some dark, disturbed force is challenged by the very essence of what America stands for.

We are "one nation under God," and it is our individual liberties that make us strong, not liberties given to our government. Our government has no liberty unless and until "we the people" say so.

God bless America, and let's stand by everything that was and is good in our lives, in our communities and in our country.

Otherwise, America as the true North Star for humanity will cease to exist as we know it.

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**PART 2**: In this section of the article, there are two items—an article about an international pedophile ring and a collection of headlines about the pedophile ring.

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Looking back to 2019, an article titled "Timeline of the Life and Crimes of Jeffrey Epstein" was posted at cbsnewyork.com on Aug. 10, 2019. Following is the article.

On Saturday, Aug. 10, 2019, financier Jeffrey Epstein was found dead in his jail cell at the Manhattan Correctional Center, far downtown from the Upper East Side townhouse where he allegedly had orchestrated a child sex-trafficking ring.

Here's a timeline of the last criminal case against Epstein and highlights from his crimes investigated more than a decade earlier.

Jan. 20, 1953: Jeffrey Epstein born in Brooklyn, New York.

Summer 1974: Epstein begins teaching physics and math classes at the Dalton School on Manhattan's Upper East Side. There he connects with a student's father, Alan Greenberg, who was the chief executive officer of Bear Stearns.

1976 to 1981: Epstein leaves teaching and rises through the ranks at Bear Stearns as first a trader, then limited partner.

1981: Epstein founds Intercontinental Assets Group Inc., a consulting firm that soon attracted several very wealthy international clients. Throughout the 1980s he also works with Steven Hoffenberg to develop a strategy of corporate raiding to take over vulnerable corporations. (Hoffenberg would later plead guilty to SEC [Securities and Exchange Commission] charges in connection to \$475 million in fraud called at the time "one of the largest Ponzi schemes in history.")

The 1990s: Epstein founds his financial-management firm, which included the CEO of Victoria's Secret as a client.

The 2000s: Epstein continues to invest millions in various funds, including \$57 million into the Bear Stearns High-Grade Structured Credit Strategies Enhanced Leverage hedge fund—a fund found to be leveraged 17:1 and a ticking time bomb that would eventually factor into Bear Stearns collapse in the financial crisis of 2008.

March 2005: A 14-year-old girl becomes the earliest underage victim to formally accuse Epstein of molestation, citing an incident at his Palm Beach mansion. According to investigators, the girl was brought from her high school by another teenager to give Epstein a massage in exchange for money.

Oct. 20, 2005: Investigators execute a search warrant on Epstein's Florida home as the case brings forward several other teenage sex victims.

May 2006: Police charge Epstein with multiple counts of unlawful sex acts in a minor. State Attorney Barry Krischer refers the case to a grand jury.

June 2006: The grand jury hears from only one accuser and returns an indictment of one count of solicitation of prostitution. Accusations from other victims, including minors, are not reflected in the decision.

July 2006: After the Palm Beach grand jury, the FBI opens a federal investigation on Epstein that involves multiple accusers in Florida, New York and elsewhere in the United States.

Summer 2007: As investigators work toward an indictment, Epstein's legal team begins to negotiate terms of a plea deal with then-U.S. attorney Alexander Acosta in Miami.

June 30, 2008: After more than a year of investigation and bargaining between the two legal sides, Epstein appears in a Florida courtroom and pleads guilty to one count of solicitation of prostitution and one count of solicitation of prostitution of a minor under the age of 18. Epstein is given a sentence of 18 months in jail plus a year of community service, and he is registered as a sex offender.

July 2008: Epstein's victims learn of the plea deal and file an emergency petition under the Crime Victims' Rights Act as they were never informed about the deal or its details. Several accusers are represented by attorney Bradley Edwards, whom Epstein would later launch a personal campaign against. The federal nonprosecution agreement would not be made public for more than a year. October 2008: Epstein begins work release from jail. According to the *Miami Herald*, this includes the prisoner being "picked up by his private driver six days a week and transported to an office in West Palm Beach, where he accepts visitors for up to 12 hours a day" before returning to jail at night. The *Washington Post* reported Epstein's cell door was left unlocked, and, once, deputies allowed him to travel unsupervised in Palm Beach for four hours.

July 2009: Epstein is given early release from jail. He never serves time in a federal prison.

November 2011: Epstein registers as a level-3 sex offender, one in which a "high risk of repeat offense and a threat to public safety exists," in New York.

January 2015: Accuser Virginia Roberts files papers saying Epstein forced her to have sex with members of his social set while she was just 16 years old. A federal judge blocks her claim, but a follow-up lawsuit against another person involved in the accusation is settled in June 2017 for an undisclosed sum.

Feb. 16, 2017: President Donald Trump announces Alexander Acosta as his nominee for U.S. labor secretary.

December 2018: A defamation suit by attorney Bradley Edwards against Epstein is settled out of court one day into the trial, with Epstein apologizing and agreeing to other confidential terms. Nearly 2,000 pages of records around the case would remain sealed until a federal appeals court judge in New York ordered them opened in mid-2019.

February 2019: A judge rules that then–U.S. attorney Alexander Acosta did violate the Crime Victims' Rights Act by not informing Epstein's victims about the plea deal in Florida 11 years earlier.

July 6, 2019: Epstein is arrested at New Jersey's Teterboro Airport by the FBI-NYPD Crimes Against Children Task Force. He is charged with sexual abuse and sexual trafficking charges. United States Attorney Geoffrey Berman said a search of Epstein's \$77 million Upper East Side townhouse found pictures which appear to be nude photos of underage girls. A judge would later deny bail for Epstein.

July 12, 2019: Alexander Acosta resigns as the Trump administration's labor secretary after public outage over his handling of the plea deal around Epstein's alleged sex crimes in 2008. President Trump took to Twitter saying: "Alex Acosta informed me this morning that he felt the constant drumbeat of press about a prosecution which took place under his watch more than 12 years ago was bad for the Administration, which he so strongly believes in, and he graciously tendered his resignation."

July 25, 2019: Epstein is found injured on the floor of his jail cell at the Manhattan Correctional Center, but it is unclear if his injuries were self-inflicted or caused by another.

Aug. 10, 2019: Epstein is found dead of an apparent suicide by hanging in his jail cell.

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#### Headlines from mainstream media about international pedophile ring

■ Looking back to 2018, an article titled "Jeffrey Epstein Settles [Civil] Suit, Apologizes" was posted at nbcnews.com on Dec. 4, 2018.

■ Looking back to 2019, an article titled "Billionaire Sex Offender Jeffrey Epstein Arrested on Sex Trafficking Charges" was posted at nbcnews.com on July 7, 2019.

■ Looking back to 2019, an article by Mike Hayes, Meg Wagner and Elise Hammond titled "Jeffrey Epstein Charged With Running Sex Trafficking Ring" was posted at cnn.com on July 8, 2019.

■ Looking back to 2019, an article titled "Billionaire Jeffrey Epstein Enters 'Not Guilty' Plea to Sex Trafficking, Conspiracy Charge" was posted at kcra.com on July 8, 2019.

■ Looking back to 2019, an article by Josh Gerstein titled "Jeffrey Epstein Prosecution Could Rise or Fall on a Single Word ['Globally' Because of a Deal in 2008]" was posted at politico.com on July 9, 2019.

■ Looking back to 2019, an article by Michael R. Sisak, Jim Mustian and Curt Anderson titled "Jeffrey Epstein Struck a Secret Deal in 2008; Here's What It Means for the Current Case" was posted at globalnews.ca on July 11, 2019.

■ Looking back to 2019, an article by Nicola Einbinder titled "Amid [Labor Secretary Alexander] Acosta's Resignation, Prosecutors Are Questioning the 'Sweetheart Deal' He Gave to Jeffrey Epstein [in 2008 As U.S. Attorney of Florida's Southern District]" was posted at businessinsider.com on July 14, 2019.

■ Looking back to 2019, an article by Renae Merle and Matt Zapetosky titled "Jeffrey Epstein Denied Bail, Will Remain Jailed Pending Trial on Sex Trafficking Charges" was posted at washingtonpost.com on July 18, 2019.

■ Looking back to 2019, an article by Larry Celona titled "Jeffrey Epstein on Suicide Watch After He's Found With Neck Injuries in Jail" was posted at nypost. com on July 25, 2019.

■ Looking back to 2019, an article by Lisette Voytko titled "Jeffrey Epstein Shows No Sign of Injuries [After Fall in Jail], Could Spend a Year in Jail Before Trial" was posted at forbes.com on July 31, 2019.

■ Looking back to 2019, an article by Larry Celona and Eileen A.J. Connelly titled "Jeffrey Epstein Dead in Apparent Suicide" was posted at nypost.com on Aug. 10, 2019.

■ Looking back to 2019, an article by James Beal and Jon Lockett titled "Bill's Double Trouble: Bill Clinton Seen Walking Off With a Woman on Each Arm During a Stay at Jeffrey Epstein's Private Caribbean Island, Court Docs Claim" was posted at the-sun.com on Aug. 13, 2019. (For the record, the reports about Bill Clinton traveling to Epstein's private island are not by themselves proof that he committed crimes there.)

■ Looking back to 2019, an article by Dakin Andone titled "There Was 'No Indication' [That] Epstein Was Doing Anything Wrong, Prince Andrew Says" was posted at cnn.com on Nov. 17, 2019.

■ Looking back to 2019, an article by Lucy Osborne titled "Prince Andrew and Jeffrey Epstein; What You Need to Know" was posted at theguardian. com on Dec. 7, 2019.

■ An article by Kara Scannell and Erica Orden titled "[British Socialist] Ghislaine Maxwell, Longtime Jeffrey Epstein Associate, Arrested for Recruiting and Abusing Girls in Sex-Trafficking Ring" was posted at cnn.com on July 2, 2020.

■ An article by Tom McCarthy and Daniel Strauss titled "Ghislaine Maxwell Arrest Sends Tremors Through Epstein's Celebrity Circle" was posted at the-guardian.com on July 2, 2020.

■ An article by Yaron Steinbuch titled "Ghislaine Maxwell to Cooperate As Epstein Pal [75-Year-Old Former Mentor Steven Hoffenberg] Says Prince Andrew Is 'Concerned' [About Behavior Being Revealed]" was posted at nypost. com on July 3, 2020.

■ An article by Robert Mendick "How Ghislaine Maxwell and Kevin Spacey Relaxed at Buckingham Palace 'As Guests of Prince Andrew' [by Sitting on the Thrones of Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip in 2002]" was posted at tele-graph.co.uk on July 3, 2020.

■ An article by Patrick Sawer and Robert Mendick titled "Exclusive: Bill Clinton, Ghislaine Maxwell and the Inside Story of Their Trip to Britain" was posted at telegraph.co.uk on July 4, 2020.

■ An article by Alex Woodward titled "Ghislaine Maxwell Will 'Never Sell Out' Prince Andrew for a Plea Deal, Friend Claims" was posted at independent. co.uk on July 4, 2020.

■ An article by Jason Slotkin titled "Judge Denies Bail for Ghislaine Maxwell, Longtime Confidant of Jeffrey Epstein" was posted at npr.org on July 14, 2020.

■ An article titled "Jeffrey Epstein Was 'a Sick Pedophile' But Ghislaine Maxwell 'Was the Mastermind'—Accuser Claims" was posted at cbsnews.com on July 16, 2020.

■ An article by Andrew Snell and James Gordon titled "Federal Judge's [Esther Salas's] Son Is Shot Dead and Her Criminal Justice Defense Attorney Husband Is Critically Injured After a Gunman Disguised As a FedEx Driver Ambushed Their Home—Four Days After She Was Assigned a Case Linked to Jeffrey Epstein" was posted at dailymail.co.uk on July 20, 2020.

■ An article by Josie Ensor titled "Ghislaine Maxwell Fights to Keep 'Nude Photos and Sexualized Videos' Secret Ahead of Trial" was posted at telegraph.co.uk on July 27, 2020.

■ An article by Victoria Bekiempis titled "Ghislaine Maxwell: Court Unseals Documents Related to Dealings With Epstein" was posted at theguardian.com on July 30, 2020.

■ An article by Victoria Bekiempis titled "Ghislaine Maxwell Trained Underage Girls As Sex Slaves, Documents Allege" was posted at theguardian.com on July 31, 2020.

■ An article by Sarah Jorgensen, Lauren Del Valle, Brian Vitagliano and Sonia Moghe titled "Newly Unsealed Documents Describe Ghislaine Maxwell's Abuse of One of Epstein's Alleged Victims" was posted at cnn.com on July 31, 2020.

■ An article by Ben Feuerherd titled "Court Does Detail Maxwell's 'Constant' Orgies With Young Girls on Epstein's Island" was posted at nypost.com on July 31, 2020.

An article titled "Unsealed Court Documents Reveal Allegations Against Prince [Andrew], President [Bill Clinton], Others" was posted at fox5ny.com on July 31, 2020.

■ An article titled "Bill Clinton Visited Jeffrey Epstein's Private Island, Unsealed Court Documents Reveal" was posted at foxnews.com on Aug. 1, 2020.

■ An article by Joseph A. Wulfsohn titled "MSNBC Ignores Epstein Docs Implicating Bill Clinton; CNN Largely Avoids" was posted at foxnews.com on Aug. 1, 2020.

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**PART 3**: In this section of the article, there are two items—an article about QAnon and a few headlines about QAnon.

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An article by Katrina Schollenberger titled "What Is the QAnon Conspiracy Theory and What Has Twitter Said About It?" was posted at the-sun.com on July 22, 2020. Following are excerpts of the article.

Twitter has started to suspend accounts that mention the QAnon conspiracy theory or provide links to the group's "research."

QAnon is the bizarre claim that the Democrats, Hollywood elites and members of the media are engaged in a Satanic pedophile ring—and President Donald Trump is secretly plotting to have them all arrested.

Twitter's suspensions will reportedly impact some 150,000 accounts on the platform.

## What is the QAnon conspiracy theory?

QAnon is an unfounded conspiracy theory that claims Trump is fighting a "deep state" network of political, entertainment, business and media elites.

Dark subtheories have spun off from these claims, some involving Satanic plots and child trafficking.

QAnon began in October 2017 on the anonymous message board 4chan.

A 4chan user, who claimed to have had top-secret security clearance, amplified the theory and signed off their [his or her] posts simply as "Q," hence the name QAnon.

Q claims to be directly involved in a secret Trump-led investigation of a global network of child abusers.

Q communicates in cryptic posts that have garnered a large following of conspiracists on Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, Instagram and Reddit.

At least one terrorist incident and one murder have been linked to the theory, which has spread like wildfire in many pro-Trump online circles.

#### How many accounts did Twitter block?

Twitter bosses boasted they have removed 7,000 accounts linked to QAnon for violating rules against harassment, spam, platform manipulation and ban evasion.

And a further 150,000 have been shadowbanned, meaning their access and reach have been limited on the platform.

The social media giant said it was taking action to combat misinformation and harassment from the supporters of the fringe theory.

Twitter released a statement claiming that QAnon conspiracists have been "engaged in violations of our multi-account policy, coordinating abuse around individual victims, or are attempting to evade a previous suspension—some-thing we've seen more of in recent weeks."

Believers and nonbelievers had mixed feelings about the ban.

"QAnon is dopey but Twitter banning all content related to it is insane. Talk about vindicating their paranoia," one user wrote commenting on the decision.

"This type of censorship will only embolden the QAnon people," another warned.

"Shame on you @Twitter #qanon isn't going anywhere. Keep defending the deep state PEDOs we see who you stand with. #WWG1WWGA," a staunch conspiracist added.

"Please do your own research—you owe it to yourself and humanity. #WakeUp-America" a QAnon follower commented.

## What have people said on Reddit?

Many suggested the ban would only fuel the theory further.

"If they just want to silence a bunch of crazies this is the wrong approach," one user said.

"These people already have a victim complex and there are plenty more hatefilled platforms for them to go to. This move will just radicalize the fringe further," said another.

# Has Trump said anything?

President Trump himself has retweeted messages from accounts backing QAnon but has never directly endorsed it.

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## Headlines about QAnon

■ Looking back to July, an article by Tina Nguyen titled "Trump Isn't Secretly Winking at QAnon; He's Retweeting Its Followers" was posted at politico.com on July 12, 2020.

■ Looking back to July, an article by Audrey Courty titled "QAnon Believers Will Likely Outlast and Outsmart Twitter's Bans" was posted at theconversation.com on July 24, 2020.

■ An article by Stef W. Kight and Sara Fischer titled "QAnon's 2020 Resurgence" was posted at axios.com on Aug. 4, 2020.

■ An article by Charlie Warzel titled "Is QAnon the Most Dangerous Conspiracy Theory of the 21st Century?" was posted at nytimes.com on Aug. 4, 2020.

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**Conclusion:** At this time, I repeat the synopsis that I mentioned near the beginning of this article.

1. While there is rarely a disagreement about the existence of a deep state, there are certainly differences of opinion about how far-reaching it is.

2. While some people had previously uncovered and accurately reported facts about an international pedophile ring, the mainstream media have within the last year confirmed information that some people had already known.

3. The existence of a deep state and the existence of an international pedophile ring do not conclusively prove that President Trump is working to destroy that ring. Some of his critics would include him as a participant inside the despicable ring. On the contrary, many of his supporters would be proud of him for standing up against evil. (For the record—all the people who are truly working to destroy the international pedophile ring need power from God in their fight against the evil.) The passing of time sometimes (but not always) reveals who the heroes are. Until that time, I would recommend that people be careful to avoid being sucked into unproven scenarios and into making unproven statements.