

The Big Lie Driving Russian Influence in the Conservative Movement and the Destruction of Ukraine

In order to set the record straight on Soviet/Russian tactics and strategies, America's Survival, Inc. (ASI) is publishing a detailed analysis of the origins of the Russian-backed propaganda that the government of Ukraine and its military forces are dominated by Nazis. The analysis traces the propaganda to a lie manufactured by Russia's Tsarist Secret Police and currently used by the former KGB officer and current Russian President Vladimir Putin. However, new versions of the Big Lie have appeared over time, in order to mask the anti-Semitic nature of the *Protocols of Learned Elders of Zion*. This timely analysis is written by Patrick Murphy, the pseudonym of a veteran anti-communist researcher and analyst.

Introduction by Cliff Kincaid, President, America's Survival, Inc.

Considering how Joe Biden has conducted the war in Ukraine, with a no-win strategy, it is somewhat understandable why a new CNN poll finds that most Americans oppose Congress authorizing additional funding to support Ukraine in its war with Russia. ¹ Former President Trump said, in his speech to the recent Family Research Council "Pray Vote Stand" conference, that "...we are a nation [under Biden] that allowed Russia to devastate a country, Ukraine, killing hundreds of thousands of people, and it will only get worse."



In the first GOP presidential debate, when North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum said President Joe Biden "green-lighted" Putin's invasion, he was saying that Biden had encouraged the invasion. Biden did this when he dismissed the possibility of a Russian "incursion" that might not require a U.S. response. Now, a major war is taking place in Europe and Biden says the U.S. is running low on ammunition. In response, the American people rightfully wonder why additional aid, as part of Biden's no-win strategy, would make any difference. It appears that there is no strategy for victory, just as there is no effective response to the invasion of America's southern border.

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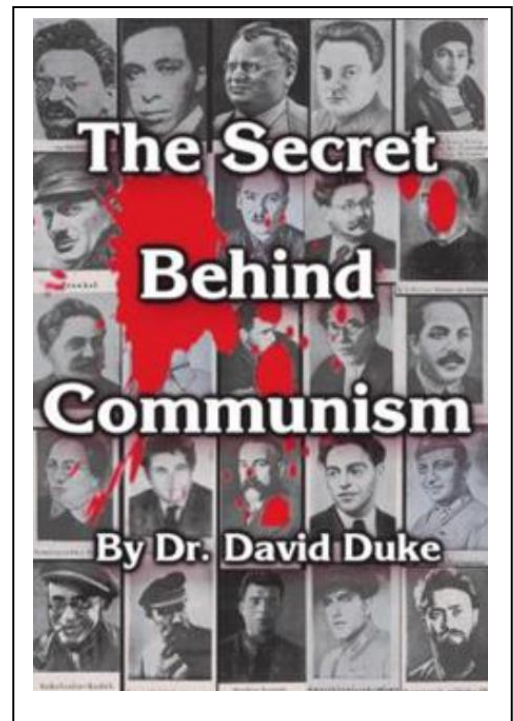
But another factor is the influence of Russian propaganda, which has been featured in so-called “conservative media” like Stephen K. Bannon’s “War Room” program on Real America’s Voice and Tucker Carlson’s broadcasts on Fox and Twitter. One of their constant themes is that Ukraine does not deserve our support because it is run by Nazis.

But one of Tucker’s prominent “anti-war” guests, Tara Reade, defected to Russia. As noted by the Russian “news” agency Sputnik:

- Tara Reade is not the only American truth-seeker who has come to Russia in order to evade political persecution from the US authorities. Earlier, NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden found refuge in the Russian Federation after revealing a US global spying program which targeted American citizens in sharp violation of the US Constitution. In September 2022, Vladimir Putin signed a decree granting Russian citizenship to Edward. He is now a full-fledged citizen of Russia.

Speaking of the Russians and Tucker Carlson, the well-respected conservative legal analyst Scott Johnson of Powerline comments, “I don’t recall Tucker ever having a good word to say about Ukraine’s resistance to the Russian invasion. He has never had a good word to say about Zelensky’s leadership of the Ukrainian resistance. He has never had a bad word to say about Putin, at least since he ordered the invasion of Ukraine. I don’t understand it. Indeed, I find it mystifying.”²

Tucker's pro-Russia "Rage Against the War Machine" rally turned out to be a big flop. Perhaps a couple hundred people showed up, outnumbered by tourists. But you can learn a lot by the presence of communist and Russian flags. Even the LaRouche organization (the Schiller Institute) was there. (Lyndon LaRouche was a convicted con man who started his career as a Marxist).



Bannon’s approach is similar. On his Real America’s Voice “War Room” show on September 19, Bannon was outraged over the fact that one of his favorite commentators, the host of the *Human Events* podcast and “conservative” Jack Posobiec, had been added to a “Myrovorets” (Peacemaker) so-called “kill list” of opponents of Ukraine’s fight for freedom. In fact, the website is dedicated to highlighting and shaming pro-Russia voices. Posobiec advertised this designation on his own show on the Real America’s Voice channel as a badge of honor.

(Personal note: I once worked for *Human Events*, when it was an anti-communist publication known as President Reagan’s favorite newspaper. It was sold and somehow came to be a mouthpiece for Posobiec and others).

On Twitter, Posobiec reportedly promoted the work of so-called Putin “brain” Alexander Dugin, who was photographed meeting with former American Ku Klux Klan leader and neo-Nazi David Duke in Russia.

In an updated version of the Protocols, Duke argues that communism was imposed on Russia by a Jewish banker conspiracy and wrote about this in his book *The Secret Behind Communism*.

Benjamin Teitelbaum’s 2020 book *War for Eternity* confirms that Bannon himself met with Dugin to discuss geopolitics in a hotel room in Rome in November 2018 for eight hours.



Proclaiming his own version of a “great awakening” to defeat the Great Reset, a bogeyman for many conservatives, Dugin has written a new book claiming “the stage is set for a showdown of truly apocalyptic proportions” against the anti-Christ, giving high praise to “Trumpists” who “do not want to see their country submerged in a one-world, transhumanist dystopia.”

A leading “Trumpist,” according to the book, is Alex Jones, a Texas-based radio host best known for claiming that the 9/11 terrorist attacks were an “inside job” by sinister forces other than al Qaeda-inspired Muslims and that the Sandy Hook school shootings were a hoax.



Less well-known is the fact that Jones once regularly appeared on Moscow-funded Russia Today (RT) television, diverting attention from the increasingly totalitarian nature of the Russian regime and the military threat that Russia poses to American interests. Jones interviewed Alexander Dugin and now appears frequently on the Bannon “War Room” show.³ In turn, Bannon appears on Jones’ show “Infowars.”

Regarding the Sandy Hook massacre, Bannon and Darren K. Beattie were on “Real America’s Voice” claiming the jury’s \$1 billion verdict against Alex Jones in the case was somehow a threat to the First Amendment and free speech. The jury found that Jones

lied about the victims of Sandy Hook and was taken to court for inflicting mental pain and suffering on the families of the victims. This was not a First Amendment case.

Jones repeatedly claimed the 2012 shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, which killed 26 people, including 20 children, was a hoax aimed at promoting tougher gun control laws. On this basis, he made money from gullible people who bought his vitamins.

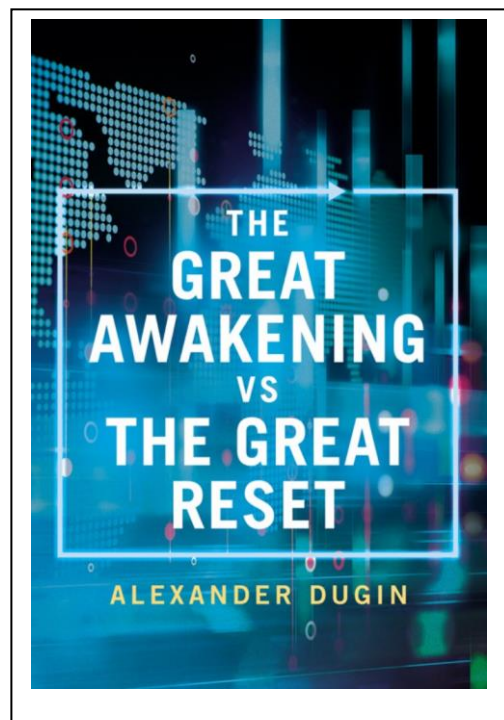
Jones fed the liberal media's effort to make true Americans with a conservative bent look like morons and paranoid lunatics.

Jones will go down in history for making some of the most outrageously false claims in the history of American media. In addition to the claim that Muslim terrorists were not responsible for 9/11 and that the Sandy Hook school massacre was a hoax, they include:

- The Boston Bombing was a “false flag” operation.
- NATO and Israel provoked the Russian invasion of its former republic of Georgia in 2008.

Russia Today aired a three-part television series about 9/11 being an “inside job,” the claim also prominently featured by Jones. The Kremlin propagandists must have been laughing out loud at the thought that some Americans believe the U.S. Government engineered an attack on itself on 9/11 and blamed the Muslims.

Russia Today was eager to publicize Alex Jones and his claims about 9/11, the Bilderbergers, bankers, and various other villains and culprits because they diverted attention from the nature of the communist threat in Russia. These themes can also be viewed as updated versions of the *Protocols of Learned Elders of Zion*, substituting various formulations about Western leaders and elites for the Jews.



As for Dugin, he figures prominently in our book, *Back from the Dead: The Return of the Evil Empire*, and he praised the “American conservative intellectual Steve Bannon,” the former Trump adviser (fired by Trump).

In my own article, “New Agers and Russian Agents in the Trump Movement,” I note that My Pillow’s Mike Lindell has written the foreword to the book, *Love Joy Trump - A Chorus of Prophetic Voices*, claiming Russian President and former KGB colonel

Vladimir Putin is a “kindred” spirit.⁴ Lindell is a frequent guest on Bannon’s Real America’s Voice show.

Rather than being a kindred spirit, Dugin’s theory of “geopolitical Eurasianism” involves a revival of the Russian empire under Putin that includes Communist China and various Islamic elements such as a nuclear Iran.

In our book, *Back from the Dead: The Return of the Evil Empire*, former KGB officer Konstantin Preobrazhensky contributed a chapter, “How the West Was Fooled by Vladimir Putin.” Commenting on Dugin, he said, “It was the KGB which appointed this uncultured and inarticulate man to the post of leading Russian ideologist. In fact, the ideology of Eurasianism was developed by Soviet intelligence in the 1920s and seeded among the Russian immigrants in Europe.”

The late anti-communist Brazilian writer and philosopher Olavo de Carvalho commented that Dugin, himself the son of a KGB officer, is “the political mentor of a man [Vladimir Putin] who is the very incarnation of the KGB.” He said that Dugin has emerged as “the creator and guide of one of the widest and most ambitious geopolitical plans of all time—a plan adopted and followed as closely as possible by a nation which has the largest army in the world, the most efficient and daring secret service and a network of alliances that stretches itself through four continents.”

DeCarvalho saw Dugin as the brains behind Putin’s geopolitical strategy that embraces “genocidal violence.” He notes that Dugin has “advocated the systematic killing of Ukrainians -- a people who, according to him, do not belong to the human species.”

As for Israel, Dugin regards the Jewish state as “a modern capitalist and Atlantist entity and an ally of American imperialism.” This is a rather straightforward view of how the Moscow regime views Israel today, and why it backs the government of Iran with weapons, nuclear technology, and diplomatic support.

The term “Atlantist” or “Atlanticist” is meant to refer to trans-Atlantic cooperation between Europe, the United States and Canada in defense and other areas.



De Carvalho described Eurasianism as “a synthesis of the defunct USSR and the Tzarist Empire” that includes philosophical elements of Marxism-Leninism, Russian Messianism, Nazism, and “esotericism.”

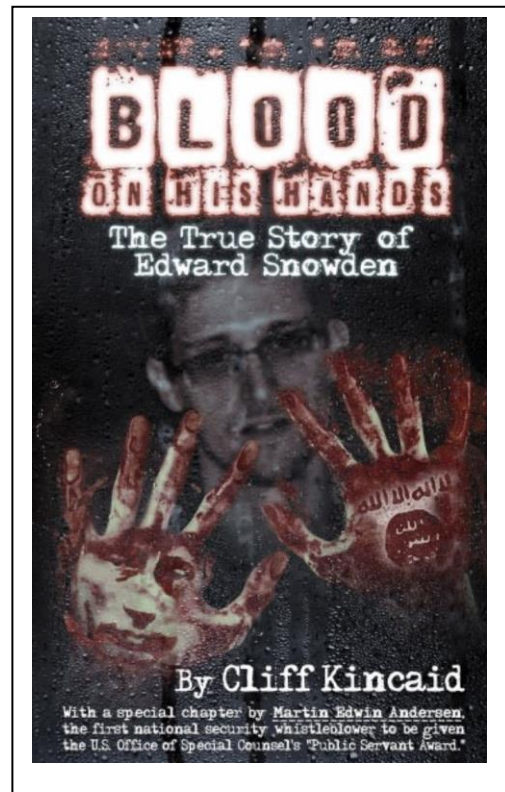
Regarding the latter, the scholarly paper, “The Occult Revival in Russia Today and Its Impact on Literature,” describes how “post-Soviet Russia” has embraced New Age and occult ideas, even what the author, German academic Birgit Menzel, calls “dark” or “evil forces.” She writes, “The occult has always been used for different ends, for purposes that range from benignly spiritual to totalitarian or fascist.”

In Russia, Menzel cites evidence that the Soviet secret police had “special agents for occult matters” who monitored the theosophical society in Russia, several esoteric orders, and even a “secret society” of some kind. One of many fascinating revelations from Menzel’s well-researched 2007 article is that Dugin, an adviser to Putin, has incorporated some of these ideas into his theory of “geopolitical Eurasianism,” a revival of the Russian empire that includes China and Islamic Iran. She writes, “Since 2000, Dugin has moved to the center of political power close to the Putin administration by a deliberate strategy of veiling his mystic-esoteric ideology...”

Technically, of course, Putin has dropped the communist label, operating under the political party known as “United Russia.” But the Russian Communist Party still exists, operating openly in support of Putin.

On February 23, 2023, on Putin’s own website, we are told that the Russian president had a meeting with Communist Party leader Gennady Zyuganov, leader of the Russian Federation Communist Party faction in the State Duma. It was cordial.

Putin told him, according to the official transcript: “I hope as a force representing a significant part of the country’s patriotic movement, the Communist Party will remain such going forward. The party makes a substantial contribution to the political discussion and the quest for the best solutions to move the country forward in the social sphere, the economy, defense and security – ***we have never had any differences on that level, I think. On the contrary, the Communist Party was often one step ahead and raised national security issues of today and tomorrow with authorities at all levels.*** Without a doubt, our dialogue is now doubly or even triply important.” (emphasis added).



Viewed in the context of Putin’s embrace of his communist past, the idea that Russia opposed or opposes Nazism is ludicrous. The Hitler-Stalin Pact started World War II. And evidence has emerged that former U.N. Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim, who hid his Nazi career at the global body, was recruited by the KGB in 1948 and was blackmailed by the Russians. ⁵ Under Waldheim, Geli Dneprovski, a suspected Soviet KGB secret police agent, was given the post of personnel director of European headquarters of the United Nations, with access to confidential files on about 3,000 U.N. employees in Geneva.⁶

History shows that Putin was deeply involved in “active measures” and espionage activities during the late 1980s when he was a KGB colonel and spy in East Germany. Later, he became head of the FSB, the KGB’s main successor.

In Ukraine, the revolution has been decidedly anti-communist in character, with dozens of Lenin statues and monuments being toppled in various cities. This is a major factor why Putin fears the success of Ukraine.

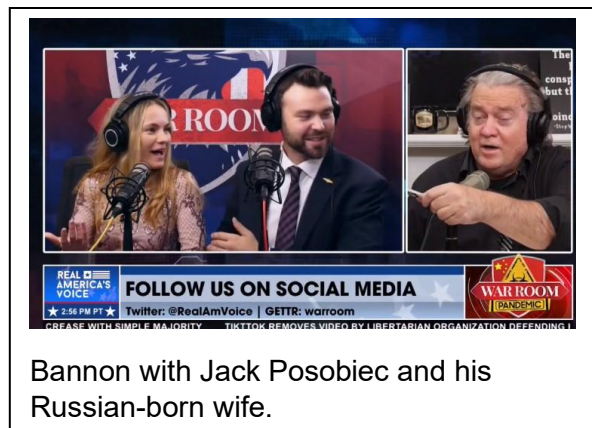
Before we were told the Ukraine regime was Nazi-like, there were other propaganda themes. One was examined in our book, *Blood on His Hands: The True Story of Edward Snowden*.

The evil genius of Edward Snowden’s espionage operation was to frame his defection in terms of alleging that he was a “whistleblower” who was informing the American people that they were being spied upon illegally. Many conservatives accepted this propaganda about a former NSA/CIA analyst who is now living in Russia under the protection of the Putin regime.

Considering how “conservatives” had accepted this propaganda, their embrace of the Ukraine-Nazi smear makes some sense.

Consider that radio host Michael Savage called Snowden a “patriot,” Glenn Beck said his disclosures were an “act of heroism,” and Joseph Farah of World Net Daily said he was a whistleblower who should be given immunity from prosecution by Congress and a ticker tape parade.

Craig Shirley, a conservative political consultant in Washington and author of three Ronald Reagan biographies, said, “Support for Snowden is actually consistent with the tradition of American conservatism.” Eric Bolling of the Fox News Channel said Fox was eager to provide a “platform” for further criminal disclosures from Snowden. Andrew Napolitano, a Fox News personality, had proclaimed Snowden an “American hero.” The

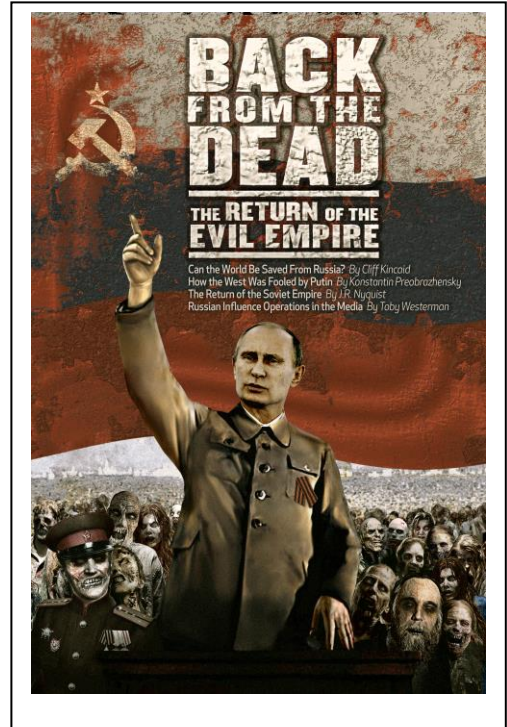


Bannon with Jack Posobiec and his Russian-born wife.

Koch-funded libertarian group Students for Liberty gave Snowden its “highest honor” -- its “alumnus of the year” award.

Acceptance of the Russian propaganda about Snowden and Ukraine is shocking enough. But the fact is that Moscow now does openly what it used to do through the covert channels of the KGB, the Soviet intelligence service. Russia Today (RT) television is one key to understanding Russian influence operations. It has been described by Konstantin Preobrazhensky, himself a former Soviet KGB officer who defected to the West, as “a part of the Russian industry of misinformation and manipulation” designed to mislead foreign audiences about Russian intentions.

Preobrazhensky says Russia Today television, known as “KGB-TV,” utilizes methods of propaganda that are managed by Directorate “A” of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service. He explains, “The specialty of Directorate ‘A’ is deceiving world public opinion and manipulating it. It has got a lot of experience over decades of the Cold War.” He adds that Russia Today is only a part of the Russian industry of misinformation and manipulation created in the USA by Putin’s KGB.



Analyst Toby Westerman believes the target audience includes conservatives. He notes, “RT uses a wide variety of special effects, including computer animation to liven up their broadcasts, a far cry from the stiff Soviet era broadcasts... The message, however, is much the same: anti-Western and especially anti-American propaganda. The target audience consists of those who either already hate America or who see America as an over aggressive global bully. Surprisingly, this view is also echoed among some U.S. conservatives who take a highly critical, even a one-sided, view of U.S. actions in the world. Some in the American conservative movement have called into question the anti-missile system in Poland, NATO expansion into Eastern Europe, and the concern over Moscow's actions in several trouble spots in the world.”

Examples of the Soviet KGB’s living legacy include:

- Putin sang the KGB unofficial anthem with the Russian spies who were deported from the U.S. in 2010 shortly after their arrival in Russia.
- Putin has praised the work of Soviet spies (such as Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, who stole U.S. atom bomb secrets for the Russians).

- A plaque dedicated to Kim Philby, the Soviet mole and double agent, was placed on the wall outside Russia's foreign intelligence service headquarters.
- Soviet Red Star markings have returned to Russian military aircraft.
- The cruiser Aurora, which played an important role in the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917, was made into a museum.
- Soviet symbols, such as the hammer and sickle, were displayed with pride during the Sochi Olympics opening ceremony in Russia.
- A supporter of Crimea joining Russia was photographed holding a poster of Stalin in front of the statue of Lenin in Simferopol's Lenin Square.
- The Russian Orthodox Church published a calendar for 2014 dedicated to Stalin.
- The music of the Russian national anthem is the same as the old Soviet anthem.

"Their minds are in 1917," Westerman says of Putin and his former KGB associates.

The strange aspect of what is unfolding before our eyes is that so many American conservatives, led by former Reagan communications director Patrick J. Buchanan, accepted Putin as a Christian leader. Our book, *Back from the Dead: The Return of the Evil Empire* shows that Putin adopted Orthodox Christianity as another ideological front, in order to fool the West. Putin's so-called "Kingdom of God" is in reality the return of the Evil Empire that President Reagan worked so hard to destroy. It is perhaps the most incredible deception of all.

Part of this deception involves the war in Ukraine.

The real story involves the 1994 Budapest Memorandum, arranged by President Clinton, which compromised the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine.

In exchange for Ukraine removing or dismantling its strategic nuclear weapons, the Budapest Memorandum said that "The United States of America, the Russian Federation, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, reaffirm their obligation to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of Ukraine, and that none of their weapons will ever be used against Ukraine except in self-defense or otherwise in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations."

At the time of the Budapest Memorandum, Ukraine had some 1,900 strategic nuclear weapons, the world's third-largest nuclear arsenal at the time. If Ukraine had kept those nuclear weapons and used them as a deterrent against Russia, Vladimir Putin might have had second thoughts about invading Ukraine.

In his recent U.N. speech, Zelensky said, "Ukraine gave up its third-largest nuclear arsenal. The world then decided Russia should become a keeper of such power. Yet,

history shows it was Russia who deserved nuclear disarmament the most, back in 1990s. And Russia deserves it now – terrorists have no right to hold nuclear weapons.”

Before we started hearing the theme that Ukraine was full of Nazis, which emerged after Putin’s first invasion in 2014, we identified major Russia Today (RT) propaganda themes as:

- The 9/11 terrorist attacks were an “inside job.”
- Barack Obama is an agent of the CIA.
- Israel and “neocons” secretly manipulate U.S. foreign policy.
- The Bilderbergers and other “secret” groups run the world and the U.S.
- Vladimir Putin is a Russian patriot and a Christian, and Russia serves as a check on American power.
- NATO must be stopped and dismantled, and a new “European security architecture” put in its place.
- Bradley/Chelsea Manning, Julian Assange, and Edward Snowden are all whistleblowers.

In the current political climate, it is significant that Republican presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy says he plans to pardon Edward Snowden and Julian Assange, who had worked for Russia Today television. Ramaswamy also opposes aid to Ukraine.

In the first GOP presidential debate, former Trump Vice President Mike Pence made a lot more foreign policy sense than Ramaswamy, a favorite of the Fox News Channel who has been rising in the polls. Speaking about the Reagan doctrine, he said, “We said, ‘If you’re willing to fight the communists on your soil, we’ll give you the means to fight him there so our troops don’t have to fight him.’” This was a picture-perfect description of why it’s moral, necessary, and proper to support Ukraine.

Ramaswamy responded, “I have a news flash, the USSR does not exist anymore. It fell back in 1990.”

He seemed unaware that Russian President Vladimir Putin was a former KGB colonel who served the Soviet regime and still works with the Russian communists.

This exchange then took place:

Mike Pence: Did I say USSR?

Vivek Ramaswamy: You talked about the communists and the real communists that we have to address right now...

Mike Pence: Do you do not have any idea what Putin’s aims are?

Vivek Ramaswamy: You already spoke, now I actually have something to say.

Mike Pence: Vladimir Putin has been saying he wants to reestablish the old Soviet sphere of influence.

After a diversion, Pence shot back, saying, "I'm sorry if I insulted him by calling him a communist. He's a dictator and a murderer and the United States of America needs to stand against authoritarianism."

Ramaswamy's failure to understand Putin and Russia is a major embarrassment. Hopefully, it was enlightening to the audience, in that Republicans got a taste of what appeasement and surrender to Russia and China look like. This should be an opportunity to examine the Russian influence seeping into what passes as the modern "conservative" movement.

The Protocols and Putin

By Patrick Murphy

The Russian Government has a long history of utilizing disinformation as a psychological weapon against its own people and its adversaries. Vladimir Putin, who has been the effective leader of Russia since 1999, is skilled in the use of these psychological weapons.

Putin was a Lieutenant Colonel in the KGB (i.e., Secret Police) during the Soviet Union.⁷ He had expertise in disinformation operations as a KGB officer and later headed its main successor agency: the FSB. The Kremlin controlled Russian state media and Russian Intelligence continue to engage in disinformation operations today. The template for many of these disinformation operations came from a forged document that contained a fictional conspiracy meant to disorientate the population and fuel hatred. The fraudulent document was first distributed in Russia and was created at the turn of the 20th century. Vladimir Putin and the Russian Government currently use a modern version of this conspiracy to disorientate the Russian population and scapegoat the developed world.

The ***Protocols of Learned Elders of Zion*** [*The Protocols*] is an anti-Semitic forgery that was authored by members of Russia's Tsarist Secret Police.⁸ It first spread through Russia in the early 20th century at the same time as the Jewish pogroms in the Russian Empire [1903-1906]. The forgery claimed to contain the minutes of a secret meeting of a Zionist Congress in Switzerland in the late 1890s. The event, location and time of the "secret meeting" in the forgery was likely an attempt to improperly tie and discredit the legitimate First Zionist Congress' meeting in Basel, Switzerland. The actual First Zionist Congress, led by Theodor Herzl, took place in August 1897, and was a three day public meeting. The First Zionist Congress had approximately two hundred delegates and several hundred observers, including Christians and members of the international press. The goal of the First Zionist Congress was "to create a publicly guaranteed homeland for the Jewish people" in Palestine.⁹ The First Zionist Congress of August 1897, was both open and aboveboard.

According to *The Protocols*, a conspiracy was hatched at the secret meeting of the Zionist Congress between Jews and Freemasons to rule the world.¹⁰ The forgery claimed a Jewish plot to take over the world by controlling the economy and media and inciting religious conflict. The forgery provided the oldest scapegoat to blame all the ills of society: The Jewish people. This fraudulent document would later influence anti-Semites Adolf Hitler in Germany and Henry Ford in the United States, who spread the vile hoax in their respective countries.¹¹

The Times of London wrote a series of thoroughly researched articles in 1921, proving beyond any doubt that the document was indeed a forgery. The articles, authored by

Philip Graves, demonstrated how the forger plagiarized fictional works from the 1860s, thirty years before the “secret meeting” to plot a takeover of the world.¹²

During the Russian Civil War, updated versions of the forgery began to circulate in Russia and include the claim that Jewish international bankers were responsible for the Bolshevik Revolution.¹³

In fact, history shows otherwise. The German military in 1917, under the authority of Paul von Hindenburg and his deputy Erich Ludendorff, agreed to give Vladimir Lenin, who had been residing in Switzerland during World War I, and other Bolsheviks safe passage through Germany on their way back to Russia. Hindenburg and Ludendorff served as the *de facto* leaders of Germany at that time. The Germans wanted a change in the Russian Government to relieve its Eastern front during World War I.

Germany’s assistance to the revolutionary Lenin and his followers set the stage for the Bolshevik Revolution. The Machiavellian deal between Germany and the Bolsheviks resulted in the Brest-Litovsk treaty of 1918, which allowed German military leaders Hindenburg and Ludendorff to focus on the Western front.¹⁴ The treaty also gave Lenin and the Bolsheviks more time to consolidate their power. Investors and bankers in France, England, and the United States lost substantial sums of money after Lenin came to power. Lenin chose to default on Russia’s sovereign debt and nationalize the banks. The Russian sovereign bond default devastated the capital markets in New York, London and Paris, which was the largest bond default in history up to this time. The National City Bank of New York (i.e., present day Citibank) and Britain’s Midland Bank (i.e., acquired by HSBC in 1992) suffered severe financial losses from the nationalization of the banks’ Russian branches by the Bolsheviks.¹⁵

The allegation that international bankers funded the Bolshevik Revolution so that they could lose money and harm their respective countries is absurd.

Updated versions of *The Protocols*, which scapegoated the Jewish people for Communism, continued to spread during the Stalin era of the Soviet Union. One of the claims widely cited in support of this anti-Semitic myth was that Trotsky’s Communism stemmed from his Jewish heritage. This claim was not true, Trotsky had abandoned his ancestral Jewish faith and adopted the ideology of Communism as a young man. Author Phyllis Goldstein examined Trotsky’s viewpoint and stated, “he had no interest in Judaism or any other religion, and he rejected any connection to the Jews as a people”.¹⁶ The Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin had NKVD agent Ramon Mercader assassinate Leon Trotsky in 1940.¹⁷

After the assassination of Trotsky, the false claim that Jewish people secretly controlled the world and Communism continued to disseminate from the Soviet Union. This claim persisted even after the Doctors’ Plot and Stalin’s anti-Semitic regime had ended with his death in 1953.

In 1958, J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation [FBI], explained this contradiction in his book *Masters of Deceit*: “One of the most malicious myths that has developed in the United States is that persons of the Jewish faith and Communists have something in common. The people who gave the world the concept of our monotheistic God and the Ten Commandments cannot remain Jews and follow the atheism of Karl Marx and the deceit of the Communist movement”.¹⁸

In 1961, Richard Helms, Assistant Director of the Central Intelligence Agency [CIA], testified before the US Senate and stated:

“The Russians have a long tradition in the art of forgery. More than 60 years ago the czarist intelligence service concocted and peddled a confection called the ‘Protocols of the Elders of Zion’. As late as 1958, this item was still being pushed by psychological warfare organizations specializing in anti-Semitism. In the 1930s and 1940s Hitler’s propagandists ‘borrowed’ it and added it to some counterfeiting of their own. Long before 1957, the Communists were as skillful as the Nazis in the production and exploitation of forgeries”.¹⁹

In the summer of 1964, the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee called out distributors of *The Protocols* for their actions. The U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee published an official document on *The Protocols* declaring it “A Fabricated Historic Document.”

The Senate Committee declared:

“Those who would mislead the American people by continuing to peddle this crude and vicious nonsense impede and prejudice the Nation’s fight against the Communist menace. The subcommittee believes that the peddlers of *The Protocols* are peddlers of un-American prejudice who spread hate and dissension among the American people. Falsely using the guise of fighting Communism, they, like the Communists who set class against class, would set religion against religion. Both would subvert the American system”.²⁰

The Senate Committee also discussed a theme of updated versions of the forgery found in the Soviet Union during the era of Khrushchev, “In recent years, for example, documents that bear a remarkable resemblance to *The Protocols* have been printed in the Soviet Union as part of the unrelenting campaign against the Jewish minority in the Soviet Union. The one difference is that the documents circulated in the Soviet Union tend to equate ‘international Jewry’ with ‘international capitalism’”.²¹

By the 1960s, the Soviet Union continued to use *The Protocols* as a template for many of its disinformation campaigns. It could substitute the word “Jewry” for “capitalism” as the U.S. Senate Committee explained in 1964, or just as easily use the words “bankers” and “industrialists”. The Soviet Union could also substitute its opponents, such as Western countries, Western intelligence agencies and Western leaders. It could easily substitute “international” for “global”, then substitute “Jewry” for “elite”. The Soviet Union could project its own bad actions onto its adversaries. It could blame any issues

or crises in its own society on those who opposed the Soviet Union. It could also use the Communist scapegoat: the Capitalists or stick to the oldest scapegoat: the Jewish people.

The evolution of *The Protocols* in the late Soviet Union and Russian Federation took on a composite approach of these anti-Semitic, anti-Capitalist and anti-Western conspiracies.

An underlying theme developed in these modern versions where the rest of the world envied Russia and wished to oppress the Russian people. These themes take on the classic victim/oppressor dynamic.

The Harvard Project

Russian Grigory Klimov wrote about the *Harvard Project* conspiracy that is directly based on *The Protocols* and overtly anti-Semitic.²² The name and timeframe of the conspiracy appears to be taken from a legitimate study known as the Harvard Project on the Soviet Social System conducted in the early 1950s. The study surveyed Soviet refugees in the United States and included questions designed to measure anti-Semitic beliefs.²³ Klimov's method of forgery imitates *The Protocols*, which borrows a real event occurring at the same time and place, the First Zionist Congress [1897] in Switzerland, as a basis for the forgery.

The perfectly appropriate and transparent Zionist Congress in Basel, Switzerland and Harvard Project on the Soviet Social System were used in the forgery to tie legitimate events, which provide a facade of authenticity, to the conspiracy.

This Cold War version of *The Protocols* involves a conspiracy against Russia secretly orchestrated at Harvard University, "by a cabal of genetically defective Jews and homosexuals (virtually synonymous in Klimov's lexicon), plotting the country's downfall."²⁴ Klimov wrote his anti-Semitic conspiracies in the United States beginning in the 1970s and distributed these writings to Soviet emigres. Klimov's conspiracy literature made its way to the Soviet Union. The fall of the Soviet Union, which Klimov attributed to the *Harvard Project*, helped popularize the conspiracy among a new generation of conspiracy theorists in the Russian Federation.²⁵

The Dulles Plan

The *Dulles Plan*, also based on *The Protocols*, was another popular conspiracy that took root in Russia shortly after the collapse of the Soviet Union. The conspiracy, named after former CIA Director Allen Dulles, was plagiarized from a popular Russian novel and film from the Brezhnev era: *The Eternal Call* by Anatoly Ivanov. The forger of the *Dulles Plan* plagiarized fiction, as did the forger of *The Protocols*. The forgery claims that the United States plans to demoralize and divide Russia by corrupting its culture and youth. The attribution to the Cold War CIA Director Allen Dulles, utilizes the substitution method by using the CIA in place of "The Jews."

The *Dulles Plan* became popular in the Russian Federation and removed the overt anti-Semitism of the *Harvard Project*.²⁶

The Golden Billion

The evolution of *The Protocols* leads to Vladimir Putin's favorite new conspiracy: The *Golden Billion*. This conspiracy, based on *The Protocols*, is an amalgam of themes, including those found in the *Harvard Project* and the *Dulles Plan*. It also incorporates Malthusian ideas from over two hundred years ago and the Marxist theory of class struggle.

The *Golden Billion* conspiracy was developed by Anatolii Kuz'mich Tsikunov in his book: *The World Government Conspiracy: Russia and the Golden Billion*. The *Golden Billion* conspiracy theory entails a Malthusian nightmare where the earth can only sustain a population of a billion people. The wealthiest (i.e., Golden) billion people who hoard the world's wealth plan on inhabiting Russia and exploiting its natural resources. Author Eliot Borenstein, one of the top experts on modern Russian conspiracies, describes the "Russocentrism" theme of the modern Russian conspiracy theories, including the *Harvard Project*, the *Dulles Project* and the *Golden Billion*.²⁷ Borenstein also points out the tactic of labeling a motive to the oppressor in these conspiracies, which resulted in the term "Russophobia." Russophobia has become a common phrase in Russian state-controlled media.

This *Golden Billion* conspiracy avoids the overt anti-Semitism of *The Protocols*, and the *Harvard Project* and scapegoats a Western Global Elite, representing the billion people living in the developed world. The conspiracy maintains covert anti-Semitic themes from *The Protocols*, such as hoarding global wealth and controlling the media. The *Golden Billion* conspiracy's implied conclusion is "The genocide of the Russian people".²⁸ The conspiracy gained popularity in Russia through Sergei Kara-Murza. Vladimir Putin referenced the *Golden Billion* conspiracy in 2000, during a speech at an Asia-Pacific economic summit, "roughly divided into North and South, between the so-called golden billion and the rest of humanity".²⁹ President Vladimir Putin, former President Dmitry Medvedev and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov have all publicly referenced the *Golden Billion* conspiracy since the invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.³⁰ Putin made the following statement in a July 2022 speech:

"The model of total domination of the so-called golden billion is unfair. Why should this 'golden billion' of all the population on the globe dominate over everyone and impose its own rules of behavior? Based on the illusion of exceptionalism, it divides the peoples into those of first or second-rate, and therefore it is racist and neocolonial in its essence, while the globalist, allegedly liberal ideology underlying it, is more and more acquiring the features of totalitarianism, restraining the creative search and free historical creativeness".³¹

Vladimir Putin, in a speech given to the Eastern Economic Forum in September 2023, blamed Western Global Elites for wrecking the economy and financial system. He

never places himself at fault or takes responsibility for his own actions. Putin referenced the *Golden Billion* conspiracy in this same speech, and stated, “a new model of relations and integration is being born, but not according to Western models for the chosen 'golden billion,' but for the whole of humanity, for the entire functioning and developing multipolar world”.³²

This *Golden Billion* conspiracy disorients the Russian population and scapegoats a Western Global Elite as their enemy. The conspiracy is endorsed by its own government at the highest levels and used to justify Russia’s illegal actions in Ukraine.

Putin, the former KGB officer and head of the FSB, knows exactly what he is doing by using disinformation to mislead his own population. He uses a modern version of *The Protocols* to blame his egregious acts on the innocent. He casts the Russian people as victims, the billion people living in the developed world as oppressors and himself as savior.

These same tactics were used by Stalin and Hitler. It is a well-known strategy of murderous tyrants. These wolves project their evil actions and plans onto the innocent. Putin, a totalitarian dictator, accuses the democratically elected developed nations of totalitarianism. The disinformation expert, who uses the *Golden Billion* conspiracy to sow division, accuses people living in developed nations of dividing people. In 2022, Putin accused people living in the developed world of global domination and imposing their will onto others, the same year he invaded Ukraine and imposed his will on a sovereign and independent nation.

Putin referred to Ukraine’s government as a “gang of drug addicts and Neo-Nazis” immediately prior to his illegal invasion of Ukraine.³³ Putin uses *The Protocols* and accuses a country led by a Jewish leader of Nazism.

In his speeches and government-controlled media, he cleverly switches the role of Zelensky’s government to oppressor and himself as savior. The Russian Government’s combined use of the *Golden Billion* conspiracy and anti-Semitic rhetoric toward Ukraine creates fertile ground for anti-Semitism in Eastern Europe.

All of these conspiracy theories share the foundational text of *The Protocols*. As a result, anti-Semitism simmers beneath the surface of these conspiracy theories even when the scapegoat is not the Jewish people. People with anti-Semitic tendencies will read modern versions of *The Protocols*, where the explicit scapegoat is not the Jewish people, and intuitively realize the real conspirators: “The Jews”. *The Protocols*, which sows hatred, feeds off prejudice and the foundational prejudice of this text is anti-Semitism. A high level of anti-Semitism in a population can be seen as the canary in the coalmine for a society that is ill. Anti-Semitism cannot be tolerated in society.

The deadly consequences to the scapegoat, through disseminating *The Protocols*, has been widely known as early as the Jewish pogroms in the Russian Empire and as

gravely as the Holocaust perpetrated by Nazi Germany, resulting in the deaths of six million Jewish people.

A final lesson should also be learned from the societies that spread malicious propaganda to scapegoat others and evade responsibility for the failings in their own society.

An example of this lesson can be learned from the German military leader Erich Ludendorff, who recklessly approved the safe passage of Vladimir Lenin and the Bolsheviks through Germany on their way to Russia. Ludendorff never took responsibility for the consequences of this decision that led to the creation of the Soviet Union. The German military lost the war against the Allied Powers. The Allied Powers were less forgiving of the German government as a result of Germany's assistance to the Bolsheviks and the harsh terms of the Brest-Litovsk treaty. Ludendorff failed to take responsibility for Germany's loss in World War I. He was a major proponent of the "stabbed in the back" myth, which utilized *The Protocols* to scapegoat why Germany lost the war. Ludendorff joined the Nazi Party and assisted Hitler in his rise to power.³⁴

The British historian Sir John Wheeler-Bennett visited Ludendorff in Munich in the 1930s, while he was conducting research for a book on the Brest-Litovsk treaty. The once respected German military leader had lost his mind. The historian described his visit with Ludendorff, "He was utterly unreasonable, and our conversation – or I should say his monologue – consisted of a diatribe against a great international conspiracy in which the unlikely alliance of the Roman Catholic Church, World Jewry, and the Grand Orient [Freemasonry] were combining to destroy civilization."³⁵

Ludendorff's reliance on scapegoats to evade responsibility created a blind spot in his mind. Instead of taking responsibility and right actions, he enabled the murderous tyrants Lenin and Hitler to come to power. Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union not only murdered a countless number of innocent civilians, but also destroyed their own societies in the process. These countries acted out the poisonous propaganda they spread, which resulted in a self-made tragedy. The actual criminal conspirators, like Stalin and Hitler, use the malicious art of disinformation and are intent on destroying civilization and projecting blame on the innocent. The governments and leaders who disseminate *The Protocols* are the real conspirators.

Conclusion

The former KGB Lieutenant Colonel Vladimir Putin has not changed his stripes and currently disseminates a modern version of *The Protocols* through his intelligence agencies and government-controlled media. Putin conspires to take over the world, like Stalin and Hitler did, and projects his crimes against humanity onto the innocent. He plays the role of the savior, when he is the perpetrator. He casts the Russian people as victims, which is true in at least one respect, they are the victims of living under a murderous tyrant since 1999. The Russian people need to remove themselves from the role of victim and control their own destiny.

The Russian people should follow Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's advice: "The simple act of an ordinary brave man is not to participate in lies, not to support false actions!"³⁶ Solzhenitsyn was a brave man who told the truth. Putin is a weak man who tells lies.

Putin falsely accuses a billion people living in the developed world of conspiring to dominate and oppress the rest of the world, when this is his *modus operandi*. Russian emigrants have flocked to developed nations since the illegal invasion of Ukraine to live in peace, while the Russian state-controlled media falsely accuses developed nations of suffering from Russophobia. The real criminal conspirators of the present are Vladimir Putin and his corrupt lieutenants who run the Russian government and spread disinformation based on the mother of all lies: *The Protocols*.

¹ <https://www.cnn.com/2023/08/04/politics/cnn-poll-ukraine/index.html>

² <https://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2023/06/tuckers-back-on-ukraine.php>

³ <https://katehon.com/en/article/alexander-dugins-interview-alex-jones>

⁴ <http://www.usasurvival.org/blog/new-agers-and-russian-agents-in-the-trump-movement>

⁵ See "Kurt Waldheim: The Hidden Evil" by Danko R Vasovic and his film "Waldheim-KGB Agent Kurt."

⁶ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/politics/1978/08/29/suspected-agent-takes-un-post/b47dd00b-38eb-4bdf-88da-9df7712ac70a/>

⁷ Encyclopaedia Britannica Online, s.v. "Vladimir Putin" accessed August 15, 2023, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Vladimir-Putin/Third-presidential-term>.

⁸ Phyllis Goldstein, *A Convenient Hatred: The History of Antisemitism* (Brookline, MA: Facing History and Ourselves, 2012), 245.

⁹ Encyclopaedia Britannica Online, s.v. "Theodor Herzl" accessed September 10, 2023, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Theodor-Herzl>.

¹⁰ Encyclopaedia Britannica Online, s.v. "Protocols of the Elders of Zion" accessed August 16, 2023, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Protocols-of-the-Elders-of-Zion>.

¹¹ United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Encyclopedia, s.v. "Protocols of the Elders of Zion," accessed August 16, 2023, <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/protocols-of-the-elders-of-zion>.

¹² Phyllis Goldstein, *A Convenient Hatred: The History of Antisemitism* (Brookline, MA: Facing History and Ourselves, 2012), 250.

¹³ *Ibid.*, 250-251.

¹⁴ John W. Wheeler-Bennett, *Brest-Litovsk: The Forgotten Peace* (London: MacMillan, 1963), 36-41.

¹⁵ Hassan Malik, *Bankers & Bolsheviks* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2018), 208-216.

¹⁶ Phyllis Goldstein, *A Convenient Hatred: The History of Antisemitism* (Brookline, MA: Facing History and Ourselves, 2012), 242-243.

¹⁷ Encyclopaedia Britannica Online, s.v. "Leon Trotsky" accessed August 16, 2023, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Leon-Trotsky/Role-in-Soviet-government>.

¹⁸ "Protocols of Learned Elders of Zion," FBI file for Protocols of Learned Elders of Zion. *The FBI: Federal Bureau of Investigation*, US Department of Justice, <https://vault.fbi.gov/protocols-of-learned-elders-of-zion>.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁰ *Ibid.*

²¹ *Ibid.*

²² Eliot Borenstein, *Plots Against Russia: Conspiracy and Fantasy After Socialism* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press 2019), 77-83.

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- ²³ William Korey, "The Origins and Development of Soviet Anti-Semitism: An Analysis," *Slavic Review*, Volume 31, Issue 1, March 1972, 112.
- ²⁴ Eliot Borenstein, *Plots Against Russia: Conspiracy and Fantasy After Socialism* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press 2019), 78-79.
- ²⁵ *Ibid.*
- ²⁶ *Ibid.*, 88-92.
- ²⁷ *Ibid.*, 96-98.
- ²⁸ *Ibid.*, 98.
- ²⁹ Adam Taylor, "The apocalyptic vision behind Putin's 'golden billion' argument," *The Washington Post*, July 22, 2022.
- ³⁰ *Ibid.*
- ³¹ "Putin slams 'golden billion' idea as neocolonial and racist," *TASS*, July 20, 2022.
- ³² "Western countries ruining system of trade, financial ties — Putin," *TASS*, September 12, 2023.
- ³³ US State Department, "To Vilify Ukraine, The Kremlin Resorts to Antisemitism," news release, July 11, 2022, <https://www.state.gov/disarming-disinformation/to-vilify-ukraine-the-kremlin-resorts-to-antisemitism/>.
- ³⁴ Encyclopaedia Britannica Online, s.v. "Erich Ludendorff" accessed August 16, 2023, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Erich-Ludendorff>.
- ³⁵ John W. Wheeler-Bennett, *Knaves, Fools and Heroes* (London: MacMillan, 1974), 97.
- ³⁶ Alexis Klimoff, *East & West* (New York: Harper & Row, 1980), <https://www.solzhenitsyncenter.org/nobel-lecture>.