Virgil: The Deep State Bumps Off General Flynn. Who's the Next Target? 6/17/17, 6:27 PM Virgil: The Deep State Bumps Off by <u>Virgil</u>15 Feb 20175,401 The Washington Post Flynn departure erupts

General Flynn. Who's the Next Target? into crisis for White House Trump's team initially was skeptical about details of Flynn's contacts with Russia quoted Flynn as saying he

From a phone call at a Caribbean resort to a forced resignation Michael Flynn was at a beachside resort in the Continues in Regulator, in stretch of sand and sun that he and his wife had visited for years, when he took a few moments out of their post-election vacation for a call with the Russian ambassador to the United States. That phone call would trigger a series of events leading to his departure as national security By Greg Miller, Adam Entous and Etien Naka Pence is above the fray, but is he out of the loop? de 'darkens the sin that hangs

I. The Main Stream Media's Victory Lap

the kill. The ultimate target, of course, is Trump himself.

BNN Edit

pro-MSM.

appropriate action.

The Deep State has done its dirty work, getting rid of Michael Flynn, the now-

having taken direction—even dictation—from the Deep State, is moving in for

stories on its online home page were anti-Flynn, anti-Trump—and, of course,

Let's take a closer look: The *Post* seemed particularly proud of this moment-

resignation at the White House." And yet the Post was just getting warmed

up. Here's another headline: "Flynn episode 'darkens the cloud' of Russia

the White House: "Flynn departure erupts into a full-blown crisis for the

"Senators from both parties pledge to deepen probe of Russia and the 2016

election." The Post's guiding idea, of course, is that responsible leaders on

What sort of appropriate action? Well, for starters, it would be a thorough

to that end, the *Post* helpfully offered its readers a guide to the hoped-for

Watergate 2.0; as another headline read, "Flynngate? Kremlingate?

investigation, but, after that, maybe forced resignation or impeachment. And

Meanwhile, others in the MSM are piling on as well. Politico has whipped up

such hot headlines as "Flynn's ouster leads to more chaos in Trump world:

The former national security adviser is only one of the White House's many

problems." And then, striving to give the storyline legs by taking it beyond

focusing on the resignation, and start focusing on the real issue here: The

So we can see where this is going: The story didn't start with Flynn, and so

Flynn's exit doesn't end it. Axios' Mike Allen, a longtime Beltway observer,

The news eruptions are gaining a Watergate aura — constant, complicated

revelations from intelligence agencies and federal law enforcement; White

House denials; frenzied competition among the great news organizations.

Welcome to Day 1 of what is arguably the biggest presidential scandal

involving a foreign government since Iran-Contra. . . . Hunker down,

because this is a Class 5 political hurricane that's hitting Washington.

removed; second, the Trump White House is headed for a shipwreck, and

This third narrative is the demonstrable power of the Deep State. That is, the

The MSM narrative is two-fold: First, the crazy kook Flynn was finally

And yet there's a third narrative, lurking, flitting in and out of focus.

permanent government, the people who were here in DC when Trump

arrived, and who look forward to seeing him leave—as soon as possible.

We'll take a closer look at the Deep State in a moment, but first, we might

to their big brothers and big sisters in the Deep State. One such is **Evan**

The Flynn story is a reminder of a big truth: Journalism lives. And

principled public servants who got the story out are hidden heroes.

Okay, of course, a journalist would say that journalism lives. Yet we might

story out are hidden heroes." As in, Thanks, guys, we couldn't have done it

pause over Osnos' further words: "principled public servants who got the

CNN's Stelter went even further. Under the headline, "How leaks and

investigative journalists led to Flynn's resignation," Stelter laid out the

Investigative journalism created the conditions for Michael Flynn's

resignation from his national security adviser post. Journalists at *The*

Washington Post, The New York Times and other outlets spoke with

government officials who provided vital information about Flynn's

contacts with Russia. The sources insisted on anonymity, making it

Ah yes, one story becomes ten stories, and ten stories become 100. Now

So who, exactly, are these Deep State people? What are their names? Their

precise identities seemed to be perpetually veiled, cloaked in journalistic

And yes, that hiddenness opens up the possibility that reporters are

that it can provide the fire, as well as the smoke.

from someone in the Obama administration."

Senate would be going crazy.

intel community."

and Russia have been spilling out for weeks.

not only rejected, but then smeared in the media?

Secretary Sean Spicer said at his briefing on Tuesday:

leaks. It's a criminal act. This is a crime.

Flynn are, indisputably, felonies.

And the next day, the 15th, he tweeted:

Twitter:

like Russia.

on Fox:

wrong lesson.

exaggerating, or compositing, their sources—or even making them up

altogether. And yet if the stories about Flynn had been completely made up,

the retired three-star would still be on the job. So the Deep State has proven

Still, some clues as to Deep State identities have emerged. On Tuesday night,

the 14th, Fox News' Bret Baier put it plainly: The anti-Flynn material "came

Then Baier interviewed Rep. Devin Nunes (R-CA), chairman of the House

Intelligence Committee, who said that there was obviously an orchestrated

plan against the Trump administration. "I've never seen anything like it,"

If you look at the fact that an American was having a conversation, and it

leaked to the press. . . if the shoe was on the other foot here, and this was

the Democrats, as you can imagine, the Democrats in the House and the

Indeed, the anti-Trump leaks have been happening for a while. Unflattering

details of the President's conversations with the leaders of Australia, Mexico,

And just on February 10 came this headline in Politico: "CIA freezes out top

National Security Adviser — ratcheting up tensions between Flynn and the

Now we might ask ourselves: How did Politico come to know that the CIA had

The Trump administration, for its part, has tried to steer the narrative toward

just that—the question of how these leaks happened. As White House Press

There is an issue of classified information . . . people entrusted with

And Flynn himself has hit that point even harder. In an interview with The

In some of these cases, you're talking about stuff that's taken off of a

Flynn has a strong point about illegality, although, of course, the MSM

possibility that Flynn had lied to the FBI. If so, Thomas volunteered, that

would be a felony. Yes, Thomas was happy to use the "f-word," felony, in

regard to Flynn, even as he didn't bother to mention that the leaks against

Meanwhile, President Trump himself has raised the criminality point on

The real story here is why are there so many illegal leaks coming out of

Washington? Will these leaks be happening as I deal on N. Korea etc?

@washingtonpost by the intelligence community (NSA and FBI?). Just

Without a doubt, these are serious legal issues, and yet the MSM reaction has

been a collective yawn. In the dismissive comment of Fox News' Shepard

Smith, who has stopped trying to hide his liberalism, "When you start

For their part, the Democrats are even more dismissive. As Rep. Eric

Swalwell (D-CA), also a member of the House Intelligence Committee, said

If the Republicans' takeaway from this is that we have a leaking problem,

and not that we have a problem with the Russian government and its

relationship with the Trump administration, they're taking away the

In the meantime, other Democrats, who have long been demanding a full-

blown Congressional investigation, are eagerly escalating the issue; Rep. Seth

Moulton (D-MA) suggested on CNN that Trump might be guilty of "treason."

And perhaps it was just as predictable that Trump-hating Republicans would

be heading in the same direction. As Sen. John McCain said with an inward

McCain's close ally, Sen. Lindsey Graham, seemed to support the idea of a

What I'd like to know is, did General Flynn make this phone call by

Congressional investigation, going beyond just Flynn:

the Trump people and Russia?

are Sens. Bob Corker and Roy Blunt.

coup:

reportorial resource.

flap of a month ago:

blackmail Mr. Trump.

II. A Closer Look at the Deep State

defined the Deep State this way:

He added this warning:

here, to name just a few pieces.

with Russian ambassador Sergey Kislyak.

it.

care."

Establishment."

White House.

the call, such as the actual transcript.

see the transcript of his call.

III. What Comes Next

scale FBI investigation.

order.

Team Trump?"

them like that—elections be damned.

that official removed. Welcome to Washington.

chortle, "Obviously the administration is in significant disarray." Meanwhile,

himself? If he was directed, by who? Did they try to engage the Russians

before they were in office? Was this part of a continuing pattern between

So now we'll have to wait and see if other Republican elected officials pick up

that anti-administration meme. Two who seem at least somewhat interested

cheerleading the anti-Trump effort. One such is the neoconservative pundit

Bill Kristol, who in a February 14 tweet, basically endorsed the idea of a soft

Obviously strongly prefer normal democratic and constitutional politics.

For its part, the MSM-Deep State combo keeps firing volleys. Late Tuesday

night, The New York Times headlined its breaking story, "Trump Campaign

Aides Had Repeated Contacts With Russian Intelligence." The article named

only Paul Manafort, who has been named before, and yet it seems a certainty

As an aside, we might note that the liberal left no longer seems to object to

Uncle Sam's surveillance of phone calls. Opposition to electronic intercepts

by the National Security Agency was a major MSM cause just a few years ago,

And the *Times* story also included this little item, recalling the "dirty dossier"

As part of the inquiry, the FBI is also trying to assess the credibility of

salacious allegations about connections between Mr. Trump, his

hounding—the President. And, yes, of course, still leaking about it.

So what's going on here? How did the Deep State get to be so powerful?

The rest of us might say that it's a whacked-out world when un-elected

Virgil, grizzled Beltway veteran that he is, saw this coming. Back on

government officials can commit crimes—leaking classified material is always

a crime—and then, with the megaphone of the MSM, shift the blame onto a

high government official chosen by a newly elected president, and then get

December 12, under the headline, "The Deep State vs. Donald Trump," he

The term "Deep State" refers to the complex of bureaucrats, technocrats,

Let's not kid ourselves: These anti-Trump constituencies might have lost

lose their power. And to that end, they have real clout, and they are using

the 2016 presidential election at the ballot box, but they don't intend to

In fact, Virgil has written extensively about the Deep State, here, here, and

Yet the specific case of *Deep State vs. Flynn* got going on January 12, when

Washington Post columnist David Ignatius, always known to be close to the

"intelligence community," revealed Flynn's December 29 phone conversation

At that time, in mid-January, Virgil took note of this leak; he asked, "How did

Ignatius know that?" For his part, Ignatius attributed the information only to

disclosures aren't legal, but once again, nobody in Washington, DC, seems to

Veteran journalist Kenneth Timmerman calls them "shadow warriors." A few

But back in the here and now, on February 14, a detailed account of the Flynn

wiretap appeared in *The Washington Post;* the story reported, for example,

that Flynn was on vacation in the Dominican Republic when he spoke to the

As a veteran intelligence officer, Flynn must have known that a call with a

government, pored over by FBI analysts and possibly even shared with the

We might add this point: Flynn, a former director of the Defense Intelligence

And so the fact that he would talk on the phone with the Russian ambassador

Agency, was obviously familiar with Uncle Sam's wiretapping capabilities.

suggests that his conversation was, in fact, innocent. That is, in his phone

call, Flynn might simply have told the Russian that the incoming Trump

administration would soon be reviewing its policies toward Russia-and

nothing more. In other words, Flynn had no qualms about talking to the

not have adequately considered the possibility of a leak to the media.)

Russian, because he was not saying anything wrong. (Of course, Flynn might

And if it's true, that Flynn did nothing wrong, then we might see why it is that

the Deep State leaked the fact of the phone call, but not any more detail about

We can further see how only partial information would play out in the media:

If it's reported that Flynn had a "secret" phone call with a Russian diplomat,

that might, indeed, sound sinister. And so from a foe's point of view, it's best

to leave it at that; there's no point in releasing the actual transcript if that

would make Flynn look good. In fact, it's been reported that even when the

FBI was investigating Flynn over these past few weeks, he was not allowed to

So we might ask: What's the motivation of the Deep State? Is it just hostility

Adam Kredo, writing in The Washington Free Beacon, argues that the 2015

Iran nuclear deal was the prime locus of Deep State animus toward Flynn.

Under the headline, "Former Obama Officials, Loyalists Waged Secret

Campaign to Oust Flynn," Kredo asserted that the ringleader of the anti-

Rhodes, of course, had been the prime mover in the <u>Joint Comprehensive</u>

course, Trump, too, has been a strong opponent of the nuclear deal.

<u>Plan of Action</u>, a pro-Iranian deal which Flynn had strongly denounced. By

this reckoning, Rhodes & Co. were simply defending their handiwork. And of

Without a doubt, the MSM is now having a lot of fun. Mediaite even offered

its readers an online poll: "After Flynn, Who's Next To Get the Boot From

Yet once the "fun" is over, the rest of us must ask: What is to become of our

less than a year ago that Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign was being

helpless to defend itself against hacks, to say nothing of US citizens as well.

In the meantime, the Trump administration will surely do what it can to stop

the leaks. And the press, of course, stands ready to make sure that the leaks

will continue to keep gushing. For example, as soon as Trump announces

any sort of anti-leak plan, the MSM will dredge up the memory of Richard

broader than the efforts of just a few sleuths. Rep. Nunes, chairman of the

Intelligence Committee, has the right idea when he says that we need a full-

Indeed, we will probably have to do much more than that: If the traditional

culture of trustworthy professionalism inside the government has completely

broken down, then we will have to change structures and agencies within the

federal national-security complex, and that can't be done by mere executive

So what's needed, instead, is the buy-in of majorities in Congress, dedicated

laws. Nothing less than such a comprehensive effort will prove effective. In

other words, that's a new mission for the Trump administration—a lot of

popular with the public; a new commitment to improved and leak-free

Finally, we might close on a note of warning: If the Trump administration

can't manage these reforms, then, well, the situation will only get worse; the

new future inside the federal government will be the bureaucratic version of

Interestingly, even a few in the MSM see this point. One such is Damon

Linker, writing for the liberal-leaning The Week; he headlined his February

14 piece, "America's spies anonymously took down Michael Flynn. That is

deeply worrying." As he put it, what we're seeing is a sneaky effort "to

manipulate public opinion for the sake of achieving a desired political

Linker added that a grim end-justifies-the-means ethos has settled in:

Far too many Trump critics appear not to care that these intelligence

agents leaked highly sensitive information to the press — mostly because

is simply not the role of the deep state to target a man working in one of

the political branches of the government by dishing to reporters about

And another MSM-er, Eli Lake of Bloomberg News, went even further,

bluntly entitling his piece, "The Political Assassination of Michael Flynn."

Lake observed that what we're seeing now is what we see in police states,

where the government security apparatus is a sword against its own people,

As for how all this might end if the Deep State domination continues, Lake

approvingly quoted Rep. Nunes: "First it's Flynn, next it will be Kellyanne

Conway, then it will be Steve Bannon, then it will be Reince Priebus." To

Thank you to Eli Lake of The Bloomberg View – "The NSA & FBI . . .

should not interfere in our politics . . . and is" Very serious situation for

Yes, it's a very serious situation for America. The Deep State can now claim a

which Lake added, "Flynn is only the appetizer. Trump is the entree."

Interestingly, Trump himself read Lake's piece and tweeted praise:

Trump administration scalp. And it's hungry for more—a lot more.

http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2017/02/15/virgil-deep-state-bumps-off-general-flynn-whos-next-target/

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Trump critics are pleased with the result.... No matter what Flynn did, it

government would be a political winner.

kill-by-leak or be-killed-by-leak.

outcome. It's weaponized spin."

information it has gathered clandestinely.

not a shield against foreign enemies.

USA

to the permanent reworking and rewriting of operating budgets and statutory

work, to be sure, but truly worth it. Virgil believes, moreover, that it would be

Nixon's "plumbers," that being the operation that led to Watergate.

Virgil believes that any effective anti-leak operation will have to be far

battered by an earlier wave of leaks. Indeed, the US government seems

government—no matter who's in charge—if everything leaks? After all, it was

Flynn effort was former Obama deputy national security adviser Ben Rhodes.

to Trump? Or to Republicans? Or is there something more?

years ago, he published a book with that title, focusing on the Deep State's

mostly successful efforts to undermine the Bush 43 administration.

Russian official in Washington would be intercepted by the US

Russian ambassador, Kislyak. The Post also observed:

a "senior US government official." Whereupon Virgil observed, "Such

We might note that the Deep State goes by other names, including

"permanent government," "shadow government," or even, simply, "The

and plutocrats that likes things just the way they are and wants to keep

information contained in a dossier that was given to the bureau last year

by a former British intelligence operative. The dossier contained a raft of

associates and the Russian government. It also included unsubstantiated

claims that the Russians had embarrassing videos that could be used to

In other words, the Deep State is still actively investigating—some might say,

that more Trump-connected names will come drip-drip-dripping out.

and yet now the MSM very much enjoys having such intercepts as a

In the meantime, though, we can see that some un-elected Beltway

Republicans—the right wing of the Deep State, one might say—are

But if it comes to it, prefer the deep state to the Trump state.

blaming the leaks and not the substance, there's a problem."

Information is being illegally given to the failing @nytimes &

doesn't care. On February 14, ABC News' Pierre Thomas raised the

classified system and given to a reporter. That's a crime. You call them

classified information are leaking it out... That . . . is a big story.

Daily Caller, just hours before his February 13 resignation, he said:

refused a security clearance to one Robin Townley, whom Flynn had chosen

to run the Africa desk at the NSC? By what legal due process was Townley

Flynn aide: The agency denied a security clearance for a key aide to the

Nunes continued, dwelling on the partisan double standard:

difficult to ascertain their agendas. But the sources caused journalists to

dig for more and more details about Flynn's calls. One story became 10

note that a few reporters are willing to give credit where credit is due—that is,

Flynn, the news site added: "Who Told Flynn to Call Russia? Let's stop

both sides of the aisle are horrified by Trump, and so they are contemplating

<u>Trump White House</u>." And the paper added this bit of ominousness:

From there, the *Post* moved on to stories emphasizing what it saw as chaos in

former national security adviser to President Trump. And so the MSM,

The Washington Post, which has long hated Republicans, and Trump in

particular, is leading the charge. On February 15, seven of the eight top

by-moment account, known in the trade as a "tick-tock": "Flynn's swift

downfall: From a phone call in the Dominican Republic to a forced

that hangs over Trump administration."

Russiagate? The gate's out of the gate."

mystery of Trump's Russia ties."

And Allen quoted CNN's Brian Stelter:

Captain Trump himself can't manage the wheel.

Osnos, a writer for *The New Yorker*, who tweeted:

symbiotic relationship of journos and Deep Staters:

stories, and 10 became a hundred.

that's some strong symbiosis!

omerta.

without you.

summed up the DC mood: