

## 1: The Steele Dossier / Trump-Russia Dossier / The 1% are stealing our money

*The Trump-Russia dossier, also known as the Steele dossier, is a private intelligence report comprising memos written between June and December by Christopher Steele, a former head of the Russia Desk for British intelligence (MI6).*

What is the dossier? In return, the dossier alleges, the Trump campaign promised to "sideline Russian intervention in Ukraine as a campaign issue" and to drop Russian sanctions if they won the election. The document names three Trump associates — campaign manager Paul Manafort, foreign adviser Carter Page, and personal lawyer Michael Cohen — as having corresponded with or met Russian officials to discuss this plan. Trump has dismissed the dossier as a "pile of garbage. Simpson described Steele — who was well-respected within the U. He worked his Russian sources, including a "former top-level intelligence officer still active in the Kremlin" and a "senior Russian Foreign Ministry official. Steele also briefed journalists from several news outlets about his research, but none chose to publish the unverified allegations; eventually, on Oct. After the election, Republican Sen. John McCain sent an emissary to the U. In January, BuzzFeed published the entire document online. How much of it is true? There was a Russian effort to help Trump win the election; Trump associates did meet many Russian officials see below ; and in his first week in office, Trump reportedly did order his staff to look into relieving the sanctions — a move blocked by Congress. Steele has acknowledged that the dossier consisted of "raw" intelligence, which is bound to contain factual errors, but he still believes it is 70 to 90 percent accurate. They have speculated that the Obama administration and "Deep State" officials hostile to Trump used this "oppo research" to justify wiretaps of Trump officials and to launch the Russia investigation. In a leak that likely came from the FBI, The New York Times recently quoted sources saying that the investigation actually began because George Papadopoulos, a Trump foreign policy adviser, drunkenly told an Australian diplomat that Russia had hacked emails damaging to Hillary Clinton. Nonetheless, many GOP lawmakers have sought to discredit the dossier, and some even suggest Fusion was the victim of a Russian disinformation campaign. Simpson insists the truth is much simpler. All three initially failed to disclose these contacts and later had to correct their disclosure statements. And during the transition, Blackwater founder Erik Prince secretly met a Kremlin-linked official in the Seychelles, in what was reportedly an attempt to establish a back channel between Trump and Moscow. This "pattern of surreptitious contacts," Fusion co-founder Glenn Simpson told senators, "supports the broad allegation of some sort of an undisclosed political or financial relationship" between Trump and Russia.

## 2: Is the Christopher Steele dossier fake news? (Opinion) - CNN

*Steele and the Dossier were credible enough for former FBI Director James Comey and Director of National Intelligence James Clapper to brief President Obama and then-President elect Trump on the contents of the dossier.*

He worked closely with former MI6 officials in private intelligence work. The opinions expressed in this commentary are his. The US intelligence community has made no determination as of yet on the contents, but has deemed the documents sufficiently credible to warrant further investigation and included a summary of the dossier in briefing materials for both President Obama and President-elect Trump. It is worth noting that these leaders are all career professionals, including two non-political appointees, FBI Director James Comey and NSA Director Mike Rogers, who have zero incentive to pick a fight with their future boss. The author, former British intelligence Russia expert Chris Steele, is a highly regarded and experienced professional known for his integrity and professionalism; not the kind of guy to invent stuff out of thin air. The Independent reported that Steele continued his reporting even after the election because he recognized how serious these charges were. He felt so threatened when the Wall Street Journal and other media released his name and the dossier that he vanished out of sight -- not something you need to do if it is not real intelligence with real sources. What about the dossier itself -- does it seem credible? Why has the media been unable to verify its contents? Here are some observations from an experienced producer and consumer of intelligence: [Read More](#) The dossier released by BuzzFeed is not a single document but rather a collection of 17 company intelligence reports delivered to the client between June and December. The format, tone, treatment of sources, and much of the substance of the reports suggest the dossier is likely an edited collection of third-party reports and not the original work of a single author, a potential factor in considering spelling or factual inconsistencies. In human intelligence work, a key challenge is the vetting and validation of sources. The credibility and reliability of sources varies by individual, by issue and over time. If sources or individuals were named in the documents, the US government would be in good position to investigate further. In this area, the reports contain plenty of material to support an investigation by the intelligence community. The content suggests deep knowledge of Russian politics, actors and strategy. Finding such an error or invalidating a specific section of the report should not invalidate the rest although Trump supporters will attempt to do exactly that. There are some continuing reasons for skepticism. The high level of access of some sources cited is in many cases extraordinary. Sources at that level are rare and highly protected; it is surprising they would be leveraged for this type of report. Significant portions also seem to lack the caveats and caution one would normally expect in an intelligence report. This may be due to the purpose of the document as political opposition research material rather than formal intelligence work -- Steele had less reason to apply the language of uncertainty typical of standard intelligence assessments. That leaves us with two significant takeaways from the analysis: [Follow CNN Opinion](#) [Join us on Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) Given the serious implications for our nation -- if there was proof of collusion between a presidential campaign and the Kremlin and of a president-elect potentially compromised by Russian intelligence -- we cannot dismiss the dossier lightly. The nature of intelligence work is to report everything, even when there may be some disinformation included and to work to confirm with independent sources. The type of sources, organizations and issues in the Steele dossier is well beyond the type of information that the news media can confirm on its own -- specialized intelligence sources and methods are needed. Despite all of the tweets and protests from the Trump team, this issue is not going away. To ensure independence, Congress needs to be involved at highly classified levels to ensure the intelligence community can do its job properly and free of interference from the White House.

## 3: Christopher Steele - Wikipedia

*That brings the Steele dossier " yes, this is the document alleging the existence of a "pee tape" that the Russians may have used to blackmail Trump " to a strange point.*

Only the second phase produced the dossier. When Trump became the presumptive nominee on May 3, , [26] The Free Beacon stopped funding research on him. The Free Beacon had no knowledge of or connection to the Steele dossier, did not pay for the dossier, and never had contact with, knowledge of, or provided payment for any work performed by Christopher Steele. Orbis co-founder Christopher Steele , a retired British MI6 officer with expertise in Russian matters, [2] was hired as a subcontractor to do the job. Paying sources might also encourage them to embellish. They are trusted contacts who essentially had proven themselves in other areas. The names of the sources were redacted, "providing instead descriptions of them that enabled Fusion to assess their basic credibility. For around six months " during the first half of the year " Steele was able to make inquiries in Russia with relative ease. Finally, the lights went out. Amid a Kremlin cover-up, the sources went silent and information channels shut down. It sat there until mid-September, when it was finally sent to the counterintelligence team investigating Russia at FBI headquarters in Washington, D. At the same time, he was busy creating his own dossier of material documenting that "Russia was not only attempting to interfere in the election, they were doing so in order to elect Donald Trump However, the subsequent public release of the dossier stopped discussions between Steele and the FBI. According to The Independent , Steele came to believe that there was a "cabal" inside the FBI, particularly its New York field office linked to Trump advisor Rudy Giuliani , because it blocked any attempts to investigate the links between Trump and Russia. Trump repeatedly seek to do deals in a notoriously corrupt police state that most serious investors shun? Thus, any details were "protected by attorney-client privilege. Fusion briefed only Elias on the reports. Simpson sent Elias nothing on paper"he was briefed orally. Elias had denied that he had possessed the dossier before the election". No news organizations ran any stories about the allegations at that time. However, they chose not to publish information that could not be confirmed. On October 31, , a week before the election, Mother Jones reported that a former intelligence officer, whom they did not name, had produced a report based on Russian sources and turned it over to the FBI. It maintained that Trump "and his inner circle have accepted a regular flow of intelligence from the Kremlin, including on his Democratic and other political rivals". It claimed that Russian intelligence had "compromised" Trump during his visits to Moscow and could "blackmail him". It also reported that Russian intelligence had compiled a dossier on Hillary Clinton based on "bugged conversations she had on various visits to Russia and intercepted phone calls. Kramer , a longtime McCain aide and former U. State Department official working at Arizona State University , met each other at the Halifax forum and discussed the dossier. All we sort of wanted was for the government to do its job and we were concerned about whether the information that we provided previously had ever, you know, risen to the leadership level of the FBI. Vice President Joe Biden has confirmed that he and the president received briefings on the dossier and the allegations within. After this meeting, Comey stayed behind and spoke privately with Trump, informing him of the dossier and some of its allegations. CNN stated that it would not publish specific details on the memos because it had not "independently corroborated the specific allegations. All but one had a typed date at the bottom. The 17th memo, known as the "December memo", was numbered

**4: STEELE DOSSIER TIMELINE – JUST THE FACTS**

*The dossier has gained notoriety for its salacious, unproven claims about President Trump. Its research was funded by an unnamed Republican and then partly by Hillary Clinton's campaign.*

Inter alia, Source E, acknowledged that the Russian regime had been behind the recent leak of embarrassing e-mail messages, emanating from the Democratic National Committee DNC, to the WikiLeaks platform. All three elements had played an important role to date. Tens of thousands of dollars were involved. Unlike in Russia, there were substantial and involved the payment of large bribes and kickbacks which, were they to become public, would be potentially very damaging to their campaign. Speaking separately, also in July, an official close to presidential Administration Head, S. However, the Kremlin official close to S. Vows not to supply intelligence to Kremlin PR operatives again. He is now scared and fears being made a scapegoat by leadership for backlash in US. Want good relations with US and ability to travel there. Following the backlash against such foreign interference in the US politics, IVANOV was advocating that the only sensible course of action now for the Russian leadership was to "sit tight and deny everything". According to the first source, close to IVANOV, there had been talk in the Kremlin of TRUMP being forced to withdraw from the presidential race altogether as a result of recent events, ostensibly on grounds of his psychological state and unsuitability for high office. This might not be so bad for Russia in the circumstances but in the view of the source, it remained largely wishful thinking on the part of those in the regime opposed to PESKOV and his "botched" operations, at least for the time being. Therefore the Russian would not risk their position for the time being with new leaked material, even to a third party like WikiLeaks. Rather the tactics would be to spread rumours and misinformation about the content of what already had been leaked and make up new content. Speaking separately, also in early August, a Kremlin official involved in the US relations commented on aspects of the Russian operation to date. This had involved the Kremlin supporting various US political figures, including funding indirectly their recent visits to Moscow. Continuing on this theme, the ethnic Russian associate of TRUMP assessed that the problem was that the TRUMP campaign had underestimated the strength of the negative reaction from liberals and especially the conservative elite to Russian interference. This was forcing a rethink and a likely change of tactics. The TRUMP campaign was focusing on tapping into support in the American television media to achieve this, as they reckoned this resource had been underused by them to date. It was unclear at present how this aspect of the situation would play out in the weeks to come. It was considered a "plausibly deniable" vehicle for this, whilst remaining entirely under Kremlin control. For them it therefore remained a point of potential political vulnerability and embarrassment. The PA official reported that the issue had become incredibly sensitive and that President PUTIN had issued direct orders that Kremlin and government insiders should not discuss it in public or even in private. Despite this, the PA official confirmed, from direct knowledge, that the gist of the allegations was true. PUTIN had been receiving conflicting advice on interfering from three separate and expert groups. There was however a growing train of thought and associated lobby, arguing that the Russians could still make candidate CLINTON look "weak and stupid" by provoking her into railing against PUTIN and Russia without the need to release more of her e-mails. The best example of this was that both candidates now openly opposed the draft trade agreements, TPP and TTIP, which were assessed by Moscow as detrimental to Russian interests. Overall however, the presidential election was considered still to be too close to call. The Russian government figure reported that although they had had their ups and downs, the leading figures in Alpha currently were on very good terms with PUTIN. Both knew TRUMP had visited St Peterburg on several occasions in the past and had been interested in doing business deals there involving real estate. The local service industry source reported that TRUMP had participated in sex parties in the city too, but that all direct witnesses of this recently had been "silenced". Continuing on this theme, the senior leadership figure commented that a stream of further hacked CLINTON material already had been injected by the Kremlin into compliant western media outlets like Wikileaks, which remained at least "plausibly deniable", so the stream of these would continue through October and up to the election. More heads thereof were likely to roll, with the MFA the easiest target.

TRUMP was viewed as divisive in disrupting the whole US political system; anti-Establishment; and a pragmatist with whom they could do business. As the TRUMP support operation had gained momentum, control of it had passed from the MFA to the FSB and then into the presidential administration where it remained, a reflection of its growing significance over time. There was still a view in the Kremlin that TRUMP would continue as a divisive political force even if he lost the presidency and may run for and be elected to another public office. Company Comment [3 full lines blacked out]. The overall objective had been to "to sweep it all under the carpet and make sure no connection could be fully established or proven" Thing had become even "hotter" since August on the TRUMP-Russia track. According to the Kremlin insider, this had meant that direct contact between the TRUMP team and Russia had been farmed out by the Kremlin to trusted agents of influence working in pro-government policy institutes like that of Law and Comparative Jurisprudence. COHEN had been accompanied to Prague by 3 colleagues and the timing of the visit was either in the last week of August or the first week of September. Entities linked to one [Name blacked out] were involved and he and another hacking expert, both recruited under duress by the FSB, [Name blacked out] were significant players in this operation. In terms of practical measures to be taken, it was green by the two sides in Prague to stand down various "Romanian hackers" presumably based in their homeland or neighbouring eastern Europe and that other operatives should head for a bolt-hole in Plovdiv, Bulgaria where they should "lay low".

### 5: The Steele dossier's explosive allegations, explained

*The Steele Dossier. This appears to be the underlying intelligence document used by the FBI to secure FISA() approvals to monitor the communication of Trump campaign officials.*

### 6: Trump's "Russia dossier" - Wikipedia

*The making of the Steele dossier By Rosalind S. Helderman, These 16 reports, plus one more written in December, would come to be known as the Steele dossier.*

### 7: The Steele Dossier: Sex, Thugs and Russian Role? | HuffPost

*The credibility of Steele's dossier has been much debated, but few realize that it was a compilation of contemporaneous interviews rather than a finished product. Orbis was just a subcontractor.*

### 8: Christopher Steele admits dossier charge unverified - Washington Times

*To recap, Steele is a former British intelligence agent who compiled a "dossier" of uncorroborated reports alleging a Trump-Kremlin conspiracy. Steele was retained for this project by his.*

### 9: James Clapper Says 'More and More' of Steele Dossier Has Turned Out to Be True

*The dossier, a compilation of Russia-sourced reports authored by former British intelligence agent Christopher Steele, is now known to have been a Clinton campaign-funded opposition-research project.*

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