

Who are “they?” Well, my name is Mr. Beat, and I’ll tell you who “they” are. It’s the Deep State! Come with me. (quickly leaves)

10 hours later...

Shannon (off camera): Matt, you need to come eat dinner.

(walking in) But wait. First...you just gotta wait! Come on! No....over here.

Shannon: Matt, you’re stressing me out here.

Stress? You wanna talk about STRESS? I’ve stumbled upon a major government conspiracy, how ‘bout that for stress?

Take a look at this.

Shannon: Oh no.

Can we talk about this? I’ve been dying to talk to you about this all day. Deep State. Deep State. This phrase keeps coming up over and over again. Every day. Deep State. Deep State. DEEP STATE! THIS WHOLE BOX IS DEEP STATE!

So I try to go to the Deep State website, and what do I find out? WHAT DO I FIND OUT? There is no deep state website.¹ So I’m awww Shins I got to dig a little deeper. How can there be no deep state websites? I got boxes full of Deep State!

So I start marching my way down to Elon of DOGE and I knock on his door and I’m like “EEEELLLLLOOON” “ELLLLLOOOONNNN” (knocking furiously) “I GOTTA TALK TO YOU ABOUT DEEP STATE” and when I open the door what do I find? There’s not a single desk in that office. There is no Elon or DOGE. Honey, half of the government doesn’t exist. It’s a ghost town.

Shannon: Matt, your food is going to get cold.

Clips

You ever notice how people use that phrase a lot but few people actually define it? Well, in this video, I will attempt to explain what the deep state is, where the phrase came from, and why so many people won’t shut up about it.

(but first)

True story — someone straight-up stole one of my old cameras right out of my car... while it was parked in my driveway.” Not exactly a pivotal moment in U.S. history, but it made me think:

1

https://www.godaddy.com/forsale/deepstate.com?utm_source=TDFS_BINNS2&utm_medium=parkedpages&utm_campaign=x_corp_tdfs-binns2_base&traffic_type=TDFS_BINNS2&traffic_id=binns2&

if something that small can go missing that easily, what about the big stuff — like my family's safety? That's why I'm partnering with SimpliSafe — to protect the people I care about. And now you can too for 50% off, which is a pretty great deal... But only if you act fast!

Here's the problem with traditional alarm systems: they wait until the bad stuff has already happened. Kind of like historians. But SimpliSafe's new Active Guard stops things before they happen — with agents reacting in real-time, ready to intervene the second someone shady shows up.

These monitoring agents can speak to intruders, turn on alarms and lights, and even request urgent police dispatch. Plus, SimpliSafe's AI knows the difference between trusted visitors dropping by unannounced and someone trying to rob you.

It's not just cameras. It's locks, sensors, the whole deal — all managed from the SimpliSafe app, giving you full control from anywhere. You can check your home security from a night out or even while on a walk, like I am now. With monitoring plans starting around \$1 a day, there are no long-term contracts or cancellation fees, just peace of mind.

[Footage of Mr. Beat using the SimpliSafe app to arm/disarm the system, view camera feeds, manage features]

If you've been thinking about getting serious with home security, now's the time. Save 50% off your SimpliSafe security system when you sign up for a professional monitoring plan, and get your first month FREE. Visit SimpliSafe.com/MRBEAT to customize yours. There's No Safe Like SimpliSafe.

Alright will you settle down and have another cup of coffee?

What is the deep state?

Well, the phrase is Turkish, believe it or not.

According to the historian Ryan Gingeras, the phrase can be traced back to the beginning of Turkey as a modern country. Derin devlet

In the years leading up to and during the Turkish War of Independence, a network of criminal gangs did the dirty work to create the country...working outside the law but remaining useful to the new government. They were the derin devlet, or deep state.

That said, the idea of a deep state is also present in countries around the world.

Yep, it's now EVERYBODY'S business but the Turks.

Even before the Turks, folks often believed that there was a secret network of powerful people looking to control society. In Medieval Europe, they believed this group included witches and Satan worshippers. In the 1700s, Europeans shifted their fears to the Freemasons or the so-called Illuminati. In the 1900s, people shifted their fears yet again to GLOBAL organizations supposedly more powerful than individual countries. The International Monetary Fund. The World Economic Forum.

But what about today?

Oh, plenty of people still fear their own versions of the deep state. Like the political movement QAnon. Its followers believe the "deep state" includes a secret group of Hollywood actors, politicians, medical experts, and high-ranking government officials who are doing horrible things

to children. But it's not just QAnon. According to one poll, almost half of Americans think the deep state definitely exists.

But most people who talk about the Deep State have a difficult time defining it.

Ryan Gingeras, the historian dude I was referring to a couple minutes ago, says the phrase "generally refers to a kind of shadow or parallel system of government in which unofficial or publicly unacknowledged individuals play important roles in defining and implementing state policy."²

But I've simplified the definition even further....

Those who have access to government resources who independently and secretly use those resources

Now, I argue that Gingeras was only partially right with his description. You see, members of the deep state CAN independently and secretly use these resources to implement state policy, but they ALSO may independently and secretly use these resources to promote some sort of personal agenda. For example, say somebody who has access to government resources REALLY hates me and just wants to ruin my life. Think about it, Johnny! If they want to take me down they could. They could spy on me. Have the IRS or DOJ investigate me. Push out a bunch of negative propaganda about me. Psyops!

Many supporters of the current president, Donald Trump, argue that the Deep State has done just that. Gone after HIM because HE wants to take the Deep State out! For his second term, Trump even nominated THIS guy, Kash Patel, as FBI director, who vowed to dismantle the Deep State. Well he didn't do that, but uh...many Trump supporters DO think he'll dismantle the Deep State...eventually.

But hold on, now I'm throwing a bunch of acronyms at you. IRS, DOJ, FBI, CIA, LOL. Let's go ahead and break down the very REAL deep state that has existed in the United States since World War Two.

(The REAL deep state)

So yeah, since I'm an American and this channel mostly focuses on American history, let's focus on the rise of the deep state in the United States.

For most of American history, the executive branch of the federal government....that's the president and all of his helpers.... was fairly transparent, meaning we knew what they were up to. It was also fairly small. The Constitution itself gave very few explicit powers to the president compared to Congress.

² <https://www.jstor.org/stable/40586942?mag=the-unacknowledged-origins-of-the-deep-state&seq=1>

Today, there are millions of Americans officially working for the executive branch of the federal government, but back in the 1790s, there were fewer than 100 federal employees. I should stress that we're talking CIVILIANS here, sweetums...this isn't counting the military.

Over the years, as the power of the president grew and grew, so did the size of the entire executive branch. Not only that, but Congress was like, "uh hey Mr. President, we passed a bunch of new laws, and we need you to create new departments to enforce them." First came the Department of the Interior (1849). Then came the Department of Agriculture (1862), the Department of Commerce (1903), the Department of Labor (1913), and so on and so forth. Today there's 15 executive departments, and major agencies WITHIN those departments...not to mention all the INDEPENDENT agencies holy wowza. But we'll get back to them in a bit. By 1901, there were around 231,000 federal employees that worked for the executive branch. But hey, the country had grown significantly by that point so this is logical. And yeah, at this point I'd argue there still wasn't what I would call a "deep state." I mean, I guess you could say that technically the Secret Service did secret stuff by that time, but that's hardly notable since it was so small and didn't have much power at the time.

That'd begin to change seven years later. Let's see, seven years after 1901 would be...um....

1908. The year was 1908. That was the year Napoleon Bonaparte's brother's grandson, Attorney General Charles Bonaparte, created the Bureau of Investigation, which eventually morphed into the Federal Bureau of Investigation, more commonly known today as the FBI. The FBI did a lot of secret stuff, especially during World War One.

But things REALLY began to get spicy during World War TWO.

After not being prepared for the Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor, President Franklin Roosevelt rushed to authorize the creation of the Office of Strategic Services, or OSS, the country's first intelligence agency. BEFORE World War Two, it was the military that gathered intelligence about stuff other countries were doing, and it was usually here and there....sporadically and usually without much long-term preparation. But the OSS didn't just gather and analyze intelligence. They created propaganda in an information war that targeted enemy governments. They spied on enemy governments, of course, but also straight up sabotaged them. Oh yeah, that movie, Inglourious Basterds, I mean...it's a fictional movie but that's the type of stuff they would have done. They organized resistance groups within enemy countries, and were incredibly successful in doing so. And they did all this in secret. Classified. Oh...I mean...we found out about it much later. That's how I knew about it to tell you in this video.

After the war ended, so did the OSS.³ However, the now president Harry Truman was now all worried about the threat of the Soviet Union, so he created the Strategic Services Unit, and then the Central Intelligence Group which then morphed into the Central Intelligence Agency, or CIA, which yep, still exists today.

³ <https://www.archives.gov/research/military/ww2/oss>

Now, when I think of the deep state, the CIA is the absolute FIRST organization that comes to mind. Made up entirely of civilians, the CIA spies on the rest of the world in the name of national security. It oversees covert operations...many of these covert operations have been controversial. Ok EXTREMELY controversial. Ya know, doing stuff like overthrowing democratically-elected governments. Political assassinations. Torture. Trafficking illegal and dangerous stuff. Mind control. Psychological warfare. Covering up stuff. Oh, and not just spying on FOREIGN citizens. Spying on DOMESTIC citizens. That means Americans. Well shoot, the FBI had already been doing that decades before the CIA existed. In the 1920s, it would wiretap phone calls, or spy on phone calls, in order to arrest people smuggling alcohol during Prohibition. The Supreme Court later said that was totally legal bro, but in the decades after that Congress passed additional laws to prevent the FBI from spying on people without a warrant from a judge. In the meantime, that didn't stop the FBI from spying on folks...I don't know...Martin Luther King, Jr.

But anyway, back to the CIA. We don't know exactly how much money the CIA gets to spend, although it could be as much as \$20 billion a year.

We know all about what the CIA does, as long as it happened a long time ago. Because most of what the CIA does is classified, SECRET, we don't know much about what they are doing today. Now, we will SOMEDAY. But right now who the heck knows what they are doing.

And this freaks a lot of people out because people generally don't like powerful people who are supposed to be PUBLIC SERVANTS WORKING FOR ALL OF US....keeping secrets from us about what they are doing. I always say usually when someone tells a secret it's to protect THEMSELVES, not OTHERS.

Ok, ok...perhaps that's too cynical. The CIA officially exists to protect the American people, and it'd be wild to assume that every member of the organization is abusing their power for some nefarious personal agenda. That's likely not the case. Plus, in reaction to the Church Committee, a group that investigated the abuses by the deep state in 1975 and led by the legendary Idaho Senator Frank Church, Congress passed a series of laws to further restrict not just the deep state but the entire executive branch.

Still, as long as government resources are being used for secret purposes, Americans will understandably remain skeptical, especially when they consider all the wild and horrible stuff the CIA has actually done in the past. (clips)

And it's not just the CIA secretly gathering intelligence. There's the Defense Intelligence Agency, or DIA, National Security Agency, or NSA. DEA. NGA. NRO. OIA (yeah that's their actual logo). INR. OICI. ODNI. IARPA. The Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard all have their own intelligence agencies. All of these agencies employ thousands if not tens of thousands of people with budgets of billions of dollars, and most of them have only gained power ever since 9/11 got most Americans freaking out about terrorism. The NSA is particularly controversial as it is essentially running a mass surveillance program and has tracked hundreds

of millions of people's movements using cell phone metadata. In total, the United States spent more than \$100 billion last year on intelligence.⁴ And most of that budget is outsourced to the private sector.⁵ In 2017, we found out that more than 1.2 million people have access to TOP SECRET information.⁶ Woahness.

So the deep state is real, but the problem is that so many folks now have CHANGED that definition. It's morphed into something much more confusing. Which is why I'm making this video.

For many modern Republicans, the phrase "deep state" means the "deep ADMINISTRATIVE state," meaning the folks who are NOT elected by the public but who are actually running things.⁷ They have all these government resources at their disposal and most of us have no idea who exactly they are or what they are actually doing. And the bureaucracy...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wWZFPU5TDr0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uj4zJiWX70o&t=1606s>

<https://youtu.be/5xzd3puYmiM?si=NVA5AjdZMR2TbxfP&t=40>

The bureaucracy is often inefficient.

And I get the backlash. WE didn't vote for these folks, and they seem to not be getting the job done, so why do they have so much power? Huh?

Who ARE these people? Wait a second, they're probably just ordinary people, right? I imagine all of them aren't corrupt narcissists who only crave power, right? Right?

Well here's the thing. The bureaucracy of the executive branch is made up of millions of ordinary people. And, other than the intelligence agencies and military, we DO know exactly what these people do. The so-called deep ADMINISTRATIVE state is not that secret at all. According to the UCLA law professor Jon Michaels, the executive branch of the United States is among the most transparent in the world. "American agencies by law and custom are overwhelmingly transparent and accessible, far more than are many Middle Eastern, Asian, and European ministries and, again, often more so than Congress and the White House, too."⁸

So it's really freaking important to make that distinction. When we talk about the deep state, we are talking about those in the executive branch independently and secretly using government resources. In other words, if we know exactly what these bureaucrats do, they're not in the deep state. These bureaucrats that often get lumped in with the deep state come from a wide range of backgrounds. They are fragmented into many smaller groups. These millions of bureaucrats are not working together. And so, they're decentralized. The work they do is mostly defensive,

⁴ <https://www.dni.gov/index.php/what-we-do/ic-budget>

⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intelligence_outsourcing

⁶ <https://www.dni.gov/files/NCSC/documents/features/20180827-security-clearance-determinations.pdf>

⁷ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n1WgEKdSn_g

⁸ <https://scholarship.law.nd.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=4789&context=ndlr>

not proactive...meaning it's more difficult to pursue any agenda that Congress didn't allow by law.

(The FAKE deep state)

The problem now, though, is...since almost EVERYONE has seemingly agreed that the deep state is bad, now it's become a convenient phrase used to criticize folks you disagree with.

Unfortunately, these days "deep state" is often just another weaponized phrase meant to take out political enemies. Due to that, the phrase has kind of lost its true meaning. Any time a president can't get something they want done, supporters of that president often now just say "well, it's because the deep state didn't LET them get it done." It's an easy scapegoat.

But don't get it twisted, the deep state is real. Just remember, the reason why we call the deep state "deep" is because you have to search DEEP, man....SO SO DEEP... to dig up the facts. If the facts are easy to come by, it's not the deep state. Sorry to get all deep on you in this video.

But what do YOU think? Do I secretly work for the deep state? If I did, how would you prove that? If I suddenly died, would it be because the deep state killed me? Let me know by telling a messenger raven. Thanks for staying curious. Johnny Harris made a video about the deep state, ya know. And he's still alive. So I think I'm good.

Sources/further reading:

Top Secret America: The Rise of the New American Security State by Dana Priest and William Arkin

Purchase here: <https://amzn.to/43Kge86>

The Devil's Chessboard: Allen Dulles, the CIA, and the Rise of America's Secret Government By David Talbot

Purchase here: <https://amzn.to/42gDU1I>

Legacy of Ashes: The History of the CIA By Tim Weiner

Purchase here: <https://amzn.to/4iU5UyT>

Blank Check: The Pentagon's Black Budget By Tim Weinder

Purchase here: <https://amzn.to/42vVW0N>

<https://daily.jstor.org/the-unacknowledged-origins-of-the-deep-state/>

<https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/lies-damn-lies-deep-state-plenty-americans-poll/story?id=47032061>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deep_state

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deep_state_conspiracy_theory_in_the_United_States

Federal workforce estimates primarily come from these three sources:

<https://www.archives.gov/research/census>

<https://www2.census.gov/library/publications/2004/compendia/statab/123ed/hist/hs-50.pdf>

<https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/data-analysis-documentation/federal-employment-reports/historical-tables/executive-branch-civilian-employment-since-1940/>

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<https://www.whitehouse.gov/fact-sheets/2025/03/fact-sheet-president-donald-j-trump-continues-the-reduction-of-the-federal-bureaucracy/>

<https://www.cia.gov/legacy/museum/exhibit/the-office-of-strategic-services-n-america-s-first-intelligence-agency/>