House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI)

_Declassified-House Intelligence Committee Sept. 18, 2020.pdf
only dealt with the claim that Putin wanted Trump to win and helped him by leaking DNC & Hillary's emails

Revised ICA claims that Putin wanted Trump to win and helped him by leaking DNC & Hillary's emails - This comes from the discredited Steele Dossier
The 3 reports mentioned are the first part of the Steele Dossier

Obama

- 6 December 2016-Obama ordered the Revised ICA after receiving the Original ICA pg 38

- Obama Administration denied ICA drafters access to intelligence on grounds of Executive or Congressional privilege." - meaning Barack Obama prevented the drafters of the ICA from reviewing relevant information. pg. 14

- 9 December 2016 Obama directed the IC to review their work to date on the Russian influence campaign, and quickly produce the new ICA for release in early January, before President-elect Trump took office. The ICA would rehash much of the previously published material on Russian activities, but would also include the judgment that President Putin "aspired" for Trump to win.

Brennan

- Brennan consistently and repeatedly overruled 2 senior CIA analysts in what should/would be included in the ICA including the inclusion of the Steele Dossier. His motive was to have the ICA say that the Russians wanted Trump to win and they helped him.

1) Brennan ***overruled two senior CIA officers that argued that the Steele Dossier should not be included in the ICA*** because it failed to meet basic tradecraft standards. When confronted with its many flaws he said, "Yes, but doesn't it ring true".

2) Brennan ***overruled senior CIA professionals to include an ambiguous fragment of a sentence. "whose victory Putin was counting on,"*** (pg 7)

Dec 20, 2016 - Two experienced Senior CIA officers did not include the fragment because it did not meet the threshold of reliability.

Dec 28, 2016 - Brennan countermanded the above and ordered the fragment to be included.

3) Brennan ***overruled senior CIA professionals regarding info that was contained in just one email, with no date, no identified sender, no clear recipient, and no classification.***

- **Initial ICA** - Experienced Senior CIA officers did not include the statement *"a Russian political expert possessed a plan that recommended engagement with Trump's team"*.
- **Revised ICA** - Brennan countermanded the above and ordered it to be included.

4) Unable to explain why Brennan ***personally directed that two of the most important reports not be formally disseminated*** other than publishing a written report creates a formal record copy.

5) Brennan handpicked 5 analysts with only 1 principle drafter and excluded veteran CIA officers normally involved.

6) Comey, Brennan, and Clapper formally briefed Obama on both the Intelligence Community assessment and the Steele dossier. But agree they would only inform Trump of the "salacious" details contained within the dossier. Comey later explained on CNN in an April 2018 interview why:
"Because that was the part that the leaders of the Intelligence Community agreed he needed to be told about."

- **The Steele Dossier:**

Jan 12, 2017: In a letter to the HPSI responding to a request to double check the sourcing behind the judgment ***Brennan personally vouched for the underlying intel (mostly the Steele dossier), "despite unknown sourcing, reliable contrary evidence, and implausible claims.*** *(*pg. 13)

May 23 2017: ***Brennan testifies that the Steele dossier was not used in the ICA.***

Contradicting public claims by the DCIA -Brennan that the dossier "was not in any way" incorporated into the ICA, the dossier was referenced in the ICA main body text and further detailed in a two-page ICA annex.

In Aug & Sept 2017: ***Brennan gave oral briefings-conducted separately-to eight senior congressional leaders (the gang of Eight)*** using sensitive reporting, but with no written product, ***it was not possible to determine if he provided the same details in each briefing.***

https://www.foxnews.com/opinion/bryan-dean-wright-john-brennan-my-boss-cia-he-belongs-prison

Comey

FBI Pushed to have the Steele Dossier included in the ICA

Brennan & Comey over-ruled CIA analysts who objected to Steele Dossier being included

Steele was an obvious phony for numerous reasons (pg 25 - 27) and the CIA and FBI knew from the beginning.

Comey lied to WH chief of staff about reasons for dossier included in ICA Pg 31, 32

Comey, Brennan, and Clapper formally briefed Obama on both the Intelligence Community assessment and the Steele dossier.

Comey only informed Trump of the “salacious” details contained within the dossier. He later explained on CNN in an April 2018 interview why:
“Because that was the part that the leaders of the Intelligence Community agreed he needed to be told about.”

Clapper

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Faults of the Revised ICA

Unlike routine IC analysis, the ICA was a high-profile product ordered by the President, directed by senior IC agency heads, and created by just five CIA analysts, using one principal drafter. Production of the ICA was subject to unusual directives from the President and senior political appointees, and particularly DCIA. The draft was not properly coordinated within CIA or the IC, ensuring it would be published without significant challenges to its conclusions.

29 cited violations of (ICD) 203 -
Intelligence Community Directive (ICD) 203, "Analytic Standards," the primary guiding document for evaluation of analytic products for the Intelligence Community (IC)

The Revised ICA Ignored That Putin's Decision Not to Help Trump in the Closing Weeks of the Campaign Was Not Consistent With ICA Judgments.

Putin's decision not to leak additional derogatory information on Secretary Clinton as the polls narrowed undermines the ICA's claim that he "aspired" to help Trump win

The wording throughout the ICA implies that reliable reporting supports the judgment. But the actual cited intelligence says something quite different.

The ICA was sloppy, omitted facts, drew unwarranted conclusions, deliberately misleading, obstructed facts

the ICA was unnecessarily rushed to production based on orders that suggested political, rather than intelligence priorities By 22 December (16 days later) DCIA was given the final draft for review.

6 November-Election Eve IC Assessments Do Not Mention Putin Helping or Even Showing Concern About Trump's Election Chances

Omitted key intel of Russia operations shortly after the election to organize anti-Trump rallies “Trump is not my President”.
Many examples of political motivations in the revised ICA

Unknown Bad Things

The Russian Federal Security Service (FSB) in August had details of secret meetings with multiple named US religious organizations, in which ***US State Department representatives offered - in exchange for supporting Secretary Clinton- "significant increases in financing" from Department funds*** and "the patronage” of State in dealing with post-Soviet countries. (pg 17)

Fusion GPS was also working with Russian interests at the same time.

ICA also excluded that ***Fusion GPS, was also working on behalf of Russian*** interests to uncover information that was shared with the Kremlin, raising serious counterintelligence concerns over possible Russian influence on the dossier. (pg 28)

Dates

July 5, 2016 Steele gives FBI

9 Dec 2016 - Obama Orders a Rewrite of IC Assessments on Russian Activities During the Election

Jan 5 & 6, 2017 - Revised ICA published (Jan 5 to Obama and Jan 6 to Trump)

How the Steele Dossier made it to the FBI & CIA

1) _____ 2016: Gaetta while in xxxxx get a phone call to go to London to see Steele.
2) July 5 2016: Gaetta picks up Dossier from Steele in London and thinks it’s just political dirt.

3) July 30 2016: Meets with the Ohrs in DC to push the Dossier.
4) Early August 2016: Steele meets with Sussmann & Fusion GPS Glenn Simpson at Perkins Coie offices
5) Sept 2016: Ohr contacts Gaetta. Ohr has been in regular contact with Steel. and Ohr's wife, Nellie works for Fusion GPS (the company that contracted Steele)
6) Sept 23 2016: Steele and Ohr meet

TECHNO FOG
JUL 30, 2025

Fact Checking Brennan and Clapper

The criminals make a public defense.



In the face of recent revelations concerning intelligence abuses that took place at the end of the Obama Administration, former CIA Director James Brennan and former Director of National Intelligence James Clapper took to The New York Times to defend themselves and their legacies.

The title is one for the ages: "Brennan and Clapper: Let's Set the Record Straight on Russia and 2016."

There's a bit of audacity in that effort – those who twisted and manipulated the evidence to help manufacture the Trump/Russia hoax are now here to speak truth to power. And their piece deserves review.

First, their claim about the use of the Steele Dossier in the January 2017 Intelligence Community Assessment (which we addressed here and here), in which Brennan and Clapper state:

> "We have testified under oath, and the reviews of the assessment have confirmed, that the dossier was not used as a source or taken into account for any of its analysis or conclusions."

This is absolutely false. As DNI Gabbard's recent release showed, the ICA's conclusion that "We assess the [Russian] influence campaign aspired to help [Trump's] chances of victory" was supported by four bullet points of "evidence." One of those bullet points referred the reader to the Steele Dossier, stating "For additional reporting on Russian plans and intentions, please see Annex A: Additional Reporting from an FBI Source on Russian Influence Efforts."

The Steele Dossier had been summarized in the ICA's Annex and was classified, shielding it from public scrutiny and keeping the public (and some government officials) in the dark about that "FBI Source" who was reporting on Russia's alleged influence operation. At the time, most anyone (save for the skeptics) reading the ICA would have concluded that there was legitimate and well-sourced information proving the ICA's conclusion.

In reality, as we all know, it ended up being lies purchased by the Clinton Campaign. And by the time the ICA had been drafted, Director Brennan knew that Hillary Clinton had approved of a plan to link Trump to Russia. And even when confronted by CIA senior officers with the flaws of the Steele Dossier, Brennan shrugged them off, stating "Yes, but doesn't it ring true?"

Second is their claim that "multiple, thorough, yearslong reviews of the assessment [ICA] have validated its findings and the rigor of its analysis."

Of course, this ignores the obvious: that the memo released by DNI Gabbard damns both the ICA's material findings (at least some of them) and the rigor of the ICA's analysis. Citing to old "reviews" doesn't change the most recent disclosures. But failing to address the substance of these July 2025 releases does indicate an effort by Brennan and Clapper to avoid a serious discussion of their own intelligence abuses.

After all, the Gabbard release establishes the following:

- In making its conclusion that there was a Russian plan to engage and assist Trump, the ICA relied "an email with no date, no identified sender, no clear recipient, and no classification."
- Reliable reporting indicated that Russia was concerned that Trump would take a hard line to Russia. Other intelligence suggested that Russia did not plan to target Democrats because they were easier to work with.
- Brennan overruled CIA officers who wanted to omit an "unclear fragment of a sentence" from the ICA because it was unreliable and subject to multiple interpretations. This "fragment" was used to conclude that Putin "aspired" to help Trump.

Third, Brennan and Clapper write:

> "Despite claims by Trump administration officials of a nefarious political conspiracy, we did everything we could at the time to prevent leaks of intelligence reports, including Russia's preference for Mr. Trump, a requirement that President Obama regularly emphasized."

With respect to the nefarious political conspiracy and the leaks, the evidence is overwhelming and includes:

- The use of Clinton-funded opposition research to fuel the counter-intelligence investigation of the President-elect and his team.
- The use of Clinton-funded opposition research, and fraudulent and unreliable intelligence (see examples above), to support the conclusions of the ICA that harmed Trump.
- By December 2016 there were leaks to the press (most notably to The New York Times and the Washington Post) by senior Obama Administration officials concerning the intelligence community's findings that Russia sought to harm Clinton's campaign and help Trump. These leaks continued into January 2017.
- The fact that the Steele Dossier was bolstered by being presented as part of the ICA before its leak to the press.

And finally, Brennan and Clapper dispute the Trump Administration's claim that that the Obama Administration "silenced intelligence professionals."

Yet as we have learned in the last couple weeks, one ODNI official was pressured by top-level intelligence officials in late December 2016/early January 2017 to accept “that the Russian government had a preference for President Trump.”

When this ODNI official refused to accept that conclusion based on the evidence and questioned leadership “about why an IC assessment was being created that contradicted multiple IC assessments”, he was shut-out and “immediately removed from emails regarding the drafting of the Obama-ordered IC assessment.”

Brennan and Clapper can play semantics - “silenced” isn’t exactly “removed” and “sidelined” - but it’s close enough. Others, like the CIA officers who tried to persuade Brennan about the feeble intelligence and the failings of the Steele Dossier, were just ignored.

The sad reality is that not many in the intelligence community had to be silenced because they were willing to go along with leadership’s objective to damage Trump.