



Assessing Russian Activities and Intentions in Recent U. S. Elections

Office of the Director of National Intelligence

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Length:	1 hour and 7 minutes	Catalog:	DB-1221
Language:	English	UPC:	0701236969405
Style:	Solo	MSLP:	\$9.99
Genre:	History, Political Science		

It is no secret that the 2016 United States Presidential Election was one of the closest, nastiest, and most contentious in the history of the country. The narrow victory of Donald J. Trump was an unprecedented upset, to say the least. The Republic party winnowed a field of 17 candidates down to a real estate developer and reality television star who appealed to large segment of the public that felt ignored by the established powers. The Democratic candidate, Hilary Clinton, was dogged with questions of trust and poor judgment stemming from her use of a private email server while serving as Secretary of State. When Wiki leaks released thousands of emails from the Democratic National Committee only an hour after NBC released a damaging re-

recording of candidate Trump boasting of his sexual conquests and the Republican platform became surprisingly friendly to Russia, it became evident that extraordinary forces were at play and influencing the public conversation. After the election President Obama ordered the three major intelligence agencies to coordinate their findings during the lengthy election season and report them to key persons in the US Government. The classified report was shared with the Executive branch, the Congress and the President-elect in early January. A shortened declassified version with the same assessments was released at the same time. That report, entitled Assessing Russian Activities and Intentions in Recent US Elections, is read here verbatim. It reveals that the Russian activities were deliberate, extensive, and originated at the very top of the Russian government.

The Office of the Director of National Intelligence is the cabinet department to which most of the many federal intelligence agencies report. The three agencies that collaborated to produce the report are as below.

- **The Central Intelligence Agency** (“CIA”) is the foreign intelligence agency charged with gathering, processing and analyzing information from foreign countries and actors around the world relevant to the national security of the United States, primarily through human espionage. Its intelligence is provided to the President and the Cabinet. Its Director reports to the Director of National Intelligence.
- **The Federal Bureau of Investigation** (“FBI”) is the domestic intelligence and security agency of the United States, operating 56 field offices and serving as the primary federal law enforcement agency. It operates under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Department of Justice and, as a member of the broader U.S. Intelligence Community, reports to both the Attorney General and the Director of National Intelligence.
- **The National Security Agency** (“NSA”) is the signals intelligence agency of the United States responsible for collecting, monitoring and processing information for foreign intelligence and counterintelligence purposes. It operates through passive electronic data collection, active clandestine surveillance and maintains a physical presence in numerous countries around the world. It operates as a part of the Department of Defense and reports simultaneously to the Director of National Intelligence.