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Luister naar  
04:19

# Rapport maakt korte metten met rol FBI bij onderzoek naar Trump

**Speciaal aanklager** De FBI is slordig geweest bij zijn onderzoek naar Donald Trump en zijn vermeende banden met Rusland, schrijft een speciale aanklager in een nieuw rapport. Hij zegt dat de opsporingsdienst beter had moeten nadenken of het onderzoek wel geopend moest worden.

Bas Blokker 16 mei 2023 Leestijd 2 minuten



Oud-president Donald Trump tijdens een evenement in april dit jaar.

Foto Evan Vucci/AP 

Een kritisch rapport verwijt de Amerikaanse opsporingsdienst FBI slordigheid en ten minste de schijn van vooringenomenheid in zijn onderzoek naar toenmalig presidentskandidaat Donald Trump, zijn campagneteam en hun vermeende banden met de Russische overheid voor de presidentsverkiezingen van 2016. Maandag maakte het ministerie [een langverwacht rapport openbaar](#) over de oorsprong van dat FBI-onderzoek.

Speciaal aanklager John Durham komt daarin na bijna vier jaar onderzoek tot de conclusie dat de FBI te „gretig” was bij het openen van een volledig onderzoek naar Trump en dat het bureau dat deed op basis van geringe

informatie die niet was gecheckt. Verschillende bij het onderzoek betrokken agenten gaven privé blijk van hun afkeer van de Republikeinse presidentskandidaat. Informatie die Trumps medewerkers kon ontlasten, werd niet gedeeld met het ministerie van Justitie of met de rechter die over de opsporingsbevoegdheden moest oordelen.

„Een objectief en eerlijk oordeel over deze fragmenten van informatie zou de FBI ertoe hebben moeten brengen om niet alleen te twijfelen of het onderzoek ‘Cross Hurricane’ geopend zou moeten worden, maar ook om na te denken over de vraag of het bureau werd gemanipuleerd voor politieke of andere doeleinden. Helaas heeft men dat niet gedaan”, zo valt te lezen in het rapport.

Durham komt niet tot nieuwe aanklachten - twee ervan zijn al eerder geëindigd in vrijspraak - en ook niet met aanbevelingen voor andere procedures en waarborgen bij de FBI. Dat gebeurde wel in 2019 na een rapportage van de inspecteur-generaal van het ministerie van Justitie. Desalniettemin werd het rapport maandag door oud-president Trump (en bevriende media) ontvangen als bewijs van een „langdurige en verraderlijke poppenkast, begonnen door de Democratische Partij”.

Sommige beschuldigingen waar de FBI destijds onderzoek naar deed, kwamen uit een rammelend rapport dat was aangevraagd door het campagneteam van Trump's toenmalige rivaal, Democraat Hillary Clinton. Durham vergelijkt de bejegening van Trump door de FBI met een vrijwel gelijktijdig onderzoek naar Clinton, die vertrouwelijke of staatsgeheime documenten zou hebben opgeslagen op een persoonlijk e-mailserver in haar huis. Terwijl de advocaten van Clinton wel een briefing over het onderzoek kregen van de FBI, kregen Trump en zijn raadslieden die niet.

## Pijnlijk

Het onderzoek van Durham werd ingesteld tijdens de ambtstermijn van Trump, op last van zijn minister van Justitie William Barr. De opdracht was om te zien of de FBI of „enige federale ambtenaar, medewerker of iemand anders” de wet had overtreden in verband met dit onderzoek. Het antwoord van Durham is nee. „Ongepast of onethisch gedrag”, schrijft hij, is niet hetzelfde als een strafbaar feit volgens de wet.

Toch is het rapport pijnlijk voor de FBI en de toenmalige leiders van het bureau, directeur James Comey en zijn plaatsvervanger Andrew McCabe, beiden ontslagen door Trump. Sinds de doorzoeking van Trumps woonhuis in Florida, waarbij de FBI vorig jaar zocht naar wederrechtelijk meegenomen staatsdocumenten, hebben de aanhangers van de oud-president alle vertrouwen in de federale politie opgegeven. Crossfire Hurricane leidde in 2017 tot de aanstelling van een speciaal aanklager, Robert Mueller, die jarenlang onderzoek deed naar de beschuldigingen van samenwerking tussen Trump en de Russen.

Mueller kon na een onderzoek van tweeënhalf jaar niet vaststellen dat de Trump campagne „heeft samengezworen of afspraken gemaakt met de Russische regering over haar activiteiten om de [Amerikaanse] verkiezingen te beïnvloeden”. Volgens Mueller zou het lastig worden voor een officier van justitie om te bewijzen dat vaste en losse medewerkers van Trumps campagneteam „bewust de wet hebben overtreden”.

**OPINION** EDITORIAL

# The FBI knew RussiaGate was a lie — but hid that truth

By Post Editorial Board

June 11, 2022 | 7:55pm | Updated



The RussiaGate scandal was thrust upon the country by the FBI and former director James Comey.

Walt Disney Television via Getty Images

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**FBI, DOJ's Trump-Russia 'collusion' probe was 'seriously flawed,' no basis in evidence when opened: Durham**

The FBI *knew* the Trump-Russia collusion narrative was utter bunk even as it suggested otherwise to Congress, the courts and the public early in 2017. Evidence revealed by special counsel John Durham proves it beyond dispute.

**At RealClearInvestigations**, Paul Sperry lays out the case.

Declassified for Durham's probe, a March 2017 memo prepared by Lisa Page for FBI head James Comey's meeting with Congress' "Gang of Eight" — the bipartisan House and Senate leaders who oversee the most classified stuff — **was a total cook-up job**.

It advised Comey to present accusations that Trump's campaign chair Paul Manafort and foreign policy adviser Carter Page were working with the Russian government as coming from a confidential Russia-based source with real intel-community chops. In fact, the FBI had

already established that the root source was US-based former Brookings flunky Igor Danchenko's utterly speculative gossip with an ex-girlfriend and a Democratic Party hack.

That, plus publicly reported info, was all Christopher Steele (a retired British spy who doesn't even speak Russian) ever had to back up his "dossier." And the FBI knew it since at least January 2017, when it interviewed Danchenko.

Comey hid all this during his meetings, and after. Yet the public only learned it years later, once the Durham probe began.

The Comey meeting where he served up these nonsense stories prompted both House and Senate Intelligence committees to open probes. But that was hardly the only poisoned fruit.



Special counsel John Durham's investigation brought the flimsy beginnings of the FBI's Trump-Russia probe to light.

Ron Sachs/CNP / SplashNews.com

FBI Deputy Director Andrew McCabe, counterintelligence officer Peter Strzok, analyst Brian Auten and Justice attorney Kevin Clinesmith pretended the Danchenko "intel" was credible to get the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance court's OK for wiretaps on Carter Page and dupe the Justice Department to keep granting approval for Trump campaign surveillance (which did not corroborate the wild claims). Again, all while they *knew* Danchenko had admitted it was baseless.



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For years, the media lionized these people as saviors of the Republic, even after special counsel Robert Mueller's probe turned up zero evidence in support of their claims.

It was a purely political hit job from the start, by top members of the highest law-enforcement agency in the land, against a candidate-and-then-president they opposed. For all the **justified anger at Trump over**



the Jan. 6 riot, this methodical and *effective* deception plot looks far more like an attempted coup.

Yet, other than losing their jobs, none of the plotters has paid any real price. Comey and Strzok both wrote best-sellers; McCabe even had his retirement benefits restored (after being fired for lying under oath) under the Biden administration.



**What do you think? Post a comment.**

Of course, most media have no interest in sharing the truth. They won Pulitzers and endless clicks from hyping Russiagate, using it to kneecap a president they despised.

At this point, it's up to Durham to keep exposing this unprecedented abuse of power for nakedly personal partisan ends, though Congress may help out once Democrats no longer run it.

Until the plotters are held accountable, there actually *is* good reason to worry about the future of democracy in America.

**FILED UNDER** CARTER PAGE EDITORIAL FBI HILLARY CLINTON  
JAMES COMEY PAUL MANAFORT TRUMP  
6/11/22



**Letters to the Editor — June 12, 2022**

## TIPSHEET

# Durham Releases Russia Hoax Report Containing Bombshells



Katie Pavlich  
May 15, 2023 4:00 PM



*AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais, File*

Special Counsel John Durham, who was tapped by former Attorney General Bill Barr in May 2019 to get to the bottom of why the FBI launched a probe into the Trump 2016 campaign and Trump administration for "Russian collusion," has finally issued a [306-page report](#) on the matter.

"The objective facts show that the FBI's handling of important aspects of the Crossfire Hurricane matter were seriously deficient," Durham wrote. "Based on the review of Crossfire Hurricane and related intelligence activities, we conclude that the (Justice) Department and FBI failed to uphold their important mission of strict fidelity to the law in connection with certain events and activities described in this report."

During his lengthy investigation, Durham found the FBI should have never opened the investigations and that they were led by politically motivated actors like former FBI agent Peter Strzok.

"Neither U.S. nor the Intelligence Community appears to have possessed any actual evidence of collusion in their holdings at the commencement of the Crossfire Hurricane investigation," the report states. "FBI records prepared by [Peter] Strzok in February and March 2017 show that at the time of the opening of Crossfire Hurricane, the FBI had no information in its holdings indicating that at any time during the campaign anyone in the Trump had been in contact with any Russian intelligence officials."

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“ *NOW - Durham report finds the FBI failed in its responsibility to the public and never should have launched the Trump-Russia probe.* [pic.twitter.com/ullQJYvOS](https://twitter.com/ullQJYvOS)

— *Disclose.tv (@disclosetv)* [May 15, 2023](#)

”

Durham found that the Steele dossier, which was developed by the Clinton campaign with foreign spy Christopher Steel and then used by the FBI to obtain FISA warrants and by the media to deem former President Donald Trump guilty of collusion, was extremely flawed and untruthful.

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"Our investigation determined that the Crossfire Hurricane investigators did not and could not corroborate any of the substantive allegations contained in the Steele reporting," Durham writes.


“ *Durham: The FBI knew Steele Dossier source Igor Danchenko's claims about Sergei Millian were lies, which is why they never tried to even corroborate them. And yet, the FBI still put the false allegations in multiple illegal FISA warrant applications against Carter Page. [pic.twitter.com/BahgiZZBEJ](https://pic.twitter.com/BahgiZZBEJ)*  
— Sean Davis (@seanmdav) [May 15, 2023](#) ”

Inside the Obama administration, a number of officials were involved and briefed on the Clinton campaign's efforts to falsely tie Trump to Russia.

"In late July 2016, U.S. intelligence agencies obtained insight into Russian intelligence analysis alleging that U.S Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton had approved a campaign plan to stir up a scandal against U.S. Presidential candidate Donald Trump by tying him to Putin and the Russians' hacking of the Democratic National Committee," the report states. "According to his handwritten notes, CIA Director Brennan subsequently briefed President Obama and other senior national security officials on the intelligence, including the 'alleged approval by Hillary Clinton on July 26, 2016 of a proposal from one of her foreign policy advisors to vilify Donald Trump by stirring up a scandal claiming interference by Russian security services."

Brennan knew the conspiracy theory of Russian collusion was politically motivated and yet, briefed President Obama and continued to make accusations of collusion for years on MSNBC.

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“  *BREAKING: According to the Durham Report, the plan by Hillary Clinton to create a false story linking Donald Trump to Russia was briefed in August of 2016 by CIA Director John Brennan to President Obama, VP Biden, AG Loretta Lynch, and FBI Director Comey. [pic.twitter.com/r2NvwJyKW8](https://pic.twitter.com/r2NvwJyKW8)*

— Greg Price (@greg\_price11) [May 15, 2023](#) ”

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According to House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jim Jordan, Durham could appear before Congress as early as next week to discuss the findings.

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“ *We’ve reached out to the Justice Department to have Special Counsel John Durham testify next week.*

— Rep. Jim Jordan (@Jim\_Jordan) [May 15, 2023](#) ”

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*This story has been updated with additional information.*



**OPINION**

# Durham proves that Hillary and the FBI tried to rig the 2016 election

By **James Bovard**

May 15, 2023 | 8:25pm | Updated



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**'Russia case' against Trump was a shocking conspiracy that continues today**

Special counsel John Durham exposed Monday how the FBI and Justice Department plotted to rig the 2016 presidential election.

His 316-page report proves federal law enforcement was weaponized by shielding the **Hillary Clinton campaign** and persecuting the Donald Trump campaign.

Yet despite the damning evidence, most of the media are treating the **Durham** report as a “nothingburger.”

FBI racketeering repeatedly rescued Hillary Clinton.

The Clinton Foundation raked in hundreds of million dollars of squirrely foreign contributions while she was secretary of state and revving up her presidential campaign.

The **Durham report** found that “senior FBI and Department officials placed restrictions on how [the Clinton Foundation investigation was] handled such that essentially no investigative activities occurred for months leading up to the election.”



On top of that dereliction, “the FBI appears to have made no effort to investigate . . . the Clinton campaign’s purported acceptance of a [illegal] campaign contribution that was made by the FBI’s own long-term [confidential human source] on behalf of Insider-I and, ultimately, Foreign Government.”

Top FBI officials also saved Hillary Clinton by scorning the federal statute book and treating her pervasive, perpetual violations of federal laws on classified documents as a harmless, unintentional error.



Special counsel John Durham revealed how the FBI and Justice Department plotted to rig the 2016 presidential election.

Samuel Corum – CNP



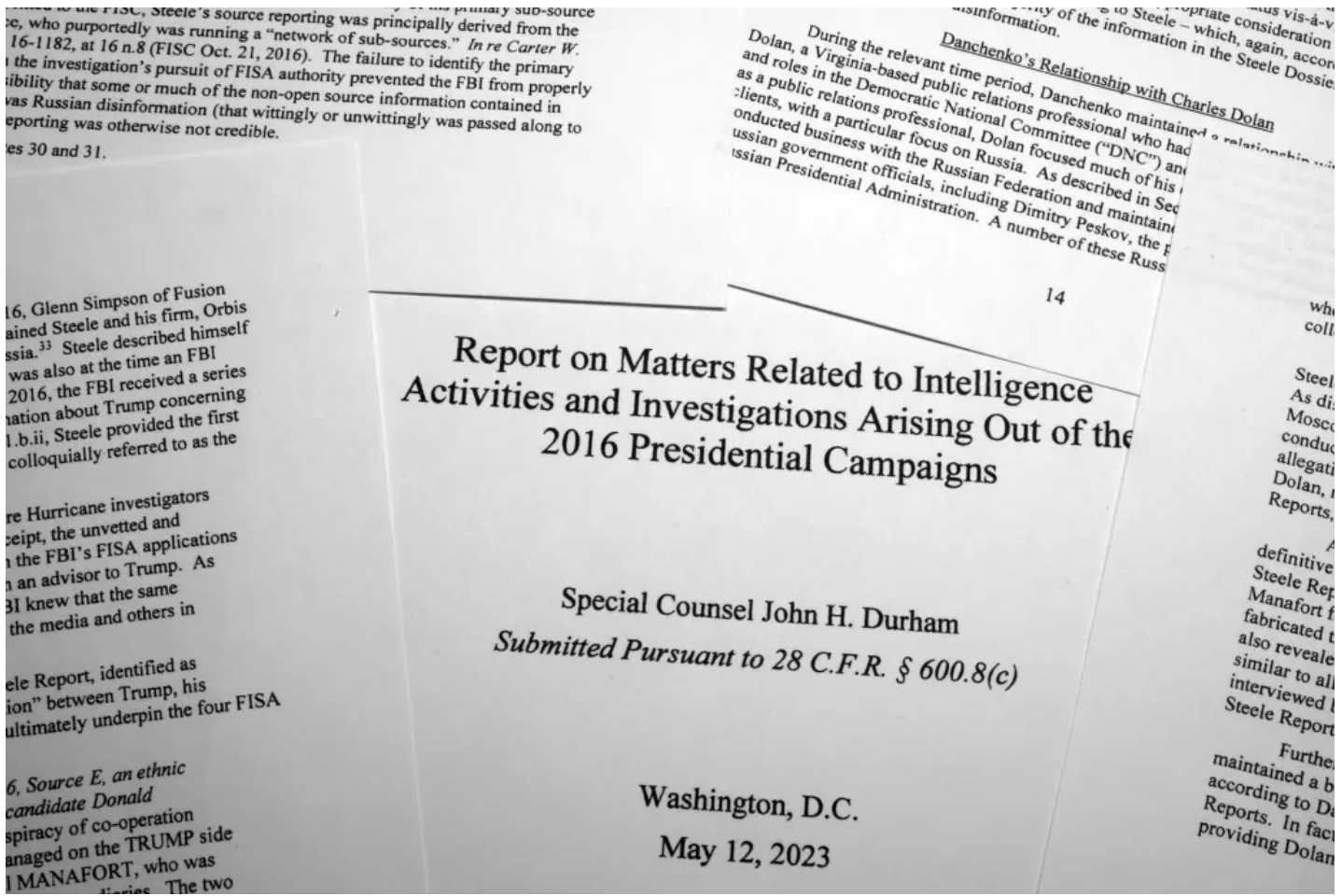
The report proves federal law enforcement was weaponized by shielding the Hillary Clinton campaign and persecuting the Donald Trump campaign.

AP/Spencer Colby

Shortly after **FBI chief James Comey** announced no charges against Hillary, “Clinton allegedly approved a proposal from one of her foreign policy advisors to tie Trump to Russia as a means of distracting the public from her use of a private email server,” according to the Durham report.

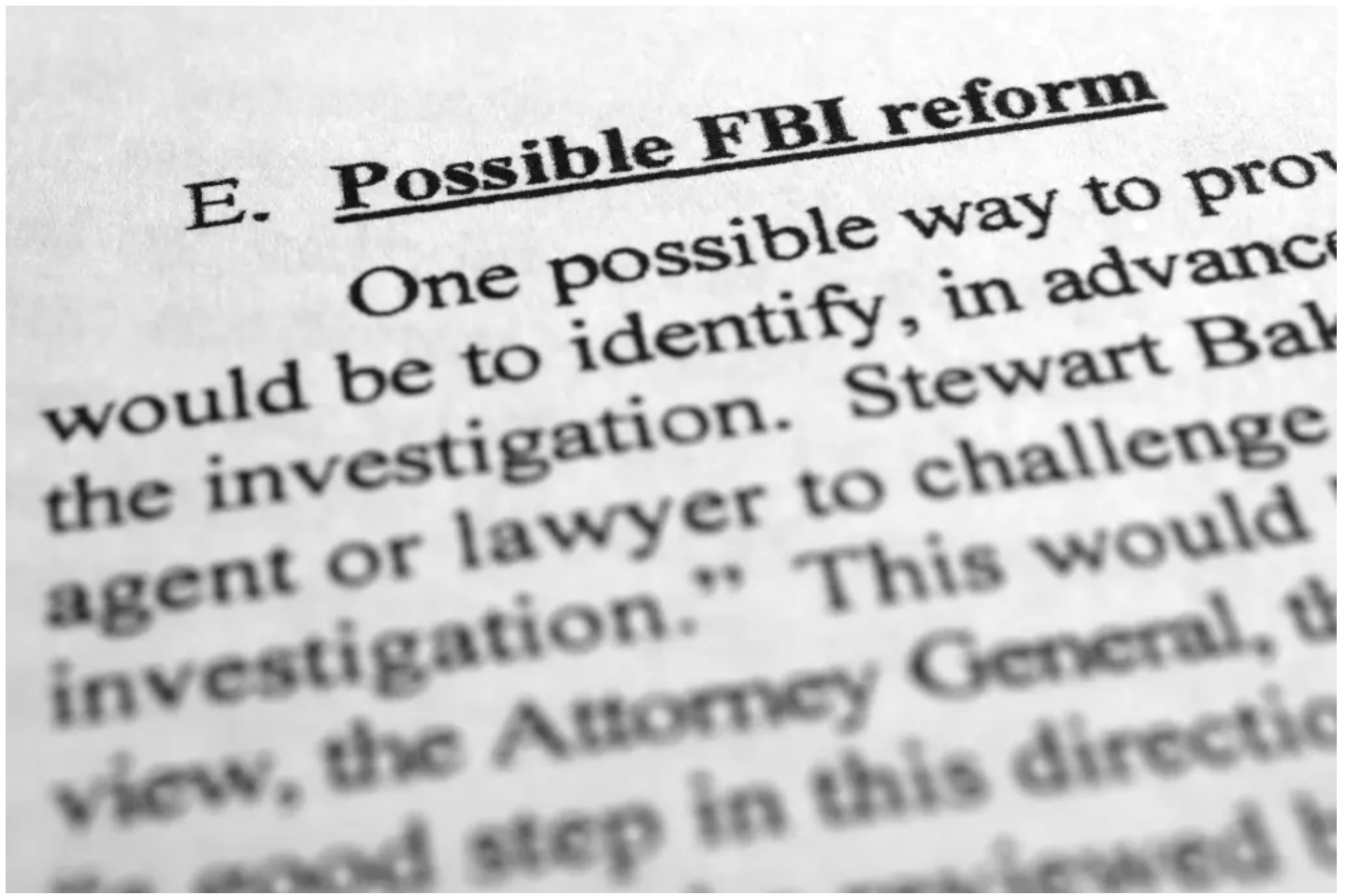
**CIA chief John Brennan** briefed President Barack Obama and other top officials on “alleged approval by Hillary Clinton on July 26, 2016 of a proposal . . . to vilify Donald Trump by stirring up a scandal claiming interference by Russian security services.”

The Clinton campaign helped bankroll the notorious Steele dossier, which made sweeping, unsubstantiated and salacious accusations against Trump.



The final report by special prosecutor John Durham.

AP/Jon Elswick



“The FBI appears to have made no effort to investigate . . . the Clinton campaign’s purported acceptance of a [illegal] campaign contribution,” the report reads.

AP/Jon Elswick

“The FBI discounted or willfully ignored material information that did not support the narrative of a collusive relationship between Trump and Russia,” the report noted.

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### ***EDITORIAL***

**The absurd ‘Russiagate’ Pulitzer of the NY Times and Washington Post**

As FBI analysts began to recognize that the Steele dossier was a hoax, FBI bosses ordered “no more memorandums were to be written” analyzing its claims.

The FBI subsequently used the unverified Steele dossier to snare a Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court warrant to spy on the Trump campaign, paving the way to special counsel Robert Mueller and his two years’ antics.

The FBI’s profound bias in the 2016 presidential election has been undeniable for almost five years. A June 2018 inspector general report exposed top FBI agents’ venomously anti-Trump messages and machinations.

But that report did nothing to curb the FBI’s power to meddle in the 2020 presidential election by playing “hide and seek” with the Hunter Biden laptop that could have demolished Joe Biden’s presidential chances.





The Durham report also found that “senior FBI and Department officials placed restrictions on how [the Clinton Foundation investigation was] handled.”

AP/Bob Child



**What do you think? Be the first to comment.**

Nothing has been done by Congress or federal courts to revoke the FBI’s prerogative to fix the 2024 election. Perhaps the only thing that would awaken the American media is if the next president’s inaugural address invokes “the will of the FBI” instead of “the will of the people.”

But considering the slavishness of the Washington press corps, maybe they would stand up and cheer for the FBI.

*James Bovard is the author of 10 books and a member of the USA Today Board of Contributors.*

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**NEWS**

# FBI, DOJ's Trump-Russia 'collusion' probe was 'seriously flawed,' no basis in evidence when opened: Durham



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### Matt Gaetz demands FBI agents be indicted after damning Durham report

The FBI investigation of former President Donald Trump's alleged collusion with Russia in 2016 was "seriously flawed" and had no basis in evidence, special counsel John Durham said in a report released Monday.

Durham concluded his four-year review with a scathing indictment of official bias in the probe, which fueled Pulitzer Prize-winning coverage of Trump's theorized conspiracy with the Kremlin to win the White House.

"It is the Office's assessment that the FBI discounted or willfully ignored material information that did not support the narrative of a collusive relationship between Trump and Russia," **Durham wrote**.

"Similarly, the FBI Inspection Division Report says that the investigators 'repeatedly ignore[d] or explain[ed] away evidence contrary to the theory the Trump campaign... had conspired with Russia... It appeared that ... there was a pattern of assuming nefarious intent,'" he added.

"An objective and honest assessment of these strands of information should have caused the FBI to question not only the predication for [the investigation], but also to reflect on whether the FBI was being manipulated for political or other purposes. Unfortunately, it did not."

Durham, the former Connecticut US attorney who was tapped to lead the review in 2019 by then-Attorney General Bill Barr, dug deep into the origins of Operation Crossfire Hurricane, but his final report didn't urge new criminal prosecutions.

The FBI's leak-ridden investigation began in the summer of 2016 and ultimately dragged on under special counsel Robert Mueller through more than half of Trump's term in office — with a granular stream of leaks to the media creating the impression of damning evidence mounting against Trump.



Special counsel John Durham reported that the FBI and Justice Department failed to observe “strict fidelity to the law” in the Trump-Russia probe.

Ron Sachs – CNP

Mueller ended his investigation in March 2019 after finding no evidence of a conspiracy between the then-president and Russia.

Trump, 76, celebrated the Durham report, writing on social media, “WOW! After extensive research, Special Counsel John Durham concludes the FBI never should have launched the Trump-Russia Probe!

In other words, the American Public was scammed, just as it is being scammed right now by those who don't want to see GREATNESS for AMERICA!"

Trump is seeking a second non-consecutive term after losing the 2020 election to President Biden and has long contended the Russia investigation was part of a "witch hunt" against him — pointing in the past to evidence of bias such as the fact that FBI official Peter Strzok, who launched the probe, swapped anti-Trump text messages with his mistress, FBI lawyer Lisa Page.



The FBI and DOJ's probe long focused on whether former President Donald Trump had colluded with Russia to defeat Hillary Clinton in the 2016 election.

REUTERS

Durham found investigators ignored exculpatory evidence, put too much stock in information provided by Trump's political opponents, and carried out surveillance without genuinely believing there was probable cause to do so.

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“Throughout the duration of Crossfire Hurricane, facts and circumstances that were inconsistent with the premise that Trump and/or persons associated with the Trump campaign were involved in a collusive or conspiratorial relationship with the Russian government were ignored or simply assessed away,” Durham wrote.

In the executive summary of the 306-page report, which was submitted to Attorney General Merrick Garland Friday, and released Monday afternoon, the special counsel wrote that investigators acted “without appropriate objectivity or restraint in pursuing allegations of collusion or conspiracy between a U.S. political campaign and a foreign power.”

However, Durham stopped short of recommending significant reforms to the FBI, writing that “the answer is not the creation of new rules but a renewed fidelity to the old.”

The report further corroborates key details of the saga, including that Hillary Clinton, the 2016 Democratic presidential nominee, was aware her campaign was indirectly paying former British spy Christopher Steele to dig up dirt on supposed Trump-Russia ties.



The Trump-Russia investigation was led by former FBI director and special counsel Robert Mueller.

Stefani Reynolds – CNP

The special counsel also devoted analysis to the FBI's disinterest in tips that Clinton was smearing Trump as a Russian agent to distract from the release of hacked emails showing she and Democratic Party bosses collaborated to crush Sen. Bernie Sanders's left-wing candidacy for the Democratic nomination.

The Clinton-financed Steele dossier was used to win secret court orders to surveil then-Trump adviser Carter Page and included a lurid account of Trump paying prostitutes to urinate on a bed at a Moscow hotel, an allegation that gained massive cultural traction after Steele's dossier was published by BuzzFeed in January 2017.

“[P]rior to the submission of the initial Page FISA application, the FBI in fact knew Steele had told Handling Agent-I that Fusion GPS had been hired by a law firm and that his ultimate client was ‘senior Democrats’ supporting Clinton,” the report said. “Moreover, it knew that Handling Agent-I’s notes of this meeting reflect that, according to Steele, ‘HC’ (Hillary Clinton) was aware of his (Steele’s) reporting.”

The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court wasn’t told, however, that it was being asked to surveil one political campaign based on the say-so of a rival.



Trump vehemently denied any collusion with Russia.

AFP/Getty Images

An FBI Office of General Counsel unit chief told Durham’s investigators that within the bureau “there was also some concern that Steele had been hired by a law firm on behalf of the Clinton campaign and the DNC to conduct opposition research on Trump.”

But “[d]espite these concerns, the fact that Steele’s information was being financed by the DNC and/or the Clinton campaign was not included in the affidavit’s source description of Steele,” the report notes. “The failure to provide this information to the FISC was a major omission in that the information clearly had the potential to affect the analysis of any bias in Steele’s reporting.”

Igor Danchenko, who was Steele’s “primary sub source” and boasted of contributing “80%” of the “intel” for the dossier, meanwhile, may have been spreading Russian lies, according to the report — which notes Danchenko was once investigated as a possible spy before becoming an FBI informant and getting paid \$220,000 by the bureau for the privilege between 2017 and 2020. Despite the bureau using him as a source, Durham notes, the previous espionage investigation was never resolved.


“The failure to identify the primary sub-source early in the investigation’s pursuit of FISA authority prevented the FBI from properly examining the possibility that some or much of the non-open source information contained in Steele’s reporting was Russian disinformation (that wittingly or unwittingly was passed along to Steele), or that the reporting was otherwise not credible,” the report says.

Although the term “Russian disinformation” was used in the report to refer to the Clinton campaign’s work product, it was used around the time of the 2016 election to slam Trump, whose supporters were commonly said by Democrats to have fallen for lies spun by the Kremlin.

Durham’s report also confirms and fleshes out details about the awareness of senior officials, including then-President Barack Obama and the leaders of the FBI and CIA, about a claim that Clinton engineered the controversy around Trump’s possible collusion with the Kremlin.







Igor Danchenko served as the primary source for former spy Christopher Steele's infamous dossier on Trump.

Rod Lamkey – CNP

Clinton allegedly signed off on the plot on July 26, 2016, and the same month “U.S. intelligence agencies obtained insight into Russian intelligence analysis alleging that U.S Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton had approved a campaign plan to stir up a scandal against U.S. Presidential candidate Donald Trump by tying him to Putin and the Russians’ hacking of the Democratic National Committee.”

On August 3, 2016, the allegation was briefed to Obama, then-Vice President Joe Biden, and then-FBI Director James Comey by then-CIA Director John Brennan at an Oval Office meeting, the report confirms.

However, Durham writes that his investigators were “unable to determine precisely when the FBI first obtained any of the details of the Clinton Plan intelligence (other than Director Corney, who attended the August 3, 2016 briefing). It appears, however, that this occurred no later than August 22, 2016. On that date, an FBI cyber analyst... emailed a number of FBI employees, including Supervisory Intelligence Analyst Brian Auten and Section Chief Moffa, the most senior intelligence analysts on the Crossfire Hurricane team, to provide an update on Russian intelligence materials. The email included a summary of the contents of the Clinton Plan intelligence. The Office did not identify any replies or follow-up actions taken by FBI personnel as a result of this email.”



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Additional intelligence fingering Hillary Clinton came the following month, Durham wrote.

“In late September 2016, high-ranking U.S. national security officials, including Corney and [intelligence director James] Clapper, received an intelligence product on Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election that included the Clinton Plan intelligence. The Office did not identify any further actions that the CIA or FBI took in response to this intelligence product as it related to the Clinton Plan intelligence,” the report says.

Durham writes that the FBI’s apparent non-investigation of claims about Clinton conjuring up the scandal “stands in sharp contrast to its substantial reliance on the uncorroborated Steele Reports, which at least some FBI personnel appeared to know was likely being funded or promoted by the Clinton campaign.”

The report also noted that neither Trump himself, nor anyone in his campaign received a so-called “defensive briefing” about the possibility that his campaign was being infiltrated by the Kremlin. By contrast, Durham wrote, Clinton got a defensive briefing through her attorneys in late 2015 when the FBI got intel another foreign government was planning to send an agent to contribute to her campaign and “gain influence” with the presumptive Democratic nominee

Clinton denied manufacturing the controversy and blamed Russia for the allegation in a May 2022 interview with the special counsel’s team.

“Clinton stated it was ‘really sad,’ but ‘I get it, you have to go down every rabbit hole,’” the report says. “She said that it ‘looked like Russian disinformation to me; they’re very good at it, you know.’ Clinton advised that she had a lot of plans to win the campaign, and anything that came into the public domain was available to her.”



Trump routinely called the probe a “hoax” cooked up by his political enemies.

Elder Ordonez / SplashNews.com

Durham concluded his investigation, which ended up running longer than the probe that triggered it, without achieving the promise of spectacular accountability for the so-called “deep state” yearned for by 76-year-old Trump’s supporters.

Over Durham’s more than four years of work, he achieved just one guilty plea, with former FBI lawyer Kevin Clinesmith copping in 2020 to falsifying

documents in order to get a surveillance warrant against Trump campaign aide Carter Page renewed.

Two other court cases, brought against Danchenko and former Clinton campaign attorney Michael Sussmann ended in swift acquittals.



**What do you think? Post a comment.**

The FBI acknowledged the Durham report on Monday with a muted mea culpa, saying: “The conduct in 2016 and 2017 that Special Counsel Durham examined was the reason that current FBI leadership already implemented dozens of corrective actions, which have now been in place for some time.

“Had those reforms been in place in 2016, the missteps identified in the report could have been prevented,” the statement added. “This report reinforces the importance of ensuring the FBI continues to do its work with rigor, objectivity, and professionalism the American people deserve and rightly expect.”

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Trump is under investigation election interference for making an innocuous comment on the Georgia election while Democrats actively DID interfere in the 2020 election in the most egregious way imaginable. I didn't want Trump to run again because I didn't want four more years of Democrats' abuse and...

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I felt the same way until the Durham report. Now I'm thinking only Trump has the fortitude and guts to clean up our governments deep state corruption. Ya it will be ugly but maybe it's time for those of us who love our country put on our big boy pants and fight before we completely lose our country...

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“the answer is not the creation of new rules but a renewed fidelity to the old.”

Too easily said, not likely to happen. There's a reason people use the word "entrenched" when referring to the corruption in our once-esteemed institutions. Trump identified the enemy, to no avail.

Reply · 55 · Share

**J****Ja**

**DURHAM PROBE** · Published May 15, 2023 4:57pm EDT

# Trump says there 'must be a heavy price to pay' for Comey, Democrats after release of Durham report

Durham's report found DOJ, FBI 'failed to uphold' mission of 'strict fidelity to the law' in Trump-Russia probe



By **Brooke Singman** | Fox News



## What John Durham's Investigation Has Told Us

Paul Gigot interviews Kim Strassel on Durham's prosecution of Igor Danchenko.

**EXCLUSIVE:** Former President Trump said Monday that former FBI Director James Comey and Democrats need to be held accountable for spending years

investigating alleged collusion between Trump and Russia now that Special Counsel John Durham has [released a report](#) that says the Trump-Russia probe never should have been launched.

"I, and much more importantly, then American public have been victims of this long-running and treasonous charade started by the Democrats — started by Comey," [Trump told Fox News Digital](#). "There must be a heavy price to pay for putting our country through this."

Durham's report found that the Department of Justice and FBI "failed to uphold their mission of strict fidelity to the law" when it launched the Trump-Russia investigation.

In an exclusive interview with Fox News Digital, Trump said the activities surrounding the FBI's original Trump-Russia investigation were "a total disgrace," and said "public anger over this report is at a level that I have not seen before."

## [READ DURHAM'S REPORT ON THE ORIGINS OF THE FBI'S RUSSIAN COLLUSION PROBE](#)



**Former President Donald Trump said the Durham report is a "total disgrace" for the Justice Department. ((Photo by Spencer Platt/Getty Images))**

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"This report took a long time because John Durham is a very thorough investigator," Trump said. "But the result is unequivocal and an absolute disaster in terms of justice."

Trump added that "the national security implications of what they did are very grave."

"It turned out to be a giant and very dangerous hoax," he said, adding that he would have "further comment in the near future."

Durham's report was released Monday afternoon after his years-long investigation into the origins of the FBI's original investigation, known as "Crossfire Hurricane." That investigation looked into whether the [Trump campaign](#) coordinated with Russia to influence the 2016 presidential election, and his report spanned more than 300 pages.

### **DESPITE ACQUITTAL, DURHAM TRIAL OF SUSSMANN ADDED TO EVIDENCE CLINTON CAMPAIGN PLOTTED TO TIE TRUMP TO RUSSIA**





**Special Counsel John Durham released his final report on the Trump-Russia probe on Monday. (Photo by Ron Sachs/Consolidated News Pictures/Getty Images)**

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"Based on the review of Crossfire Hurricane and related intelligence activities, we conclude that the Department and the FBI failed to uphold their mission of strict fidelity to the law in connection with certain events and activities described in this report," the report said.

### **DURHAM PROBE: FBI OFFERED CHRISTOPHER STEELE \$1 MILLION TO CORROBORATE TRUMP ALLEGATIONS IN DOSSIER**

Durham added that his investigation also revealed that "senior FBI personnel displayed a serious lack of analytical rigor towards the information that they received, especially information received from politically-affiliated persons and entities."

"This information in part triggered and sustained Crossfire Hurricane and contributed to the subsequent need for Special Counsel Mueller's investigation," the report states. "In particular, there was significant reliance on investigative leads provided or funded (directly or indirectly) by Trump's political opponents."



**The leadership of James Comey, former director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, was questioned in Special Counsel John Durham's report on the Trump-Russia probe. (AI Drago/Bloomberg via Getty Images)**

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"The Department did not adequately examine or question these materials and the motivations of those providing them, even when at about the same time the Director the FBI and others learned of significant and potentially contrary intelligence," the report states.

Durham is referring to past FBI leadership in his report – specifically former FBI Director James Comey and former FBI Deputy Director Andrew McCabe.

Durham's report "does not recommend any wholesale changes in the guidelines and policies that the Department and the FBI now have in place to ensure proper conduct and accountability in how counterintelligence activities are carried out."

In a statement to Fox News Digital reacting to Durham's report, the FBI said:

"The conduct in 2016 and 2017 that Special Counsel Durham examined was the reason that current FBI leadership already implemented dozens of corrective actions, which have now been in place for some time. Had those reforms been in place in 2016, the missteps identified in the report could have been prevented," the FBI said. "This report reinforces the importance of ensuring the FBI continues to do its work with the rigor, objectivity, and professionalism the American people deserve and rightly expect."

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Brooke Singman is a Fox News Digital politics reporter. You can reach her at [Brooke.Singman@Fox.com](mailto:Brooke.Singman@Fox.com) or [@BrookeSingman](https://twitter.com/BrookeSingman) on Twitter.