Russian Threats to the U.S. Judicial System

March 2018
Russia’s Long-Term Goals

• “Russian efforts to influence the 2016 US presidential election represent the most recent expression of Moscow’s longstanding desire to undermine the US-led liberal democratic order, but these activities demonstrated a significant escalation in directness, level of activity, and scope of effort compared to previous operations.”
  • Background to ‘Assessing Russian Activities and Intentions in Recent US Elections’: U.S. Intelligence Community, January 6, 2017.

• “We assess Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered an influence campaign in 2016 aimed at the US presidential election. Russia’s goals were to undermine public faith in the US democratic process . . .”
  • Background to ‘Assessing Russian Activities and Intentions in Recent US Elections’: U.S. Intelligence Community, January 6, 2017.
Elements of a National Strategy

…enough is known already to provoke a sense of urgency in developing a national strategy to counter what is an ongoing threat, not just to upcoming elections, but to our fundamental institutions and support for liberal democracy.
A Whole-of-Nation Campaign to Counter Foreign Adversary Threats to Democratic Institutions:

1. Publicize the extent of Russian, and potentially other adversaries’, interference in democratic institutions and increase awareness of the threat within those institutions and among the public;
2. Promote bipartisan action against Russia and its proxies, and increase technical defenses and countermeasures, to increase the costs of disruptive activities;
3. Improve transparency into foreign adversary interference through measures such as campaign finance reform, foreign agent disclosure, and tagging adversary-operated “bots;”
4. Research the extent to which specific adversary techniques, including cyber-enabled activities, influence public opinion and target mitigation approaches to address the most damaging techniques; and
5. Engage in a national effort to promote and reinvigorate American understanding of the importance of democracy and our democratic institutions, as a bulwark against foreign efforts to exploit divisions and complacency. This should include media literacy, critical thinking, and civics curricula at all levels, updated for the digital age.
“The United States stripped Russia of the right to use our property, which is a clear violation of Russia’s property rights,” Putin told reporters in China. “So, to begin with, I will ask our Foreign Ministry to file a lawsuit. We will see how effectively the much-lauded American judicial system works.”

Russia Unlikely to See Justice in US Courts Over Diplomatic Property Dispute
“I hope these issues do not get swept under the rug, repeating the situation when a Russian girl’s disappearance in Germany was hushed up for a long time for some reason,” he said.

“It is clear that [she] did not exactly decide voluntarily to disappear for 30 hours. Truth and justice must prevail here,” said Lavrov.

He said Russia wished Germany “success in dealing with the enormous problem caused by migrants.”

“I truly hope that these migration problems will not lead to attempts to ‘gloss over’ reality for political motives – that would be just wrong,” he said.

How Fake News Turned a Small Town Upside Down

At the height of the 2016 election, exaggerated reports of a juvenile sex crime brought a media maelstrom to Twin Falls — one the Idaho city still hasn’t recovered from.

By CAITLIN DICKINSON  SEPTEMBER 20, 2017
BareNakedIslam

CORRUPT JUDGE

CSIS CENTER FOR STRATEGIC & INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
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Kate Steinle Case
“Russian-linked accounts continued their assault on the U.S. justice system by seeding Twitter with a steady diet of content meant to undermine faith in the rule of law…Since the launch of the dashboard, content focused on undermining law enforcement and the Justice Department has increased steadily, suggesting an attempt not only to divide Americans but to erode faith in our systems of government.”

_Securing Democracy Dispatch, February 12, 2018_
“To say that the justice system in the United States is broken would be a gross understatement. Corporations and corrupt politicians have taken control, turning the once impartial judiciary into a tool for the elite to use for their own gain.”
1. Improving cybersecurity of institutions and individuals throughout the judicial system. (E.g., technical assistance, training, the development of handbooks to guide non-technical professionals, and institutional mechanisms for cyber threat information sharing and analysis for the judiciary and for prosecutors.)

2. Building national resilience against information operations that threaten to undermine public respect for the judicial system. (E.g., educating the public; elements of the judicial system; the media; and government at the federal, state, and local level; as well as the development of a dedicated response capability, given the inherent challenges judges and prosecutors face in defending themselves against disinformation or personal attacks.)
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