

THE UNADDRESSED COUNTERINTELLIGENCE THREAT OF RUDY GIULIANI

The name “Giuliani” shows up, unredacted, just five times in the SSCI Russia Report:

- A reference to a meeting that Rudy had with Paul Manafort and Trump at 5:30 PM on August 2, 2016, the last thing on Manafort’s calendar before he met with Konstantin Kilimnik to discuss how to win the Midwest, share campaign polling data, and carve up Ukraine.
- A citation to a Rick Gates 302 that describes that Manafort was relying on Rudy, along with Jared Kushner, in his efforts to try to place people in the new Administration.
- A footnote citing this story describing Rudy’s meetings with Andrii Telizhenko as part of his search for dirt in support of Trump’s 2020 re-election. The footnote is one of the few unredacted passages in an 8-page section that is part of a larger section describing

Manafort's follow-up on that August 2, 2016 meeting on Ukraine.

- A footnote describing an email – involving Rudy, Hope Hicks, Dan Scavino, and Stephen Miller – used as an example of Trump's team incorporating stolen information released by WikiLeaks into Trump's tweets.
- A footnote sourcing a rather incredible claim from Psy Group's Joel Zamel that he first met Jared Kushner via an introduction, months after inauguration, from Rudy.

I raise this not because I think there's any direct tie between Russia and the coup this week (though I find it interesting that of those scripting WikiLeaks information into Trump tweets, all but Hicks may be seeking a pardon). This coup was an all-American affair, with roots in racist extremism that goes back before the Civil War. Someday, six months from today, we can talk about how this attack was *consistent* with events started over four years ago, with all the same players in starring roles. But these are American fascists running the show, not Russians.

I raise it, instead, to point out that the single most sustained review of the danger that some of Trump's closest advisors pose to his presidency almost entirely excluded one who played the key role in the post-election period, the purported lawyer who – at every step of the way – encouraged the President to take more and more extreme measures to hold on his power.

This coup attempt happened, in significant part, because Rudy had almost unfettered access to the President, Rudy was one of few people who never lost his trust, and Rudy always encouraged the worst decisions from Trump.