

IT IS NOT NEWS THAT BILL BARR LIED TO PROTECT KLEPTOCRACY

Let's talk about what Bill Barr did in his second tenure as Attorney General.

Even before Jeff Sessions was fired, Barr decided – based on the false claims he saw on Fox News – that the allegations against Donald Trump were bullshit. He wrote up a memo suggesting that it was okay for the President to fire the FBI director to cover up his own crimes. And based on that audition, he was nominated and confirmed as Attorney General.

When the investigation into the aftermath of that firing shut down weeks after he was confirmed, Barr lied to downplay the degree to which the President had enthusiastically welcomed the help of a hostile country to get elected. Among the things his lies did was to hide that the investigation into whether Roger Stone conspired with Russia – with Trump's full knowledge – remained ongoing, a detail that remains unreported everywhere but here. Barr also issued a prosecution declination for crimes still in progress, Trump's ultimately successful effort to buy the silence of witnesses against him with pardons.

Barr poured whiskey to celebrate his old friend Robert Mueller's frailty before Congress.

Then Barr turned to protecting Trump, Rudy Giuliani, and Sean Hannity when a whistleblower objected that Trump was extorting Volodymyr Zelenskyy for help on his reelection campaign. He did so in a number of ways, including interfering in legally mandated congressional and election oversight. He also stripped the whistleblower complaint to ensure that investigative steps put into place to protect national security in the wake of 9/11 wouldn't tie Trump's extortion attempt to an ongoing investigation into Ukrainian efforts to exploit

Rudy Giuliani's corruption to protect (Russian-backed) Ukrainian corruption. Barr's efforts to hide the national security impact of Russian-backed Ukrainian efforts to corrupt American democracy gave Republicans cover – cover that every single Republican save Justin Amash and Mitt Romney availed themselves of – to leave Trump in place even after he put his own personal welfare above national security.

Then Barr turned to undoing the work of the Russian investigation. After Judge Emmet Sullivan ruled that the case against Mike Flynn was sound and Michael Horowitz concluded that the Russian investigation was not a partisan witch hunt, Barr assigned multiple investigators – John Durham and Jeffrey Jensen – to create a new set of facts claiming it was. He intervened to minimize the punishment against Stone, in the process claiming that threats against a witness and a judge – involving the same militias that would go on to lead an attack on the Capitol on January 6 – were mere technicalities. In his attempt to shield Stone from punishment, Barr ensured that the then-ongoing investigation into Stone's suspected conspiracy with Russia would go nowhere. Barr's efforts to attack Emmet Sullivan for refusing to rubber stamp Barr's corruption resulted in a death threat against the judge. Barr's effort to invent excuses to dismiss the prosecution against Flynn included altering documents and permitting an FBI agent who had sent pro-Trump texts on his FBI device to make claims in an interview that conflicted with the agent's own past actions.

Barr used COVID as an excuse to let Paul Manafort serve his sentence in his Alexandria condo until such time as Trump pardoned his former campaign manager for lying about the help from Russia he used to get elected.

Barr took several measures to protect Rudy Giuliani from any consequences for his repeated efforts to get help for Donald Trump from Russian-backed Ukrainians, including outright Agents like Andrii Derkach. He ensured that the

existing SDNY investigation into Rudy could not incorporate Rudy's later efforts to solicit Russian-backed Ukrainian help. He attempted to fire Geoffrey Berman. He set up a parallel process so that DOJ could review the fruits of Rudy's influence peddling for potential use against Trump's campaign opponent.

This is just a partial list of the false claims that Bill Barr mobilized as Attorney General to ensure that the United States remained saddled with a President who repeatedly welcomed – at times extorted – Russian-backed help to remain as President.

It is not news that Bill Barr corrupted DOJ and lied to protect kleptocracy – in its American form of Donald Trump, but also, by association, in Putin's efforts to exploit American venality to corrupt democracy.

Nevertheless, multiple outlets have decided that now – during Russia's unprovoked attack on Ukraine – is a good time to invite Bill Barr onto TV or radio to tell further lies to spin his own role in protecting kleptocracy, Russian and American. They appear to think they're clever enough to catch a shameless liar in a lie – or perhaps believe the news value of having Barr explain that he'd prefer a competent fascist to Trump but if Trump is all he gets, he prefers *that* to actual democracy.

You cannot win an interview with Bill Barr. Gaslighters like Barr are too skilled at exploiting our attention economy. The mere act of inviting him on accords a man who did grave damage to the Department of Justice and the Constitution in service of kleptocracy as a respectable member of society. Even assuming you're prepared enough to challenge his lies (thus far none of the journalists who interviewed Barr has been), he'll claim your truth, the truth, is just partisanship designed to smear those who believe kleptocracy is moral. More likely, you'll end up like Savannah Guthrie did, letting Barr claim, unchallenged, that the allegation that Russia conducted a concerted

effort to compromise Trump is a lie.

Before Russia invaded a peaceful country, it attempted to achieve the same ends by cultivating Trump, by trading him electoral advantage for Ukrainian sovereignty. Bill Barr was a central part in letting that effort continue unchecked until January 20, 2021.

If you invite him on to do anything other than apologize to Ukraine and the United States, you are part of the problem.