

NYT COVERS UP THE STILL-ONGOING TRUMP-RUSSIAN EFFORT TO FRAME JOE BIDEN

The reason I have so little patience for NYT's decision to dedicate the resources of three senior reporters to warn about the dangers of a second Trump term is not that I disagree about the second term. They're right that it would be far worse.

It's that the same reporters continue to downplay Trump's past corruption – some of which Maggie Haberman specifically enabled – and outright ignore the ongoing effects of it.

Imagine how much healthier American democracy would be if the NYT dedicated just half of the time and space that went into the eight, often repetitive stories on this topic to instead lay out how the ongoing effort to impeach Biden is a continuation of Trump's efforts, made with the assistance of men now deemed to be Russian spies by both the US and Ukraine, to frame Joe Biden?

1. December 4: Why a Second Trump Presidency May Be More Radical Than His First
2. November 15/December 2: How Trump and His Allies Plan to Wield Power in 2025
3. November 11: Sweeping Raids, Giant Camps and Mass Deportations: Inside Trump's 2025 Immigration Plans
4. November 1: Some of the Lawyers Who May Fill a Second Trump Administration
5. October 31: If Trump Wins,

His Allies Want Lawyers Who
Will Bless a More Radical
Agenda

6. July 17: Trump and Allies
Forge Plans to Increase
Presidential Power in 2025
7. June 21: Few of Trump's
G.O.P. Rivals Defend Justice
Dept. Independence
8. June 15: The Radical
Strategy Behind Trump's
Promise to 'Go After' Biden

NYT appears not to have assigned a single
reporter to chase down the following allegations
that have come out of the GOP impeachment
effort:

- Bill Barr's DOJ shut down a
corruption investigation
into Mykola Zlochevsky –
which had been opened in
January 2016, while Biden
was VP and Hunter was on the
board of Burisma – in
December 2019, right in the
middle of an impeachment
defense claiming to
prioritize the investigation
of Burisma's corruption.
- Days later, Barr set up a
rickety effort to ingest the
dirt Rudy Giuliani had
obtained, including from
known Russian agent Andrii
Derkach and possibly from
Burisma itself, without
being forced to prosecute

Rudy for soliciting dirt from known Russian agents. One of several details we've learned since NYT's superb past reporting on this effort (besides that Scott Brady's testimony completely conflicts with that past NYT report), is that Brady mined information from the newly closed Zlochevsky investigation to obtain an FD-1023 recording Zlochevsky making new claims about Joe Biden around the same time in 2019 as Barr shut down the investigation into Zlochevsky, claims that were utterly inconsistent with what he had said months earlier.

- Hunter Biden's lawyer claims, backed by newly disclosed communications, that Tony Bobulinski falsely told the FBI on October 23, 2020 that he had personally attended a February 2017 meeting at which he saw CEFC's Chair hand Hunter Biden an enormous diamond. That meeting with the FBI took place one day after attending the October 22, 2020 debate with Donald Trump. Weeks later, according to Cassidy

Hutchinson, Bobulinski and Mark Meadows had a covert meeting at a campaign stop; she claims she saw Trump's chief of staff hand Bobulinski, "what appeared to be a folded sheet of paper or a small envelope."

- Separately, Hunter Biden partner Rob Walker described the concerns he and Hunter had about Bobulinski's business ties to Russians, possibly including Viktor Vekselberg.
- In addition to the informant report on Zlochevsky's changed claims about Biden, there were three other dodgy informant reports shared with the Hunter Biden team: from two Ukrainians that seem tied to the Rudy effort, from Gal Luft at meetings where – he has since been accused – he lied about his ties to CEFC, and from Bannon associate Peter Schweizer (the latter of which this important NYT story on Tim Thibault did address).
- Throughout this period, the IRS supervisor on the investigation documented repeated examples of improper influence on the

investigation. In a recent subpoena request, Hunter's attorney noted that Trump's improper effort to influence the investigation continues to this day.

In short, basic reporting on Republican efforts to impeach Biden show that it, along with key parts (though not necessarily all) of the investigation into Hunter Biden, are simply a *continuation* of an effort Trump started in 2018 to frame Joe Biden. That is an effort that involved people that both the US and Ukraine have labeled as Russian spies.

Aside from some key articles (linked above), NYT has covered none of this.

Instead, NYT claims the exact opposite. It claims that the effort to gin up a criminal investigation into Joe Biden didn't succeed.

And neither effort for which he was impeached succeeded. Mr. Trump tried to coerce Ukraine into opening a criminal investigation into Mr. Biden by withholding military aid, but it did not cooperate.

It's right there, the full-time pursuit of three different House committees, ongoing, with an FD-1023 about Zlochevsky's changed claims about Biden and Bobulinski's FBI report that seems to have close ties to Trump (in which Bobulinski was represented by a known Maggie Haberman source).

NYT tells you the first term wasn't that bad, because Trump's efforts failed. Yet what failed was NYT's reporting on ongoing events.

NYT tells this fairy tale even as they continue to whitewash Bill Barr's efforts. In a recent 4,000-word story, in which they claimed that the commutation of Jonathan Braun's sentence "stood

out" more than the pre-trial pardon of Steve Bannon issued the same day, NYT gives Barr two paragraphs to claim he tried to clean up pardons.

William P. Barr, a Trump attorney general who had left by the time of the Braun commutation, said when he took over the Justice Department he discovered that "there were pardons being given without any vetting by the department."

Mr. Barr added that he told Trump aides they should at least send over names of those being considered so the department could thoroughly examine their records. While the White House Counsel's Office tried to do so, the effort fell apart under the crush of pardon requests that poured in during the final weeks before Mr. Trump left office, according to people with direct knowledge of the process.

It is true that of the eight pardons given before he arrived, there were some doozies, including Joe Arpaio, Dinesh D'Souza, Scooter Libby, and the ranchers whose arson cases sparked the Malheur occupation.

But Barr was utterly complicit in the most abusive pardons Trump gave. Less than two months after he was confirmed based off repeated assurances that giving a pardon in exchange for false testimony was obstruction, Bill Barr wrote a memo declining to prosecute a crime in process, the effort to use pardons to ensure that Paul Manafort, Roger Stone, Mike Flynn, and others continued to lie to cover up Trump's ties to Russia in the 2016 campaign. The Barr memo did not once mention pardons, even though that was a key thrust of the second volume of the Mueller Report (something Charlie Savage has also noted).

Of course, NYT joins Barr in that

complicity. *This story* finally mentions one of those pardons in its discussion of Trump's abuse.

His lawyers floated a pardon at his campaign chairman, whom Mr. Trump praised for not "flipping" as prosecutors tried unsuccessfully to get him to cooperate as a witness in the Russia inquiry; Mr. Trump later did pardon him.

But it does not mention that Manafort specifically lied about why he briefed Konstantin Kilimnik campaign information, an act that the Intelligence Community later stated as fact resulted in the sharing of campaign information with Russian intelligence. This is a topic about which NYT has a still uncorrected story, hiding the tie to Oleg Deripaska.

It's not that Trump pardoned Manafort for "not flipping." It's that he pardoned Manafort *after he lied* about why the campaign manager shared information that Russian spies could use in their attack on US democracy.

And the very link NYT relies on here mentions the Stone pardon, a commutation and then pardon that halted a still ongoing CFAA conspiracy investigation between Trump's rat-fucker and the Russians (another detail NYT has never reported).

Yes, I absolutely agree. A second Trump term would be worse.

But repeating that, over and over, even while misinforming readers about the ongoing five year effort to frame Joe Biden is not the best way to prevent a second term.