

**Mid-2014**

### **Internet Research Agency (IRA)**

A Russian organization based in St. Petersburg, the IRA began sending employees to the United States on an intelligence-gathering mission. Their goal was to understand the U.S. political environment and gather information that could be used in disinformation campaigns.

**From 2014-2015**

### **IRA Social Media Campaign**

The IRA used fake social media accounts and created interest groups to sow discord in the U.S. political system, promoting divisive content on issues such as immigration, race, and gun control. This was part of a broader "information warfare" strategy aimed at influencing U.S. public opinion.

**June 16, 2015**

### **Donald Trump Announces Candidacy**

Donald Trump announced his candidacy for President of the United States at Trump Tower in New York City. His speech focused on immigration, economic policies, and a promise to "Make America Great Again," marking the start of a campaign that defied political norms.

**June 9, 2016**

### **Trump Tower Meeting**

Donald Trump Jr., campaign chairman Paul Manafort, and Jared Kushner (Trump's son-in-law and advisor) met with Russian lawyer Natalia Veselnitskaya. The meeting was arranged on the promise of receiving damaging information about Hillary Clinton. The meeting later became controversial as evidence of the Trump campaign's willingness to accept foreign assistance.

**July 2016**

### **DNC Hack by Russian GRU**

The Russian military intelligence agency, the GRU, hacked into the Democratic National Committee (DNC) and obtained emails, internal documents, and opposition research. The hacked materials were later distributed through entities like DCLeaks and WikiLeaks, aiming to damage Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign.

**October 7, 2016**

### **WikiLeaks Podesta Emails Release**

WikiLeaks began releasing thousands of emails stolen from John Podesta, Hillary Clinton's campaign chairman. This release coincided with the publication of the Access Hollywood tape, which featured controversial remarks by Donald Trump. The timing was seen as an attempt to distract from Trump's scandal.

**December 29, 2016**

## **Michael Flynn's Call with Russian Ambassador**

Michael Flynn, then President-elect Trump's National Security Advisor, had a series of phone calls with Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak, discussing U.S. sanctions imposed on Russia by the Obama administration. Flynn urged Russia not to retaliate, suggesting that relations would improve under the incoming Trump administration. This communication was a key focus of the investigation into potential violations of the Logan Act.

**May 17, 2017**

## **Appointment of Special Counsel Robert Mueller**

Following the firing of FBI Director James Comey and mounting concerns about Russian interference, Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein appointed Robert Mueller as Special Counsel. Mueller was tasked with investigating Russian efforts to interfere in the 2016 election, potential collusion with the Trump campaign, and any related matters.

**June 2017**

## **Trump's Attempt to Fire Mueller**

President Trump directed White House Counsel Don McGahn to fire Robert Mueller, citing supposed conflicts of interest. McGahn refused, believing the order was unjustified and could constitute obstruction of justice. McGahn prepared to resign rather than carry out the order, but Trump backed down after McGahn's refusal.

**July 2017**

### **Trump's Misleading Statement on Trump Tower Meeting**

President Trump dictated a statement to his son, Donald Trump Jr., about the June 2016 Trump Tower meeting, claiming it was primarily about Russian adoptions. The statement was misleading, as the real purpose of the meeting was to discuss potentially damaging information on Hillary Clinton.

**October 27, 2017**

### **Indictments of Paul Manafort and Rick Gates**

Paul Manafort, Trump's former campaign chairman, and his deputy, Rick Gates, were indicted on multiple charges, including conspiracy against the United States, money laundering, and failing to register as foreign agents. The charges were unrelated to Russian election interference but were part of Mueller's broader investigation into Trump campaign officials.

**December 1, 2017**

### **Michael Flynn Pleads Guilty**

Michael Flynn, former National Security Advisor, pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI about his communications with Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak. Flynn's lies concerned sanctions discussions during the presidential transition, becoming one of the first significant convictions from Mueller's investigation.

**February 16, 2018**

## **Indictment of Russian Operatives**

Mueller's team indicted 13 Russian nationals and three Russian entities, including the Internet Research Agency, for their roles in interfering with the 2016 U.S. election. The indictment detailed how these operatives used social media and other means to manipulate public opinion and support Trump's candidacy.

**August 21, 2018**

## **Paul Manafort Convicted**

Paul Manafort was convicted on eight counts of financial fraud, including tax and bank fraud, largely related to his work as a political consultant in Ukraine. Though unrelated directly to collusion, his conviction demonstrated the legal fallout from Mueller's investigation into Trump campaign ties.

**August 21, 2018**

## **Michael Cohen Pleads Guilty**

Michael Cohen, Trump's former personal attorney, pleaded guilty to multiple charges, including campaign finance violations related to hush money payments to Stormy Daniels and Karen McDougal. Cohen implicated Trump, stating the payments were made at Trump's direction to influence the 2016 election.

**November 29, 2018**

## **Michael Cohen Admits to Lying to Congress**

Cohen pleaded guilty to lying to Congress about the Trump Tower Moscow project, falsely claiming that discussions ended in January 2016. In reality, negotiations continued into the middle of 2016, during Trump's presidential campaign, contradicting public statements by Trump and his associates.

**February 20, 2019**

## **Roger Stone Indicted**

Longtime Trump advisor Roger Stone was indicted on charges of obstruction, making false statements, and witness tampering. Stone was accused of lying about his efforts to communicate with WikiLeaks regarding the release of hacked DNC emails during the 2016 election.

**March 22, 2019**

## **Submission of the Mueller Report**

Robert Mueller submitted his final report to the Attorney General, detailing Russian interference in the 2016 election, Trump campaign contacts with Russian operatives, and potential obstruction of justice by President Trump. The report did not charge Trump with conspiracy or obstruction but outlined numerous troubling actions.

**November 15, 2019**

## **Roger Stone Convicted**

Roger Stone was convicted on all seven counts related to his efforts to obstruct the House investigation into Russian interference. His charges included lying to Congress and witness tampering. Stone's conviction was part of the broader narrative of Trump associates facing legal consequences from their actions during and after the campaign.

**December 18, 2020**

### **Flynn Receives Presidential Pardon**

Michael Flynn received a full pardon from President Trump, sparking significant controversy. Flynn's pardon came after his guilty plea for lying to the FBI about his contacts with Russian officials, highlighting the contentious aftermath of the Mueller investigation.

**December 23, 2020**

### **Roger Stone Receives Full Pardon**

Roger Stone, a longtime advisor to Donald Trump, was granted a full pardon by President Trump. Stone had been convicted on charges of obstruction of justice, making false statements to Congress, and witness tampering, all related to his efforts to gather information about WikiLeaks' release of hacked Democratic emails during the 2016 election. Stone's pardon erased his convictions, following a previous commutation of his prison sentence.

**December 23, 2020**

### **Paul Manafort Receives Full Pardon**

Paul Manafort, Trump's former campaign chairman, was granted a full pardon by President Trump. Manafort had been convicted of financial crimes including tax and bank fraud related to his work as a political consultant in Ukraine, uncovered during the Mueller investigation. Though not directly tied to collusion with Russia, his crimes were part of the broader fallout from investigations into Trump campaign officials. The pardon ended any remaining legal consequences from his convictions.