

1/1/2017



NITMUN
2017

THE WHITE HOUSE CRISIS CABINET

DEFUSING THE PRESIDENTIAL
TIME BOMB
(MITIGATION OF ALL
IMMINENT CRISES)

The Literary Circle

Introduction to The Literary Circle

Literary Circle is the club in NIT Durgapur, which gives the college an extra dimension of creative expression in the midst of technical unilateralism and gives the students of the college an opportunity to transcend the ordinary and mundane.

This club conducts Verve, Literary cum Youth Festival of the college and the biggest of its kind in eastern India. The Literary Circle has successfully pulled off 13 editions of Verve. Flagship events in the fest have become the matter of college folklore.

The club also prints its annual literary magazine Déjà Vu every year, with over 4000 copies distributed inside the college as well as all over metropolitan cities.

The club is known to be highly selective in its admission of new members, with only about 10 students inducted out of the entire batch of 900 each year. Great believers of the phrase 'quality over quantity', the members selected every year are the best of the best in the field of expression and creativity.

Come, step into the Circle!

Introduction to NITMUN

NITMUN is a forum convened by the members of the Literary Circle for discussion and analysis of global issues. It seeks to bring out motivated delegates from all over the country for brainstorming over significant international issues.

Organised by the Literary Circle, NITMUN promises a challenging yet entertaining time to all delegates. It requires the entire workforce of the club to come up with a topic or a committee that really instigates each and every delegate to ponder. And then, the best executive boards from all over the country are brought together to make sure that every delegate grows and becomes better at the end of the conference. Our greatest goal is to make sure that each delegate learns how to tackle world issues better at the end of the conference as the world is in dire need of young leaders now.

Currently in its 6th edition, NITMUN has been extremely successful in providing the perfect experience to each delegate. Over the years, we have entertained more than 750 delegates in total. Delegates arrive from all corners of India for an experience they never forget.

Committee: The White House Crisis Cabinet

Introduction to the Committee



In the midst of unrest at home and executive decisions that gained unfavourable responses, President Donald Trump embarks on a journey covering the vital nations of Japan, India, Philippines, China and Russia. A series of tweets and unfortunate events follow.

The White House Crisis Cabinet is a secret cabinet unknown to the President and Chaired by Vice President Mike Pence. The cabinet's job is to find a favourable way to present a bad situation or to make sure that the President remains in control with suitable advice from Pence. This cabinet works in the shadows, but is essential towards a successful Presidency.

The White House Crisis Cabinet consists of all influential members of the President's government. They have been enlisted by the Vice President to tackle all emerging crises. Keeping in mind their respective policies as well as the President's policies, the committee is expected not to

However, failure to do so in a timely manner will lead to a major press blowout and even more unfavourable responses. The committee will have to work together, while providing their respective expertise, to handle each situation as their real life counterparts would.

Agenda: Defusing The Presidential Time Bomb **(Mitigation of All Imminent Crises)**



Introduction to Agenda

On November 8th 2016, Donald Trump was elected as the 45th President of the United States. Having no prior experience in politics and an extremely vocal attitude on Social Media sites, the Presidency was predicted to be wrapped in controversy.

The predicament began with his erratic tweets and controversial executive orders and actions. His appointed government is faced with a precarious task: defusing each situation in the best and most diplomatic manner possible while presenting the President in a favourable light. However, the varied responses and shaky answers spoil the broth, and the government is left looking embarrassed.

Vice President Mike Pence, exasperated with the state of affairs, convenes a cabinet unknown to the President. This cabinet consists of all eminent members of the President's White House Committee.

Pence expects the committee to come up with a unified justification for all situations to save the establishment further embarrassment.

The Cabinet convenes at the perfect time, with the President embarking on an extensive foreign trip. While the committee will begin with deliberations on past decisions and orders of the President, an accelerated time frame will ensue which will provide all the delegates with thought-provoking challenges.

TRUMP'S FOREIGN POLICY

1. North Korea

What may seem as a desperate move , Trump reached out to China to deter the nuclear armament of north Korea. Trump seems to have paid heed to the saying “ an enemy’s enemy is a friend” as US tries to coax China onto their side , by back tracking on his own harsh words.

President Donald Trump, eager to stop rapid advances in North Korea's nuclear and ballistic missile programs, is signalling a break with decades of US policy as he looks to coax China into ramping up the pressure on North Korea.

Trump's sweetening the pot, offering China better trade terms if the Asian powerhouse takes steps to put North Korea's provocative behaviour to rest. China accounts for 80% of North Korea's foreign trade and has significant political leverage over North Korea.

"We have tremendous trade deficits with everybody, but the big one is with China. ... And I told them, 'You want to make a great deal?' Solve the problem in North Korea. That's worth having deficits. And that's worth having not as good a trade deal as I would normally be able to make," Trump told The Wall Street Journal in an interview last week, a day after he spoke with Chinese President Xi Jinping by phone.

Trump has suggested China could win US concessions on trade in exchange for action on North Korea. The stance is sparking concerns among former officials in successive Democratic and Republican administrations who say Trump appears to be abandoning a pillar of US efforts to urge China's cooperation on North Korea.

former White House officials are raising eyebrows at Trump's move and insisting there is a reason why successive Democrat and Republican administrations have kept the issues of trade and North Korea separate in diplomacy with China.

US officials have made clear to their Chinese counterparts that the US won't barter economic or other foreign policy issues in exchange for support on the North Korean issue -- sending the signal that the US position on the issue was in the interests of global stability. Abandoning that policy, according to officials from President George W. Bush's and President Barack Obama's administrations, risks sending a dangerous message to US allies and adversaries alike and sending the US tumbling down a slippery slope.

Robert Zoellick, the trade representative and later deputy secretary of state in George W. Bush's administration, agreed, saying he "never conceded a trade point with China to get assistance on a security topic," like North Korea.

That's because doing so risks weakening the US stance on the issue of denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and opens up the US to similar foreign policy gambits from countries around the world seeking a sweeter economic relationship with the US.

"It opens up the thinking in everyone's mind around the world that they can haggle for a better deal and get the US to give up on longstanding positions," said Michael Green, the National Security Council's senior director for Asia in the Bush 43 White House. "That is not going to instil confidence."

Past administrations, though, have failed to stop, let alone slow down, North Korea's nuclear program and ballistic missile developments. So Trump has taken a different tack: seeking to

incentivize China into stepping up its role in the North Korean issue as he stressed the urgency of confronting the threat.

Trump's offer to barter over the North Korean issue also risks nullifying one of the Washington's biggest pieces of leverage in urging Chinese cooperation: that stopping North Korea's nuclear program is also in China's interest.

China has been less aggressive than the US in seeking to cool down North Korea's aggressive development of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles. But experts agree that China also wants to prevent North Korea from becoming a full-fledged nuclear power -- and certainly wants to prevent a war on their southern border that could send millions of refugees flooding into China and potentially risk bringing a US military presence to China's borders.

Evan Medeiros, the National Security Council's senior director for Asian affairs under Obama, joined other former officials in questioning Trump's attempt to barter the US-China trading relationship over the North Korean issue.



North Korea says it is prepared to deploy a new medium-range missile as part of an "answer" to President Trump's policies.

The nation says it's set to start mass-producing its new missile, which can reach Japan and major U.S. military bases, The Associated Press [reported](#) Monday.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un reportedly "approved the deployment of this weapon system for action" and said it should "be rapidly mass-produced."



Donald J. Trump
@realDonaldTrump



Follow

North Korea just stated that it is in the final stages of developing a nuclear weapon capable of reaching parts of the U.S. It won't happen!

RETWEETS

19,724

LIKES

64,078



1:05 AM - 3 Jan 2017

12K 20K 64K ...

The Trump administration would be well advised to lend an ear to the voices of concern that are heard from the U.S. and the international community," the North's MinjuJoson newspaper said in a commentary Sunday.

"Many more 'Juche [domestically made] weapons' capable of striking the U.S. will be launched from this land. This is the [the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's] answer to the Trump administration."

On Sunday, North Korea launched a medium-range ballistic missile just hours before President Trump delivered a major speech in Saudi Arabia.

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson in an interview Sunday said the testing is "disappointing" and "disturbing."

"Strategic patience." It's a phrase almost as infamous in the foreign policy lexicon as president Barack Obama's "red line" or president George H.W. Bush's "line in the sand." And yet if "red line" is a connotation for America's failure to meet a commitment and "line in the sand" connotes US military strength, "strategic patience" is a synonym for policy failure, ineptitude, and an inability of the most powerful nation in the world to bend a small, rogue, nuclear-armed nation to its will.



North Korea is the foreign policy crisis that never goes away. Every single policy option short of a pre-emptive military strike has been embraced by US officials to put the Kim dynasty in its box and limit its capacity to threaten its neighbours—and US military forces stationed in South Korea and Japan—with nuclear holocaust. Needless to say, none of them have been particularly successful in mitigating the threat. President Bill Clinton's diplomacy with Kim Il-Sung and Kim Jong-il in the mid 1990's provided a temporary reprieve, culminating in an [Agreed Framework](#) that shut down North

Korea's plutonium weapons program for about eight years. But diplomacy since then has been erratic at best; the Bush administration only got seriously invested in the process during the two years of its second term, and president Obama largely gave up once Pyongyang violated a missile moratorium in March 2012.

The strategic patience policy, solidified by the Obama administration, was a fancy way of saying that Washington would no longer be itching to talk with the North Koreans. The US was going to lean on China to get tougher on the Kim dynasty; missile defence would be beefed up and US-South Korean-Japanese intelligence and defence collaboration would increase; and Kim Jong-un would have to be serious about denuclearization before US diplomats would waste any political capital on negotiating. The approach sounded rough and resolute and should have been produced smiles on the faces of hawkish Republicans—in response to a 2016 offer from North Korea, president Obama waved it away, saying Kim would “[have to do better than that](#)”—but in reality it produced nothing of consequence. Pyongyang simply grew its program, continued to refine its ballistic missile technology, and continued violating UN Security Council resolutions every year. By the time Obama handed over the reins to Donald Trump, one of the most respected nuclear physicists on the planet [estimated](#) that North Korea had “sufficient plutonium and highly enriched uranium to build 20 to 25 nuclear weapons.”

Trump's problem is not just that the problems are tough. It's that his administration is unable to articulate what American policy even is. This was true of Syria, a realm in which multiple U.S. officials [gave conflicting interpretations of U.S. policy](#) in the days after missile

strikes on the Assad government. And it is true halfway around the world with North Korea, where, as if the actions of Kim Jong Un's government were not inscrutable enough on their own, the U.S. line seems to change frequently.

[In an interview with the *Financial Times*](#), President Trump adopts a warlike tone as well, suggesting willingness to take unilateral military action.

"China has great influence over North Korea. And China will either decide to help us with North Korea, or they won't," he says. "If they do, that will be very good for China, and if they don't, it won't be good for anyone." He adds: "If China is not going to solve North Korea, we will. That is all I am telling you."

Amid increasing worries about war, the U.S. Pacific Command announces it is sending the U.S.S. Carl Vinson, an aircraft carrier, and its strike group toward the Korean Peninsula, in what is viewed as a threat toward North Korea. The White House and Pentagon trumpet the news, with Press Secretary Sean Spicer saying, "[We are sending an armada.](#)" [It only becomes clear on April 18](#) that, in fact, the Vinson was 3,500 miles away and sailing the opposite direction at the time.

After which, in a style that has become his own, of back tracing his own words Trump's government tweeted that:

[U.S. Pacific Command](#)

[✓@PacificCommand](#)

As [@POTUS](#) and [#SECDEF](#) have made clear, all options are on the table. We want to bring [#KimJongUn](#) to his senses, not to his knees.

[8:20 PM - 26 Apr 2017](#)

A day later, Tillerson stuns the world by going even further, supporting direct talks with Pyongyang. NPR's Steve Inskeep asks, "Do you intend direct talks with North Korea? Is that your goal?" [Tillerson replies](#), "Obviously, that would be the way we would like to solve this, but North Korea has to decide they're ready to talk to us about the right agenda. And the right agenda is not simply stopping where they are for a few more months or a few more years and then resuming things. That's been the agenda for the last 20 years."

The many shifts are jarring—it is hard to discern what the U.S. actually thinks and intends to do in North Korea, when the nation's top diplomat keeps contradicting himself, the president has his own line, and even matters as simple as naval deployments can't be taken at face value. One consistent thread has been the U.S. insistence that all options are on the table, but even that is not entirely true, since the U.S. says that regime change is not a possibility.

As with Syria, the confusion raises a series of questions about the administration. Are the differences a product of diverging viewpoints jockeying for primacy in the White House? Is there insufficient communication between Tillerson and the White House? Is Tillerson simply very bad at messaging, and is reversing himself unintentionally? Or is it simply that the U.S. doesn't have a coherent North Korea policy from which he can draw? A coherent policy is not sufficient—neither Bush nor Obama was able to solve the riddle of North Korea—but each day presents more evidence that the Trump administration simply hasn't made up its mind yet.

2.China

With over a hundred days as the President of the United States of America , Donald Trump is yet to make good on his words during his campaign.

Donald Trump was heard to be making statements that he believed China was stacking the deck on trade in part by manipulating the value of its currency. These harsh words were not received well on the other end as China as Mr. Xi stated that he would only address the POTUS if he upheld the 44 year old “One China” Policy- the premise that Taiwan is a part of China, which had undergirded US-China relations since 1970.

During the campaign Trump constantly lashed out at China , making the case that the United States didn't know how to deal with China. The main focus of Trump while belittling China were bad trade deals, stating that the only way China can grow is by draining us of its wealth .

But as president , Trump's stance on the China policy seems to have taken a new identity. During the transition period, Trump took a shot at China by questioning the one China policy, by taking a call from Taiwan's president. This did not bode well with the Chinese government as they condemned it and called it a heretical act that could ruin China-US relations.



But with his usual arrogance Trump declared “why should we be bound by the One China Policy unless we have a deal with the Chinese”. China expert Michael Pillsbury said that this may just be a strategic ploy to shake things up and gain leverage over China.

Due to the afore mentioned problems, us China relations are off to a rocky start. To make amends Trump resorted to reaffirming the one China policy over a phone call with President Jinping, actions that some may see as the us folding on its own bluff they called on China.

Even though Trump would like the world to believe that this was merely a strategic ploy to keep most of the cards off the table China may just take away a whole other interpretation, that – an ill-informed and irresponsible president backed away from a threat with nothing to show for it.

This is devastating for the US as Trump has managed to weaken the US-China bonds and simultaneously send out a message to other countries that us can’t be taken seriously.

Another blunder that shook the world was the withdrawal of China from the TPP to the trans pacific partnership. With China being a

major player in trade in the Asian side, Mr. Trump gave China a gift and once again getting nothing in return, thus sapping us credibility in that region.

As the United States continues to prioritize deterrence and assurance in Asia, it does so at the risk of unintentionally convincing China that it will be the target of U.S. aggression, at best creating a security dilemma and at worst triggering a geopolitical trap.

Along its course to deter China, the United States needs to reassure it. Such a strategy could feature several elements. First, the United States should offer China an opportunity to exchange views on the upcoming Nuclear Posture Review (NPR) and the Ballistic Missile Defence Review (BMDR).

By doing so, the United States may achieve an improved understanding of China's posture and China would have the chance to influence U.S. decision-making. If China chose not to engage in such an exercise, the United States would be in a stronger position to deflect Chinese critiques of U.S. posture. Second, the United States and South Korea should discuss the Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) system with China at an official level with the opportunity for site visits.

The United States would gain insights into Chinese logic and objections against THAAD, while diminished pressure on South Korea may result. Third, the United States should pursue a sustained dialogue on strategic stability with China which would include the nuclear, cyber, and space domains. Since it is in both countries' mutual interest to avoid strategic miscalculation, China and the

United States may emerge from the dialogue with a greater awareness of the trade-offs in their strategic relationship.



To date, China has not sent reassuring messages when the United States attempted to engage in dialogue on ballistic missile defence and strategic stability. Further, China has not demonstrated an interest in receiving briefings, but instead complains about the U.S. regional missile defence posture.

This indicates that China will proceed with its military modernization programs regardless of assurances provided by the United States. Nonetheless, confidence and security building measures (CSBMs) between China and the United States remain necessary because both countries regard certain behaviours as desirable to avoid. Chinese concerns regarding U.S. containment as well as preservation of territorial integrity are central to PRC motivations for modernization efforts.

Assurance, deterrence, and reassurance need not be mutually exclusive. The United States must in coming months articulate its preferred strategy for the Asia-Pacific.

A prime opportunity in the defence and security realm will be the Shangri-La Dialogue on June 2-4, where Secretary of Defence James Mattis should use his speech to state clearly a desire for continued strong U.S. engagement in the region and propose concrete initiatives to this end.

The assembled defence ministers from the Asia-Pacific will then be able to return to their capitals with faith that the United States does not intend to abandon the region, but instead desires to renew its partnerships in an effort to perpetuate a stable and peaceful order.

3. SYRIA

It may not be clear what the US policy toward Syria actually is, including to senior policymakers whose divergent and even contradictory statements have overlapped with one another.

For years, Trump advocated against intervention in Syria's war, except to attack the Islamic State militant group in a related but separate conflict. However, that policy ended after the chemical weapons attack on Khan Sheikhoun on 4 April. Yet almost as soon as Trump ordered retaliatory strikes on a Syrian airbase from which the US said the regime had launched the chemical attack, his aides suggested that the one-off strike had satisfied US objectives.



Donald J. Trump ✓
@realDonaldTrump

Following

What I am saying is stay out of Syria.

RETWEETS
13,895

LIKES
9,410



10:00 PM - 3 Sep 2013

Policy 1 :2013 – 30 March 2017

For years, as a presidential candidate, Trump was fine with Assad remaining in power. He didn't want US to get involved in another Middle East conflict, specially against a leader backed by Russia. After winning the election, Trump told the Wall Street Journal: "My attitude was you're fighting Syria, Syria is fighting ISIS, and you have to get rid of Isis." Assad quickly called Trump a "natural ally".

Policy 2: 5-6 April 2017

Five days later, Assad killed at least 70 people in Khan Sheikhoun, including children, with the nerve agent sarin. Trump expressed public anger, saying Assad had crossed "many, many lines". By then, military planning for a retaliatory strike was under way. Hours before guided-missile destroyers launched 59 Tomahawk missiles on Thursday. The missiles soon landed on the Shayrat airbase marked the first salvo toward the US ousting Assad.

Policy 3: 6-10 April 2017

Hours after the missile strike, the newly empowered national security adviser HR McMaster, defined the US attack in minimalist terms: "It was aimed at the capacity to commit mass murder with chemical weapons, but it was not of a scope or a scale that it would go after all such related facilities." The strike itself would not have

affected Assad's hold on power, but if endangering that hold were once again a US goal, it would have to be the first of many. Instead, McMaster said, the strike ought to prompt "a big shift in Assad's calculus" against chemical weapons use. Assad's calculus, however, should not matter to the US if he is no longer in power.

Policy 4: 9 April 2017

The US secretary of state, Tillerson, claimed that their first priority is to defeat ISIS. Once the US could "conclude" that war, the US would attempt to broker ceasefire agreements between the Syrian civil war's various combatants – even though Assad, with Russian support, has violated ceasefires in the past. Tillerson said he was "hopeful" to work with Russia "and use their influence to achieve areas of stabilization throughout Syria and create the conditions for a political process through Geneva in which we can engage all of the parties on a way forward". However, Haley (Ambassador of the United States), reversing her own statement thoroughly, said the US could have "multiple priorities" in Syria beyond defeating Isis. Muddying the waters of Tillerson's Isis-first approach, it was said: "There has to be a degree of simultaneous activity as well as sequencing of the defeat of Isis first." Asked why the US drew the line at chemical weapons, rather than the barrel bombs Assad's forces have used to kill countless more Syrian civilians, Haley replied: "That's a decision for the president to make."

Policy 5 :10 April

The US placed barrel bombs along the continuum with chemical weapons. This suggested an even deeper US military engagement in Syria unrelated to chemical weapons, even though the strike had been defined in a manner that suggested the US merely sought to establish a credible deterrent against future chemical weapons use.

Within hours, a statement was released once again defining the US objectives minimally – and with clarity atypical of the Trump administration.

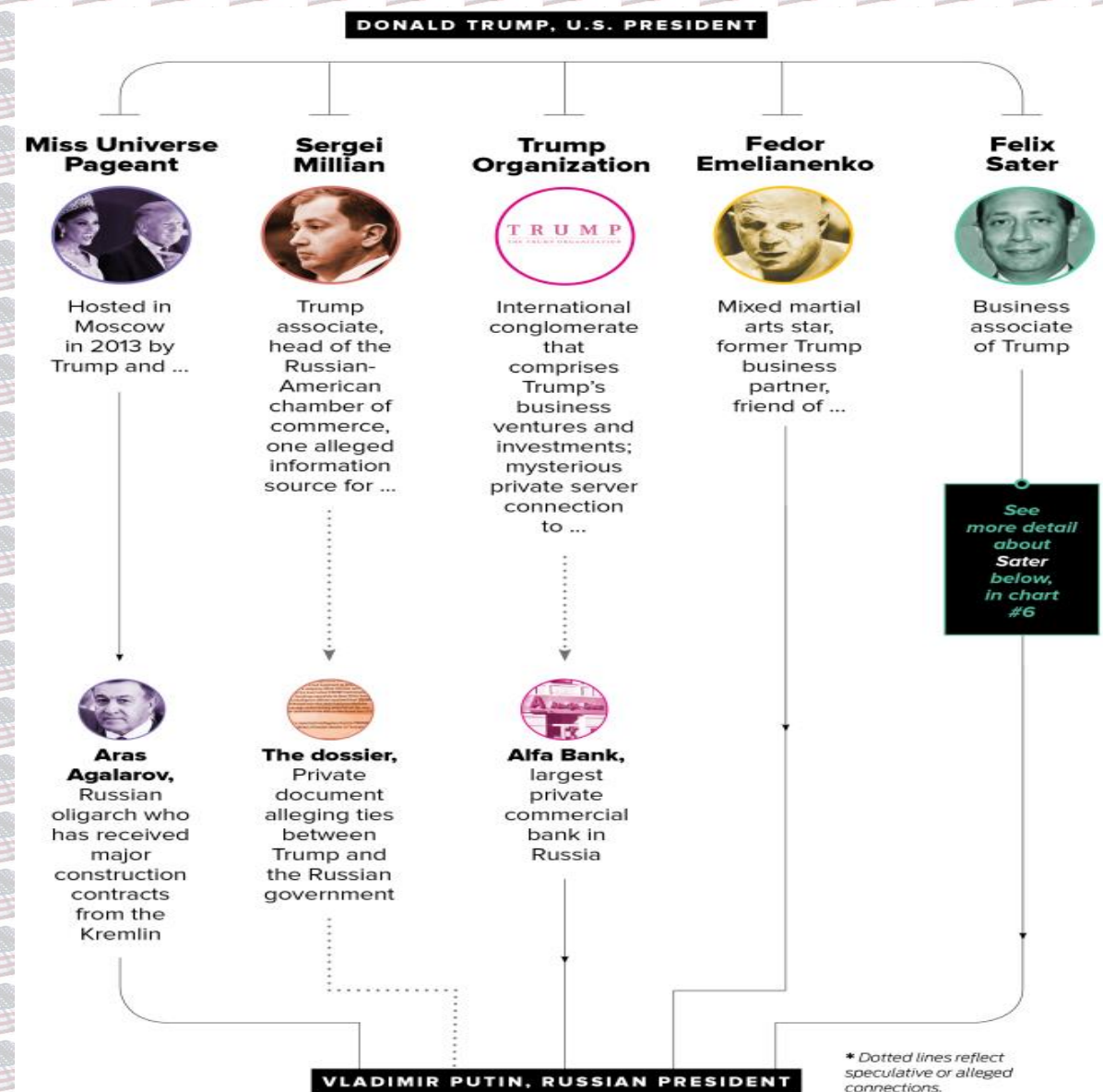


“The US military strike against Shayrat airfield on April 6 was a measured response to the Syrian government’s use of chemical weapons,” said Mattis, a veteran of two different Iraq wars and Afghanistan.

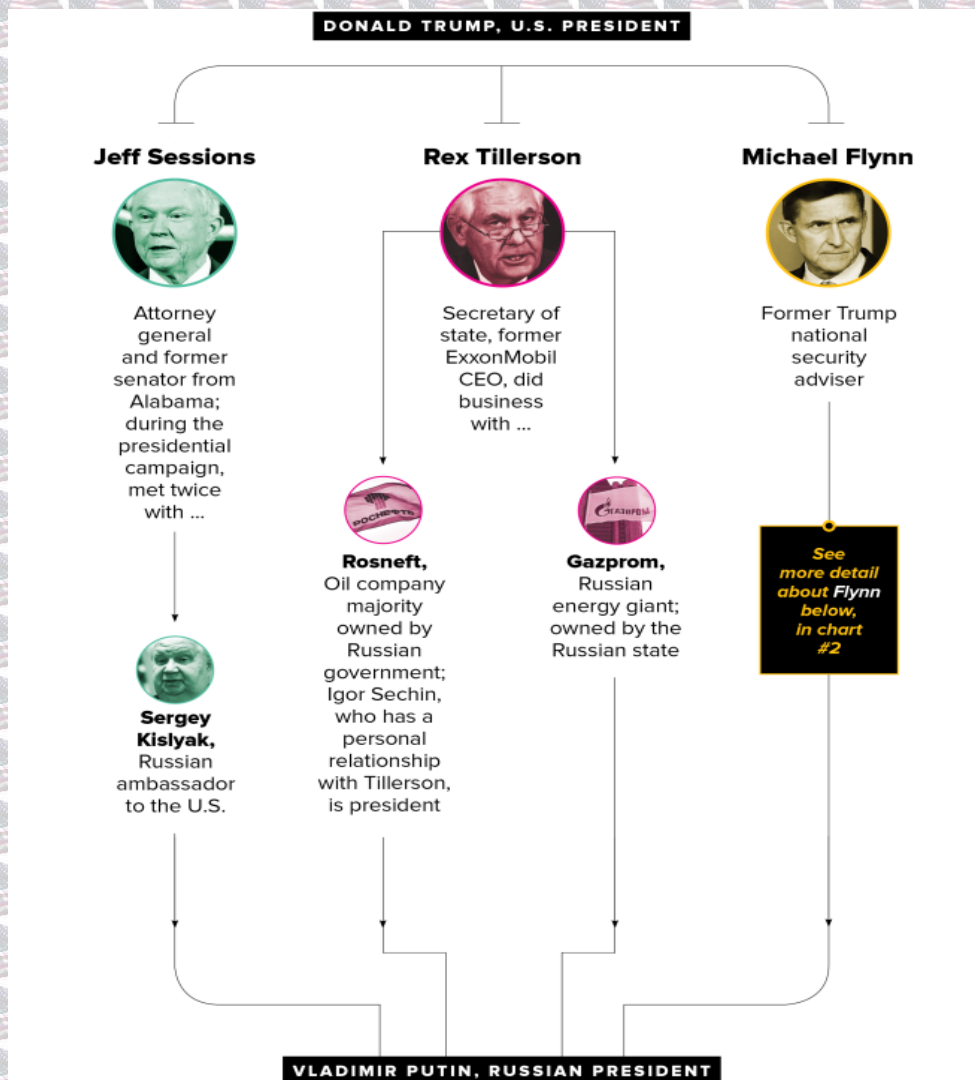
“The president directed this action to deter future use of chemical weapons and to show the United States will not passively stand by while Assad murders innocent people with chemical weapons, which are prohibited by international law and which were declared destroyed.” There were no mention of barrel bombs.

4. Russia

Late July 2016- In an interview with George Stephanopoulos, Trump insists that a good relationship and common interests with Russia supersede holding Russia accountable for its territorial violations in Ukraine, and he questions how deep Russia's involvement is, signalling that he may recognize a Crimean referendum that was instigated by Russian soldiers occupying the Crimean Parliament and then forcing a referendum on annexation while occupying the peninsula.



Early August 2016- Politico comes out with an article titled “Trump changed views on Ukraine after Hiring Manafort”. Trump seems to change his stance regarding Ukraine, claiming trying to change the illegal annexation of Crimea could start World War III and making statements that are more sympathetic towards Russian strategic interests.



November 10, 2017- Russian diplomats confirm that contact was maintained between Russian government representatives and Trump’s “immediate entourage” during and after the election campaign.

Early December 2016- Manafort's close associate and former deputy Rick Gates continues to work closely with Trump's team behind the scenes during the planning of Trump's inauguration. Gates also has strong business ties to Putin-favoured Russian oligarchs.

Hael Crowley discusses President-elect Donald Trump's relationship with Russian President Vladimir Putin. He says that Trump seems "Wilfully blind to Putin's real goals" and that "there's something I think we don't completely understand." He discusses Putin's geopolitical goals as well as the continued role and influence of Manafort on Trump's team.

December 23, 2016- Trump tweets his backing of Putin's criticism and mockery of the Democratic Party and Hillary as sore losers.

December 29, 2016- When Trump is asked to clarify his position on Russian sanctions as a response to the cyber hacking, Trump avoids the question saying we need to "move on with our lives" and that computers have "complicated our lives".

Early January 2017- Trump persists in refusing to acknowledge Russian hacking even after meeting with American intelligence community leaders, 17 of which have all confirmed that Russia is behind the cyber-attacks. Trump is afraid that evidence of Russian hacking may result in the perception of his election victory as illegitimate.

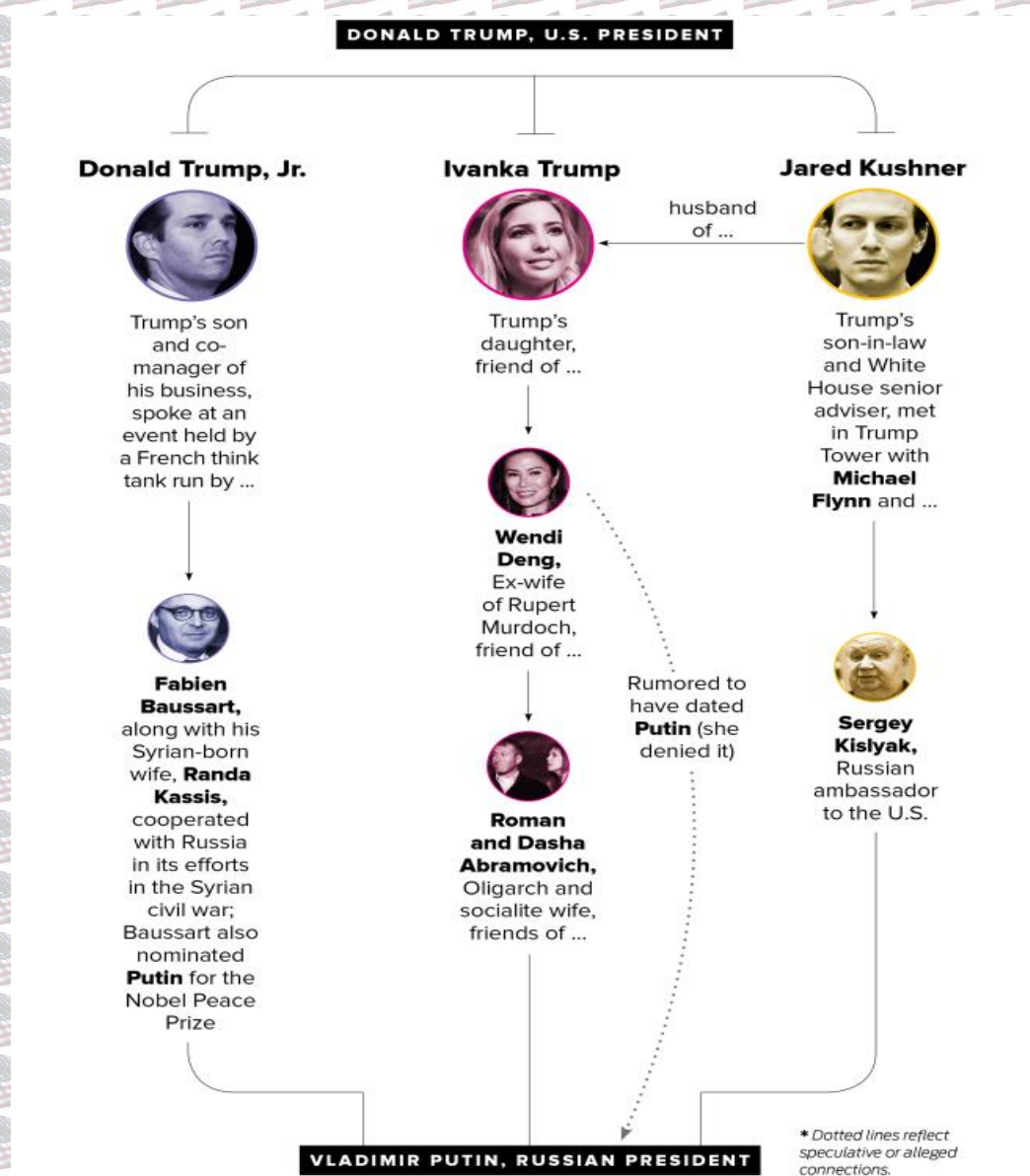
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hacking may result in the perception of his election victory as illegitimate.

February 2, 2017- The US Treasury department lifts some sanctions on the Russian FSB (KGB). The department said in a statement it would allow U.S. companies to make limited transactions with the FSB that are needed to gain approval to import information technology products into Russia.

Interestingly, Russian news agency Tass reports on it BEFORE the US Treasury department publicly releases a statement.

February 10, 2017- Recordings surface that reveal Trump National Security Adviser Michael Flynn discussed sanctions with Russia at the end of December as the Obama administration kicked out Russian diplomats as punishment for election interference. In an unprecedented response, Putin did not do the usual tit-for-tat retaliation, allegedly because of assurances given to him by Flynn, a conversation which undermined the moves of the sitting United States government.



April 2017-Only weeks ago, it appeared that Trump, who praised Putin throughout the U.S. election campaign, was poised for a potentially historic rapprochement with Russia. But any such expectations have crashed into reality amid the nasty back-and-forth over Syria and ongoing U.S. investigations into Russia's alleged interference in America's U.S. presidential election. "It'd be a fantastic thing if we got along with Putin and if we got along with Russia," Trump said. But he clearly wasn't counting on it.

"That could happen, and it may not happen," he said. "It may be just the opposite."

Not long before Trump spoke in Washington, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson struck a similar tone after an almost two-hour meeting with Putin, saying the two countries had reached a "low point" in relations.

"Right now we're not getting along with Russia at all."

— Donald Trump

Trump, who last week ordered airstrikes on a Syrian air base in retaliation for a chemical weapons attack, was asked Wednesday if Syria could have launched the attack without Russia's knowledge. Trump said it was "certainly possible" though "probably unlikely."

The newly hardened view of Moscow comes as the president has tried to shake suspicions about the motives behind his campaign calls for warmer relations. As the FBI and multiple congressional committees investigate possible collusion between Russia and Trump's campaign, the president and his aides can now point to his hard-line stance on Syrian President Assad as evidence he's willing to stand up to Putin.

More than 80 people were killed in what the U.S. has described as a nerve gas attack that Assad's forces undoubtedly carried out. Russia says rebels were responsible for whatever chemical agent was used, which the Trump administration calls a disinformation campaign.

The dim view of U.S.-Russian ties from both Trump and Tillerson reflected the former Cold War foes' inability to forge better relations, as Trump until recently has advocated.

Allegations of collusion between Russian officials and Trump campaign associates also have weakened Trump's ability to make concessions to Russia on any issue, lest he be accused of rewarding bad behaviour. Russia wants the U.S. to eliminate sanctions on

Moscow related to its 2014 annexation of Ukraine's Crimea region and support for pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine.

Beyond Syria, Russia's alleged meddling in the U.S. presidential election also hovered over what was the first face-to-face encounter between Putin and any Trump administration Cabinet member. "We have not seen a single fact, or even a hint of facts," Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said. "I do not know who saw them. No one showed us anything, no one said anything, although we repeatedly asked to produce the details on which these unfounded accusations lie. Still, Tillerson sought to stress the positives from his meetings. He said working groups would be established to improve U.S.-Russian ties and identify problems. He said the two sides would also discuss disagreements on Syria and how to end the country's six-year civil war.

However, Tillerson said Syria's government had committed more than 50 attacks using chlorine or other chemical weapons over the duration of the conflict. And he suggested that possible war crimes charges could be levied against the Syrian leader. Russia has never publicly acknowledged any such attacks by Assad's forces and has tried for the past 18 months to help him expand his authority in Syria.

While the most immediate U.S.-Russian dispute concerns culpability for the chemical weapons, broader disagreements over everything from Ukraine to Russia's support for once-fringe candidates in European elections are among other sore points.

Tillerson was greeted frostily in the Russian capital as Lavrov began their meeting Wednesday by demanding to know America's "real intentions."

June 2017-he US president instructed his secretary of state to try and mend the relationship with Russia, despite the hype in Washington, Rex Tillerson told journalists. The relationship between the two world powers is currently at its lowest in decades.

"The president's been clear to me: do not let what's happened over here in the political realm prevent you from the work that you need to do on this relationship and he's been quite clear with me... that we might make progress," Tillerson said during a visit to New Zealand on Tuesday, as cited by Reuters.

During his election campaign, President Donald Trump said Washington was interested in having better relations with Russia, which fanned accusations by his political opponents that he was secretly collaborating with Moscow.

His administration has been plagued by questions over alleged connections with Russia.

5. AFGHANISTAN

U.S. forces dropped the largest non-nuclear bomb on an ISIS tunnel complex in Afghanistan. President Donald Trump said he is very proud of the U.S. military after what he called a "very, very successful mission."



"Everybody knows exactly what happened and what I do is I authorize my military. We have the greatest military in the world and they've done their job as usual. So, we have given them total authorization," Trump said after meeting with first responders at the White House on Thursday. The president said his confidence in the military is "frankly why they've been so successful lately."

White House press secretary Sean Spicer said that the bomb targeted caves that ISIS fighters used to "move around freely." Spicer said that the military did what it could to avoid civilian casualties and collateral damage. He declined to give further details, saying it would be best to direct those questions to the Department of Defense or the U.S. forces in Afghanistan.

Given how troubling the situation has become in Afghanistan, a new policy on Afghanistan can't come soon enough. Some reports suggest that Trump might send 3,000 to 5,000 additional US troops to Afghanistan. What this modest number of new troops can do is twofold. First, it can enhance the very real progress made in recent years to increase the fighting capacities of the Afghan security forces. More US troops in Afghanistan means that more troops will be in place to help the current assist/advise/train mission get Afghan

troops to do air cover and intelligence collection better - two long-cited deficiencies. Second, more troops can bring an important psychological boost to the Afghan government and especially the military forces, which are very worried that the US will abandon Afghanistan and withdraw all troops. The Afghan military, which suffers from low morale and high desertion rates, could benefit from some reassurance in a big way.

TRUMP'S DOMESTIC POLICY

Research- Trump's Domestic Policy

1. Immigration Ban

- Trump refers his immigration ban to a 'travel ban'
- This ban temporarily restricts travel to the US from several Muslim-majority countries
- Known as the Executive Order 13769, otherwise titled as Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States.
- Was effective from January 27, 2017 until March 16, 2017.
- Was thereafter superseded by Executive Order 13780
- This ban suspended the entry of Syrian refugees indefinitely
- Entries from countries of Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen were suspended
- Critics accused the order of being a "Muslim Ban".
- Supporters of the ban indicated it only affected 13% of the Muslims worldwide.
- During this period, more than 700 travellers were detained and 60,000 visas were "provisionally revoked".
- Trump claims that terrorists are using the US refugee resettlement program to enter the country.

- During Trump's election campaign, he proposed a "total and complete" ban on Muslims entering the US.
- In a speech on August 15th 2016, Trump states multiple terrorist attacks in the US such as 9/11, Boston Marathon Bombing etc as a justification for a temporary ban on immigration from countries with a history of terrorism.
- There were loopholes, as many attackers were US citizens and none of the attackers had family background from the 7 banned countries.
- On September 4th 2016, Vice President candidate Mike Pence defended Trump's plan to suspend immigration from these specific countries such as Syria by saying, "Donald Trump and I believe that we should suspend the Syrian refugee program" because "Syria was imploding into a civil war, hence compromised by terrorism".
- In late November, following the Ohio State Attack, Trump claimed the attacker was a "Somali refugee who should not have been in" the US.
- Trump had also states that Christian refugees would be given priority in terms of refugee status in the US. Christians make up less than 1.5% of Syrian refugees.
- Countries such as Saudi Arabia, Egypt and other Muslim-majority countries where The Trump Organization has conducted business were excluded.
- There were several statements regarding entry of green card holders from these countries, but in the end they were granted immigration often after several hours of detention.

- There was confusion for dual citizens as well. The conclusion being, the order should not affect US citizens with citizenships of one of the seven banned countries. But travelers with dual nationalities with neither being of the US would not be permitted to enter.
- Out of 82 people determined to be inspired by a foreign terrorist organisation, only two were amongst the seven banned nations.



2. Climate Change

- President Donald Trump has opted to withdraw the United States from the Paris climate accords.
- What is the Paris Agreement? The Paris Agreement was adopted in Paris in December 2015 during a huge climate change meeting. The US and China ratified it in September 2016. Its aim is to stop temperatures from rising more than two degrees, due to global warming. All countries have to cut

emissions but they're allowed to set their own national objectives.

- After China, the US emits the largest amount of Co2 at 5 million kilotons. According to largest emissions per capita, the US is much further ahead than both China and India.
- Trump withdrew from the Paris climate accord but will re-negotiate on terms that are fair to the United States before re-entering.
- According to Trump, "This agreement is less about the climate and more about other countries gaining a financial advantage over the United States,"



Donald J. Trump ✓
@realDonaldTrump



Following

The concept of global warming was created by and for the Chinese in order to make U.S. manufacturing non-competitive.

RETWEETS

24,831

LIKES

14,654



2:15 PM - 6 Nov 2012



- Only two other nations are not part of the agreement, Syria and Nicaragua.
- Although with the announcement to leave, it will still take up to 2020 to fully pull out of the agreement, leaving some hope to take back the decision.

- The US also announced they would no longer contribute to the Green Climate Fund, a United Nations vehicle meant to help developing countries cut carbon emissions.
- EU Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said “The Americans can’t just leave the climate protection agreement. Mr.Trump believes that because he doesn’t know the details”.
- According to a recent poll in March found that 70 percent Americans believe climate change is happening.
- With the US out of the picture, China will lead the change. China has already emerged as a leader on green energy and technology and is expecting to reach its Paris target early.



Donald J. Trump 
@realDonaldTrump



Following

Give me clean, beautiful and healthy air - not the same old climate change (global warming) bullshit! I am tired of hearing this nonsense.

RETWEETS
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LIKES
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1:44 AM - 29 Jan 2014



- This decision affects the poor in developing countries around the world negatively.
- The fun from the United States currently supports 43 projects in Eastern Europe, Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa and the Asian Pacific regions.

- Bangladesh is looking at a major refugee crisis in the coming years as sea level rise displaces millions of people living in coastal flood areas.
- Climate change will make it impossible to grow food or find water in the future, therefore could push around an estimate of 100 million people worldwide into poverty over the next 15 years.
- Losing the US is a serious blow for the Paris Agreement. Without the commitment of the US, other countries will start worrying about the possibility of some nations beginning to slack off.
- Scientists have found that 0.8 of a degree of global warming could be avoided if countries stick to their commitments on climate change.

3. **The Wall**

- Trump wants to build a wall on the Mexican-US border
- There is an existing wall along a third of the border
- 1900 miles from the Pacific Ocean to the Gulf of Mexico
- Barrier made from concrete, steel, barbed wire
- Critics say a wall won't help



Donald J. Trump
@realDonaldTrump



Following

Our border is being breached daily by criminals. We must build a wall & deduct costs from Mexican foreign aid! donalddjtrump.com

RETWEETS

189

LIKES

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10:50 AM - 16 Apr 2015



189



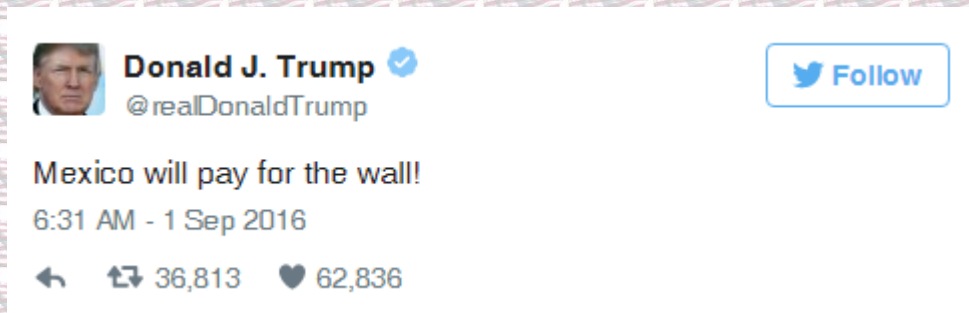
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- Critics insist it will create more dangerous conditions for migrant who do cross the border and won't eliminate or reduce undocumented immigration.
- A barrier or wall has been advanced by every administration since at least Ronald Reagan.
- Since the 1980's when undocumented immigrants came in from Mexico and Central America, the Reagan administration beefed up border security with more personnel and surveillance.
- In the early 90s there were physical barriers
- After 9/11 more barriers went up
- President Trump originally said building the wall will cost around eight to 12 million dollars.
- As a comparison, the existing barrier cost nearly 4 million dollars per mile

- Problems that arise are many miles along the border cannot support construction of a wall
- This is due to three reasons, topographically challenging such as mountain and rough terrain, Native American reservation land, and lastly gaps left in fencing that was never completed due to lack of money towards the end of the project.
- Current border has more than 30 border patrol stations and 25 legal ports of entry
- 408,870 border apprehensions in the southwest US last year
- Nearly half of all border apprehensions occur near the southernmost tip of Texas
- Most existing border fence was built after 2006, under President George W. Bush
- In 2006, George W. Bush signed the Secure Fence Act, which led to the construction of the 653 mile fencing that exists now along the US-Mexico border
- By the time Obama took office, 47 miles of unfinished fencing was yet to be constructed
- Trump cited the Secure Fence Act and has restarted the work on border barriers
- Proposed 18 feet wall
- Polls suggest that most Americans don't support building a border wall
- Trump had asked Congress to add \$33 billion in new defense and border security funds, including \$1.5 billion specifically for the wall

- Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto refused to fund Trump's wall
- Few solutions from Trump that will get money from Mexico to build the wall are: Cutting off remittance payments to Mexico, Impose a 20 percent border adjustment tax on Mexican exports to the US, Cancel around \$200 million in annual foreign aid that the US sends to Mexico



- If the suggested project takes place, could take several years to complete.

4. **Investigations into the spread of classified information**

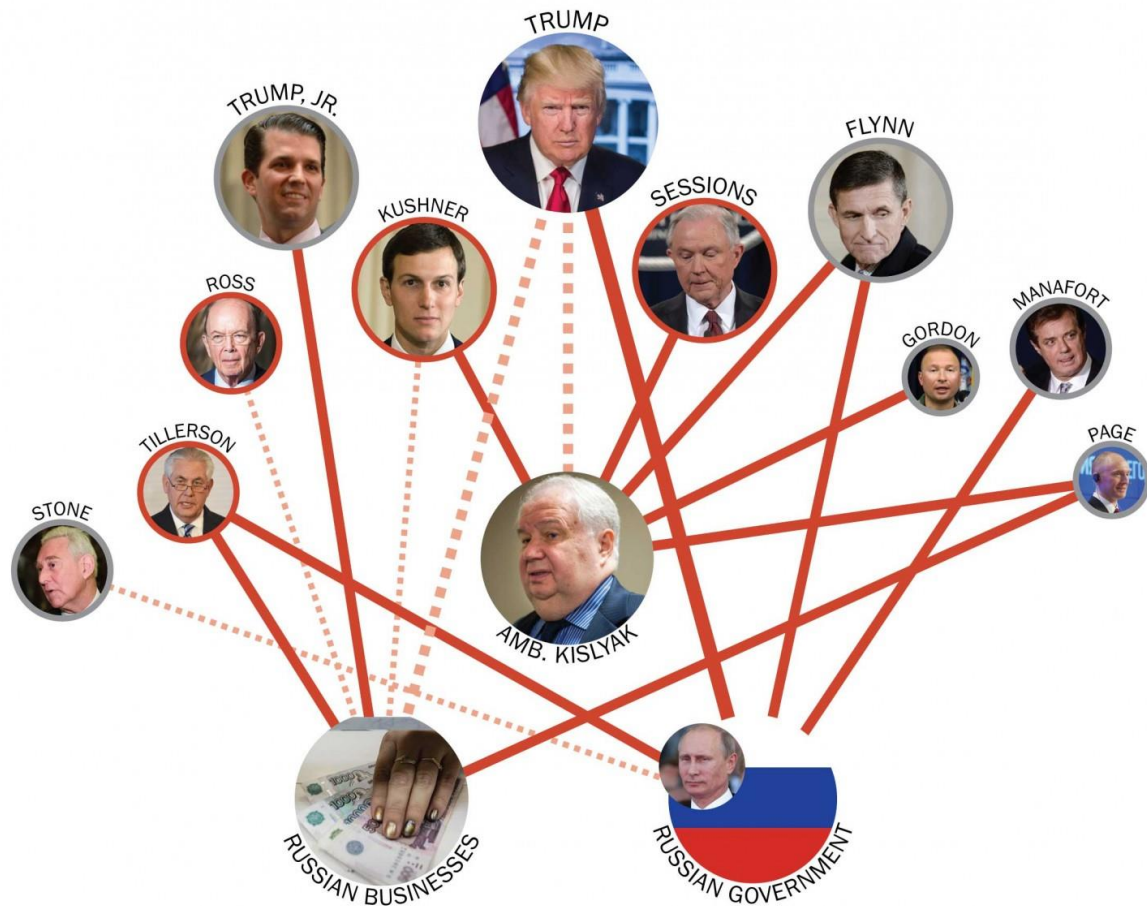
- A recent Washington Post story published on May 15th 2017 has accused President Trump of sharing classified information with the Russian ambassador to the US and its foreign minister during an Oval Office meeting.
- Donald Trump revealed highly classified information about ISIS to the Russian foreign minister and ambassador.
- There was no permission for the information to be shared with Russia.

- It is said that for anyone in government discussing such matters would be illegal, but as president, Mr Trump has authority to share government secrets, making it unlikely he has broken any kind of law.
- President Trump defended his decision on sharing sensitive information later on.
- The information about the Islamic State plot came from Israel and was considered so sensitive that American officials had not shared it widely within their own government or amongst allies.
- Trump had described details of an Islamic terrorist threat related to the use of laptop computers on aircraft.

Known or possible links between Team Trump, Russia

Analysis by The Washington Post.

○ IN GOVERNMENT ○ NOT IN GOVERNMENT — KNOWN LINK - - - POSSIBLE LINK



5. Replacing the Health Care Act

- House Republicans have passed the American Health Care Act, a bill that would greatly reduce funding for Obamacare's coverage program.
- This would leave millions of people without health insurance
- This bill will remake the American health care system, changing who can afford the coverage
- If the bill becomes a law, the Republicans will have achieved a campaign promised from the last seven years.
- These laws will make the taxes for the wealthiest drop

- The American health insurance system will now prioritize the needs of young and healthy people more than the sick people
- The new bill would be a pro for the young and healthy with a high-income
- The bill would give Americans upward of \$100,00 tax credits to help purchase insurance unlike Obamacare which was only available to individuals who earn less than \$64,000
- Right now, insurance plans require to charge the oldest enrollees three times as much as the young enrollees
- AHCA would change that rule to charge the oldest enrollees to five times as much
- This bill would end the Medicaid expansion in 2020, a program that millions of Americans who earn less than 139 percent of the poverty lines rely on
- People earning as less as \$15,000 would be prompted to purchase their own individual private plans which they would not be able to afford
- Obamacare's tax credits were based only on income, those earning less getting more help
- The freedom caucus would end the Obamacare's requirement that sick and healthy people be charged the same premiums, it would also end up to 10 types of medical care including, hospital trips, maternity care and mental health services.
- The rich Americans benefit as much \$200,000 savings per person that belong to the 0.1 percent of wealthiest Americans

- If the bill is signed into becoming a law, the way AHCA works will become clear to the Americans who lose insurance and the Americans who will also have to suddenly pay more for their coverage



6. His New Budget:

- Donald Trump's first comprehensive budget proposal of his presidency, tax changes, and funding for social insurance and assistance programs
- There will be a cut of \$880 billion to Medicaid plus \$610 billion in additional cuts due to adopting a formula for increasing Medicaid funding year over year
- Medicaid cut amounts to a total of 47 percent.
- \$191 billion in cut from Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or food stamps, over 10 years. About 25 percent cut total.

- \$40.4 billion in cuts to the earned income tax credit and child tax credit over 10 years
- \$21.6 billion in cuts to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or welfare, over 10 years. 13 percent cut
- There will be huge cuts to most federal agencies
- 31.4 percent cut to the Environmental Protection Agency budget
- 29.1 percent cut to the State Department
- 20.5 percent cut to Agriculture
- 19.8 percent cut to Labour
- 16.2 percent cut to Health and Human Services
- 15.8 percent cut to Commerce
- 13.2 percent cut to Housing and Urban Development
- 12.7 percent cut to Transportation
- 10.9 percent cut to Interior
- The plan raises no money through tax increases
- There will be additional spending
- 4.6 percent increase in defence spending (25.4 billion more a year)
- 6.8 percent increase in funding for the Department of Homeland Security, including \$2.6 billion in new border security funding to pay for a border wall
- 5.8 percent increase for the Department of Veterans Affairs

- These are planned to become the largest cuts to social programs in decades

7. Tax System under Trump:

- Treasurer Secretary Steve Mnuchin states Trump's tax plan as "the biggest tax cut and the largest tax reform in the history of our country".
- The plan would reduce the number of tax brackets from seven to three and cut the top marginal rate from 39.6 to 35 percent
- There would be double the standard deduction, while eliminating most tax breaks except for home ownership and charitable deductions
- Would repeal several taxes, including the Alternative Minimum Tax, the estate tax, and the Obamacare tax on investment income
- There would be other plans for businesses
- Reduction in the corporate tax rate to 15 percent
- Allowance of small-business owners to have their income taxed at 15 percent
- Movement to a territorial tax system, in which businesses would only pay tax on income earned in the US
- Trump's plan would cut taxes by about \$6 trillion over the course of 10 years with almost 50 percent of the savings going to the top 1 percent

- There has been interest in reforming the corporate tax code for a very long time, because of its complicated mess
- The trouble is the sheer number of deductions and loopholes for certain industries and companies
- Barack Obama wanted a cut in the rate from 35 percent to 28 percent but his plan went nowhere
- This plan could go further by making the US having one of the highest rates in the world to having one of the lowest
- A cut as deep would deprive the US treasury a \$2 trillion or more in the next 10 years
- Experience from abroad shows that the UK has cut its corporate rate from 30 percent to 19 percent, but the wage growth in the UK is still slow and business spending on new buildings and technology is far below what it was in the 1970's
- The plan on cutting taxes on individuals will condense the brackets, lower the rates and the standard deduction will be increased and offset by the elimination of itemized deduction
- The plan would see the wealthiest benefitting the most out of this plan, at the same time there wouldn't be any cons to the middle or lower class but they would also see their tax burdens go to a minimum

8. Trump's views on Planned Parenthood and abortions:

- Donald Trump has said he will continue funding Planned Parenthood if it stops providing abortions

- No federal money is spent on abortion services, which only take up 3 percent of Planned Parenthood's total budget
- The health service was quick to condemn the informal offer
- One in five American women has sued Planned Parenthood, which also provides a staggering half a million breast exams and prevents half a million pregnancies each year
- Defunding the organisation would put the lives of an estimated 900,000 women at risk
- Majority Americans oppose public funding for abortions according to polls
- Although Trump being Pro-life, Planned Parenthood helps many women to be defunded due to them providing the abortion services.
- President Trump's 2018 budget proposal is to withhold all federal funds to Planned Parenthood
- From day one, President Trump has worked to keep his pro-life promises by stopping taxpayers from being forced to fund abortion and abortion businesses
- Trump's proposal to redirect taxpayer funding away from Planned Parenthood would result in a \$422 million increase in federal funding for community healthcare centres
- Planned Parenthood receives \$500 million annually in federal funding which goes towards women's health care but none towards abortions.

- Trump, unlike most of his Republican challengers, has spoken positively about Planned Parenthood, although retaining his anti-abortion stance
- Dawn Laguens, executive vice president of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America says “Offering money to Planned Parenthood to abandon our patients and our values is not a deal that we will ever accept”
- A recent Quinnipiac poll suggested 62% of Americans oppose defunding Planned Parenthood

NOTE TO ALL DELEGATES

- Again, your research should not be limited to the confines of this study guide. This is just a broad overview for your convenience.
- The Rules of Procedure, Crisis Timeline and Position Paper Requirements will be uploaded within a week of the conference.
- THIS DOCUMENT IS NOT FINAL. Being a modern based crisis committee, updates will come in real time as well. Those updates will be categorised here.
- Keep in mind that the study guide has been created a few months prior to the conference for your convenience. Hence, some points might be out of date with the current geopolitical scenario. That should not stop you from remaining up to date with real time events.

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