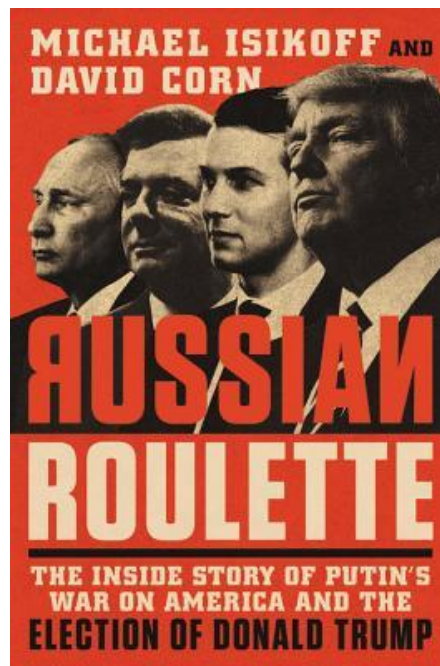




Russian Roulette: The Inside Story of Putin's War on America and the Election of Donald Trump

Michael Isikoff , David Corn

Download now

Read Online ➔

Russian Roulette: The Inside Story of Putin's War on America and the Election of Donald Trump

Michael Isikoff , David Corn

Russian Roulette: The Inside Story of Putin's War on America and the Election of Donald Trump

Michael Isikoff , David Corn

The incredible, harrowing account of how American democracy was hacked by Moscow as part of a covert operation to influence the U.S. election and help Donald Trump gain the presidency.

Russian Roulette is a story of political skullduggery unprecedented in American history. It weaves together tales of international intrigue, cyber espionage, and superpower rivalry. After U.S.-Russia relations soured, as Vladimir Putin moved to reassert Russian strength on the global stage, Moscow trained its best hackers and trolls on U.S. political targets and exploited WikiLeaks to disseminate information that could affect the 2016 election.

The Russians were wildly successful and the great break-in of 2016 was no "third-rate burglary." It was far more sophisticated and sinister — a brazen act of political espionage designed to interfere with American democracy. At the end of the day, Trump, the candidate who pursued business deals in Russia, won. And millions of Americans were left wondering, what the hell happened? This story of high-tech spying and multiple political feuds is told against the backdrop of Trump's strange relationship with Putin and the curious ties between members of his inner circle — including Paul Manafort and Michael Flynn — and Russia.

Russian Roulette chronicles and explores this bizarre scandal, explains the stakes, and answers one of the biggest questions in American politics: How and why did a foreign government infiltrate the country's political process and gain influence in Washington?

Russian Roulette: The Inside Story of Putin's War on America and the Election of Donald Trump Details

Date : Published March 13th 2018 by Twelve

ISBN : 9781538713433

Author : Michael Isikoff , David Corn

Format : Hardcover 560 pages

Genre : Politics, Nonfiction, History, Cultural, Russia



[Download Russian Roulette: The Inside Story of Putin's War ...pdf](#)



[Read Online Russian Roulette: The Inside Story of Putin's Wa ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Russian Roulette: The Inside Story of Putin's War on America and the Election of Donald Trump Michael Isikoff , David Corn

From Reader Review Russian Roulette: The Inside Story of Putin's War on America and the Election of Donald Trump for online ebook

Sarah says

This is a comprehensive look at everything we currently know about Russian interference in the 2016 election, connections between Trump's campaign and Russia, and reactions of both campaigns and the media to the scandal. I recommend the audio, as dealing with all the Russian names was easier for me when hearing them than it would have been reading them. A lot of this was stuff I'd already heard, but there were many details that were unfamiliar to me and it was quite staggering to have it all put together in one place. It's unbelievable to me that so many people don't seem to find this alarming simply because it benefited their candidate. In any case, this is a must read for political junkies!

Oh, and god I hope there's a juicy sequel!

*Used for PopSugar 2018 Reading Challenge prompt "A book about a problem facing society today."

Steven Z. says

Each day it seems there is a new revelation related to Russian actions during the 2016 presidential election. Today for example, the New York Times reported that Special Prosecutor Robert Mueller has subpoenaed records of the Trump Organization to examine its relationship with Russia. As the information keeps flowing in newspapers and cable TV, and having read COLLUSION: SECRET MEETINGS, DIRTY MONEY, AND HOW RUSSIA HELPED DONALD TRUMP WIN by Luke Harding, and FIRE AND FURY by Michael Wolff my head is spinning. How does one connect all the dots to see if there was collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia, and whether Trump is guilty of obstruction of justice? David Corn and Michael Isikoff may have gone a long way in doing so in their just released book, RUSSIAN ROULETTE: THE INSIDE STORY OF PUTIN'S WAR ON AMERICA AND THE ELECTION OF DONALD TRUMP. Both authors are investigative journalists and this is their second joint effort, the first being their well received, HUBRIS: THE INSIDE STORY OF SPIN, SCANDAL, and AND THE SELLING OF THE IRAQ WAR.

The arguments presented by Corn and Isikoff mirror those of others that have investigated Trump's relationship with the Russians, simply put, "follow the money." According to the authors Trump has been obsessed with building a Trump Tower in Moscow for decades. It seems it is the missing piece to his real estate empire and a segment of his ego, as he wanted to be known as a "global oligarch." Most recently the obsession manifested itself in 2013 at the Miss Universe Pageant that took place in Moscow. For Trump to achieve his tower in Moscow he needed affirmation from Russian President Vladimir Putin. During the beauty contest it seemed that Trump was on pins and needles as to whether the Russian leader would make an appearance. The authors point to a number of Russian oligarchs and close Putin companions in showing who Trump tried to partner with to build the tower, and others he had been involved with in the past. A number of oligarchs emerge, one of which was Aras Agalarov, known as "Putin's builder" who was Trump's partner in the Miss Universe Pageant; in fact a letter of intent was signed between Agalarov and Trump to finance the tower but eventually fell through.

Another interesting character is Felix Sater, a Russian born, and one time felon with links to the Mafia and

Russian organized crime who in the 2000s was a New York real estate developer who partnered with Trump with the Trump SoHo Hotel in lower Manhattan. Further in 2010 he became a Trump advisor for a short period of time though during the presidential election campaign Trump denied knowing him or even what he looked like. In effect, Sater was a go between Trump and the oligarchs. By October, 2015 Trump signed a letter of Intent with I.C. Expert Investment to move forward with the Trump Tower venture. Discussions about financing linked I.C. Expert Investment Company with Russian banks under US economic sanctions, including Sberbank, which cosponsored the 2013 beauty pageant in Moscow. According to Sater another source for investment was VTB Bank, an institution partly owned by the Kremlin and also under US sanctions. The result was that the Trump Organization was putting together a deal that could well depend on Russian financing from blacklisted banks linked to Putin's regime. In fact, Sater emailed Michael Cohen, Trump's lawyer and "pit bull," "I will get Putin on this program and will get Donald elected....Buddy our boy can become president of the USA and we can engineer it. I will get all of Putin's team to buy in on this. I will manage the process." (81) At the same time Trump was cozying up to Putin on MSNBC's Morning Joe declaring Putin as a more effective leader than Obama, who had accomplished much more than the American president. In 2008, Donald Trump, Jr. remarked; "Russians make up a pretty disproportionate cross-section of a lot of our assets....certainly with our project in SoHo and anywhere in New York...We see a lot of money pouring in from Russia." In 2014, Eric Trump, Trump's second oldest son said, "his father's business did not rely on US banks for financing golf resort projects....We have all the funding we need out of Russia." (89) Corn and Isikoff effectively delve into Trump's Russian connections dating back years, and the only conclusion that can be drawn is that he was financially involved with Russian oligarchs and other unseemingly characters to the point that he still needed their assets to finance his projects. The problem was that he needed Putin's approval.

Corn and Isikoff lay out Putin's worldview, in particular his attitude toward President Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. The authors weave a fascinating portrait that links a number of important characters. For example, when the Obama administration tried for a "reset" in Russian relations, Foreign Minister Lavrov requested that the US provide a visa for Oleg Deripaska, a Russian billionaire close to Putin, and a business partner of Paul Manafort, who had been engaged in all kinds of duplicitous economic and political shenanigans in the Ukraine that resulted millions for his businesses. Putin himself was a Russian nationalist who wanted to restore Russia to its rightful place in the world. He strongly resented US "unipolar power" particularly as practiced by overthrowing autocracy in Iraq and Libya. Domestically, Putin felt that President Medvedev was too soft in dealing with Obama and announced in 2010 that he would run for President. Russia headed for a political crisis in 2011 and Putin blamed Clinton for the pro-democracy demonstrations against his election, along with domestic criticism. Putin's resentment of Clinton would smolder for years, particularly as the State Department complained about the assassinations of Putin critics like Sergei Magnitsky which led to the Magnitsky Act in Congress geared against those who were responsible for his death. Putin would accuse the US of destabilizing the Ukraine and would seize the Crimea forcing Obama into further economic sanctions. By 2014, Putin would send troops into Ukraine.

Corn and Isikoff spend a great deal of time explaining how the American election was compromised by Russian interference in 2016. They take a step by step approach which reads like a legal brief. In 2013, General Valery Gerasimov, Chief of the General Staff of Russian Armed Forces wrote an article that argued that information warfare could be used to weaponize political divisions within another nation. Instead of conventional warfare of the past, hackers and skilled propagandists trained to exploit existing rifts within the ranks of the adversary would be employed. A US informant explained that these networks were extremely extensive "in Europe-Germany, Italy, France and the UK-and in the US....Russia has penetrated media organizations, lobbying firms, political parties, governments, and militaries in all these places." (52) The Obama administration decided not to do anything about it as it needed Putin's support over the Iranian nuclear situation and events in Syria.

Corn and Isikoff's information dealing with Russian Troll Farms is very concerning. Company's like the Russian Internet Research Agency employed hundreds of people who troll Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram

stealing identities, creating false individuals and news praising Putin, denouncing Obama, and attacking the European Union. Payments to these trolls was made by Yevgeny Prigozhin, a restaurateur oligarch known as Putin's chef. By 2015 there were repeated attacks against the Democratic National Committee (DNC), the State Department, and the White House. Again, Obama believing he needed Putin on Iran and Syria, did nothing. Interestingly, a Russian hacker named "Cozybear" had been inside the DNC network since July, 2015 and among the information stolen was their entire opposition research file on Donald Trump. Cybersecurity experts surmised that APT 28, a Russian hacker tied to the GRU, Russian military intelligence had launched 19,000 separate attacks against the US between March 2015 and May 2016.

The FBI and US intelligence aware of these breaches kept warning the DNC and Clinton's campaign as to the Russian penetration of their systems. At first they could not find the breach, but finally when it was located they had difficulty closing it. Their cyber assault would snare the top official in the Clinton campaign, John Podesta, and no one in the campaign had a clue. Corn and Isikoff do an admirable job providing the links in the chain dealing with the hacking of the DNC and Clinton campaign, as well as their links to Russian intelligence. They point to WikiLeaks and the attitude of Julian Assange toward Hillary Clinton and the US in general, and the numerous contacts between the Trump people and Russian intelligence. The preliminaries to the June 9, 2016 meeting between Trump, Jr. Manafort, Kushner, Goldstone and the Russian lawyer, Natalia Veselnitskaya, her translator, a Agalarov executive implicated in Russian money laundering, and Rinat Akmetshin, a former Russian intelligence officer and lobbyist in Washington is carefully explored with the now infamous comment by Trump. Jr. before the meeting in response to possible information on Clinton, "If it's what you say, I love it."

It is clear that George Papadopoulos, a Trump foreign policy advisor, who produced the comment by Steve Bannon, "how the fuck did he get on the list" of possible advisors, was fully engaged in trying to bring about a Trump-Putin meeting. Papadopoulos' "big mouth" in a bar as he bragged about his work to an Australian diplomat led eventually to his indictment by Robert Mueller. Further, the buffoonish Carter Page went to Moscow to express his pro-Putin views with the permission of Trump campaign manager Cory Lewandowski – seen by Moscow as a signal from the Trump campaign. It is clear that what motivated Putin in this game of political intelligence, and hacking, was to end the American sanctions imposed by the Obama administration. For the Russian president it was simple, elect Trump who had hinted strongly he would be favorable, and as a secondary benefit gain his revenge against Hillary Clinton. The question is why was Trump so favorable? What did Putin have on Trump, and/or what promises were made if an acceptable outcome was reached?

The answer to these questions becomes clearer when the authors discuss the Russian concept of kompromat, a strategy to obtain compromising material on people they want to manipulate employing blackmail and threats to achieve their goals. A Russian tactic that dates back to the Cold War it is a major theme put forth by Corn and Isikoff who argue it probably applies to Trump dating back at least to 2013 and the Miss Universe Contest which is laid out in Christopher Steele's "dossier," which contained the salacious information pertaining to Trump's possible sexual escapades. The authors explain how it was employed and it goes a long way to explain why Trump is so obsessed with the Mueller investigation as one can only wonder what Putin has on Trump.

Corn and Isikoff review details of the actual presidential campaign following their respective party conventions. All the information that the public was bombarded with for months is present including the role of social media, particularly important today with the digital relationship between Facebook and Cambridge Analytica making news headlines and its relationship to the Trump campaign. The authors analyze events to determine their impact on the election. From Wikipedia's 64,000 email dump, including John Podesta designed to protect Trump and hurt Clinton, i.e., the email release following the Access Hollywood tape etc. The presidential debates are covered as was the ongoing indecision on the part of the Obama administration to educate the public that they had proof of Russian interference in the election and that an FBI investigation of Russian influence during the campaign was ongoing. After a careful examination of the campaign the authors conclude that Julian Assange and Wikileaks were acting in concert with the Russians. There were too

many coincidents ranging from Roger Stone's public comments to actual events to conclude otherwise.

The evidence produced by a wonder of investigative reporting makes RUSSIAN ROULETTE the most important book to emerge from the morass of the 2016 election to date. If you are confused with the daily bombardment of information, Corn and Isikoff have done a service in putting it all together in a succinct and easy to read format. What is scary is that I assume Mueller knows exactly what's in this book, the characters, the disingenuous deals and behavior, the lies, and the mistakes, by those who should have known better. It is no wonder that Trump engaged in the "Friday night massacre" a few days ago.

Michael Finocchiaro says

This was really a great piece of journalism but so incredibly soul-crushing. The multiple errors of the HRC campaign and the Obama administration in not exposing the Russian hacks, Comey's treacherous (sorry, but it was totally partisan on his part) re-opening of the bogus Clinton email investigation after the disgusting Access Hollywood tape was forgotten and the Podesta email dump had stolen the headlines. It makes me cringe and want to scream that we have Blotus in Washington undermining democracy and dragging the US towards kleptocratic theocracy every day thanks to the ingenious planning of Putin and the FSB. And, no, this is not a book about a conspiracy theory - this is well-researched and fully, publicly documented. Depressing.

Esil says

3.5 stars

Reading books about current US politics is completely useless. While Russian Roulette pulls together a lot of information about how Russia interfered in the US 2016 election, the information in the book has been overtaken many times over by the daily headlines since its publication.

Having said that, Russian Roulette does a good job of laying out what was known by the authors at the time they researched and wrote the book. Unfortunately while it all sounds like a scary dystopian novel, it isn't.

I listened to the audio, which was perfectly acceptable.

ALLEN says

This book marshals some interesting facts and figures, but I'm giving it a less-than-stellar rating because it seeks to blame one President -- in this case, Barack Obama -- for America's cyber-incompetence. The fact is, this or any other nation's ability to be hacked by outsiders has been around ever since there has been easy access to the Internet, and possibly even before, when the predecessor of today's 'net existed only in large universities and research facilities. Messing with the American electoral process is the most obvious insult to our wired civilization, but "hacking" has been around a long time.

Is it possible that the 20th Century was America's century because we excelled in physical and electro-mechanical things: buildings motors, tying that to mass production, introducing commercial television and large, mainframe computers, and stringing up the Internet largely on existing telephone lines? If so, then the

21st Century is not the century of the electro-mechanical but the purely digital, and we are losing it. Probably every President from Clinton on deserves part of the blame, since preserving our country from foreign attack is the province of the federal government, in particular our Commander-in-Chief, and next to nothing has been done to repel such attacks on the American cyber-front.

Lorna says

Russian Roulette: The Inside Story of Putin's War on America and the Election of Donald Trump is a well-researched book by veteran journalists and investigative reporters Michael Isikoff and David Corn, one of international espionage and political intrigue set in motion to interfere with the 2016 presidential election. However, if you have been paying attention to the daily news, there is not any new or groundbreaking information disclosed in this book. It is impossible to stay ahead of the daily, and often hourly, breaking news pertaining to the Trump administration. However, one of the biggest strengths of this book is that all of the information pertaining to Donald Trump's involvement with Russia and Vladimir Putin is now in one place and set forth chronologically in a riveting manner with the identification of all of the players in a clear timeline. It is a "who's who" of the Russian oligarchy and how they interfaced with Donald Trump and his family as well as many of those previously associated with the Trump campaign. It becomes quite clear that Robert Mueller and his investigators have done a remarkable job in working their way through this morass of data, and no doubt, have many of the answers before the questions are being asked. What happens remains to be seen but this book lays a great foundation.

Bill Kerwin says

Can there be such a thing as a *definitive* account of a complex, evolving political scandal? Perhaps not, but *if* such a thing were possible, *Russian Roulette* would be that book.

There is a professionalism and solidity to Michael Isikoff and David Corn's reporting that insures *Russian Roulette's* continuing relevance, despite the changing landscape of scandal, the revolving carousel of malefactors. Isikoff and Corn are good, old-fashioned journalists, with a brisk, economic reportorial style (their two voices are indistinguishable), and a knack for choosing just the right facts and presenting them in just the right order to illuminate the murky depths of a complex situation. They exhibited those qualities in *Hubris*, that useful book on the "selling of the Iraq War," and they exhibit those qualities here too.

Since I have read a good deal about Trump, his attendant rogues and their crimes, I found much familiar material here, but, even when Corn and Isikoff were telling me things I already knew, the writers always made the timeline clearer, and clarified the important distinction between what is known, what can be surmised, what is mere speculation. I also found the book particularly helpful in its historical background: Putin's rise, the KGB roots of current Russian intelligence, Clinton's tenure as Secretary of State, the wide-ranging Clinton foundation, and—perhaps most important of all—Trump's quest for the "holy grail" of a great Russian hotel and a personal relationship with his favorite autocrat. In every case, *Russian Roulette* told me just enough to prepare me for the rest of the story, without ever overtaxing my intellect or exhausting my patience. (This is true even of the IT and hacking aspects of the tale, and that is saying something.)

Perhaps, though, the saddest and most informative part of the book is its account of the Obama administration in the days immediately before the election, how everything—including Obama's overweening humility and McConnell's unrelenting partisanship—conspired to prevent America from

learning the truth about Russia. It is an account of lost possibilities and failures of courage—lapses that the American people are still paying for, and will continue to pay for throughout the years to come.

Finally, for those who like a brief take-away, here it is. Is there a “pee-pee tape”? I doubt it. Is there criminal collusion in the White House? I'd be willing to bet on it. (But I'd only bet if the stakes aren't too high. I refuse to play Russian Roulette.)

Dan says

It is difficult for a journalistic book written on current unfolding events to be a great one. There is simply not enough historical distance between the events of 2016 and earlier and today and the news keeps unfolding like the Cambridge Analytica and Facebook targeted political ad news.

Russian Roulette does fill in a large number of holes in the Trump/Russia conspiracy. Russia has been actively cultivating Trump for more than a decade. The book alleges numerous bribes that Trump paid to Russia for licensing and potential real estate deals and the book also alleges numerous prostitution compromat, not just the most salacious claim. If any of the above items are true, it goes a long way to explain Trump's disturbing behavior with Putin. His whole business empire is at risk.

Good book, not particularly dramatic. About 75% of the content is known to those who follow the news but the other 25% is new and pretty damning.

Bettie? says

Miss Universe 2013 Moscow

Description: *RUSSIAN ROULETTE is a story of political skullduggery unprecedented in American history. It weaves together tales of international intrigue, cyber espionage, and superpower rivalry. After U.S.-Russia relations soured, as Vladimir Putin moved to reassert Russian strength on the global stage, Moscow trained its best hackers and trolls on U.S. political targets and exploited WikiLeaks to disseminate information that could affect the 2016 election.*

The Russians were wildly successful and the great break-in of 2016 was no "third-rate burglary." It was far more sophisticated and sinister -- a brazen act of political espionage designed to interfere with American democracy. At the end of the day, Trump, the candidate who pursued business deals in Russia, won. And millions of Americans were left wondering, what the hell happened? This story of high-tech spying and multiple political feuds is told against the backdrop of Trump's strange relationship with Putin and the curious ties between members of his inner circle -- including Paul Manafort and Michael Flynn -- and Russia.

This will be the book that is studied in the history classes in future times as it lays out the core of the jigsaw in unambiguous and easy to understand terms.

Misfit says

"If this is true," he exclaimed, "it's treason."

That quote, and the context it was made are towards the end of the book, so I won't tell you more.

This was a fascinating read, and at times reads like a spy novel. It starts at the beginning of it all and leads the reader through all the twists and turns of each new development in this saga. Interesting how long it took the reporters to start putting it all together, as was the same for the intelligence community.

Matt says

I assert my right to call this a #realreview

In possession of three somewhat inter-related books on the 45th POTUS, I thought that I would craft what I am calling my Trump Trifecta, which fits nicely into this non-fiction binge whose time is waning. Some may dispute the 'non-fiction' nature of these books, but that is for the reviewer (myself included) to decide in analysis while weighing the information presented. After reading about some of the wonky goings-on during the first year in the Trump White House in the opening book (check reviews should you want to know more), this second piece explores how Trump made it from long-shot candidate to winner of the 2016 US Presidential Election. Michael Isikoff and David Corn—both journalists who covered the recent presidential election—explore numerous players in the 2016 campaign and how they are interconnected in their divergent efforts to shape events. There were three significant issues that served to define the campaign and led to a number of noteworthy outcomes: Trump's disinterest in distancing himself from Russia, significant hacks into the Democratic National Committee (DNC), and the Clinton email server discovery/repercussions. In the early portion of the book, the authors lay some of the significant groundwork used to shape these overall arguments. Trump's connection to Russia and Putin can be traced back to his desire to have a Trump Tower in the Russian capital, paired with his apparent strong desire to create a relationship with Russian President Vladimir Putin proved essential aspects to the future GOP candidates ongoing connection to the country. This was further solidified during the 2013 Miss Universe Pageant in Russia, where the authors depict Trump as trying to curry favour with the Russian leader and have him attend. This connection, alongside some leaked potential blackmail that Russian Intelligence captured during the aforementioned pageant stay, helped to strengthen Trump's apparent desire to speak fondly of Putin and the larger Russian Government system, turning away from any criticisms or smears at any point. Moving to the year of the campaign, Isikoff and Corn discuss oddities that were found within the DNC's email servers, cyber-footprints that could only be described as hackers having infiltrated the system and collected large portions of documentation, which included email chains that told of strongly worded opinions on a variety of sources. Some of these included the presumptive Democratic candidate, Hillary Clinton, while many others were from senior members of the DNC slandering Trump or Bernie Sanders. These emails were eventually released through WikiLeaks and tweeted by a number of sources that were eventually traced back to Russia, though it was only the DNC that received this rough treatment, leaving Trump and his team to stand on the side and use the documents to fuel their ongoing attacks. This hacking led to many questions about what else Russia might be able to do and how far their reach might go. Tied to the DNC hacking has to be the dark cloud that hung over its candidate and the personal server that Clinton used. While she stated that she did nothing illegal and only followed those who went before her, Clinton was not able to dodge this bullet, particularly when the FBI opened an investigation and sifted through many of the emails, finding crumbs of things that might have remnants of

national security concerns. All this worked to gather negative momentum and helped Trump (and the hackers) to create a strong negative persona of the Democratic candidate. What followed was a mixture of these three issues and a number of other characters who, when added to the mix, created the most controversial and dramatic lead-ups to a presidential election in recent memory. Those who enjoy peeling back some of the layers that led to this tumultuous campaign will likely enjoy this piece, which pulls no punches and explores items from numerous perspectives. Isikoff and Corn do a masterful job of adding hype and intrigue to this, only helping to further stoke fires that have not yet dissipated. This book has all the elements of a political thriller, but with all the ties to publicly revealed information, I know it has elements of substantiated fact. Well worth the time for those who can stomach the drama.

I admit outrightly that I am not a fan of the current POTUS, but I do love a good election story that shows the drama of events as they unfold. The authors have tried as best they can to depict both sides of the race, but particularly the intrusion by Russia and the seeming inability of the US Government to stop the meddling and potential voter influence of the 2016 Presidential Election. Some within the Obama Administration were too timid to act with an iron fist, concerned that it would come across as partisan, while others did not want to appear to place a thumb on the scale and tip things in any direction. Within all of this, the FBI was trying to run two significant investigations: Clinton's email scandal and the Russian hacking, taking no side while garnering a pile of information on which they could act. The book is surely full of salacious details, particularly directed at the GOP candidate, though much of this hit the airwaves and was not disputed at the time by Trump, even though his campaign wanted to nullify it from the get-go. Some will call the book a smear campaign, putting Trump in bed with the Russians or even trying to draw parallels between hacker and troll actions with his own campaign. While I choose not to dive in wholeheartedly, the evidence is quite strong and I would challenge anyone who can explain it away to do so, rather than try to toss mud and deflect on the accusations at hand (see my review of the first book in the trifecta to see how I feel about those who do nothing but whinge and try to bang pots because they cannot defend their position). It's damning, but so are some of the concerns raised within the Clinton email scandal and the information released, albeit illegally. With Russian hackers, a candidate seen to be colluding with them, another embroiled in an email scandal, where do we turn? Who can shed some light on all of this while trying to take the high road? Let's go to the FBI and its director, who was in the middle of this mess. That's where this trifecta ought to close out its analysis. But, we could not have made it there without the help of Isikoff and Corn, who paved the way and left me itching with questions and shaking my head.

Kudos, Messrs. Isikoff and Corn, for a great piece of journalistic analysis. I can see the trolls (Russian and others) trying to pull down the foundations of your arguments, though you seem to have embedded them in a sturdy foundation. I look forward to seeing how it all plays out.

Love/hate the review? An ever-growing collection of others appears at:
<http://pecheyponderings.wordpress.com/>

A Book for All Seasons, a different sort of Book Challenge: <https://www.goodreads.com/group/show/...>

Lisa Reads & Reviews says

Best summary of the Russian attacks on our democracy that I've read so far. Trump is a co-conspirator, a traitor, and an illegitimate occupier of the White House. The sooner he and his circus of criminals are removed, the better.

Stephanie *Very Stable Genius* says

The Russian government is an asshole government. SURPRISE!

The FSB (formerly the KGB) were harassing our diplomats prior to the Obama administration. They were beating them up, threatening them and their loved ones, and even killing their pets while they were out. Assholes.

I am not one that would say positive things about Mitt Romney, mostly I'd just make fun of him; but do you recall during one of the debates, that he had with president Obama, when the question asked was "What is the biggest threat facing the United States today?" Mitt answered "Russia" and goddamn it he was right! President Obama laughed and replied (I'm paraphrasing) "What is this this, the 1980's?" I love President Obama..... I miss him every minute of everyday, but he was a bit naive when it came to Russia. Just like he handled the Republicans, he was too optimistic about believing in their humanity. Silly Obama.

Former Secretary of State, and winner of the 2016 presidential election by 4 million votes but yet is not the president of the U.S. because of a bunch of BS in the constitution (that must changed), Hillary Clinton called Putin out on cheating in his election at the time. This made Putin mad, and you don't make sociopaths with short man syndrome mad. So, when Hillary ran for president, he was going to do everything in his power (of which he has a lot of) to disrupt our election. Check.

When it came to light that Russia had definitely hacked the DNC (as well as the RNC.... oh the kompromat they must have on those slimy weasels), the Clinton campaign begged president Obama to come out strong about what was clearly happening and to come down hard against the Russian invasion and the Tump campaign's collusion with it. The president (just like almost everyone else at that time..... remember?) thought that Clinton would win and didn't want to appear to be playing partisan politics in an effort to sway the election. Oh silly Obama, why must you be such a nice guy?

sigh

Of course there is much more depressing information to be had in this book, which is quite good. The more you know the more prepared you are for whatever the future holds.

We are on a precipice.

Robert says

This would have been more fun to read - if I hadn't already watched Rachel Maddow every night for this past year of Trumpian horror. Nevertheless, even though there was virtually NOTHING new in the book, it was still interesting to read it through Isikoff's and Korn's eyes. They put everything in order and took a few of the characters (and what a plethora of WEIRD characters there are) and added some details. How did Trump find these dudes? One of the best lines (and a chapter heading) comes from Steve Bannon when he hears that (now-indicted) George Papadopoulos is publicly listed as a "foreign policy adviser": "How the fuck did he get on the list?" The same could have been asked, of course, about Carter Page and the rest of the list. In fact.....if all is said and done.....the same could be asked about Trump himself.

Scott Helms says

Can't Wait For the Sequel

This book was one 1/2 WTF and 1/2 OMG!

It will go down in history as the definitive first history of the scandal that has consumed our country for over two years now.

It was well researched and well written. I would think skeptics of Russian meddling would change their tune after reading.

Hoping the sequel is titled: Russian Roulette II, The Prison Years: An Ode to US Patriot Robert Mueller.
