

# Donald Trump, The Manchurian Candidate and The Russia Probe. The Rosenstein Comey Mueller Intrigue

By [Prof Michel Chossudovsky](#)  
Global Research, July 12, 2019

Region: [USA](#)  
Theme: [Law and Justice](#)

This article was first published in September 2018.

Reports confirm that: “Mueller’s investigation did not find evidence of collusion between Russia and the Trump 2016 presidential campaign. It made no final recommendation on whether there was obstruction of justice by President Donald Trump.”

Let us recall the history of the RussiaGate affair and the Rosenstein-Mueller intrigue.

\*\*\*

*Deputy attorney general **Rod Rosenstein** was slated to be fired by President Trump on Thursday September 27 [2018]. That meeting has been postponed until next week to avoid an overlap with the Senate hearings on the nomination of Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court. In the meantime, Rosenstein has agreed to meet privately with Republican lawmakers.*

The outcome of the Rosenstein affair is uncertain. It is intimately related to the history of Russia-Gate which was launched prior to the November 2016 elections. Russia-Gate consisted in presenting Trump as a Manchurian candidate controlled by the Kremlin.

Already prior to his inauguration, **the media had described “Trump as sleeping with the enemy”**. The underlying political narrative focussed on “Impeachment”.

## Sleeping with the enemy



June 13, 2017 11:17 AM



Yes, sleeping with the enemy. Donald Trump and the Russians are in bed together as indicated by various, very reliable sources, although both these bed partners deny their torrid affair.



Belleville National Democrats, Jan 13, 2017,

The objective from the very outset during the 2016 election campaign was to discredit Trump, presenting him as a **Manchurian candidate** serving the interests of the Kremlin.

Prior to the November 8 elections, former Secretary of Defense and CIA Director **Leo Panetta** had already intimated that Trump represented a threat to National Security. The

Atlantic (October 8, 2016), described Trump is a “Modern Manchurian Candidate”.

## IS DONALD TRUMP A MANCHURIAN CANDIDATE?

A series of explosive reports provide new details about the Republican nominee’s relationship with Russia.

Vanity Fair November 1 2016

### Trump Time Capsule #133: Modern Manchurian Candidate



Angela Lansbury and Laurence Harvey in *The Manchurian Candidate*, in 1962. That movie, and the Richard Condon novel it was drawn from, imagined foreign attempts to direct the outcome of a U.S. presidential election. Yesterday the U.S. government said that Russian hackers have been deliberately trying to change the outcome of this year’s race. (Wikimedia commons)

The Atlantic October 8 2016

This anti-Trump campaign continued unabated in the wake of the elections. Ironically, **Rod Rosenstein** who had been nominated for the position of Deputy Attorney General by president Trump in February 2017, acted against Trump almost immediately following his confirmation on April 27, 2017.

Trump’s Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein’s mandate was to organize the so-called Russia Probe pertaining to alleged Kremlin interference in the November 2016 elections. Rosenstein’s first step consisted in the firing of FBI Director **James Comey** and appointing **former FBI Director Robert Mueller** as Special Council to lead the Russia Probe.

#### Fast Track Chronology

- February 1, 2017, Rod Rosenstein is nominated by President Trump for the position of Deputy Attorney General;
- April 27, 2018: Rod Rosenstein assumes office as Deputy Attorney General;
- May 9, 2017 Rosenstein fires FBI Director James Comey. Upon his firing, **Andrew McCabe**, a Hillary Clinton crony is appointed Acting FBI Director;
- May 19, 2017. Ten days later the Attorney General’s office appoints former FBI Director **Robert Mueller** as Special Council to lead the Russia Probe.

Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein was largely instrumental in the firing of FBI Director **James Comey**. That decision did not emanate from president Trump.



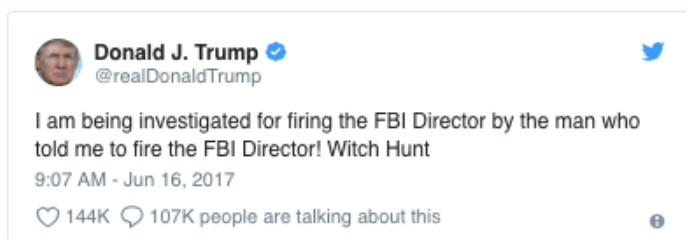
**Rod Rosenstein** (image right) prepared a three page memorandum, which criticized James Comey for his handling of the Clinton email investigation and the release of his October 28, 2016 Second Letter to Congress 11 days before Election Day.

This action by Comey referred to as “October Surprise” (2016) was largely detrimental to Clinton’s candidacy. It certainly did not go against the interests of Donald Trump. In this regard, Comey could not be accused of coverup of the corruption and fraud within the Democratic National Committee (DNC).

What was the purpose of the May 9, 2017 firing of FBI Director James Comey: Cui Bono? Who was behind it?

While Trump reluctantly endorsed the firing of Comey, based on Rosenstein’s recommendation, that decision was largely detrimental to Trump. It provided a greenlight to Rosenstein to appoint Mueller and initiate the Russia probe.

"I am being investigated for firing the FBI Director by the man who told me to fire the FBI Director!" Trump said on Twitter, calling the probe into him a "Witch Hunt."



Rosenstein is at the center of Comey's departure: His memo to Attorney General Jeff Sessions is the basis that White House officials and Trump himself have used to defend Comey's dismissal, despite the FBI's ongoing investigation into the 2016 campaign and Russia's attempts to help Trump win.

Screenshot of CNN and Trump twit, September 24, 2018

In practice, the decision was taken by the Attorney General’s office overriding the Presidency, precisely with a view to removing potential obstacles in the conduct of the alleged “Trump-Moscow collusion” investigation. With Comey out of the way, the corruption and fraud underlying the Democratic Party’s DNC including Clinton’s emails would not be addressed by the Russia Probe.

In this regard, Comey was slated to be removed. He was viewed as unpredictable and uncooperative. Moreover, the decision was also intended to weaken the presidency of Donald Trump.



And in the immediate wake of Comey's dismissal, Deputy Attorney General **Rod Rosenstein** appointed former **FBI Robert Mueller** to serve as special counsel for the United States Department of Justice to investigate the alleged interference of the Kremlin in the November 2016 presidential elections. That appointment was conducive to establishing the so-called Russia-probe. It was explicitly intended to sustain the Russia-Gate legend as well as undermine the Trump presidency.

Image left. Comey and Mueller

The Mueller investigation under the auspices of the Department of Justice had a mandate to “exploring any coordination between Donald Trump's 2016 presidential campaign and the Russian government as part of the alleged Russian interference in the 2016 United States elections”.

Rosenstein was the architect behind that process. Who was behind him?

At this juncture, the firing of Rosenstein is in limbo. If he is fired, it opens up a can of worms. The Russia Probe led by Special Council Robert Mueller would potentially be in jeopardy.

What this means is that if Rosenstein is fired by Trump, Mueller's mandate as Special Council in the Russia Probe could be aborted with far-reaching implications for US foreign policy.

Will that take place? A power struggle against Trump is ongoing with a view to maintaining Rosenstein in office and protecting Robert Mueller.

The Democrats have called upon Republicans in the US Congress “to pass legislation to **protect special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Russian interference**”.

---

## Democrats call for GOP to protect Mueller investigation with Rosenstein future in limbo

By [Clare Foran](#), [Jeremy Herb](#) and [Manu Raju](#), CNN

Updated 7:07 PM ET, Mon September 24, 2018

The stakes are high. The power struggle pertains to “protecting” the Russia-Gate narrative of alleged Kremlin interference not only in the US, but also among America's closest allies including Britain, France and Canada (where the issue of Russian meddling has been raised).

It also pertains to an ongoing battle to impeach Donald Trump.

The original source of this article is Global Research  
Copyright © [Prof Michel Chossudovsky](#), Global Research, 2019

---

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Prof Michel Chossudovsky](#)

### **About the author:**

Michel Chossudovsky is an award-winning author, Professor of Economics (emeritus) at the University of Ottawa, Founder and Director of the Centre for Research on Globalization (CRG), Montreal, Editor of Global Research. He has undertaken field research in Latin America, Asia, the Middle East, sub-Saharan Africa and the Pacific and has written extensively on the economies of developing countries with a focus on poverty and social inequality. He has also undertaken research in Health Economics (UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), UNFPA, CIDA, WHO, Government of Venezuela, John Hopkins International Journal of Health Services (1979, 1983) He is the author of 13 books including The Globalization of Poverty and The New World Order (2003), America's "War on Terrorism" (2005), The Globalization of War, America's Long War against Humanity (2015). He is a contributor to the Encyclopaedia Britannica. His writings have been published in more than twenty languages. In 2014, he was awarded the Gold Medal for Merit of the Republic of Serbia for his writings on NATO's war of aggression against Yugoslavia. He can be reached at [crgeditor@yahoo.com](mailto:crgeditor@yahoo.com)

**Disclaimer:** The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)

[www.globalresearch.ca](http://www.globalresearch.ca) contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)