

Intelligence Report On Russian Election Influence Is A Flop

By [Moon of Alabama](#)

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Region: [USA](#)

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Yesterday the U.S. Director of National Intelligence James Clapper (image left), the CIA, the NSA and the FBI released [a report](#) about alleged Russian hacking of the Democratic National Council and on Russian influence operation on the U.S. presidential election. The report failed to convince anyone. It is indeed a public relation disaster for the Intelligence Community.

John Harwood [covers](#) “the economy and national politics for CNBC and the New York Times.” More than 100,000 people follow him on Twitter. He is known as Hillary Clinton supporter and [chummy with John Podesta](#) who ran Clinton’s election campaign.

Harwood [set up a simple poll](#). It is not statistically representative but gives a picture of a general sentiment.



This result surely shows the limits of power of the so-called Intelligence Community. But it is worse: yesterday’s “Russian hacking” claims failed to convince even its most ardent and anti-Russian supporters.

Daily Beast: [U.S. Spy Report Blames Putin for Hacks, But Doesn’t Back It Up](#)

[Kevin Rothrock](#) (Moscow Times):

I cannot believe my eyes. Is this really part of the US government’s intelligence case? I’ll say it: the declassified USG report “Assessing Russian Activities and Intentions in Recent US Elections” is **an embarrassment**.

[Susan Hennessey](#) (Lawfare, Brookings):

The unclassified report is **underwhelming at best**. There is essentially no new information for those who have been paying attention.

[Bill Neely](#) (NBCNews):

Lots of key judgements but not many key facts & **no open proof** in US Intell. report into **alleged** Russian hacking.

[Stephen Hayes](#) (Weekly Standard):

The intel report on Russia is **little more than a collection of assertions**. Understand protecting sources/methods, but **it's weak**.

[Julia Ioffe](#) (The Atlantic):

It's hard to tell if the **thinness** of the #hacking report is because the proof is qualified, or because the proof doesn't exist. @JeffreyGoldberg Have to say, though, I'm hearing from a lot of Russia watchers who are **very skeptical** of the report. None like Putin/Trump.

When you lost even Julia Ioffe on your anti-Russian issue ...

Clapper as DNI and Brennan as CIA chief should have been fired years ago. They will both be gone by January 20. The Intelligence Community will remember them as the chief-authors of this devastating failure.

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