

Russia Accused of Campaign Blaming US for Coronavirus Outbreak

By <u>Stephen Lendman</u> Global Research, February 24, 2020 Region: <u>Asia</u>, <u>Russia and FSU</u>, <u>USA</u> Theme: <u>Media Disinformation</u>, <u>Science and</u> <u>Medicine</u>

Russia has been a prime US target since its 1917 revolution, relations between both countries uneasy at best from that time to now.

Propaganda by US officials and establishment media demonizes the country and its leadership, ongoing for over a century except for brief interregnum periods.

The fake "Red Scare" over a century ago was followed by FBI COINTELPRO persecution, House Un-American Activities Committee and Joe McCarthy political lynchings, the Hollywood blacklist, Big Brother surveillance, police state laws, relentless fear-mongering, and related actions.

Post-9/11 Russophobia launched Cold War 2.0 — far more menacing to world peace than its earlier version.

Russia under **Vladimir Putin** is falsely accused of malign activities because of the country's sovereign independence, its opposition to Washington's imperial agenda, its aim for peace, stability, and multi-world polarity, along with its status as the world's dominant military power, its super-weapons exceeding the Pentagon's best, developed at a small fraction of the cost.

US officials and establishment media falsely accused Russia of cyberwar, attacking the US power grid, election meddling, breaching bilateral agreements, destabilizing activities, and other alleged malign actions — no evidence backing them because none exists.

Without it, accusations are baseless. Yet they persist, believed by most Americans because establishment media repeat them relentlessly.

Collectively, they operate as a virtual ministry of propaganda against nations on the US target list for regime change, ones it doesn't control — China, Russia and Iran toppling the list for vilifying by fake news.

Invented reasons are used because legitimate ones don't exist.

The latest US fake accusation against Russia comes from the Trump regime's State Department — headed by extremist Pompeo.

Over the weekend, acting assistant secretary of state for Europe and Eurasia Stephen Biegun said the following: "Russia's intent is to sow discord and undermine US institutions and alliances from within, including through covert and coercive malign influence campaigns (sic)," adding:

"By spreading disinformation about coronavirus, Russian malign actors are once again choosing to threaten public safety by distracting from the global health response (sic)."

False accusations allege Russian social media accounts are "sow(ing) discord" by claiming the **US is waging "economic war on China,"** including by a CIA manufactured bioweapon, namely the coronavirus (COVID-19).

English-language Russian media RT and Sputnik are accused of linking the US to the virus outbreak and spread to damage Washington's image on the world stage — already irreparably damaged by its war on humanity.

In response to the phony accusation, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova denounced it as "deliberate fake" news.

No supportive evidence backing the accusation proves it. Whenever US accusations are made against Russia, China, Iran, and other sovereign nations Washington doesn't control, no corroborating evidence is presented because none exists.

Separately, Trump regime assistant secretary for international security and nonproliferation Christopher Ford earlier claimed that the US "desire(s) friendship" with China, Russia and Iran, adding:

"(F)riendship requires that they behave like 'normal' states" — code language for subordinating their sovereign rights to US interests.

Both right wings of US duopoly rule are waging war on these countries and others Washington doesn't control by hot and other means.

US rage for controlling other nations, their resources and populations risks unthinkable global war, potentially with super-weakens able to destroy planet earth and all its life forms if used.

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