

Slickly Packaged Anti-Russian US Media Propaganda

By [Michael Averko](#)

Global Research, May 08, 2018

Region: [Europe](#), [Russia and FSU](#), [USA](#)

Theme: [Media Disinformation](#)

In-depth Report: [U.S. Elections](#), [UKRAINE REPORT](#)

[Rachel Maddow's May 2 MSNBC show](#), highlighted **Andrew Kramer's** same day [New York Times \(NYT\) article](#), saying the Kiev regime has decided to limit its cooperation with the Robert Mueller led FBI investigation on an alleged collusion between Donald Trump's 2016 US presidential campaign and the Russian government. The Kiev regime is presented as feeling pressured to not cooperate with Mueller, for the purpose of maintaining the military aid it has received from the Trump administration.

Maddow's May 2 show included an appearance by The NYT's **Kenneth Vogel**. To conform with her overly subjective and inaccurate spin, Maddow was quite selective in what she wanted out of Vogel. Specifically, Vogel's [August 18, 2016 Politico article](#) about **Konstantin Kilimnik**, who has had ties to Trump's former Campaign Manager **Paul Manafort**. As claimed, Kilimnik might've been working with Russian Intel during the 2016 US presidential election campaign. Manafort served for a time as a consultant to Ukrainian **President Viktor Yanukovich** before the latter's ouster in 2014.



Screenshot from Politico

On Maddow's show, Vogel acknowledged some reason to question the extent (if any) of Kilimnik having a Russian Intel relationship for the period at issue. That's the most objective part of her May 2 anti-Russian propaganda. With the coming months and years in mind, it'll be interesting to see if anything conclusive comes up to support the notion of an anti-Hillary Clinton operation, involving Kilimnik, the Kremlin, Manafort and Trump, during the 2016 US presidential election.

Maddow started her May 2 show on this subject, with the image of civic minded, freedom loving Ukrainian people, toppling a corrupt pro-Russian leader Yanukovich, followed by his lavish living conditions being exposed to the public. Missing from Maddow's presentation are

these realities:

- Manafort saying that he favored Yanukovich taking a European Union route, over the Russian involved Eurasian Customs Union
- contrary to the pro-Russian stereotype, Yanukovich didn't always do what the Kremlin preferred - his not advocating for Ukraine to be in the Eurasian Customs Union serving as an example
- the violent nationalists, who committed murderous action during the Kiev street protests against Yanukovich
- the overthrow of the democratically elected Yanukovich, who had just signed an internationally brokered power sharing agreement with his main political opposition
- post-Yanukovich Kiev regime controlled Ukraine, includes a highly corrupt kleptocracy (whose lavishness hasn't been featured in the manner of Yanukovich's), meshed with an enhanced ultra-nationalist element, that has led to numerous deaths
- the considerable unpopularity of that regime.

These are obviously inconvenient points for Maddow, who takes the easy way out by not mentioning them. In line with this tact, she omits mention of another article which Vogel had written.

PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION

Ukrainian efforts to sabotage Trump backfire

Kiev officials are scrambling to make amends with the president-elect after quietly working to boost Clinton.

By KENNETH P. VOGEL and DAVID STERN | 01/11/2017 05:05 AM EST



President Petro Poroshenko's administration, along with the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington, insists that Ukraine stayed neutral in the American presidential race. | Getty

Screenshot from Politico

He coauthored with **David Stern** a [January 11, 2017 Politico article](#), about the Kiev regime's 2016 clandestine effort to find damaging information on Trump and Manafort. At the time, the Kiev regime was particularly uneasy with Trump's position on Russia. [CNN](#) later followed up on this issue with Stern. He acknowledged not having as detailed a conversation as Vogel

with the Ukrainian-American activist **Alexandra Chalupa**, who was involved with the Kiev regime's effort against Trump and Manafort. In the aforementioned CNN segment, Stern was hesitant to equate that activity with what the Russian government has been accused of doing with Trump.

Months have gone by with no conclusive proof of a Trump-Russian government collusion. The ongoing investigation against Trump essentially serves the purpose of trying to nail him on something else. As a classic example, note how the Feds found Al Capone guilty of something much different from what he was being investigated for.

The neocons are pleased with Trump's decision to increase military support to the Kiev regime. Neolibs have been generally more apprehensive on that move. For its part, Russia is understandably concerned about the Kiev regime, perhaps at some point launching a [Croatian scenario](#) into the rebel held Donbass territory. That move could very well lead to an increased exodus to Russia and pressure from within Russia to militarily strike back.

Contrary to what some say, the Russian government isn't seeking unnecessary armed conflicts - something well worth debating if there's any doubt. At the same time, the Kremlin can only (within reason) take so much. ([Srdja Trifkovic's May 2 Chronicles Magazine article](#), argues that the Kremlin has been passive on the domestic and foreign policy fronts.)

In the meantime, the likes of Maddow recklessly use Russia as a political football on a major US cable TV news network, offering little if any diversity in its coverage of that country.

*

[Michael Averko](#) is a New York based independent foreign policy analyst and media critic.

The original source of this article is Global Research
Copyright © [Michael Averko](#), Global Research, 2018

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

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: **[Michael Averko](#)**

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

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