



Pekka Kallioniemi @P_Kallioniemi

Jan 31, 2024 · 22 tweets · [P_Kallioniemi/status/1752636990921621687](#)

In today's #vatniksoup, I'll introduce an American Republican politician and senator, Rand Paul (@RandPaul). He's best-known for being the son of Ron Paul, for supporting pro-Kremlin narratives, and for voting against both aid to Ukraine and sanctions on Russia.

1/21



Through his father, Rand was introduced to the world of politics at a young age. In his teenage years, Paul studied the Austrian economists that his father much respected, as well as the writings of Objectivist and overrated philosopher Ayn Rand.

2/21

For Paul Family, Libertarian Ethos Began at Home



By **Mark Leibovich**

June 5, 2010

[See how this article appeared when it was originally published on NYTimes.com.](#)

WASHINGTON — In keeping with their position as the First Family of Libertarianism, the Pauls of Lake Jackson, Tex., did not have many rules around their home.

“Behave yourself and be polite” is how Representative Ron Paul describes his regulatory philosophy about rearing five children. Mr. Paul, a Republican, and his wife of 53 years, Carol, never believed in assigned chores or mandates.

They did not give out allowances, which they viewed as a parental version of a government handout. They did not believe in strict curfews; Mr. Paul says that unintended consequences — like speeding home to beat the clock — can result from excessive meddling from a central authority.

While Mr. Paul’s laissez-faire views produced a family of likeminded thinkers — “We’re all on board,” says the oldest son, Ronnie Paul — they inspired the middle child, Rand, to follow his father’s career path, first into medicine and now politics. If he prevails in November after winning the Republican nomination for a Senate seat in Kentucky last month, he and his father would form a two-man libertarian dynasty.

As a politician, Randy describes himself as a "constitutional conservative" and supporter of the Tea Party movement, which @GeorgeMonbiot described as an "astroturf movement" pretending to be spontaneous and grassroots, but what actually benefited the hidden elite interests.

The Tea Party movement: deluded and inspired by billionaires

George Monbiot



Mon 25 Oct 2010 21:15 CEST



739

By funding numerous rightwing organisations, the mega-rich Koch brothers have duped millions into supporting big business

The [Tea Party movement](#) is remarkable in two respects. It is one of the biggest exercises in false consciousness the world has seen - and the biggest Astroturf operation in history. These accomplishments are closely related.

An Astroturf campaign is a fake grassroots movement: it purports to be a spontaneous uprising of concerned citizens, but in reality it is founded and funded by elite interests. Some Astroturf campaigns have no grassroots component at all. Others catalyse and direct real mobilisations. The Tea Party belongs in the second category. It is mostly composed of passionate, well-meaning people who think they are fighting elite power, unaware that they have been organised by the very interests they believe they are confronting. We now have powerful evidence that the movement was established and has been guided with the help of money from billionaires and big business. Much of this money, as well as much of the strategy and staffing, were provided by two brothers who run what they call "[the biggest company you've never heard of](#)".

In many ways, Rand is just a carbon copy of his father Ron, who has been described as the "ideological father" of the Tea Party Movement. Daddy Paul's "Ron Paul Institute for Peace and Prosperity" (RPI) has spread pro-Kremlin narratives for a good decade.

The Ron Paul Institute for Putin's Priorities

Former congressman's think tank pushes pro-Kremlin line



Alana Goodman
March 17, 2014

Numerous members of the Ron Paul Institute for Peace and Prosperity have spent years as professional spin-doctors for Russian President Vladimir Putin and other leaders of oppressive regimes, according to an analysis by the *Washington Free Beacon*.

The institute's namesake, former congressman and failed presidential candidate Ron Paul, recently made headlines when he defended Putin's invasion of Ukraine. "Actually he has some law on his side," Paul said on Fox Business Channel's "The Independents" last week.

Already in 2014, RPI had long ties to pro-Kremlin channels, including one that tried to restore Putin's global image. One example of RPI figures is John Laughland, a long-time Kremlin puppet who now works closely with Putin's friends in the Netherlands:

5/21



Pekka Kallioniemi ✓
@P_Kallioniemi · Follow



In today's #vatnik soup I'll introduce a British euroskeptic, pro-Russian and anti-American author, John Laughland. He's best-known for his work for the Russia-funded Institute of Democracy and Cooperation and for Thierry Baudet's political party, Forum voor Democratie.

1/16



10:17 PM · Feb 23, 2023



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Throughout the years, RPI has been publishing absolutely unhinged articles and op-eds from pro-Kremlin think tanks, and they've also employed some colorful characters. Perhaps due to this, Randy has distanced himself from his father's organization.

6/21



Will Americans raise a ruckus about Braveheart Gonzalo Lira?

by Tom Mullen | Jan 23, 2024 | Featured Articles

"Just say it. Cry out. Mercy," said the magistrate to William Wallace in Mel Gibson's Braveheart (1995). Wallace had already been drawn and quartered, so the king's torturer was not offering to save his life. He promised only an end to the torture with a quicker, more merciful death. The Wallace of the film refuses to speak the words the king's magistrate commands and cries "Freedom!" instead. Realizing further torture will not produce his desired result, the magistrate reluctantly...

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Biden Doctrine: 'If It's Broke Don't Fix It!'

by Daniel McAdams | Jan 23, 2024 | Featured Articles

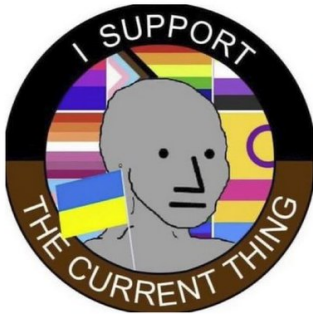
This article was first published as an update to Ron Paul Institute subscribers. Subscribe for free here. Last week President Biden was asked by a reporter about US attacks on Yemen: Reporter: "Are the airstrikes in Yemen working?" Biden: "Well, when you say working, are they stopping the Houthis? No. Are they gonna continue? Yes." The exchange perfectly defines the Biden Administration's foreign policy: "Is our policy working? No. But keep it up, man!" What is that old saying about the...

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Supporting the Current Thing: COVID Mania adherents embrace the Ukraine narrative

by Jordan Schachtel | Mar 22, 2022 | Featured Articles

I wanted to turn your attention to a fascinating poll that came out the other day. The Toronto Star hired a polling agency to survey Canadians about their views about the ongoing...

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Deterrence Works, Propaganda Fails in Ukraine (So Far)

by Peter van Buren | Mar 19, 2022 | Featured Articles

Deterrence works. Russia's nukes are the only thing keeping the US from full-out war in Ukraine only six months after retreating from Afghanistan. So far, the unprecedented...



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FEATURES

Why the new Ron Paul Institute is terrible news for Rand Paul

The nascent libertarian think tank has brought on some colorful characters that could complicate Rand Paul's attempts to mainstream Paulism



Newsletter



Randy's had hard time coming up with his own material - In Oct 2013, it was revealed that he was basically copy-pasting stuff from Wikipedia without referencing to the original source. He even took three pages directly from an article by the former conservative...

Senator Rand Paul Faces New Charges of Plagiarism

Share free access



By **Jonathan Martin**

Nov. 4, 2013

Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky, who in recent weeks has had to explain how Wikipedia entries came to be incorporated into his speeches with no attribution, faced charges of direct plagiarism on Monday night.

In an op-ed article [he wrote for The Washington Times in September](#) on mandatory minimum prison sentences, Mr. Paul, a Republican, appears to have copied language from an essay that had [previously run in The Week magazine](#).

That article, written by Dan Stewart, an editor for The Week, included this sentence: “America now jails a higher percentage of its citizens than any other country, including China and Iran, at the staggering cost of \$80 billion a year.” It was posted to the web on Sept. 14.



POLITICS

Three Pages Of Rand Paul's Book Were Plagiarized From Think Tanks

The worst case yet. Paul's office says the book notes Paul didn't individually report out each case.



Andrew Kaczynski
BuzzFeed News Reporter

Posted on November 2, 2013 at 11:55 pm



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Joshua Roberts | Reuters

...,now pro-Kremlin,think tank The Heritage Foundation.Even his op-eds were copied from others,after which The Washington Times refused to publish them anymore. He later stated that by asking him to write his own articles & speeches,he was being held to an "unfair standard".



POLITICS • FAIL

Sections Of Rand Paul's Op-Ed On Drug Sentencing Plagiarized From Article Week Earlier

Portions of the Kentucky senator's op-ed in *The Washington Times* appear to be copied word-for-word from an article published a week earlier.



Andrew Kaczynski
BuzzFeed News Reporter

Posted on November 5, 2013 at 3:21 am



Though Defiant, Senator Accused of Plagiarism Admits Errors

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1.1K

By [Jim Rutenberg](#) and [Ashley Parker](#)

Nov. 5, 2013

WASHINGTON — Senator [Rand Paul](#) of Kentucky acknowledged Tuesday that “mistakes” in his office had caused unattributed writing by others to appear in his own work and announced that he was instituting safeguards to prevent such breaches from happening again.

While maintaining the defiance he has shown since the claims of plagiarism were first made last week, Mr. Paul hurriedly took steps to contain the biggest crisis of his young political career, one that threatens his ambitions to run for president in 2016. He said he was putting in place a more diligent system within his office to footnote and attribute material, part of what he called a restructuring on his staff. He said there would be no firings.

But, in an interview at his Senate office complex, Mr. Paul said he resented implications from those he termed “haters” that he had sought to dishonestly take other people’s work as his own. Facing a cascading series of accusations that he used plagiarized material in speeches, an opinion article and a book, he said the lapses were the result of his newfound status as a freshman senator in high demand, and the overwhelming workload that has brought with it for him and his staff.

In Feb 2014, in the midst of Euromaidan, Randy said that the US should seek "respectful" relations with Russia & avoid angering and provoking of Putin over the political situation in Ukraine. He changed his mind after the Duma authorized the use of military force in Ukraine.

Rand Paul: GOP shouldn't 'tweak' Russia over Ukraine



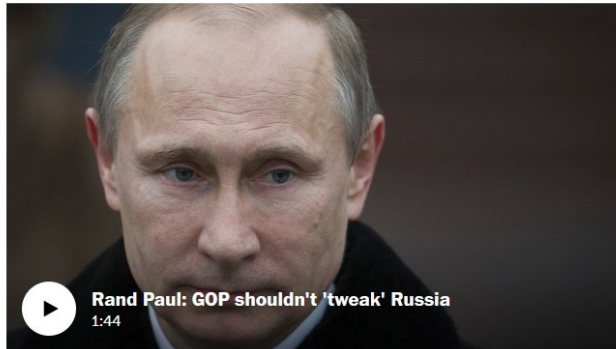
By Robert Costa

February 25, 2014 at 4:23 p.m. EST

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Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky, a presidential hopeful and leading non-interventionist voice in the Republican Party, believes the United States should seek "respectful" relations with Russia and avoid antagonizing President Vladimir Putin over the [ongoing political turmoil in Ukraine](#), where a Kremlin-backed government collapsed last week.



Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) says some of his Republican colleagues are "stuck in the Cold War era." He says we should avoid "tweaking" the country. (Video: Jeff Simon/The Washington Post)

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OPINION • FOREIGN POLICY

Sen. Rand Paul: U.S. Must Take Strong Action Against Putin's Aggression



When it comes to the upcoming presidential elections of 2024, Rand has supported some of the biggest Putin apologists in the US: the pump-and-dump scammer @VivekGRamaswamy and of course convicted sexual abuser and alleged insurrectionist, Donald Trump.

10/21

Rand Paul @RandPaul · 15h ...
I've been watching the GOP Primary closely for a while now, and I like various aspects of several candidates - Republicans like President [@realDonaldTrump](#), Governor [@RonDeSantis](#), and [@VivekGRamaswamy](#).
1.9K 3.7K 26K 2.5M

Rand Paul @RandPaul · 15h ...
I'm interested in the ideas of some independents too, such as [@RobertKennedyJr.](#)
161 313 5.9K 242K

Rand Paul @RandPaul · 15h ...
As I look over the field, I don't think I yet have a first choice, but I do know one thing: count me in as [#NeverNikki!](#)



The Pump-and-Dump Scammer, Vivek Ramaswamy

▲ Dr. Greg Maguire, Ph.D. ● August 28, 2023 ■ [Leave a comment](#)

With money from QVT, a hedge fund, Vivek's company purchased a failed drug from GSK, renamed it, and performed a non-scientific post-hoc analysis of the failed drug where they cherry picked data and spun it to pump up the company's stock. Once the stock price soared after the hysterical mass media, such as CNBC, talked up the stock, Mr. Ramaswamy sold-off (the dump part of a pump-and-dump scheme) a big portion of stock to make boodles of bucks. Once the company's own clinical trial failed, the stock crashed and investors lost their money, but Ramaswamy was sitting high on a pile of cash from his pump-and-dump.

Trump on Trial
newsletter
E Jean Carroll

Victoria Bekiempis

Fri 26 Jan 2024 23:09 CET



Donald Trump ordered to pay E Jean Carroll \$83.3m in defamation trial

Ex-president vows to appeal against ruling, which comes less than a year after Carroll won \$5m in sexual abuse and defamation trial

● **Sign up for Trump on Trial: a free newsletter on all the latest court developments**



📷 E Jean Carroll at federal court in New York on Thursday. Photograph: Michael M. Santiago/Getty Images

A New York City jury awarded \$83.3m to [E Jean Carroll](#) in her defamation trial against Donald Trump on Friday.

Trump tries reappropriating 'insurrection' on Jan. 6 anniversary

In campaign speeches surrounding the third anniversary of the attack, the former president defended people charged in the riot and repeated baseless claims that left-wing or government interlopers caused the breach

By Isaac Arnsdorf and Marianne LeVine
January 6, 2024 at 10:04 p.m. EST



Former president Donald Trump speaks at a campaign event Sunday in Newton, Iowa. (Jordan Gale for The Washington Post)

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But it wasn't always like this - Randy had previously compared Trump to Gollum and denounced him as "a delusional narcissist and an orange-faced windbag," and even cited his similarities to Goebbels.

However, after Trump won the primaries, Randy became his fanboy.

11/21



Remember Trump's capitulation of 2018 in front of Putin in Helsinki, where he stated that he trusts the Russian president more than his country's intelligence agencies? There was one man who came to his defense afterwards, and that man was of course Randy.


12/21

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Donald Trump Says He Trusts Putin More Than U.S. Intelligence 'Lowlifes'

Jan 30, 2023 at 9:25 AM EST



Trump Suggests He Still Trusts Putin Over U.S. Intelligence 'Lowlifes'

By [Ewan Palmer](#)
News Reporter

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Donald Trump has suggested he trusts Russian president [Vladimir Putin](#) more than the "lowlifes" who work in U.S. intelligence.

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 **John O. Brennan**
@JohnBrennan

Donald Trump's press conference performance in Helsinki rises to & exceeds the threshold of "high crimes & misdemeanors." It was nothing short of treasonous. Not only were Trump's comments imbecilic, he is wholly in the pocket of Putin. Republican Patriots: Where are you???

6:52 PM · Jul 16, 2018

32K 85K 168K 423

Rand Paul to ask Trump to revoke security clearance of ex-CIA chief Brennan



“John Brennan making millions of dollars divulging secrets to the mainstream media with his attacks on @realDonaldTrump,” Rand Paul tweeted Monday. | Win McNamee/Getty Images

By REBECCA MORIN

In 2018, he also served as a messenger boy between Trump and Putin, when he personally flew to Moscow and delivered a handwritten letter from the US president to Putin. Allegedly, the letter called for further "engagement" between the two countries.



Last week, Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) visited Russian officials in Moscow. With him, Paul brought a letter written by President Trump and addressed to Vladimir Putin. “The letter emphasized the importance of further engagement in various areas including countering terrorism, enhancing legislative dialogue and resuming cultural exchanges,” Paul **said**.

Sen. Paul’s **reason** for making the trip was simple: “Engagement is vital to our national security and peace around the world.”

In 2016, Jesse Benton, a former aide to both Ron and Rand Paul was found guilty of four federal crimes, but was later given a full pardon by Donald Trump. Then in 2023, Randy's old friend was sentenced again for attempting to funnel Russian money into Trump's campaign.

Feb 18, 2023 - Politics & Policy

GOP operative sentenced in scheme to funnel Russian money to Trump campaign



Sareen Habeshian



Jesse Benton, spokesperson for the Ron Paul campaign, speaking to reporters on Jan. 1, 2012. Photo: Robert Daemmrich Photography Inc/Corbis via Getty Images

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Ex-Rand Paul aide pardoned by Trump convicted of illegally funneling Russian cash to Trump campaign

Jesse Benton, who is married to Paul's niece, was pardoned by Trump in a different campaign finance scheme

By **AREEBA SHAH**
Staff Writer

PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 16, 2022 12:47PM (EST)



Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky. and Donald Trump (Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post via Getty Images)

When it comes to Russia and Ukraine, Randy's voting patterns have been clear: In Jun 2017, he voted (along with Bernie Sanders) against imposing new sanctions against Russia and Iran. Shortly after 12 Russian agents were charged with hacking and leaking emails, ...

15/21

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World

U.S. Senate votes near unanimously for Russia, Iran sanctions

By Patricia Zengerle

June 16, 2017 5:24 AM GMT+3 · Updated 7 years ago

Aa



...Paul described the investigation into Russian interference a "witch hunt on the president". In August 2018 Paul traveled to Moscow and met with several Russian senators, including Sergey Kislyak and Leonid Slutsky - both extremely controversial figures.

16/21

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SUNDAY TALK SHOWS

Rand Paul on Russia indictments: We should focus on protecting elections instead of 'witch hunt on the president'

BY BRETT SAMUELS - 07/15/18 9:07 AM ET

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Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) on Sunday said he believes it's a "waste of time" to try to hold Russian President Vladimir Putin accountable for meddling in U.S. elections, arguing that the U.S. and other countries have engaged in similar behavior.

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Sen. Rand Paul meets Russian senators in Moscow, invites them to the US

Among the senators was Sergey Kislyak, the ex-Russian ambassador to the U.S.

By [Patrick Reeve](#)
August 6, 2018, 6:32 PM

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Sen. Rand Paul meets Russian senators in Moscow, invites them to the US
Among the senators was Sergey Kislyak, the ex-Russian ambassador to the U.S.



Соболь Любовь

@SobolLubov

Here is [@RandPaul](#) posing with Putin's servant Leonid Slutsky. Russian lawmaker Slutsky is not only blatantly corrupt. He is also a serial sexual predator accused of harassing journalists. Slutsky has never faced any consequences for his actions.



RUSSIA

RadioFreeEurope
RadioLiberty

September 03, 2021
18:42 GMT
By Mark Krutov and
Sergei Dobrynin

A Villa In Turkey, An Exclusive Private School. All On A Russian Lawmaker's Salary.

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As is tradition, Randy constantly parrots the Kremlin narratives. According to him, Putin "took Crimea" after "Western Intelligence agencies worked with Ukrainian Maidan protestors" to overthrow Yanukovich in 2014. This, of course, is an outright lie:

17/21

 **Pekka Kallioniemi** ✓
@P_Kallioniemi · Follow

In today's #vatniksoup and another edition of "You pronounced this nonsense, not me", I'll talk about an event called the Revolution of Dignity AKA Maidan Revolution. It was a wave of demonstrations in Ukraine that took place in 2013 and 2014.

1/24



9:29 AM · Mar 13, 2023

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rationality and calls for justice drown out a full appreciation for the enemy's threats.

Advocates of a never-retreating Hegelian march to freedom everywhere often admit they don't care what our enemies say or promise to do. But refusing to understand or at least acknowledge an adversary's demands is and always will be a recipe for perpetual war.

While there is no justification for Putin's invasion of Ukraine, it cannot be argued that he didn't telegraph that it would happen.

When Western intelligence agencies worked with Ukrainian Maidan protesters to topple the Russian-backed leader of Ukraine in 2014, Putin reacted by taking Crimea.

When the Biden administration signed an accord with Ukraine reiterating an invitation for Ukraine to join NATO last fall, Putin responded with a massive invasion of Ukraine. Of course, nothing justifies the invasion, but it is an error to argue that it was not predictable.

In the end, history will likely judge Putin's decision to invade as a complete failure. It has united Europe, increased the continent's resolve to become independent of Russian oil and gas, and ultimately encouraged Sweden and Finland to reject neutrality and move to join NATO.

Putin's invasion of Ukraine completely changed public opinion in Sweden and Finland about joining NATO. Sweden's over-100-year policy of neutrality was swiftly discarded.

In May 2022, he stopped a vote on a 40 billion USD aid to Ukraine. He also suggested that it was actually Biden who provoked Russia to invade Ukraine by advocating their membership in NATO, and that "the countries they've [Russia] attacked were part of Russia".

Senator Rand Paul single-handedly holds up \$40bn US aid for Ukraine

Democratic and Republican Senate leaders both supported package but Paul objected to scale of spending

Guardian staff and agencies

Fri 13 May 2022 00:17 CEST



Senator Rand Paul: 'This is the second spending bill for Ukraine in two months ... Congress just wants to keep on spending, and spending.' Photograph: Reuters

The top Democrat and Republican in the US Senate joined forces in a rare moment of unity on Thursday in an attempt to pass \$40bn in aid for Ukraine, only to be stymied by a single Republican lawmaker: the Kentucky libertarian Rand Paul.

Rand Paul Says Biden Pushed Putin Into Attacking 'Soviet Union' Countries

Apr 26, 2022 at 2:32 PM EDT



By Andrew Stanton
Weekend Staff Writer

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Senator Rand Paul accused the Biden administration on Tuesday of pushing Russian President Vladimir Putin into attacking 'Soviet Union' country Ukraine by advocating for its admission into NATO.

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War in Ukraine



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Today's WorldView • Analysis
Ukraine's hopes for victory over Russia are slipping away



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Rand Paul, lone Senate holdout, delays vote on Ukraine aid to next week

By [Amy Cheng](#) and [Eugene Scott](#)
May 13, 2022 at 3:30 a.m. EDT



Rand Paul delays vote on Ukraine aid
1:48

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Rand Paul goes to bat for Putin: "The countries they've attacked were part of Russia"

Paul suggested that former Soviet republics like Georgia and Moldova don't have the right to self-determination

By **JON SKOLNIK**
Staff Writer

PUBLISHED APRIL 26, 2022 3:25PM (EDT)




Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) (Greg Nash-Pool/Getty Images)

Apparently, the eye surgeon also holds some aspirations to become a comedian. In addition to his extremely unfunny jokes at Comedy Central, he's harshly criticized Zelenskyy for his costume when he visited the US Congress.

Rand Paul @RandPaul · Dec 23, 2022
Those 87,000 IRS agents are going to go through all of your Venmo charges starting next year. I have an idea...

News That Matters @ThatmattersNews
BREAKING
Rand Paul Venmos \$600.01 to Ukraine so the country's finances will have to be audited



715 3.7K 18K 619K

Rand Paul @RandPaul
By the way, is it me or did President Zelensky roll into Congress looking like he was bringing our Uber eats order? US taxpayers give you like \$50 billion and counting, and you can't find a tie?

8:27 PM · Dec 23, 2022 · 317.7K Views

Rand Paul @RandPaul
Speaking of Zelensky, last year I said he came to Congress dressed like he was delivering our Uber Eats order. This year I would say it was more like he was trying to sell me the next iPhone at a @TMobile store.

7:05 PM · Dec 23, 2023 · 156.5K Views

93 613 6.6K 26

He also blocked a bill to revoke Russia's trade status. In Jan 2024, the US Senate voted for the so-called REPO Act - an act that would provide aid to Ukraine using confiscated Russian assets in the US. The Act passed 20-1 & the only one who voted against it was Rand Paul.

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What to Know in Washington: Paul Blocks Senate on Russian Trade

- Bill to revoke Russia's trade status stalled over sanctions provision
- Democrats push for gas rebate checks to tackle pump prices

March 30, 2022 7:18 AM
By Giuseppe Macri and Brandon Lee

Legislation to revoke Russia's regular trade status with the U.S. remains stalled because of Senator Rand Paul's objections to a provision strengthening sanctions for human rights abuses as Democrats scramble to reach a deal with the Kentucky Republican.

Paul's objections have blocked Senate leaders from using a fast-track process for the bill, which has already passed the House. Paul is seeking to change language that would sanction Russian officials who commit human rights abuses so that it specifies which types of transgressions would trigger action.

Kareem Rifai @KareemRifai

The REPO Act, which would provide aid to Ukraine using confiscated Russian assets in the US, passed through the Senate Foreign Relations Committee 20-1.

The lone NO vote was Rand Paul.



2:09 AM · Jan 25, 2024 · 745.3K Views

685 2K 6.6K 143




To conclude, here's late Senator John McCain calling Randy, or the "Senator from Kentucky", someone who is "now working for Vladimir Putin." Now let's watch Randy either completely ignore this thread

or comment it with some unfunny joke.

21/21

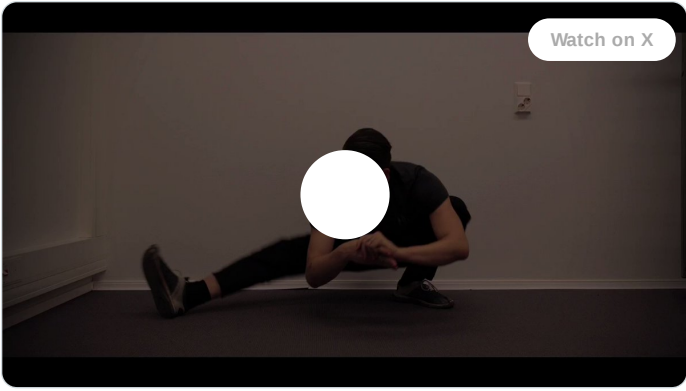



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 **Pekka Kallioniemi** 
@P_Kallioniemi · [Follow](#) 

A short clip from today's Hopak practice for the [#HopakChallenge](#).

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4:31 PM · Nov 21, 2023 

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