



Pekka Kallioniemi @P_Kallioniemi

Jul 15, 2025 • 22 tweets • [P_Kallioniemi/status/1945101883158274197](#)

In today's Vatnik Soup, I'll introduce an American lawyer and politician, Mike Lee (@BasedMikeLee). He's best-known for opposing the aid to Ukraine, undermining NATO by calling the US to withdraw from the alliance, and for fighting with a bunch of braindead dogs online.

1/21



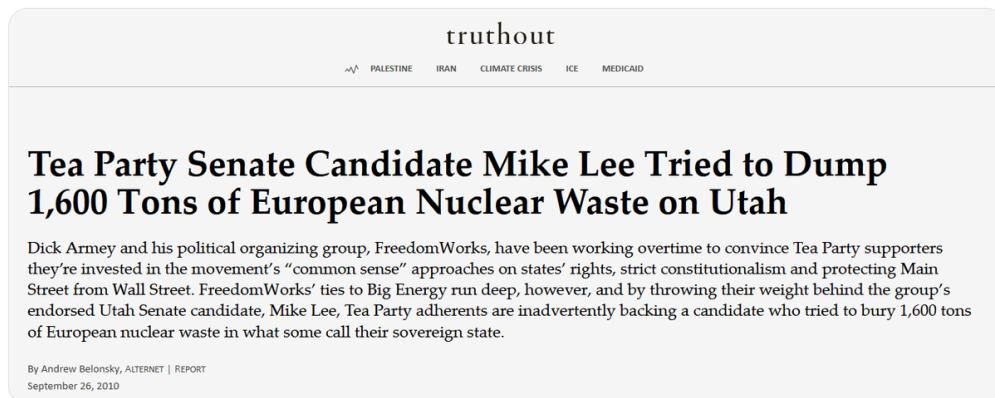
Like many of the most vile vatniks out there, "Based Mike" is a lawyer by profession. He hails from the holy land of Mormons, Utah, where he faces little political competition, allowing him to make the most outrageous claims online without risking his Senate seat.

2/21



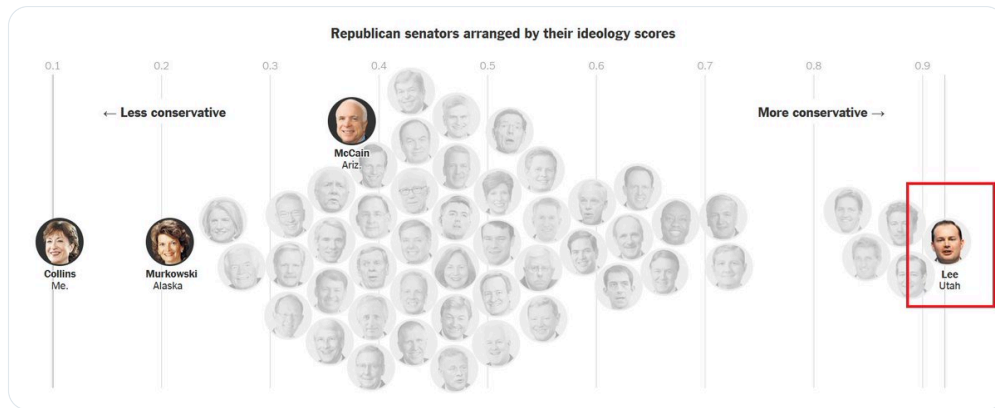
Before becoming a senator, Mike fought to let a nuclear waste company dump Italian radioactive waste in Utah, arguing it was fine if they just diluted it. The state said no, the public revolted, and the courts told poor Mikey to sit down.

3/21



Politically, Mike Lee isn't just conservative — he's the most ideologically extreme senator of the 113th Congress, according to a BYU study. NYT, GovTrack, and FiveThirtyEight all rank him on the far-right fringe. His voting aligned with Trump 81% of the time.

4/21



In 2019, Mike flew solo to Russia after the rest of his delegation were denied visas. While others backed out, he insisted on holding private talks with Russian officials — because nothing says “America First” like going to Russia to “do politics”.

5/21

POLITICO

Congress

Inside Congress Live 6 min ago

Inside Congress newsletter

CONGRESS

Russia grants visa to Sen. Mike Lee after rebuffing other senators



A spokesman for Sen. Mike Lee said he will travel to Russia from Sept. 5 to Sept. 8. | J. Scott Applewhite/AP Photo

By MARIANNE LEVINE
09/03/2019 05:58 PM EDT





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EUROPE

U.S. Sen. Lee's Visit To Russia Stirs Controversy

September 9, 2019 · 7:21 AM ET

Heard on [Morning Edition](#)

By [Lucian Kim](#)



3-Minute Listen

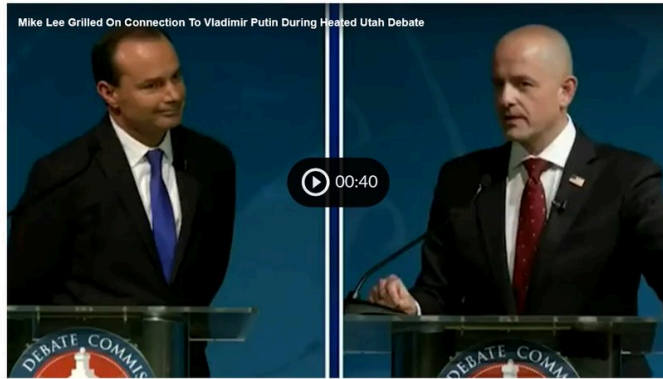


GOP Sen. Mike Lee of Utah was granted a visa after two other senators were denied. Lee says his solo talks with Russian government officials will help the U.S. maintain an open dialogue with Russia.

In a 2022 debate, Mikey was grilled over his ties to Russia. Along with Rand Paul, he's the only US senator not blacklisted by Moscow. Both voted against a major Russia sanctions bill in 2017, earning Lee the nickname "Putin's most reliable yes man in the Senate."

Mike Lee Grilled on Connection to Vladimir Putin During Tense Utah Debate

Published Oct 18, 2022 at 4:17 AM EDT



By **Ewan Palmer**
News Reporter

Newsweek Is A Trust Project Member

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3 comments

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42 comments

After the Jan 6 Capitol attack, “Based Mike” compared Trump to a Book of Mormon war hero and spent 14 hours a day helping Trump try to overturn the 2020 election. He texted Mark Meadows about alternate electors and pushed various conspiracy theories about the election.

7/21

Sen. Mike Lee explains comparing Donald Trump to Capt. Moroni from Book of Mormon

Published: Oct 30, 2020, 12:16 p.m. MDT

[VIEW COMMENTS](#)



Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, speaks at a campaign rally for President Donald Trump at Phoenix Goodyear Airport in Goodyear, Ariz., on Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2020. | Ross D. Franklin, Associated Press



By **Dennis Romboy**

Dennis is a longtime reporter and editor at the Deseret News. He often writes about the intersection of sports and culture.

SALT LAKE CITY — Utah Sen. Mike Lee compared President Donald Trump to a revered Book of Mormon military commander who inspired soldiers to fight for their religion, freedom and family at a campaign rally in Arizona on Wednesday.

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The church I led closed a year ago. I still not over it



Church of Jesus Christ sees record growth in global membership



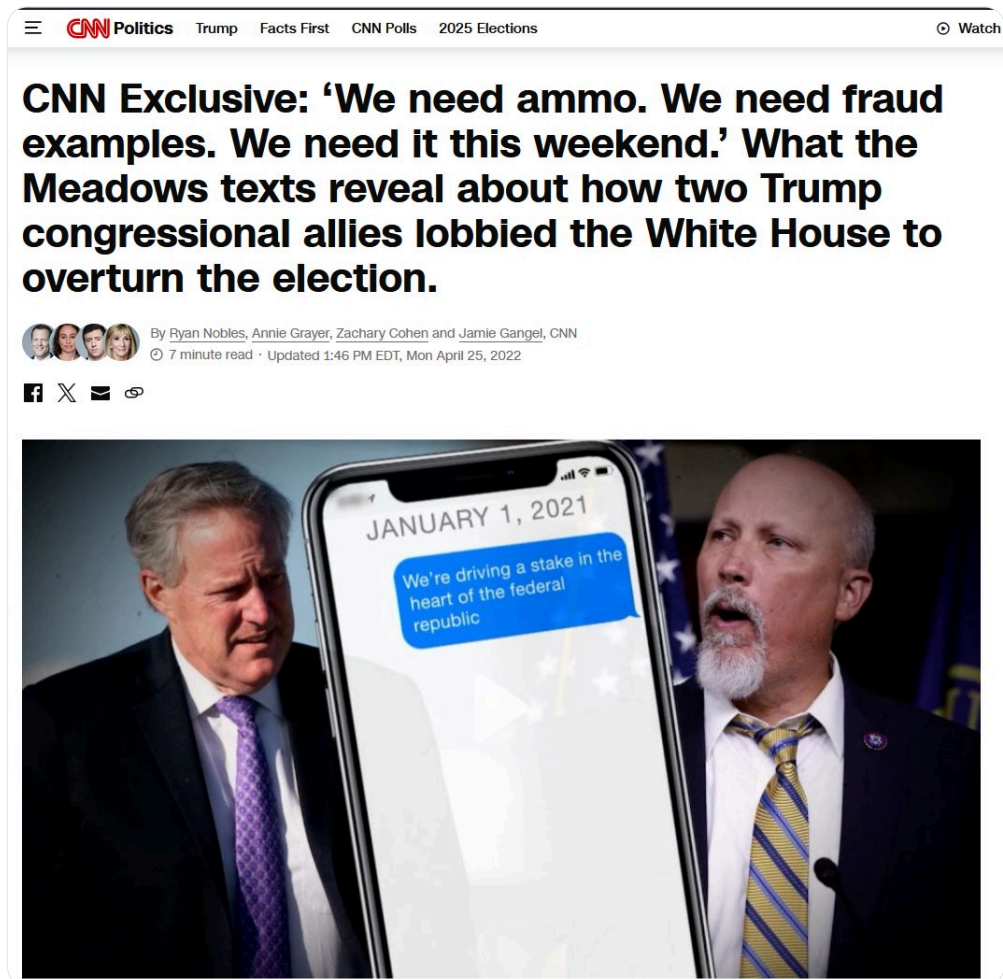
Texts show Utah Sen. Lee's early work to overturn election



Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, looks to a tablet during Supreme Court nominee Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson's confirmation hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee Tuesday, March 22, 2022, on Capitol Hill in Washington. (AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

Published 4:54 AM GMT+3, April 16, 2022

Share 



According to Mikey, Trump deserved a “mulligan.” He voted against a commission to investigate the attack, then pushed disinformation claiming the FBI was behind it. All while over 100 emails showed his deep involvement in trying to overturn the election.

Senator Mike Lee of Utah suggests Trump should get a 'mulligan' for Jan. 6 speech.

 Share full article  



MAGA LIES

'HOW MANY ARE FEDS?' SEN. MIKE LEE PUSHES JAN. 6 DISINFORMATION

The senator alleged that a man carrying a vape was actually flashing a law enforcement badge

By PETER WADE

NOVEMBER 19, 2023



Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah on Tuesday, July 20, 2021, (Photo by Bill Clark/CQ-Roll Call, Inc via Getty Images)

Since Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Mikey has become one of the most fervent opponents of U.S. aid to the defending country. There was a brief moment in the spring of 2022 when he voted for military aid and even joined a video call with Zelenskyy.

What Mike Lee, Mitt Romney took from video call with Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy

Published: March 5, 2022, 1:00 p.m. MST



[VIEW COMMENTS](#)



In this image taken from video provided by the Ukrainian Presidential Press Office, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy speaks to the nation in Kyiv, Ukraine, Thursday, March 3, 2022. | Ukrainian Presidential Press Office via Associated Press



By Dennis Romboy

Dennis is a longtime reporter and editor at the Deseret News. He often writes about the intersection of sports and culture.

Most Popular



The church I led closed a year ago still not over it



Church of Jesus Christ sees record growth in global membership



Mike Lee  · 03 Mar 22 

I stand with the vulnerable orphans caught in Putin's fury, and pray for their speedy evacuation from **Ukraine.**



 218

 35

 129



But by mid-2022, that changed, and Mikey began opposing every aid package to Ukraine. We can only guess what shifted during that time, but my bet is he got a call from the Trump/MAGA camp or the Heritage Foundation, telling him to fall in line.

10/21

Mike Lee among 11 Republicans to vote against aid package to Ukraine

\$40 billion package passed with broad bipartisan support

Published: May 17, 2022, 9:48 a.m. MDT



[VIEW COMMENTS](#)



Mourners kneel as they await the casket of Volodymyr Losev, 38, to pass by during his funeral in Zorya Truda, Odessa region, Ukraine, on Monday, May 16, 2022. Volodymyr Losev, a Ukrainian volunteer soldier, was killed May 7 when the military vehicle he was driving ran over a mine in eastern Ukraine. | Francisco Seco, Associated Press



By Kyle Dunphey

Most Popular



The church I led closed a year ago, but I'm still not over it

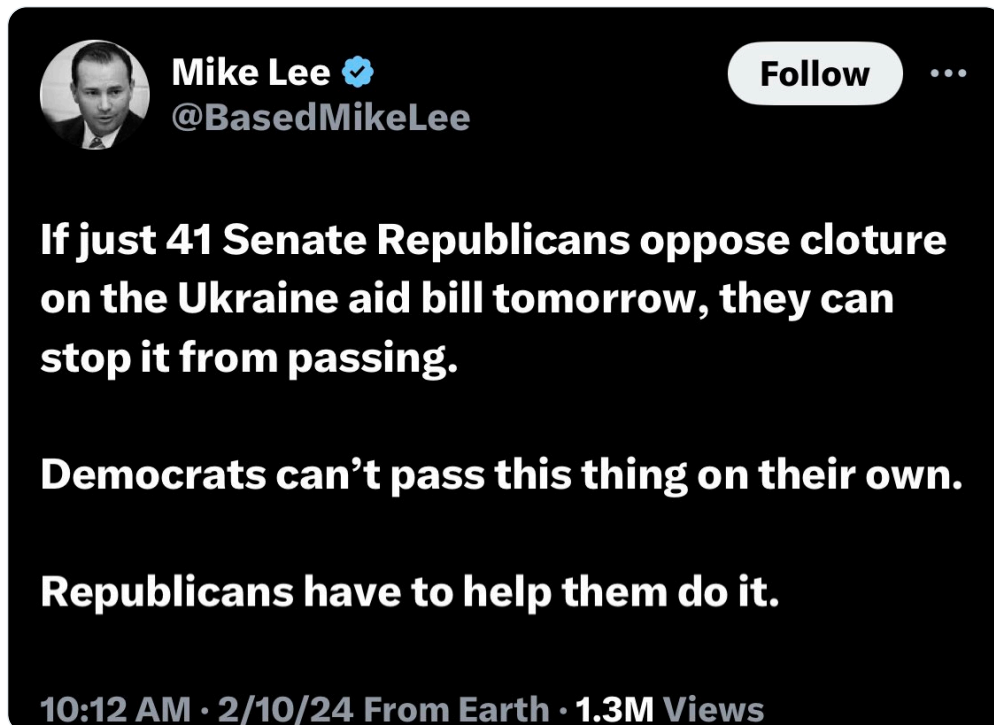


Church of Jesus Christ sees record growth in global membership



In 2024, he had become one of the biggest opponents of Ukraine aid. He introduced bills, spread pro-Kremlin disinformation, and even spoke for nearly four hours on the Senate floor, arguing against a bill that would send more aid to Ukraine.

11/21





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ELECTIONS, POLITICS, & GOVERNMENT

Utah Sen. Mike Lee rallying Senate to kill foreign aid bill for Ukraine, Israel

Apr 23, 2024, 7:03 AM | Updated: 3:18 pm



A Ukrainian tank fires in Chasiv Yar, the site of battles with the Russian troops in the Donetsk region, Ukraine, Feb. 29. Utah Sen. Mike Lee hopes to block the Senate passage of a foreign aid package for Ukraine, Israel and other U.S. allies. (Efrem Lukatsky, Associated Press)

BY BRIDGER BEAL-CVETKO, KSL.COM

KSLNewsRadio

WASHINGTON — With the House of Representatives' weekend approval of a long-awaited foreign aid package, the question of military support to Israel and Ukraine is now in the hands of the Senate, where Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, is trying to rally opponents to "kill the bill."

Share

Lee filibusters against Ukraine funding

Speaks for nearly four hours on senate floor



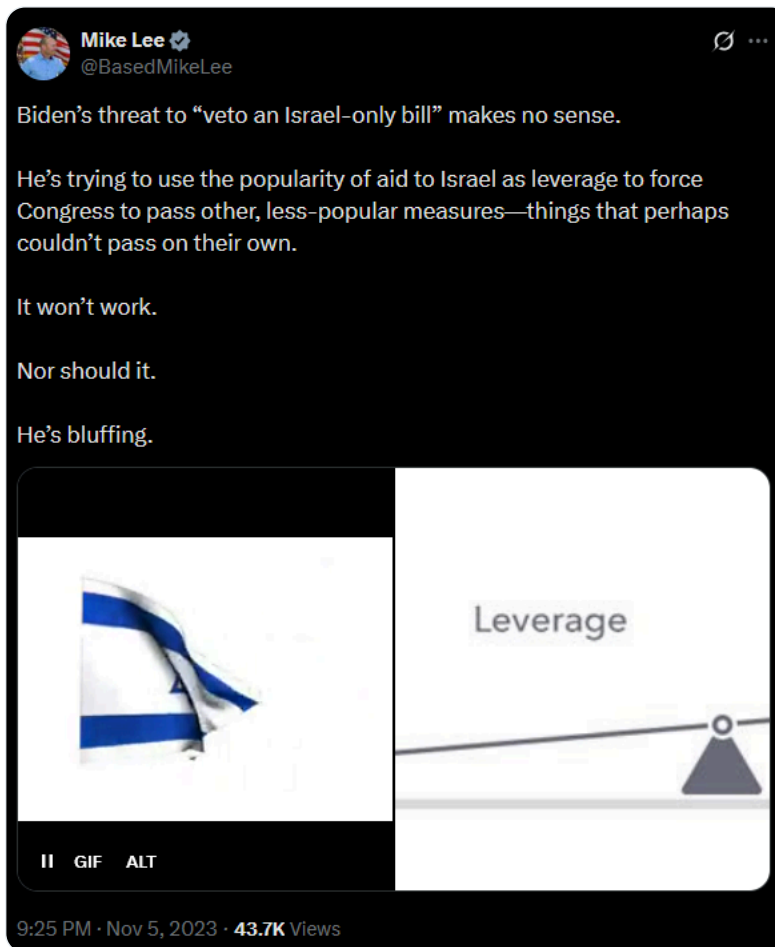
By: Stephen Romney

Posted 7:43 PM, Feb 11, 2024 and last updated 7:53 PM, Feb 12, 2024

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Utah Senator Mike Lee spoke for over three hours Saturday, arguing against a bill that would allocate funding to help Ukraine in its fight against Russia.

Interestingly, “Based Mike” fully supports military aid to Israel. He even tried to separate Biden’s aid package to Ukraine, Taiwan, and Israel so that only Israel would receive funding. The whole “let’s fund Israel but not Ukraine or Taiwan” shtick is wildly...

12/21



...inconsistent bordering on schizophrenic foreign policy - and ironically, it goes against any true "America First" principle. But it all starts to make sense when you realize AIPAC, the pro-Israel lobbying group, has paid him \$368,778, while Ukraine and Taiwan paid zero.

**TRACK
AIPAC**

**MIKE
LEE**
U.S. SENATOR (R)
UTAH

\$368,778

RECEIVED FROM THE
PRO-ISRAEL LOBBY

via opensecrets.org 8/1/24


@TRACKAIPAC

Naturally, all the Kremlin bootlickers are happy to hand Mikey a microphone. He's appeared on Tucker Carlson and Jordan Peterson's shows, plus a lineup of smaller grifters and podcasters eager to let him spew unfiltered bullshit to their audiences.

14/21

Jordan B. Peterson

Podcast



▶

TOISTA

🔖

TALLENNA

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✓


MERKITSE

KUUNNELLUKSI

346. Russia/Ukraine, ESG, gigantism and the West | Senator Mike Lee

1 t 42 min · yli vuosi sitten

Dr. Jordan B. Peterson and Senator Mike Lee discuss the ever present conflict between Ukraine and Russia, the role of the United States in that conflict via proxy war, the rise of ESG investing, why the top investment firms do not care about your values, and what Senator Lee plans to do about it.



I think, I think the most rational

Sen. Mike Lee: You're Underestimating Kamala Harris and the Media Machine. Here's Why.

Tucker Carlson 4.08M subscribers

47K

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Thanks

Save

Mike's anti-Ukraine rhetoric parrots typical MAGA BS talking points: "unaccountable aid," "mission creep," "money laundering" and so on. But with a tiny fraction of US aid, Ukraine is doing America's job - bleeding out an evil empire without a single US boot on the ground.



Mike Lee ✓
@BasedMikeLee

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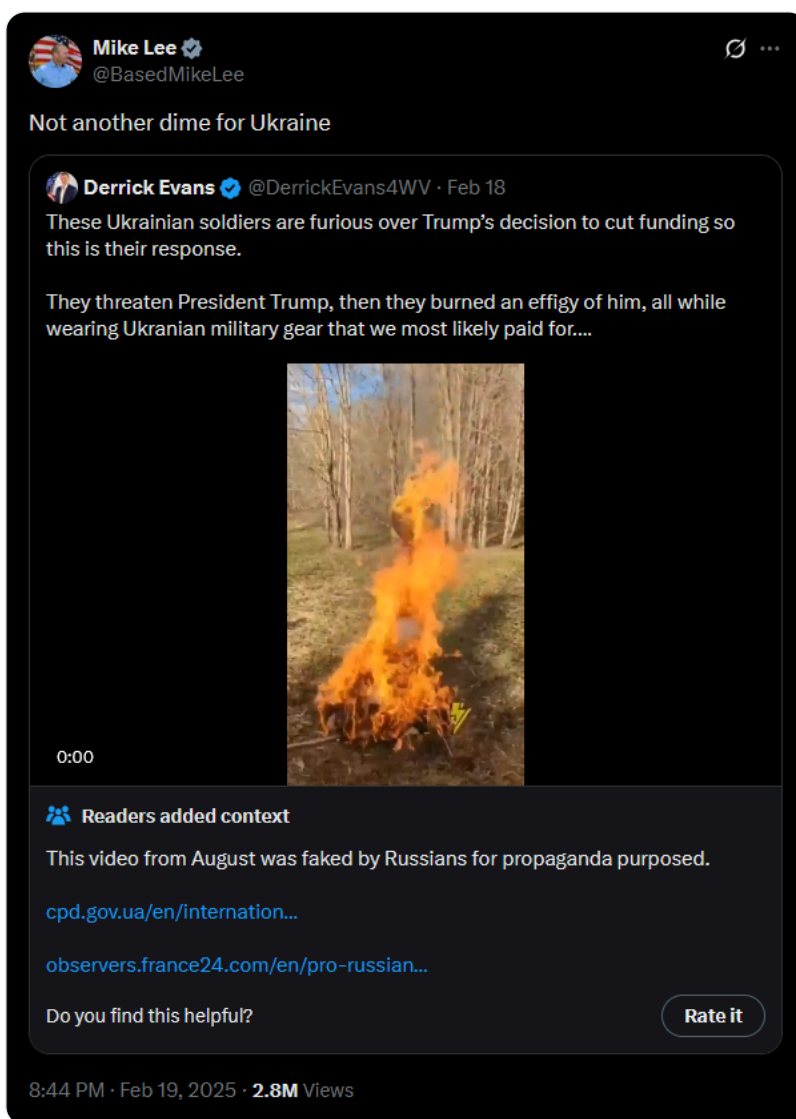
Please no more money to Ukraine

There's only so much they can launder

UNIVERSAL SYMBOL FOR

MONEY LAUNDERING

ifunny.co



Like his MAGA ally Elbridge “Cheese” Colby, “Based Mike” also has a tendency to get into online fights with braindead NAFO dogs. And like so many clowns before him, he actually thinks NAFO is a government-funded op or run by the CIA. And this dude’s a US Senator!




Mike Lee  @BasedMikeLee · 26m

...

This was a fascinating experiment. For the first couple of hours, the results were overwhelmingly “no,” along the lines of 95-5. But within a few hours the “NAFO fellas” intervened with the explicit objective of “ruining the poll.” And they did. “NAFO fellas,” who’s paying you?



Mike Lee  @BasedMikeLee · Sep 20

Do you want Congress to send an additional \$100 BILLION to Ukraine over the next 14 months?

[Show this poll](#)



96



119



424



48.7K



Eric Schmitt  @Eric_Schmitt · 23m

...

My poll (which I totally copied from you and is ongoing) is playing out the same way.



9



9



58



23K



Mike Lee  @BasedMikeLee

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...

Best propaganda government money can buy! The question is: which arm of which government?

10:23 PM · Sep 21, 2023 · **2,050** Views



Mike Lee  @BasedMikeLee · Oct 21 · 

Best trolls and bots money can buy.

That begs the question: who's paying? And which federal agency is involved?
[twitter.com/intermodal_ts/...](https://twitter.com/intermodal_ts/)



Readers added context

NAFO is a loosely organized group of volunteers who raise money for Ukraine and fight Russian propaganda online. There is no evidence they are paid by any government or sovereign state.

thetimes.co.uk/article/nafo-n...

politico.eu/article/nafo-d...

news.sky.com/story/ukraines...

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Mike Lee 

@BasedMikeLee




Someone's behind the pro-Ukraine troll campaign known as "NAFO." Who is it? A few possible candidates have been suggested. Which one seems most likely to you?

thegrayzone.com/2022/10/28/spo...






 **Mike Lee**  @BasedMikeLee · 3h

Someone's behind the pro-Ukraine troll campaign known as "NAFO." Who is it? A few possible candidates have been suggested. Which one seems most likely to you?

thegrayzone.com/2022/10/28/spo...

Pentagon Contractor	11%
CIA Contractor 	44%
Ukraine (using U.S. \$)	22%
Soros	23%

12,906 votes · 20 hours 13 minutes left

 2,054  684  871  505K 

These days, Mikey's focused on getting the US to leave NATO. He says it only benefits other countries—not America—despite the fact that only one NATO member has ever invoked Article 5: the US, after the Sep 11, 2001 WTC terrorist attacks.



Mike Lee
@BasedMikeLee



Leave NATO

Avert WWII

Before it's too late

Ukraine's Stunning Assault
Roils Moscow's Global
Military Strategy...
Weakens Ability To Wage
War...

Drones destroy 40
aircraft...

Blasts hit trains,
bridges...

The Man Vlad Couldn't
Kill...



RUSSIA'S 'PEARL
HARBOR'

NATO commemorates twentieth anniversary of 9/11 attacks on the United States

11 Sep. 2021 - | Last updated: 11 Sep. 2021 15:45



English | [French](#) | [Russian](#) | [Ukrainian](#)



NATO commemorated the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the United States with a solemn ceremony on Saturday (11 September 2021). Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg and the U.S. Mission to NATO's Chargé d'Affaires Douglas Jones were joined by members of the North Atlantic Council, and NATO's diplomatic and military community for the act of remembrance.



Lee Introduces Bills to Demand Burden Sharing and Oppose Ukraine Membership Ahead of NATO Summit

July 9, 2024

WASHINGTON – As Washington plays host to this year's NATO Summit, Senator Mike Lee (R-UT) is set to introduce a series of bills to address the strategic misdirection of NATO and the decades-long imbalance in defense spending. The summit marks NATO's 75th anniversary, a milestone that calls for reflection and a reassessment of the alliance's operational readiness and financial posture.

"European capitals have grown accustomed to U.S.-subsidized security, allowing them to dictate policy without bearing the risks or costs," said Senator Lee. "This arrangement has been perpetuated out of deference to the so-called 'rules-based international order.' It's time for Congress to remind the alliance—and the Biden administration—that it holds the power to make treaties, extend NATO membership, and conduct oversight of our commitments abroad."

Senator Lee's legislative agenda during the summit includes the following:

Resolution Opposing Security Guarantees for Ukraine

This resolution condemns the Biden administration's recent 10-year bilateral security agreement with Ukraine. It asserts that the agreement has no legal force without Senate ratification and rejects it as a "bridge" to Ukraine's NATO membership. Introduced on June 20, Senator Lee will call for unanimous consent and invites additional cosponsors.

For resolution text, click [HERE](#)

Prohibition on Ukraine NATO Membership

This bill amends the Mutual Security Act of 1954 to stipulate that initiating an accession process for Ukraine will be grounds for immediate U.S. withdrawal from NATO. Senator Lee emphasizes the necessity of this bill to prevent further escalation and undue U.S. commitments.

For claiming to be a “devout Christian,” Mikey’s social media posts are absolutely vile. After a Trump-supporting gunman murdered two Minnesota lawmakers and targeted others, he posted: “This is what happens when Marxists don’t get their way.”

18/21



He also mocked Governor Tim Walz with “Nightmare on Waltz [sic] Street.” After being confronted by two senators and facing nationwide backlash over his verbal diarrhea, “Based Mike” quietly deleted the posts.

19/21



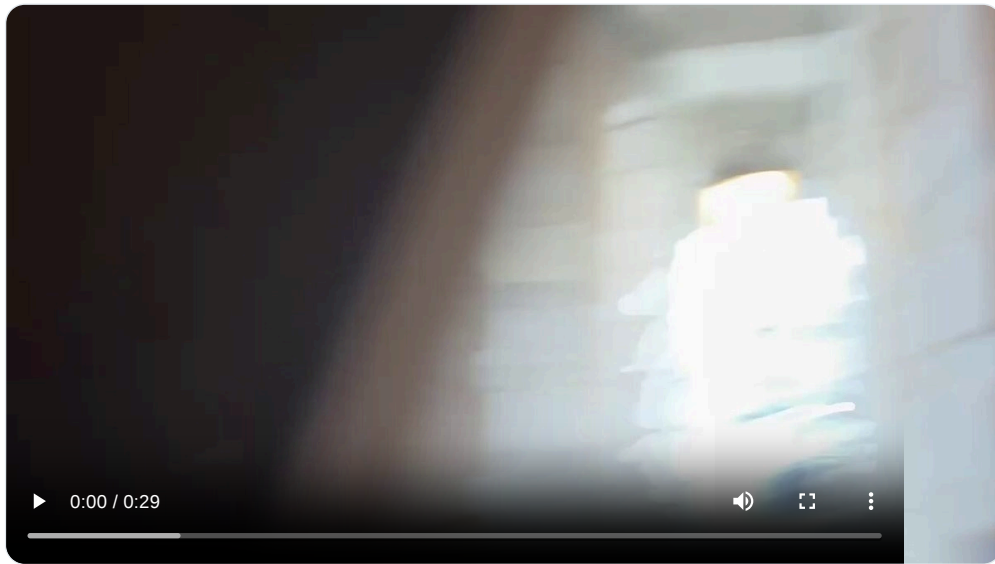
Mike Lee ✓
@BasedMikeLee

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Nightmare on Waltz Street





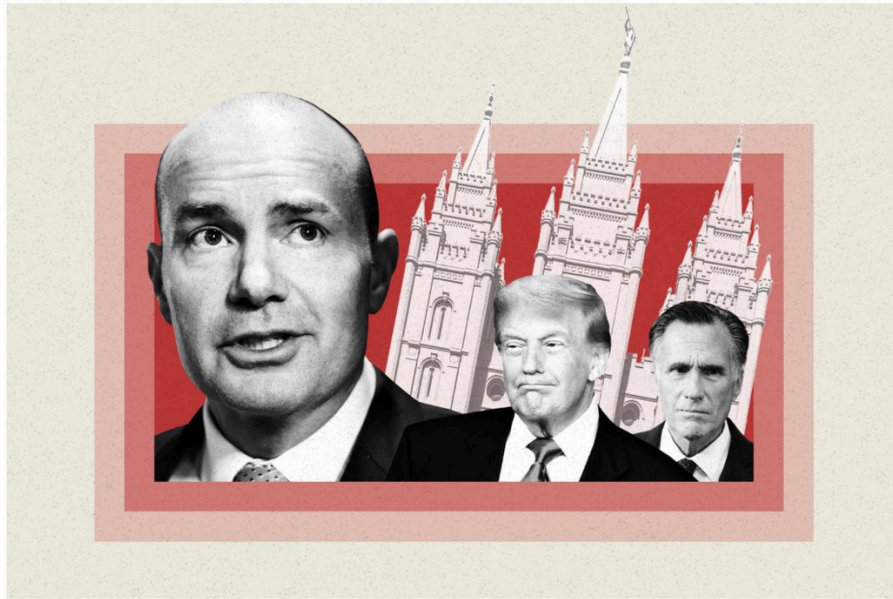
Mikey's unhinged "Based Mike" persona isn't just a stain on the Senate, it's also a growing headache for his church. According to Politico, leaders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are now debating whether his reckless posts are a liability to the faith.

20/21

THE FRIDAY READ

The Devil on Mike Lee's Shoulder

The Utah senator's online persona has further damaged his already frayed relationship with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.



To conclude: As @billybinion wrote, "Mike Lee's transformation from a principled, policy-driven lawmaker into a desperate shitposter should be studied. Not the first time a middle-aged, nerdy guy morphed into a teenager online after getting a taste of internet fame."

HUFFPOST

'Truly Disgusting': GOP Senator Slammed For 'Depraved' Tweets After Shootings

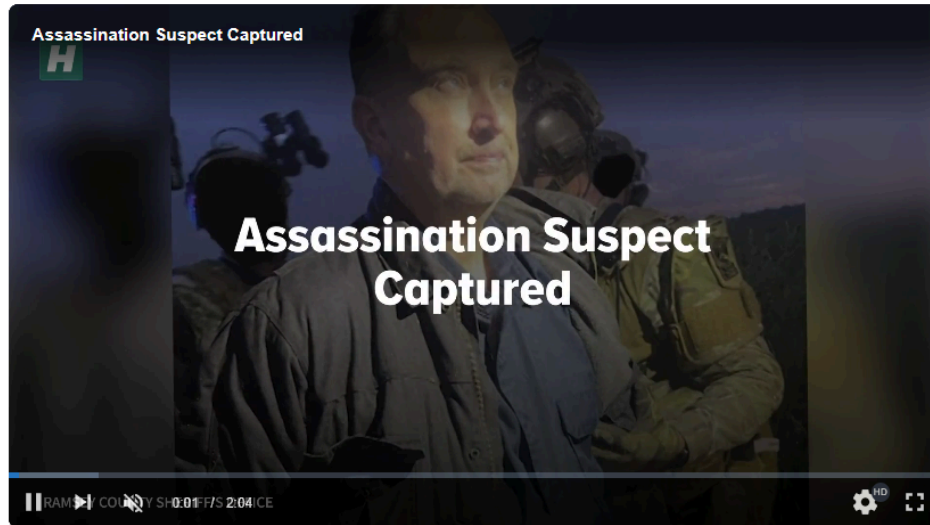
Ed Mazza

Mon, June 16, 2025 at 11:07 AM GMT+3

4 min read



1.4k



The 2nd edition of “Vatnik Soup — The Ultimate Guide to Russian Disinformation” is officially out!

You can order your copy here:



The Book | Vatnik Soup

#vatniksoup is a Twitter thread series (and a hashtag!) where I'll introduce pro-Russian actors and propagandists from around the world, be they so-called “independent journalists”, politicians, mili...

<https://vatniksoup.com/en/books/>

...