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Jan 3 · 16 tweets · [P_Kallioniemi/status/1610193814228008962](https://twitter.com/P_Kallioniemi/status/1610193814228008962)

In today's [#vatnik](#) soup I'll introduce a rabbit hole called QAnon, as it's a necessary step before we delve deeper into US vatniks such as Michael Flynn. QAnon is the origin of many active fringe movements inside the US today and it has spread virally around the world.


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The main idea behind the QAnon cult is that there's a global, satanic cabal of cannibalistic pedophiles that rule the world through what's called a "deep state". QAnon combines elements from various other conspiracy theories, including Pizzagate and Project Mockingbird.


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SCHOOL HISTORY


Operation Mockingbird

 **WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW**


- Overview: Operation Mockingbird
- CIA and the Mass Media
- Church Committee and Actions to Prevent the CIA's Involvement in the News

 **FACT FILE**

[Let's find out more about the Operation Mockingbird!](#)



Operation Mockingbird is the name given to the United States Central Intelligence Agency's (CIA) involvement in the manipulation of the news published in the United States and across the world. Today, we can identify this kind of manipulation as fake news.




Portrait of Senator Frank Church

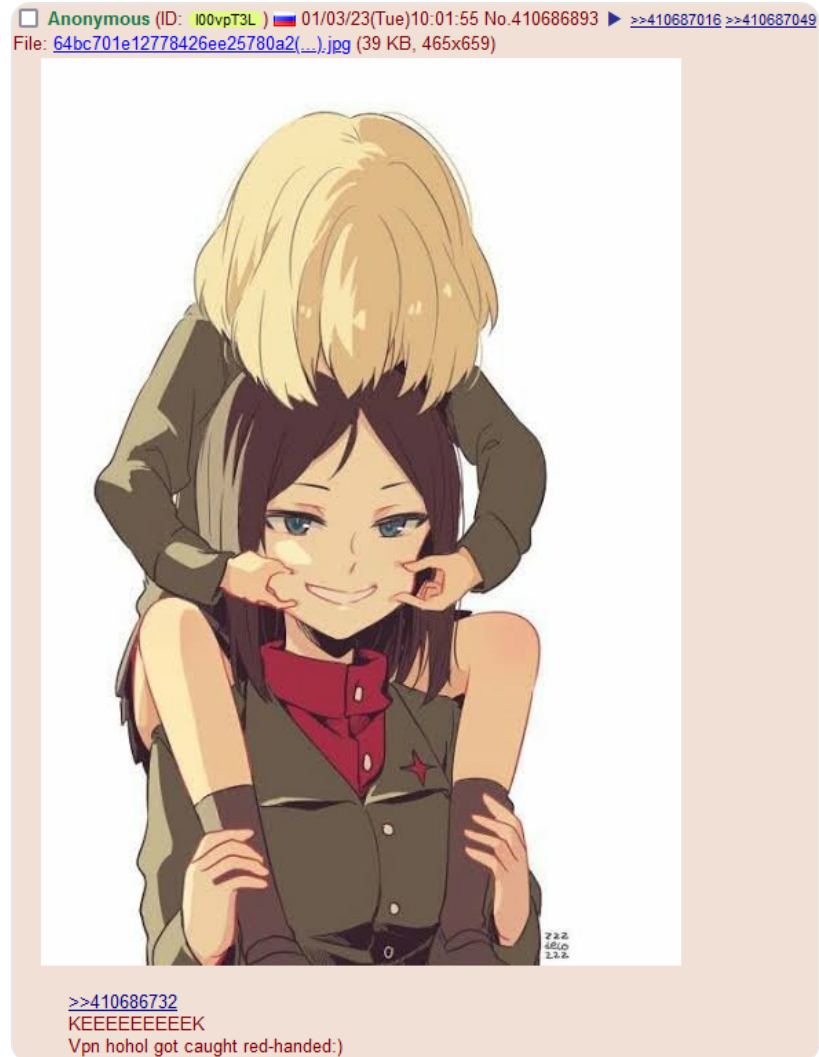
Operation Mockingbird commonly refers to the CIA's involvement in journalism during the 1970s. The CIA bribed students as well as established journalists and reporters to write a CIA version of events.

Senator Frank Church established the Church Committee in order to investigate 'government operations and potential abuses'. The CIA admitted their manipulation of the mainstream media. They wanted to change the American people's minds and published the book, *Family Jewels*.

KEY FACTS



4chan & 8chan were a perfect breeding ground for QAnon, as the general atmosphere was very counter-cultural & the Russians had been throwing their disinformation & propaganda around there for years. These platforms are often a testing ground for disinformation and propaganda.5/16



In many ways, Q was just an amalgamation of other, smaller conspiracy theories discussed on 4chan. Hillary Clinton had been connected to several conspiracy theories years before she was connected to QAnon. There's a good chance some of these theories were of Russian origin.

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Q refers to the highest security clearance in the US, and it allows to people to see the "top secret restricted" data on nuclear weapons and materials. At its early stages, Q was connected to Donald Trump, ...

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... and this message was amplified by Trump himself - as of Aug, 2020, he had retweeted QAnon related messages over 200 times. Apparently the movement fed on Mr. Trump's egoistical nature.

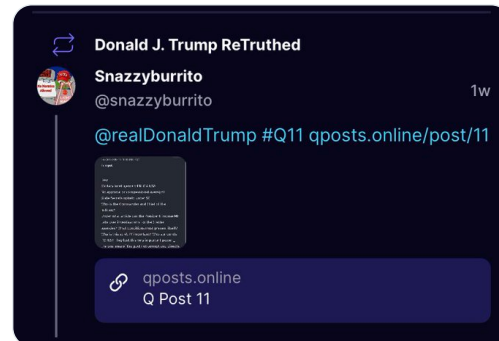
He even hosted a leading QAnon promoter "Lionel" Lebron at the oval office.

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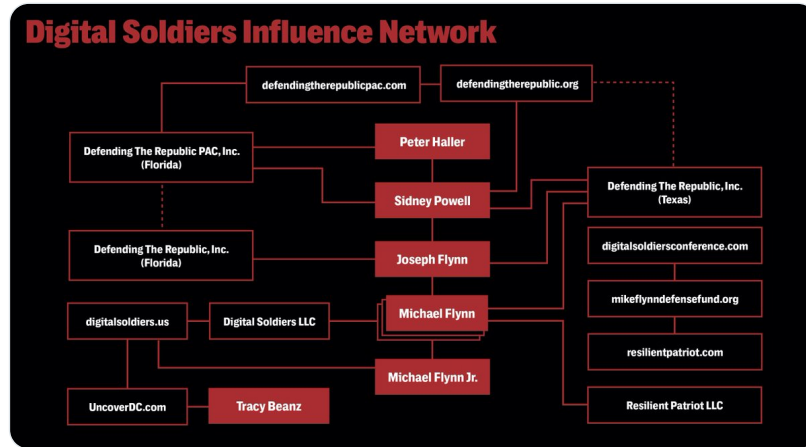
In Aug, 2020, he commented on QAnon: "I don't know much about the movement, other than I understand they like me very much, which I appreciate." Today Trump is still embracing QAnon on his own social media platform, Truth Social.

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Michael Flynn, who briefly served as Trump's National Security Advisor was especially popular among the QAnon followers. Flynn's followers called themselves the "digital soldiers", and Flynn was one the speakers at the 2019 event, "Digital Soldiers Conference".

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Flynn has also posted video of himself leading a small group in an oath with the QAnon motto:



Michael Flynn posts video featuring QAnon slogans | CNN Politics

In a video posted online over the weekend, President Donald Trump's first national security adviser, Michael Flynn, is seen using phrases and slogans that are hallmarks of the baseless QAnon conspira...

<https://edition.cnn.com/2020/07/07/politics/michael-flynn-qanon-video/index.html>

Flynn has also endorsed a website that sells QAnon merch, created a Digital Soldiers media company and appeared on QAnon-related media.

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QAnon members have been involved in many acts of violence around the US. Q fanatics were involved on the 6th Jan 2021 attack on the US Capitol. Also, David DePape, the suspect on the Paul Pelosi attack, was a devout Q follower.

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At its peak, QAnon was banned from most social media platforms and Google even scraped it off from the top search results. This only added fuel to the fire, making the most fanatic followers of the movement become even more devout to Q.

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In 2019, Twitter removed Russia-related accounts spreading QAnon material. After the US Capitol attack, Twitter removed some high-profile people connected to QAnon, including Michael Flynn. After the company was bought by Musk, some of these accounts have been reinstated.

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In today's #vatnik soup, I'll continue discussing about info ops, disinfo & propaganda. Today's focus will be on troll farms and "useful idiots".

As usual, I'll focus on Russia and its activities because of its topicality and the previous research available.

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7:22 AM · Dec 9, 2022



[Read the full conversation on Twitter](#)



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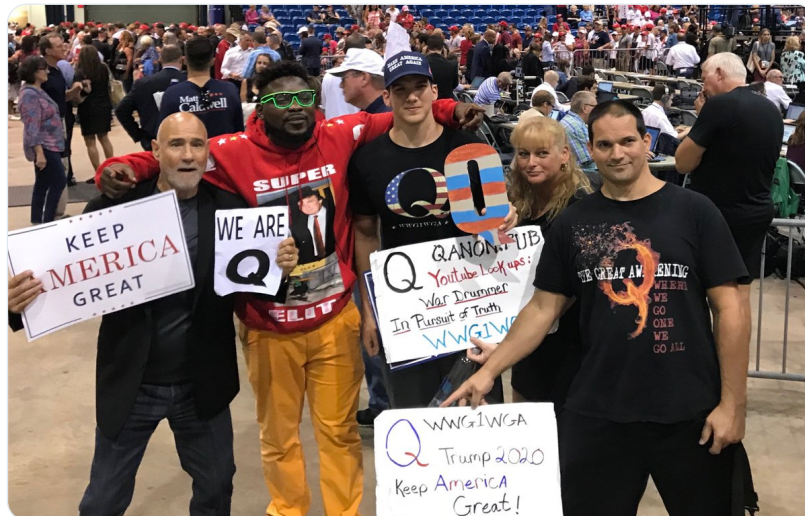
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