



**Pekka Kallioniemi** @P\_Kallioniemi

Jan 9 · 19 tweets · [P\\_Kallioniemi/status/1612395025349971969](https://twitter.com/P_Kallioniemi/status/1612395025349971969)

In today's [#vatnik](#) soup I'll talk about the "fifth column": a group of people who undermine and sabotage a nation or a group from within, usually in favor of a another nation or a group. Their activities often include sabotage, disinfo & propaganda, espionage, and terrorism.

1/19

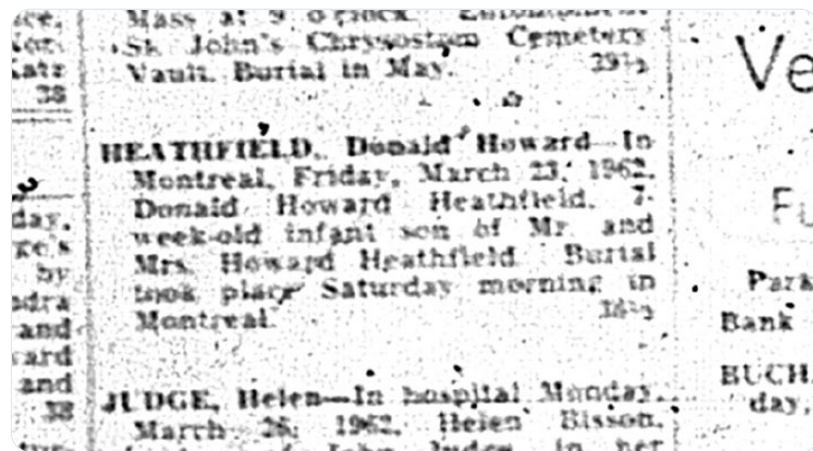


Maybe the most famous case of fifth column is Russia's illegals program. Russian Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR) trained several Russian agents to live indefinitely in the US. Their mission was to get involved in high position in the society, build contacts with ...

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... executives, academics and policymakers, and gather and send intel for the SVR. These "illegals" were often given the identities of dead people and they were supposed to live a normal American life to not raise any suspicion among the common folk.

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One of the best-known illegals is Anna Chapman, who became the "modern Mata Hari" that tried to seduce her way to state secrets. FBI caught up on the illegals at an early stage, and they were tracked and followed from the beginning of the program in Operation Ghost Stories.

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In Jun, 2010, 11 people were arrested and the sleeper agents were charged of spying on behalf of Russia. They were later exchanged for four Russian nationals convicted on espionage on behalf of the US and UK.

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The program was considered to be a failure because of its high costs and bad outcome in terms of intel gathered, but the illegals and those who spy for Russia are considered heroes, and many of them have been offered prominent positions after their return to the motherland.


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Anna Chapman, the "Modern Mata Hari", has become a famous celebrity in Russia, modeling for various magazines, having her own TV show and advertising state-sponsored activities such as encouraging people to take the Sputnik-V COVID-19 jab.

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## Spy-turned-TV host Anna Chapman urges Russians to get vaccinated

By Yaron Steinbuch March 30, 2021 | 12:34pm | Updated



**Anna Chapman**, the Russian intelligence agent busted for spying in the Big Apple in 2010, has now taken on a new mission – persuading vaccine doubters in the Motherland to be jabbed against COVID-19.

The flamed-haired former femme fatale told viewers on REN TV that “the health of your loved ones depends on your decision.”



Andrey Bezrukov and Yelena Vavilova are both working as authors and Andrey is also an adviser to president of Rosneft. Bezrukov & Vavilova also served as the inspiration for the main characters of the (fantastic) TV show The Americans.

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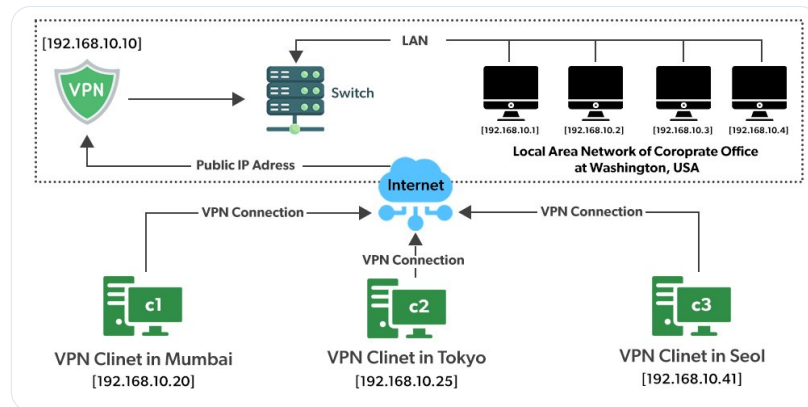
Some time after this Russians started focusing more on online propaganda and cyber warfare. Russia already had a very strong hacker scene dating back to the 90s, but their new plan was something completely fresh in the propaganda sphere: ...

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... they would utilize fictitious "digital illegals" in hybrid warfare against the West. It provided both remoteness and implausible deniability for these digital actors, and technologies such as VPN allowed them to be geographically from any place on earth.

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The most famous spawning point for digital illegals was Yegveny Prigozhin's Internet Research Agency (IRA), but the main script was written by a man named Vladislav Surkov. His idea was to polarize and confuse the West by funding various, opposing parties or organizations.

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For example, IRA would fund both pro-BLM and anti-BLM movements and rally them against each other. Russian disinformation and propaganda machinery exploited the West's idea of free speech and free press, ...

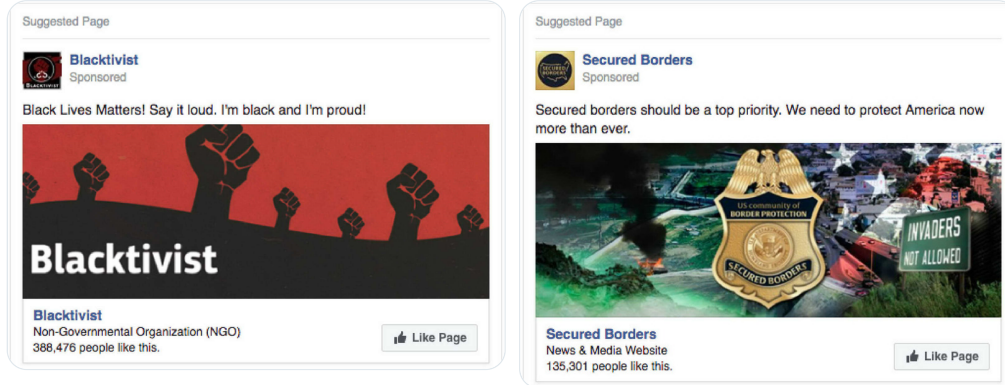
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... and they launched several websites and communities such as "Secured Borders" and "Blacktivists" with a sole purpose of spreading hate and confusion among the Western nations.

In 2016, a man named Matt Skiber became active in the US political sphere.

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He was very active in politics and organized events such as "March for Trump" rally in NY. He arranged megaphones, designed posters, wrote press releases and communicated with other Trump supporters.

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In reality, Matt Skiber wasn't a real person, but a digital illegal and a IRA employee depicting as a Trump supporter. On that particular day his job was to promote Trump and mock Hillary Clinton, but the next day it could be something completely else.

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69. On or about August 2, 2016, Defendants and their co-conspirators used the false U.S. persona "Matt Skiber" Facebook account to send a private message to a real Facebook account, "Florida for Trump," set up to assist then-candidate Trump in the state of Florida. In the first message, Defendants and their co-conspirators wrote:

Hi there! I'm a member of Being Patriotic online community. Listen, we've got an idea. Florida is still a purple state and we need to paint it red. If we lose Florida, we lose America. We can't let it happen, right? What about organizing a YUGE pro-Trump flash mob in every Florida town? We are currently reaching out to local activists and we've got the folks who are okay to be in charge of organizing their events almost everywhere in FL. However, we still need your support. What do you think about that? Are you in?

A November 7, 2016 post from the IRA-controlled Twitter account @Pamela\_Moore13 was retweeted by Donald J. Trump Jr.<sup>103</sup>

On September 19, 2017, President Trump's personal account @realDonaldTrump responded to a tweet from the IRA-controlled account @10\_gop (the backup account of @TEN\_GOP, which had already been deactivated by Twitter). The tweet read: "We love you, Mr. President!"<sup>104</sup>

IRA employees monitored the reaction of the Trump campaign and, later, Trump Administration officials to their tweets. For example, on August 23, 2016, the IRA-controlled persona "Matt Skiber" Facebook account sent a message to a U.S. Tea Party activist, writing that "Mr. Trump posted about our event in Miami! This is great!"<sup>105</sup> The IRA employee included a screenshot of candidate Trump's Facebook account, which included a post about the just 20, 2016 political rallies organized by the IRA.



Screenshot of Trump Facebook Account (from Matt Skiber)

These digital illegals were extremely effective and very cheap assets, which is why Russia has been investing in them for over a decade. In this type of digital warfare, Russia was one step ahead and the West is now paying a hard price for their overlook of the phenomenon.

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**Troll farms reached 140 million Americans a month on Facebook before 2020 election, internal report shows**

"This is not normal. This is not healthy."

By Karen Hao September 16, 2021

A graphic showing two overlapping circular icons: a red one with a white heart and a blue one with a white thumbs-up. To the right of these icons is the number "20,919" in large white font.

A Reuters report wrote a very interesting report on Cologne's fifth column:





Pro-Putin operatives in Germany work to turn Berlin against Ukraine



In Germany some are clamouring for a change in course on Ukraine. Key figures in the campaign have links to the Russian state or far right, a Reuters investigation has found.

<https://www.reuters.com/investigates/special-report/ukraine-crisis-germany-influencers>

Cologne has been a home for many large-scale pro-Russian demonstrations throughout the Russo-Ukrainian War:

 **Visegrad 24**  
@visegrad24 · Follow 

Major pro-Russian demonstration in Cologne, Germany today.


The protesters demanded that the government opens the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline and stops weapons deliveries to Ukraine.




Many came with Russian flags.

These people clearly don't care about massacred Ukrainians.

The media could not be played.

[Reload](#)

6:34 PM · Sep 4, 2022 

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Many of the key figures work in both real and the digital world and they do it very effectively, and most of them are Russian immigrants with connections to Russian intelligence agencies and/or neo-nazis.

This is what a successful fifth column activity looks like.

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Related soups:

Prigozhin / IRA:

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In today's [#vatnik](#) soup I'll be introducing a man behind both 's private war organization and its disinformation and propaganda machine: an oligarch and a businessman Yevgeni Prigozhin. This thread will be divided into 2 (or 3) parts since his "achievements" are plentiful. 1/10



7:01 AM · Nov 9, 2022

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Vladislav Surkov:

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In today's #vatnik soup, I'll introduce a man who has worked mostly behind the scenes - Vladislav Surkov. Some of you might not even recognize the name, but he's the main architect of both the polarizing disinformation program and the annexation system of 🇷🇺. 1/9



7:01 AM · Nov 17, 2022

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Russian info ops:

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In today's #vatnik soup, I'll start an introduction about the Russian information operations (an activity that tries to affect the public opinion and behavior of a society), disinformation and propaganda.

This topic is a broad issue and I'll do it over several threads.

1/10



7:20 AM · Dec 8, 2022



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