

In today's <u>#vatniksoup</u>, I'll introduce a British politician and TV presenter, Nigel Farage (<u>@Nigel_Farage</u>). He's best-known for his prominent role in the Brexit campaign, and for his bootlicking of Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin.



Farage joined the Conservative party at the age of 14. From early on, euroscepticism was at the core of his politics and he voted for the Green Party in 1989 due to their "sensible" policies towards the EU. He left the Conservative party in 1992 in protest to the signing...

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Broadening appeal

Mr Farage is a founder member of UKIP, having defected from the Conservatives after John Major signed the Maastricht Treaty.

He says he wants to broaden UKIP from a single issue party to occupy ground vacated David Cameron's Conservatives on issues such as immigration, taxation and education.

"UKIP is a national political party, and it must begin to act like one," he said in his campaign literature.

He believes that by taking local elections seriously and having a detailed national manifesto the party can emulate the success of the Scottish National Party - achieving a longed-for breakthrough into Westminster politics.

He beat Labour into fourth place at the recent Bromley and Chislehurst by-election, although some in the party believed he should have done even better, given the amount of cash spent on the campaign.

In his more expansive moments, Mr Farage speaks of waging war on the entire Westminster establishment - claiming UKIP is the only voice of opposition to what he sees as the cosy left liberal consensus of the three main parties.

But he is expected to leave the day-to-day running of the party in the UK to party chairman and defeated leadership rival David Campbell Bannerman. ...of the Treaty on European Union, which forms the basis of the EU law. In 1993, Farage was a founding member of the Eurosceptic, right-wing populist UK Independence Party (UKIP). He was elected as a Member of the European Parliament (MEP) in 1999, and was re-elected in...

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...2004, 2009, 2014. While in the EP, he exposed various political figures for their shady deals, including Jacques Barrot and the President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso. He also attacked Belgian politician Herman Van Rompuy, declaring that...



...he had the "charisma of a damp rag" and that he looked like "a low grade bank clerk".

In 2009, Farage boasted about using over 2 million £ of taxpayer money in staff, travel, and other expenses. In 2014 he declared 205 603 £ over ten years in gifts.

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A senior member, Kevin Ellul Bonici, of Nigel's parliamentary EU group was known for making trips to the Russian embassy in Belgium and for organizing smear campaigns against Kremlin critics. One former staffer stated that Ellul Bonici returned from each of these...

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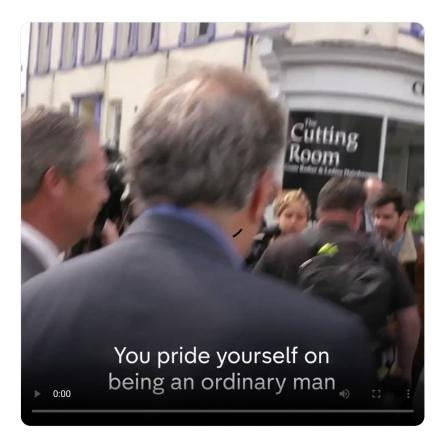
...trips with "a bootload of propaganda". Ellul Bonici was also responsible for uploading Farage clips on "many fringe sites".

Since the beginning of his political career, Farage's politics has been all about one thing and one thing only: UK leaving the EU.



He was one of the main drivers of the Brexit campaign, and was involved in both the Vote Leave and <u>Leave.EU</u> movements. Farage's main financial backer over the years has been businessman Arron Banks.

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When Obama flew to London to "convince" Brits to stay in the EU, Farage called it a "monstrous interference". Ironically, a month later, Farage himself said in an interview with Robert Peston that if "he were an eligible US voter he would vote for Trump in the 2016 presidential..



... election". Few months later he visited the Republican convention with his aide, George Cotrell, and engaged in discussions with Trump's people. Before they could leave the US, Cotrell was arrested on 21 federal counts, including fraud, money laundering and extortion.









In Aug 2016, Farage, his funder Arron Banks, and Andy Wigmore met with Trump at a fundraiser in Mississippi. Later they attended Trump's campaign rally, where he asked Farage to give a speech and introduced him as "Mr. Brexit".

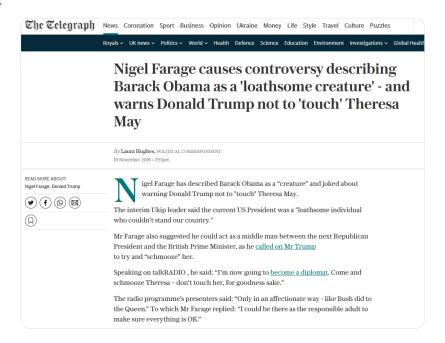
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After Trump won the presidency, Farage stated that he "couldn't be happier".

In the same interview he described Obama as a "loathsome individual" and as "that Obama creature".

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Nigel was listed by the FBI as a person of interest in their investigation on the Russian interference in the 2016 US election due to his connections to Trump, WikiLeaks and Julian Assange. One source claimed that "he's right in the middle of these relationships.

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He turns up over and over again. There's a lot of attention being paid to him." Farage had met with Assange and his lawyers, and Assange and his lawyer were even given an opportunity to contribute to the speeches given by the UKIP. In return, UKIP organized people...

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Farage has not been accused of wrongdoing and is not a suspect or a target of the US investigation. But being a person of interest means investigators believe he may have information about the acts that are under investigation and he may therefore be subject to their scrutiny.

Sources who spoke to the Guardian said it was Farage's proximity to people at the heart of the investigation that was being examined as an element in their broader inquiry into how Russia may have worked with Trump campaign officials to influence the US election.

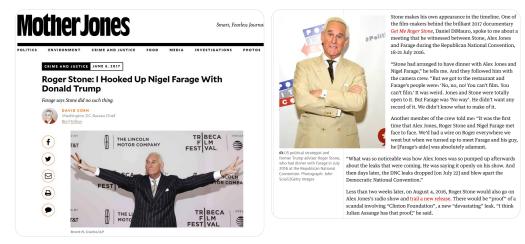
"One of the things the intelligence investigators have been looking at is points of contact and persons involved," one source said. "If you triangulate Russia, WikiLeaks, Assange and Trump associates the person who comes up with the most hits is Nigel Farage.

"He's right in the middle of these relationships. He turns up over and over again. There's a lot of attention being paid to him."

The source mentioned Farage's links with Roger Stone, Trump's long-time political adviser who has admitted being in contact with Guccifer 2.0, a hacker whom US intelligence agencies believe to be a Kremlin agent.

...for a pro-Assange demonstration in London. Documentarian Daniel DiMauro said that Farage had a dinner with Roger Stone and Alex Jones. In Oct 2017, Farage was attending a discussion on LBC radio station where one of the callers suggested that the pro-Israeli lobby in..

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...the US was equally dangerous to the Russian interference in the US politics. Farage called it a "reasonable point", and stated that "there are about 6 million Jewish people living in America, so as a percentage it's quite small, but in terms of influence it's quite big". 16/24



Farage has also appeared alongside conspiracy theorists from LaRouche movement and InfoWars, and shared content from Pizzagate promoter and serial liar Jack Posobiec. He has also described George Soros as "the biggest danger to the entire western world".

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After his Brexit Party didn't gain any seats in the 2019 UK general election, Nigel traveled yet again overseas to work as a warm-up speaker for Trump in his 2020 campaign. In 2021 he did a six-week tour in the US, where he addressed Republican audiences across the country. 18/24



Farage has also suggested that the UK should work more closely with Putin, and that "on this bigger overall battle we need to start recognizing we're on the same side". If the "same side" he's referring to means that we have to conduct chemical attacks on children and...

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Farage has arguably shown more friendship towards Russia than the EU, and in November 2015, suggested working more closely with Russia and its president Vladimir Putin on Syria. "The European Union, and the West, view Putin as the devil. They want to view Putin as the devil. I'm not saying I want take him around for tea and meet mum on Sunday afternoon ... But the point is, on this bigger overall battle we need to start recognizing we're on the same side," he said to LBC Radio.

It wasn't his only controversial opinion on Syria. In 2013, Farage called some members of the EU parliament "extreme militarists," alleging they supported intervention in Syria. And when former prime minister of Belgium Herman van Rompuy interrupted him during that session, he said "why don't you shut up and listen for a change?" on the parliament floor. "You must be—you really must be the vilest and rudest man in European politics! And you rant on, and the Chair lets you get away with it because you're the former Prime Minister of Belgium!" concluded Farage.

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