

Pekka Kallioniemi @P_Kallioniemi May 11 * 24 tweets * P_Kallioniemi/status/1656611885469319168

In today's <u>#vatniksoup</u>, I'll introduce an American political analyst and media executive, Steve Bannon.

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He's best-known for being Trump's chief strategist, "flooding the zone with shit", and for attempting to unite far-right, pro-Putin political parties around Europe.

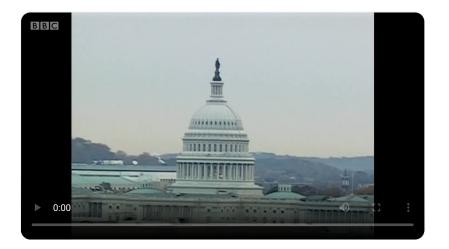


Bannon worked as an officer in the US Navy in the late 70s and early 80s, after which he worked as an investment banker at Goldman Sachs. He's also produced several Hollywood movies between 1991 and 2016. In 1980,Bannon was deployed to assist with the Operation Eagle Claw...

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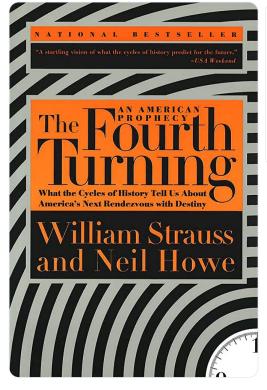


..., a failed effort to save 52 embassy staff members from Tehran ordered by Jimmy Carter. In a 2015 interview, Steve stated that this marked a turning point in his political stance, turning him into a "Reaganite". This ideology of a battle between "good and evil" can be...



clearly seen in his rhetoric. He's also been influenced by the so-called Fourth Turning theory which predicts that we are entering a phase where populism, nationalism and state-run authoritarianism will be on the rise around the world.

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In 2007, Bannon was a founding member of the website Breitbart News, later describing it as "the platform for the alt-right". Time journalist Philip Elliott said that the site pushes "racist, sexist, xenophobic and antisemitic material into the vein of the alternative right".

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Breitbart News Names Executives Who Will Run Company in Wake of Founder's Death



Legal counsel Laurence Solov will become president and CEO while conservative filmmaker Stephen Bannon is named executive chairman.

But it was the announcement of Stephen K. Bannon, a former naval officer turned Goldman Sachs executive turned publisher of far-right vitriol, as chief strategist that signaled an astonishing departure from presidential norms. The sort of role once held by the storied likes of David Axelrod, Karl Rove and Ed Meese would now be filled by the executive chairman of the right-wing Breitbart, a website that has pushed racist, sexist, xenophobic and anti-Semitic material into the vein of the alt right. He is a warrior who has publicly called for a "virulently antiestablishment" populist movement and privately urged grassroots activists to hold Republican leaders accountable. Former editor of Breitbart, Ben Shapiro, called Steve a "bully" who "sold out" the website's original idea to back up Trump. In 2018, Breitbart funders Robert & Rebekah Mercer got rid of him, allegedly due to his "impulsive and attention-seeking antics" and high expenditures. 6/23



Bannon served in the board of Cambridge Analytics, acting as its vice president. This company was also owned by the Mercer family, and it allegedly deployed illegal tactics in targeting US voters in the 2016 presidential election. Former Analytica employee, Christopher...



...Wylie, has claimed that Bannon oversaw the collection of data from Facebook. He called the company a "psychological warfare tool".

Bannon's probably best-known for his work as a chief strategist for Donald Trump. Few days after Trump's inauguration, Bannon told the...



...NYT that "the media should be embarrassed and humiliated and keep its mouth shut and just listen for a while. I want you to quote this: the media here is the opposition party".

Bannon was interviewed on several occasions by Robert Mueller as part of his investigation...

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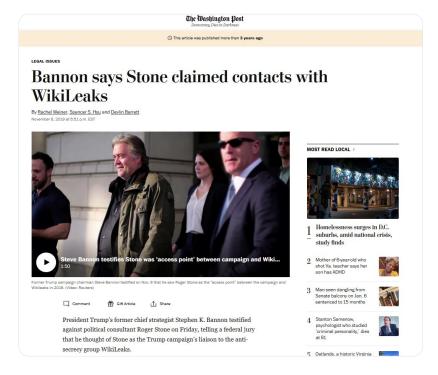
The New Hork Times

Trump Strategist Stephen Bannon Says Media Should 'Keep Its Mouth Shut'



Stephen K. Bannon, center, President Trump's chief strategist, met with business leaders at the White House on Monday. Doug Mills/The New York Times

By <u>Michael M. Grynbaum</u> Jan. 26, 2017 ...on the Russian interference in the 2016 US election. In Nov 2019, he gave evidence against Roger Stone, saying that Stone was Wikileaks' access point for the Trump campaign, and he was subsequently convicted on all charges, only to be pardoned by Trump.



The Senate Intelligence Committee also looked into his activities and connections to George Papadopoulos and Carter Page, who both played a role in the Russian interference in the 2016 US election. In Aug 2020 members of the senate intelligence committee said that they...

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The committee is looking into what Bannon might know about any contacts during the campaign between Moscow and two advisers to the campaign, George Papadopoulos and Carter Page, they said.

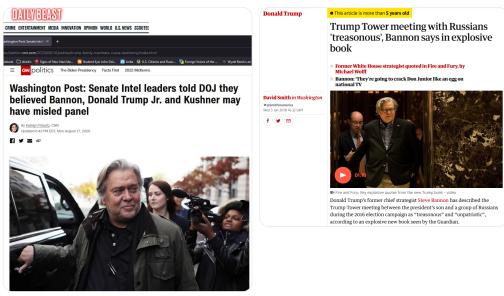
William Burck, a lawyer for Bannon, told Reuters: "The Senate Intelligence Committee has expressed an interest in interviewing Mr. Bannon as a witness, just as they have many other people involved in the Trump Campaign. But the Committee has never suggested that he's under investigation himself and to claim otherwise is recklessly false."

Papadopoulos, a consultant, initially advised the presidential campaign of Republican hopeful Ben Carson before joining the Trump campaign. Page is also a consultant, who had business contacts in Russia.

On Sept. 7, Papadopoulos was sentenced to 14 days in prison. He had pleaded guilty last year to lying to FBI agents about the timing and significance of his contacts with Russians, including a professor who told him the Russians had "dirt" on Trump's Democratic presidential rival, Hillary Clinton.

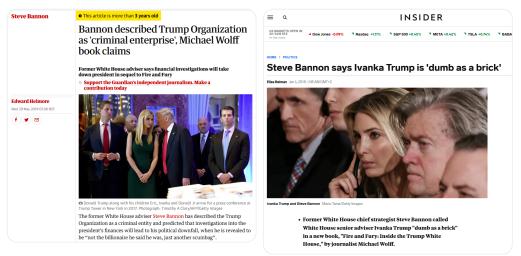
No charges have been filed against Page.

believed that Bannon, Jared Kushner, and Don Trump Jr. may have misled them with their testimonies. Bannon later said that he considered the meeting between Don Jr., Kushner, Paul Manafort and the Russian officials "treasonous". He also said that investigators will likely..



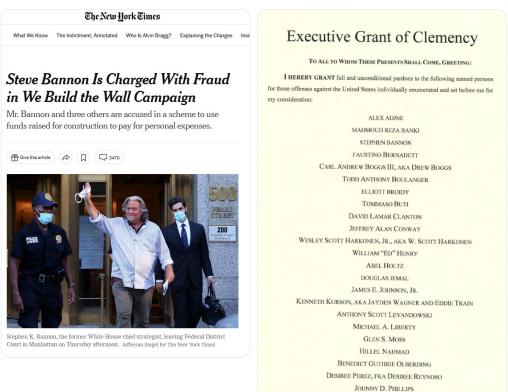
..uncover money laundering activities that involve Jared Kushner and Deutsche Bank. He's called the Trump business a "criminal enterprise". Bannon himself was arrested in Aug 2020 and was charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud and money laundering - Bannon & others...

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...collected money to build a wall at the US-Mexico border, and allegedly made payments to themselves instead. Prosecutors alleged that Steve got more than 1 000 000 million USD in connection with this plan.

Trump pardoned Bannon in Jan 2021.



Steve has adopted the Russian "firehose of falsehood" propaganda style, calling it "flood the zone with shit". He's stated that "We got elected on Drain the Swamp, Lock Her Up, Build a Wall. This was pure anger. Anger and fear is what gets people to the polls."

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The Firehose of Falsehood: the Russian style of propaganda for an age of information abundance.

- High volume and multi-channel approach
- Shameless in its willingness to broadcast lies
- No commitment to, or requirement for consistency
 Rapid, continuous and repetitive messaging
- Point is not to persuade but to confuse and overwhelm
- Assumes a low trust environment and lowers it further
- Number of arguments matters more than their qualityDrown out competing messages through sheer volume

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	Congress by the jury on Friday. Steve Banton once farmously declared that the way to win in politics is to	Trump Says He Will Be Arrested Tuesday, Calls For Protects

The Economist has stated that Bannon (along with political analyst Stephen Miller) sees Putin as a "fellow nationalist & crusader against cosmopolitanism". He's said that Putin is "standing up for traditional institutions, and he's trying to do it in a form of nationalism". 16/23

> Bannon, who has spent the year since his eviction from the White House supporting proto-fascist movements throughout Europe, neatly elucidated the importance of this alliance in a 2014 talk at the Vatican. Traditionalists "believe that at least Putin is standing up for traditional institutions, and he's trying to do it in a form of nationalism—and I think that people, particularly in certain countries, want to see the sovereignty for their country. They want to see nationalism for their country," he explained during a question-and-answer session following his speech. "They don't believe in this kind of pan-European Union, or they don't believe in the centralized government in the United States. They'd rather see more of a states-based entity that the founders originally set up, where freedoms were controlled at the local level."

> The "Judeo-Christian West," he concluded, "really have to look at what he's talking about, as far as traditionalism goes—particularly the sense of where it supports the underpinnings of nationalism— and I happen to think that the individual sovereignty of a country is a good thing and a strong thing. I think strong countries and strong nationalist movements in countries make strong neighbors, and that is really the building blocks that built Western Europe and the United States, and I think it's what can see us forward."

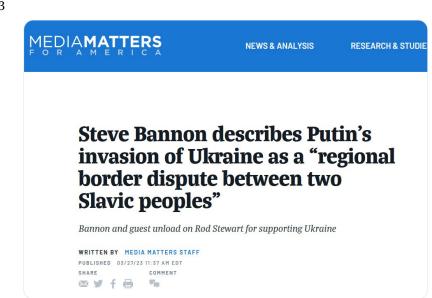
He's also a fan of Alexander Dugin, a Russian political strategist, whom he allegedly met in Rome in 2018. He's cited Dugin on various occasions, and has described himself as a fan of his 2009 book The Fourth Political Theory.

17/23

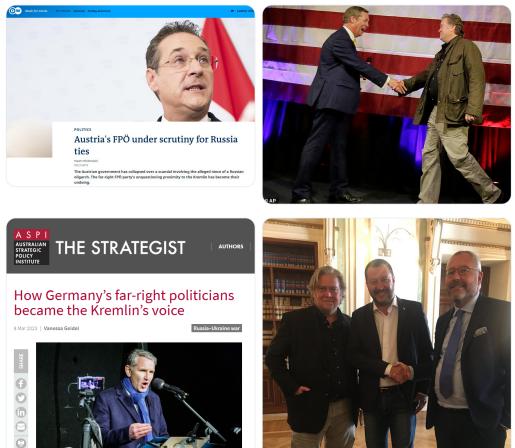


The book has been referred as an inspiration for Russian foreign policy, including the war in Donbas.

Bannon's described Putin's invasion of Ukraine as a "border dispute" and "a Slavic fist fist on the eastern border of Ukraine".



During 2018, Bannon formed a foundation called The Movement, where he tried to unite right-wing populist parties around Europe. He visited and had talks with many of the pro-Kremlin parties in Europe, including Austrian FPÖ, British UKIP, German AfD, Italian Lega Nord,...





...Hungarian Fidesz, Spanish Vox, Swiss SVP, and France's National Rally.

Incidentally, all these parties and/or some of their members have been previously featured in <u>#vatniksoup</u>.









A 2023 study conducted by Brookings Institution revealed that Bannon's podcast broadcasted the highest proportion of disinformation and unsubstantiated statements among 79 political podcasts examined.

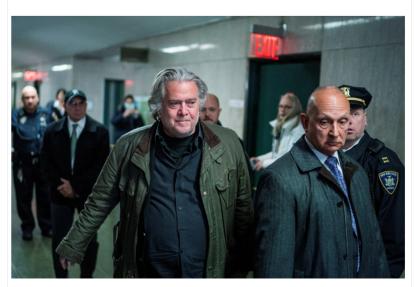
21/23

The New Hork Times

Steve Bannon's Podcast Is Top Misinformation Spreader, Study Says

A large podcast study found that Mr. Bannon's "War Room" had more falsehoods and unsubstantiated claims than other political talk shows.

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Researchers at the Brookings Institution found that nearly 20 percent of Stephen Bannon's podcast episodes contained a false, misleading or unsubstantiated statement. Eduardo Munoz/Reuters

These days Bannon is still flooding the zone with shit with his "Bannons [sic] War Room" show on Rumble. Recently he's also encouraged conspiracy theorist Robert F. Kennedy Jr. to run against Joe Biden in the 2024 Democratic Party presidential primaries.

22/23



<u>Steve Bannon</u> spent "months" encouraging anti-vaccine poster boy <u>Robert F. Kennedy</u> <u>Jr.</u> to challenge President Biden for the Democratic nomination in the 2024 presidential election according to a report CBS News reporter Robert Costa reports As a traditionalist, Bannon has been married and divorced three times. In 1996, his thenwife accused Steve of domestic abuse, but the charges were later dropped after she failed to appear in court.



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Related soups: 2016 Trump campaign:



In today's #vatniksoup, I'll talk about the Trump 2016 presidential campaign, and how it was connected to various Russian actors.

In this retrospect, I'll introduce some of the people who worked in Trump's 2016 campaign for the presidency, outlining their activities.



Firehose of Falsehood:



In today's #vatniksoup, I'll be talking about the Russian style of online propaganda and disinformation, "Firehose of Falsehood". It's a commonly used Kremlin strategy for Russian information operations, which often prioritizes quantity over quality.

1/23

The Firehose of Falsehood: the Russian style of propaganda for an age of information abundance.

- High volume and multi-channel approach
- · Shameless in its willingness to broadcast lies
- No commitment to, or requirement for consistency
- Rapid, continuous and repetitive messaging
- · Point is not to persuade but to confuse and overwhelm
- Assumes a low trust environment and lowers it further
- Number of arguments matters more than their quality

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Roger Stone:



In today's #vatniksoup, I'll introduce an American political consultant and lobbyist, Roger Stone (@RogerJStoneJr). He's best-known for his work as an advisor to Donald Trump & for his alleged connections with Julian Assange and the GRU in relation to the leaked DNC e-mails. 1/20

