

Trump's Actions That Benefit Russia at America's Expense

By Samuel Dean | <https://planetwaves.net/>

- Attempts to ease sanctions
 - Trump refuses to impose Russian sanctions for 2016 election meddling until March 2018, in defiance of law passed by Congress in June 2017
 - <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-russia-sanctions/trump-administration-holds-off-on-new-russia-sanctions-despite-law-idUSKBN1FI2V7>
 - <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/15/us/politics/trump-russia-sanctions.html>
 - Trump signs Russian sanctions into law due to veto-proof majority, but issues public protest along with his signature denouncing the sanctions
 - <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/statement-president-donald-j-trump-signing-counteracting-americas-adversaries-sanctions-act/>
 - Congress was so afraid Trump would lift sanctions on Russia that it included provision preventing him from doing so in 2017 sanctions law
 - <https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2017/7/28/16055630/congress-trump-russia-sanctions-veto>
 - Trump delays Russian sanctions for UK poisoning by over 6 months, in defiance of law passed by Congress
 - <https://www.cnn.com/2019/08/02/politics/trump-russia-sanctions-chemical-weapons-spy-poisoning/index.html>
 - Trump tower meeting with Russian government lawyer was about ending sanctions
 - <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/new-email-shows-trump-tower-meeting-with-russian-lawyer-was-about-sanctions-not-hillary-clinton>
 - Trump lifts sanctions on Rusal and 2 other Russian companies owned by Putin's righthand man, oligarch Oleg Deripaska, despite House resolution in opposition
 - <https://www.cnn.com/2019/01/27/politics/trump-admin-lifts-sanctions-oleg-deripaska/index.html>
 - <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-joint-resolution/30>
 - Secretly ordered top aides to prepare proposals for lifting Russian sanctions
 - <https://www.npr.org/2017/06/02/531269090/trump-administration-made-secret-efforts-to-ease-russia-sanctions>
 - Expressed willingness to return diplomatic compounds to Russia, which were seized in retaliation for 2016 election interference

- https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/trump-administration-moves-to-return-russian-compounds-in-maryland-and-new-york/2017/05/31/3c4778d2-4616-11e7-98cd-af64b4fe2dfc_story.html
 - Trump admin settles Prevezon Holdings case for less than \$6M, no admission of guilt, and no asset seizure (Preveson is Russian company involved in a \$230M money laundering scheme exposed by Sergei Magnitsky, who was falsely arrested by Russia and beaten to death in jail, the namesake of the Magnitsky Act (Russian sanctions) that Putin desperately wants repealed.)
 - <https://www.businessinsider.com/us-v-prevezon-case-settlement-russia-money-laundering-2017-5>
 - Trump tells Russian spy he'd drop sanctions if elected
 - https://www.huffpost.com/entry/trump-agent-russia-sanctions_n_5b4d19e7e4b0de86f485b0a5
- Military and diplomatic decisions that advance Russian objectives
 - Removal of 2,000 troops from Syria, allowing Russia to reassert influence in ME and take control of Syrian oil reserves
 - <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/12/20/world/middleeast/syria-us-withdrawal-iran.html>
 - <https://www.thedailybeast.com/russia-thinks-trumps-syria-pullout-is-too-good-to-be-true>
 - Trump abandons Kurdish allies in Syria, benefitting Russia and its ally Turkey
 - <https://www.cnbc.com/2019/10/07/trump-handing-syria-to-turkey-is-gift-to-russia-iran-isis-mcgu.html>
 - Trump gives advance warning to Russia before firing Tomahawk missiles, allowing Russian ally Assad to move warplanes to safety
 - <https://www.cnbc.com/2017/04/06/the-us-warned-the-russians-ahead-of-syria-missile-strikes-official.html>
 - <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/04/08/syrian-warplanes-take-air-base-bombed-us-tomahawks/>
 - Trump pulls out of Open Skies treaty, hindering US ability to gather Russian intel
 - <https://www.newsweek.com/another-trump-gift-putin-former-diplomats-horrified-administrations-reported-plans-ditch-1463788>
 - Trump pulls out of INF treaty, allowing Russia freedom to do the same and increase their proliferation of nuclear missiles
 - <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-49198565>
 - Trump opposes using spies on foreign adversaries like Russia
 - <https://www.cnn.com/2019/09/10/politics/donald-trump-foreign-spies-skeptical/index.html>
 - Iran nuclear deal pull-out increases profits on Russian oil
 - <https://portside.org/2018-05-11/donald-trumps-huge-gift-vladimir-putin>

- Trump personally ordered withholding \$400 million in military aid authorized by Congress that Ukraine needed to oppose Russian invasion
 - https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/trump-ordered-hold-on-military-aid-days-before-calling-ukrainian-president-officials-say/2019/09/23/df93a6ca-de38-11e9-8dc8-498eabc129a0_story.html
- Trump told Ukraine to negotiate directly with Russia, without US help, as Putin wants, aiding in Russia's goal of isolating Ukraine
 - <https://www.thedailybeast.com/trump-says-he-hopes-ukraine-president-zelensky-and-putin-can-be-bffs-5>
- Publicly weighs delivering Americans (including a former ambassador and the man who exposed the Magnitsky scandal, 2 of Putin's most hated enemies) into Russian custody for interrogation and likely execution or murder on false charges, in exchange for Russian "help" investigating itself
 - <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2018/07/19/trump-open-russian-questioning-former-u-s-ambassador-mcfaul/799041002/>
- Trump proposes working with Russia to create joint cyber-security unit, despite Russia being the US's main cyber-aggressor
 - <https://www.cnn.com/2017/07/10/politics/trump-ends-cyber-security-plan-putin/index.html>
- Trump misuses funds meant to deter Russia to pay for wall instead
 - <https://www.thedailybeast.com/trump-raids-funds-meant-to-deter-russia-to-pay-for-his-wall>
- Sharing classified information
 - Trump reveals code-word level secret info to Russians in the Oval Office, betraying Israel's trust and leading to the loss of their asset
 - https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/trump-revealed-highly-classified-information-to-russian-foreign-minister-and-ambassador/2017/05/15/530c172a-3960-11e7-9e48-c4f199710b69_story.html
 - CIA extracts top US spy in Russia with Putin access based on fear that Trump would expose his identity to the Russians
 - <https://www.cnn.com/2019/09/09/politics/russia-us-spy-extracted/index.html>
 - Trump tweets classified surveillance photo, exposing specifics of US capabilities to Russia & other countries
 - <https://www.npr.org/2019/08/30/755994591/president-trump-tweets-sensitive-surveillance-image-of-iran>
- Weakening NATO (mutual defense alliance created primarily to oppose Russia)
 - Questions & undermines Article V (mutual defense)

- <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/07/18/world/europe/trump-nato-self-defense-montenegro.html>
 - Specifically omitted line from written speech committing US to Article V
 - <https://www.businessinsider.com/trump-nato-speech-article-5-omission-2017-6>
 - Publicly discusses US pulling out of NATO
 - <https://www.businessinsider.com/trump-slams-allies-threatens-nato-pullout-after-wwi-paris-trip-2018-11>
 - Privately discusses US pulling out of NATO
 - <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/01/14/us/politics/nato-president-trump.html>
 - Says NATO is obsolete
 - <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/15/world/europe/donald-trump-nato.html?module=inline>
 - Says NATO is unfair
 - <https://www.newsweek.com/trump-nato-unfair-new-alliance-iran-1320396>
 - Says NATO is too expensive
 - https://www.realclearpolitics.com/video/2016/03/27/trump_europe_is_not_safe_lots_of_the_free_world_has_become_weak.html
- Attempts to downplay Russia's misconduct
 - Trump sides with Putin over US intel agencies in public statements in Helsinki
 - <https://www.cnn.com/2018/07/16/politics/donald-trump-putin-helsinki-summit/index.html>
 - Trump defends Putin's murders by asking, "You think we're so innocent?"
 - <https://www.cnn.com/2017/02/04/politics/donald-trump-vladimir-putin/index.html>
 - Attempts to blame Ukraine for Russian hacking
 - <https://www.thedailybeast.com/crowdstrike-the-truth-about-trumps-insane-ukraine-server-conspiracy>
 - Attempts to blame 400 lb hacker or China for Russian hacking
 - <https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2018/07/trump-russia-hack/565445/>
 - Attempts to blame democrats for Russian hacking
 - <https://www.vox.com/2018/12/4/18125764/nrcc-hack-trump-talking-point>
 - Attempts to blame Obama for Russian hacking
 - <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2018/07/14/donald-trump-blames-barack-obama-russian-hackings-before-putin-meeting/785205002/>
 - Denial of Russia's poisoning in UK
 - <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2019/oct/05/trump-told-theresa-may-he-doubted-russia-was-behind-skripal-poisoning>

- Refuses to criticize Russia for Ukraine invasion
 - <https://www.cnn.com/2018/11/26/politics/russia-ukraine-trump-silence/index.html>
- Refuses to condemn Russia for election interference
 -
- Trump admin changes IRS rules to prevent NRA from having to disclose donors after reports that NRA accepted millions from Russia
 - <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2018/07/17/trump-administration-wont-force-nra-kochs-disclose-donors-irs/792094002/>
- Trump tells Russia he wasn't concerned by their 2016 election interference
 - https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/trump-told-russian-officials-in-2017-he-wasnt-concerned-about-moscows-interference-in-us-election/2019/09/27/b20a8bc8-e159-11e9-b199-f638bf2c340f_story.html
- Attempts to rehabilitate Russia's standing
 - Trump demands that Russia be readmitted to G7 after its expulsion for invading Ukraine, despite Russia's refusal to withdraw
 - <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/08/20/us/politics/trump-russia-g7.html>
 - Congratulates Putin on "reelection" despite warning from not to
 - https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/trumps-national-security-advisers-warned-him-not-to-congratulate-putin-he-did-it-anyway/2018/03/20/22738ebc-2c68-11e8-8ad6-fbc50284fce8_story.html
- Weakening American alliances
 - Trump calls Canada a national security threat
 - <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/08/business/trump-economy-national-security.html>
 - Insults Germany
 - <https://www.cnn.com/2018/07/10/politics/donald-trump-nato-summit-2018/index.html>
 - Insults Mexico
 - <https://time.com/4473972/donald-trump-mexico-meeting-insult/>
- Damaging America's soft power
 - Slashes State Dep't personnel
 - <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/03/16/us/politics/trump-budget-cuts-state-department.html>
 - Massive cuts to international aid, reducing US influence and increasing instability (which are 2 of Russia's geopolitical goals)
 - <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/03/16/us/politics/trump-budget-cuts-state-department.html>
- Damaging America's reliability
 - Damages full faith & credit by proposing that the US default on debt payments

- <https://www.mediamatters.org/donald-trump/media-slam-trumps-insane-plan-default-us-debt>
 - Trump unilaterally pulls out of Iran nuclear deal for no reason
 - <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-44045957>
 - Trump unilaterally pulls out of Paris Accords for no reason
 - <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-40127326>
 - In a sudden betrayal, Trump abruptly pulls US support of Kurdish allies fighting ISIS in Syria, precipitating a Turkish invasion, after persuading them to remove their fortifications against Turkey earlier that month with a promise to protect them from Turkey if they did so
 - <https://www.cnbc.com/2019/10/07/us-troops-begin-pullout-from-along-turkeys-border-in-syria.html>
 - NAFTA renegotiation
 - <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/10/01/business/trump-nafta-usmca-differences.html>
- Enhancing division inside the U.S.
 - Invasion rhetoric
 - Inserting himself into every social issue to enflame tensions
- Promoting Russia's false propaganda
 - "I don't see any reason why it would be" Russia who interfered in our election
 - <https://www.politico.com/story/2018/07/16/trump-putin-meeting-election-meddling-722424>
 - Montenegro are aggressors who will start WWII
 - https://www.huffpost.com/entry/rachel-maddow-donald-trump-conspiracy-theories-russia_n_5c2f1c1ae4b08aaf7a980eef
 - Poland will invade Belarus
 - https://www.huffpost.com/entry/rachel-maddow-donald-trump-conspiracy-theories-russia_n_5c2f1c1ae4b08aaf7a980eef
 - Justifying USSR's invasion of Afghanistan
 - <https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2019/01/trump-just-endorsed-ussrs-invasion-afghanistan/579361/>
 - Repeating Russian narrative for G7 ouster/Crimea invasion
 - <https://www.thedailybeast.com/trump-at-g7-blames-everybody-but-putin-for-crimea-annexation>
 - Trump quotes email re. Benghazi, falsely attributed to Clinton-ally Blumenthal by Russian propaganda site
 - <https://www.npr.org/2016/10/11/497520017/trump-apparently-quotes-russian-propaganda-to-slam-clinton-on-benghazi>
 - Trump's conduct on Ukraine phone call will be exploited by Russia

- <https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2019/09/trump-response-ukraine-russia-zelensky-putin/>
- Destroy American belief in democracy, free press, & accountability
 - Claim that millions of illegals voted
 - Claims of rampant voter fraud
 - Claims of fake news
 - Claims of Deep State
 - Claims of rampant corruption in democrats (normalizing republican corruption)
- Russians' statements about Trump
 - “Donald’s right, and I agree with him,” [regarding US troop withdrawal from Syria] said President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia, whose influence over Syria can only grow more dominant as the United States exits.
 - “Trump is God’s gift that keeps on giving,” said Vladimir Frolov, a Russian columnist and foreign affairs analyst. “Trump implements Russia’s negative agenda by default, undermining the U.S.–led world order, U.S. alliances, U.S. credibility as a partner and an ally. All of this on his own. Russia can just relax and watch and root for Trump, which Putin does at every TV appearance.”
 - “We can tolerate some degree of unpredictability and mercurial policies on the tactical level — it’s worth it,” Mr. Frolov, the Russian foreign affairs analyst, wrote in response to written questions. “In Trump we trust ... to do the right thing.”
 - Konstantin Kosachev, head of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the Upper House of the Russian Parliament, has said that “the departure of James Mattis is a positive signal for Russia, since Mattis was far more hawkish on Russia and China than Donald Trump.” Kosachev opined that Trump apparently considered his own agenda in dealing with Russia, China and America’s allies to be “more important than keeping James Mattis at his post,” concluding: “That’s an interesting signal, and a more positive one” for Russia.
 - Semyon Bagdasarov, director of the Moscow-based Center for Middle Eastern and Central Asian Studies, appearing on the Russian state TV show “The Evening with Vladimir Soloviev,” described the ultimate outcome of the U.S. withdrawal from Syria as “a total dream come true.” The host, Vladimir Soloviev, chimed in and predicted a massive picnic—“It will be a real celebration, in the best traditions!”
 - State TV host Olga Skabeeva surmised that Americans are “losers, since Putin has defeated them in every way.” With a theatrical sigh, her co-host, Evgeny Popov, added: “Trump is ours again—what are you going to do?” Every member of the sizeable audience enthusiastically clapped. Russian opinion makers recount the Kremlin’s victories with unmistakable glee. Popov smirked: “It seems to Americans that we won on every front: the U.S. Secretary of Defense has been

removed, we unquestionably secured a complete, unconditional victory in Syria. ... On top of that, Rusal sanctions have been lifted with Trump's hands." Panelists of the show, including Russian lawmakers, couldn't hide their satisfied grins.

- Discussing the planned departure of the U.S. from Syria, state TV host Olga Skabeeva pondered why Trump suddenly decided to leave at this point in time: "Americans say, it's because he is beholden to Putin. Is that logical? Yes, it is."