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## The Hillary Clinton E-mails

- ◆ In the months leading up to the 2016 election, there was evidence that Hillary Clinton used her private e-mail server to send sensitive (classified) information and that these e-mails were read by enemies of the U.S.
  - ◆ Trump wanted Clinton investigated for the content of the e-mails
  - ◆ The FBI Director James Comey's letter to Congress detailing Clinton's inappropriate use of the private e-mail server may have cost her the election.
  - ◆ "A week ago, the US election looked to be over. Hillary Clinton was riding so high in the polls after a disastrous series of gaffes by Donald Trump that few could conceive of a Republican path to victory on 8 November. Friday's shock announcement by the FBI may not be enough to change that outcome on its own, but it has certainly set political imaginations reeling again."
- <https://www.republican.com.au/news/2016/oct/19/fbi-ill-clinton-donald-trump-the-director-comey-cta>

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## Meanwhile, Russia was up to no good...

- Revealed a history of information tampering through its own disinfo KGB, it had been meddling in elections throughout Ukraine, Georgia and other ex-Soviet states.
- In the weeks leading up to the 2016 election, "Facebook revealed as many as 246 million Americans may have seen content from Russia-based agents on the site over the past two years." (from a November 23, 2017 article (source below))

[www.lejournal.fr/uk/news/2017/11/23/facebook-rd-amer-much-russian-fake-news-huge-impact/](http://www.lejournal.fr/uk/news/2017/11/23/facebook-rd-amer-much-russian-fake-news-huge-impact/)

- Indeed, WikiLeaks was handed partially by Russia! Next slide also from above source...

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**At a glance | Russian influence on the US PP/Governor election**

In January 2017 the US Intelligence Community published a declassified report on its investigation into Russian activities during the 2016 national election. Its conclusions:

1. Vladimir Putin authorized Russian agencies to influence the US election result
2. The Russian operation developed a clear preference for Donald Trump and attempted to discredit Hillary Clinton at every opportunity, comprising her unfavorability with her
3. Putin holds a personal animus against Hillary Clinton dating from her time as Secretary of State. By contrast, he has engaged positive relations with politicians who possess international business interests. For example, Steve Bannon
4. The sophisticated Russian operation involved cyberespionage and public disclosure of confidential data on WikiLeaks. The WikiLeaks data contained no detectable forgeries
5. Although the Russians also acquired data from Republican campaigns, they did not disclose these to anything like the same extent
6. The operation also used more conventional propaganda channels, such as the Kremlin-influenced TV station RT, and paid trolls, such as the so-called Internet Research Agency
7. The Kremlin did not expect Trump to win and had planned an additional operation stage of attempting to discredit a fledgling Clinton administration
8. This was the broader Russian strategy to influence US politics since the Cold War, although previous operations had been modest in 2008 and 2012. As permitted access to the report will study be further necessary?

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## Fast forward to 2016-2017...

There seemed to be a fondness or admiration between Trump and Putin. He had said some positive and admirable comments about Putin on the campaign trail, noting Putin's leadership style as effective -- even though to US intelligence and Congress (and anybody who appreciates democracy) Putin is an autocrat and human rights abuser running a puppet democracy.

Let's see how SNL depicted that relationship:

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Trump and Putin as BFF's...  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Ar80sFzVw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Ar80sFzVw)