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# THE EPOCH TIMES

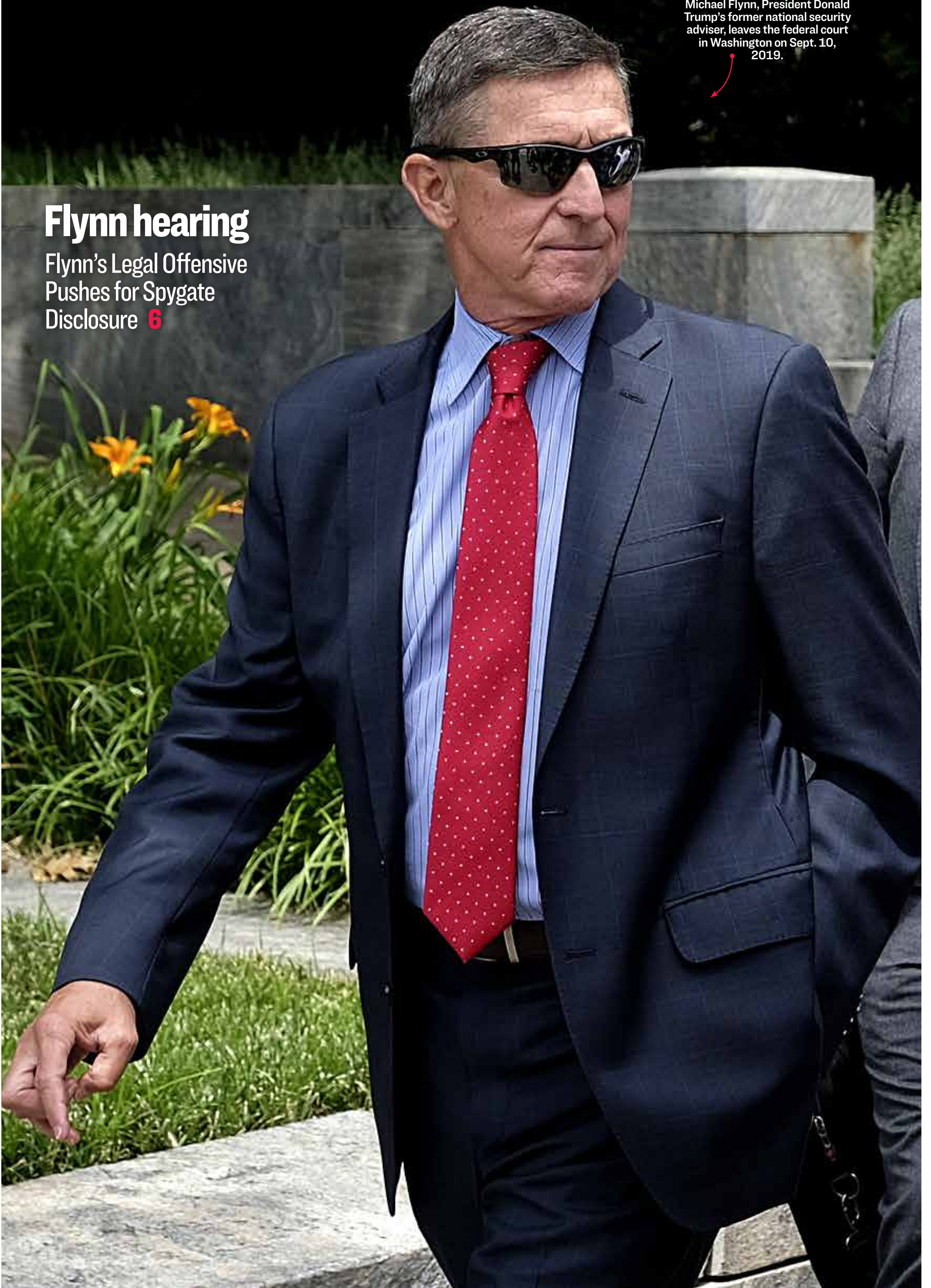
# OUR

# NATION

Michael Flynn, President Donald Trump's former national security adviser, leaves the federal court in Washington on Sept. 10, 2019.

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# Russian Spy Revelation Raises Questions on CIA Information, Potential Links to Steele Dossier

JEFF CARLSON

## News Analysis

The revelation of the alleged extraction of a Russian CIA spy has raised a number of questions, including how the CIA used the information it received—and the quality of that information. Notably, the spy appears to have been a key source for the allegations of Russian interference in the 2016 elections.

A closer examination of the spy's alleged background, however, paints a complicated picture. The spy's direct supervisor appears to have been mentioned in the Steele dossier, and it's possible that information provided by the spy may have been included in the dossier.

The primary allegation in the Sept. 9 CNN article—that the decision to extricate the spy was driven by “concerns that President Donald Trump and his administration repeatedly mishandled classified intelligence”—has been disputed by the White House and the CIA. However, the main premise, the existence of a Russian spy who now lives in the Washington area, appears to hold.

It's likely that the spy, who has been living in the United States since May 2017, is of interest to U.S. Attorney John Durham, who is currently investigating the origins of the investigations into the Trump campaign.

## Key Questions Raised

The underlying premise of the CNN story is that there was a CIA spy who was embedded within the Kremlin:

“The source was considered the highest-level source for the U.S. inside the Kremlin, high up in the national security infrastructure, according to the source familiar with the matter and a former senior intelligence official.”

While CNN is citing only one source for this claim in its story, The New York Times supports CNN's contention of a CIA spy in the Kremlin:

“Decades ago, the C.I.A. recruited and carefully cultivated a midlevel Russian official who began rapidly advancing through the governmental ranks. Eventually, American spies struck gold: The longtime source landed an influential position that came with access to the highest level of the Kremlin.”

The New York Times noted that the source was “outside of Mr. Putin's inner circle, but saw him regularly and had access to high-level Kremlin decision-making—easily making the source one of the agency's most valuable assets.”

But The New York Times also noted that there were some doubts within the CIA. Following the refusal of extraction in late 2016, some officials within the CIA “wondered whether the informant had been turned and had become a double agent, secretly betraying his American handlers.”

The potential ramifications of a double agent were dire, holding very real implications that “some of the information the informant provided about the Russian interference campaign or Mr. Putin's intentions would have been inaccurate.”

And it wasn't just the agent's initial refusal of extraction that prompted concerns within the CIA. According to The New York Times, “some operatives had other

One has to wonder why the alleged Russian source has been living openly in our nation's capital—with apparently little fear of reprisal from Russia.



John H. Durham, U.S. attorney for the district of Connecticut.



CNN logo.

The boss of the suspected Russian spy, is directly referenced in the Steele dossier in a Sept. 14, 2016, memo.

Then-President Barack Obama at the White House on Jan. 18, 2017.



Former CIA Director John Brennan testifies before the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence on Capitol Hill on May 23, 2017.

reasons to suspect the source could be a double agent, according to two former officials.”

On Sept. 10, the Russian *Kommersant* newspaper reported the likely identity of the alleged spy, a matter later picked up by the Washington Post, which noted that “intelligence experts were baffled that reporters were able to so quickly glean information about a potentially high-level CIA asset.”

The Washington Post reported that the alleged spy worked directly for Yuri Ushakov, Russia's ambassador to the United States from 1999 to 2008, and served as Ushakov's aide. This would place the CIA source within close reach of Putin, as Ushakov later served as Putin's foreign policy adviser “when Putin became prime minister in 2008 and stayed with him when Putin became president in 2012.”

The New York Times has noted that this source “was instrumental to the C.I.A.'s most explosive conclusion about Russia's interference campaign: that President Vladimir V. Putin ordered and orchestrated it himself.”

The source was apparently highly regarded by former CIA Director John Brennan, who felt the identity of the source was so important that, according to the New York Times article, he “kept information from the operative out of President Barack Obama's daily brief

in 2016.”

“Instead, Mr. Brennan sent separate intelligence reports, many based on the source's information, in special sealed envelopes to the Oval Office,” according to the article.

But the nature of the source raises some very real questions. If, for example, the source was indeed so highly placed, why then was the United States so seemingly ill-informed regarding many of Russia's foreign policy actions, particularly in Syria or Crimea, when Russia forcibly annexed the peninsula from the Ukraine?

And if this asset was indeed so highly placed, how is it that Russia was able to hack the Democratic National Committee servers and extract their emails without the CIA's advance knowledge of the alleged Russian activities?

There is another significant problem, as well. The Mueller report, after two lengthy years of investigation, concluded there was no evidence that the Trump campaign colluded with Russia, thereby proving a key part of the alleged Russian activities incorrect.

How could the same spy who was “instrumental to the C.I.A.'s most explosive conclusion about Russia's interference campaign,” when he was ensconced within reach of Putin's innermost circle, fail to provide even more concrete proof for Mueller's team of investigators

after he was exfiltrated to our nation's capital in 2017?

Another strange element to this entire story is the lack of secrecy and almost reckless disregard exhibited by the spy himself. If he indeed served as “one of the C.I.A.'s most important—and highly protected—assets,” how is it that he came to live in our nation's capital, all the while living under his Russian name? And why is it that Russia was so quickly willing to identify him publicly following the initial reports?

As The Washington Post noted, “It is highly unusual for a country to name a possible turncoat. It's even more unusual for a suspected spy and defector to be living abroad using his own name.”

Notably, the source wasn't particularly difficult to locate, given that NBC News reporter Ken Dilanian disclosed that he had personally gone to the Russian source's home on Sept. 9. Dilanian's reporting also confirmed the general location of the source's whereabouts.

According to The Washington Post, the alleged Russian source, who resided in a “six-bedroom house on three acres” had suddenly left “on Monday evening and hadn't returned.”

One has to wonder why the alleged Russian source has been living openly in our nation's capital—with apparently little fear of reprisal from Russia.



NICHOLAS KAMM/AFP/Getty Images

three separate and expert groups. On one side had been the Russian ambassador to the US, Sergei KISLYAK, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, together with an independent and informal network run by presidential foreign policy advisor, Yuri USHAKOV (KISLYAK's predecessor in Washington) who had urged caution and the potential negative impact from Russia from the operation/s.”

What makes this particularly curious is that by the time the Steele memo was written in mid-September 2016, Brennan had already delivered information on this matter to the White House:

“Early last August, an envelope with extraordinary handling restrictions arrived at the White House. Sent by courier from the CIA, it carried ‘eyes only’ instructions that its contents be shown to just four people: President Barack Obama and three senior aides.” The Washington Post reported on June 23, 2017.

The fact that the CIA information and the Steele dossier contained the same information raises the question of whether the “senior member of the Russian Presidential Administration” mentioned in the dossier is the same as the CIA Russian spy.

This, in turn, would raise the question of how Steele appears to have ended up with the same information as the CIA.

Brennan has claimed that he didn't see the dossier until “later in that year,” perhaps in December 2016. He also stated in his testimony that the CIA didn't rely on the Steele dossier and that it “was not in any way used as a basis for the intelligence community assessment that was done.”

But this claim was countered during the July 16, 2018, testimony of former FBI lawyer Lisa Page, when the following discussion took place regarding Brennan's August 2016 briefing of then-Sen. Harry Reid:

**REP. MARK MEADOWS:** “We have documents that would suggest that in that briefing the dossier was mentioned to Harry Reid and then, obviously, we're going to have to have conversations. Does that surprise you that Director Brennan would be aware of [the dossier]?”  
**LISA PAGE:** “Yes, sir. Because with all due honesty, if Director Brennan – so we got that information from our source, right? The FBI got this information from our source. If the CIA had another source of that information, I am neither aware of that nor did the CIA provide it to us if they did.”

While some within the FBI likely had parts of the dossier in early July, Page testified that the counterintelligence investigative team didn't receive it until mid-September—likely during their trip to Rome, where they met with Steele:

**REP. MEADOWS:** “So what you're saying is, is that you had no knowledge of these potential unverified memos prior to the middle part of September in your investigation?”  
**PAGE:** “That is correct, sir.”

This sequence indicates that only Brennan, the CIA, and Steele had direct access to this information prior to the FBI's meeting with Steele in Rome—again begging the question, did Brennan have the information first? And if so, who gave it to Steele?

Following the delivery of the Mueller report, Brennan commented on the information he had received—a matter picked up on by an internet researcher:

“Well, I don't know if I received bad information but I suspected there was more than there actually was. I am relieved that it's been determined there was not a criminal conspiracy with the Russian government over our election. I think that is good news for the country.”

If Brennan was making this admission after using a source the CIA claimed was the “highest level source for the U.S. inside the Kremlin”—a source who had been, until Sept. 9, living openly under his own name—one has to question the entirety of the CIA's sourcing and reporting on the Russia collusion narrative.

# Sluggish Investment Due to Energy and Aviation Sectors

EMEL AKAN

WASHINGTON—The recent weakness in U.S. business investment may be largely related to falling oil prices and the grounding of Boeing's 737 Max 8 jet, JPMorgan Chase finds, challenging claims that the trade dispute with China is undercutting capital spending.

Business investment slowed sharply in recent months, prompting some analysts to read it as another recession sign and blame the U.S.–China trade war for the slowdown.

However, the main culprits could be falling oil prices and aircraft setbacks, which “are unlikely to cause serious harm to the broader economy,” according to Jim Glassman, head economist for JPMorgan Chase's commercial banking operation.

In addition, the grounding of Boeing's 737 Max 8 jet, JPMorgan Chase's commercial banking operation.

“A closer look shows that the decline in capital investment, much like this summer's softening industrial output, has been concentrated in the energy and aviation sectors,” Glassman wrote in a note.

“This implies that trade tensions with China are not derailing business investments. Instead, idiosyncratic forces, including falling oil prices and the grounding of Boeing's 737 Max 8 jet, are skewing capital investment trends,” he added.

Second-quarter gross domestic product (GDP) slowed to a 2.0 percent annual rate from a 3.1 percent pace in the first quarter. One of the major drags on GDP growth was business investment that declined for the first time since early 2016.

Nonresidential fixed investment—which consists of spending by businesses on software, research and development, equipment, and structures—fell sharply to a 0.6 percent rate from a 4.4 percent rise in the first quarter.

Company executives are eager to invest during an economic expansion. When a recession hits, however, they take a more cautious approach and slow their business investments.

Capital investment trends have sent mixed signals this year. Investments in software and intellectual property climbed by more than 7 percent annually in the first half, indicating that businesses were eager to invest in technology, according to Glassman. However, outlays for construction and equipment slowed sharply during the same period.

In addition, the slowdown was concentrated in the oil exploration and aviation sectors instead of sectors that were heavily exposed to China trade.

## Headwinds: Oil Prices and Boeing

The oil and gas industry slashed investments after the price of crude oil dropped to \$56 per barrel from nearly \$70 per barrel a year ago. Drilling activity in the sector is highly sensitive to oil prices and therefore, lower prices bring about cutbacks in oil and gas exploration investment.

“Approximately one-third of this year's total capital investment slowdown has been concentrated in the mining exploration, shafts, and wells category, which includes investment in new oil wells,” Glassman said, adding that capital spending in the sector has dropped by 8.5 percent in 2019 after growing 14.4 percent last year.

In addition, the grounding of Boeing's 737 Max 8 jetliner has been a significant drag on the economy this year.

Since the worldwide grounding of the aircraft in March, following accidents in Indonesia and Ethiopia, Boeing has been struggling to fix software and clear regulatory demands.

The company hasn't completely halted the jet's production. The new planes are being held as inventory until they're recertified to fly. But the production backlog may be reducing capital investment by \$61 billion annually, according to Glassman.

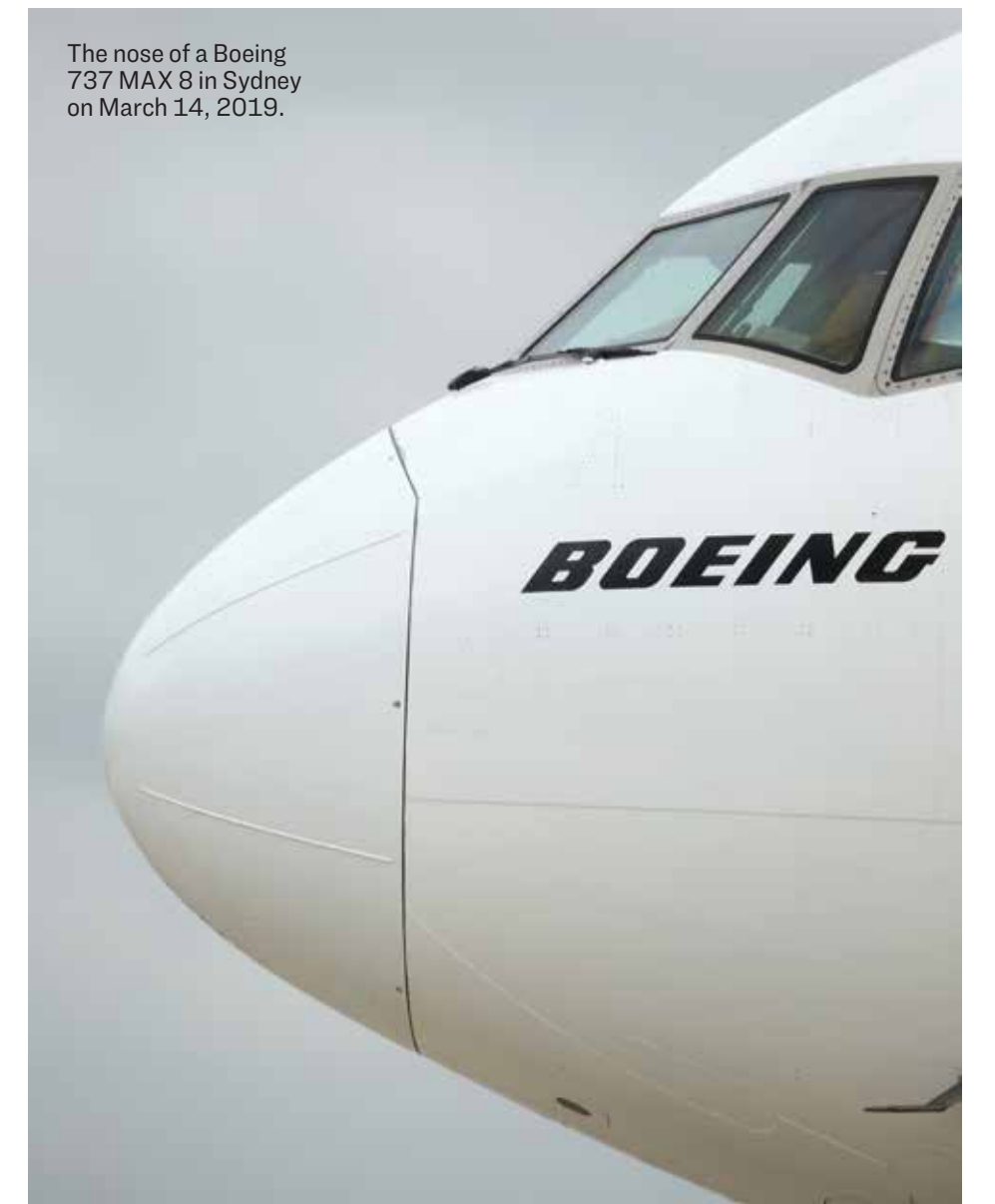
This crisis “led to a 20 percent cutback in production, accounting for much of this year's national manufacturing slump and shaving approximately half a percentage point from GDP growth in the second quarter,” he wrote.

The negative impact of the Boeing crisis on the U.S. economy will rapidly reverse once the aircraft receive regulatory clearance to fly, he said.

Many Wall Street analysts are crunching data to understand the effects of the trade war on companies' investment activities. There is evidence that the trade dispute is leading some companies to scale back investment.

Nearly one-fourth of the companies in the S&P 500 discussed the term “tariff” on earnings calls for the second quarter, a more than 40 percent jump from the first quarter, according to data provider FactSet.

In the second quarter, Dow Chemical, for example, announced that it would reduce its planned capital expenditures for the year by \$500 million because of “ongoing trade and geopolitical uncertainties.”



The nose of a Boeing 737 MAX 8 in Sydney on March 14, 2019.

CAMERON SPENCER/GETTY IMAGES



# Trump Forces Out National Security Adviser John Bolton

IVAN PENTCHOUKOV

President Donald Trump forced out national security adviser John Bolton on Sept. 10.

"I informed John Bolton last night that his services are no longer needed at the White House," Trump wrote on Twitter.

"I disagreed strongly with many of his suggestions, as did others in the Administration, and therefore, I asked John for his resignation, which was given to me this morning."

Trump thanked Bolton for his service. The president said he will name a new national security adviser next week.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who is part of the national security team, said Trump was well within his rights to fire Bolton. Pompeo acknowledged that he has disagreed with Bolton many times.

"The president is entitled to the staff that he wants at any moment," Pompeo said during a briefing at the White House shortly after news of Bolton's exit. "He should have people that he trusts and values and whose efforts and judgments benefit him in delivering American foreign policy."

Addressing questions on whether U.S. foreign policy in regards to Iran would change with Bolton's departure, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin told reporters that the Trump administration is aligned in pursuing a maximum pressure campaign against the Islamic regime.

"We've done more sanctions on Iran than anybody, and it's absolutely working," Mnuchin said, adding that Trump's offer to meet the Iranian president with no preconditions still stands.

Bolton joined the White House in April 2018, replacing H.R. McMaster. White House spokesman Hogan Gidley told reporters that deputy national security adviser Charles Kupferman will serve as the acting national security adviser. Gidley said Bolton's "priorities and policies just don't line up with the president."

Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) said that he found Bolton "to be accessible and always pursuing an agenda that not only helps the President but makes America safe."

"I hope the president will choose someone with a strong background in national security and a world view that there is no substitute for American power when it comes to world order and that strength is better than weakness," Graham said in a statement.

Harry Kazianis, a senior director at the Center for the National Interest, said that the firing of Bolton was "long overdue and a smart move for Team Trump."

"While there are many possible candidates that Trump could reach out to, the current North Korea Special Representative Stephen Biegun, who already has decades of government and foreign policy expertise, could be a strong choice," Kazianis said in an emailed statement.

"Douglas MacGregor, a favorite on Fox News and a retired U.S. Army Colonel who is very much in line with Trump's restrained foreign policy vision, is also very much worth consideration."

Pompeo noted that Trump has stuck to the foreign policies he spoke about while on the campaign trail. The departure of any one cabinet official will not change Trump's stance, he said.

"I don't think any leader around the world should make any assumption that because someone of us departs, that President Trump's foreign policy will change in a material way," Pompeo said.

Mnuchin pointed out that Trump and Bolton had conflicting views on the Iraq War.

Trump and Bolton gave differing accounts of the departure.

"I offered to resign last night and President Trump said, 'Let's talk about it tomorrow,'" Bolton wrote on Twitter minutes after Trump issued a pair of messages about accepting Bolton's resignation.

Bolton's departure comes as the



LEON NEAL/GETTY IMAGES

Trump administration is exerting intense pressure on several adversaries, including China, North Korea, Iran, and Venezuela.

Since joining the administration in early 2018, Bolton has espoused skepticism about the president's relations with North Korea and has advocated against Trump's decision in 2018 to pull U.S. troops out of Syria. He masterminded a quiet campaign inside the administration and with allies abroad to persuade Trump to keep U.S. forces in Syria to counter the remnants of the ISIS and Iranian influence in the region.

Bolton was also opposed to Trump's now-scrapped plan to bring Taliban negotiators to Camp David on Sept. 8 to try to finalize a peace deal in Afghanistan.

One Republican familiar with the disagreements between Trump and Bolton said the adviser's opposition to a possible meeting between Trump and Iranian President Hassan Rouhani was a precipitating factor in the dismissal.

Bolton's ouster came as a surprise to many in the White House. Just an hour before Trump's tweet, the press office announced that Bolton would join Pompeo and Mnuchin in a briefing. A White House official said that Bolton had departed the premises after Trump's tweet and would no longer appear as scheduled.

**I disagreed strongly with many of his suggestions, as did others in the Administration.**

President Donald Trump

In a further sign of acrimonious relationship, a person close to Bolton told reporters that they had been authorized to say one thing—that since Bolton has been national security adviser, there have been no "bad deals" on Iran, North Korea, Russia, and Syria. The person, who did not divulge who had given the authorization, wasn't allowed to discuss the issue by name and spoke only on condition of anonymity.

When asked to respond to the person's comment, White House press secretary Stephanie Grisham smiled and told reporters: "I don't know how to read" it. "Sounds like just somebody trying to protect him," she said.

Bolton has championed hawkish foreign policy views dating back to the Reagan administration and became a household name over his vociferous support for the Iraq War as the U.S. ambassador to the U.N. under George W. Bush. Bolton briefly considered running for president in 2016.

Trump has admired Bolton for years, praising him on Twitter as far back as 2014. Trump has told allies he thinks Bolton is "a killer" on television.

*The Associated Press contributed to this report.*

(Top) President Donald Trump (C) leaves with national security adviser John Bolton (R) after holding a press conference ahead of his departure from the G7 summit in La Malbaie, Canada, on June 9, 2018.

(Middle) Secretary of State Mike Pompeo at the White House on Sept. 10, 2019.

(Bottom) White House national security adviser John Bolton outside the White House on April 30, 2019.



MANDEL NGAN/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



CHIP SOMODEVILLA/GETTY IMAGES

**I don't think any leader around the world should make any assumption because someone of us departs that President Trump's foreign policy will change in a material way.**

Mike Pompeo, secretary of state

# Chief of World Meteorological Organization Calls Out Climate 'Doomsters and Extremists'



FABRICE COFFRINI/PHOTOTIMAGES

**Climate experts have been attacked by these people and they claim that we should be much more radical. They are doomsters and extremists.**

Petteri Taalas, secretary-general, World Meteorological Organization

IVAN PENTCHOUKOV

The head of the world's foremost weather science organization issued a surprise rebuke to climate alarmists in remarks published on Sept. 6, marking what may be, according to some experts, one of the most significant developments in the climate debate in decades.

Petteri Taalas, the secretary-general of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), told the Talouselämä magazine in Finland that he disagrees with doomsday climate extremists who call for radical action to prevent a purported apocalypse.

"Now, we should stay calm and ponder what is really the solution to this problem," Taalas said. "It is not going to be the end of the world. The world is just becoming more challenging. In parts of the globe, living conditions are becoming worse, but people have survived in harsh conditions."

The remarks came as a "total surprise," especially coming from Taalas, who has himself made alarmist statements about the climate, according to Benny Peiser, the director of the Global Warming Policy Foundation in London.

"I think they're beginning to realize that the whole agenda has been hijacked by extremists and undermining the economy and the social stability of European countries," Peiser told The Epoch Times.

Taalas said that establishment meteorological scientists are under increasing assault from radical climate alarmists, who are attempting to move the mainstream scientific community in a radical direction. He expressed specific concern with some of the solutions promoted by climate alarmists, including calls for couples to have no more children.

"While climate skepticism has become less of an issue, we are being challenged from the other side. Climate experts have been attacked by these people and they claim that we should be much more radical. They are doomsters and extremists. They make threats," Taalas said.

"The latest idea is that children are a negative thing. I am worried for young mothers, who are already under much pressure. This will only add to their burden."

According to Myron Ebell, the chair of the Cooler Heads Coalition—an organization that challenges climate alarmism—Taalas's remarks are significant because he heads the WMO. The WMO is one of the two organizations that founded the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 1988. Since being formed, the IPCC has become the leading institution worldwide to promote the theory that human activity contributes to global warming.

"It's a major international organization. It has a lot of credibility, and for the head

World Meteorological Organization Secretary-General Petteri Taalas gives a press conference in Geneva on Oct. 8, 2018.

**I think they're beginning to realize that the whole agenda has been hijacked by extremists and undermining the economy and the social stability of European countries.**

Benny Peiser, director, Global Warming Policy Foundation in London

of it to say that the alarmists have gone too far is important, or potentially important," Ebell said.

"We'll have to see what the impact is and also what the blowback is," he said. "Because, in the past, when people have stepped out of line in a more realistic or skeptical direction, the alarmist establishment has been pretty effective—and often in a very brutal way—in punishing or forcing people back into line."

While Taalas limited his examples in the climate debate to Finland, some of the extremism Ebell references is akin to the rhetoric employed by climate alarmists in the United States. Democratic socialist Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez has become one of the key faces of that movement. The New York congresswoman regularly promotes the theory that the world will enter an irreversible downward spiral toward apocalypse unless the United States takes radical action to eliminate carbon dioxide emissions in 12 years.

The deadline that Ocasio-Cortez references comes from a special report by the IPCC, which states that "global warming is likely to reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052 if it continues to increase at the current rate." The report concludes that risks of long-lasting or irreversible impact on the earth's ecosystems are higher if warming breaches the 1.5-degree mark by 2030.

Taalas pointed out that climate extremists are selectively picking out facts from the IPCC reports to fit their narrative.

"The IPCC reports have been read in a similar way to the Bible: you try to find certain pieces or sections from which you try to justify your extreme views. This resembles religious extremism," Taalas said.

Greenpeace co-founder Patrick Moore called Taalas's remarks the "biggest crack

in the alarmist narrative for a long time."

"The meteorologists are real scientists and probably fed up with Greta, Mann, Gore, & AOC catastrophists. Good on him," Moore wrote on Twitter on Sept. 7. AOC is the acronym commonly used to refer to Ocasio-Cortez. The three others named in the message are Michael Mann, a climatologist; Greta Thunberg, a 16-year-old Swedish student; and former Vice President Al Gore.

The vast majority of the climate models the IPCC uses as the basis for its predictions have incorrectly forecast higher temperatures repeatedly. According to an analysis by the Cato Institute, 105 of the 108 models predicted higher surface temperatures for the period between 1998 and 2014 than were actually recorded.

The IPCC has previously admitted that climate models can't be used to accurately predict long-term changes in the climate.

"In sum, a strategy must recognise what is possible. In climate research and modeling, we should recognise that we are dealing with a coupled non-linear chaotic system, and therefore that the long-term prediction of future climate states is not possible," the IPCC's 2018 report states.

Peiser said he sent Taalas's comments to a list of 5,000 media contacts, but none have picked up the story. Peiser's nonprofit posted the first translation of the comments, some of which were adopted for this article after verification.

"I think people are utterly shocked by the language that he is using," Peiser said. "He talks about a religious cult. He talks about people being extremists and doomsters. It's quite staggering. The language that he uses and the signal that he's sending out is 'We are afraid of these extremists. They are destroying our society.'"



ESTHER LIBERT/SHUTTERSTOCK

Climate change protesters at Melbourne Central in Melbourne, Australia, on Sept. 6, 2019.



# Flynn's Legal Offensive Pushes for Spycgate Disclosure

PETR SVAB

Michael Flynn, President Donald Trump's former national security adviser, and his lawyer Sidney Powell leave the federal court in Washington on Sept. 10, 2019.



AP PHOTO/MANUEL BALCE CENETA

**News Analysis**  
WASHINGTON—The defense team of Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn, a former adviser to President Donald Trump, is pursuing an avenue that could reveal information crucial to discovering the basis—or lack thereof—for the Obama administration to surveil Trump campaign aides—a matter that has come to be known as “Spygate.”

Former prosecutor and Justice Department critic Sidney Powell has led Flynn's team since June, when he fired his previous lawyers. She's alleged that the government has been withholding information from Flynn that would have been helpful to his defense, a violation of the so-called Brady Rule.

If not for this failure to provide information, Flynn would have never pleaded guilty to the process crime of lying to the FBI, she said during a Sept. 10 hearing at the federal district court in Washington.

On Sept. 11, Powell filed a redacted version of an earlier sealed motion asking U.S. District Judge Emmet Sullivan to make the government hand over a wide range of documents. Many of the documents relate to the investigation the FBI had opened on Flynn, “based on his relationship with the Russian government” sometime prior to Dec. 30, 2016, as stated in the final report of former special counsel Robert Mueller.

It seems it was this investigation that led two FBI agents, Special Agent Joe Pientka and then-Deputy Assistant Director Peter Strzok, to go to the White House on Jan. 24, 2017, and interview Flynn. And it was Strzok's report from this interview—a 302 form—that served as the basis for the accusation that Flynn lied to the agents.

It appears that Powell aims to show that the FBI never had a proper reason to suspect Flynn of being an agent of Russia to the point that it was necessary to open a counterintelligence investigation on him and thus, the FBI had no proper reason to interview Flynn in the first place. But her job may, in fact, be easier. She only needs to show that the government failed to hand over to the defense information that puts in question the FBI's reason to interview Flynn. Withholding information helpful to the defense is a Brady violation and the judge may dismiss the case on such grounds.

If the judge obliges Powell's request, the government may be forced to hand over a trove of documents that could shed light on many blank spaces in

**If the judge obliges Powell's request, the government may be forced to hand over a trove of documents that could shed light on many blank spaces in the Spycgate saga.**

the Spycgate saga.

In addition to other information, Powell is asking for “all documents, reports, correspondence, and memoranda, including any National Security letter or FISA application, concerning any earlier investigation of Mr. Flynn, and the basis for it.”

National Security letters and FISA applications are used by the government to justify its spying on U.S. citizens.

Powell also wants a letter from the UK Embassy that “apparently disavows former British Secret Service Agent Christopher Steele, calls his credibility into question, and declares him untrustworthy.”

It was Steele who produced the dossier of unverified and/or unsubstantiated claims about supposed Trump-Russia collusion that was then used by the FBI to obtain a FISA warrant on Trump campaign aide Carter Page.

Steele was paid for the work, through intermediaries, by the Democratic National Committee and the presidential campaign of Trump's opponent, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

Powell also wants “all transcripts, recordings, notes, correspondence, and 302s of any interactions with human sources or ‘OCONUS lures’ tasked against Mr. Flynn since he left DIA [Defense Intelligence Agency] in 2014.”

OCONUS is an abbreviation for “Outside the Continental United States.” A “lure” is a counterintelligence term for a person used as bait,

possibly to be recruited by a foreign intelligence service and then used as a double agent.

“You get all our oconus lures approved?” Strzok texted to his mistress, high-ranking FBI lawyer Lisa Page, on Dec. 28, 2015.

“No, it's just implicated a much bigger policy issue,” Page responded. “I'll explain later. Might even be able to use it as a pretext for a call.”

It's not clear for what purpose Strzok sought the lures.

The Strzok-Page texts, uncovered sometime in mid-2017, showed they held animus toward candidate and later President Donald Trump and preference for Clinton.

Powell pointed out that before Flynn pleaded guilty in December 2017, he was only told about the existence of the texts, but wasn't give access to them.

Powell also is requesting “all payments, notes, memos, correspondence, and instructions by and between the FBI, CIA, or [Department of Defense] DOD with Stefan Halper—going back as far as 2014—regarding Michael Flynn, Svetlana Likhova, Mr. Richard Dearlove (of MI6), and Professor Christopher Andrew.”

These documents relate to a May 23 lawsuit, in which Likhova, a Russian-born UK-based historian, alleged that Cambridge academic Halper, who was de facto outed as an FBI informant snooping on Trump campaign aides,

fed lies to the media about her supposed relationship with Flynn.

Since late 2016, legacy media outlets ran a number of articles that apparently left many people with the impression that Likhova was a Russian spy who somehow got access to a high-level meeting in 2014, at which she approached Flynn and engaged him in a relationship, or possibly an affair, on behalf of Russian intelligence.

The articles drew on unidentified sources, which the lawsuit alleges were Halper and Andrew, a Cambridge professor and official historian of MI5, the United Kingdom's domestic counterintelligence and security service.

Likhova said she was invited to the 2014 meeting by Andrew and Dearlove, former head of the UK's MI6 intelligence service. She said she was never alone with Flynn. She gave a presentation on some public materials she collected years prior from the Russian state archive for her master's studies at Cambridge. Flynn asked her to send him some of the materials. She sent him several emails with Andrew copied on all of them, the suit said.

Powell told Fox News on Sept. 10 that an internal Justice Department memo said, “they had exonerated Flynn of any sort of Russia violation as of Jan. 30, 2017”—less than a week after his FBI interview.

She's requesting that the government produce the memo too.

# Hero Officers Who Stopped Dayton Shooter Receive Medal of Valor

EMEL AKAN

WASHINGTON—President Donald Trump on Sept. 9 honored six police officers and five civilians who responded to the mass shootings in August in Dayton, Ohio, and El Paso, Texas.

Six police officers who took down a gunman before he entered a Dayton bar on Aug. 4 received the Medal of Valor, the nation's highest public safety award.

In addition, Trump presented Certificates of Commendation to five civilians for their “tremendous bravery” during a mass shooting on Aug. 3 at a Walmart store in El Paso.

“These incredible patriots responded to the worst violence and most barbaric hatred with the best of American courage, character, and strength,” Trump said at a White House ceremony.

“Faced with grave and harrowing threats, the men and women standing behind us stepped forward to save the lives of their fellow Americans. Few people could have done and even would have done what they did.”

A mass shooting occurred in August at a busy nightlife neighborhood in Dayton, killing nine people and injuring 27 others. The six police officers fatally shot the gunman within 32 seconds after he opened fire on people gathered

**Few people could have done and even would have done what they did.**

President Donald Trump

President Donald Trump presents the Medal of Valor to Officer David Denlinger of the Dayton Police Department during a White House ceremony on Sept. 9, 2019.

outside a bar in Dayton's historic and popular Oregon District. The officers stopped the shooter before he made his way into the bar, saving hundreds of lives.

Hours before the Dayton shooting, a gunman opened fire at a Walmart store in El Paso, killing 22 people and wounding 24 others.

“Our nation is shocked and enraged by these inhuman and sadistic acts of bloodshed,” Trump said. “We fail to comprehend how any person could be so warped by malice and contempt.”

Trump honored five civilians who risked their lives to save others during the Walmart shooting, including Robert Evans, Walmart store manager; Gilbert Serna, a Walmart employee; Marisela Luna, manager of the McDonald's store inside the Walmart; Angelica Silva, a supervisor at McDonald's; and Chris Grant,

a Walmart customer.

Officers who received the Medal of Valor were Sgt. William Knight and Officers Brian Rolfe, Jeremy Campbell, Vincent Carter, Ryan Nabel, and David Denlinger.

Trump praised the officers and civilians for their heroic actions, calling them “unbelievably exceptional Americans.”

Speaking at the ceremony, Attorney General William Barr said that the medal of valor was normally presented to an individual or individuals once a year, but the law permitted the attorney general to expand the total number of recipients when exceptional instances of bravery arise.

“It's an honor to serve under a president who is so strongly supportive of law enforcement and has the back of police officers and first responders,” Barr said.



AP PHOTO/LESTER LONN

# Head of MIT Media Lab Resigns Over Institute's Financial Ties to Epstein

UMA SANGHVI/PALM BEACH POST VIA AP FILE



**It showed a distinction, in my mind, between negligence and intentional conduct.**

Manny Alicandro, attorney and MIT graduate

In this July 30, 2008 file photo, Jeffrey Epstein (C) appears in court in West Palm Beach, Fla.

BOWEN XIAO

Massachusetts Institute of Technology's (MIT) Media Lab Director Joi Ito resigned on Sept. 7, a day after a new report detailed how the lab attempted to hide its financial relationship with recently deceased sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, who had been facing trial on child sex-trafficking charges.

According to dozens of pages of emails and other documents obtained by The New Yorker, the Media Lab continued to accept gifts from Epstein, even as he was listed as “disqualified” in MIT's official donor database. The lab concealed the full amount of donations received from Epstein by marking his contributions as anonymous.

The documents also revealed that Epstein apparently served as a mediator of sorts between the lab and other wealthy donors, soliciting millions in donations, including from Microsoft founder Bill Gates and investor Leon Black, the report said. According to The New Yorker, the financial connections between the lab and Epstein went “well beyond” what the lab and its director previously described in public statements.

“After giving the matter a great deal of thought over the past several days and weeks, I think that it is best that I resign as director of the media lab and as a professor and employee of the Institute, effective immediately,” Ito wrote in an internal email.

Ito also left the boards of three other organizations: the MacArthur Foundation, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, and The New York Times Co., as well as his visiting professorship at Harvard University, according to The New York Times.

In one instance in 2014, Ito wrote in an internal email that the Media Lab had received a “\$2M gift from Bill Gates directed by Jeffrey Epstein.” Peter Cohen, MIT Media Lab's director of development and strategy at the time, replied to Ito's email, saying, “For gift recording purposes, we will not be mentioning Jeffrey's name as the impetus for this gift.”

A spokesperson for Gates denied to The New Yorker that Epstein directed any grants from Gates.

In a previous August statement, Ito said he was “never involved in, never heard [Epstein] talk about, and never saw any evidence of the horrific acts that he was accused of.” In that statement, Ito said he met Epstein in 2013 at a conference, “through a trusted business friend.”

In his fundraising efforts, Ito invited Epstein to the lab and also visited several of the financier's residences.

Epstein pleaded guilty in Florida in 2008 to state charges of soliciting a child for prostitution under a non-prosecution agreement that required him to spend 13 months in jail and register as a sex offender. The agreement has been condemned for ending a broad federal child sex abuse probe involving at least 40 teenage girls, which could have landed Epstein in jail for life.

In a Sept. 7 internal email, MIT President L. Rafael Reif announced it would be conducting an independent investigation into the allegations raised by The New Yorker. Reif called the allegations in the report “deeply disturbing” in the email, which was addressed to members of the MIT community.

“Because the accusations in the story are extremely serious, they demand an immediate, thorough and independent investigation,” he wrote. “This morning, I asked MIT's General Counsel to engage a prominent law firm to design and conduct this process. I expect the firm to conduct this review as swiftly as possible, and to report back to me and to the Executive Committee of the MIT Corporation, MIT's governing board.”

Reif also noted that Ito submitted his resignation as director, professor, and employee of the institute.

In a previous email to members of MIT's community, Reif said the university received \$800,000 via foundations controlled by Epstein over the course of 20 years. In August, two educators affiliated with the lab left their positions over the institute's financial ties to Epstein.

Epstein was in a Manhattan jail when he was found dead in his cell on Aug. 10. His death was ruled by the New York City Medical Examiner's office as a suicide by hanging. However, during a court hearing on Aug. 27, Epstein's lawyers told a judge they had doubts about whether the office's conclusion was correct.

The new allegations come days after reports that Nicholas Negroponte, who co-founded the lab in 1985 and was its previous director, said that he would still recommend taking the money. Negroponte said he had advised Ito to take Epstein's money.

“If you wind back the clock, I would still say, ‘Take it,’” he said, the MIT Technology Review reported.

He then repeated, more emphatically, “Take it.”

His comments, which came at a meet-

**If that [New Yorker] article didn't come out, would the school have undertaken these efforts now and would Joi have resigned? Unfortunately, the answer is I don't think so.**

Manny Alicandro, attorney and MIT graduate

Joichi Ito, director of the Media Lab of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in Davos, Switzerland, on Jan. 17, 2017.

ing involving the entire Media Lab staff, “shocked many people in the audience,” the magazine said.

**‘Disturbing’ Allegations**

New York-based attorney and MIT graduate Manny Alicandro told The Epoch Times on Sept. 8 that he was troubled after seeing the internal email and the new allegations.

“I was upset,” he said in a phone call. “When we spoke last time, I felt there was more to the story that we didn't know, and apparently that was true. I'm very disappointed. But I'm glad that the university is undertaking a full investigation.”

Alicandro said the details in the new report were “eye-opening” and “disturbing” to him. “It showed a distinction in my mind between negligence and intentional conduct,” he said. “To me, based on what I read, it seems the university knowingly, intentionally continued their course of conduct with someone that they knew wasn't a good person ... they continued their relationships with him.”

“If that [New Yorker] article didn't come out, would the school have undertaken these efforts now and would Joi have resigned? Unfortunately, the answer is I don't think so. I think because of the pressure from the article, now the school is taking steps.”

Alicandro said he believes the independent investigation ordered by MIT's president will spur the media lab to update its policies and procedures.

“Things are going to happen. Policies and procedures aren't foolproof, but they are the best efforts we can take. They are strong efforts and for the most part, I think, with banks, they work,” he said.

REUTERS/RUBEN SPRICH/FILE PHOTO







A picture taken on Aug. 28, 2019 shows the apps of Google, Amazon, Facebook and Apple.

# Big Tech Faces Historic Scrutiny With New Antitrust Probes

**BOWEN XIAO**

Facebook and Google, in the span of less than a week, have both been hit with antitrust probes as big tech companies face a renewed wave of scrutiny.

Google's "dominance in the telecommunications and search engine industries" will be the subject of an investigation announced on Sept. 9 by a partnership of about 50 U.S. states and territories, led by Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton.

Days before, a probe into antitrust issues with Facebook was announced by New York Attorney General Letitia James, who confirmed that she's leading a separate, bipartisan coalition of attorneys general in eight states as part of their review.

The new state inquiries follow probes at the federal level by the Justice Department and the Federal Trade Commission, which are also investigating Facebook, Google, Apple, and Amazon for potential violations of antitrust law.

New York-based corporate attorney Manny Alicandro told The Epoch Times that the recent probes are "groundbreaking" in their nature and scope.

"This is historic scrutiny, because it's bipartisan," he said. "There's a lot at stake in terms of how much these entities—these big tech companies—control and how they disseminate information. Fundamentally, this is about control and information."

Alphabet, the parent company of Google, said on Sept. 6 that the Justice Department in late August requested information and documents related to prior antitrust probes of the company. Alphabet said in a securities filing that it expects similar investigative demands from state attorneys general and that it is cooperating with regulators. The tech giant has a market value of more than \$820 billion and controls many facets of the internet.

On Sept. 12, the House of Representatives' antitrust panel will be holding a hearing on the effects of consumer data collection by big-tech platforms, such as Google and Amazon, on other companies and online competition. The hearing is the first of three sessions that will focus on antitrust issues.

The timing of the new probes is interesting, Alicandro said. The vocal and online pressure from President

The new state investigations follow probes at the federal level by the Justice Department and the Federal Trade Commission.

This is historic scrutiny because it's bipartisan.

Manny Alicandro, attorney with expertise in antitrust matters

Donald Trump against such companies was "making it newsworthy to the extent that it's very topical." But Alicandro also stressed that the probes will be based on merit and should "not be viewed as politically motivated."

Last month, Trump brought up allegations that Google suppressed negative news stories about his 2016 presidential rival, Hillary Clinton. Trump said what the technology company did was illegal and said that his administration is watching Google "very closely."

In 2016, Dr. Robert Epstein, senior research psychologist at the American Institute for Behavioral Research and Technology, conducted a secret monitoring project that showed Google hid negative auto-complete search results for Clinton months before the 2016 presidential election. His peer-reviewed research found Google's algorithms can easily shift 20 percent or more votes among voters, and up to 80 percent in some demographic groups.

"Now the government, in a bipartisan effort, are figuring out how to regulate this new space," Alicandro said. "It's going to take years—this is not something that's going to be resolved in weeks or months. Depending on the results ... it could have a material impact on these companies right now and similar companies going forward."

Current antitrust laws have had little impact on Google and other similar technology companies because the industries are still relatively new, according to Alicandro. He said the government has more experience in dealing with telecommunications or utility industries because they are much older and are highly regulated.

"What are they?" Alicandro said, referring to Google, Facebook, Apple, and Amazon. "Are they technology companies? Are they internet companies?" He said that how we view what category these companies fit under impacts how they are regulated.

"If you look at Facebook right now, they are going to enter into the cryptocurrency market, and that's an unbelievable thing," he said. "Every market they enter, they immediately will have an impact on because of their size."

Alicandro reiterated that it's more difficult for companies in these other, older industries to grow as large as Google through acquisitions, citing the high number of regulations and

how the government is more active in jumping in to block potential mergers that could create a monopoly.

"I don't think this happens in other industries any more," he said.

Earlier this year, however, the federal government failed to block a multibillion-dollar merger between AT&T and Time Warner. The massive deal, worth a reported \$85 billion to \$105 billion, could have major implications in the broader media industry.

"The [antitrust] laws aren't there, because these [tech industries] are relatively new industries," Alicandro said. "Entrepreneurship and technologies are cutting-edge; it always leads, and then you often see a lawsuit or law-change to catch up with it."

Epstein, who has spent more than half a decade monitoring Google's influence, has been in regular touch with some attorneys general who are conducting the probe. He told The Epoch Times previously that Google's power needs to be curtailed in three main areas: surveillance, censorship, and manipulation.

"The main thing they can do is to levy fines, and the problem is Google can just brush off fines," he said. "Google has been subjected to more than \$8 billion in fines by the EU in the last two years, approximately. But I don't think these fines will really have the impact that we need to have on Google."

When asked to comment on the new state probe announced against Google earlier this week, a spokesperson for the company didn't directly provide a response, instead referring The Epoch Times to a blog post by Kent Walker, Google's senior vice president of global affairs.

"It's, of course, right that governments should have oversight to ensure that all successful companies, including ours, are complying with the law," Walker wrote in a Sept. 6 post.

Walker said that the company has answered many questions in this regard over the years in both the United States and overseas, adding that this was "not new" to them. "We have always worked constructively with regulators and we will continue to do so."

He said Google is looking forward to showing the public how they are "engaging in robust and fair competition."

A Facebook spokesperson did not immediately respond to a request for comment by The Epoch Times.