

Another Russian Dossier, aka What Moscow Has Always Done

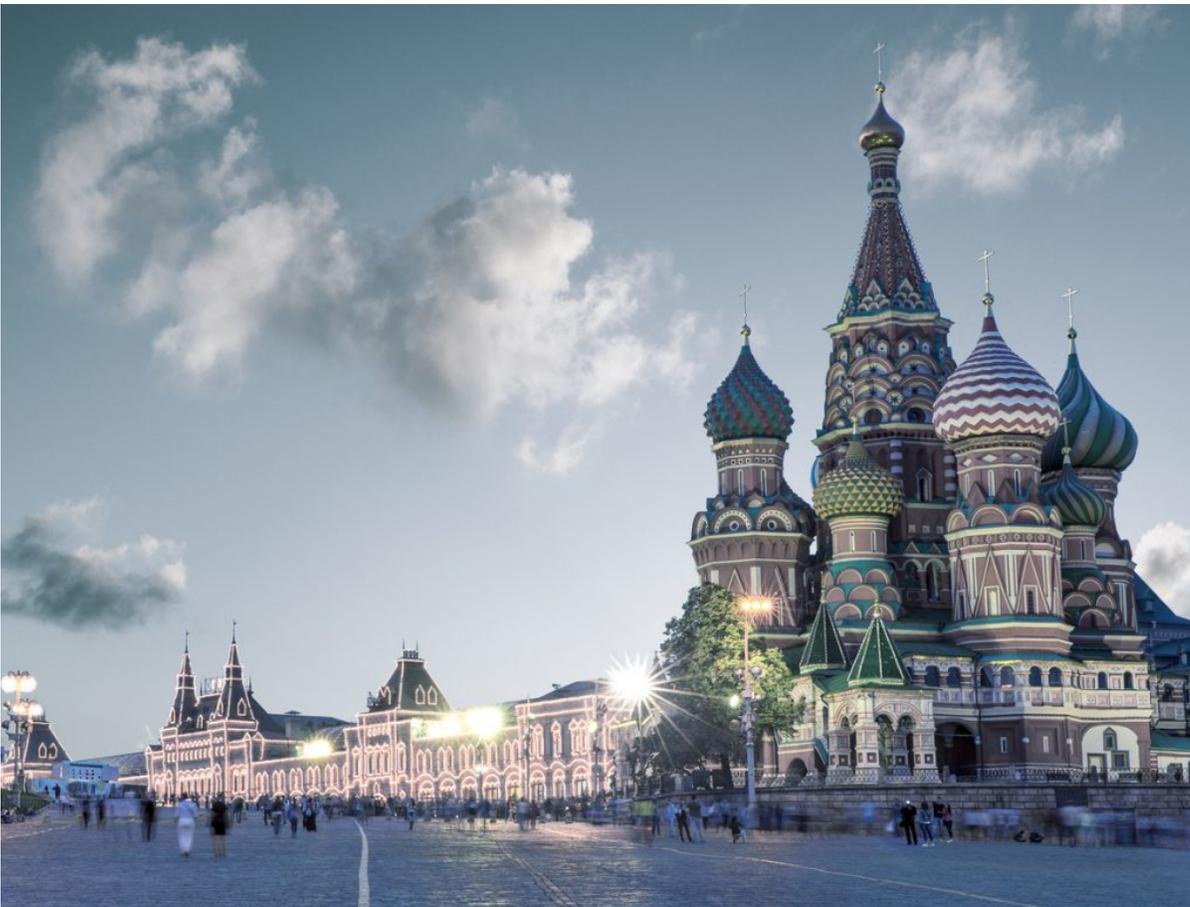


Photo: iStock.com/mikolajn

“History does not repeat itself, but it does rhyme,” goes the famous Mark Twain quote.

Mark Kelton, former CIA deputy director for counterintelligence, offers a brief history of covert U.S.-Russian activity, with lessons from a yesteryear that was filled with Russian officers trying to influence Americans.

- ***“I have come across an interesting file – perhaps we might even call it a ‘dossier’ – documenting collusion between the leadership in Moscow and a prominent American political figure involved in a heated campaign for his party’s presidential nomination.”***
- ***“I highlight these ties between a prominent American running for office and the Soviet leadership not to excuse any collusion that may be proven to have occurred during the 2016 Presidential election campaign, although that seems unlikely at this stage. Rather, I want to point out that were such collusion to be proven, it would not be unprecedented. “***

Kelton’s solution? Go on a Reagan-style offensive with Putin: spread democracy.

- ***“We have the opportunity to follow Reagan’s lead - seizing the strategic initiative from the Kremlin by promulgating policies and activities, overt and covert, that support democratic opposition within Russia – thus moving beyond containing Putin by forcing him onto the defensive out of concern for his ability to remain in power. In short, we can make Putin think more about protecting his power than asserting it.”***

For your weekend long read, [dive into Kelton’s exploration](#) of covert Russian tactics and Western counter-tactics.

Leveraging Accountability to Fix Cybersecurity

NEWSLETTER ITEM:

Despite the exponentially increasing damages associated with cybersecurity, accountability seems nonexistent in the industry, writes Oren Falkowitz, Co-Founder and CEO of Area 1 Security.

- ***“It’s clear we’re moving on a trajectory from data theft to data and network ransom, to data manipulation and physical destruction. If we don’t begin to change the economics of being a bad guy on the internet, which is a really good business today, it’s not going to get any better.”***
- ***“We must be methodical and scientific and avoid the continued cargo-cult science, in which erroneous conclusions are formed by misinterpreting the causality of results. The reality is that approximately 95% of cybersecurity incidents and damage begin with phishing. It is the absolute root cause of our insecurity. Let’s focus where attacks start.”***

- **“Solutions that stop 99.9% of attacks are fine, but it’s the .1% that do all of the damage. In World War II, British planes returning from bombing runs were inspected for bullet holes. Allied officers reasoned that the pattern of vulnerability they showed was where the planes should be more heavily armored. But, the opposite was true. The extra armor needed to be placed where there were no holes. The planes that were shot in those places were the ones that did not return. Focus on the .1% because phishing attacks penetrate your traditional defenses.”**

[Read Falkowitz’s column](#) on accountability as a driver of innovation in cybersecurity.

Your Weekly Intelligence Gossip

We’ve reached Friday once again – and it’s time for your weekly dose of intel gossip.

An interesting tidbit from this week’s Dead Drop:

- **GARAGE SALE!** The folks at Task & Purpose tell us that the U.S. Special Operations Command got a little carried away with the credit card last year and bought “way, way too much combat gear.” A Pentagon Inspector General audit found that SOCOM blew at least \$26.3 million on unneeded handheld radios, night vision goggles and the like. The IG said the gear will be “subject to return, redistribution, or disposal.” So, we figure if you hustle down to SOCOM’s headquarters at MacDill Air Force Base, you might be able to get a sweet deal on night vision goggles or some other cool toys.

[Get the rest](#) of this week’s Dead Drop.

Newsletter by Cipher Brief Content Manager Brian Garrett-Glaser. Please send tips or comments to POV@thecipherbrief.com

[THE CIPHER BRIEF](#) | [ABOUT US](#) | [ADVERTISE](#) | [EVENTS](#) | [WORK FOR US](#) |

Copyright © 2018 The Cipher Brief, All rights reserved.