



Russia Didn't Change Outcome

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Sen. John McCain joined the chorus protesting Russia's alleged hacking of the Democrats. He and his colleague Sen. Lindsey Graham are pressing for an investigation by a newly-constituted select congressional committee.

McCain naturally blamed President Barack Obama, who, it seems, is responsible for just about every problem on earth for his lack of "leadership" (which McCain never defines). In this case, McCain worries, if the Russians are "able to harm the electoral process, they may destroy democracy."

For all of the [reaction] generated by the alleged Russian hack, it appears to have been rather modest. Some doubts remain that the Russians even were responsible. Nor was there any attack on the American electoral system. No voting machines were broken into. No votes were changed.

Donald Trump won because a majority of Americans in critical states preferred him to his badly compromised opponent, whose failings have been on display publicly for a quarter century. Neither Moscow nor anyone else changed the outcome.

Moreover, there is evidence that an attempt was made to hack Republican accounts as well. In any case, the cyber-raid was of a private party, in which no national secrets were compromised or business technologies stolen. Rather, the information obtained should have been public since it highlighted the sleaze surrounding the Clintons.

The release actually benefited the American public. Indeed, if the information had been of similar dubious behavior by the Trump campaign, journalists would have fallen all over themselves to publish or broadcast the information "in the public interest."

The lesson of the Democratic hack, as well as previous attacks on Sony Pictures and other private entities, is that cybersecurity is everyone's responsibility.

Ironically, Democrats were not always so squeamish about reliance on Moscow for political support. In 1983 California Sen. John Tunney, an intimate of Sen. Ted Kennedy, passed a message to KGB head Viktor Chebrikov, who summarized the matter in a memo to Communist Party General Secretary Yuri Andropov, which was discovered after the Soviet Union's collapse. In sum, Kennedy hoped to bring Soviet political and military figures onto American television to explain how they were misunderstood peaceniks resisting crazy Ronald Reagan's war-like policies.

Explained Chebrikov to his boss, who had previously headed the KGB, "Kennedy is very impressed with the activities of Y.V. Andropov and other Soviet leaders, who expressed their commitment to heal international affairs, and improve mutual understandings between peoples."

If Russia was behind the Clinton hack, the released information confirmed what some of us already believed about the Clintons and their followers.

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