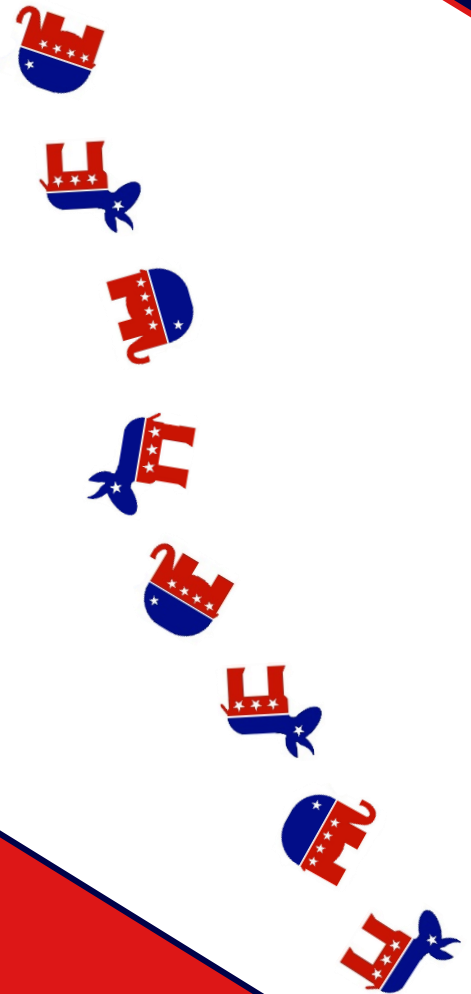


RUSSIA'S

BLUES

Russia's affinity with 2016 Republican candidate Donald Trump using sentiment analysis



Leslie Wilson

Interfering with Foreign Elections is Nothing New.

United States of America attempted to interfere with 81 foreign elections, and Russia attempted to interfere 36 times between 1946 to 2000, according to an election database constructed by political scientist Dr. Don H. Levin (Agrawal, 2016).

Therefore, it should come to no surprise when twelve Russian hackers were indicted for intervening with the 2016 United States of America Presidential election.

By releasing private emails from the Democratic National Committee, the Russian Federation's main choice candidate was clear: Republican nominee

Donald Trump.

Why Donald Trump?



“He is a bright and talented person without any doubt. He is the absolute leader of the US presidential race”

Vladimir Putin,
on Donald Trump, Dec. 17. 2015.

According to an ICA (Intelligence Community Assessment) report, produced by the CIA, FBI, and NSA, Russian president Vladimir Putin intentionally elevated the win of Trump’s election “... by discrediting Secretary Clinton and publicly contrasting her unfavorably to him.” (Office of the Director of National Intelligence, pg.ii).

The Russian government associates, including Putin, preferred Trump.

- They saw Trump’s presidency as a form “... to achieve an international counterterrorism coalition against the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)” (Office of the Director of National Intelligence, pg.1)
- They wanted to prevent Hillary Clinton from winning the election due to incidents involving her influence to incite protests under Putin’s regime, along with Putin’s personal grudge over comments made towards him.

Evidence collected by the CIA, FBI, and NSA, to demonstrate Putin and Russian officials’ affinity with Trump include:

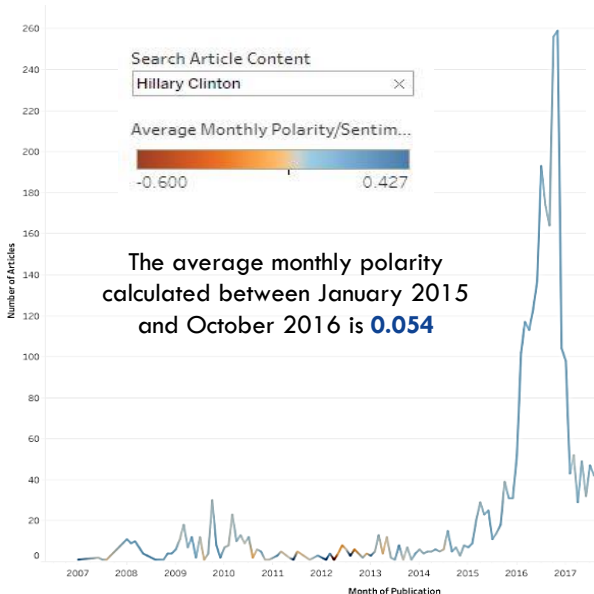
- **Immediately halting public criticisms surrounding unfairness of the US election process after the 2016 presidential election (Office of the Director of National Intelligence, pg.1).**
- **Having a history of working closely with former business tycoons turned political leaders who are “... more disposed to deal with Russia, such as former Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi...” (Office of the Director of National Intelligence, pg.1).**
- **Publicly supporting Trump through comments released in the press, for example Putin responding positively to Trump’s stated campaign stance on Russia-US relations (Office of the Director of National Intelligence, pg.1).**

Russia's Words

Hillary Clinton

Vs.

Donald Trump



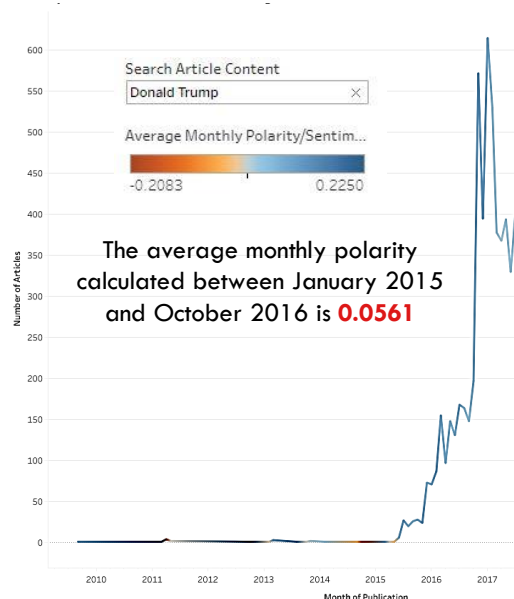
Hillary Clinton formerly announced her campaign on April 12, 2015. The sentiment recorded for the name "Hillary Clinton" around the year 2015 and 2016 shows a generally positive good review.

Russia Today

Government controlled television network

Trump Wins ✓

The republican candidate had a more positive response from Russia Today, 0.056, which is 0.0021 higher than Clinton.






Donald Trump formerly announced his presidential campaign on June 16, 2015. The sentiment recorded for the year 2015 and 2016 shows a strong, dark blue color.

Comments* by Foreign Minister of Russia Sergey Lavrov

Legend
 Angry
 Bored

All statements are articles involving the presidential candidates' campaign posted on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation





Legend
 Angry
 Fear

Date	Sentiment	Emotion
12-Oct-16	Negative	
10-Aug-16	Negative	
22-Apr-15	Negative	

Trump Wins



Lavrov responded more negatively to Clinton, than to Trump during their presidential campaign.

Date	Sentiment	Emotion
9-Dec-15	Neutral	
10-Aug-16	Negative	
17-Aug-16	Neutral	
12-Oct-16	Neutral	

When questions surrounding Hillary Clinton and her campaign were introduced during interviews, Lavrov responded in a negative manner. The emotion of his comments is rated mostly as angry by the [sentiment analysis API](#).

When questions surrounding Donald Trump and his campaign were introduced during interviews, Lavrov responded in a neutral manner. His emotions behind the comments were rated as angry and fearful by the [sentiment analysis API](#).



*All comments were taken out from interviews where Lavrov was asked to personally discuss his opinion about Clinton and Trump's presidential campaign.

References

1. Nina Agrawal, "The U.S is No Stranger to Interfering in the Elections of Other Countries", Los Angeles Times, December 21, 2016, accessed July 31, 2020, <https://www.latimes.com/nation/la-na-us-intervention-foreign-elections-20161213-story.html>
2. Office of Public Affairs, "Grand Jury Indicts 12 Russian Intelligence Officers for Hacking Offenses Related to the 2016 Election", Department of Justice, July 13, 2018, accessed July 31, 2020, <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/grand-jury-indicts-12-russian-intelligence-officers-hacking-offenses-related-2016-election>
3. Office of the Director of National Intelligence, "Assessing Russian Activities and Intentions in Recent US Elections", National Intelligence Council, January 6, 2017, accessed July 31, 2020, https://www.dni.gov/files/documents/ICA_2017_01.pdf
4. "Putin says He Considers Donald Trump to be Absolute Leader of US Presidential Race", TASS Russian News Agency, December 17, 2015, accessed July 31, 2020, <https://tass.com/politics/844947>