Were one to read the Washington Post's article on a Russian proposal regarding the questioning of suspects in various, ongoing US and Russia investigations, they would have imagined former US ambassador to Russia Michael McFaul was about to be shipped to a dungeon beneath the Kremlin for interrogation.

The Washington Post's article, "Outrage erupts over Trump-Putin ‘conversation’ about letting Russia interrogate ex-U.S. diplomat Michael McFaul" fueled anti-Russian hysteria, claiming:

> At this week’s summit in Helsinki, Russian President Vladimir Putin proposed what President Trump described as an “incredible offer” — the Kremlin would give special counsel Robert S. Mueller III access to interviews with Russians who were indicted after they allegedly hacked Democrats in 2016. In return, Russia would be allowed to question certain U.S. officials it suspects of interfering in Russian affairs. One of those U.S. officials is a former U.S. ambassador to Moscow, Michael McFaul, a nemesis of the Kremlin because of his criticisms of Russia’s human rights record.

The Washington Post would compound confusion and hysteria by also claiming (emphasis added):

> The willingness of the White House to contemplate handing over a former U.S. ambassador for interrogation by the Kremlin drew ire and astonishment from current and former U.S. officials. Such a proposition is unheard of. So is the notion that the president may think he has the legal authority to turn anyone over to a foreign power on his own.
In reality, the proposal never entailed the US or Russia handing anyone over for interrogation. Bloomberg in an article titled, "Trump 'Looks Weak' by Considering Putin’s Interrogation Idea, McFaul Says," would more accurately summarize the deal, stating:

普京提议让俄罗斯观察对McFaul和其他美国人进行审讯。作为交换，美国特别顾问罗伯特·穆勒可以派他的团队到俄罗斯观看对12名俄罗斯情报人员的审讯，这12名人员上周被美国大陪审团通缉，因为他们涉嫌在2016年美国总统选举前通过黑客手段获取并分发民主党邮箱账户的消息。

美国人会在美国接受审讯，而美国代表则会前往俄罗斯观看俄罗斯对嫌疑人的审讯，这与美国调查有关。进一步的证据是俄罗斯总统弗拉基米尔·普京本人的正式声明，该声明明确表示（强调增加）：

"我们可以允许美国代表加入，包括穆勒领导的委员会。他们将参与审讯。在这种情况下，我们希望美国人会予以回应。我们将对怀疑与俄罗斯领土上非法行为有关的官员进行审讯，包括执法和情报服务官员，我们必须请求我们的执法部门参与。

尽管这些事实，但对俄罗斯和西方国家的歇斯底里仍在继续，部分原因在于不诚实的媒体煽动冲突，以及西方观众急于相信他们。

McFaul's Role in Supporting Global Political Meddling

在2012-2014年担任美国驻俄罗斯大使之前，McFaul曾担任美国政府和企业资助的非政府组织自由之家的董事会成员。自由之家是一个假借扩大“自由和民主”名义而干涉其他国家利益的非政府组织。这一过程包括支持反对派组织，以推翻目标政府。

多方面证明，McFaul的角色和活动是许多美国人，无论政治立场如何，都会感到不可接受——尤其是那些对俄罗斯涉嫌干预美国政治感到愤怒的人。

McFaul’s Role in Supporting Global Political Meddling

McFaul担任美国驻俄罗斯大使时（2012-2014年），他为美国政府和企业资助的自由之家工作。自由之家是一个打着“自由和民主”的幌子而干涉其他国家利益的非政府组织。这个过程包括支持反对派组织，以推翻目标政府。

McFaul担任自由之家的董事时，2005年的年度报告中列出了美国国务院和美国国际开发署（USAID）作为赞助商。它还包括花旗银行、摩根士丹利和制药巨头李氏。

此外，自由之家是国家民主基金会（NED）的子公司，NED由各种职业、好战的鹰派人物担任主席，这些鹰派人物推动了布什政府的战争。
NED is also funded by the US government as well as corporations (page 126, PDF) including Goldman Sachs, convicted financial criminal George Soros' Open Society, Coca-Cola, Facebook, Google, Microsoft, and the US Chamber of Commerce which itself serves as a collective lobbying front for some of the largest corporations in the US.

NED and subsidiaries like Freedom House use the pretext of "democracy promotion" to pressure and even overthrow governments around the world, making way for client regimes that will serve US corporations and their expansion around the globe. In other words, "democracy" is a principle the NED and its subsidiaries hide behind, not uphold with US client regimes often being more abusive and corrupt than the governments they replaced.

One would imagine someone like McFaul involved in aiding and abetting corporations in their meddling worldwide and their subsequent exploitation of nations they undermine and overthrow would be the last person Western liberals would rush to the defense of.

**McFaul Minding US-Funded Agitators in Moscow**

McFaul’s role at Freedom House would become more "hands on" when he was nominated, then appointed US ambassador to Russia from 2012-2014. During his first year as ambassador, Russian opposition figures funded by the NED and its subsidiaries would report to the US embassy in Moscow to meet with McFaul.

Present at the 2012 US embassy meeting were regular mainstays of the Western-backed Russian opposition, including Boris Nemtsov, Yevgeniya Chirikova of the NED-funded "Strategy 31" protests, Lev Ponomarev of the NED, Ford Foundation, Open Society, and USAID-funded Moscow Helsinki Group, and Liliya Shibanova of NED-funded GOLOS, an allegedly "independent" election monitoring group that serves as the primary source of accusations of voting fraud against President Putin's United Russia party.

Today, many of these organizations have hidden their US funding and the US NED webpage disclosing its activities in Russia describes its current meddling in the most ambiguous terms possible. Despite this, there are still nearly 100 entries on the NED’s Russian webpage covering everything from meddling in the media, education, and the environment, to interfering in Russia’s legal system and Russian elections.

We could only imagine the condemnation, outcry, and demands for action should a front similar to NED be created by Russia to interfere likewise in all aspects of American socioeconomic and political affairs, especially considering how mere accusations of "meddling" entailing e-mail leaks and social media posts have tipped off sanctions, a multi-year investigation, and even talk of treason and war.

McFaul’s association with individuals and organizations funded by the government he represented is in reality the very sort of political meddling and interference many have accused Russia of since 2016. There support of someone actually involved in political meddling in Russia, further undermines their credibility and moral authority in regards to accusations against Russia.

**Pavlovian Politics**

McFaul's involvement in the recent Russian proposal was not - however - related to his role in political meddling in Russia, but instead his alleged involvement with convicted financial criminal William Browder.

While the Western media depicts both McFaul and Browder's conflicts with the Russian government as a result of their supposed advocacy for "democracy" and "human rights," McFaul was clearly hiding behind such principles to advance US corporate interests, while Browder was attempting to gain leverage regarding his criminal conviction.

Interestingly enough, George Soros - who has funded subversion in Russia alongside organizations like NED - also attempted to leverage the notion of human rights to sidestep his own criminal conviction in France for insider trading, even according to the New York Times.

This troubling trend of the Western public gravitating toward and supporting individuals like McFaul and Browder solely out of their perceived hatred for President Trump and Russia is pushing Western political discourse further from rational debate and deeper toward hysteria.

That powerful special interests can easily manipulate sections of the Western public to support virtually anyone or anything, including unsavory characters like McFaul and Browder or the notion of expanding NATO or continued
war abroad in nations like Syria simply by invoking "Trump" or "Russia" represents a predictable but dangerous Pavlovian phenomenon likely to leave deep scars, permanently disfiguring American politics and society much in the way the so-called "War on Terror" has.

The increasing lack of political sophistication in America is a reflection of a much wider deterioration of American economic and geopolitical strength both at home and around the globe. While one would expect sound leadership to begin preparing America for an orderly transition from a once global hegemon to a constructive member of a more multipolar world order, history has proven the lack of grace that generally accompanies an empire’s decline.

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