

We Told You So: Russian Officials React to Mueller Report on Collusion

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Alexei Pushkov, Konstantin Kosachev Kremlin.ru / MT

Russian officials have claimed vindication in reacting to the news that a U.S. probe into Russian election meddling had found no evidence of collusion between U.S. President Donald Trump's campaign and Moscow.

Trump was accused of coordinating with the Kremlin to win the 2016 U.S. presidential election after members of his team reportedly met with Russians who offered compromising information on Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton.

Related article: [No Evidence of Trump-Russia Collusion, Mueller Report Says](#)

Former FBI director Robert Mueller was appointed as U.S. Special Counsel in May 2017 to investigate the allegations.

A summary of Mueller's investigation released Sunday [said](#) that there was no evidence

that any member of Trump's election campaign had conspired with Russia during the election, despite multiple offers from individuals associated with Russia.

However, Mueller's team backed the assessment of U.S. intelligence agencies that Russia had meddled in the 2016 election.

Here's how Russian public figures reacted to Mueller's findings:

— [Russia's Foreign Ministry](#)

"The conclusion – that there was no collusion between Russia and Donald Trump's election campaign – could not possibly have been any different."

"Enormous efforts and considerable amounts of taxpayer money went into refuting the obviously fake story."

— [Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov](#)

"We believe the accusations that continue to be made against Russia in terms of interference in the U.S. electoral processes are unfounded because even the brief information that is listed in the summary [of the Muller report] has no basis."

"It's hard to find a black cat in a dark room, especially if it's not there."

On the possibility of restoring U.S.–Russia relations: "In this case, the ball is absolutely in their court. It was given to Trump in Helsinki."

— [Senator Konstantin Kosachev, chairman of the Federation Council's Committee on Foreign Affairs](#)

"The Mueller report proved something that Russia knew since the very beginning – there was no collusion between Trump or anyone else from his team and the Kremlin... [But] here in Russia we have nothing to celebrate – the accusations against us remain."

"In any case, there is an opportunity to reset a lot in our relations, but it is still a question as to whether Trump would risk that. We, of course, are ready."

— [Federation Council senator Alexei Pushkov](#)

"From the very start it was a biased, artificial, provocative, conspiratorial, designed-to-fuel-hatred towards Trump campaign. Its second goal was to demonize Russia and prevent any US moves towards better relations with Moscow."

— [Margarita Simonyan, editor-in-chief of Kremlin-funded RT news network](#)

"Now they are going to say: 'There was no collusion, but Russia still interfered [in the elections]!'."

— [Senator Frants Klintsevich](#)

"There was not one piece of evidence — only two years of lies and provocations. On this

'foundation,' the investigation could only have fallen to pieces, which is what happened."

— [Dmitry Trenin, Director of the Carnegie Moscow Center think tank](#)

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That the [#Mueller](#) investigation does not support allegations of Trump-Kremlin collusion won't lead to Russia becoming less toxic in US. Critics won't take no for an answer, & will double down, w/ more sanctions. Also, the election meddling charge stands.

— Dmitri Trenin (@DmitriTrenin) [25 March 2019](#)

— [Opposition leader Alexei Navalny's campaign aide Leonid Volkov](#)

"For at least the next month, all Russian [pro-Kremlin pundits]... will drool over the following talking points: There Was Nothing! There Was No Collusion! You Have Slandered Us!"

Reuters contributed reporting to this article.

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