Election Meddling Enters Bizarro World As MSM Ignores Democrat-Linked #PaloAltoMafia Scheme

Profile picture for user Tyler Durden by <u>Tyler Durden</u>

For over two years now, the concepts of "Russian collusion" and "Russian election meddling" have been shoved down our throats by the mainstream media (MSM) under the guise of legitimate concern that the Kremlin may have installed a puppet president in Donald Trump.

Having no evidence of collusion aside from a largely unverified opposition-research dossier fabricated by a former British spy, the focus shifted from "collusion" to "meddling" and "influence." In other words, maybe Trump didn't actually *collude* with Putin, but the Kremlin used Russian tricks to *influence* the election in Trump's favor.

To some, this looked like nothing more than an establishment scheme to cast a permanent spectre of doubt over the legitimacy of President Donald J. Trump.

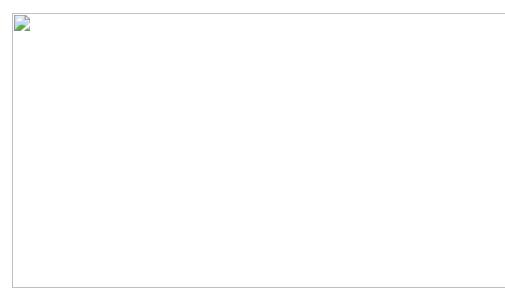
Election meddling "Russian bots" and "troll farms" became the central focus - as claims were levied of social media operations conducted by Kremlin-linked organizations which sought to **influence and divide** certain segments of America.

And while scant evidence of a Russian influence operation exists outside of a handful of indictments connected to a St. Petersburg "Troll farm" (which a liberal journalist <u>cast serious</u> <u>doubt ov</u>er), the MSM - with all of their proselytizing over the "threat to democracy" that election meddling poses, has largely decided to ignore **actual evidence of "Russian bots" created by Democrat IT experts, used against a GOP candidate in the Alabama special election, and amplified through the Russian bot-detecting "Hamilton 68" dashboard developed by the same IT experts.**

Russian trolls tracked by <u>#Hamilton68</u> are taking an interest in the AL Senate race. What a surprise. <u>pic.twitter.com/Nz1PNmuT2R</u>

— Jonathon Morgan (@jonathonmorgan) <u>November 10,</u> <u>2017</u>

Democratic operative Jonathon Morgan - bankrolled by LinkedIn founder Reid Hoffman, pulled a Russian bot "false flag" operation against GOP candidate Roy Moore in the Alabama special election last year - creating thousands of fake social media accounts **designed to influence voters**. Hoffman has since apologized, while Morgan was suspended by Facebook for "coordinated inauthentic" behavior.



Jonathon Morgan, Roy Moore, Reid Hoffman

As Russian state-owned <u>RT</u> puts it - and who could blame them for being a bit pissed over the whole thing, "it turns out there really was meddling in American democracy by *"Russian bots."* **Except they weren't run from Moscow or St. Petersburg, but from the offices of Democrat operatives chiefly responsible for creating and amplifying the** *"Russiagate"* **hysteria over the past two years in a textbook case of psychological projection.**"

A week before Christmas, the Senate Intelligence Committee released a report accusing Russia of depressing Democrat voter turnout by targeting African-Americans on social media. Its authors, New Knowledge, quickly became a household name. Described by the <u>New York Times</u> as a group of *"tech specialists who lean Democratic,"* New Knowledge has ties to both the US military and intelligence agencies. **Its CEO and co-founder Jonathon Morgan previously worked for DARPA, the US military's advanced research agenc**y. His partner, Ryan Fox, is a 15-year veteran of the National Security Agency who also worked as a computer analyst for the Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC). Their unique skill sets have managed to attract the eye of investors, who pumped \$11 million into the company in 2018 alone.

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On December 19, a New York Times story revealed that **Morgan and his crew had created a fake army of Russian bots,** as well as fake Facebook groups, in order to discredit Republican candidate Roy Moore in Alabama's 2017 special election for the US Senate.

Working on behalf of the Democrats, **Morgan and his crew** created an estimated 1,000 fake Twitter accounts with Russian names, and had them follow Moore. They also operated several Facebook pages where they posed as Alabama conservatives who wanted like-minded voters to support a write-in candidate instead.

In an internal memo, **New Knowledge boasted that it had** "orchestrated an elaborate 'false flag' operation that planted the idea that the Moore campaign was amplified on social media by a Russian botnet."

It worked. The botnet claim made a splash on social media and was further amplified by Mother Jones, which based its story on expert opinion from Morgan's other dubious creation, Hamilton 68. -<u>*RT*</u>

Moore ended up losing the Alabama special election by a slim margin of just

In other words: In November 2017 – when Moore and his Democratic opponent were in a bitter fight to win over voters – Morgan openly promoted the theory that Russian bots were supporting Moore's campaign. A year later – after being caught red-handed orchestrating a self-described *"false flag"* operation – Morgan now says that his team never thought that the bots were Russian and have no idea what their purpose was. Did he think no one would notice? -<u>RT</u>

Disinformation warrior <u>@jonathonmorgan</u> attempts to control damage by lying. He now claims the "false flag operation" never took place and the botnet he promoted as Russian-linked (based on phony Hamilton68 Russian troll tracker he developed) wasn't Russian <u>https://t.co/N4EEjz49mB pic.twitter.com/qfNcVIRQsD</u>

— Dan Cohen (@dancohen3000) <u>December 29, 2018</u>

Even more strange is that Scott Shane - the journalist who wrote the New York Times piece exposing the Alabama "Russian bot" scheme, knew about it for months after speaking at an event where the organizers bragged about the false flag on Moore.

Shane was one of the speakers at a meeting in September, organized by American Engagement Technologies, a group

run by Mikey Dickerson, President Barack Obama's former tech czar. Dickerson explained how AET spent \$100,000 on New Knowledge's campaign to suppress Republican votes, "enrage" Democrats to boost turnout, and execute a "false flag" to hrt Moore. He dubbed it "Project Birmingham." -<u>RT</u>

A lightly-redacted copy of the internal <u>@NewKnowledgeAI</u> report has been leaked and claims at least partial credit for Doug Jones' victory. Details follow <u>https://t.co/wUYHVHTDIU</u>

— Dan Cohen (@dancohen3000) <u>December 28, 2018</u>

Shane told *BuzzFeed* that he was "shocked" by the revelations, though hid behind a nondisclosure agreement at the request of American Engagement Technologies (AET). He instead chose to spin the New Knowledge "false flag" operation on Moore as "limited Russian tactics" which were part of an "experiment" that had a budget of "only" \$100,000 - and which had no effect on the election.

New Knowledge suggested that the false flag operation was simply a "research project," which Morgan suggested was designed "to better understand and report on the tactics and effects of social media disinformation."

My statement on this evening's NYT article. pic.twitter.com/lsJuRqiffL

— Jonathon Morgan (@jonathonmorgan) <u>December 20,</u> <u>2018</u> While the New York Times seemed satisfied with his explanation, others pointed out that Morgan had used the Hamilton 68 dashboard to give his *"false flag"* more credibility – misleading the public about a *"Russian"* influence campaign that he knew was fake.

New Knowledge's protestations apparently didn't convince Facebook, which <u>announced last week</u> that five accounts linked to New Knowledge – including Morgan's – had been suspended for engaging in *"coordinated inauthentic behavior." -<u>RT</u>*

They knew exactly what they were doing

While Morgan and New Knowledge sought to frame the "Project Birmingham" as a simple research project, **a leaked copy of the operation's after-action report reveals that they knew exactly what they were doing**.

"We targeted 650,000 like AL voters, with a combination of persona accounts, astroturfing, automated social media amplification and targeted advertising," reads the report published by entrepreneur and executive coach Jeff Giesea.

BREAKING: Here's the after-action report from the AL Senate disinfo campaign.

**an exclusive release by <u>@JeffGiesea</u> <u>https://t.co/VXrCeb8LAD</u>

— Jeff Giesea 🌿 (@jeffgiesea) <u>December 28, 2018</u>

The rhetorical question remains, why did the MSM drop this election meddling story like a hot rock after the initial headlines faded away?

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