1/20 (превод)

В днешната #ватниксупа ще обсъдим финансираната от Кремъл и базирана в щата Тенеси медийна компания TENET Media. TENET Media е известна с разпространяването на руски наративи и силната подкрепа за Доналд Тръмп на президентските избори в САЩ.



Carsten Reisinger/Shutterstock @watchTENET/Youtube (Licensed)

Media start-up from Benny Johnson, Tim Pool, and Dave Rubin was secret Russian influence campaign, indictment alleges

Famous pro-Trump commentators may have been unwittingly duped.



David Covucci

Tech

Posted on Sep 4, 2024 Updated on Sep 4, 2024, 6:01 pm CDT

2/20

Струва си да се отбележи, че финансирането произхожда от контролираната от Кремъл RT и че средствата са били прикрити чрез кухи компании в страни като Турция, Обединените арабски емирства и Мавриций като парите са били описвани като плащания за електроника.

Between in or about October 2023 and in or about August 2024, RT sent wire transfers to U.S. Company-1 totaling approximately \$9.7 million, which represented nearly 90% of U.S. Company-1's bank deposits from all sources combined. The wires were sent from shell companies in Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, and Mauritius, and were often accompanied by wire notes ascribing the payments to the purchase of electronics. For example, the wire note for a \$318,800 wire payment from a shell entity in Turkey to U.S. Company-1 on March 1, read: "BUYING GOODS-INV.013-IPHONE 15 PRO MAX 512GB."

U.S. Company-1 never disclosed to its viewers that it was funded and directed by RT. Nor did U.S. Company-1 or its two founders register with the Attorney General as an agent of a foreign principal.

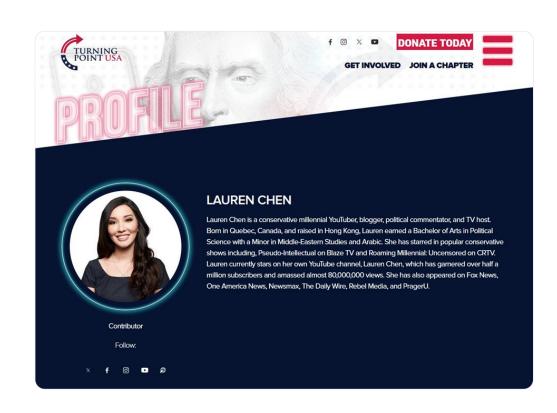
3/20

Двамата от RT, идентифицирани като Константин Калашников и Елена Афасяева са с повдигнати обвинение за заговор за пране на пари и заговор да се наруши Закона за регистрация на чуждестранните агенти (FARA). Те са работили със създатели на онлайн съдържание.



4/20

TENET е основана през 2022 от Лорън Чен и Лиам Донован, който е и президент на компанията. Чен е дарителка на организацията с нестопанска цел Turning Point USA на Чарли Кърк. Между 2021 и 2022 е писала статии за Russia Today.



Q

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/ Home / Tags / Contributors

Lauren Chen



Lauren Chen is a political and social commentator. She began as a YouTuber, and has since gained millions of views on the platform and hundreds of thousands of followers. She has also appeared on Fox News,

BlazeTV, RT, OANN, Newsmax, The Daily Wire, Rebel Media, PragerU and The Rubin Report.

Lauren was born in Canada, raised in Hong Kong, and came to the US for university. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with a Minor in Middle East Studies and Arabic. The topics she is most passionate about include dating culture, family values, individual liberty, gender equality, and issues surrounding race.

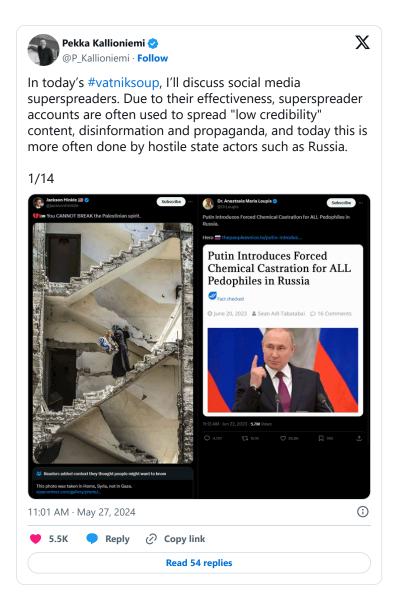
Follow her on Twitter <u>@thelaurenchen</u> and <u>Telegram</u>







Писали сме за смяната в тактиките на руските информационни операции, което предполага, че вместо да използват ботове/тролове с ограничен обхват, те са започнали да подкрепят профили в социалните медии, които разпространяват информация с огромен обхват.



6/20

Нека се запознаем и с хората зад TENET Media. Това са Тим Пуул, Бени Джонсън, Дейв Рубин и Лорън Съдърн са може би най-големите имена от компанията, като общият им брой последователи в X е около 7 милиона. Те правят съдържание и в YouTube.

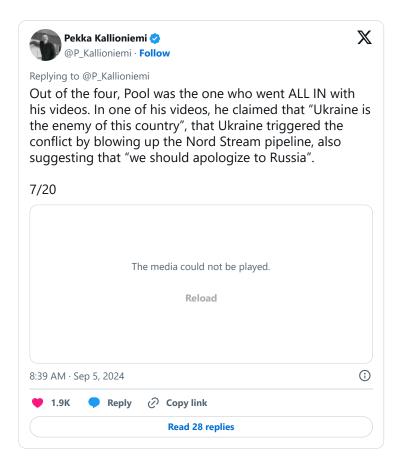








Тим Пуул е човекът, който влиза ва банк във всичките си видеа. Твърди, че "Украйна е враг на нашата държава", тя е предизвикала конфликта, чрез взривяването на тръбопровода Северен Поток. Също предлага, че "трябва да се извиним на русия".



8/20

Тим е изразявал мнение относно Украйна в X, особено по отношение на военната помощ на САЩ за страната. Той предполага, че Тръмп би могъл бързо да де-ескалира войната. Между другото, тези публикации са станали много по-чести след като TENET получава финансиране от Русия.









Основните опорни точки на Джонсън са свързани със спирането на помощта за Украйна и акцентиране на вътрешните проблеми в САЩ (естествено причинени от злите демократи). Учудващо той е получавал 400 000 долара на месец и бонус от 100 000 долара.



• • •

Eventually they did a deal. Benny Johnson would (unknowingly) work for the Russians for \$400,000 a month in exchange for 4 monthly videos. Plus a 100k signing bonus.

Pool also agreed 100k a video but no bonus. Weak negotiating skills.

er negotiations, in which Founder-2 also partici
of "Eduard Grigoriann" secured contracts w
ally:

nmentator-1's contract, which was betw
U.S. Company-1, provided for "four weekly
reamed by U.S. Company-1. In exchange for a
onus and an additional performance bonus, Com

and all content created . . . under this Agreen

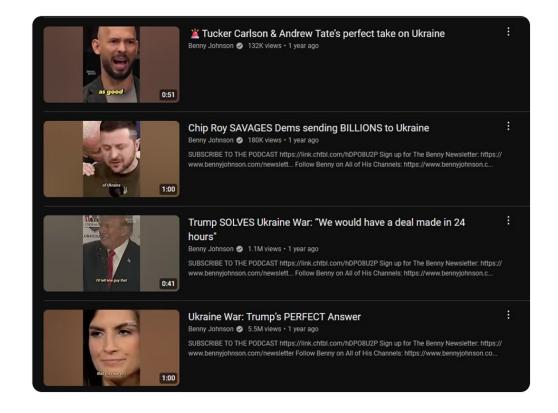
Commentator-2's contract, which was between Con r and U.S. Company-1, provided for weekly videos to livestreamed by U.S. Company-1. In exchange for a fee of -2's production company granted U.S. Company-1 "a non-e;

15

se, during the applicable License Term, to display, transmit,

10:27 PM · Sep 4, 2024 · **931K** Views







В случая с Лорън Съдърн, руската връзка е по-очевидна – през 2018 г. тя посещава Москва, за да се срещне с Александър Дугин, политически философ, който предоставя основата за руския империализъм в книгата си от 1997 г. "Фундаменти на геополитиката".





Why is this Pizzagate truther meeting with a Russian neo-fascist?

Far-right darlings Lauren Southern and Brittany Pettibone head to Russia to meet with Alexander Dugin.

CASEY MICHEL > JUN 10, 2018, 10:23 AM





LAUREN SOUTHERN AND BRITTANY PETTIBONE MEET WITH ALEXANDER DUGIN. CREDIT: YOUTUBE

After they were barred from entering the U.K., far-right darlings Lauren Southern and Brittany Pettibone decided to head to a different country altogether: Russia.

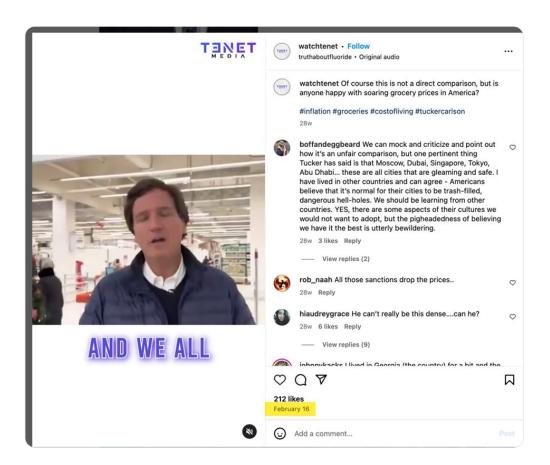
Southern, though, claims that Dugin isn't actually a fascist, but merely a misunderstood philosopher. As she wrote on Twitter, "It's incorrect to call him a fascist."

Dugin's denials, of course, are akin to "white nationalists" or members of the so-called "alt-right" insisting they're not actually white supremacists. Indeed, Dugin's neo-fascism is all but impossible to miss.

11/20

Очевидно руски оперативни служители са повлияли на съдържанието, публикувано от TENET медиа: Афасяева е помолила медийната компания да публикува посещението на Такър Карлсън в руски/френски магазин, въпреки че един от продуцентите е смятал, че това е "явно рекламиране".

a. On or about February 15, 2024, AFANASYEVA (as "Helena Shudra") shared with U.S. Company-1 a video of a well-known U.S. political commentator visiting a grocery store in Russia. AFANASYEVA posted the video in the Producer Discord Channel. Later that day, Producer-1 privately messaged Founder-2 on Discord: "They want me to post this"—referencing the video that AFANASYEVA had posted — but "it just feels like overt shilling." Founder-2 replied that Founder-1 "thinks we should put it out there." Producer-1 acquiesced, responding, "alright I'll put it out tomorrow."



12/20

В друг пример Афасяева е казала на компанията, че трябва да обвинят Украйна за терористичния акт в Crocus City Hall, въпреки че ИДИЛ по-рано са поели отговорност. Чен е отговорил, че един от инфлуенсърите е "щастлив да го отрази".

c. The next day, on or about March 23, 2024, AFANASYEVA (as "Helena Shudra") privately messaged Founder-1 on Discord asking that "one of our creators . . . record something about [the] Moscow terror attack." Despite public reporting that the foreign terrorist organization ISIS had claimed responsibility for the attack, AFANASYEVA requested that U.S. Company-1 blame Ukraine and the United States, writing: "I think we can focus on the Ukraine/U.S. angle. . . . [T]he mainstream media spread fake news that ISIS claimed responsibility for the attack yet ISIS itself never made such statements. All terrorists are now detained while they were heading to the border with Ukraine which makes it even more suspicious why they would want to go to Ukraine to hide." Founder-1 responded that Founder-1 would ask Commentator-3, and, the next day, confirmed that Commentator-3 said "he's happy to cover it."

13/20

Според обвинението, основателите на TENET медиа са знаели, че както Калашников, така и Афасяева са руски граждани, но въпреки това са избрали да работят с тях. TENET медиа имат огромен онлайн обхват – техните 2000 видеа в YouTube са събрали над 16 милиона гледания.

According to the indictment, the Tennessee company's founders worked with Kalashnikov and Afanasyeva — whom they knew were Russian — to recruit influencers to make videos that were published across YouTube, TikTok, Instagram, and X. The indictment says its nearly 2,000 YouTube videos amassed more than 16 million views, which tracks with public statistics on Tenet Media's YouTube channel.

Once the company launched in the fall of 2023, Kalashnikov and Afanasyeva were involved in the company's day-to-day operations. Kalashnikov was introduced to employees as an outside editor, and according to the indictment, "monitored U.S. Company-1 's internal communications and edited content published by U.S. Company-1, without disclosing that he was an RT employee."

14/20

Дейв Рубин вече е заявил, че той и другите коментатори са "жертви на тази схема", но очевидно те не са имали проблеми да получават пари от фалшива персона на име "Едуард Григорян", без да правят особени проверки за произхода им.

4. KALASHNIKOV, AFANASYEVA, Founder-1, and Founder-2 also worked together to deceive two U.S. online commentators ("Commentator-1" and "Commentator-2"), who respectively have over 2.4 million and 1.3 million YouTube subscribers. Founder-1 and Founder-2 contracted with Commentator-1 and Commentator-2 to produce videos, using Commentator-1's and Commentator-2's own names and leveraging their existing audiences, for license and publication by U.S. Company-1. KALASHNIKOV, AFANASYEVA, Founder-1, and Founder-2 worked together to mask U.S. Company-1's true source of funding — *i.e.*, RT — by falsely portraying to Commentator-1 and Commentator-2 that U.S. Company-1 was sponsored by a private investor named "Eduard Grigoriann." In truth and in fact, Grigoriann was a fictional persona. For example, during contract negotiations, Commentator-1 requested that Founder-1 provide a profile or article on "Eduard Grigoriann." In response, Founder-1 sent Commentator-1 a one-page profile, provided to Founder-1 by another fictional persona purporting to represent "Eduard Grigoriann," falsely describing "Eduard Grigoriann" as "accomplished finance



Statement on the DOJ indictment:

These allegations clearly show that I and other commentators were the victims of this scheme.

I knew absolutely nothing about any of this fraudulent activity. Period.

'People of the Internet' was a silly show covering viral videos which ended four months ago.

The DoJ has never contacted me regarding this matter and I have no intention to comment further.

This screenshot directly from the indictment speaks for itself...

4. KALASHNIKOV, AFANASYEVA, Founder-1, and Founder-2 also worked together to deceive two U.S. online commentators ("Commentator-1" and "Commentator-2"), who respectively have over 2.4 million and 1.3 million YouTube subscribers. Founder-1 and Founder-2 contracted with Commentator-1 and Commentator-2 to produce videos, using Commentator-1's and Commentator-2's own names and leveraging their existing audiences, for license and publication by U.S. Company-1. KALASHNIKOV, AFANASYEVA, Founder-1, and Founder-2 worked together to mask U.S. Company-1's true source of funding — i.e., RT — by falsely portraying to Commentator-1 and Commentator-2 that U.S. Company-1 was sponsored by a private investor named "Eduard Grigoriann." In truth and in fact, Grigoriann was a fictional persona. For example, during contract negotiations, Commentator-1 requested that Founder-1 provide a profile or article on "Eduard Grigoriann." In response, Founder-1 sent Commentator-1 a one-page profile, provided to Founder-1 by another fictional persona purporting to represent "Eduard Grigoriann," falsely describing "Eduard Grigoriann" as an "accomplished finance

The indictment accuses Kalashnikov and Afanasyeva of working with the Tennessee company's founders to conceal the true origins of its funding. They told some contributors that the company was being backed by a wealthy European banker named Eduard Grigoriann. "In truth and in fact, Grigoriann was a fictional persona," the indictment said.



Бени Джонсън също е определил себе си и другите инфлуенсъри като "жертви" и като силен защитник на свободата на словото заплашва да съди всеки, който твърди обратното.

Не бих го нарекъл руски агент, но наистина смятам, че е и алчен, и наивен.



A statement on the leaked DOJ indictment today:

A year ago, a media startup pitched my company to provide content as an independent contractor. Our lawyers negotiated a standard, arms length deal, which was later terminated. We are disturbed by the allegations in today's indictment, which make clear that myself and other influencers were victims in this alleged scheme. My lawyers will handle anyone who states or suggests otherwise.

12:25 AM · Sep 5, 2024 · 2.6M Views

16/20

Всичко това показва колко лесно онлайн коментатори могат да бъдат купени, за да споделят конкретни политически наративи, дори когато те са формулирани от PR специалисти на чуждестранна държава. Предполагам, че всичко е позволено, когато получаваш 400 000 долара на месец.

Tenet publicly launched in November 2023 with six contributors well-known in right-wing media, including Benny Johnson, Tim Pool, David Rubin, and Lauren Southern. The videos they create for Tenet regularly cover conservative staples including "migrant gangs," transgender people, online censorship, and attacks on Vice President Kamala Harris and President Joe Biden.

"While the views expressed in the videos are not uniform, the subject matter and content of the videos are often consistent with the Government of Russia's interest in amplifying U.S. domestic divisions in order to weaken U.S. opposition to core Government of Russia interests, such as its ongoing war in Ukraine," the indictment said.

Prosecutors said one of the Tenet founders began soliciting two commentators for work on behalf of "Grigoriann" around February 2023. One of the personalities, described as "Commentator-1," said he would need \$5 million annually "for him to be interested" in creating videos for the fake persona, Grigoriann. The other, identified as "Commentator-2," needed \$100,000 per weekly episode "to make it worth his while," according to the indictment.

The two commentators eventually entered into contracts, prosecutors said. The contract for Commentator-I required four weekly videos that he would host and would be livestreamed by Tenet Media in exchange for \$400,000 per month and a \$100,000 signing bonus. Commentator-2 agreed to provide weekly videos for \$100,000 apiece, the indictment states.

17/20

В действителност, руските разузнавателни служби предпочитат да не знаеш, че работиш за тях. Чуждестранен агент може да бъде съзнателен (съзнателно работещ за

чужда държава) или несъзнателен (несъзнателно работещ). Последните често се наричат "полезни идиоти".





Looks like @TuckerCarlson was a Russian useful idiot. And Tenet Media —a rightwing US media company allegedly financed by Russia—helped a Moscow propaganda effort to exploit Carlson.

justice.gov/d9/2024-09/u.s...

From the new DOJ indictment of alleged Russian disinformation agents:

On or about February 15, 2024, AFANASYEVA (as "Helena Shudra") shared with U.S. Company-I a video of a well-known U.S. political commentator visiting a grocery store in Russia. AF ANASYEV A posted the video in the Producer Discord Channel. Later that day, Producer-I privately messaged Founder-2 on Discord: "They want me to post this" - referencing the video that AF ANASYEVA had posted - but "it just feels like overt shilling." Founder-2 replied that Founder-I "thinks we should put it out there." Producer-I acquiesced, responding, "alright I'll put it out tomorrow."

10:56 PM · Sep 4, 2024 · **141K** Views

18/20

За щастие, изглежда че американските власти са станали по-ефективни в откритията за чуждестранно влияние върху изборите в САЩ. През 2016 и 2020 г. те не се справиха добре, но този път успяха да докладват за масивна схема за финансиране преди самите избори.



Разбира се, обичайните заподозрени вече започнаха да отклоняват темата. Например, Дейвид Сакс е прехвърлил разговора на "платени украински инфлуенсъри", напълно игнорирайки факта, че някои хора всъщност могат да защитават суверенна нация напълно безплатно.



20/20

В заключение, Русия е променила стратегията си за онлайн влияние и в допълнение към използването на обширни мрежи от ботове/тролове, сега осигуряват финансова подкрепа на профили в социалните медии, които разпространяват съответната информация.

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