

In Case You Missed...

Some of our special stories in April focused on the continuing Russia-gate imbroglio, President Trump's missile strike on Syria, and the danger of the mainstream media mediating "truth."

["Democrats' Blind Obsession on Russia-gate"](#) by Daniel Lazare, Apr. 1, 2017

["Trump's Foreign Policy Incoherence"](#) by Robert Parry, Apr. 3, 2017

["MLK's Warning of America's Spiritual Death"](#) by Gary G. Kohls, Apr. 4, 2017

["Mainstream Media as Arbiters of Truth"](#) by Robert Parry, Apr. 4, 2017

["Team Trump Ponders Climate 'Engineering'"](#) by Jonathan Marshall, Apr. 5, 2017

["Another Dangerous Rush to Judgment in Syria"](#) by Robert Parry, Apr. 5, 2017

["The Ugly Underbelly of Russia-gate"](#) by James W Carden, Apr. 6, 2017

["NYT Retreats on 2013 Syria-Sarin Claims"](#) by Robert Parry, Apr. 6, 2017

["Dashed Hopes for Trump's Foreign Policy"](#) by Gilbert Doctorow, Apr. 7, 2017

["Trump's 'Wag the Dog' Moment"](#) by Robert Parry, Apr. 7, 2017

["Trampling the US Constitution for War"](#) by Daniel C Maguire, Apr. 8, 2017

["Trump's 59-Tomahawk 'Tweet'"](#) by Alastair Crooke, Apr. 8, 2017

["Luring Trump into Mideast Wars"](#) by Daniel Lazare, Apr. 8, 2017

["Where Was CIA's Pompeo on Syria?"](#) by Robert Parry, Apr. 8, 2017

["Bill Maher's Muddled Attacks on Islam"](#) by JP Sottile, Apr. 9, 2017

["Trump Plunges Toward World War III"](#) by Norman Solomon, Apr. 10, 2017

["How Media Bias Fuels Syrian Escalation"](#) by Rick Sterling, Apr. 10, 2017

["Neocons Have Trump on His Knees"](#) by Robert Parry, Apr. 10, 2017

["Trump Should Rethink Syria Escalation"](#) by Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity, Apr. 11, 2017

["Trump's Syria Attack Trampled Many Laws"](#) by Marjorie Cohn, Apr. 11, 2017

["Russia's Disdain for Tillerson and Trump"](#) by Gilbert Doctorow, Apr. 11, 2017

"To Russia with More Russia-Bashing" by Nat Parry, Apr. 12, 2017

"Trump Withholds Syria-Sarin Evidence" by Robert Parry, Apr. 12, 2017

"Trump Finds His Groove with Warmaking" by Dennis J Bernstein, Apr. 12, 2017

"Pushing Australia into War with China" by John Pilger, Apr. 12, 2017

"Tillerson's Bad Hand in Kremlin Showdown" by Gilbert Doctorow, Apr. 13, 2017

"Trump Lurches into Chaos and Conflict" by Alastair Crooke, Apr. 14, 2017

"Did Al Qaeda Fool the White House Again?" by Robert Parry, Apr. 14, 2017

"Handing Killer Drones to Donald Trump" by Jesselyn Radack, Apr. 15, 2017

"Neocons Point Housebroken Trump at Iran" by Jonathan Marshall, Apr. 15, 2017

"Obama/Trump: Contrasting Deceivers" by Sam Hussein, Apr. 16, 2017

"Trump Uses Tiny Nation to Insult Russia" by Ted Snider, Apr. 16, 2017

"What Russia-gate Has Wrought" by Robert Parry, Apr. 16, 2017

"A Personal Look Inside Modern Islam" by Arnold R. Isaacs, Apr. 17, 2017

"Through the 'War on Terror' Looking Glass" by Nicolas JS Davies, Apr. 17, 2017

"Dropping the (Non-Nuclear) Big One" by Dennis J Bernstein, Apr. 18, 2017

"NYT Mocks Skepticism on Syria-Sarin Claims" by Robert Parry, Apr. 18, 2017

"Erdogan's Neo-Fascist Turkish Allies" by Jonathan Marshall, Apr. 19, 2017

"Why Hillary Clinton Really Lost" by Robert Parry, Apr. 19, 2017

"Russia-Bashing Helps Wall Street Democrats" by Norman Solomon, Apr. 20, 2017

"Why Not a Probe of 'Israel-gate'?" by Robert Parry, Apr. 20, 2017

"Populism v. Elites in French Election" by Andrew Spannaus, Apr. 21, 2017

"How US Race Laws Inspired Nazism" by David Swanson, Apr. 22, 2017

"Coal Miners' Futures in Renewable Energy" by Jonathan Marshall, Apr. 22, 2017

"The Pro-War Twist of the 'Resistance'" by James W Carden, Apr. 24, 2017

"The Risk of Brushing Aside Intelligence" by Lawrence Davidson, Apr. 25, 2017

[“Donald Trump’s Failing Presidency”](#) by Robert Parry, Apr. 25, 2017

[“France Circles Back to Status Quo”](#) by Gilbert Doctorow, Apr. 26, 2017

[“Intel Vets Voice Doubts on Syrian Crisis”](#) by Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity, Apr. 26, 2017

[“More NYT ‘Spin’ on the Syria-Sarin Case”](#) by Robert Parry, Apr. 28, 2017

[“The Existential Question of Whom to Trust”](#) by Robert Parry, Apr. 30, 2017

To produce and publish these stories – and many more – costs money. And except for some book sales, we depend on the generous support of our readers.

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Oliver Stone Honored with Press Freedom Award

Director Oliver Stone – in recognition of his brave work in documentary films – has been selected as the winner of the 2016 Gary Webb Freedom of the Press Award, reports Robert Parry.

By Robert Parry

Though most people know Oliver Stone as a famous screenwriter and movie director, he has also lent his talents and resources to a number of documentary films that embrace the core journalistic idea that there are usually two sides – if not more – to a story.

In doing so, Stone has taken on controversial subjects, both in challenging conventional history as with Showtime’s “Untold History of the United States” and daring to treat foreign leaders – who were undergoing demonization by the U.S. government and media – as complex figures who deserve to have their say as well.

Not surprisingly, Stone has faced intense criticism for deviating from mainstream U.S. groupthink, which seek to portray international adversaries as cardboard villains deserving only of American hatred and bombs.

But Stone learned as a decorated young soldier in the Vietnam War how that propaganda process can lead to unspeakable horrors, including the unnecessary deaths of millions of people and the devastation of entire nations and regions.

The Vietnam War – and the U.S. government's lies that justified it – taught Stone a powerful lesson that is as true now as it was then, that a healthy democracy should encourage a diversity of viewpoints, appreciate all sides of a conflict, and have the courage to engage in serious self-criticism, not simply assume that what the authorities are saying is true.

Stone's documentaries have included close-up studies of Latin American leftist leaders challenging U.S. hegemony in the hemisphere, including Cuba's Fidel and Raul Castro, Venezuela's Hugo Chavez, Bolivia's Evo Morales, Ecuador's Rafael Correa, the Kirschners of Argentina, Brazil's Lula da Silva and Paraguay's Fernando Lugo.

Stone recently produced a documentary on the Ukraine crisis, entitled "Ukraine on Fire," which offered a nuanced understanding of Ukraine's modern history as well as explaining the behind-the-scenes story of the violent overthrow of elected President Viktor Yanukovich and the secret U.S. hand in turning Ukraine into a flashpoint for a new Cold War.

In June, Showtime is scheduled to release Stone's series of interviews with Russian President Vladimir Putin, spanning two years, entitled "The Putin Interviews."

Because of his courage and tenacity in presenting sides of important stories that many powerful interests in the United States would prefer the American people not hear, the Board of Directors for the Consortium for Independent Journalism (which publishes Consortiumnews.com) presents Oliver Stone with the Gary Webb Freedom of the Press Award for 2016.

Background of Award

The award is named in honor of investigative reporter Gary Webb who in 1996 courageously revived interest in one of the darkest scandals of the 1980s, the Reagan administration's tolerance of cocaine trafficking by the CIA-organized Nicaraguan Contra rebels who were fighting to overthrow Nicaragua's leftist Sandinista government.

The Contra-Cocaine scandal was originally exposed by Associated Press reporters Robert Parry and Brian Barger in 1985, but the major U.S. newspapers accepted the Reagan administration's denials and treated the story as a "conspiracy theory."

So, when Webb revived the story in 1996 for the San Jose Mercury News and described how some of the Contra cocaine fueled the spread of crack across urban America, the major newspapers again rallied to the defense of the Contras and the Reagan administration's legacy.

The assault on Webb was led by The New York Times, The Washington Post and the Los Angeles Times – and was so ferocious that Webb's editors at the Mercury News sacrificed him to protect their own careers. Webb found himself cast out from the profession that he loved.

It didn't even matter that an internal CIA investigation by Inspector General Frederick Hitz confirmed, in 1998, that the CIA was aware of the Contra cocaine trafficking but had put its goal of ousting the Sandinistas ahead of any responsibility to expose the Contra criminality.

Because of the false impression that Webb had manufactured a fake story, he remained unemployable in mainstream journalism. In 2004, with his life in tatters and his financial resources spent, Webb took his own life, a tragic casualty in the difficult fight for a truly free press in America, a press that doesn't just rubber stamp government propaganda and accept official lies as truth.

[For more on that history, see Consortiumnews.com's "[The Sordid Contra-Cocaine Saga](#)."]

Investigative reporter Robert Parry broke many of the Iran-Contra stories for The Associated Press and Newsweek in the 1980s. You can buy his latest book, *America's Stolen Narrative*, either in [print here](#) or as an e-book (from [Amazon](#) and [barnesandnoble.com](#)).

Last Call for Spring Fund Drive

From Editor Robert Parry: Our Spring Fund Drive ends tonight – and we are about \$500 short of our goal of \$30,000. If you can help us reach our target, we would be most appreciative.

You can donate by [credit card online](#) (we accept Visa, Mastercard, American Express and Discover), by PayPal (our PayPal account is named after our original email address, "consortnew@aol.com"), or by [mailing a check](#) to Consortium for Independent Journalism (CIJ); 2200 Wilson Blvd., Suite 102-231; Arlington VA 22201.

We also are registered with PayPal's Giving Fund under the name Consortium for Independent Journalism. And, since we are a 501-c-3 non-profit, donations by American taxpayers may be tax-deductible.

Thank you for your support.

Robert Parry

Wrapping Up Spring Fund Drive

From Editor Robert Parry: Thanks to the generosity of our readers, we have gotten to within about \$5,000 of our spring fund-drive goal of \$30,000, an important target so we can continue this important independent news Web site.

If you haven't contributed yet, any amount that you can afford will help. You can donate by credit card online (we accept Visa, Mastercard, American Express and Discover), by PayPal (our PayPal account is named after our original email address, "consortnew @ aol.com"), or by mailing a check to Consortium for Independent Journalism (CIJ); 2200 Wilson Blvd., Suite 102-231; Arlington VA 22201.

We also are registered with PayPal's Giving Fund under the name Consortium for Independent Journalism. And, since we are a 501-c-3 non-profit, donations by American taxpayers may be tax-deductible.

Thank you for your support.

Robert Parry

In Case You Missed...

Some of our special stories in March focused on Donald Trump's early troubles as President, the Russia-gate controversy, and the deepening crises in North Korea and Syria.

"How the Press Serves the Deep State" by Daniel Lazare, Mar. 1, 2017

"Another Hatchet Job on Snowden" by Ray McGovern, Mar. 3, 2017

["The Politics Behind 'Russia-gate'"](#) by Robert Parry, Mar. 4, 2017

["A Path Forward on North Korea"](#) by Ann Wright, Mar. 5, 2017

["Global Warming's Threat to Trump's Mar-a-Lago"](#) by Jonathan Marshall, Mar. 6, 2017

["Official Washington Tips into Madness"](#) by Robert Parry, Mar. 6, 2017

["Risks in Demonizing Diplomacy with Russia"](#) by Jack Matlock, Mar. 6, 2017

["Official Washington Hails an Anti-Russia Hawk"](#) by James W Carden, Mar. 7, 2017

["America's Deadly New 'National Bird'"](#) by Dennis J. Bernstein, Mar. 8, 2017

["America's Homegrown Assault on Democracy"](#) by Norman Solomon, Mar. 8, 2017

["North Korea Fears 'Regime Change' Strike"](#) by Jonathan Marshall, Mar. 8, 2017

["Fresh Doubts about Russian 'Hacking'"](#) by Robert Parry, Mar. 8, 2017

["The Five Blinding Myths About Iran"](#) by Ted Snider, Mar. 9, 2017

["Steve Bannon's Apocalyptic 'Unravelling'"](#) by Alastair Crooke, Mar. 9, 2017

["Another Russia 'Fake News' Red Herring"](#) by Robert Parry, Mar. 9, 2017

["Dreams of 'Winning' Nuclear War on Russia"](#) by Jonathan Marshall, Mar. 10, 2017

["A Flawed UN Investigation on Syria"](#) by Gareth Porter, Mar. 11, 2017

["Restoring a Responsible 'Conservatism'"](#) by Graham E. Fuller, Mar. 12, 2017

["The Democrats' Dangerous Diversion"](#) by Nicolas JS Davies, Mar. 12, 2017

["When 'Disinformation' Is Truth"](#) by Robert Parry, Mar. 13, 2017

["The Misguided 'Vault 7' Whodunit"](#) by Jesselyn Radack, Mar. 14, 2017

["Celebrating the Balfour Disaster"](#) by Lawrence Davidson, Mar. 14, 2017

["America First or Saudi Arabia First?"](#) by Kristen Breitweiser, Mar. 14, 2017

["Greens' Stein Faults Two-Party System"](#) by Dennis J Bernstein, Mar. 15, 2017

["The Kagans Are Back; Wars to Follow"](#) by Robert Parry, Mar. 15, 2017

["Trump Slips into 'Endless War' Cycle"](#) by James W Carden, Mar. 16, 2017

["Trumping Trump and Howling at the Moonves"](#) by JP Sottile, Mar. 16, 2017

["Contrasting Tales of Two Besieged Cities"](#) by Steven Chovanec, Mar. 17, 2017

["The Trump/Obama 'Leak War'"](#) by Rick Sterling, Mar. 17, 2017

["NYT's 'Tinfoil Hat' Conspiracy Theory"](#) by Robert Parry, Mar. 19, 2017

["The Missing Logic of Russia-gate"](#) by Robert Parry, Mar. 20, 2017

["A Breach in the Anti-Putin Groupthink"](#) by Gilbert Doctorow, Mar. 21, 2017

["David Rockefeller & October Surprise Case"](#) by Robert Parry, Mar. 21, 2017

["Fear Spreads in Immigrant Communities"](#) by Dennis J Bernstein, Mar. 22, 2017

["What Russia Wants – and Expects"](#) by Gilbert Doctorow, Mar. 22, 2017

["Democrats Trade Places on War and McCarthyism"](#) by Robert Parry, Mar. 23, 2017

["Pretending Israel Is Innocent of Apartheid"](#) by Lawrence Davidson, Mar. 24 2017

["Risks to US from War on North Korea"](#) by Jonathan Marshall, Mar. 25, 2017

["How US Flooded the World with Psyops"](#) by Robert Parry, Mar. 25, 2017

["Another Journalist Killed in Mexico"](#) by Dennis J Bernstein, Mar. 26, 2017

["Life and Death in Vietnam's 'Television War'"](#) by Don North, Mar. 27, 2017

["US Media's Global Warming Denialism"](#) by Jonathan Marshall, Mar. 27, 2017

["The Surveillance State Behind Russia-gate"](#) by Ray McGovern & Bill Binney, Mar. 28, 2017

["The Sleazy Origins of Russia-gate"](#) by Robert Parry, Mar. 29, 2017

["Israel Hits Back Against Boycott"](#) by Marjorie Cohn, Mar. 30, 2017

["Trump Succumbs to Bush/Obama Perpetual War"](#) by Ann Wright, Mar. 30, 2017

["Aiding Saudi Arabia's Slaughter in Yemen"](#) by Dennis J Bernstein, Mar. 30, 2017

["Duping Americans on Healthcare and War"](#) by Nicolas JS Davies, Mar. 30, 2017

["Blaming Russia for Everything"](#) by Robert Parry, Mar. 31, 2017

To produce and publish these stories – and many more – costs money. And except for some book sales, we depend on the generous support of our readers.

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contributions to our PayPal Giving Fund account, which is named “The Consortium for Independent Journalism”).

You Protect Our Independence

From Editor Robert Parry: At Consortiumnews, we’ve never had some billionaire who pays our bills and pulls our strings. From our start in 1995, we’ve relied on readers to support our work and to protect our independence. We also operate on a very tight budget, especially for a daily news operation that plays such a big role in challenging the many misguided groupthinks of Official Washington.

This combination of our own frugality and the generosity of our readers has enabled us to survive more than two decades and to become a burr under the saddle of the Establishment, which prefers nothing more than to deliver its propaganda to the citizenry without question or resistance. But the reason that we are viewed as such a problem is that we challenge the slick propaganda with sound journalism and solid reasoning.

Also, because we know our readers are busy, we limit our special fund appeals to three times a year: early spring, late summer/early fall, and the end of the year. We are now in our spring fund drive and need your help to reach our rather modest \$30,000 goal.

You can donate by **credit card online** (we accept Visa, Mastercard, American Express and Discover), by PayPal (our PayPal account is named after our original email address, “consortnew @ aol.com”), or by **mailing a check** to Consortium for Independent Journalism (CIJ); 2200 Wilson Blvd., Suite 102-231; Arlington VA 22201.

We also are registered with PayPal’s Giving Fund under the name Consortium for Independent Journalism. And, since we are a 501-c-3 non-profit, donations by American taxpayers may be tax-deductible.

Thank you for your support.

Robert Parry

Spring Fund Drive Begins

From Editor Robert Parry: We are setting our spring fundraising goal at \$30,000, so we can continue publishing this independent-minded news site, which produces journalism that demands real facts from all sides in important public debates while rejecting Washington's groupthinks.

You can donate by credit card online (we accept Visa, Mastercard, American Express and Discover), by PayPal (our PayPal account is named after our original email address, "consortnew @ aol.com"), or by mailing a check to Consortium for Independent Journalism (CIJ); 2200 Wilson Blvd., Suite 102-231; Arlington VA 22201.

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What makes Consortiumnews special is its commitment to old-fashioned journalistic principles. We try to be evenhanded and fair toward everyone regardless of popularity (or lack thereof) – and we insist on evidence before serious accusations are made.

We don't simply run with the media pack, which I realize can annoy some people at times when they want us to join in supporting a favored political agenda. But that is not our job. Our job is to objectively evaluate evidence and put it into a reasonable context, which is why we are often out of step with the mainstream media.

But that is also why our stories, overwhelmingly, stand the test of time. And our commitment to honest journalism is our promise to you, our readers. Thank you for your support.

Robert Parry

In Case You Missed...

Some of our special stories in February focused on the contentious beginning of the Trump presidency, the growing hysteria over Russia and the dangers of the New Cold War.

"Dangers of Democratic Putin-Bashing" by Robert Parry, Feb. 1, 2017

["Ukraine Sabotages Trump's Russia Detente"](#) by Jonathan Marshall, Feb. 1, 2017

["'Deflategate' Cloud over the Super Bowl"](#) by Robert Parry, Feb. 2, 2017

["The Irony of Trump's Immigration Ban"](#) by Lawrence Davidson, Feb. 2 2017

["Trump Veers Off Course with Iran Threats"](#) by Alastair Crooke, Feb. 2, 2017

["A Reprise of the Iraq-WMD Fiasco?"](#) by James W Carden, Feb. 3, 2017

["Trump Bends to Neocon Pressures"](#) by Andrew Spannaus, Feb. 3, 2017

["Steering Trump Back to Endless War"](#) by Daniel Lazare, Feb. 4, 2017

["How US Believes Impossible Things"](#) by William Blum, Feb. 5, 2017

["What Trump's 'Great Wall' Misses"](#) by William Blum, Feb. 6, 2017

["Castigating Trump for Truth-Telling"](#) by Robert Parry, Feb. 7, 2017

["Trump's 'Great Wall' and the 'Drug War'"](#) by Jonathan Marshall, Feb. 8, 2017

["A Deadly Legacy: CIA's Covert Laos War"](#) by Don North, Feb. 8, 2017

["Trump's Foreign Policy at a Crossroads"](#) by Robert Parry, Feb. 9, 2017

["The Neocons' Back-Door to Trump"](#) by Robert Parry, Feb. 10, 2017

["Amnesty International Stokes Syrian War"](#) by Rick Sterling, Feb. 11, 2017

["Deciphering Trump's Opaque Foreign Policy"](#) by Alastair Crooke, Feb. 11, 2017

["A Documentary You'll Likely Never See"](#) by James DiEugenio, Feb. 13, 2017

["The Negotiation Option with North Korea"](#) by Jonathan Marshall, Feb. 14, 2017

["Trump Caves on Flynn's Resignation"](#) by Robert Parry, Feb. 14, 2017

["Trump's Dysfunctional White House"](#) by Lawrence Davidson, Feb. 15, 2017

["A Dangerous Hysteria on Russia"](#) by James W Carden, Feb. 15, 2017

["German Intel Clears Russia on Interference"](#) by Ray McGovern, Feb. 15, 2017

["Toxic Policies of 'President Agent Orange'"](#) by Marjorie Cohn, Feb. 16, 2017

["Tulsi Gabbard vs. 'Regime Change' Wars"](#) by Col. Ann Wright, Feb. 16, 2017

["Making Puppy Mills Great Again"](#) by JP Sottile, Feb. 16, 2017

[“Deep State’ Has Trump on the Menu”](#) by Alastair Crooke, Feb. 17, 2017

[“Democrats, Liberals Catch McCarthyistic Fever”](#) by Daniel Lazare, Feb. 17, 2017

[“The Did-You-Talk-to-Russians Witch Hunt”](#) by Robert Parry, Feb. 18, 2017

[“Democratic Ex-Dove Proposes War on Iran”](#) by Nicolas J S Davies, Feb. 19, 2017

[“Challenging Klobuchar on Ukraine War”](#) by Mike Madden, Feb. 19, 2017

[“Was Thomas Jefferson a Rapist?”](#) by Robert Parry, Feb. 20, 2017

[“Trump’s Foreign Policy: Retreat or Rout?”](#) by Gilbert Doctorow, Feb. 20, 2017

[“The West’s Moral Hypocrisy on Yemen”](#) by Jonathan Marshall, Feb. 21, 2017

[“NYT’s Fake News about Fake News”](#) by Robert Parry, Feb. 22, 2017

[“California Resists Trump on Immigration”](#) by Dennis J Bernstein, Feb. 22, 2017

[“How Trump Could Be a Truth-teller”](#) by Robert Parry, Feb. 23, 2017

[“Israel’s Dead-End Dilemma”](#) by John Chuckman, Feb. 23, 2017

[“Syrian War Propaganda at the Oscars”](#) by Rick Sterling, Feb. 24, 2017

[“Who’s Behind US Downward-Mobility?”](#) by JP Sottile, Feb. 24, 2017

[“How ‘New Cold Warriors’ Cornered Trump”](#) by Gareth Porter, Feb. 25, 2016

[“A Nazi Skeleton in the Family Closet”](#) by Arina Tsukanova, Feb. 27, 2017

[“The Risk of Baiting Trump on Russia”](#) by Norman Solomon, Feb. 27, 2017

[“NATO’s Strange Addition of Montenegro”](#) by Jonathan Marshall, Feb. 28, 2017

[“Mainstream Media’s ‘Victimhood’”](#) by Robert Parry, Feb. 28, 2017

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Another Russia ‘Fake News’ Red Herring

Exclusive: In the West, it’s now common for politicians to shout Russian “fake news” when embarrassing facts come out – as happened with Canada’s new foreign minister hiding a Nazi family skeleton, reports Robert Parry.

By Robert Parry

On Feb, 27, Consortiumnews.com published an article describing misrepresentations by Canada’s new Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland about her Ukrainian maternal grandfather whom she has portrayed as a hero who struggled “to return freedom and democracy to Ukraine” but left out that he was a Nazi propagandist whose newspaper justified the slaughter of Jews.

Over the next week, the article entitled “A Nazi Skeleton in the Family Closet” by journalist Arina Tsukanova (which I personally edited and fact-checked) circulated enough that Freeland was asked about it by the Canadian news media. As often happens these days, Freeland chose not to tell the truth but rather portrayed the article as part of a Russian propaganda and disinformation campaign.

Freeland told reporters, “I don’t think it’s a secret. American officials have publicly said, and even [German Chancellor] Angela Merkel has publicly said, that there were efforts on the Russian side to destabilize Western democracies, and I think it shouldn’t come as a surprise if these same efforts were used against Canada. ... I think that Canadians and indeed other Western countries should be prepared for similar efforts to be directed at them.”

Though Freeland did not comment directly on the truthfulness of our article, her office denied that her grandfather was a Nazi collaborator.

Other leaders of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s government joined in the counterattack. Citing the danger of Russian disinformation, Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale, said, “The situation is obviously one where we need to be alert.”

In an article on March 6, Canada’s Globe and Mail also rallied to Freeland’s defense claiming that she was “being targeted by allegations in pro-Moscow websites that her maternal Ukrainian grandfather was a Nazi collaborator.”

The newspaper also reached out to other experts to add their denunciations of Consortiumnews.com and other news sites that either reposted our story or ran a similar one.

“It is the continued Russian modus operandi that they have. Fake news, disinformation and targeting different individuals,” said Paul Grod, president of the Canadian Ukrainian Congress. “It is just so outlandish when you hear some of these allegations – whether they are directed at minister Freeland or others.”

The Globe and Mail also quoted Ukraine’s ambassador to Canada, Andriy Shevchenko, citing our supposedly fake news as “another reason ... we should realize that Russia is waging a war against the free world. It is not just about Ukraine.”

The ambassador then offered some advice about standing up to the Russians and their disinformationists: “I am absolutely sure they will seek new targets in the free world so I would encourage our Canadian friends to be prepared for that, to stay strong and we will be happy to share our experience in how to deal with all these information wars.”

A Second-Day Story

The only problem with all these righteous condemnations was that the information about Freeland’s grandfather was true – and Freeland knew that it was true.

In a second-day story, The Globe and Mail had to revisit the issue, reporting that “Freeland knew for more than two decades that her maternal Ukrainian grandfather was the chief editor of a Nazi newspaper in occupied Poland that vilified Jews during the Second World War.”

In other words, not only was our story accurate but Freeland knowingly launched a deceptive attack on us and other news outlets to punish us for writing the truth.

And not only was our story correct but it was newsworthy, given Freeland’s fierce support for Ukrainian nationalism and her deep hatred of Russia. Canadians have a right to know what drives those passions in their Foreign Minister. In this case, her worldview derived from her grandparents who sided with Adolf Hitler and who fled to the West as the Soviet Red Army defeated the Nazis.

Yet, instead of fessing up and acknowledging these facts, Freeland chose to dissemble and slander journalists who were doing their job. And the smears didn’t entirely stop.

Even as the Globe and Mail admitted the reality about Freeland’s grandfather, it continued to disparage the journalists who had exposed the facts. The second line of the newspaper’s second-day article read: “Ms. Freeland’s family history

has become a target for Russian forces seeking to discredit one of Canada's highly placed defenders of Ukraine."

This pattern has become all too common in the West, to insult and discredit anyone who doesn't accept the "groupthinks" about the New Cold War. Just as the major news media marched in lockstep over the Iraq-WMD falsehoods, so it has been toeing the line on the hysteria over supposed "Russian propaganda" and "fake news."

Hidden History

In its second bite at the apple, the Globe and Mail noted that "Ms. Freeland, who has paid tribute to her maternal grandparents in articles and books, helped edit a scholarly article in the Journal of Ukrainian Studies in 1996 that revealed her grandfather, Michael Chomiak, was a Nazi propagandist for Krakivski Visti (Krakow News).

"Krakivski Visti was set up in 1940 by the German army and supervised by German intelligence officer Emil Gassert. Its printing presses and offices were confiscated by the Germans from a Jewish publisher, who was later murdered at the Belzec concentration camp." All of that was reported in our Feb. 27 article.

The Journal of Ukrainian Studies article was written by Freeland's uncle, John-Paul Himka, a professor emeritus at the University of Alberta, who credits help from Freeland in the foreword. However, as the Globe and Mail wrote, "Ms. Freeland has never acknowledged that her grandfather was a Nazi collaborator and suggested on Monday that the allegation was part of a Russian disinformation campaign."

Some members of Freeland's family have tried to recast the storyline to portray Chomiak as something of a double agent, but Himka said he was never able to verify this information, which he called "fragmentary and one-sided," the Globe and Mail reported.

Himka added that he never knew that Chomiak had worked for the Nazis until after his father-in-law died and left behind copies of Krakivski Visti in his personal papers.

The day after her initial comments on our article, Freeland's office offered a brief statement: "Dating back many years, the Minister has supported her uncle's efforts to study and publish on this difficult chapter in her late grandfather's past."

But Freeland, who has a background as a journalist herself, did not explain why she chose initially to dissemble about her grandfather and to slander

journalists who were telling the truth.

Investigative reporter Robert Parry broke many of the Iran-Contra stories for The Associated Press and Newsweek in the 1980s. You can buy his latest book, *America's Stolen Narrative*, either in [print here](#) or as an e-book (from [Amazon](#) and [barnesandnoble.com](#)).

In Case You Missed...

Some of our notable stories in January, focusing on the U.S. presidential transfer of power, the issue of alleged Russian interference in the election and the furor over “fake news.”

[“The War Against Alternative Information”](#) by Rick Sterling, Jan. 1, 2017

[“Crosses Marking Chicago Death Toll”](#) by Kathy Kelly, Jan. 2, 2017

[“Israel’s Above-the-Law Behavior”](#) by Lawrence Davidson, Jan. 2, 2017

[“WPost’s New ‘Fake News’ on Russian ‘Hack’”](#) by Annie Machon, Jan. 2 2017

[“Requiem for a UN ‘Yes Man’”](#) by Joe Lauria, Jan. 3, 2017

[“Obama’s Deadly Afghan Acquiescence”](#) by Ray McGovern, Jan. 3, 2017

[“Anti-Trump Coalition Shows Cracks”](#) by Nat Parry, Jan. 4, 2017

[“Donald Trump’s Debt to Willie Horton”](#) by JP Sottile, Jan. 5, 2017

[“The Dubious Case on Russian ‘Hacking’”](#) by William Binney & Ray McGovern, Jan. 6 2017

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