Donald Trump agrees with Vladimir Putin over his own party, his Cabinet picks, the intelligence community, and the military.

**Supports NATO**
- NATO has "outlived itself." 
- "I think NATO is obsolete." 
- "NATO is central to our defense." 
- NATO "remains strong and ever relevant." 
- Sen. Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (KY): "NATO is the most important military alliance in world history."

**Supports the European Union**
- Has compared the European Union to the Supreme Soviet in the USSR.
- "I don’t think it matters much for the United States."
- Sees the European Union, like NATO, as a cornerstone alliance for the United States.
- Former CIA head John Brennan placed the European Union among the "pillars of international system."
- Congressional leaders from both parties support the European Union and have had historically close relations with EU counterparts.

**Condemns Russian hacking in U.S. election**
- Presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that U.S. accusations that Russia intervened in the election were "indecent" and "groundlessly made."
- Dismissed intelligence community findings, saying hacks may have been carried out by "a 400-pound person sitting in bed, OK?"
- Said he has "a very high degree of confidence" in the findings of the U.S. intelligence community.
- CIA Director Mike Pompeo: "This was an aggressive action taken by senior leadership inside of Russia."
- House Speaker Paul Ryan (WI) called for stronger Russian sanctions, saying, "The fact that a foreign government tried to meddle in another government's election is wrong."

**Supports sanctions on Russia for Ukraine invasion and U.S. election hacking**
- "We regard the recent unfriendly steps taken by the outgoing US administration as provocative and aimed at further weakening the Russia-US relationship."
- "If you get along and if Russia is really helping us, why would anybody have sanctions if somebody's doing some really great things?"
- Said we need to take the necessary "diplomatic, economic … military, and alliance steps" to "defend ourselves."
- Director of National Intelligence James Clapper: "I'm a big fan of sanctions against the Russians."
- Sens. John McCain (AZ) and Lindsey Graham (SC) are planning new legislation that would increase and codify sanctions on Russia.

**Opposes WikiLeaks attacks on U.S. politicians and institutions**
- In 2011, the Russian government issued Julian Assange a visa, and a Russian official said that he deserved the Nobel Peace Prize.
- Cited WikiLeaks 164 times in the last month of his campaign.
- Said of a WikiLeaks hack: "I just thought it was … a (sic) appallingly irresponsible act to release this information."
- CIA Director Pompeo: "I have never believed that WikiLeaks was a credible source of information."
- Speaker Ryan said that Assange was a “sycophant for Russia,” adding, "He leaks, he steals data and compromises national security."

**Opposes Russian support for bloody Syrian regime**
- Putin said Russia wants to "strengthen the legitimate authority" of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.
- "And sure, Assad is a bad guy, but you can have worse."
- Asked about Syria, he said that the United States has to "recognize reality and what Russia is up to and there's decreasing number of areas where we can engage cooperatively and increasing number of areas where we're going to have to confront Russia."
- CIA Director Pompeo has said that Russia is "doing nothing to … aid in the destruction and defeat of ISIS" and that it is directly targeting civilians.
- Sen. McCain: “the price of another ‘reset’ [with Russia] would be complicity in Putin and Assad’s butchery of the Syrian people. That is an unacceptable price for a great nation.”

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**What does President Trump owe Putin?**
Contact your representative today to demand that Trump release his taxes.


13 U.S. Senate, “Full Committee Hearing on the Nomination of Retired Marine Corps Gen. James Mattis to be Defense Secretary in the Trump Administration.”


18 U.S. Senate, “Full Committee Hearing on the Nomination of Retired Marine Corps Gen. James Mattis to be Defense Secretary in the Trump Administration.”


28 U.S. Senate, “Full Committee Hearing on the Nomination of Retired Marine Corps Gen. James Mattis to be Defense Secretary in the Trump Administration.”


Endnotes