



# The National Security Argument on Impeachment

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## 1. Trump violated his oath of office and abused his power.

- President Trump **violated his oath** to the Constitution to protect and defend the United States by using his position to try to [extort](#) a foreign government for assistance with his reelection efforts and by inviting their interference in our domestic election.
- President Trump **abused his power** by using the instruments of government, including the [State Department](#), the [National Security Council](#), the [Office of Management and Budget](#), the [Energy Department](#), and the [Justice Department](#), for his personal political interests at the expense of America's national interests.

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## 2. Trump undermined U.S. national security interests for his own personal gain.

- With no regard for its impact on America's security, President Trump is using his public office to extort foreign countries for unlawful assistance for his reelection campaign. It is [illegal](#) to "solicit, accept, or receive" anything of value from a foreign national in connection with a U.S. election.
- President Trump has also directed other U.S. officials, including Attorney General Barr and Secretary of State Pompeo, to pursue these unlawful efforts in their engagements with foreign partners. In doing so, the President and his Cabinet officials are prioritizing the President's reelection campaign over other serious national security matters worthy of international attention.
- Trump's pressure campaign on Ukraine wasn't just talk. President Trump actually [held up](#) U.S. military aid to Ukraine, a country in desperate need of American assistance to fight Russia, because Ukraine had not agreed to his demands for political favors.
- A key objective of President Trump's actions is to [undermine](#) the [findings](#) of the U.S. Intelligence Community that Russia interfered in the 2016 elections to help get him elected, findings that were [reaffirmed](#) in a Republican-controlled Senate [report](#) just this week. Left unchecked, President Trump's actions could harm critical intelligence relationships and reduce the flow of information between the United States and its most trusted allies.

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3. The Trump Administration has attempted to hide its wrongdoing by abusing classified systems and threatening whistleblowers, which is illegal and undermines our national security.

- The Trump White House [placed](#) the records of the President Trump's call with Ukrainian President Zelensky on a highly classified server, [abusing](#) classified systems and restricting access, likely because they knew the call was [problematic](#).
- There are reports that this has been done on several presidential calls, including with [Russian](#) President Vladimir Putin, [Chinese](#) President Xi Jinping, and [Saudi Arabian](#) Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. In some cases, the White House [reportedly](#) withheld distribution of call transcripts, upending traditional foreign policy practice and likely undermining U.S. diplomats.
- Trump [threatened](#) the whistleblower who reported his Ukraine call, accusing him or her of being "close to a spy" and promising "Big Consequences" for anyone who shared information. Threatening whistleblowers is illegal and undermines our national security. Over 50 former senior national security officials recently signed an open [letter](#) describing how responsible whistleblowers make our nation safer.
- Trump's efforts to hide his wrongdoing gives leverage to foreign nations, who have their own records of their engagements with Trump and other Administration officials. That creates a serious counterintelligence risk that those countries will use that leverage to manipulate the President and U.S. foreign policy to their advantage.

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4. If he is not held accountable, Trump will continue to corrupt our foreign relations and put our national security interests at grave risk.

- President Trump stood on the White House lawn and [repeated](#) his demands to foreign governments – including the head of the Chinese Communist Party – to investigate an American citizen. His comments [echoed](#) his 2016 call on Russia to steal emails from his then-political opponent, Hillary Clinton.
- The Attorney General is flying around the world [asking](#) foreign governments for evidence that the U.S. Intelligence Community's judgments on Russian interference were the result of a well-debunked [hoax](#).
- Other countries are likely to interpret Trump's requests as a greenlight to investigate Trump's political opponents to curry favor with the President.
- Trump's open invitation for other countries to interfere in our election, combined with his Administration's failure to harden our election systems and defenses, is indefensible given ample [evidence](#) that other countries are preparing to meddle in the upcoming 2020 election.

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5. Trump's actions are doing lasting damage to American alliances, security partnerships, and standing in the world.

- Politicizing relations with key [allies](#) – including the United Kingdom, Australia, and Italy – for the president's personal gain endangers future cooperation on important national security, political, and economic matters.
- President Trump's actions are corrupt, undemocratic, and violate the rule of law. The United States was once a global leader, [spending](#) billions of dollars annually promoting rule of law, good governance, and anticorruption in other countries. Trump's actions have reversed that progress and undermined years of U.S. efforts and made it harder for the Congress or any future administration to speak credibly on these issues.