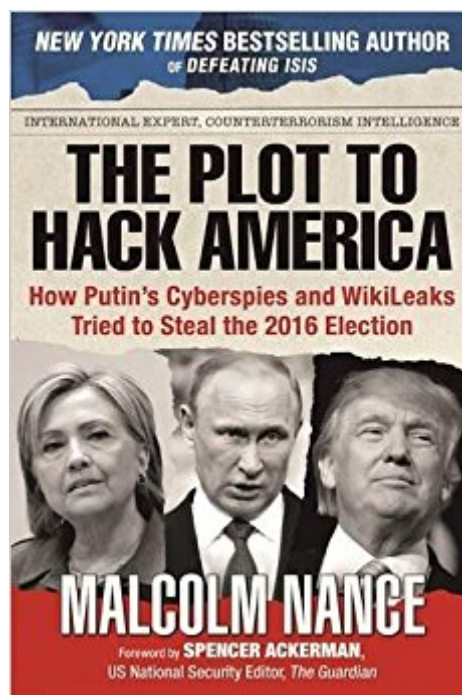




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# The Plot To Hack America: How Putin's Cyberspies And WikiLeaks Tried To Steal The 2016 Election



## Synopsis

In April 2016, computer technicians at the Democratic National Committee discovered that someone had accessed the organization's computer servers and conducted a theft that is best described as Watergate 2.0. In the weeks that followed, the nation's top computer security experts discovered that the cyber thieves had helped themselves to everything: sensitive documents, emails, donor information, even voice mails. Soon after, the remainder of the Democratic Party machine, the congressional campaign, the Clinton campaign, and their friends and allies in the media were also hacked. Credit cards numbers, phone numbers, and contacts were stolen. In short order, the FBI found that more than twenty-five state election offices had their voter registration systems probed or attacked by the same hackers. Western intelligence agencies tracked the hack to Russian spy agencies and dubbed them the CYBER BEARS. The media was soon flooded with the stolen information channeled through Julian Assange, the founder of WikiLeaks. It was a massive attack on America but the Russian hacks appeared to have a singular goal—elect Donald J. Trump as president of the United States. New York Times bestselling author of *Defeating ISIS* and the forthcoming *Hacking ISIS* and career intelligence officer Malcolm Nance's fast paced real-life spy thriller takes you from Vladimir Putin's rise through the KGB from junior officer to spymaster-in-chief and spells out the story of how he performed the ultimate political manipulation—convincing Donald Trump to abandon seventy years of American foreign policy including the destruction of NATO, cheering the end of the European Union, allowing Russian domination of Eastern Europe, and destroying the existing global order with America at its lead. *The Plot to Hack America* is the thrilling true story of how Putin's spy agency, run by the Russian billionaire class, used the promise of power and influence to cultivate Trump as well as his closest aides, the Kremlin Crew, to become unwitting assets of the Russian government. The goal? To put an end to 240 years of free and fair American democratic elections.

## Book Information

Paperback: 216 pages

Publisher: Skyhorse Publishing (October 10, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1510723323

ISBN-13: 978-1510723320

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.7 x 8.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 679 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #6,997 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #4 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > International & World Politics > Russian & Former Soviet Union #10 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Specific Topics > Intelligence & Espionage #12 in Books > History > Asia > Russia

## Customer Reviews

Praise for Malcolm Nance's New York Times bestselling *Defeating ISIS*: "I really think the [2016 Presidential] candidates ought to read this.... You should buy this book." • RACHEL MADDOW, *The Rachel Maddow Show*, MSNBC "A comprehensive, authoritative, and detailed compendium on the Islamic State (ISIS). Perspectives on Terrorism" "In his detailed and informed study Nance argues that, in effect, America's War on Terror created a new breed of vicious terrorists who wear the mask of Islam like actors in a Kabuki theatre while carrying out horrifically un-Islamic acts." • RICHARD ENGEL, Chief Foreign Correspondent, NBC News, from his foreword *ON RUSSIAN HACKING* "Putin and the leaders throughout the world have no respect for our country anymore and they certainly have no respect for our leader." • DONALD TRUMP, Republican presidential candidate and president of the Trump Organization "We know that Russian intelligence services hacked into the DNC and we know that they arranged for a lot of those emails to be released. . . . But I think laying out the facts raises serious issues about Russian interference in our elections, in our democracy." • HILLARY CLINTON, Democratic presidential candidate and former Secretary of State "What we do know is that the Russians hack our systems. Not just government systems, but private systems." • PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA "As an American double agent who worked against Russian intelligence in the US, this book shows how Putin's spies stop at nothing." • NAVEED JAMALI, former double agent and author of *How to Catch a Russian Spy* "RUSSIA'S RESPONSE" "I wouldn't know anything about it. You know, there are so many hackers today and they work with such finesse, planting a trail where and when they need . . . . It's difficult to trace, if even possible. . . . The important thing here is what the public was shown. . . . One shouldn't draw the public attention from the core of the issue by replacing it with secondary details like who did it." • VLADIMIR PUTIN "Overall, we still see attempts to use, manically use, the Russian issue during the US electoral campaign. . . . The absurd claims were immediately refuted directly by a presidential candidate's family." • DMITRY PESKOV, Russian government spokesman

Malcolm Nance is a globally recognized counter-terrorism expert and Intelligence Community member who has been deployed to intelligence operations in the Balkans, Middle East, and sub-Saharan Africa. He is the author of five books, including the New York Times bestseller *Defeating ISIS* and the forthcoming *Hacking ISIS*, and is a counter-terrorism analyst for NBC News and MSNBC. He lives in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

I could tell by looking at the reviews (the typical rightward pointing U-shape of the review bars, either mostly 5 stars or 1 star) that this was a very polarizing book. Unfortunately, it is difficult to use many of the reviews in such a case to determine the merit of a book, since many probably did not read much of the book if at all. I can see why this is the case, since the book paints a negative view of Donald Trump. I try to keep my reviews unfettered by a predetermined bias. That said, Nance discusses the DNC hack that began around March or April of 2016. Metadata left behind, led to WikiLeaks and a Russian intelligence organization which is a conglomeration of cyber spying groups codenamed Cyber Bears. It appears this organization consists of the FSB (former KGB), the GRU (Russian Military intelligence), and criminal cyberwarfare subcontractors. The author then proceeds to give us a history of Russia and its intelligence organizations. He notes that "This deep history of espionage, intrigue, and murder shaped Vladimir Putin's worldview toward the West. To Putin, the ideal situation would be an economically crippled America, withdrawn from military adventure abroad and NATO, and a leadership installed that is friendly to Russia. In chapter five, the author discusses Russia's new model of coordinating all aspects of intelligence, propaganda, and cyber operations, which he calls "hybrid warfare." We learn about advanced persistent threats or APTs, which are a description of malware toolkits used by hackers. These hacker groups have been active in other countries as well, such as Estonia, Georgia, Lithuania, Kyrgyzstan, and others. Nance formulates a connection from these cyber groups to WikiLeaks, calling WikiLeaks Russia's intelligence laundromat. In the current election, neither Assange nor Putin curry any favor of Clinton making them perfect partners united against this candidate. The timing of these events is obviously designed to bolster Trump in the polls. For example, we have the leaks prior to the Democratic National Convention which ended up pitting Bernie supporters against Hillary supporters; after Trump's speech on immigration after the Mexico visit, DCCC documents from Pelosi's computer on immigration and other items were released; within days of the NY Times stating that anything Trump said needed fact-checking, the Cyber Bears hacked the news

organization; a similar thing occurred with Newsweek, and we could go on. Nance concludes by saying that, "Russian use of cyber weapons to perform criminal acts and damage our electoral process was intended to remove faith in America itself." He sees politics itself under attack due to hacking and demagoguery. We have to wonder if an attack with a "weapon of Mass Disruption" has yet to occur. It's all quite sobering to think about.

Very good book. took me some time because all of the different factions required me to back up to see if i understood it the 1st time. After reading, i got the sense Russia is several years advanced on our spy technology.

Amazing book. Such an important look into how our election is attempting to be rigged by Russia for Trump!

A great book. A must read!

Amazingly insightful. Great to read someone who knows what goes on in our intelligence agencies. Mr. Nance has the creds.

Very interesting read. It is now obvious that Putin and his team of cyber warriors effected the outcome of the election.

This book broadened my perspective on cyber security. I've recommended it to several friends and relatives.

Fascinating and thorough explanation of how the US Intelligence Community can say with certainty that Russian hacks and Wikileaks dumps were all about destroying American democracy in 2016.

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