

News Item

New Report on Russian Disinformation, Prepared for the Senate, Shows the Operation's Scale and Sweep | The Washington Post

By Craig Timberg & Tony Romm December 17, 2018

A <u>report</u> prepared for the Senate that provides the most sweeping analysis yet of Russia's disinformation campaign around the 2016 election found the operation used every major social media platform to deliver words, images and videos tailored to voters' interests to help elect President Trump — and worked even harder to support him while in office.

The report, obtained by The Washington Post before its official release Monday, is the first to study the millions of posts provided by major technology firms to the Senate Intelligence Committee, led by Sen. Richard Burr (R-N.C.), its chairman, and Sen. Mark Warner (Va.), its ranking Democrat. The bipartisan panel also released a second independent report studying the 2016 election Monday. Lawmakers said the findings "do not necessarily represent the views" of the panel or its members.

The first report — by Oxford University's <u>Computational Propaganda</u>

<u>Project</u> and <u>Graphika</u>, a network analysis firm — offers new details of how

Russians working at the <u>Internet Research Agency</u>, which U.S. officials have
charged with <u>criminal offenses</u> for interfering in the 2016 campaign, sliced

Americans into key interest groups for targeted messaging. These efforts shifted
over time, peaking at key political moments, such as presidential debates or party
conventions, the report found.

[...]

Source: New report on Russian disinformation, prepared for the Senate, shows the operation's scale and sweep