

# Russia's not so little election helpers | The Boston Globe

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September 14, 2020

Investigations by [news organizations](#), [US intelligence agencies](#), the [Republican-led Senate Intelligence Committee](#), and of course by [special prosecutor](#) Robert Mueller, all reached the same conclusion: The Russian government meddled in the 2016 presidential elections. Some observers have gone so far as to conclude that [Russia's machinations were essential to Trump's victory](#). By taking advantage of social media's tendency to aggregate and deepen political passions, Russia gave vital assistance to Donald Trump's campaign.

For example, on Instagram, [a group called "Born Liberal"](#) pushed a meme showing a clenched fist holding a bundle of strings connecting to images of people with television sets for heads. Accompanying the image was this statement: "The People Believe What the Media Tells Them They Believe: George Orwell." Orwell said no such thing, as may be obvious from the tortured grammar. "Born Liberal" was in fact the handiwork of the [Internet Research Agency](#), the Russian Internet propaganda initiative in St. Petersburg. The point of this particular effort was to deepen American distrust of mainstream news.

[...]

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