

FACT-CHECKING FACT-CHECKERS ON IMPEACHMENT

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Summary: The fact-checking organizations Snopes and PolitiFact have distorted the facts surrounding Donald Trump and Ukraine, neglecting to mention key context such as the U.S. treaty with Ukraine and Biden's videotaped admission that he extorted Ukraine by withholding \$1 billion of foreign aid until the prosecutor investigating his son's company was fired.

Recent fact-checking reports have inaccurately distorted the facts surrounding Ukraine and the legality of the Trump administration's effort to partner with Ukraine for purposes of investigating the Biden family's criminal conduct. Fact checks by PolitiFact and Snopes have distorted the facts while omitting key context—PolitiFact for example neglected to mention Joe Biden's acknowledgement on live video that he extorted Ukraine by withholding \$1 billion of foreign aid if the prosecutor investigating his son's company was not fired, a clear conflict of interest.

1. There is a treaty between the U.S. and Ukraine (signed by Bill Clinton no less) requiring the U.S. President communicate with Ukraine on criminal/legal matters. As such, Donald Trump was legally mandated to communicate with Ukraine on the matter of the Biden family's corruption.
2. Democrat Senators pressured Ukraine to assist in Mueller's investigation of Trump under the treaty (see the letter here), but now say that Trump has no

right to urge Ukraine's investigation of Democrats under that same treaty. Fact-checkers such as Snopes and PolitiFact have attempted to cast doubt on these claims by suggesting that the Democrat Senators were not seeking an investigation, but their claims do not hold up to scrutiny. PolitiFact uncritically quotes Leahy spokesman David Carle as saying, "This wasn't about asking for an investigation, but to follow up on the New York Times report that the Ukraine prosecutor was ending his own ongoing investigations and not cooperating with queries from Mueller concerning Manafort."

However, pressuring Ukraine to continue investigation of Manafort is the same thing as requesting Ukraine investigate Manafort, so yes, the Democrat Senators were engaging in the same activity they now accuse Trump of, communicating with Ukraine to seek a criminal investigation of an opposing party politician.

Snopes dishonestly claims that "the letter in question did not concern a request to 'investigate Trump,' nor did it request the opening of any investigation." However, anyone reading the letter can see from the first line that Democrat Senators were "writing to express great concern about reports that your office has taken steps to impede cooperation with the investigation of United States Special Counsel Robert Mueller... related to consulting work performed by Paul Manafort."

The Democrat Senators were clearly pressuring Ukraine to investigate Manafort, regardless of whether the investigations were ongoing or not, and as such have no right to now criticize Trump for participating with Ukraine on an investigation of the Bidens.

3. The Obama administration and Joe Biden pressured Ukraine to investigate the Trump campaign, as reported on by The Hill, Washington Post, and FOX News. Joe Biden bragged on live video about getting Ukraine prosecutor Viktor Shokin fired or the Obama administration would withhold \$1 billion of foreign aid from Ukraine, clear-cut extortion. Naturally, Democrat media such as USA Today have attempted to claim this was due to the prosecutor not pursuing anti-corruption cases (i.e. the Manafort cases per point 2).

However, under any standard of ethics, Biden should have recused himself as there was a clear conflict of interest in him extorting Ukraine's government by withholding \$1 billion of foreign aid from Ukraine unless the prosecutor investigating the company his son was on the board of directors for was fired.

4. This was hardly the first time the Obama administration engaged in clear corruption and conflict of interest. See the nepotism involved in swapping back and forth Bill Daley of the notorious Daley family which has run the Chicago Mayor's office for Rahm Emanuel as White House Chief of Staff. Or the Obama administration's NSA spying on 35 world leaders while additionally hacking the Google and Yahoo! servers to steal hundreds of millions of emails, many of them from overseas.

Then there is the discrimination by the IRS against conservative groups (and contrary to Democrat claims the overwhelming number of groups were clearly conservative). If the aforementioned PolitiFact analysis had been objective, it should have evaluated Brazile's claim as false rather than half true, given that it acknowledged, "George also noted that while 16 groups with 'progressive' in the name showed up among the 298 cases, that represented just 30 percent of all 'progressive' applications. That is in stark contrast to groups with 'tea party,' 'patriot,' or '9/12' in their name, of which 100 percent saw their applications held up."

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