

# Devolution - Part 24

Blinken You'll Miss It



JON HEROLD

MAY 6, 2023



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Special thanks for this article go to:

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- **Patrick Gunnels**
  - Twitter: [@pgunnels1](https://twitter.com/pgunnels1)
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- **Burning Bright**
  - He contributed literally nothing to the substance of this article in any way. He just happened to find out what I was writing about and gave me the name for the article. I felt bad for him, so I went with it.
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If you're actually willing to look for it, there is no shortage of corruption and conflicts of interest surrounding the current Biden administration.

In the past 3 weeks, there has been a flurry of new information coming out surrounding the narrative battle that took place in the Fall of 2020 over the legitimacy of the Hunter Biden laptop. One of the biggest revelations to so far came from the House Judiciary Committee. On April 20th, 2023, House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jim Jordan (R-OH) and House Intelligence Committee Chairman Mike Turner (R-OH) issued a press release titled "[New Testimony Reveals Secretary Blinken and Biden Campaign Behind the Infamous Public Statement on the Hunter Biden Laptop:](#)"

WASHINGTON, D.C. – New testimony by Michael Morell, a former Deputy Director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and one of the 51 signatories of the “[Public Statement on the Hunter Biden Emails](#)”<sup>1</sup>,” revealed that U.S. Secretary of State [Antony Blinken](#), then senior advisor to the Biden campaign, was the impetus of the public statement signed in October 2020 that falsely implied the *New York Post*’s reporting about Hunter Biden was the product of Russian disinformation. In response, House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jim Jordan (R-OH) and House Intelligence Committee Chairman Mike Turner (R-OH) just sent a [letter](#) to Secretary Blinken demanding documents and communications related to the Committees’ investigation.

This bombshell showed us that the Biden campaign actively sought to shape the public’s perception of the Hunter Biden Laptop story by prompting the signing and release of this letter. The man from the Biden campaign allegedly behind these actions was current Secretary of State, Antony Blinken. On its own, this is remarkable, but I think there is much more to it.

Let’s revisit another notable situation that took place in 2020 related to the Hunter Biden Laptop.

## “Hack-and-Dump”

On [December 19, 2022](#), [Michael Shellenberger](#) revealed during a “[Twitter File](#)” thread that the Aspen Institute, a liberal think tank, held a “tabletop exercise” on a potential “Hack-and-Dump” operation relating to Hunter Biden. The goal of this exercise was to “shape how the media covered it.”

From the [Washington Free Beacon](#):

# Think Tank Funded by Pro-Biden Billionaires Colluded With Journalists and Big Tech To Kill Hunter Biden Coverage

CHUCK ROSS DEC 21, 2022 2:10 PM

A prominent think tank funded by billionaire supporters of President Joe Biden colluded with social media companies and journalists to minimize news coverage of Hunter Biden's emails before the 2020 election, internal Twitter documents show.

Aspen Digital, an arm of the liberal Aspen Institute, in September 2020 convened a working group of social media executives, journalists, and academics to develop a coverage strategy for a hypothetical "hack and dump" of Hunter Biden's emails, according to documents [published](#) this week by independent reporter Michael Shellenberger.

[Garrett Graff](#), Director of Cyber Initiatives at Aspen Digital (a part of the Aspen Institute), was one of the organizers of the tabletop exercise. On October 7th, 2020, one week before the New York Post published the laptop story, Graff [published an article for Wired](#) detailing the lessons learned from the tabletop exercise he helped organize.

I urge you to read the full article for full context but here are a few key screenshots:

GARRETT M. GRAFF

IDEAS OCT 7, 2020 2:02 PM

## The Right Way to Cover Hacks and Leaks Before the Election

The media knows it screwed up in 2016 with John Podesta. Here's how it should do better in the final weeks of the 2020 race.

In fact, so-called “**hack-and-leaks**” remain one of the most difficult stories to confront appropriately. As we enter the final weeks of the 2020 presidential campaign, when each day seems primed for an October surprise, it’s worth thinking deeply about what makes these incidents so pernicious—and how we as a news media and a society might respond more maturely and rationally than in 2016.

From dozens of conversations this year with numerous reporters, editors, researchers, and executives—as well as a **tabletop exercise** I ran at the **Aspen Institute** this summer along with Vivian Schiller, the former CEO of National Public Radio, who now directs Aspen’s media and technology program—it’s clear there’s a shared unease about how the news media handled the 2016 Russian attack on the DNC and Clinton campaign chair John Podesta. The unease stems not from any partisan preference for or against Hillary Clinton; it has to do with the sense that the US media allowed itself to be the delivery mechanism for a Russian attack on our democracy.

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A “**hack and leak**” is among the most likely attacks the US might face in the closing weeks of the presidential race, and it is also one of the hardest to respond to adequately and effectively. The path forward requires understanding both the lessons of previous attacks and why Donald Trump’s words and actions have made the current landscape particularly vulnerable.

# What We Might Expect This Fall

The most troubling problem with confronting hack-and-leak operations in 2020 is the special challenge of Donald Trump—a president uniquely inclined to disregard democratic norms, spread unfounded conspiratorial notions, and encourage questions about the legitimacy of the election. Trump’s day-to-day mendacity and encouragement of foreign assistance means that rather than eschewing or condemning such operations, he seems uniquely inclined to wholeheartedly embrace the leak of stolen documents.

So how should the news media avoid allowing its pages and programs from being turned into weapons? How do we build on the awareness to do a better job of saying “Caveat lector,” *let the reader beware*?

This summer at the Aspen Institute, Vivian Schiller and I designed and ran a tabletop exercise geared toward an unfolding hack-and-leak operation **timed to the second presidential debate in October.**

We imagined how the media might respond to an anonymous “DCLeaks”-style website that appears and purportedly contains internal document stolen from Burisma, the Ukrainian energy company that was at the center of the impeachment inquiry. It wouldn’t take much effort for such an operation to reveal a few key doctored documents, appearing to allege that perhaps we don’t know the full truth about **Hunter Biden’s** role with the company. In the days ahead, journalists compete ferociously, racing to confirm the authenticity of the documents and, within a relatively few days, determine that the most damning documents are false—that there’s no concrete evidence of wrongdoing by the Bidens at all, just some Sony-style internal Burisma corporate gossip, some financial records, and strategy PowerPoints.

Through the exercise, which was designed to build upon the work of Stanford researchers Janine Zacharia and Andrew Grotto—who have studied hack-and-leaks and published [10 guidelines](#) for what they call “propaganda reporting”—we tested how various responses by journalists and news media might alter the trajectory of the story.

It’s clear that there’s a better path forward. What we found is that a successful response to a hack-and-leak requires news organizations to blend one thing they’re good at—skepticism—and one thing they’re not—careful, slow deliberation.

We boiled our lessons down to four C’s: cooperate, contextualize, control, and curate.

My personal favorite of those “four C’s” is “contextualize:

**Contextualize.** Reporting responsibly also requires providing readers and viewers the best available context. Just as news organizations have gotten better about confronting Donald Trump’s myriad lies and distortions with “truth sandwiches,” that is, contextualizing his inaccuracies with actual facts, both news organizations and tech platforms should endeavor to preface reporting on hack-and-leaks with the clearest possible attribution. Every article and report on the subject should be framed at the start—ideally even in the headline—as reinforcing the adversarial nature of the news. In the 2016 DNC and John Podesta email leak, for instance, the coverage should have been more explicit: *You’re reading this because Vladimir Putin wants you to.*

The Washington Post, who had reporters attend the “tabletop exercise,” also appeared to have [advanced knowledge that the Hunter Biden information was coming.](#)

The extent to which news organizations, such as the *New York Times*, **were or were not complicit in Russia's ploy** by reporting on the emails will be a topic of journalism-school discourse for years to come. Now nearly four years later, in the midst of another hotly contentious presidential election, news outlets are wrestling with a more urgent question: What should be done if this happens again? The *Washington Post*, for one, is making sure its reporters and editors are prepared for that conundrum. In a memo to the newsroom on Wednesday morning, executive editor **Marty Baron** outlined five “principles for covering potential **hacked or leaked** material ahead of the election.”

My favorite of those five principles:

Third: “If a decision is made to publish a story about hacked or leaked information, our coverage should emphasize what we know—or don’t know—about the source of the information and how that may fit into **a foreign or domestic influence operation**. Our stories should prominently explain what we know about the full context of the information we are presenting, including its origins and the motivations of the source, including whether it appears to be an effort to distract from another development. Headlines need to be carefully vetted to make sure they do not echo propaganda.”

## 2020 Vision

In hindsight, both the tabletop exercise and the letter signed by the IC officials appear to be part of the same coordinated campaign to discredit the Hunter Biden information that they clearly knew would be coming. That is a logical assumption we can make based on the available information.

The “tabletop exercise” provided the roadmap for how the media, big tech, and social media companies would handle the release of the Hunter Biden “hack and dump” information. The letter signed by the 51 IC officials would give those same companies the justification they needed to bury the story.

It was alleged by Michael Morrell that Antony Blinken was the individual from the Biden Campaign who prompted the letter. Was he also the one who prompted the

tabletop exercise?

With that question in mind, I started digging into Antony Blinken and the Aspen Institute. What I did find was damning enough. But what I didn't find tells me there is an even bigger story here.

Without a doubt, Antony Blinken is a former member of Aspen Institute, the same think tank which hosted the tabletop exercise regarding the Hunter Biden "hack-and-dump."

[A 2009 book published by the Aspen Institute titled "American Purpose"](#) lists Blinken as a member of the Aspen Institute's "Aspen Strategy Group."

# aspen strategy group\*

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\* All titles used in this book are from when papers were presented in Aspen in August 2008. Since that time some members have accepted positions in the new administration.

This alone proves he at least had some connection to the Aspen Institute, even if it was from back in 2009.

What was weird is that this was literally the ONLY thing I could find factually connecting Blinken to the Aspen institute. I spent hours upon hours digging and there was not a mention anywhere. Nothing in any of his bios. Not a trace of it anywhere else


on the internet, including the [Aspen Institute's website](#). It was pure luck that I stumbled across that 2009 book where Blinken is listed.

I decided that if I couldn't find anything myself, maybe I should call in some backup. So I decided to ask ChatGPT for some assistance.

When I started going back and forth with ChatGPT, this story started to snowball into something much bigger. The actions of the Biden campaign leading up to the 2020 election started to make a lot more sense.

Here is what I found.

The first thing I need you to keep in mind is that ChatGPT has a knowledge cutoff date of September 2021, at least that was the case for the version I was using. Here is verification of that cutoff:

 what is the cutoff date for your knowledge?



My knowledge cutoff is September 2021. I was last trained on a large corpus of text up until that time.

 So you would not be aware of changes that may have taken place since that date? Such as websites being scrubbed from the internet?



That's correct. As an AI language model, I am not aware of any changes that have occurred after my knowledge cutoff in September 2021, including changes to websites or the removal of information from the internet. My responses are based on the information available to me as of that time.

You'll see why that information cutoff date is important shortly.

I began asking about Blinken and his connections to the Aspen Institute and ChatGPT disclosed that Blinken was a member of the “Aspen Strategy Group SINCE at least 2017.”

J

When were Vice President Kamala Harris and Secretary of State Antony Blinken both former members of the Aspen Strategy Group



To the best of my knowledge, Vice President Kamala Harris has not been a former member of the Aspen Strategy Group. However, Secretary of State Antony Blinken has been a member of the Aspen Strategy Group since at least 2017.

J

what is the best source I can look to for information showing State Antony Blinken has been a member of the Aspen Strategy Group

If Blinken was a member of Aspen Strategy Group SINCE 2017, and ChatGPT’s knowledge was current through September 2021, we can logically assume that Blinken would have been part of Aspen Institute in September of 2020 when they hosted the “Hack-and-Dump” tabletop exercise.

I continued my search trying to prove that fact.

J

what is the best source I can look to for information showing State Antony Blinken has been a member of the Aspen Strategy Group



You can find information about Antony Blinken's membership in the Aspen Strategy Group on the group's official website. The Aspen Strategy Group is a policy program of the Aspen Institute, and Blinken's biography is listed on the website as a member of the group. Here's the link to the Aspen Strategy Group's page on the Aspen Institute's website:

<https://www.aspeninstitute.org/programs/aspen-strategy-group/>

Additionally, multiple news sources have reported on Blinken's participation in the Aspen Strategy Group, including CNN, The New York Times, and Politico.

I had already searched the Aspen Institute website and found nothing, so I asked for the news sources instead.

J

can you provide links to those stories from those news sources?



Sure, here are links to news articles from CNN, The New York Times, and Politico that reference Antony Blinken's membership in the Aspen Strategy Group:

- CNN: "Biden's top State Department picks have a history with him and with each other" (December 22, 2020) - <https://www.cnn.com/2020/12/22/politics/biden-state-department-picks-blinken-sullivan-sherman/index.html>
- The New York Times: "Biden Cabinet: Who Has Been Selected and Who Is in the Running" (December 7, 2020) - <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/politics/biden-cabinet.html>
- Politico: "Biden's national security team takes shape" (November 24, 2020) - <https://www.politico.com/news/2020/11/24/biden-national-security-team-takes-shape-440156>

This is where things got weird. Every single source provided by ChatGPT came up as “404 not found.” I obviously found that weird, so I entered the links into all the archiving websites I could find and not a single one had any history of these articles. Not even the titles of the articles would show up when searched online. Everything came up empty. I then asked ChatGPT for more news articles referencing Blinken’s membership in the Aspen Strategy Group.

J

are there any more news articles?



Yes, there are additional news articles that reference Antony Blinken's membership in the Aspen Strategy Group. Here are a few more:

- Bloomberg: "Biden's National Security Team Takes Shape With Chris Inglis, Wendy Sherman" (November 24, 2020) - <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-11-24/biden-s-national-security-team-takes-shape-with-chris-inglis-wendy-sherman>
- Reuters: "Biden names Blinken as secretary of state nominee" (November 23, 2020) - <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-biden-state/biden-names-blinken-as-secretary-of-state-nominee-idUSKBN2832GE>
- Foreign Policy: "Antony Blinken's Delicate Balancing Act" (January 25, 2021) - <https://foreignpolicy.com/2021/01/25/antony-blinken-secretary-state-senate-confirmation-hearing-balancing-act/>

Once again, all the links provided came back “404 not found,” and nothing showed up on any of the archiving sites. I just continued asking for more and more articles and links trying to find something that would work.

J

all of the links provided come back "404. Page not found." Is there any way for me to access this?



I apologize for the inconvenience. It's possible that the articles have been removed or their URLs have changed since my original search. Here are some updated links to articles that mention Blinken's membership in the Aspen Strategy Group:

- The Hill: "Biden taps Blinken to lead State Department, McDonald for Veterans Affairs" (November 23, 2020) - <https://thehill.com/homenews/administration/527044-biden-taps-blinken-to-lead-state-department-mcdonald-for-veterans>
- The New York Times: "Antony Blinken, Secretary of State Nominee, Has Advocated for Tougher Russia Stance" (November 23, 2020) - <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/11/23/us/politics/antony-blinken-secretary-of-state.html>
- CNN: "Biden announces Antony Blinken as secretary of state" (November 23, 2020) - <https://www.cnn.com/2020/11/23/politics/antony-blinken-secretary-of-state/index.html>

I hope these links are helpful.

J

Can you provide more sources for the connection on Blinken and Aspen Strategy Group?  
Links are still not working?



I apologize for the issue with the links earlier. Here are some additional sources that mention Antony Blinken's association with the Aspen Strategy Group:

1. Politico: "Biden's Top Diplomat Has Close Ties to the President's New Favorite Think Tank": <https://www.politico.com/news/2020/11/23/antony-blinken-aspen-strategy-group-439514>
2. The New York Times: "Biden Fills Top White House Roles with Campaign Veterans and Obama Aides": <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/11/17/us/politics/biden-white-house-obama.html>
3. Foreign Policy: "Biden's Likely Secretary of State Pick is a Warning to the World": <https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/11/23/biden-secretary-of-state-antony-blinken-warning-to-the-world/>

I hope these sources provide the information you are looking for.

J

still nothing. Can you please provide every single source available to you connecting Antony Blinken to the Aspen Strategy Group?



I apologize for the issues with the links earlier. Here are several additional sources that mention Antony Blinken's connection to the Aspen Strategy Group:

1. Politico: "Biden's Top Diplomat Has Close Ties to the President's New Favorite Think Tank": <https://www.politico.com/news/2020/11/23/antony-blinken-aspen-strategy-group-439514>
2. Foreign Policy: "Biden's Likely Secretary of State Pick is a Warning to the World": <https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/11/23/biden-secretary-of-state-antony-blinken-warning-to-the-world/>
3. The New York Times: "Biden Fills Top White House Roles with Campaign Veterans and Obama Aides": <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/11/17/us/politics/biden-white-house-obama.html>
4. Aspen Institute: "Aspen Strategy Group": <https://www.aspeninstitute.org/programs/aspen-strategy-group/>
5. The Hill: "Biden's New National Security Adviser: 'Good Guys Don't Always Wear White Hats'": <https://thehill.com/policy/national-security/526946-bidens-new-national-security-adviser-good-guys-dont-always-wear-white>

I hope these sources are helpful.

In total I tried 13 unique links that ChatGPT provided and not a single one ended up working directly or through the archiving websites. Try searching for these links or the titles of the articles for yourself (copy and pasted from ChatGPT with only the duplicates being removed):

- CNN: "Biden's top State Department picks have a history with him and with each other" (December 22, 2020) - <https://www.cnn.com/2020/12/22/politics/biden-state-department-picks-blinken-sullivan-sherman/index.html>
- The New York Times: "Biden Cabinet: Who Has Been Selected and Who Is in the Running" (December 7, 2020) - <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/politics/biden-cabinet.html>

- Politico: "Biden's national security team takes shape" (November 24, 2020) - <https://www.politico.com/news/2020/11/24/biden-national-security-team-takes-shape-440156>
- Bloomberg: "Biden's National Security Team Takes Shape With Chris Inglis, Wendy Sherman" (November 24, 2020) - <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-11-24/biden-s-national-security-team-takes-shape-with-chris-inglis-wendy-sherman>
- Reuters: "Biden names Blinken as secretary of state nominee" (November 23, 2020) - <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-biden-state/biden-names-blinken-as-secretary-of-state-nominee-idUSKBN2832GE>
- Foreign Policy: "Antony Blinken's Delicate Balancing Act" (January 25, 2021) - <https://foreignpolicy.com/2021/01/25/antony-blinken-secretary-state-senate-confirmation-hearing-balancing-act/>
- The Hill: "Biden taps Blinken to lead State Department, McDonald for Veterans Affairs" (November 23, 2020) - <https://thehill.com/homenews/administration/527044-biden-taps-blinken-to-lead-state-department-mcdonald-for-veterans>
- The New York Times: "Antony Blinken, Secretary of State Nominee, Has Advocated for Tougher Russia Stance" (November 23, 2020) - <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/11/23/us/politics/antony-blinken-secretary-of-state.html>
- CNN: "Biden announces Antony Blinken as secretary of state" (November 23, 2020) - <https://www.cnn.com/2020/11/23/politics/antony-blinken-secretary-of-state/index.html>
- The New York Times: "Biden Fills Top White House Roles with Campaign Veterans and Obama Aides": <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/11/17/us/politics/biden-white-house-obama.html>
- Foreign Policy: "Biden's Likely Secretary of State Pick is a Warning to the World": <https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/11/23/biden-secretary-of-state-antony-blinken-warning-to-the-world/>

- Politico: "Biden's Top Diplomat Has Close Ties to the President's New Favorite Think Tank": <https://www.politico.com/news/2020/11/23/antony-blinken-aspen-strategy-group-439514>
- The Hill: "Biden's New National Security Adviser: 'Good Guys Don't Always Wear White Hats'": <https://thehill.com/policy/national-security/526946-bidens-new-national-security-adviser-good-guys-dont-always-wear-white>

Remember that ChatGPT is only current up to September of 2021. Is it possible that since that date, all of the information regarding Blinken's connections were scrubbed from the internet? That could be a stretch, but considering none of the links even showed up on the archiving sites, it was the most plausible explanation I could think of.

Since I hit a brick wall with finding the articles, I resorted to having ChatGPT provide me with the text directly which is where I stumbled upon further evidence that Blinken was a member of the Aspen Strategy Group at the time the tabletop exercise was held.

Here are the relevant screenshots from a few of those articles. The first from Newsweek:



Here is the link to the Newsweek article "Antony Blinken, Biden's Pick for Secretary of State, Is Connected to the Aspen Strategy Group" as of the time of its publishing on November 25, 2020:

<https://www.newsweek.com/antony-blinken-bidens-pick-secretary-state-connected-aspen-strategy-group-1550906>

J

Can you provide the full text of this article <https://www.newsweek.com/antony-blinken-bidens-pick-secretary-state-connected-aspen-strategy-group-1550906>



Here is the full text of the article "Antony Blinken, Biden's Pick for Secretary of State, Is Connected to the Aspen Strategy Group" published by Newsweek on November 25, 2020:

Antony Blinken, President-elect Joe Biden's pick for secretary of state, has been connected to the Aspen Strategy Group (ASG), an elite foreign policy organization, since the early 1990s.

Blinken's name appears on a list of past and present members of ASG, which was first formed in the 1980s and has counted members of multiple presidential administrations among its ranks.

Members of ASG, which holds an annual summer conference in Aspen, Colorado, include former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and former National Security Advisor Susan Rice.



This article: <https://www.newsweek.com/antony-blinken-bidens-pick-secretary-state-connected-aspen-strategy-group-1550906> references a list showing antony blinken to be a current member of the ASG. Can you find that list?



The article references a 2019 Aspen Institute list of members, which includes Antony Blinken as a current member of the Aspen Strategy Group. I do not have access to the full list itself, but the article states that it was obtained by Newsweek.

The second from Politico:

"President-elect Joe Biden's pick for secretary of State, Antony Blinken, has been a member of the Aspen Strategy Group since 2017, according to Aspen Institute records reviewed by POLITICO.

The high-powered foreign policy organization brings together a mix of former top government officials, lawmakers, business executives, journalists and academics for discussions on national security issues. Members are often tapped for top posts in administrations of both parties.

Blinken, who served as deputy secretary of State and deputy national security adviser during the Obama administration, is a familiar figure in the Aspen community. He has also been a frequent participant in the Aspen Security Forum, which brings together national security experts for an annual conference.

Source: <https://www.politico.com/news/2020/11/23/antony-blinken-aspen-strategy-group-439514>

J

what is the date of that article



The article titled "Blinken, Biden's pick for State, is longtime Aspen Strategy Group member" was published on November 23, 2020.

This Politico article from November 23, 2020 is the most damning. In the article, which is no longer available on the internet, Politico said they reviewed records from the Aspen Institute and those records showed that Blinken has been a member of the Aspen Strategy Group since 2017. This would be proof that Blinken was part of the Aspen Institute in September of 2020 when they held the tabletop exercise.

It makes a little more sense now that the information referencing Blinken's connections to the Aspen institute are no longer accessible via the internet.

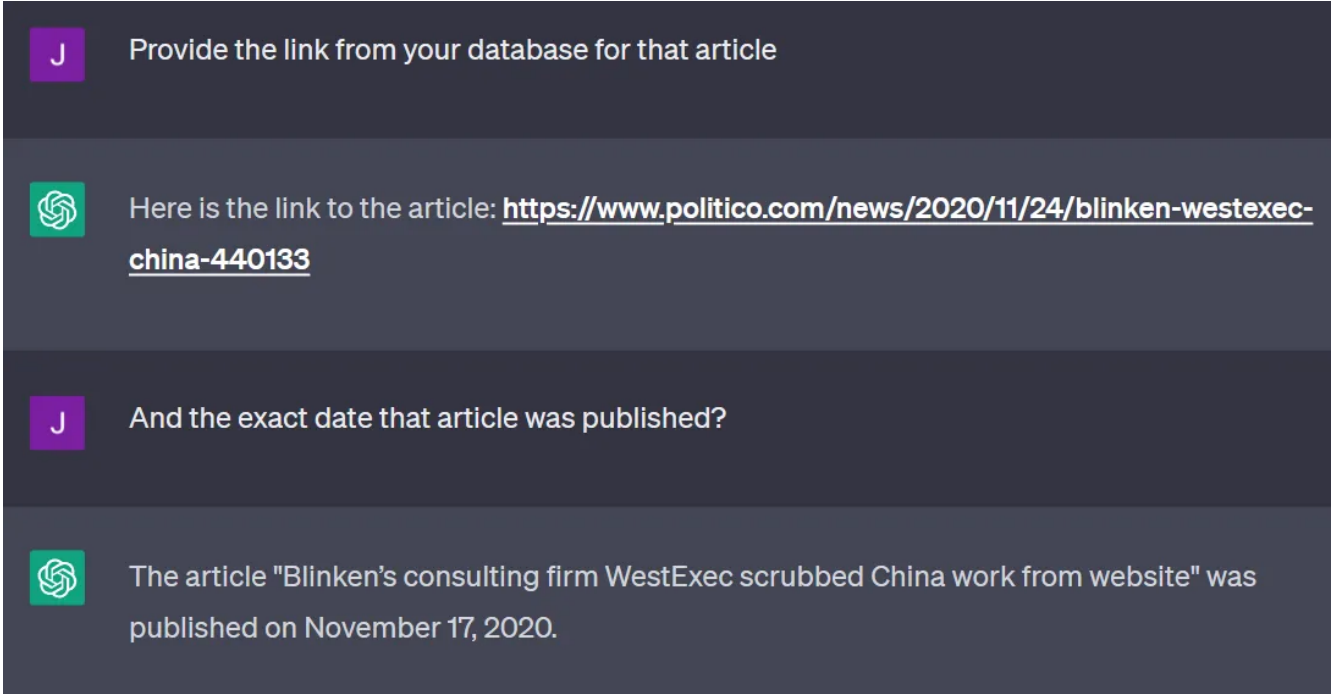
The fact that it was so difficult to find information regarding Antony Blinken's connection to the Aspen Institute got me wondering if this rabbit hole went even deeper.

It does.

## WestExec Advisors

I started asking for more information about Blinken and I eventually came across this article which also had a broken link and was not available through the archiving websites.

Here are the details:



J Provide the link from your database for that article

G Here is the link to the article: <https://www.politico.com/news/2020/11/24/blinken-westexec-china-440133>

J And the exact date that article was published?

G The article "Blinken's consulting firm WestExec scrubbed China work from website" was published on November 17, 2020.

Here is the text from the article:



Here is the text of the article titled "Blinken's consulting firm WestExec scrubbed China work from website" from Politico:

Antony Blinken, President-elect Joe Biden's pick to be secretary of State, disclosed this month that he and a consulting firm he co-founded, WestExec Advisors, had advised an investment fund with Chinese backing that sought to raise money for a technology venture in the U.S. less than two years ago.

The website previously made little mention of China, focusing instead on WestExec's U.S. government work and its high-powered advisory board. Blinken himself was listed as a managing partner along with four other co-founders: Michèle Flournoy, who is being considered for the position of Defense secretary in the Biden administration; Avril Haines, who is Biden's pick for director of national intelligence; Christina Killingsworth, who has also advised Biden; and Nitin Chadda.

WestExec's advisory board includes a number of high-profile national security experts, including former CIA Director and retired Army Gen. David Petraeus, retired Adm. William McRaven and former National Security Adviser Stephen Hadley.

The website previously listed Blinken as a "principal" of the firm, with Flournoy, Haines and Killingsworth listed as "partners."

I'm going to come back to the rest of this article from ChatGPT in a bit. I want to provide more context on WestExec advisors first.

I want to go through parts of an article published by [The Intercept on July 6, 2021:](#)

The  
Intercept\_

## MEET THE CONSULTING FIRM THAT'S STAFFING THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

WestExec represented major corporations throughout the Trump years. Now it's in the White House.

Jonathan Guyer, Ryan Grim

July 6 2021, 10:00 a.m.

**FROM ITS HEADQUARTERS** just blocks from the White House, a small, high-powered team of former ambassadors, lawyers, and Obama appointees has spent the past few years solving problems for the world's biggest companies.

Less than six months into the Biden administration, **more than 15 consultants from the firm WestExec Advisors** have fanned out across the White House, its foreign policy apparatus, and its law enforcement institutions. Five, some of whom already have jobs with the administration, have been nominated for high-ranking posts, and four others served on the Biden-Harris transition team. Even by Washington standards, it's a remarkable march through the revolving door, especially for a firm that only launched in 2017. The pipeline has produced a dominance of WestExec alums throughout the administration, installed in senior roles as influential as director of national intelligence and secretary of state. WestExec clients, meanwhile, have controversial interests in tech and defense that intersect with the policies their former consultants are now in a position to set and execute.

The firm describes one of its chief selling points as its “unparalleled geopolitical risk analysis,” now confirmed by the saturation of its employees in positions of power. WestExec has also succeeded in getting tech startups into defense contracts and helped defense corporations modernize with tech; it worked to help multinational companies **break into China**. One of its collaborators is the defense-centered investment group Pine Island Capital Partners, which launched a SPAC, or “**blank check**” company,” last year. **Tony Blinken** advised Pine Island and was a part owner. (**Michèle Flournoy**, another WestExec co-founder, had her nomination to be secretary of defense **nixed**. President Joe Biden instead nominated **Lloyd Austin**, himself a former Pine Island partner but not a WestExec consultant.)

What makes WestExec “boutique” is the promise that its executives would have face time with its seasoned policymakers. “We felt other firms brought people in for big names and never got to see the big names,” said one WestExec co-founder in 2020. “**Tony is on client calls.**”

Here is [one more article](#) showing the “boutique” nature of WestExec Advisors:

WestExec promised to be more boutique than conventional consultancies like Albright Stonebridge Group or RiceHadleyGates. **Most clients would have direct access to either Blinken or Flournoy**. They also recruited an assortment of former colleagues as contractors to chip in, among them Deputy Secretary of Defense Robert Work, Ambassador to Israel Dan Shapiro, and Deputy CIA Director Avril Haines, who had helped design Obama’s program of using drones for extrajudicial killings.

Blinken indeed co-founded WestExec Advisors and at least 15 members from the firm have been involved in the Biden administration. The “boutique” nature of their firm allowed clients to speak directly with Blinken.

Now let’s go back to the ChatGPT article:

Blinken said in a questionnaire submitted to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that he provided strategic advice to the investment fund, **BHR Partners** in 2019, but that the fund ultimately decided not to invest in the company, which he declined to name. The disclosure was first reported by The Wall Street Journal.

Blinken and WestExec have sought to downplay concerns about his work with the firm, which was established in 2017 and operates under a strict non-disclosure agreement that prohibits staff from discussing clients or work they do.

This article revealed that Antony Blinken provided “strategic advice to the investment fund, [BHR Partners](#).”

**BHR Partners (Bohai Harvest RST (Shanghai) Equity Investment Fund Management Co., Ltd.)** is a private investment fund founded in 2013 by Bohai Industrial Investment Fund Management Co., Ltd., which is controlled by [Bank of China Limited](#) along with a partnership with [Hunter Biden](#), and whose focus is on mergers and acquisitions, and investment in, and reforms, of state-owned enterprise.<sup>[3]</sup>

Antony Blinken was providing strategic advice to Hunter Biden’s investment fund, BHR Partners. If what ChatGPT is saying is true, that is a rather massive bombshell. [Hunter Biden’s laptop](#) details many of his foreign business dealings, including those with BHR Partners.

Since 2018, the Justice Department has been investigating Hunter Biden and his finances. It was [reported in December of 2020](#) that the investigation was looking into some of his Chinese business dealings:

# Hunter Biden tax probe examining Chinese business dealings

By ERIC TUCKER, MICHAEL BALSAMO and JONATHAN LEMIRE December 9, 2020



WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department is investigating the finances of President-elect Joe Biden's son, including scrutinizing some of his Chinese business dealings and other transactions, a person familiar with the matter told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

The revelations put a renewed spotlight on questions about Hunter Biden's financial history, which dogged his father's successful White House campaign and were a frequent target of President Donald Trump and his allies. They also come at a politically delicate time for the president-elect, who is weighing his choice to lead an agency that is actively investigating his son.

The tax investigation was launched in 2018, the year before the elder Biden announced his candidacy for president. Hunter Biden confirmed the existence of the investigation on Wednesday, saying he learned about it for the first time the previous day.

**\* Just wanted to note that the investigation started in 2018 and Hunter Biden didn't learn about it until December of 2020. Real investigations don't leak. \***

We now have reason to speculate that Blinken may have been part of those Chinese Business dealings through his consulting firm, WestExec advisors.

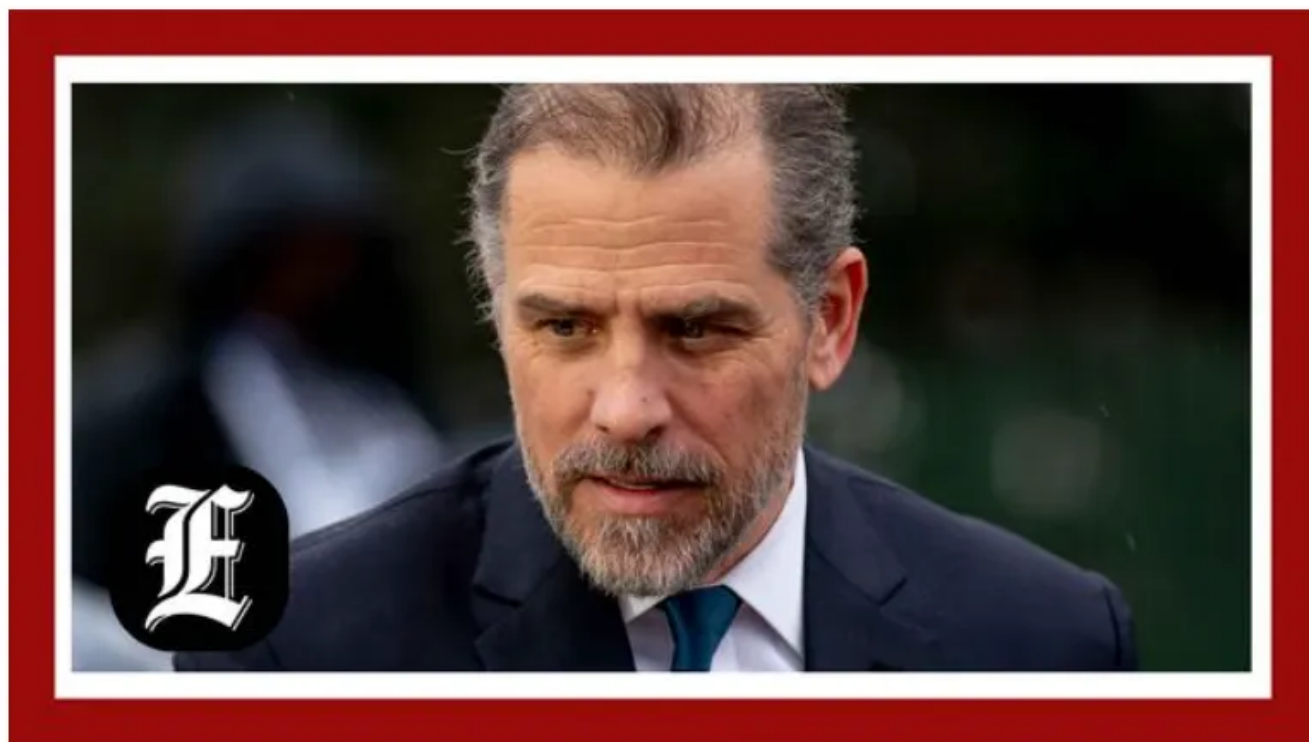
The story gets more interesting from here. Let's dig a little further into what we know about the Hunter Biden Investigation.

It was [reported in October of 2022](#) that there was sufficient evidence to charge Hunter, but it would be up to U.S. Attorney David Weiss who was overseeing the case.

JUSTICE

## FBI agents believe there is enough evidence to charge Hunter Biden: Report

by Jerry Dunleavy, Justice Department Reporter |  | October 06, 2022 02:44 PM



The federal agents investigating [Hunter Biden](#) believe that they have unearthed enough evidence to charge President [Joe Biden's](#) son with crimes related to tax fraud and lying during his purchase of a handgun, according to a new report.

The [FBI agents](#) handling the criminal inquiry concluded months ago that the facts supported federal charges against Hunter Biden, [according](#) to the *Washington Post*, but it is up to [U.S. Attorney David Weiss](#), the Delaware prosecutor overseeing the case, to decide whether to indict the president's son.

The outlet said Thursday that the federal investigation into Hunter Biden initially centered on Hunter Biden's overseas business dealings and consultant work in places such as [China and Ukraine](#), but that "over time, investigators with multiple agencies focused closely on whether he did not report all of his income, and whether he lied on gun purchase paperwork in 2018, according to the people familiar with the situation."

The fact that Weiss is still allowed to operate is fascinating. [When Joe Biden took office, he fired every Trump-Appointed attorney except for two.](#)

**(CNN)** — The Justice Department on Tuesday asked US attorneys appointed by former President Donald Trump to submit their resignations, a turnover that spares two top prosecutors in [Delaware](#) and [Connecticut](#) overseeing two sensitive Trump-era investigations.

The resignations are effective February 28, US attorneys were told on a conference call with acting Attorney General Monty Wilkinson, according to two Justice officials familiar with the matter. A number of acting US attorneys who aren't Senate confirmed or who were appointed by the courts are expected to remain in their posts until a Biden appointee is approved by the Senate, prosecutors were told Tuesday.

Delaware [US Attorney David Weiss](#) has been asked to remain in office, where he is overseeing the tax probe of Hunter Biden, [President Joe Biden's](#) son. John Durham, appointed as special counsel by former Attorney General William Barr to reinvestigate the origins of the Trump-Russia probe, will also continue his work, but he is expected to resign as US attorney in Connecticut, a Justice official said.

[Illinois Sens. Tammy Duckworth and Dick Durbin](#), both Democrats, expressed their disappointment on Tuesday that Biden did not consult with them about terminating US Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois [John Lausch](#).

"While the President has the right to remove U.S. Attorneys, there is precedent for U.S. Attorneys in the Northern District of Illinois to remain in office to conclude sensitive investigations. We believe Mr. Lausch should be permitted to continue in his position until his successor is confirmed by the Senate, and we urge the Biden Administration to allow him to do so," they wrote in a joint statement.

I'll get to John Lausch shortly.

## That's Classified

In early January, we found out that roughly [10 classified documents were found at the Penn Biden Center for Diplomacy](#):

The White House confirmed in early January that roughly 10 documents dating back to the Obama administration were discovered by Mr. Biden's personal lawyers at the **Penn Biden Center for Diplomacy and Global Engagement** on Nov. 2, and then disclosed that a "small number" were found in the garage at the president's home in Wilmington after his lawyers searched the locations where files from his vice-presidential office may have been shipped following his tenure in the Obama White House.

Blinken happened to be a [managing director at the Penn Biden Center](#).



NEWS



# Top Biden officials worked at DC think tank where classified docs were found

By [Mark Moore](#)

January 11, 2023 | 11:05am | Updated

At least 10 current and former high-ranking Biden administration officials — including Secretary of State **Antony Blinken** — worked at the Penn Biden Center for Diplomacy and Global Engagement, the president's namesake Washington, DC-based think tank where **classified documents** were discovered in November, according to a report.

The foreign policy institution associated with the University of Pennsylvania counted Blinken, Undersecretary of Defense for Policy **Colin Kahl** and White House counselor **Steven Richetti** as former employees, **Fox News** reported Wednesday.

**Blinken** and Richetti were **managing directors** of the center while Kahl was a strategic consultant.

Furthermore, the Penn Biden Center had received [significant funding from Chinese donors](#).



## Watchdog asks feds to investigate university, Biden center for millions in anonymous China donations

The group says the university is in violation of federal disclosure laws

**A** watchdog group is asking the U.S. Education Department to investigate the University of Pennsylvania and its Biden Center, a diplomacy and global engagement initiative named after the Democratic presidential candidate, for accepting millions of dollars in anonymous funds from Chinese donors.

The complaint, filed [by the National Legal and Policy Center](#), says that over the past three years, the university has accepted around \$22 million in anonymous funding from Chinese sources. That's out of a total of more than \$70 million from Chinese donors during that time, the NLPC said.

Those significant funds, including the anonymous amounts, rolled in after the Biden Center was announced in early 2017 and launched in February 2018. The center is located in downtown Washington, D.C.

The article above from Just the news was written in March of 2020. The Penn Biden Center was created in 2018:

## Penn Biden Center for Diplomacy and Global Engagement



<b>Type</b>	Private
<b>Established</b>	2018
<b>Parent institution</b>	University of Pennsylvania
<b>Director</b>	Michael Carpenter
<b>Address</b>	101 Constitution Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C., United States
<b>Website</b>	<a href="https://global.upenn.edu/penn-biden-center">global.upenn.edu/penn-biden-center</a>

This means that while Antony Blinken's WestExec Advisors was serving as a consultant to Hunter Biden's BHR Partners on their Chinese business dealings, the Penn Biden Center, which Blinken was a managing director of, was receiving millions of dollars from anonymous Chinese Donors.

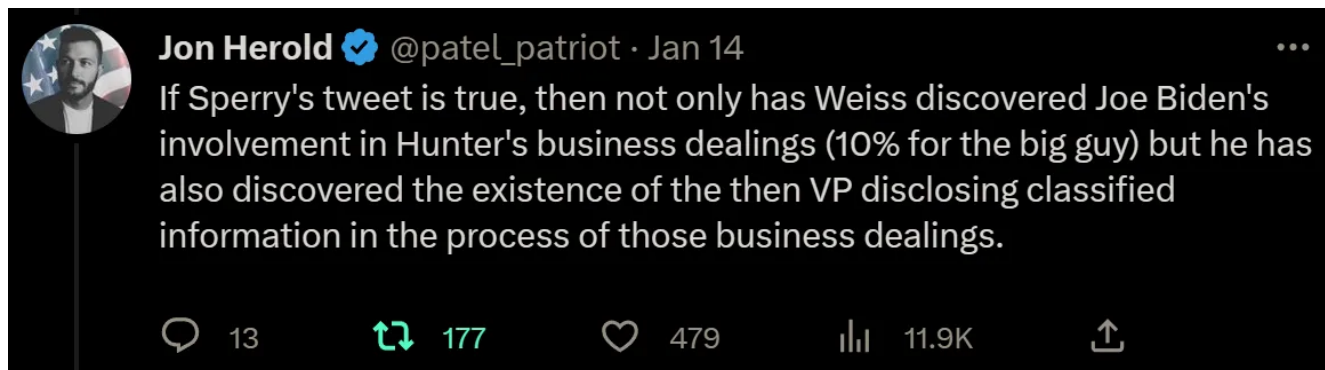
On January 12th, 2023, [Paul Sperry posted something fascinating on Twitter:](#)



Based on his post, [I compiled a twitter thread](#). The thread included the significance of John Lausch who I mentioned earlier:



The twitter thread ultimately led to this conclusion:



What I didn't realize at the time, is how intimately involved Antony Blinken appears to be in this entire situation.

Let's recap everything we have discussed so far:

- Michael Morrell alleged in testimony to the House Judiciary Committee that Antony Blinken was the individual from the Biden Campaign who prompted the letter from the 51 IC officials stating that Hunter Biden's Laptop was Russian Disinformation.
- Antony Blinken is also connected to the Aspen Institute which held the "hack-and-dump" tabletop exercise which played a major role in shaping how the media, big tech, and social media handled the Hunter Biden Laptop story.
- Antony Blinken, via WestExec advisors, was providing strategic advice to Hunter Biden's investment fund, BHR Partners.
- While providing advice to Hunter Biden's investment fund, Blinken was also the managing director of the Penn Biden Center which was receiving millions of dollars in donations from anonymous Chinese Donors.
- The Joe Biden classified document scandal started with documents being found at the Penn Biden Center.
- The Weiss investigation has very likely uncovered the use of classified material being used in Hunter Biden's business dealings.

Antony Blinken appears to have had a vested interest in making sure the laptop story was swept under the rug and not allowed to impact the election. That is where the "hack-and-dump" exercise and the letter from the intelligence officials came into play.

To further connect all of this together, here is an [email exchange uncovered by JustTheNews](#) showing Michael Morrell getting John Brennan to “add his name to this list.” As we discussed earlier, Michael Morrell testified to doing this upon the prompting of Antony Blinken and the Biden Presidential Campaign.

From: JohnB <John Brennan >  
Date: Mon, Oct 19, 2020 at 9:47 AM  
Subject: Re: Letter to Sign  
To: Michael M <Michael Morell >

Ok, Michael, add my name to the list. Good initiative. Thanks for asking me to sign on.

On Mon, Oct 19, 2020 at 9:29 AM Michael M <Michael Morell > wrote:

John,

Can I add your name to this list? Will be adding Leon, Sue Gordon, Jeh Johnson, George, Lisa Monaco, and Mike Rogers (DIRNSA) today.

And working on adding Dan Coats, Mike Rogers (HPSCI), and Tom Bossert.

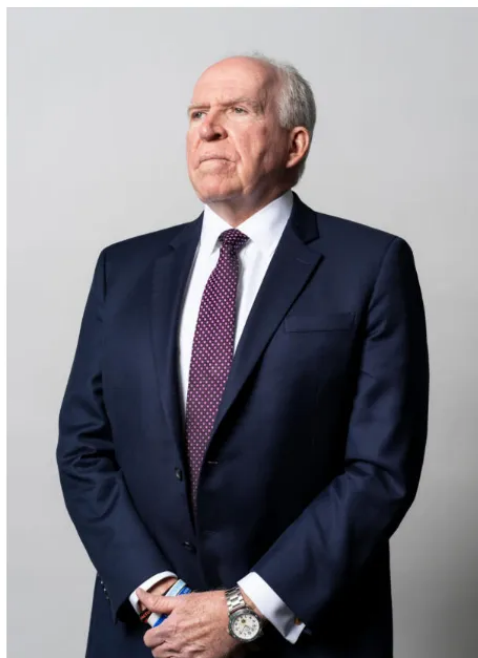
And lots of other IC career folk.

Trying to give the campaign, particularly during the debate on Thursday, a talking point to push back on Trump on this issue.

Thanks.

Michael

John Brennan was no doubt eager to add his name to the list. His eagerness could be attributed to numerous factors. Among them would be Brennan being [part of the team at WestExec Advisors](#):



## John Brennan

Principal

*Former Director of the Central Intelligence Agency*

John O. Brennan served as Director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) from March 2013 until January 2017. As Director, he was responsible for intelligence collection, analysis, covert action, counterintelligence, and liaison relationships with foreign intelligence services. From January 2009 to March 2013, John was Deputy National Security Advisor and Assistant to President Obama for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism, shaping and coordinating Obama administration policies on counterterrorism, homeland security, pandemics, cyberattacks, and natural disasters.

John began his government service at the CIA, where he worked from 1980 to 2005. He served as the CIA's daily intelligence briefer to President Clinton, Chief of Staff to then Director of Central Intelligence George Tenet, and Deputy Executive Director. In 2003, he led a multi-agency effort to establish the National Counterterrorism Center and served as the Center's first Director. After retiring from the CIA in 2005, he worked in the private sector for three years.

John graduated from Fordham University in 1977 with a bachelor's degree in political science, conducting field research in Indonesia in 1974 and studying at the American University in Cairo in 1975-1976. He earned a master's degree in government from the University of Texas at Austin in 1980.

John currently is a Distinguished Fellow at the Center on National Security at Fordham Law School, a Distinguished Scholar at the University of Texas at Austin, a member of the Board of Trustees of the International Institute of Strategic Studies, a senior intelligence and national security analyst for *NBC* and *MSNBC*, a member of the Board of Directors of ImmunityBio Inc, and an advisor to a variety of private sector companies. He is the author of the New York Times bestseller, "*Undaunted: My Fight Against America's Enemies at Home and Abroad*," a memoir of his career in public service.

BACK TO TEAM

## Quid Pro Quo?

If you were to go to the [Aspen Strategy Group's member list of today](#), there are a lot of interesting (and swampy) names but when you compare it to the [archived list of names from October of 2020](#), there are two notable names no longer listed.



## Michèle Flourney

### **ASPEN STRATEGY GROUP MEMBER**

Michèle Flourney is Co-Founder and Managing Partner of **WestExec Advisors**, and former Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer of the...



## Susan Rice

### **ASPEN STRATEGY GROUP MEMBER**

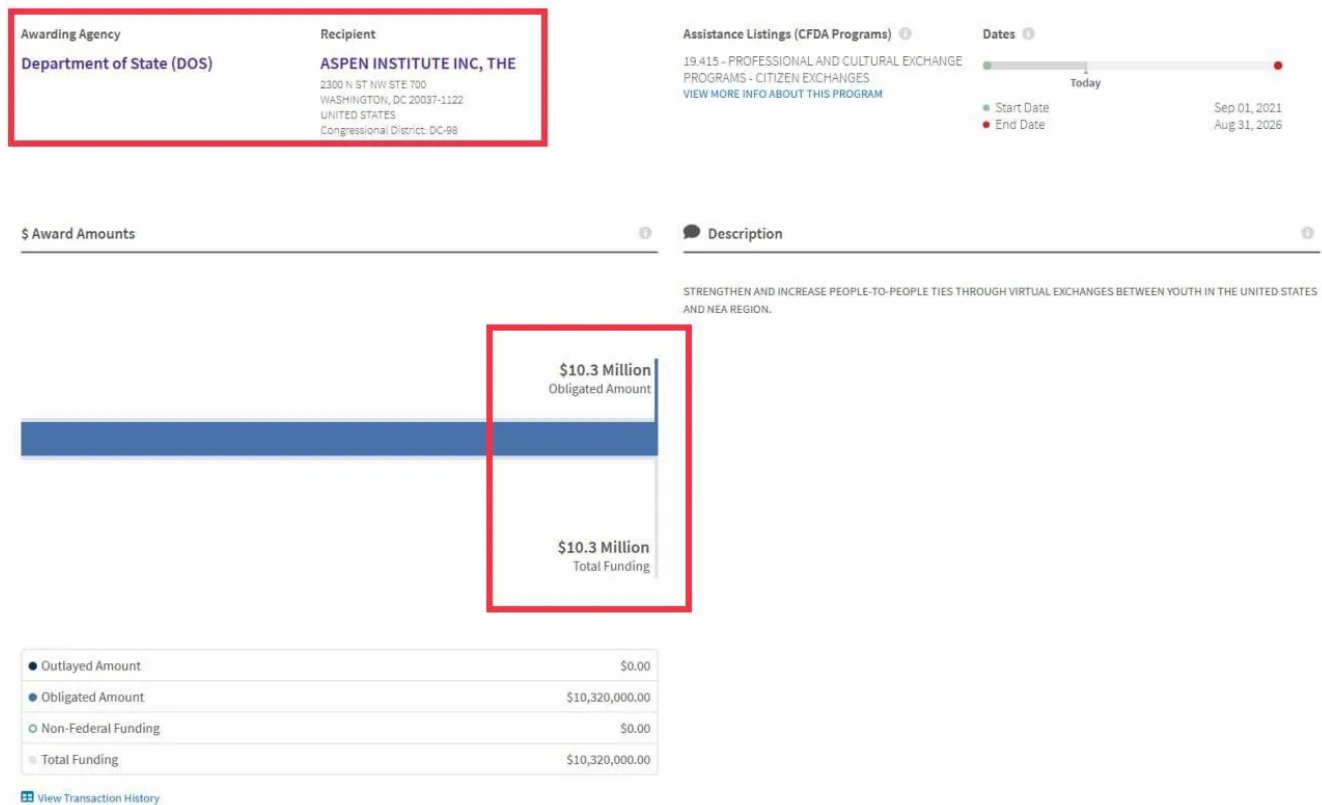
Susan Rice is currently Distinguished Visiting Research Fellow at the School of International Service, American University, and a Non-...

It may still be speculation, but it does appear that the Aspen Institute's decision to hold the "hack-and-dump" exercise was more than just a coincidence. Many members of the Biden administration are/were connected to the Aspen Institute. Blinken and his

WestExec co-founder, Michèle Flournoy, both appear to have been members of the Aspen Strategy Group when the “hack-and-dump” was held.

So what did the Aspen Institute get in return for doing their part in getting Joe Biden elected?

On 09/01/2021, [Antony Blinken’s State Department awarded a \\$10.3 Million grant to the Aspen Institute.](#)



This was the first [grant that the Aspen Institute received directly from the State Department since 2010](#), when they received two small grants totaling \$445,500.

Recipient Name	Start Date (Period of Performance)	End Date (Period of Performance)	Award Amount (Total Award Obligations to Date)	Awarding Agency
ASPEN INSTITUTE INC, THE	9/14/2021	9/13/2024	\$4,900,000	Agency for International Development
ASPEN INSTITUTE INC, THE	9/1/2021	8/31/2026	\$10,320,000	Department of State
ASPEN INSTITUTE INC, THE	6/1/2021	12/31/2022	\$150,000	Department of the Interior
ASPEN INSTITUTE INC, THE	8/30/2019	9/29/2023	\$6,493,773	Agency for International Development
ASPEN INSTITUTE INC, THE	7/14/2015	9/30/2018	\$1,078,019	Agency for International Development
ASPEN INSTITUTE INC, THE	11/24/2010	12/31/2011	\$297,000	Department of State
ASPEN INSTITUTE INC, THE	9/25/2010	9/30/2011	\$148,500	Department of State

Just so we're all on the same page about what happened here, I'll explain this one more time.

- Antony Blinken (and others from his WestExec Advisors group) was almost certainly a member of the Aspen Institute when they held their “hack-and-dump” tabletop exercise.
- That exercise covered a “hypothetical scenario” about the release of information about Hunter Biden and his business dealings.
- The purpose of the exercise was to shape how the media would cover this situation because the only explanation for anything like this happening was that it was part of a “Russian Disinformation Campaign.”
- This exercise took place 1 month before the New York Post story was published.
- Once the story was published, the media, big tech, and social media followed the template laid out by the Aspen Institute’s tabletop exercise and swept the story under the rug.
- Joe Biden went on to “win” the election.
- On September 1st, 2021, the Aspen Institute received a \$10.3 million grant from the Antony Blinken-led State Department. This was their first grant from the State Department in over 10 years and it was the largest grant (by a large margin) that they have ever received from the United States Government.

I’m not saying this proves a Quid Pro Quo. This could just be a coincidence.

But I don’t believe in coincidences.

## Closing

“It’s a self-fulfilling prophecy. You demonize - we call it the wrap-up smear. If you want to talk politics. We call it the wrap-up smear. You smear somebody with falsehoods and all the rest and then you merchandise it and then you write it and they’ll say, see, it’s reported in the press that this, this, this and this, so they have that validation that the press reported the smear and then it’s called a wrap-up smear. Now I am going to merchandise the press’ report on the smear that we made. It’s a tactic.”

- Nancy Pelosi

In essence, the tactics used by the think tanks, media, big tech, social media, and the intelligence community was that of a wrap-up smear.

The Aspen Institute put forth falsehoods that were later “validated” by the letter from the 51 intelligence officials. This tactic was coordinated. Both the letter and the exercise were put forth to delegitimize the Hunter Biden Laptop story which detailing Hunter Biden’s business dealings, and Antony Blinken was potentially connected to those dealings as well.

So ultimately, what appears to be undeniable at this point is that at the center of the whole scheme, was Antony Blinken on behalf of the Joe Biden Presidential Campaign.

What’s also undeniable, is the effect this had on the outcome of the 2020 Presidential Election.

The only real question that remains is, did Trump and his team know?

This 2021 video of Barr details his thoughts on the letter:

PowerHourBarr



On October 20th, 2020, shortly after the laptop story was successfully swept under the rug thanks to the letter and the “hack-and-dump” exercise, Trump stopped to answer a question from reporters:

PowerHourTrump



Trump knew what was on the laptop. He didn't mince words when he called Joe Biden a criminal. He also didn't mince words when he called the media criminal for not reporting on it. Trump's administration knew what Biden & co. were doing was interference in the election. Every week, we have more and more information about how corrupt the Biden Crime family is and the lengths to which everybody in their orbit have gone to cover up their tracks.

Ask yourself this.

If Joe Biden and his criminal associates were really in FULL control and going to get away with what they have done, why is any of this information coming out at all?

The answer to that question is in plain sight.

Blinken you'll miss it.

THE BEST IS YET TO COME

**Patel Patriot**



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## 11 Comments



Write a comment...



**Lisa Liberty** Writes Lisa's Deductive Reasoning May 7

What is interesting is not so much what you couldn't find, but what you were able to find. A delicate task of putting the puzzle pieces together while blindfolded, nevertheless you were able to journey down the rabbit hole. This is what makes you Jon, AKA Patel Patriot!

This is fascinating and two years ago I would have shouted your discovery off the rooftop for all to hear. That was two years ago when I believed others cared, like I do. We are in a higher dimension or something and truth can't shower down to the lower dimension. This won't always be the case, when the barrier between the two dimensions ceases to exist, I hope your work is fully appreciated and respected. It certainly is deserving of much attention!!

So nice to get you back to your Devolution series, by far the most intriguing thought provoking articles!

As for burning bright, the name he allowed you to borrow (just guessing) is so clever!!

Excellent work!!

♡ LIKE (18) 💬 REPLY ...



**Jaytriot** May 6

Excellent, excellent work, my friend!!

♡ LIKE (17) 💬 REPLY ...

9 more comments...

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