

## **Surprising CBC commentary: President Obama's hypocritical outrage over Russia's alleged interference in elections**

January 8, 2017, by Grahame Russell

\*\*\*\*\*

### **“Breaking News” from the CBC’s Man-In-Bow-Tie**

A commentary about Michael Enright’s commentary  
by Grahame Russell, January 8, 2017

<http://us9.campaign-archive1.com/?u=ea011209a243050dfb66dff59&id=ee15bfa553>

The CBC’s Michael Enright has published an extraordinary commentary (“America’s hypocritical outrage over Russia’s cyber-interference in its presidential election”, reproduced below) on how “the U.S. has undermined democratically elected governments all over the world, especially in Latin America”, on how the U.S. “has engineered the overthrow of dozens of governments, and has propped up in their place dictators and fascist regimes.”

For the record, I agree with Enright. What is extraordinary is not his focus on the actual role of the U.S. across the globe, but that the CBC would make such a truthful statement about this.

Sadly, but not surprising, Enright fails to mention why the CBC – and most Canadian media outlets – have rarely reported properly on how “the U.S. has undermined democratically elected governments all over the world, ... [that the U.S.] has engineered the overthrow of dozens of governments, and has propped up in their place dictators and fascist regimes.”

Also not surprising, Enright fails to mention that Canada – as official policy – has usually supported these interventions and that “fear of communism” was (and is!?) similarly a Canadian obsession. Most recently, Canada played a direct role with the U.S. in the devastating interventions in Honduras (2009) and Haiti (1991, 2004). In both cases, most of the Canadian media misreported on, or outright supported these interventions

Neither did Enright refer to how Canadian companies benefit from these interventions, profitably doing business with repressive regimes left in power. Guatemala is a case in point, that Enright refers to in his commentary.

Since the late 1980s, I have been supporting very moving and usually sad human rights work in Guatemala. Not only did Canada quietly support the U.S. overthrow of Guatemala’s last democratic government in 1954, done in the name of “fighting communism”, but the Canadian government has aggressively promoted Canadian business interests there, particularly in the area of mining. Our companies (Goldcorp Inc, Hudbay Minerals, Tahoe Resources) have been doing profitable business with the same military and economic elites that the U.S. brought back to power after the 1954 coup, and supported during years of repression and genocide in the 1980s.

Still, having registered these comments, Michael Enright's commentary is worth the read, considering and sharing. Perhaps Enright's commentary will inspire the media to properly report on the U.S.'s and Canada's actual global economic and military interests and interventions.

Grahame Russell  
Toronto, January 8, 2017

\*\*\*\*\*

### **America's hypocritical outrage over Russia's cyber-interference in its presidential election**

By Michael Enright, CBC Sunday Edition, January 08, 2017

<http://www.cbc.ca/radio/thesundayedition/american-hypocrisy-on-russian-hacking-why-young-men-an-over-the-phone-book-club-bach-and-anti-semitism-1.3919404/america-s-hypocritical-outrage-over-russia-s-cyber-interference-in-its-presidential-election-michael-s-essay-1.3919412>

There is something hugely ironic, risible even, in Barack Obama's year-end fulminations about Russian hacking endeavours. He accused Vladimir Putin and the Kremlin's intelligence agencies of interfering in the democratic practices and governance of the United States. Ironic because no country has worked harder for decades to undermine the governance of other nations than the United States itself.

What got the president all steamed up was a series of reports from US intelligence agencies which said the Russians had hacked into the computers of the Democratic National Committee and used some embarrassing e-mails to swing the election to Donald Trump. However accurate or not the allegation, Trump didn't need any help from the Russians. The DNC was busily losing the election all on its own.

In the dying days of the year, the president enacted a series of sanctions against the Kremlin. This included the expulsion of 35 Russian intelligence people and the closure of two Russian-owned properties.

With a straight face, the president said; "The United States and friends and allies around the world must work together to oppose Russia's efforts to undermine established international norms of behaviour and interfere with democratic governance."

What makes this hilarious and more than somewhat hypocritical calls up a scattered reading of history.



Henry Kissinger on May 13, 2015 in New York City. (Steve Mack/Getty Images)

The involvement by the United States in dictating and directing the political life of other countries has a long and sordid history going back to the middle of the 19th Century. Whether overtly or secretly, the US has undermined democratically elected governments all over the world, especially in Latin America. It has engineered the overthrow of dozens of governments, and has propped up in their place dictators and fascist regimes.

Henry Kissinger, when he was Secretary of Global Interference under Richard Nixon, was a master at undermining democratically elected regimes, most notoriously in Chile in 1973.

Some interference - such as the war with Mexico in 1846 and the Philippines in 1899 - were simple land grabs.

In the post war years, when the fear of Communism became an American obsession, the US colluded in toppling governments it felt were overly friendly to Moscow. In 1953, the CIA sponsored the overthrow of the elected government of Mohammad Mossadegh and replaced him with that well-known democrat, Shah Reza Pahlavi.



Henry Kissinger shakes hand with Shah of Iran, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, 02 November 1974 in Tehran, Iran. (AFP/Getty Images)

The following year, the CIA was at it again, engineering the coup which overthrew the democratically-elected government of Jacobo Arbenz in Guatemala.

In 1958, in Operation Blue Bat, President Dwight Eisenhower threatened to invade Lebanon if internal opposition jeopardized its pro-western government. Add to the list the overthrow of the socialist government in Ghana in 1966, the invasion of Grenada in 1983, the Dominican Republic in 1965, the toppling of the Aristide government of Haiti in 1991, Panama, Honduras, Nicaragua and dozens of others.

Each of these incursions, military or political, could be argued as violations of international law under the Charter of the United Nations.

It is not too much of a leap of reason to speculate that with the largest intelligence gathering organizations in the world, the United States has committed a few cybercrimes of its own.

My favourite definition of a hypocrite is someone who conveniently forgets their faults to point out someone else's. If the shoe fits...

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Get Informed / Get Involved, with Rights Action**

- Speakers: Invite us to give presentations about these issues and struggles
- Delegations: Join educational seminars to Guatemala and Honduras to learn first-hand about these issues and struggles
- Recommend Daily News: [www.democracynow.org](http://www.democracynow.org), [www.upsidedownworld.org](http://www.upsidedownworld.org), [www.telesurtv.net/english](http://www.telesurtv.net/english), [www.rabble.ca](http://www.rabble.ca)

- Recommended Books: “This Changes Everything: Capitalism versus The Climate”, by Naomi Klein; “Open Veins of Latin America”, by Eduardo Galeano; “A People’s History of the United States”, by Howard Zinn

### **Why So Many Central Americans Flee North, Decade After Decade?**

The exploitation and poverty, violence and government repression, corruption and impunity of Honduras and Guatemala are “American” and “Canadian” issues. The U.S. and Canadian governments, the World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank, and North American companies and investors (including pension funds) maintain profitable economic and military relations with the Guatemalan and Honduran regimes, turning a blind eye and/or directly contributing to environmental harms, exploitation, repression, corruption and impunity that are the norm in these countries, that force so many to flee.

Keep on sending copies of this information, and your own letters, to your politicians and media, to your pension and investment funds, asking: Why our governments, companies and investment firms benefit from and turn a blind eye to the poverty, repression and violence, and environmental and health harms in Guatemala and Honduras?

### **Tax-Deductible Donations (Canada & United States)**

To support community, human rights and environmental defense organizations in Honduras and Guatemala, working and struggling for justice and for fundamental change from the local to global levels, make check payable to "Rights Action" and mail to:

- U.S.: Box 50887, Washington DC, 20091-0887
- Canada: (Box 552) 351 Queen St. E, Toronto ON, M5A-1T8

Credit-Card Donations

- Canada: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/rights-action/>
- U.S.: <http://www.rightsaction.org/tax-deductible-donations> (click on NetworkForGood)

\*\*\*\*\*

More Info: [info@rightsaction.org](mailto:info@rightsaction.org)

Join Listserv: [www.rightsaction.org](http://www.rightsaction.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/RightsAction.org](http://www.facebook.com/RightsAction.org)

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/RightsAction>, @RightsAction

\*\*\*\*\*