

OBSERVER - Panama Papers: Clinton, Russian "Business Men", Uranium and Lithium Mines: SCANDAL!

Cross referencing the many aliases of old Sid Blumental and following the sketch careers of the Podesta clan, you would think you were watching a re-run of "The Gang Who Couldn't Shoot Straight."

[Hillary Clinton Ties Emerge In Panama Papers - Daily ...](#)

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Apr 05, 2016 · A billionaire and a Russia-controlled bank named in the Panama Papers have links to Hillary Clinton through two separate lobbying efforts — one through a ...

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[http://dailycaller.com/2016/04/05/hill\[...\]clinton-ties-emerge-in-panama-papers/](http://dailycaller.com/2016/04/05/hill[...]clinton-ties-emerge-in-panama-papers/)

[Bernie Sanders Hits Hillary Clinton For Panama Papers ...](#)

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1 day ago ... Bernie Sanders attacked Hillary Clinton for a Panama trade pact, which he said enabled the sort of tax avoidance shown in the Panama Papers.

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<http://fortune.com/2016/04/07/sanders-clinton-panama/>

['Panama Papers' Implicate Client of Clinton-Linked ...](#)

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A firm with ties to senior members of the Hillary Clinton presidential campaign registered to lobby on behalf of a major Russian bank just weeks before a massive leak ...

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<http://freebeacon.com/issues/panama-papers-implicate-podesta-client/>

[Panama Papers Scandal Hits the Clinton Campaign](#)

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1 day ago ... Hillary Clinton's campaign chairman, John Podesta, has ties to Russia's Sberbank, which has been implicated in the Panama Papers."

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[http://www.breitbart.com/hillary-clint\[...\]papers-scandal-hits-clinton-campaign/](http://www.breitbart.com/hillary-clint[...]papers-scandal-hits-clinton-campaign/)

[Panama Papers Could Really End Hillary Clinton's Campaign](#)

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1 day ago ... The transgressions documented in the Panama Papers were directly ... It speaks to a hard truth Hillary Clinton and her choleric campaign ...

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<http://theantimedia.org/panama-papers-end-hillary-clinton/>

Sanders hits Clinton over Panama Papers leaks - POLITICO

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Apr 06, 2016 · Responding to the 11.5 million documents leaked this week showing how a Panama law firm helped some of the world's wealthiest people establish offshore tax ...

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Panama Papers Reveal Clinton's Kremlin Connection | ...

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The revelations of the so-called Panama Papers that are roiling the world's political and financial elites this week include important facts about Team Clinton.

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The Panama Papers could hand Bernie Sanders the ...

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It is likely that the Panama papers is just the tip of the ... It has been revealed Clinton pushed through the Panama Free Trade Deal at the same time that Sanders ...

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The Panama Papers Could Really End Hillary Clinton's Campaign ...

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13 hours ago ... If it can be shown that Clinton was involved in criminal improprieties exposed by the Panama Papers, this will constitute yet another major line ...

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Did Bernie Sanders Predict the Panama Papers When He ...

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Apr 05, 2016 · The Panama Papers leak, that reveals how the rich and powerful rely on a secretive law

firm to hide their wealth in tax havens, has ...

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[Sanders Ties Clinton to Panama Papers Scandal as Candidates ...](#)

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[Panama Papers: Obama, Clinton Pushed Trade Deal ...](#)

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Obama and Clinton pushed for trade deal years before Panama Papers that watchdogs warned would make situation worse.

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[Sanders Links Clinton to Panama Papers Scandal - Bernie Sanders](#)

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The U.S. Secretary of Energy handed massive amounts of taxpayer cash to crooked Russian Billionaires at Severstal, Ener1 and other front operations.

Could it have to do with the Russian Mining deals for Elon Musk's Lithium Ion Batteries? Felony Crimes?

Panama Papers Reveal Clinton's Kremlin Connection

John and Tony Podesta aren't fooling anyone

By [John R. Schindler](#) •



Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton. (Photo: Jeff Swensen/Getty Images)

The revelations of the so-called [Panama Papers](#) that are roiling the world's political and financial elites this week include important facts about Team Clinton. This unprecedented trove of documents purloined from a shady Panama law firm that arranged tax havens, and perhaps money laundering, for the globe's super-rich includes juicy insights into how Russia's elite hides its ill-gotten wealth.

Almost lost among the many revelations is the fact that Russia's biggest bank uses [The Podesta Group](#) as its lobbyist in Washington, D.C. Though hardly a household name, this firm is well known inside the Beltway, not least because its CEO is Tony Podesta, one of the best-connected Democratic *machers* in the country. He founded the firm in 1998 with his brother John, formerly chief of staff to President Bill Clinton, then counselor to President Barack Obama, Mr. Podesta is the very definition of a Democratic insider. Outsiders engage the Podestas and their well-connected lobbying firm to improve their image and get access to Democratic bigwigs.

Which is exactly what [Sberbank](#), Russia's biggest financial institution, did this spring. As [reported](#) at the end of March, the Podesta Group registered with the

U.S. Government as a lobbyist for Sberbank, as required by law, naming three Podesta Group staffers: Tony Podesta plus Stephen Rademaker and David Adams, the last two former assistant secretaries of state. It should be noted that Tony Podesta is a big-money bundler for the Hillary Clinton presidential campaign while his brother John is the chairman of that campaign, the chief architect of her plans to take the White House this November.

Sberbank (Savings Bank in Russian) engaged the Podesta Group to help its public image—leading Moscow financial institutions not exactly being known for their propriety and wholesomeness—and specifically to help lift some of the pain of sanctions placed on Russia in the aftermath of the Kremlin’s aggression against Ukraine, which has caused real pain to the country’s hard-hit financial sector.

It’s hardly surprising that Sberbank sought the help of Democratic insiders like the Podesta Group to aid them in this difficult hour, since they clearly understand how American politics work. The question is why the Podesta Group took Sberbank’s money. That financial institution isn’t exactly hiding in the shadows—it’s the biggest bank in Russia, and its reputation leaves a lot to be desired. Nobody acquainted with Russian finance was surprised that Sberbank wound up in the Panama Papers.

Since the brothers are destined for very high-level jobs if the Democrats triumph in November, their relationship is something they—and Clinton—need to explain.

Although Sberbank has its origins in the nineteenth century, it was functionally reborn after the Soviet collapse, and in the 1990s it grew to be the dominant bank in the country, today controlling nearly 30 percent of Russia’s aggregate banking assets and employing a quarter-million people. The majority stockholder in Sberbank is Russia’s Central Bank. In other words, Sberbank is functionally an arm of the Kremlin, although it’s ostensibly a private institution.

Certainly Western intelligence is well acquainted with Sberbank, noting its close relationship with Vladimir Putin and his regime. Funds moving through Sberbank are regularly used to support clandestine Russian intelligence operations, while the bank uses its offices abroad as cover for the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service or SVR. A NATO counterintelligence official explained that Sberbank, which has outposts in almost two dozen foreign countries, “functions as a sort of arm of the SVR outside Russia, especially because many of its senior employees are ‘former’ Russian intelligence officers.” Inside the country, Sberbank has an equally cosy relationship with the Federal Security Service or FSB, Russia’s powerful domestic intelligence agency.

Ukraine has pointed a finger at Sberbank as an instrument of Russia’s aggression against their country. In 2014, Ukraine’s Security Service [charged](#) Sberbank with “financing terrorism,” noting that its branches were distributing millions of dollars in illegal aid to Russian-backed separatists fighting in eastern Ukraine. Kyiv’s conclusion, that Sberbank is a witting supporter of Russian aggression against

Ukraine, is broadly supported by Western intelligence. “Sberbank is the Kremlin, they don’t do anything major without Putin’s go-ahead, and they don’t tell him ‘no’ either,” explained a retired senior U.S. intelligence official with extensive experience in Eastern Europe.

In addition, Ukrainian intelligence has [alleged](#) that the FSB collaborated with Sberbank in the bombings of two of the bank’s branches in Kyiv, Ukraine’s capital, in June 2015. The attacks caused no casualties but got [major coverage](#) in Russian state media as “proof” of Ukraine’s instability and violent anti-Russian nature. Although the notion that Russian spies would plant bombs as a provocation, what the Kremlin terms [provokatsiya](#), may sound outlandish to those unacquainted with espionage, in fact Russian spies have been doing such things since tsarist times. What I’ve termed [“fake terrorism”](#) is a longstanding Kremlin core competency, and it can only be pulled off with logistical support, including with finances.

Predictably, Sberbank has [blown off](#) the Panama Papers revelations as nothing of consequence, but the fact that they are an arm of the Kremlin and they do plenty of shady things in many countries is a matter of record. As is the fact that the Podesta Group is their lobbyist in America.

Among the Sberbank subsidiaries that the Podesta Group also represents are the Cayman Islands-based Troika Dialog Group Limited, the Cyprus-based SBGB Cyprus Limited, and the Luxembourg-based SB International. As [reported](#) this week by the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project, a consortium of journalists exploring the Panama Papers leak, Sberbank and Troika Dialog are used by members of Mr. Putin’s inner circle to shift public funds into sometimes questionable private investments. In other words, this is top-level money laundering of a brazen kind. As the OCCRP stated plainly, “Some of these companies were initially connected to the Troika Dialog investment fund, which was controlled and run by Sberbank after the bank bought the Troika Dialog investment bank. Troika and Sberbank declined to comment.”

Adding to shadiness of all this, the Podesta Group is playing along with the useful charade that Sberbank is simply a private financial institution, rather than the state-owned bank that it is, since that would require the lobbyists to register as agents of the Russian government under the Foreign Agent Registration Act.

John and Tony Podesta aren’t fooling anyone with this ruse. They are lobbyists for Vladimir Putin’s personal bank of choice, an arm of his Kremlin and its intelligence services. Since the brothers Podesta are presumably destined for very high-level White House jobs next January if the Democrats triumph in November at the polls, their relationship with Sberbank is something they—and Hillary Clinton—need to explain to the public.

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