Twitter Thread by Rachel "The Doc" Bitecofer ■■■



Rachel "The Doc" Bitecofer ■■■
@RachelBitecofer



1. SO MUCH more than that. What Barr & the GOP pulled off w the release of the Mueller Report was demonstrated mastery of the American media & the news cycle.

They manipulated both brilliantly.

The reason reporters are conditioned to report a stalled bill as "Congress failing

> Barr lied about the contents of the Mueller Report\u2019s findings to the public right out of the gate and repeatedly lied about them under oath.https://t.co/aul3Yjqno2
>
> — Bill Pascrell, Jr. (@BillPascrell) December 14, 2020

2. to pass a covid relief bill"- the norm of objectivity- has allowed the RNC/GOP/Trump to develop a system to manipulate the media into doing their dirty work. But never have we seen it orchestrated so deliberately & cleanly as it was to neutralize the Mueller Report. By his

3. "Letter to Congress" where he intentional mispresented the findings of the report on 2 crucial areas- the investigation's conclusions regarding the activities of the Trump campaign and Russia and whether or not the President's actions to damage/disrupt the investigation

4. constitutes obstruction of justice, Barr & the GOP team understood that if the report was released, the media would likely get out on its own this meaning: Trump campaign's contacts with Russia did not rise to criminal charges and that Trump can not be charges w obstruction

5. while being president. BUT, by sending out this letter that interprets the report for the media in advance (well in advance!) of the actual report- Barr can instead tell the media a different narrative, far more favorable to Trump. These, of course, go on to become the

6. prevailing narratives bc even AFTER the report gets released showing contradictions to Barr's interpretations, most the media, beyond Fox News STILL uses Barr's frame about Trump saying things like "the Trump campaign was cleared of collusion" or "no collusion was found" which

7. which drives me NUTS bc if you take away Barr's memo & presser & effort to frame it as such, actually reading the report does NOT leave you with any such notion that the Trump campaign didn't collude with Russia! Yet, to this day, in defense of their "investigation of the

8. investigators" you'll hear Rs talk about a Trump campaign that was vindicated of involvement w Russians by the Mueller Report/Russia investigation. And they get SO MUCH help with this from reporters/journalists that were manipulated, intentionally manipulated via this planned

9. roll-out system w the memo that includes headlines like Mueller Finds No Conspiracy when f'ing Paul Manafort is slipping the Kremlin their Blue Wall targeting plans!! I'llbe writing about it in the book as THE greatest manipulation of the media in history.

The Washington Post

Prices may vary in areas outside metropolitan Washington. SU V1 V2 V3 V4

Cloudy, rain 59/35 • Tomorrow: Mostly sunny 52/35 B6 | *Democracy Dies in Darkness* | MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2019 · $2

Mueller finds no conspiracy

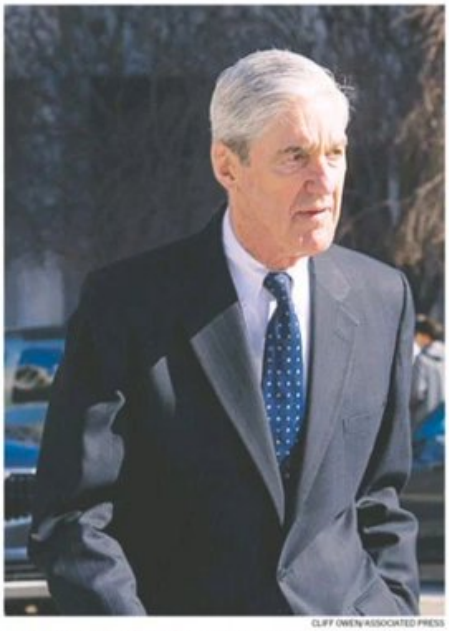
On Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election

"The Special Counsel's investigation did not find that the Trump campaign or anyone associated with it conspired or coordinated with Russia in its efforts to influence the 2016 U.S. presidential election."

On obstruction of justice

"The Special Counsel states that 'while this report does not conclude that the President committed a crime, it also does not exonerate him.' "

from Attorney General William P. Barr's summary of special counsel Robert S. Mueller III's report



CLIFF OWEN/ASSOCIATED PRESS



OLIVER CONTRERAS/FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

LEFT: Robert S. Mueller III leaves Sunday services at St. John's Episcopal Church across from the White House. RIGHT: President Trump arrives at the White House after a weekend in Florida. He called the summary of Mueller's report a "complete and total exoneration."

Divided Congress faces difficult task in further pursuit of key allegation

BY ROSALIND S. HELDERMAN AND JOSH DAWSEY

Special counsel Robert S. Mueller III's decision that he could not conclude whether President Trump's attacks on the Russia investigation amounted to obstruction of justice illustrates the difficulty in proving such a charge — and left Democrats with a narrow but fraught path to press a case against Trump.

In the end, Trump's mercurial behavior and relentless attacks on the FBI and special counsel probably extended the length of the probe — but the fact that many of his eruptions were in public view also may have made it more difficult to show he had ill intent, a key element in proving obstruction, legal experts said.

In his still-confidential report, Mueller stopped short of drawing a conclusion about whether the president obstructed justice, writing that "while this report does not conclude that the President committed a crime, it also does not exonerate him," according to a summary by Attorney General William P. Barr released Sunday.

Barr went further, saying that he and Deputy Attorney General Rod J. Rosenstein concluded the evidence gathered by the special counsel "is not sufficient to establish that the President committed an obstruction-of-justice offense."

That has left the question of Trump's actions — which included the firing of FBI Director James B. Comey, the public attacks on his attorney general Jeff Sessions, the regular cries of "witch hunt" and the taunting of witnesses — as one that will now be wrestled with in the political arena.

The obstruction question, as a legal matter, came down to whether the special counsel had evidence that Trump acted with "corrupt intent" as he demeaned and demonized the investigation.

"Proving intent is genuinely difficult, because it requires you

SEE ANALYSIS ON A12

House Democrats stand ready
The Judiciary Committee chairman says Congress will pick up where investigators left off. **A15**

A reckoning for the pundits
Liberal-leaning commentators leaned into a collusion narrative that just got discredited. **A14**

Coming up: More investigations, more polarization — and an election

BY MARC FISHER

Next, more of the same, but with more entrenched division, a bitter crossfire of allegations and then, finally, a reckoning in the form of the 2020 presidential election.

The long-awaited conclusion of special counsel Robert S. Mueller III's investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election is likely to harden congressional Republicans' wall of support for President Trump, strengthen Democratic demands to hold Trump to account — and result in little change in public opinion, according to historians and politicians who have studied past national scandals.

Mueller's conclusion — he found no evidence of collusion with Russia but was unwilling to exonerate on obstruction of jus-

SEE WASHINGTON ON A14

'No collusion!' goes from defiant mantra to reelection rallying cry

BY JOSH DAWSEY, ASHLEY PARKER AND PHILIP RUCKER

President Trump's defiant mantra — "no collusion!"- became a rallying cry for his reelection Sunday after the Justice Department said there was no evidence that his campaign conspired with Russia during the 2016 election.

The four-page summary of special counsel Robert S. Mueller III's investigation removes one of the darkest clouds hovering over the Trump presidency, even though it reached no conclusion about whether he obstructed justice. Aides described Trump as gleeful, and the president cast it as a "complete and total exoneration" — despite Mueller's more nuanced findings.

"There was no collusion with Russia, the most ridiculous thing

SEE TRUMP ON A13

Report leaves open obstruction question, but Barr sees no crime

BY MATT ZAPOTOSKY AND DEVLIN BARRETT

Special counsel Robert S. Mueller III did not find that Donald Trump or his campaign schemed with Russians to interfere in the 2016 presidential election, according to a summary released Sunday that the president immediately embraced as a "total exoneration" even though Mueller reached no conclusion about whether the president obstructed justice.

After a nearly two-year investigation, Mueller's findings seemed to dispel the cloud of conspiracy that has hung over the administration since its inception. But by delivering caveats alongside conclusions, the closing of the Mueller investigation opens the door to fiercer political fights over the president's judgment and power.

The four-page summary issued Sunday by Attorney General William P. Barr declared: "The Special Counsel's investigation did not find that the Trump campaign or anyone associated with it conspired or coordinated with Russia in its efforts to influence the 2016 U.S. presidential election."

The letter noted that Mueller's probe said no such conspiracy was found "despite multiple offers from Russia-affiliated individuals to assist the Trump campaign." Barr said he and Justice Department officials separately determined there was insufficient evidence to make an obstruction accusation against the president — although Mueller was not definitive on that point.

Trump spoke to reporters at a Florida airport Sunday afternoon, declaring he had been vindicated.

"After a long look, after a long investigation, after so many people have been so badly hurt, after not looking at the other side — where a lot of bad things happened, a lot of horrible things happened for our country — it was just announced there was no

SEE REPORT ON A11

Barr's letter to Congress
The full text of Attorney General William P. Barr's summary of the "principal conclusions." **A12-13**

What will we see, and when?
That depends on how long it takes to remove sensitive material, and what Democrats decide. **A10**

Voters help rein in gerrymandering

BY ROBERT BARNES

Supreme Court takes up issue, but across the U.S., citizens are not waiting

DETROIT — Disappointed with the election results but not ready to give up on politics, Katie Fahey sent out the modern equivalent of a message in a bottle on Nov. 10, 2016.

"I'd like to take on gerrymandering in Michigan," she typed in a Facebook post. "If you're interested in doing this as well, please let me know." She added a smiley

people were interested.

They grew to more than 425,000 people who signed a ballot petition to amend the state constitution.

tion Day 2018 took away the power of politicians to draw districts that helped themselves and their political parties, and put it in the hands of a commission of ordinary citizens.

"Voters Not Politicians" made Michigan one of five states in 2018 — Ohio, Colorado, Missouri and Utah the others — where voters reined in partisan gerrymandering.

It is an issue that has vexed the

Boeing pushed hard for self-oversight

BY MICHAEL LARIS

Congress allowed company to take over some FAA functions

Four weeks before a Lion Air jet plunged into the Java Sea in October, Congress passed little-noticed provisions that gave the plane's maker, Boeing, even more power to oversee itself, demonstrating the company's sway in Washington.

It was another victory in Boeing's long-running, highly effective campaign to get the feder-

Administration's safety responsibilities to the company. It also was a reflection of the inherent difficulties of having a government workforce oversee the de-

machines.

Federal investigators are scrutinizing whether the FAA failed to properly watch over Boeing, which has scrambled to make software fixes after two Boeing 737 Max 8 jets crashed within five months. But the obscure provisions in the new law show how advocates in Congress considered the process that certified the planes to be too cumbersome.

The U.S. manufacturing giant