Twitter Thread by emptywheel

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Breaking: Not only does John Solomon continue to include more and more false claims in his propaganda, but after 4 years of "reporting" on FISA he still doesn't know what FBI Director signs to on FISA.

> Smoking gun: Comey told Clapper FBI unable to \u2018sufficiently corroborate\u2019 Steele \u2014 then signed FISA, newly declassified memo shows. | Just The News https://t.co/agpMxMLORL
>
> — John Solomon (@jsolomonReports) February 15, 2021

In reality, this is what John Solomon's "SMOKING GUN" says:

Steele was considered reliable (true!), his sources were in a position to report on what they reported on (true!), the reporting corroborated stuff in the report [that, btw, is mostly classified]

This paragraph, for example, includes 3 lies and one exaggeration: First, CIA informed FBI that until 2011, they asked Page questions about the RU intelligence officers trying to recruit him.

That does NOT cover the most alarming thing he did in 2015 or one RU intelligence officer that Page did not tell the CIA about while still an approved contact.

USG had gotten opinions about Steele that weren't entirely favorable (but unsurprising for operations officer), but this is before questions abt source network.

I believe the understanding that Steele might have been fed disinformation came in June 2017 (and largely came from better understanding of John Solomon source Oleg Deripaska).

In early 2017--the VERY SAME DAY as this memo was written--Paul Manafort, after meeting with one of Deripaska's GRU linked deputies, told Trump's people to discredit the dossier as a way to discredit the RU investigation.

In other words, the SAME ENTITY that fed the disinformation to Steele and then got the GOP to focus only on that disinformation also feeds John Solomon some of his "scoops."

Finally, this is a misrepresentation of when the FBI first considered closing Mike Flynn investigation, who decided it, and is of course irrelevant given his damning calls to Kislyak.

It is acutely interesting that and how Steele was fed disinformation. But it is interesting and damning in the same way Ron Johnson and Rudy Giuliani's focus on later disinformation was.