

# ***SLANTED***

HOW THE NEWS MEDIA TAUGHT US

TO LOVE CENSORSHIP

AND HATE JOURNALISM

SHARYL  
ATTKISSON

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# ***Appendix: Major Media Mistakes in the Era of Trump***

***AUGUST 2016–JUNE 2020***

(The ongoing list can be found at <https://sharylattkisson.com> under Special Investigations > “Media Mistakes in the Trump Era: The Definitive List”)

1. AUGUST 2016–NOVEMBER 2016: Various news outlets publish modeling photos of Trump’s wife, Melania, implying that she violated her visa status as an immigrant. But the media got the date wrong.
2. OCTOBER 1, 2016: *The New York Times* and other media imply Trump did not pay income taxes for eighteen years. But tax returns later leaked to MSNBC show Trump actually paid a higher rate than Democrats Bernie Sanders and President Barack Obama.
3. OCTOBER 18, 2016: In a *Washington Post* piece not labeled opinion or analysis, Stuart Rothenberg incorrectly reports that Trump’s path to an electoral college victory is “nonexistent.”
4. NOVEMBER 4, 2016: *USA Today* “misstates” Melania Trump’s arrival date from Slovenia amid a flurry of reporting questioning her immigration status from the mid-1990s.
5. NOVEMBER 9, 2016: Early on election night, the *Detroit Free Press* calls the state of Michigan for Hillary Clinton. (Trump actually won Michigan.)

6. JANUARY 20, 2017: CNN claims Nancy Sinatra was “not happy” about her father’s song being used at Trump’s inauguration. Sinatra responds, “That’s not true. I never said that. Why do you lie, CNN? Actually I’m wishing him the best.”

7. JANUARY 20, 2017: Zeke Miller of *Time* reports that President Trump has removed the bust statue of civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr., from the Oval Office. The news goes viral. It is false.

8. JANUARY 26, 2017: Josh Rogin of the *Washington Post* reports that the State Department’s “entire senior administrative team” has resigned in protest against Trump. A number of media outlets, ranging politically from left to right, state that claim is misleading or wrong.

9. JANUARY 28, 2017: CNBC’s John Harwood reports the Justice Department “had no input” into Trump’s immigration executive order. Harwood later amends his report to reflect the fact that Justice Department lawyers reviewed Trump’s order.

10. JANUARY 31, 2017: CNN’s Jeff Zeleny reports the White House set up Twitter accounts for two judges to try to keep their selection for the Supreme Court by Trump secret. Zeleny later corrects his report to state that the allegation was untrue.

11. FEBRUARY 2, 2017: TMZ reports Trump has changed the name Black History Month to African American History Month, implying the change is racist. In fact, Presidents Obama, George W. Bush, and Bill Clinton all previously called Black History Month “African American History Month.”

12. FEBRUARY 2, 2017: AP and others report Trump threatened the president of Mexico with invasion to get rid of “bad hombres.” The White House says it wasn’t true, and the *Washington Post* removes the AP info that “could not be independently confirmed.”

13. FEBRUARY 4, 2017: Josh Rogin of the *Washington Post* reports on “Inside the White House—Cabinet Battle over Trump’s Immigration Order.” The article is repeatedly “updated” to note that one of the reported meetings did not actually occur, a conference call did not happen as

described, and actions attributed to Trump were actually carried out by his chief of staff.

14. FEBRUARY 14, 2017: The *New York Times*' Michael S. Schmidt, Mark Mazetti, and Matt Apuzzo report on supposed contacts between Trump campaign staff and "senior Russian intelligence officials." FBI director James Comey later testifies, "In the main, [the article] was not true."

15. FEBRUARY 22, 2017: ProPublica's Raymond Bonner reports CIA official Gina Haspel, Trump's later pick for CIA director, was in charge of a secret CIA prison where Islamic extremist terrorist Abu Zubaydah was water-boarded eighty-three times in one month and that she mocked the prisoner's suffering. More than a year later, ProPublica retracts the claim, stating that "Neither of these assertions is correct. . . . Haspel did not take charge of the base until after the interrogation of Zubaydah ended."

16. APRIL 5, 2017: An article by the *New York Times*' graphic editors Karen Yourish and Troy Griggs refers to Trump's daughter Ivanka as Trump's wife.

17. MAY 10, 2017: Numerous outlets, including Politico, the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, CNN, AP, Reuters, and the *Wall Street Journal*, report the same leaked information: that Trump fired FBI director Comey shortly after Comey requested additional resources to investigate Russian interference in the election. The Justice Department, Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, and Acting FBI Director Andrew McCabe say the media reports were untrue, and McCabe adds that the FBI's Russia investigation was "adequately resourced."

18. MAY 27, 2017: The BBC's James Landale, *The Guardian*, and others report that Trump didn't bother to listen to the translation during a speech in Italian by Italy's prime minister. After the reports circulated, the White House states that, as always, Trump was indeed wearing a translation earpiece in his right ear.

19. JUNE 4, 2017: NBC News tweets that Russian president Vladimir Putin told TV host Megyn Kelly that he has compromising information about Trump. Actually, Putin said the opposite: that he does not have compromising information on Trump.

20. JUNE 6, 2017: CNN's Gloria Borger, Eric Lichtblau, Jake Tapper, and Brian Rokus and ABC's Justin Fishel and Jonathan Karl report that FBI director Comey was going to refute Donald Trump's claim in congressional testimony that Comey told Trump three times he was not under investigation. Instead, Comey confirmed Trump's claim.

21. JUNE 7, 2017: In a fact-check story, AP erroneously reports that Trump misread the potential cost to a family with insurance under the Affordable Care Act who wanted care from their existing doctor.

22. JUNE 8, 2017: The *New York Times*' Jonathan Weisman reports FBI director Comey testified behind closed doors that Attorney General Jeff Sessions, a Trump appointee, had told him not to call the Russia probe "an investigation" but "a matter." Weisman was mistaken. Actually, it was Attorney General Loretta Lynch, an Obama appointee, not Sessions, who told Comey to refer to the Hillary Clinton classified email probe (not the Russia probe) as "a matter" instead of "an investigation."

23. JUNE 22, 2017: CNN's Thomas Frank reports that Congress is investigating a "Russian investment fund with ties to Trump officials." The report is later retracted. Frank and two other CNN employees resign in the fallout.

24. JULY 6, 2017: *Newsweek*'s Chris Riotta and others report Poland's first lady refused to shake Trump's hand. *Newsweek*'s later "update" reflects the fact that the first lady shook Trump's hand after all, as clearly seen on the full video.

25. JULY 6, 2017: The *New York Times*' Maggie Haberman, CNN, and numerous outlets have long reported, as if it were fact, Hillary Clinton's claim that a total of seventeen American intelligence agencies concluded that Russia had orchestrated election-year attacks to help get Trump elected. Only three or four agencies, not seventeen, had officially done so.

26. AUGUST 31, 2017: NBC News' Ken Dilanian and Carol E. Lee report that a Trump official's notes about a meeting with a Russian lawyer included the word "donation," as if there had been discussions about suspicious campaign contributions. NBC later corrects the report to reflect that

the word “donation” didn’t appear, but it still claims the word “donor” did. Later, Politico reports the word “donor” wasn’t in the notes, either.

27. SEPTEMBER 5, 2017: CNN’s Chris Cillizza and reporters at other news outlets declare that Trump “lied” when he stated that Trump Tower had been wiretapped, although there’s no way any reporter could independently know the truth of the matter, only what intel officials claimed. It later turns out there were numerous wiretaps involving Trump Tower, including during a meeting of Trump officials with a foreign dignitary. At least two Trump associates who had offices in or frequented Trump Tower were also reportedly wiretapped.

28. SEPTEMBER 7, 2017: The *New York Times*’ Maggie Haberman reports that Democrat House speaker Nancy Pelosi called President Trump about an immigration issue. Actually, Trump made the call to Pelosi.

29. NOVEMBER 6, 2017: CNN’s Daniel Shane presents edited excerpts from a Trump event to make it seem as though Trump didn’t realize that Japan builds cars in the United States. However, Trump’s full statement makes clear that he does.

30. NOVEMBER 6, 2017: CNN edits a video to make it appear as though Trump impatiently dumped a box of fish food into the water while feeding fish at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo, Japan. The *New York Daily News*, *The Guardian*, and others publish stories implying Trump is gauche and impetuous. The full video shows Trump simply followed the lead of Japan’s prime minister.

31. NOVEMBER 29, 2017: *Newsweek*’s Chris Riotto claims Ivanka Trump “plagiarized” one of her own speeches. In fact, plagiarizing one’s own work is impossible since plagiarism occurs when a writer steals someone else’s work and passes it off as his own.

32. DECEMBER 2, 2017: ABC News’ Brian Ross reports former national security advisor Lieutenant General Michael Flynn, a Trump appointee, is going to testify that candidate Trump directed him to contact “the Russians.” Even though such contact would not be in and of itself a violation of the law, the news was treated as an explosive indictment of Trump in the Russia collusion narrative, and the stock market fell on the news.

ABC later corrects the report to reflect that Trump had already been elected when he reportedly asked Flynn to contact the Russians about working together to fight ISIS and other issues. Ross is suspended.

33. DECEMBER 4, 2017: The *New York Times*' Michael S. Schmidt and Sharon LaFraniere, as well as other journalists, report that Deputy National Security Advisor K. T. McFarland, a Trump appointee, supposedly contradicted herself or lied about another official's contacts with Russians. CNN, MSNBC, CBS News, the New York *Daily News*, and The Daily Beast pick up the story about McFarland's "lies." The story is later repeatedly and heavily amended.

34. DECEMBER 4, 2017: ABC News' Trish Turner and Jack Date report that former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort recently worked with a Russia intelligence-connected "official." But the Russian wasn't an "official."

35. DECEMBER 5, 2017: Bloomberg's Steven Arons and the *Wall Street Journal*'s Jenny Strasburg report the "blockbuster" that Special Counsel Robert Mueller has subpoenaed Trump's bank records. It isn't true.

36. DECEMBER 8, 2017: CNN's Manu Raju and Jeremy Herb report that Donald Trump, Jr., conspired with WikiLeaks in advance of the publication of damaging Democratic Party and Clinton campaign emails. Many other publications follow suit. They have the date wrong: WikiLeaks and Trump Junior were in contact after the emails were published, not before.

37. JANUARY 3, 2018: Talking Points Memo's Sam Thielman reports that a Russian social media company provided documents to the Senate about communications with a Trump official. The story is later corrected to say the reporter actually had no idea how the Senate had received the documents and had no evidence to suggest the Russian company was cooperating with the probe.

38. JANUARY 12, 2018: Mediaite's Lawrence Bonk, CNN's Sophie Tatum, *The Guardian*, BBC, *U.S. News & World Report*, Reuters, and BuzzFeed's Adolfo Flores report a "bombshell": that President Trump has backed down from his famous demand for a wall along the entire southern US border. However, Trump said the very same thing in February 2016 on



MSNBC; on December 2, 2015, in the *National Journal*; in October 2015 during the CNBC Republican primary debate; and on August 20, 2015, on Fox Business' *Mornings with Maria*.

39. JANUARY 15, 2018: AP's Laurie Kellman and Jonathan Drew report that a new survey shows trust in the media has fallen during the Trump presidency. But the survey that AP cited was actually over a year old and was conducted while Barack Obama was president.

40. JANUARY 31, 2018: Media reports in December 2017 claimed the Trump administration had banned officials at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) from using seven words. In response, doctors posted photos of themselves with tape over their mouths. It turned out the documents showed there was "not a ban or prohibition on words but rather suggestions on how to improve the chances of getting funding."

41. FEBRUARY 2, 2018: AP's Eric Tucker, Mary Clare Jalonick, and Chad Day report that ex-British spy Christopher Steele's opposition research against Trump was initially funded by a conservative publication: the *Washington Free Beacon*. AP corrects its story because Steele came on the project only after Democrats began funding it.

42. MARCH 8, 2018: The *New York Times*' Jan Rosen reports on a hypothetical family whose tax bill would rise nearly \$4,000 under Trump's tax plan. It turns out that the couple's taxes would actually go down by \$43, not up by \$4,000.

43. MARCH 13, 2018: The *New York Times*' Adam Goldman, NBC's Noreen O'Donnell, and AP's Deb Riechmann report that Trump's pick for CIA director, Gina Haspel, waterboarded a particular Islamic extremist terrorist dozens of times at a secret prison and that she mocked his suffering. In fact, Haspel wasn't assigned to the prison until after the detainee left. (ProPublica originally reported the incorrect story in February 2017.)

44. MARCH 15, 2018: AP's Michael Biesecker, Jake Pearson, and Jeff Horwitz report that a Trump advisory board official was a Miss America contestant and killed a black rhino. She was actually a Mrs. America contestant and shot a nonlethal tranquilizer dart at a white rhino.

45. APRIL 1, 2018: AP's Nicholas Riccardi reports the Trump administration has ended a program to admit foreign entrepreneurs. It isn't true.

46. APRIL 30, 2018: AP reports the NRA has banned guns during speeches by Donald Trump and Mike Pence at the NRA's annual meeting. AP later corrects the information because the ban was put in place by the Secret Service.

47. MAY 3, 2018: NBC's Tom Winter reports the government wiretapped Trump's personal attorney Michael Cohen. NBC later corrects the story after three senior US officials say there was no wiretap.

48. MAY 7, 2018: CNBC's Kevin Breuninger reports that Trump's personal lawyer Michael Cohen paid \$1 million in fines related to unauthorized cars in his taxi business, was barred from managing taxi medallions, had transferred \$60 million offshore to avoid paying debts, and is awaiting trial on charges of failing to pay millions of dollars in taxes. A later correction states that none of that is true.

49. MAY 16, 2018: *The New York Times*' Julie Hirschfeld Davis, AP, CNN's Oliver Darcy, and others excerpt a Trump comment as if he had referred to immigrants or illegal immigrants in general as "animals." Most outlets later correct their reports to note Trump specifically referred to members of the murderous criminal gang MS-13.

50. MAY 28, 2018: *The New York Times Magazine*'s editor in chief, Jake Silverstein, and CNN's Hadas Gold share a story with photos of immigrant children in cages as if they were new photos taken during the Trump administration. The article and photos were in fact from 2014 during the Obama administration.

51. MAY 29, 2018: *The New York Times*' Julie Hirschfeld Davis reports the estimated size of a Trump rally to be 1,000 people. There were actually 5,500 people or more in attendance.

52. JUNE 1, 2018: In a story about Trump tariffs, AP reports the dollar value of Virginia's farm and forestry exports to Canada and Mexico was \$800. It was actually \$800 million.

53. JUNE 21, 2018: *Time* magazine and others use a photo of a crying Honduran child to illustrate a supposed Trump administration policy separating illegal immigrant parents and children. The child's father later reports that agents never separated her from her mother; the mother had taken her to the United States without his knowledge and separated herself from her other children, whom she had left behind.

54. JUNE 22, 2018: An MSNBC personality mistakenly states Trump has "banned" the Red Cross from visiting children separated from illegal immigrant parents.

55. JUNE 28, 2018: After a newsroom shooting, a newspaper reporter tweets that the shooter "dropped his [Make America Great Again] hat on newsroom floor before opening fire." The story was false.

56. JULY 10, 2018: NBC reporter Leigh Ann Caldwell incorrectly reports that outgoing Supreme Court justice Anthony Kennedy retired only after months of negotiations with Trump that concluded with Trump agreeing to replace Kennedy with Brett Kavanaugh.

57. JULY 16, 2018: After Trump discusses Finland in regard to a NATO meeting, a *Washington Post* reporter implies that Trump doesn't know that Finland is not a NATO country. In fact, Trump met with the Finnish president at the NATO summit. Further, Finland is a NATO partner.

58. SEPTEMBER 14, 2018: The *New York Times* issues a major correction to an original "unfair" article about US ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley.

59. SEPTEMBER 18, 2018: The *New York Times* reports that a man named Mark Judge testified he remembered an incident more than thirty years before in which Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh was accused of assault. Judge actually said the opposite: that he does not remember such an incident and the allegations are "absolutely nuts."

60. SEPTEMBER 23, 2018: Multiple news outlets report that Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein has resigned or been fired. Neither turns out to be true. Axios and others eventually "update" and "clarify" their erroneous reports.

61. OCTOBER 14, 2018: NBC News reports that President Trump praised Confederate general Robert E. Lee. Actually, Trump praised the Union general Ulysses S. Grant.

62. NOVEMBER 14, 2018: CNN's Jeff Zeleny reports President Trump has decided to fire a deputy national security advisor upon the first lady's urging. The *Wall Street Journal* reports the adviser was "escorted out" of the White House. Later, it's reported that neither was true. "This did not happen. She is still here at the WH," a senior official tells the press. (The adviser was reassigned to another job.)

63. DECEMBER 24, 2018: It's discovered that nearly everything written by a *Der Spiegel* reporter who has been honored by CNN about a supposedly racist Trump stronghold town had been fabricated—like much of his other work.

64. DECEMBER 26, 2018: NBC reports Trump was the first president since 2002 not to visit the troops at Christmastime. But he (and First Lady Melania) did do so. NBC later adds a note to its story but leaves the false headline in place.

65. JANUARY 2019: The *New York Times*, Vice, and others report on the "lost" immigrant children of the Trump administration. However, AP and other fact-checkers state this is a misleading term: the "lost" children were a matter of the government not being able to track them once they were placed with sponsors who themselves were often in the United States illegally. According to AP, in the last three months of 2017, the Trump administration slightly exceeded the success rate of the Obama administration when it comes to tracking the children.

66. JANUARY 1, 2019: CBS News claimed, in June 2018, that Trump spokesman Sarah Huckabee Sanders would retire by the end of the year. She didn't. The same CBS story quoted sources as saying the departure of White House deputy assistant to the president Raj Shah was also imminent. It wasn't. (Shah continued to serve for seven more months.) The *Washington Post* and others reported last November that Trump was imminently about to fire DHS secretary Kirstjen Nielsen. The *Post* confirmed this with five anonymous sources. The firing was said to be

likely to happen the following week. However, she remained at work for five more months.

67. JANUARY 9, 2019: The *New York Times* issues a correction to a report that falsely stated former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort once asked for campaign polling data to be given to a Russian oligarch who has ties to Russian president Vladimir Putin. Instead, the *Times* now claims, Manafort actually asked his associate Rick Gates to give polling data to Ukrainian oligarchs—not the Russians.

68. JANUARY 11, 2019: The Fox TV affiliate in Seattle, Washington, airs fake, doctored video of President Trump that alters his face and makes it appear as though he stuck his tongue out and pulled it in while giving an Oval Office address.

69. JANUARY 18, 2019: The BuzzFeed exclusive with anonymous sources implicating Trump in potentially criminal behavior is refuted in a rare rebuke from Special Counsel Mueller's office.

70. JANUARY 22, 2019: The *New York Times* and *Washington Post* are among the publications that issue corrections after falsely reporting that an anti-Trump activist served in the Vietnam War. Additionally, several news employees, including a CNN employee, apologize for mischaracterizing, as the aggressors, Trump-supporting teenagers at a pro-life rally.

71. JANUARY 26, 2019: The United Kingdom's *Telegraph* apologizes for all the facts it got wrong in a January 19 article criticizing the first lady.

72. FEBRUARY 18, 2019: Some media outlets unskeptically further the false narrative that the actor Jussie Smollett, who is black, was attacked by Trump-supporting racists who put a noose around Smollett's neck, shouted racial slurs, told him "It's MAGA [Make America Great Again] country," and poured bleach on him.

73. FEBRUARY 27, 2019: McClatchy and others report that former Trump lawyer Michael Cohen visited Prague to meet with Russians to help collude on Trump's behalf. Cohen later testifies to Congress that he's never been to Prague or the Czech Republic.

74. MARCH 1, 2019: The *Washington Post* deletes a tweet containing false reporting about a January 19 incident regarding a standoff between Trump-supporting pro-life Catholic high school students and a pro-choice Native American activist. The *Post* wrongly stated, without attribution, that the activist had fought in the Vietnam War. The activist also falsely stated that a high school student had blocked him and “wouldn’t allow him to retreat.”

75. APRIL 2019: The release of Special Counsel Robert Mueller’s report on Trump-Russia collusion contradicts multiple reporters and media outlets that falsely reported on the timing. The *Washington Post* said the report would be out in the summer of 2018. Bloomberg said it would be out shortly after the 2018 midterm elections. In February 2019, CNN, The *Washington Post*, and NBC reported it would be out in the last week of February.

76. MAY 29, 2019: The *Wall Street Journal* reports that the Navy hung a tarp to cover the name of USS *John S. McCain* so President Trump wouldn’t see it on his visit to Yokosuka, Japan. It is further reported the ship was kept out of Trump’s view and sailors wearing hats with the ship’s name on it were turned away and/or given the day off so that Trump would not see the McCain name. A military official did send an email directing that USS *McCain* be kept from Trump’s view. However, that direction was not followed; Trump and White House aides indicate Trump played no role and was unaware of the direction; military officials state it is untrue that a tarp was placed over the ship’s name to block it from Trump’s view; in fact a tarp on the ship for maintenance was removed for Trump’s visit.

77. JULY 4, 2019: Several news outlets report that President Trump’s Fourth of July celebration did not draw crowds or drew “small crowds.” However, by any factual assessment, the crowds were, in fact, huge. It turns out *The Guardian* had featured a misleading photo taken prior to the event.

78. JULY 13, 2019: In a story about a lawsuit alleging that candidate Trump forcibly kissed a campaign worker, CNN fails to mention the lawsuit was dismissed. CNN later corrects the story.

79. JULY 21, 2019: Many in the media uncritically report an African American Georgia state legislator's claim that a white man at a grocery store told her to "go back where you came from." Media reports link the supposed hateful comment to President Trump because Trump recently said several Democrats in Congress should "go back and help fix the totally broken and crime infested places from which they came." However, the following day, the legislator acknowledges the man did not say she should "go back to your country" or "go back to where you came from," as she originally claimed. She goes on to admit *she* was the one who told *him* to "go back." The man adds he is not white but a Cuban and a Democrat.

80. JULY 21, 2019: An MSNBC contributor and law professor tweets that Fox is not planning to air upcoming congressional testimony by former special counsel Robert Mueller on the Trump-Russia investigation. When the error is pointed out, the contributor says she was just kidding.

81. JULY 24, 2019: In testimony to Congress, Special Counsel Robert Mueller puts to final rest the widespread reporting originating with Slate in 2016 that claimed a Russian bank server had been illicitly communicating with Trump Tower. When asked about it by a member of Congress, Mueller replied: "My belief at this point is . . . not true."

82. JULY 29, 2019: Vox's Aaron Rupar tweets that Trump suggested he was a "9/11 First Responder." In fact, Trump stated, "I'm not considering myself a first responder."

83. AUGUST 2019: Multiple news outlets, including CNN and MSNBC, falsely report that an illegal immigrant had her nursing baby ripped from her arms. CNN later acknowledges the mother was not lactating and was not nursing.

84. AUGUST 5, 2019: MSNBC's Nicolle Wallace falsely claims President Trump talked about "exterminating Latinos." She apologizes the next day, tweeting "I misspoke about Trump's calling for an extermination of Latinos. My mistake was unintentional and I'm sorry."

85. AUGUST 28, 2019: MSNBC's Lawrence O'Donnell apologizes for and retracts anonymous, unverified claims stating that Trump took out loans with Russian cosigners.

86. AUGUST 28, 2019: Ken Dilanian of NBC News corrects a false report he and others disseminated claiming that starting October 29, “children born to U.S. service members outside of the U.S. will no longer be automatically considered citizens. Parents will have to apply for citizenship for their the [sic] children in those situations.”

87. SEPTEMBER 7, 2019: CNN and nearly every other major media outlet criticize President Trump for tweeting that Alabama will likely be impacted by Hurricane Dorian, saying that was ridiculous. However, multiple official hurricane advisories had put Alabama into a projected impacted area.

88. SEPTEMBER 10, 2019: Citing anonymous sources, CNN and the *New York Times* report—and other media repeat—claims that the CIA had to remove a top US spy from Russia in 2017 because of concern over President Trump’s handling of classified information. The CIA, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, and the White House strongly refute the story. Other media also contradict CNN and report the decision to remove the spy happened before CNN said it did and for different reasons.

89. SEPTEMBER 16, 2019: The *New York Times* publishes an editor’s note about its recent story recounting a newly reported accusation about an incident decades ago involving Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh. The editor’s note discloses for the first time that the *Times* never spoke to the alleged victim and that the alleged victim had told friends she had no recollection of any such event.

90. SEPTEMBER 25, 2019: The *Washington Post*, quoting anonymous sources, reports President Trump’s director of national intelligence, Joseph Maguire, threatened to quit over an alleged issue. However, Maguire issues the statement, “At no time have I considered resigning my position since assuming this role.”

91. SEPTEMBER 25, 2019: The Daily Beast and other media outlets report President Trump asked the president of Ukraine to investigate former vice president Joe Biden’s son Hunter eight times in one phone call. However, the released transcript notes reveal Trump mentioned Biden’s son (and not by name) one time.



92. SEPTEMBER 29, 2019: Scott Pelley of CBS News' *60 Minutes* reports, "The government whistleblower who set off the impeachment inquiry of President Trump is under federal protection because they fear for their safety." But the attorney for the unnamed "whistleblower," Mark Zaid, then tweets a statement reading "NEWS ALERT: 60 Minutes completely misinterpreted contents of our letter."

93. SEPTEMBER 30, 2019: When a twelve-year-old black girl claims white boys at school held her down, cut off her hair, and called her "nappy" and "ugly," the story makes national news. Multiple news outlets improperly report some details as if they are established as true, without proper attribution. For example, NBC writes, "The attack happened Monday" and "The second boy grabbed her arms, while the third cut off some of her dreadlocks." A local NBC affiliate writes, "she was at recess and about to go down a slide when one of the boys grabbed her and put a hand over her mouth. Another boy grabbed her arms. A third boy cut off some of her hair." CBS writes, "The incident took place" (as if an incident had been factually established rather than being an allegation). Many news reports also connect the attack to President Trump's vice president, Mike Pence, by stating that the "attack" happened at "a Christian school in Virginia where Vice President Mike Pence's wife works." However, it turns out there was no attack or "incident." Three days after the initial reports, the child's family reports the whole story was made up and apologizes.

94. OCTOBER 13, 2019: ABC airs video purportedly showing a "slaughter" and "horrific report of atrocities" against Kurds by Turkey after President Trump withdrew US troops. But the video isn't of combat or even in Turkey; it's a file tape of a training video in the United States.

95. OCTOBER 16, 2019: Many major news outlets, including Yahoo!, *USA Today*, Roll Call, NBC, ABC, and Fox, quote President Trump as saying Turkey's invasion of Syria "is not our problem." In a subsequent correction, NBC and others admit it was a misquote: Trump actually said "it's not our border."

96. OCTOBER 27, 2019: Multiple media sources state that President Trump was golfing during the US raid in Syria that captured the head of the

Islamic terrorist group ISIS, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi; and that a White House situation room photo had been “staged.” It turns out Trump had finished golfing and was at the White House during the operation.

97. NOVEMBER 16, 2019: There’s rampant speculation after a contributor to The Hill claims President Trump visited Walter Reed National Medical Center due to chest discomfort. A White House statement from Trump’s physician states that was not the case: “Despite some of the speculation, the President has not had any chest pain, nor was he evaluated or treated for any urgent or acute issues. Specifically, he did not undergo any specialized cardiac or neurologic evaluations.”

98. NOVEMBER 19, 2019: The United Kingdom’s *Daily Mail* posts a sensational headline during the impeachment hearings against President Trump claiming Ambassador to NATO Kurt Volker had “walked back” his testimony in a way that was detrimental to Trump. But when Volker was asked at the hearing if the *Daily Mail* headline was correct, he stated it was not.

99. NOVEMBER 19, 2019: Agence France Press publishes sensational “breaking news” that more than 100,000 children are being held in migration-related detention in the United States under President Trump. It turns out that was the number in 2015 under President Obama.

100. NOVEMBER 24, 2019: *Newsweek*’s Jessica Kwong reports on President Trump’s tipping at a restaurant, implying he’d been cheap. *Newsweek* later “updates” the story to remove the headline reference to a “thin stack of cash” and include that the stack of cash given in tips was hundred-dollar bills, above what Trump had already tipped the servers.

101. NOVEMBER 28, 2019: Kwong of *Newsweek* falsely reports President Trump is spending Thanksgiving golfing in Florida at his Mar-a-Lago Club. He is actually in Afghanistan serving dinner to US troops.

102. DECEMBER 3, 2019: Congressman Devin Nunes, a Republican from California, files a \$435 million defamation lawsuit against CNN for claiming he flew to Vienna, Austria, in December 2018 to meet with a former Ukrainian prosecutor in to dig up dirt on Joe Biden and his son. Nunes says he was actually in Benghazi, Libya, and Malta for meetings;

shows dated photos; and says he never met with the prosecutor in Vienna or anywhere else.

103. DECEMBER 9, 2019: Newly public FBI documents prove countless media sources were wrong when they reported the Democrat-funded “dossier” submitted by the FBI to get a wiretap to spy on Trump associate Carter Page was only a “small part” of the wiretap application and that there was evidence that Trump was a “Putin stooge” and coordinating with Russian president Vladimir Putin or Russia.

104. DECEMBER 16, 2019: The news media widely misreport that the report by Department of Justice inspector general Michael Horowitz found “no political bias” in the Russia probe.

105. DECEMBER 25, 2019: The *Wall Street Journal* reports on Trump administration tariff negotiations with China. The Trump administration issues unequivocal denials of the information reported.

106. DECEMBER 27, 2019: The *New York Times* corrects a report it published to demonstrate that Trump voters no longer support him. It turns out that its featured example was a man who had not voted for Trump in the first place.

107. JANUARY 7, 2020: MSNBC wrongly reports up to thirty US deaths after an Iranian rocket attack. In fact, no Americans were killed.

108. JANUARY 16, 2020: MSNBC’s John Brennan, former CIA director, reports Trump personally wrote a note requesting that Ukraine’s president announce an investigation into possible corruption related to former vice president Joe Biden and his son Hunter. Brennan later says he was mistaken.

109. FEBRUARY 21, 2020: The *New York Times* and multiple other news outlets report on a secret briefing to Congress in which lawmakers were supposedly told Russia was interfering to try to get Trump reelected in 2020. The report is later followed up by stories indicating the warnings may have been “overstated.” In fact, officials told CNN, the United States “does not have evidence that Russia’s interference this cycle is aimed at reelecting Trump.”

110. FEBRUARY 26, 2020: Amid the coronavirus outbreak, numerous media outlets imply or state that President Trump slashed, cut, or gutted the budget for the Centers for Disease Control. In fact, the CDC budget has increased each year.

111. FEBRUARY 28, 2020: Numerous media outlets falsely report President Trump called the coronavirus a “hoax.” In fact, the president called the Democrats’ politicization of the outbreak a hoax.

112. MARCH 1, 2020: Congressman Nunes announces plans to sue the *Washington Post* over what he says was a false report claiming he went to the White House and talked to President Trump about a congressional briefing by Acting Director of National Intelligence Joseph Maguire about the prospects of Russian interference in the 2020 campaign. Nunes says he never talked to the president about Maguire and did not go to the White House when the *Post* claimed he did.

113. MARCH 5, 2020: The *Washington Post* editorial team says many of the United States’ “hundreds of millions” of voters support Joe Biden. But there are not that many voters in the United States. (In 2018, there were 153 million people registered to vote. Tens of millions of them do not vote.)

114. MARCH 15, 2020: An anonymously sourced news report alleges President Trump attempted to bribe a German coronavirus vaccine maker and wants to hoard the vaccine so only Americans will have it. Reuters reports the German Health Ministry confirmed the report. However, the German Health Ministry disputes the Reuters characterization and the Trump administration denies the Reuters report altogether.

115. MARCH 18, 2020: The *New York Times* and Jeremy Peters publish an article including multiple false claims about Sharyl Attkisson and Rob Schneider, claiming they and others have “minimized” coronavirus risks and “insisted” it is overplayed. In fact, Peters altered an Attkisson quote and made at least nine false claims about her work. Peters also manipulated a Schneider quote and quoted him out of context in order to make it appear as though he had violated recommendations not to eat at restaurants, when he had not. The *Times* issued multiple corrections about its misreporting on Attkisson.

116. MARCH 19, 2020: Jennifer Rubin of the *Washington Post* blames Senate majority leader Mitch McConnell, a Republican, for delaying a coronavirus-related stimulus package vote. The *Post* later issues a correction.

117. MARCH 27, 2020: The *New York Times* issues a correction after falsely reporting the United States was short at least 800,000 ventilators in the coronavirus crisis because a million would be needed and there were only 200,000 on hand. In fact, a study actually projected that a million people might need a ventilator over the course of the pandemic, not at one time.

118. MARCH 28, 2020: The *New York Times* corrects its timeline about the slow implementation of coronavirus testing in the United States. The date of the country's first confirmed case of Covid-19 spreading through travel was almost two weeks later than stated in the original timeline.

119. MARCH 30, 2020: *CBS This Morning* airs a story supposedly showing video of a New York hospital crowded with coronavirus patients. CBS News later issues a correction after viewers recognize it as file tape from Italy.

120. APRIL 6, 2020: CBS News airs social media video of a crying woman who says she was a nurse and quit her job due to not having masks while treating coronavirus patients. CBS later "clarifies" that the nurse acknowledged masks were available while she was in the room treating coronavirus patients.

121. APRIL 6, 2020: Peter Baker, Katie Rogers, David Enrich, and Maggie Haberman of the *New York Times* report, "Trump has seized on [hydroxy-chloroquine] as a miracle cure." In fact, the day before the article was published, the president repeatedly qualified his support for hydroxy-chloroquine—as he usually does—and did not call it a miracle cure.

122. APRIL 8, 2020: CBS News again mistakenly uses the file video from a hospital in Italy in a story about coronavirus-overrun Pennsylvania hospitals.

123. APRIL 14, 2020: The US government publicly confirms it is looking into possible links between coronavirus and a research lab in Wuhan,

China. This makes a *Washington Post* report of February 17, 2020, by Paulina Firozi false. She declared the idea of the virus coming from the Wuhan lab had been “debunked.”

124. APRIL 15, 2020: A Facebook “science fact-check” incorrectly flags as “false” an *Epoch Times* documentary about the coronavirus’s possible link to a Wuhan, China, research lab. It turns out that a reviewer referenced by Facebook’s fact-check is a US scientist who has been working at the Wuhan lab.

125. APRIL 22, 2020: Reuters and other news outlets claim President Trump tapped a “former Labradoodle breeder . . . to lead U.S. pandemic task force.” They imply the official, Brian Harrison, is unqualified, and blame him for supposedly slowing the US coronavirus response. The stories in multiple outlets appear on the same day. However, Harrison never led the coronavirus task force.

126. APRIL 25, 2020: After MarketWatch and the *Washington Post* report coronavirus stimulus checks may or “will” be delayed several days so President Trump’s signature will be on them, the Treasury Department announces the checks are being issued “on time, as planned” and that there is no delay.

127. APRIL 25, 2020: Politico reports President Trump owes the Bank of China tens of millions of dollars on a loan coming due in 2022, as he deals with China on coronavirus. However, the Bank of China issues a statement saying it held the loan for only twenty-two days back in 2012 before selling it to a US real estate firm.

128. APRIL 28, 2020: Yahoo! News reporter Hunter Walker asks Trump a question with false information in it during an Oval Office meeting: “Overall, South Korea has done five times more tests than the U.S. per capita. Why is that?” “I don’t think that’s true,” Trump replies. “That is true,” Walker insists. In fact, South Korea’s testing was 11 per 100,000 people and the United States is at 17 per 100,000. Walker later apologizes in a tweet.

129. MAY 10, 2020: NBC’s Chuck Todd on *Meet the Press* uses a deceptively edited comment by Attorney General William Barr about the case of

Lieutenant General Michael Flynn. The network later apologizes for the error.

130. MAY 10, 2020: CBS's *60 Minutes* tweets that Secretary of State Mike Pompeo "attempted to resurrect a debunked theory that the virus was man-made in China." Pompeo said the opposite.

131. JUNE 2, 2020: Mediaite writes an account of demonstrations outside the White House, quoting numerous reporters as saying "tear gas" was unjustifiably used. The US Park Police and Secret Service insist no tear gas was used; they used pepper balls after a litany of violent acts some protesters had allegedly committed, including pelting officers with objects, throwing heavy objects at Attorney General Barr, and trying to grab police weapons.