

THREAD TRUMP AND RUSSIA PART 9

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From 1992 till 1998 Trump had just suffered a string of six successive bankruptcies. So the massive illicit outflows from Russia and oil-rich (former Soviet states) like Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan from the mid-1990s provided precisely the kind of indiscriminating investors that he needed. These outflows arrived at just the right time to fund several of Trump's post-2000 high-risk real estate and casino ventures — most of which failed. Donald Trump has also literally spent decades cultivating senior relationships of all kinds with Russia and the FSU. And public and private senior Russian figures of all kinds have likewise spent decades cultivating him, not only as a business partner, but as a “useful idiot.”

1. Bayrock Group LLC (funding partners for Trump SoHo condo-hotel and Trump International Hotel & Tower in Fort Lauderdale) As of 2007, Bayrock and its partners reportedly had more than \$2 billion of Trump-branded deals in the works. Tefvik Arif (Kazakhstan) linked to prostitution, child trafficking. Bayrock started to receive millions of dollars in equity contributions in 2004, supposedly by way of Arif's brother in Russia, who allegedly “had access to cash accounts at a chromium refinery in Kazakhstan.” Alexander Mashevich (Kazakhstan) part of “the Trio” with Patokh Chodiev and Alijan Ibragimov, Kazakh billionaires linked to money laundering, bribery, racketeering, and the Uzbek mob Felix Sater (Russian) professional criminal, with multiple felony pleas and convictions, extensive connections to organized crime, and CI to FBI and CIA. One notable incident is participation in a \$40 million pump & dump securities fraud scheme. Father connected to Semion Mogilevich involved in trafficking nuclear materials, weapons, and more, as well as money laundering. FL Group (Iceland) FL Group had constructed an incredible maze of cross-shareholding, lending, and cross-derivatives relationships making it almost impossible to regulate “control fraud,” where insiders at leading

financial institutions went on a self-serving binge, borrowing and lending to finance risky investments of all kinds. Iceland's largest banks also made a series of extraordinary loans to Russian interests during the run-up to the 2008 crisis. Arif and Sater discovered FL Group as a veritable piggy bank, persuading it to invest \$50 million in the Trump SoHo project and agreeing in principle to as much as another \$2 billion in financing for other deals.

2. Seabeco (fmr investor was co-financer of Trump Toronto Tower and Hotel) Boris J. Birshtein, was a close business associate of Sergei Mikhaylov, the reputed head of Solntsevskaya Bratva, the Russian mob's largest branch, and the world's highest-grossing organized crime group as of 2014, according to Fortune. Also connected to Semion Mogilevich and in 1993, the Yeltsin government reportedly accused Birshtein of illegally exporting seven million tons of Russian oil and laundering the proceeds. Alexander Mashevich and Patokh Chodiev allegedly met by working at Seabeco together Birshtein's (now reportedly ex-) son-in-law, Alex Shnaider (Russian) has long business ties to Birshtein and Mikhaylov acquired a Ukrainian steel mill as it was privatized and also has ties to FL Group in Iceland.

3. Paul Manafort

One of Manafort's biggest clients was the dubious pro-Russian Ukrainian billionaire Dmytro Firtash. By his own admission, Firtash maintains strong ties with a recurrent figure on this scene, the reputed Ukrainian/Russian mob boss Semion Mogilevich. In 2008, Manafort teamed up with a former manager of the Trump Organization to purchase the Drake Hotel in New York for up to \$850 million, with Firtash agreeing to invest \$112 million, to simply launder part of the huge profits that Firtash had skimmed while brokering dodgy natural gas deals between Russia and Ukraine. Appears in the Panama Papers in companies connected to Semion Mogilevich.

4. Trump Tower Tenants

Unlike most New York luxury buildings, the tower has no prying coop board and its residents have included "tax-dodgers, bribers, arms dealers,

convicted cocaine traffickers, and corrupt former FIFA officials.” Russian diamond and real estate tycoon, Lev Leviev, is a close associate of Putin. He recently signed a \$295 million deal with Jared Kushner and has been advocating for the lifting of sanctions against Russia. Leviev has come under scrutiny by the United States government and international media for, among other things, both his partnership with a Chinese business group (88 Queensway Group) believed to have funded North Korea and facilitating corruption in Zimbabwe, and his possible role in developing West Bank settlements. Anatoly Golubchik, Russian mobster, went to prison in 2014 for running an illegal gambling ring out of Trump Tower (reportedly the entire 51st floor). He’s also in the Panama Papers and linked to Semion Mogilevich. Alimzhan Tokhtakhounov has the distinction of making the Forbes 2008 list of the World’s Ten Most Wanted Criminals, and whose organization the FBI believes to be tied to Mogilevich’s. Went to the infamous 2013 Miss Universe as special VIP Semion Mogilevich, lifelong criminal with a notable fraud of setting up a fraudulent magnet manufacturing company on the Toronto Stock Exchange and cashing out with \$18 million. In 2003, Mogilevich was indicted in Philadelphia on 45 felony counts for this \$150 million stock fraud. Brother of the magnet manufacturing company's CEO, David Bogatin, owned five separate condos in Trump Tower that Donald Trump ad reportedly sold to him personally. In the early 1990s, David Bogatin was considered by the FBI to be one of the key members of Semion Mogilevich’s Russian organized crime family in the United States, with a long string of convictions for big-ticket Mogilevich-type offenses like financial fraud and tax dodging. Vyacheslav Ivankov, another key Mogilevich lieutenant in the United States during the 1990s, also resided for a time at Trump Tower.