SCL – A Very British Coup And Have Close Ties To Her Majesty’s Government.

By Tracy
Forum Member

21/03/18 - 18:36
#1

SCL – a Very British Coup

by Liam O'Hare 20th March 2018

Liam O Hare on the deep connections between Cambridge Analytica’s parent company Strategic Communication Laboratories (SCL Group) and the Conservative Party and military establishment, ‘Board members include an array of Lords, Tory donors, ex-British army officers and defense contractors. This is scandal that cuts to the heart of the British establishment.’

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In addition, SCL also carries a secret clearance as a ‘list X’ contractor for the MOD. A List X site is a commercial site on British soil that is approved to hold UK government information marked as ‘confidential’ and above. Essentially, SCL got the green light to hold British government secrets on its premises.

Meanwhile, the US State Department has a contract for $500,000 with SLC. According to an official, this was to provide “research and analytical support in connection with our mission to counter terrorist propaganda and disinformation overseas.” This was not the only work that SCL has been contracted for with the US government, the source added.

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Mark Turnbull, who joined Alexander Nix at the secretly filmed meetings, heads up SCL Elections as well as Cambridge Analytica Political Global.

His profile at the University of Exeter Strategy and Security Institute boasts of his record in achieving “campaign success via measurable behavioural change” in “over 100 campaigns in Europe, North and South America, Asia, Africa and the Caribbean”.

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Turnbull’s involvement is just one sign of the sweeping links the company has with powerful Anglo-American political and military interests.

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One of the company’s directors’ is wine millionaire and former British special forces officer in Borneo and Kenya, Roger Gabb, who in 2006 donated £500,000 to the Conservative party.

Gabb was also fined by the Electoral Commission for failing to include his name on an advert in a number of local newspapers arguing for a Leave vote in the Brexit referendum.

SLC’s links to the Conservative party continues through the company’s chairman and venture capitalist Julian Wheatland. He also happens to be chairman of Oxfordshire Conservatives Association.
The organisation has also been funded by Jonathan Marland who is the former Conservative Party Treasurer, a trade envoy under David Cameron, and a close friend of Tory election strategist Lynton Crosby.

Property tycoon and Conservative party donor Vincent Tchenguiz was also the single largest SCL shareholder for a decade.

Meanwhile, another director is Gavin McNicoll, founder of counter-terrorism Eden Intelligence firm who ran a G8 Plus meeting on Financial Intelligence Cooperation at the behest of the British government.

Previous board members include Sir James Allen Mitchell, the former Prime Minister of the previous British colony St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Mitchell has been a privy counselor on the Queen’s advisory board since 1985.

The British military and royal establishment links to SCL are further highlighted through another director Rear Admiral John Tolhurst, a former assistant director of naval warfare in the Ministry of Defence and aide de camp to the Queen.

The Queen’s third cousin, Lord Ivar Mountbatten, was also sitting on SCL’s advisory board but it’s unclear if he still holds that role.

The above examples barely scrape the surface of just how deep the ties go between the UK defence establishment and Strategic Communication Laboratories.

Indeed, it seems evident that the organisation is a product of murky alliances formed between venture capitalists and former British military and intelligence officers. Unsurprisingly, they also happen to be closely tied to the higher echelons of the Conservative party.

International deception and meddling is the name of the game for SCL. We finally have the most concrete evidence yet of shadowy actors using dirty tricks in order to rig elections. But these characters aren’t operating from Moscow intelligence bunkers.

Instead, they are British, Eton educated, headquartered in the city of London and have close ties to Her Majesty’s government.


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**seacam** (/profile/seacam)

Posts: 19,404

Forum Member

★★

21/03/18 - 18:54 (/discussion/comment/89631267/#Comment_89631267)

#2 (https://forums.digitalspy.com/discussion/comment/89631267/#Comment_89631267)

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Thanks for positing that Tracy.

The Establishment, Commercial Ventures and Financial Institutions meddling in and screwing around with people’s lives and that of Governments should come as little surprise.

How deeply imbedded, I’m not sure such practises can ever be flushed clean.

We have a Government and elections to appease the public, then those who have real control, behind the scenes.

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**i4u** (/profile/i4u)

Posts: 37,409

Forum Member

★

21/03/18 - 19:00 (/discussion/comment/89631338/#Comment_89631338)

#3 (https://forums.digitalspy.com/discussion/comment/89631338/#Comment_89631338)

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Wasn’t Geoffrey Pattie the first MP to be heard broadcast from the House of Commons?
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Tracy (/profile/Tracy) wrote: » (/discussion/2274651)
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Turnbull’s involvement is just one sign of the sweeping links the company has with powerful Anglo-American political and military interests. The firm is headed up by Nigel Oakes, another old Etonian, who, according to the website PowerBase has links to the British royals and was once rumoured to be an MI5 spy.

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The organisation has also been funded by Jonathan Marland who is the former Conservative Party Treasurer, a trade envoy under David Cameron, and a close friend of Tory election strategist Lynton Crosby.

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But I’m told by brexeters the vote was AGAINST the establishment

le/smudges%20dad)

smudges dad (/profile/smudges%20dad)

Posts: 26,553
Forum Member ★★★

21/03/18 - 19:08 (/discussion/comment/89631490/#Comment_89631490)
#6 (https://forums.digitalspy.com/discussion/comment/89631490#Comment_89631490)

I think Channel 4 should repeat A Very British Coup. It’s only 40 years out.
SCL – A Very British Coup And Have Close Ties To Her Majesty's Government. — Digital Spy

Dotheboyshall (/profile/Dotheboyshall)
Posts: 21,261
Forum Member✭✭✭
21/03/18 - 19:27 (/discussion/comment/89631823/#Comment_89631823)
#7 (https://forums.digitalspy.com/discussion/comment/89631823/#Comment_89631823)

goldielox (/profile/goldielox) wrote: » (/discussion/comment/89631388/#Comment_89631388)
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The three election campaigns in Britain which SCL lay claim to fall within the period (1997-2010) when Tony Blair's Labour won, which means they worked for Labour too.

That's the problem with elections - the government always wins

Joe1500 (/profile/Joe1500)
Posts: 2,314
Forum Member✭✭✭
21/03/18 - 19:32 (/discussion/comment/89631892/#Comment_89631892)
#8 (https://forums.digitalspy.com/discussion/comment/89631892/#Comment_89631892)
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I take it this means the Tory establishment are anti-EU since Cambridge Analytica supposedly worked for the Leave.EU campaign.

DianaFire (profile/DianaFire)
Posts: 10,481
Forum Member
★★
21/03/18 - 19:32 ([discussion/comment/89631897/#Comment_89631897](https://forums.digitalspy.com/discussion/comment/89631897#Comment_89631897))
#9 ([https://forums.digitalspy.com/discussion/comment/89631897#Comment_89631897](https://forums.digitalspy.com/discussion/comment/89631897#Comment_89631897))
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Maybe they did, but the methodology would have been completely different. 2010 must be pre Ed Balls Day, while Activate and Liz Truss’s embarrassing hashtags show the Tories still have a long way to go with social media. SCL might have been able to do profiling, messaging and testing, but digital was relatively new then.

Tracy (/profile/Tracy)
Posts: 5,272
Forum Member ★
22/03/18 - 14:16 (/discussion/comment/89638466/#Comment_89638466)
#10 (https://forums.digitalspy.com/discussion/comment/89638466#Comment_89638466)

SCL and the Phantom Contract

Theresa May was yesterday forced into addressing the issue of links between the UK Government, the Conservative Party and a company at the centre of a scandal over data harvesting and dirty tricks.

However, instead of clearing up the issue – the response has raised urgent questions about the nature of SCL Group’s (formerly Strategic Communications Laboratories) relationship to the highest echelons of state power in Britain.

SCL Group is the parent company of Cambridge Analytica. They share directors and practise and are for all intents and purposes part of the same organisation. Between them they claim to have influenced more than 200 elections across the world.

In an article for this website, I revealed the extent of the links between SCL Group and the British establishment – in particular the Conservative Party. Directors include an array of Etonian educated Tory donors, former government ministers, and high-ranking officers in the British army.

These revelations led to the SNP’s Westminster leader Ian Blackford questioning May about these links at Prime Minister’s Questions yesterday.

Her response sidestepped the issue of connections between her own party and the organisation and emphasised that the government has no “current contracts” with SCL Group.

A Downing Street spokesperson later clarified that the government previously had three contracts with SCL Group. One was with the Ministry of Defence between 2014-2015, one with the Home Office in 2009 and one with the Foreign Office in 2008-2009. Here lies a glaring inconsistency.

Last year, the MOD responded to a freedom of information request on its links with SCL Group. In its response it detailed TWO contracts it had with the firm. One of these was in 2014-15, worth £150,000 and involving the “procurement of targeted audience analysis”. However, it also notes a second contract (not mentioned by the No 10 spokesperson), in 2010/11 involving the “provision of external training” and worth £40,000.

I put this major discrepancy to Downing St who insisted that there were only ever three government contracts with the group and suggested I speak to the Ministry of Defence.

Then when I questioned the MOD about the 2010/11 deal, it told me it had “one contract with SCL Group in 2014/15” and are “unable to provide any further information on this.”

The response is quite remarkable. The MOD is now contradicting previous information it has given out under Freedom of Information laws. That leaves two options. The first is that the initial information was incorrect and someone imagined a deal with SLC group for external training in 2010/11.

The second is that the MOD and Downing St are providing false information to journalists regarding their dealings with SCL Group. This possibility would open a pandora’s box of questions over what the government is seeking to hide and why?

It was revealed yesterday that Mark Turnbull of SCL Group and CA advised the Foreign Office on lessons from Donald Trump’s election campaign. The title of his lecture was listed as “examining the application of data in the recent US Presidential election”. That raises questions over whether the British government was already aware of the mass harvesting of Facebook data which sparked this scandal.

Details are emerging about the worldwide activities of SCL Group and CA, touching almost every corner of the globe stretching from Brazil, to Nigeria, to Mexico and to India. But it has now emerged that in at least some of these these projects, CA coordinated with the UK MOD.

In Ukraine, CA were hired to implement a data driven strategy designed to “erode and weaken” anti-government opposition in the country and “win
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back control of Donetsk". On their website the CA says it produced a project report to the President of Ukraine and intriguingly also “shared with the UK MOD”. It begs the questions, why is a private contractor involved in shadowy psyops working hand in glove with the UK MOD on foreign projects?

With a spotlight on the organisation, the group seems to be quickly trying to batten down the hatches. The website for the Behaviour Dynamic Institute (BDI), the behavioural research arm of SCL group has mysteriously gone down.

Remarkably (although perhaps less so regarding how close SCL is to the British establishment) the institute is based at the home of British science and research, the Royal Institute. According to a paper by the SCL director of defence Dr Steve Tatham, this makes it “almost unique in the international contractor community”. Quite.

Tatham is another interesting case. He was former head of psyops for British forces in Afghanistan as well as Special Information Operations project officer in the UK Ministry of Defence Operations Directorate.

Tatham went on to set up the training arm of SCL Group called IOTA-Global alongside SCL founder Nigel Oakes and delivered a $1m NATO training course in Latvia aimed at “countering Russian propaganda”.

I contacted Tatham to ask if he would continue working with SCL group in light of the revelations, and he responded by saying “I suspect your question is academic as I can’t see SCL surviving this”.

In further messages, Tatham distanced himself from Cambridge Analytica, the offshoot from SCL Group, and insisted his activities were “ethical” and “truthful”.

“I have worked with SCL Defence on defence projects which is well documented, for example the NATO counter propaganda course in Latvia in 2015,” Tatham told me.

“In UK and NATO doctrine Psyops is ‘truthful and attributable comms with specific target audiences’ not the the appalling stuff CA (Cambridge Analytica) appears to have undertaken,”

“A point about what and who we train. Only NATO and friendly governments. And we only train truthful and attributable techniques. Why? Because our clients work with NATO and that is UK and NATO doctrine... as ex UK military senior officer I have strong personal ethics and that is why we are all so appalled at the revelations about CA”.

With founder Alexander Nix being suspended from Cambridge Analytica, a pattern seems to be developing that shifts all blame for the recent scandals onto the subsidiary as opposed to the parent company SCL Group.

However, with the links between the two organisations evident and further revelations emerging every day, it seems clear that this will not wash.

It’s now time for the UK government to come completely clean on exactly what ties it had with SCL Group and answer the following questions:

Was it aware of the data harvesting used in the US election?

What is the phantom contract with the MOD in 2010/11 and what did the ‘external training’ involve?

What did the other contracts that the government had with SCL Group involve and did it make any other payments to the group, outside of the contracts?

Was there coordination between SCL Group and the MOD in other countries as existed in Ukraine?

Why is taking so long for the Information Commissioner to get a warrant to search databases and servers of Cambridge Analytica?

Until these are answered, we can expect this scandal, which reaches the heart of unaccountable British power, to rumble on and on.


Tracy (/profile/Tracy)

Posts: 5,272

Forum Member

22/03/18 - 14:18 (/discussion/comment/89638477/#Comment_89638477)

#11 (https://forums.digitalspy.com/discussion/comment/89638477#Comment_89638477)

Already removing stuff from thier ofces.
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HENRY NICHOLLS/REUTERS

https://pbs.twimg.com/media/DYzd4mCXkAAWr70.jpg

dalehitchy (profile/dalehitchy)
Posts: 2,981
Forum Member
★★★★
22/03/18 - 14:24 (/discussion/comment/89638530/#Comment_89638530)
#12 (https://forums.digitalspy.com/discussion/comment/89638530#Comment_89638530)
Tracy (/profile/Tracy) wrote: » (/discussion/comment/89638477#Comment_89638477)
Already removing stuff from their offices.

Billy Kenber, Investigations Reporter

March 21 2018, 12:01am, The Times

Crates are moved from the London offices of Cambridge Analytica yesterday
HENRY NICHOLLS/REUTERS
(https://pbs.twimg.com/media/DYzd4mCXkAAWr70.jpg)

That was obviously going to happen.

Have to say that conservatives names keep cropping up around Cambridge analytica. If labour was involved in any of this like the conservatives are.... You can bet it would plastered over every front page that the party is full of traitors.

le/trevvytrev21)

**trevvytrev21 (/profile/trevvytrev21)**

Posts: 16,537
Forum Member ★★★

22/03/18 - 14:46 (/discussion/comment/89638676/#Comment_89638676)
#13 (https://forums.digitalspy.com/discussion/comment/89638676#Comment_89638676)

Thanks for posting this OP. Very enlightening and useful. 😊

le/paulschapman)

**paulschapman (/profile/paulschapman)**

dalehitchy (profile/dalehitchy) wrote: » (discussion/comment/89638530#Comment_89638530)
show previous quotes ()

That was obviously going to happen.

Have to say that conservatives names keep cropping up around Cambridge analytica. If labour was involved in any of this like the conservatives are.... You can bet it would plastered over every front page that the party is full of traitors.

With Labour it was the big consultancies; they had ministers who were ex-directors of a consultancy, senior members of Labour who then worked for the Consultancy. They would later send billions of pounds of taxpayers money with those consultancies in PPI agreements despite attacking them in opposition, and even went as far as changing the tax laws to help them.

So anyone who says that Labour are whiter than white when it comes to relationships with big business -there is a two letter expression for that - BS.

Are you saying Tory sleaze is OK because Labour have been bad in the past?

smudges dad (profile/smudges%20dad)

smudges dad (profile/smudges%20dad)
Posts: 26,553
Forum Member
★ ★ ★
22/03/18 - 14:52 (discussion/comment/89638741#/Comment_89638741)
#15 (https://forums.digitalspy.com/discussion/comment/89638741#Comment_89638741)

paulschapman (profile/paulschapman) wrote: » (discussion/comment/89638717#Comment_89638717)
show previous quotes ()

With Labour it was the big consultancies; they had ministers who were ex-directors of a consultancy, senior members of Labour who then worked for the Consultancy. They would later send billions of pounds of taxpayers money with those consultancies in PPI agreements despite attacking them in opposition, and even went as far as changing the tax laws to help them.

So anyone who says that Labour are whiter than white when it comes to relationships with big business -there is a two letter expression for that - BS.
The Conservative Party in opposition developed themselves into something different in UK politics, a political party in name only.

Criminal Gang is the term I use.

It's all coming out now because the corrupt UK media could no longer cover it up, so bad has it become. Throwing mud against Jeremy Corbyn is all they have left and it isn't sticking.

Are you saying Tory sleaze is OK because Labour have been bad in the past?

Nope - ever heard the expression those in glass houses should not throw stones. New Labour came to power on the back of sleaze allegations against the Conservatives, yet was as sleazy if not more so. Now we are being given the impression that Labour are as pure as new snow - nothing could be further from the truth.

Not only that but the statement if Labour were involved in this it would be plastered over the front pages is false - there was very little on the front pages over Labour's relationships with the big consultancies in spite of those companies receiving millions of pounds of taxpayer funds.

Arguing that Labour were bent in the past under Blair only helps the party under Corbyn. People are sick of that company-worshipping ideology.
Nope - ever heard the expression those in glass houses should not throw stones. New Labour came to power on the back of sleaze allegations against the Conservatives, yet was as sleazy if not more so. Now we are being given the impression that Labour are as pure as new snow - nothing could be further from the truth.

Not only that but the statement if Labour were involved in this it would be plastered over the front pages is false - there was very little on the front pages over Labour’s relationships with the big consultancies in spite of those companies receiving millions of pounds of taxpayer funds.

I don’t think that anyone has ever argued that Labour were pure as snow, especially if you go back a bit - Poulson / T Dan Smith, Tobacco advertising. However, it’s just starting to come out about how sleazy the Tories are again, with Russian Money and Cambridge Analytica. I bet there is a fair amount of sleaze with arms exports as well.
Mushroomie (/profile/Mushroomie)
Posts: 1,966
Forum Member
★★★★
22/03/18 - 21:58 (/discussion/comment/89643547/#Comment_89643547)
#22 (https://forums.digitalspy.com/discussion/comment/89643547/#Comment_89643547)

paulschapman (/profile/paulschapman) wrote: » (/discussion/comment/89638717/#Comment_89638717)
show previous quotes ()

With Labour it was the big consultancies; they had ministers who were ex-directors of a consultancy, senior members of Labour who then worked for the Consultancy. They would later send billions of pounds of taxpayers money with those consultancies in PPI agreements despite attacking them in opposition, and even went as far as changing the tax laws to help them.

So anyone who says that Labour are whiter than white when it comes to relationships with big business -there is a two letter expression for that - BS.

Which no-one has said. You are literally the first person in this thread to say that.

Can we get back to the topic now, or do you want to complain about Labour some more? Maybe we should wait for a Labour government before doing anything about this, just to be sure that Labour get properly scolded too. Although presumambly the Labour supporters would then distract back onto the Tories like you’re doing now, so I guess nothing will ever be done.

le/annemarie1066)

annemarie1066 (/profile/annemarie1066)
Posts: 3,789
Forum Member
★★★★
22/03/18 - 22:25 (/discussion/comment/89643826/#Comment_89643826)
#23 (https://forums.digitalspy.com/discussion/comment/89643826/#Comment_89643826)

Jakobjoe (/profile/Jakobjoe) wrote: » (/discussion/comment/89643388/#Comment_89643388)
i just cant see where this is going.
ok the data laws need reviewing and toughening up.
but isnt this what political parties do and a refinement as people say of campaigning now social media is upon us.

Are you really that naive. CA were able to analyse the data obtained from FB, combine it with other data sources and then use the results to target groups of people. In The USA

They were able to tease out the intellectually challenged but angry people and post inflammatory stories.
They could target suitable detail to the evangelicals suggesting wholesale escalation of abortions and restrictions on religion
They could appeal to the greed of those who were well off

That is not taking into account their admission of blackmail and sleaze

le/Iggyman)

Iggyman (/profile/Iggyman)
Posts: 4,330
Forum Member

I wonder how many of those in power and in the media are NOT implicated in any of this? Just how deep does the rabbit hole go?

Also, here’s a new article by Liam O’Hare:

*SCL and the Phantom Contract*


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Just watched A Very British Coup on Channel 4 OD, for something made in the 1980’s its scary how similar it is to recent events. I do wonder how many people behind the scenes are doing everything they can to stop a socialist Labour government getting power.

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If you had a FB profile and voted for Trump, the decisive number of you were indoctrinated into supporting the establishments special interests. That explains the unexplained Trump victory but don’t feel bad, you are part of the waking majority, we’re all working for the man.

Bet the snooze button looks tempting, eh!!!