CRAWLSPACE ANALYSIS

Assessment: The American Communist Party

Open Source Assessment: Far Right Ties, Foreign State Influence and US Government Attention, July 2024 to November 2026

Prepared by Crawlspace Analysis

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CONTENTS

Scope Note
Key Judgments
1. The Party and Its Leaders
2. The Far Right
3. Russia
4. Iran and Its Allies
5. China
6. The US Government
7. Conclusions and Indicators
Notes
Bibliography

Scope Note

We examine here the American Communist Party (ACP), a party launched on 21 July 2024 by the streamer Haz Al-Din, the commentator Jackson Hinkle and organisers from the Midwestern Marx Institute and the Infrared Collective. It sets out how far the far right, including neo Nazi networks, has entered or shaped the party, and what influence foreign governments and the United States government have over the party and the people inside it.

Chapter 1 describes the party, its leaders, its money and the split that tore through it in January 2025. Chapter 2 sets out the party's ties to the far right. Three chapters follow on foreign states: Russia, then Iran and its allies, then China. The sixth chapter sets out what is known about US government attention to the party. The last chapter gives our conclusions, our estimates and the signs that would change them.

- What a party leader says about his own travel, income or contacts is his account. What a defector says about the leaders is the defector's account. We say whose account each is.
- A court order, a sanctions listing or a tax filing is a public record. An accusation that someone is an informant or a foreign agent is a claim until a record supports it, and we treat it that way.
- Sanctions listings show the status of the person or body listed. They do not show that the ACP broke any law, and no source reviewed alleges that it did.
- We name the party's officers, its public spokespeople, people named in news reports or court records, and people the party names itself. We record no home addresses, dates of birth or identification numbers. Members the party has not named stay unnamed.
- Photographs are tied to names only where a caption, tag or party post says who is pictured.
- Chapter 7 contains our own estimates, given as ranges of likelihood.

The information cutoff is 25 November 2026. Sources are cited in the notes and listed in the Bibliography.

Estimative language

TERM	MEANING
Almost certainly	90 to 99%
Very likely	80 to 90%
Likely, probably	55 to 80%
Roughly even chance	45 to 55%
Unlikely	20 to 45%
Very unlikely	5 to 20%

TERM	MEANING
Remote	1 to 5%

Confidence levels reflect the quality of the sources. High confidence rests on primary records or several independent sources. Moderate confidence rests on credible but incomplete sourcing. Low confidence rests on fragmentary information from one source, or on inference.

Key Judgments

KJ	JUDGMENT	CONFIDENCE
1	The party's ties to the far right run through its founders' past alliances with far right media figures and their debts to Russian and LaRouche movement thinkers; every officer whose earlier affiliations are public came from communist groups or Marxist online media	High
2	The ACP has built formal relations with two parties of the Russian state system, A Just Russia and the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, and helped found A Just Russia's international network, Sovintern	High
3	ACP leaders appear again and again on outlets run by or for the Russian state, including Sputnik, United World International and the Turkish site of the RRN brand, all tied to bodies the United States sanctions	High
4	In Istanbul the same small group of journalists from the Vatan Party's daily links the two sanctioned Russian outlets that interviewed ACP leaders	Moderate
5	ACP leaders have travelled as invited guests of Hezbollah, the Houthi movement and the Iranian state, and one of them filled out a volunteer form for a militia the United States lists as a terrorist organisation	High
6	Two ACP Executive Board members have a standing relationship with a Shanghai network of state media, a think tank and a commercial outlet that also backs the Moscow conferences where the founders appeared	High
7	The party's declared money is small and domestic; who paid for its leaders' foreign travel is undisclosed	Moderate
8	The FBI obtained the party chairman's Google account data under a sealed court order that began in 2025, and federal border officers have stopped three party figures after foreign trips; claims of informants inside the party remain unproven	High
9	Party fundraising bought a generator for a Russian line regiment fighting in Ukraine, and the party's International Secretary signed a Russian military contract in February 2026, four months before he left the post	High
10	The press tours that took Haz and Hinkle to occupied Ukraine were backed by a Duma vice speaker and his aide who are under US indictment for running a Russian influence network aimed at Americans; the aide heads Sovintern's Moscow hub	Moderate

KJ1. Far right ties at the top. We assess with high confidence that the ACP's links to the far right are links of its founders. Haz Al-Din and Jackson Hinkle shared platforms with the white nationalist streamer Nick Fuentes in 2022 and 2023 before breaking with him, and both spoke at a 2022 conference of the Schiller Institute, the LaRouche movement's main body. Hinkle met the Russian ideologue Aleksandr Dugin in Moscow in 2024. The officers whose past affiliations are on the record came from the Midwestern Marx Institute, the Infrared Collective, the Party of Communists USA and small Maoist groups.[1]

KJ2. Formal Russian party ties. We assess with high confidence that the ACP is a recognised partner of parties inside Russia's political system. A Just Russia's chairman, Sergey Mironov, wrote to the party's October 2026 congress that the ACP was a cofounder of Sovintern with his party. The Communist Party of the Russian Federation (KPRF) has hosted ACP members in Moscow and taken their aid on its convoys to Russian troops in Donbass. Both Mironov and the KPRF leader, Gennady Zyuganov, are under US and UK sanctions.[2]

KJ3. Russian state media as a platform. We assess with high confidence that ACP leaders use outlets run by or for the Russian state as regular platforms. Haz and Hinkle recorded a Sputnik podcast in Moscow in February 2024. United World International, sanctioned in 2022 as a project of Yevgeniy Prigozhin's network, interviewed Haz in December 2024 and published Hinkle's Istanbul speech in July 2026. The Turkish site of RRN, a brand from the Russian Doppelganger operation, interviewed Haz and Hinkle in June 2026. A US affidavit records that interviews with foreign figures for RRN were discussed at meetings between the operation's managers and the Russian Presidential Administration.[3]

KJ4. One Istanbul newsroom. We assess with moderate confidence that the Vatan Party's daily, Aydınlık, is the common thread between the two sanctioned outlets. The same Aydınlık editor interviewed Haz for Aydınlık and for United World International a few days apart in 2024 and later wrote about Hinkle for RRN. RRN's editor in chief presents programmes on the Vatan leader's television channel. A company run by a United World International editor publishes a Turkish news site from the same circle.[4]

KJ5. Guests of the Axis. We assess with high confidence that ACP leaders have travelled to events hosted by Iran and its allies. Hinkle and the then International Secretary, Christopher Helali, attended Hezbollah's funeral for Hassan Nasrallah in Beirut in February 2025, the Houthi movement's conference in Sanaa in March 2025, and in Hinkle's case Ayatollah Khamenei's state funeral in Tehran in July 2026. Helali and Hinkle met the leader of Kata'ib Sayyid al-Shuhada in Baghdad in August 2025. In January 2026 Helali was filmed filling out a "martyrdom seeker" form for Kata'ib Hezbollah.[5]

KJ6. A Shanghai network. We assess with high confidence that Hinkle and the party's Secretary of Education, Carlos Garrido, are tied to one network in Shanghai. Fudan University's China Institute is run by Zhang Weiwei, runs the annual Thinkers Forum and has a strategic partnership with the news site Guancha. Its online outlet, The China Academy, filmed Zhang meeting Hinkle in Moscow and gives Garrido a column and a place on its advisory board. The Thinkers Forum is named as a backer of the Moscow Multipolarity Forum. Separately, a foundation under China's internet regulator sponsored a China Daily interview with Haz, and Beijing Review has published both Haz and Garrido.[6]

KJ7. Small declared money. We assess with moderate confidence that the party's declared budget does not account for its leaders' travel. Its only tax return, for 2025, reports $134,565 in revenue from dues, sales and small gifts, and salaries of $97,260. The leaders have flown to Moscow, Beirut, Sanaa, Baghdad, Istanbul, Tehran and China. None of the hosts or the party has said who paid.[7]

KJ8. Federal attention, unproven informants. We assess with high confidence that at least one federal investigation has touched the party's chairman. Google told Haz in April 2026 that it had given the FBI his account data under a court order that had barred notice, and he says the case number shows it began in 2025. DHS questioned him for five hours at Detroit after the Nasrallah funeral, and border officers held Helali twice and the former party figure Danny Shaw once. Accusations of informants, made by both sides of the January 2025 split, rest on suspicion.[8]

KJ9. From aid to enlistment. We assess with high confidence that party fundraising reached a named Russian combat unit and that a party officer took a Russian military contract while in office. The British volunteer Ben Stimson wrote in 2025 and 2026 that money raised by the American Communist Party bought a generator for the 242nd Guards Motorized Rifle Regiment, which he served with, and that it went into use on the third line of the front. Christopher Helali told TASS in March 2026 that he had signed a contract with the Rodnya volunteer unit in Donetsk; the party listed him as International Secretary until June. In October 2026 he joined the Akhmat special forces.[9]

KJ10. Tours backed by indicted officials. We assess with moderate confidence that the trips which took Haz and Hinkle to occupied Ukraine ran through a network led by two men the United States has charged with running a Russian influence operation. Zakhar Prilepin's outlet Vashi Novosti took Haz on two press tours, including one in December 2024, and Hinkle on another. It credits the tours to Prilepin, the Duma vice speaker Aleksandr Babakov and his adviser Aleksandr Vorobev. A 2022 federal indictment charges Babakov and his chief of staff Aleksandr Nikolayevich Vorobev with running "an international foreign influence and disinformation network" aimed at Americans. A deputy of the same name now heads Sovintern's Moscow hub and supported Helali before his Akhmat contract. The outlet's publisher took in about 126 million roubles from donors it does not name in 2023 and 2024.[10]

1. The Party and Its Leaders

IN BRIEF

- The ACP launched in July 2024 as a declared “reconstitution” of the Communist Party USA, built by two streamers, a commentator and a small Midwestern think tank.
- A seven member Executive Board runs it under Executive Chairman Haz Al-Din.
- Its 2025 tax return shows a party funded by dues and merchandise, paying salaries from its first full year.
- Its first crisis, in January 2025, ended with resignations, a covert recording and charges of gun running and informants on both sides.

1.1 Founding and leadership

The ACP announced itself on 21 July 2024 as the reconstitution of the Communist Party USA (CPUSA). Its plenary committee named Haz Al-Din, Jackson Hinkle and Noah Khrachvik, and it claimed 29 CPUSA clubs, several of which publicly denied taking part. Independent Political Report covered the launch and the denials.[11]

The party’s own leaders give the same Executive Board in several interviews: Haz Al-Din as Executive Chairman, Hinkle, Christopher Helali as International Secretary, Eddie Liger Smith in charge of media, Carlos Garrido in charge of education, Noah Khrachvik as Treasurer and Kyle Pettis as Director of Personnel. The constitution sets a seven member Executive Board, a twelve member Politburo and a Central Committee of one delegate per chapter. A Central Committee of 32 was inaugurated in Chicago on 2 May 2025; the party has not published its names. Helali resigned as International Secretary on 5 June 2026, and Hinkle took the post.[12]

The founders came from three places. Garrido, Khrachvik, Smith and Pettis came from the Midwestern Marx Institute, which Garrido directs. Haz and the organisers Henry Ahmad and Grayson Preutz came from the Infrared Collective, Haz’s streaming channel. Helali came from the Party of Communists USA, a group that had left CPUSA over its refusal to back Russia’s war in Donbass. Hinkle came as an independent commentator with millions of followers. A rival Marxist statement of August 2024 gives this list, and names Pettis as a former member of the Maoist Collective Red Guards and the American Party of Labor.[13]

The party chairman’s legal name varies by source. Danny Shaw, a former leader, called him Ali Hammoud of Dearborn, Michigan, in his January 2025 resignation, and earlier coverage uses that name; The Insider and the August 2024 statement give Adam Tahir. We use Haz Al-Din, the name the party uses.[14]

Assessment. The ACP is a party of online media figures and a small think tank, and its leaders are the same seven people in every account the party gives. Its foreign ties run mostly through those seven people.

1.2 Members, structure and money

The party files with the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(4) social welfare corporation from a post office box in Bethel, Vermont. Its first return, a Form 990-EZ for 2025 signed by Kyle Pettis as President on 13 May 2026, reports revenue of $134,565: $73,814 from program services, $49,110 in membership dues and $11,641 in contributions. It reports salaries of $97,260, of which Pettis received $47,679 for a forty hour week, $18,339 in printing and political spending of zero. The return lists three programs: a monthly journal with more than 400 readers, community outreach and "beautification". It does not break down the program service revenue.[15]

The party takes money through a Stripe checkout on its own billing site and through an online store selling jackets, polo shirts, stickers and a $50 "Tactical Coat" described as suited for "hiking, hunting". It runs its own servers for chat, file sharing, document editing and email, built up between August 2025 and June 2026. In August 2025 it registered web addresses for 45 US states and Canadian provinces at once, and 38 more in April 2026.[16]

The party's size is hard to read from its own pages. Its "Blockchain Ledger", which records members promoted to cadre status, showed 80 entries between 14 October and 16 November 2026, each a hash with no name. Shaw counted 55 New York members in January 2025. The October 2026 National Congress in Michigan drew a crowd of about two hundred in the photographs Hinkle posted, and the party reports about 70 greetings from foreign parties and movements.[17]

Assessment. The declared finances describe a small party paying a few staff from dues and merchandise. The return does not cover the cost of the leaders' foreign travel, which chapters 3 to 5 describe.

1.3 The January 2025 split

The party's first crisis came in January 2025 and produced most of the allegations of foreign handling and infiltration that circulate about it. On 17 January Danny Shaw, a professor who headed the international department of the Midwestern Marx Institute, published an open resignation letter. He wrote that at the party's October 2024 gathering near Chicago, Haz and Pettis "bragged about their contacts with oligarchs in Russia", that Hinkle "spends more time with the Russian government than with the American people", that leaders "used my FBI detention and interrogation to make themselves look more militant to their foreign handlers", and that Executive Board members were "starting to earn salaries". In a 43 minute video posted the same day he said that on the Friday night of the conference Haz and Pettis sat in "throne-esque seats" on the deck of the rented house in Skokie while Haz "bragged about Russian oligarchs whose villas or dachas he had just stayed in", with "a lot of talk of gunplay". He

said that during Haz's December 2024 trip to Russia with Hinkle he received calls "from Donbass, from Moscow" complaining about Haz's conduct, and that a member called Abe, who "never turned on his camera", was sent to meetings "as a spy".[18]

Shaw's gravest charge was that after a 1 November 2024 meeting with the journalists Dan Cohen and Kim Ives, Haz and Pettis "began to coordinate arms trafficking with sketchy foreign actors and oligarchs to the paramilitary factions in Haiti". Cohen and Ives denied it in full and said the meeting was a moderated debate on Zoom. Their paper, Haiti Liberté, then published audio of Shaw, recorded covertly on 21 January by a party member "under the direction of" Pettis, in which Shaw says he "just didn't do it artfully and 100% truthful" and cites only screenshots as evidence. Shaw said he gave a sworn affidavit to his lawyers.[19]

Haz answered in a three hour stream on 21 January. He said he had been in Russia from about 10 December 2024 "to deepen our party's relations with our comrades", that he had been "in Donbass" and shelled by HIMARS, that he earns about $3,000 to $5,000 a month, and that "no monetary transactions" and "no gun running" took place. He relayed that one complaint against him was that "I fired an RPG in Russia in September". He called Shaw's campaign "a public pretext for a federal investigation which there is literally none right now". Of the member Shaw called a spy, he said Abe "is somebody who evidently Danny doesn't know but who the rest of us do know" and had been a member from "day one".[20]

Haz's own posts place him in Russia in the fortnight before the conference where, by Shaw's account, he boasted of oligarchs' dachas. On 29 September 2024 he wrote that he had been interviewed by Zakhar Prilepin in Nizhny Novgorod the day before; Prilepin's channel later said the interview took place at Prilepin's home "in the Kerzhenets forests". On 6 October Haz wrote that he had spent the past week travelling through the Donetsk People's Republic, and on 10 October he posted from Donetsk. No source names an oligarch as his host on that trip or in December.[21]

Shaw's letter also described leadership chats "full of misogyny, hatred of gay people", accused Hinkle of being "anti-semetic, Duginist" and called the party a "burgeoning proto fascist cult". Pettis confirmed on Haz's stream that he had joked about "symbolically castrating" a New York chapter leader. The philosopher Daniel Tutt, a friend of Garrido, told Cohen in a recorded call on 24 January that academics had left Midwestern Marx "because we don't trust this Jackson Hinkle figure" and that Helali and Hinkle were "shady".[22]

Assessment. The split shows a leadership that recorded its critics, paid its officers and travelled to Russia, and a defector who made a grave charge he could not support. Shaw's specific claims about Russian oligarchs and salaries are partly confirmed by Haz's own account of his December 2024 trip and by the 2025 tax return. His Haiti charge is unsupported.

2. The Far Right

IN BRIEF

- Haz and Hinkle shared stages with the white nationalist streamer Nick Fuentes in 2022 and 2023, then turned on him.
- Both founders spoke at a LaRouche movement conference in 2022, and Hinkle met Aleksandr Dugin and spoke at a Moscow forum run by the Tsargrad network of Konstantin Malofeyev.
- The officers whose earlier affiliations are public came from communist groups and Marxist online media.
- The party's language borrows from conspiracy theory and its members train with weapons; its congress drew greetings from at least one Spanish party that matches the name of a group of the radical right.

2.1 The founders and the far right before the party

The founders' ties to the far right begin before the ACP existed, in the world of online political streaming. Hinkle defended Fuentes against being removed from platforms in October 2022 and quoted his "very pro Putin" remark that December. In March 2023 he wrote "Nick is right, Stalin was one of the greatest leaders in history!" By 31 August 2023 he was challenging "Nick and Keith Woods" to debate "Me n Haz", and from September 2025 he attacked Fuentes in more than forty posts as a Zionist shill and a "fed". Haz appeared alongside Fuentes against the streamer Destiny in April 2022; by July 2024 the two were openly hostile.[23]

The feud continued after the party launched. After the killing of Charlie Kirk in September 2025, Fuentes claimed the suspect, Tyler Robinson, had been in the Infrared Discord server and that the ACP "suspiciously wiped" it. Haz replied that the server is wiped routinely. Neither claim was supported with evidence in the posts.[24]

Both founders also spoke for the LaRouche movement. The Schiller Institute's programme for its 14 October 2022 conference, "Build the New Paradigm, Defeat Green Fascism", lists Hinkle on the first panel after Helga Zepp-LaRouche and Haz on the second after the LaRouche Senate candidate Diane Sare. The Marxist journal Cosmonaut traces the party's doctrine to the LaRouche movement, to Dugin and to the German jurist Carl Schmitt, while stating that the ACP "is not a Nazi party".[25]

Hinkle's contacts in Russia include the leading thinkers of its nationalist right. The Global Project Against Hate and Extremism reported that at the Moscow congress of the International Russophile Movement in February 2024, Hinkle "met with many of the speakers including Alexander Dugin, Maria Zakharova, Sergey Lavrov, and Kris Roman", the last a Belgian activist of the far right. In June 2025 The

Moscow Times listed Hinkle as a speaker at the Forum of the Future 2050, hosted by the Tsargrad Institute, alongside Lavrov, Alex Jones, George Galloway and Errol Musk. Dugin, Tsargrad and Tsargrad's owner Konstantin Malofeyev are all under US and UK sanctions.[26]

Assessment. Before and after founding the party, Haz and Hinkle drew on the same media spaces and Russian patrons as parts of the far right. Their quarrel with Fuentes since 2023 is a rivalry over the same audience of young men, fought in public.

2.2 Who joined

The officers' own histories point to the communist left. Pettis was a member of the Maoist Collective Red Guards and the American Party of Labor; Helali came from the Party of Communists USA and has said he fought the Islamic State with the Kurdish PKK in Syria; Garrido, Khrachvik and Smith built the Midwestern Marx Institute; Haz built the Infrared Collective. None of the party's officers or the leaders named in the January 2025 split is named in any public source as a former member of a far right organisation.[27]

The party recruits where the far right also recruits. Its Virginia chapter wrote in January 2026 that "our men and women in uniform are tired of being used as tools to ruin foreign countries", and its California chapter posted a video of a member explaining how his time in the military led him to the party. Hinkle's founding pitch, recorded in April 2024 by The China Academy in his talk with Zhang Weiwei, was aimed at Trump voters: "our country's crumbling", and the working class needs a party that "gets us on track with countries like China".[28]

Assessment. The party's leadership came from the communist left, and its recruiting is aimed at the same audience of veterans and disillusioned Trump voters that far right groups court. The records reviewed show no officer with a past in a far right organisation.

2.3 Language and symbols

The party's public language draws on conspiracy theory common on the far right. In the June 2026 RRN interview Hinkle said the United States is "ruled by paedophiles" performing "satanist rituals", and Haz called the country an "Epstein-like empire". The Spectator reported in 2026 that groyper vocabulary had spread on the online left, quoting Hinkle's posts "Goyim, do not complain. You must die for Israel" and "Goyim, don't ask questions", and wrote that the ACP copied such language in harsher terms. In 2022 Brian Hughes of American University's Polarization and Extremism Research and Innovation Lab told Vice that "skull-mask" and accelerationist networks were "juicing MAGA Communism"; he gave no examples.[29]

The party's displays are militant. ACP chapters in Michigan and Illinois held a camp with live fire training over Memorial Day 2026, according to The Insider, wearing ACP patches with St George ribbons marked with the letter Z, the symbol of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. When Fox News host Jesse Watters showed footage of California members training in December 2025, the party called his claim

that Democrats ran the camps libel and did not deny the training. The photographs of the October 2026 congress show red and camouflage ACP caps, ACP flags, green armbands and a red star pin, and no emblem of any far right group.[30]

Assessment. The party uses the far right's conspiracy language and Russia's war symbols. The borrowings describe its politics and its audience, and no source reviewed shows far right groups directing it.

2.4 Allies at the congress

The October 2026 congress showed which foreign groups the party counts as friends. Among about 70 greeters were established communist parties, Russian groups and two Spanish parties. Vanguardia Española sent "a warm internationalist embrace". A 2025 study in the journal ESCRIPTA describes a party called "Vanguardia", founded in Madrid in 2024, as one of the most important groups of the radical right in Madrid, hostile to Maghreb immigration as "invasion and substitution", and led by founders who said life was better under Franco. The study does not use the full name Vanguardia Española, so the two are matched by name only. The Partido Andalusí addressed its greeting to Hinkle.[31]

The party's closest foreign ally in Turkey is the Vatan Party of Doğu Perinçek, whose daily Nordic Monitor calls "militant, ultranationalist". Vatan addressed the congress to "Esteemed Chairman Haz Al Din" and promised that "the fraternal bond between the Vatan Party and the American Communist Party will endure". Chapter 3 sets out that relationship.[32]

Assessment. The party welcomes greetings from nationalist parties abroad, including one whose name matches a Spanish group of the radical right. The guest list fits the party's view that the enemy is liberalism, and it widens the party's contacts on the nationalist right in Europe and Turkey.

3. Russia

IN BRIEF

- The ACP inherited ties to the Communist Party of the Russian Federation from members who left CPUSA over Donbass, and has sent aid to Russian troops on KPRF convoys.
- It helped found Sovintern, A Just Russia's international network, opened in Moscow in April 2026 with a welcome from Putin.
- Its leaders appear on Sputnik and at state backed conferences in Moscow.
- Party money bought a generator for the 242nd Guards Motorized Rifle Regiment, and its International Secretary signed a Russian army contract while in office.
- Haz's and Hinkle's trips to occupied Ukraine ran through press tours backed by two Russian officials under US indictment for influence operations.
- In Istanbul the party works with the Vatan Party, whose journalists link the two sanctioned Russian outlets that interviewed its leaders.
- A Moscow based North Korea solidarity group signed a friendship treaty with the party in 2024.

3.1 Party to party: the KPRF

The ACP's Russian ties began with the people who founded it. In a message to the SolidNet network of communist parties on 23 July 2024, the party said members who had left CPUSA over its refusal to support "the anti-fascist struggle in the Donbass" had "worked closely with the KPRF" and helped create the World Anti-Imperialist Platform.[33]

The party marked its first New Year with Haz delivering its address at the Kremlin Wall Necropolis on 31 December 2024, and on 2 January 2025 two party delegates met KPRF leader Gennady Zyuganov to deliver aid for Donbass. Hinkle told RIA Novosti that the party had sent 55 boxes of aid, that "we communists fully support the special military operation", and that deliveries would become regular.[34]

Zyuganov described the aid himself. Interviewed by Komsomolskaya Pravda on 26 February 2025 about the KPRF's 135th humanitarian convoy, which carried motorcycles, vehicles, drones, medicine and food and was attended by commanders of the 104th and 106th airborne divisions, he said "the Americans came too; they also collected help for our fighters, packed it and sent it to the front". The paper named the Canadian member Nicholas Reid as the American who told Rossiya 1 that they had sent "our fighters" a diesel generator. Asked whether the Americans were registered with the KPRF, Zyuganov said they could not be, that "they are organised here in Russia on their own", and asked the interviewer to avoid details because "they are persecuted".[35]

KPRF Moscow pages record Reid meeting the Left Front and KPRF members at the party's Moscow city committee in February 2025 and addressing the Moscow Komsomol in Russian for over an hour in August 2025; the August page says ACP members had "several times" joined KPRF convoys. On 25 May 2026 the party said its "International Representatives" spoke at the 3rd International Anti-Fascist Forum in Moscow alongside Zyuganov and Petro Symonenko of the Communist Party of Ukraine. The Left Front's congress greeting praised the party for having "supported Russia in its struggle against the aggression of Western imperialism". Zyuganov is under US and UK sanctions.[36]

The party also celebrates with Russian communities in North America. It asked all members to attend a Victory Day parade hosted by "the local Russian community" in Libertyville, Illinois, on 3 May 2025, and its journal printed speeches from Victory Day events "co-hosted by the American Communist Party and Russian diaspora communities" in June 2026.[37]

Assessment. The KPRF treats the ACP as a partner whose members collect supplies for Russian frontline units, and its leader describes those members as organised inside Russia. The party has supplied material to an army at war, through a party under US sanctions.

3.2 Sovintern and A Just Russia

The ACP's second Russian partner is A Just Russia, a party of the Kremlin's loyal opposition led by Sergey Mironov. Kommersant reported that A Just Russia launched an international socialist network, Sovintern, at Moscow's House of Unions on 27 April 2026, and listed the American Communist Party among its initiators with Nicaragua's Sandinista Front, Moldova's Party of Socialists and the Workers Party of Britain. Mironov's greeting to the ACP congress, signed by him, says the ACP "was one of the co-founders of this initiative together with the party A JUST RUSSIA" and calls their cooperation "an example of a new type of inter-party relations". Mironov is under US and UK sanctions.[38]

The Insider, the Russian investigative outlet, reported in July 2026 that the forum opened with a welcome from Putin and partly serves as cover for recruiting foreign fighters. It listed Garrido, Smith, Haz, Hinkle and Pettis among those present. It reported that Seth Albert Noon, an ACP member from South Carolina, serves in Russia's 24th Motorized Rifle Brigade and fought at Bakhmut and in Kherson, and that the Canadian member Ryan Gallant reached Irkutsk through China in April 2026. A Telegram channel in Gallant's name, which The Insider links to him, began on 28 April 2026 with "From Canada, to China, to a Siberian city in winter. My first steps on Russian soil" and later posted from a BMP fighting vehicle. On 1 June 2026 the British recruiter Ben Stimson asked his followers to "support our new Canadian volunteers channel", linking to Gallant's. In November 2026 he wrote that "one of our Canadian volunteers was recently demobilised from the SVO", without naming him. The party has not addressed The Insider's report.[39]

Noon appears in one other source. On 14 April 2026 Helali, then International Secretary, published an interview with "Seth Albert Nunn", a 26 year old from South Carolina who volunteered for the Russian Armed Forces in 2024 and serves with the 24th Motorized Rifle Regiment of the Southern Group of

Forces. Nunn describes training in Moscow, five months with a sapper unit in Kherson and evacuation work at Bakhmut, and says he does not intend to live in the United States again. The interview does not mention the party.[40]

The Robert Lansing Institute, a US think tank, assesses Sovintern as a Kremlin instrument tied to foreign intelligence chief Sergei Naryshkin's revival of the Comintern model.[41]

Assessment. Sovintern places the ACP inside a network built by a Kremlin party and opened with Putin's blessing. The Insider's report that two members went to Russia to fight, one of them through China weeks before the forum, makes the network more than a talking shop. Whether the party recruited them, or they went on their own, is not established.

3.3 Moscow forums and state media

Haz and Hinkle were in Moscow in late February 2024, five months before the party launched, for the Multipolarity Forum and the second congress of the International Russophile Movement. Lavrov opened the congress with a message from Putin. The Global Project Against Hate and Extremism reported that Haz "met with other pro-Russian influencers outside of the event", and that Hinkle met Dugin, Zakharova, Lavrov and Kris Roman. It quotes the Brazilian activist Raphael Machado saying the conferences were the idea of himself and Dugin, with support from China's Thinkers Forum and the Russophile movement. The European Union listed the International Russophile Movement under its sanctions on Russian destabilising activity in December 2025. The party journal says Grayson S. Walker's essay "Marxism and Tradition" was a keynote at the 2024 Multipolarity Forum.[42]

On 29 February 2024 the two men recorded the New Rules podcast in Moscow. Sputnik published the episode under its own name, hosted by Dimitri Simes, whom Sputnik identifies as deputy director of its English service. Hinkle had appeared on the same show in 2023. Sputnik's publisher, Rossiya Segodnya, is under US and UK sanctions, and the State Department treats Sputnik as a foreign mission.[43]

Hinkle has lived in Moscow. RRN introduced him in June 2026 as arriving from Moscow, and Shafaq News reported that he announced his move there in 2025. Helali also moved to Moscow and told a Russian outlet he felt safer there. Russian state outlets RIA Novosti and RT carry Hinkle's comments.[44]

Assessment. Russian state media and state backed conferences have given the founders an audience and access to ministers since before the party existed. Two of its Executive Board members have lived in Moscow.

3.4 The North Korea solidarity group

The DPRK International Solidarity Group (DPRK ISG) is a Moscow based body chaired by Aleksandr Mostov. Its outlet, Red Star TV, reports that its North American Executive Committee was founded on 25 June 2024 at a "Pyongyang Koryo Restaurant" with Mostov present, attended by Helali, the lawyer Dan Kovalik, Hinkle and others, and that Helali was named its head. In August 2024 Helali signed a

“Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation” between the DPRK ISG and the ACP as the party’s International Secretary at the Soviet Peace Foundation’s Marble Hall in Moscow, with Viktor Petrov of the Russian society for friendship with North Korea present.[45]

In December 2024 the group gave Helali a “Medal for Special Tasks in Syria”, citing his fight against the Islamic State. At that ceremony Mostov said members were “providing humanitarian aid to Russian soldiers” or “personally taking part in the Special Military Operation”. In March 2026 Helali met the group’s president, Zheng Yutong, in Beijing, who set a 2026 programme including “strengthening ties with … the American Communist Party”. The group’s congress letter, written in Mostov’s name in Moscow time, said peace forces “expect the American people to carry out anti-imperialist struggles under the leadership of the American Communist Party”.[46]

Assessment. A Moscow based group that honours members who fight in Ukraine holds a treaty with the ACP and has run its North American branch through the party’s former International Secretary.

3.5 The Istanbul channel

The party’s most active foreign partner since 2024 is the Vatan Party of Doğu Perinçek in Turkey. Vatan’s daily, Aydınlık, interviewed Haz on 29 November 2024; the interviewer was Özgür Altınbaş, chief of its foreign news service. Four days later United World International published an interview with Haz by the same Altınbaş under the same theme. In it Haz said “We are in favor of the complete destruction of NATO” and that the Axis of Resistance has “our full sympathy”. The US Treasury sanctioned United World International in March 2022, saying Prigozhin’s Project Lakhta built it in 2020 and that its chief editor was Darya Dugina, Dugin’s daughter.[47]

Hinkle sat on a panel at the Eastern Mediterranean and Black Sea Conference in Istanbul on 18 and 19 July 2025, organised by the Ulusal Strateji Merkezi under Şule Perinçek, and met Doğu Perinçek on 20 July. On 2 June 2026 Haz and Hinkle met Perinçek at Vatan’s Istanbul headquarters with deputy chairman Ethem Sancak and Şule Perinçek. Hinkle returned for the “World Security and NATO Conference” of 26 and 27 June 2026, thanked “Chairman Perincek and the Vatan Party for hosting”, and said “Why can’t Turkey have nuclear weapons? I think it should”. United World International published his speech.[48]

The day after the June meeting, Haz and Hinkle gave an interview in Istanbul to RRN. RRN began as Recent Reliable News, a site of the Russian Doppelganger operation that the US Justice Department describes as run by the Social Design Agency under direction from the Russian Presidential Administration. OCCRP reported in November 2026 that after RRN was hacked, the brand moved to the Turkish domain rrn.com.tr, staffed by journalists who have held roles in the Vatan Party, and that it is one of two Doppelganger sites still active. The interviewer, Kıvanç Özdal, is RRN’s editor in chief and presents two programmes on Ulusal Kanal, the television channel that a 2019 Turkish report calls Perinçek’s. In the interview Haz said “it is time for the powers of the multipolar world to act fast, ruthlessly and decisively, doing whatever is needed to overthrow this Epstein-like empire”, and Hinkle

told Turks to “keep building those intercontinental ballistic missiles because they drive Netanyahu crazy”. Altınbaş wrote RRN’s report on Hinkle’s NATO speech. RRN’s X account says it is based in Turkey and was opened in April 2026.[49]

The US affidavit in the Doppelganger case records notes of Social Design Agency meetings at the Presidential Administration in which a participant reported that a Kremlin official was “not against including our influencers abroad”, and a note about a French businessman who could give an “interview” for “RRN”. The Social Design Agency and its head, Ilya Gambashidze, are under US and UK sanctions.[50]

The Aydınlık circle also reaches United World International through a company. Nordic Monitor reported in 2023, from Turkish trade registry records, that Tübamer Sosyal Araştırma ve Danışmanlık A.Ş. was registered in Istanbul on 12 November 2021, that its owner is Elif İlhamoğlu, a member of Vatan’s youth wing who was indicted over the 2014 assault on US sailors in Istanbul and later stood for parliament for Vatan, and that she works as an editor at United World International. Harici, a Turkish news site, names Tübamer as its owner and İlhamoğlu as its legal representative. The UK sanctions entry for United World International gives an Istanbul address and names the Görev Foundation, which Nordic Monitor ties to the Perinçek group, as linked.[51]

In late June 2026 Hinkle reposted RRN’s clip of his interview and two posts by TGB, Vatan’s youth organisation, from an anti NATO rally in Ankara on 27 June and a protest at the NATO Parliamentary Summit in Istanbul on 29 June.[52]

Assessment. Vatan’s newsroom is the hinge between the ACP and two Russian influence outlets under US sanctions. The same Aydınlık editor interviewed Haz for both Aydınlık and United World International, and RRN’s editor runs programmes on the Vatan leader’s channel. The ACP’s own leaders gave these outlets their most extreme statements of 2024 and 2026.

3.6 DD Geopolitics

Helali’s X profile describes him as a journalist for DD Geopolitics. On 31 May 2026 he posted “Make RUSSIAN America GREAT AGAIN!”. DD Geopolitics also published Shaw’s account of his detention at O’Hare in 2024.[53]

DD Geopolitics is the rebranded Donbass Devushka network. Euronews, relaying the Wall Street Journal, reported in April 2023 that Donbass Devushka was run by Sarah Bils, a former US Navy aviation electronics technician who had held a secret clearance, that it raised money for the Russian cause, and that it spread the leaked Pentagon documents that month; Bils said another administrator posted them. The DD Geopolitics Substack, created on 30 June 2023, names its administrators as “Sarah B.” and “The African Noticer” and lists 15 contributors. One is Grant Klusmann, whose own Substack carries his long interviews with Haz, Hinkle, Garrido and Helali. The outlet takes money through paid subscriptions, merchandise, Ko-fi and donations.[54]

Assessment. The party's former International Secretary writes for a pro Russian network founded by a former Navy technician whose channel spread classified US documents, and the network's contributors include the main interviewer of the party's leaders.

3.7 The 242nd regiment and Helali's contracts

The party's aid to Russian forces can be traced to one regiment, and its International Secretary went from raising money for that regiment to signing his own military contract. The record comes mostly from the Telegram channels of Ben Stimson, a British volunteer who served in the 242nd Guards Motorized Rifle Regiment of Russia's 20th Motorized Rifle Division, and of Helali himself.

On 28 February 2025 Stimson reposted a report from The Revolution Report headed "American Communist Party sends aid to Donbass". It said the site's editor, Donald Courter, led the effort with the party member Nicholas Reed and the Left Front leaders Anastasia Udaltsova and Leonid Razvozzhaev, and that the party "pooled together donations to buy a generator for use at the front". This is the generator Reid described on Rossiya 1 the same week. Stimson thanked "the American Communist Party and the KPRF" for it on 25 March and wrote on 1 April that the unit had received it. On 24 February 2026 he wrote that Courter "from the American Communist party kindly raised fund to buy 242" a generator, which "was kindly received and put to good use on the 3rd line". The same post said a second generator the unit had been promised had not arrived, without saying who promised it.[55]

On 26 October 2025 a fundraiser at the Listva bookshop in Moscow collected money for the regiment's assault detachment. The Moscow National Bolsheviks billed its speakers as Stimson, a foreign volunteer named Elijah Crimson, and "secretary of the Communist Party of the USA, participant in the operation in Syria, Christopher Helali". Half the ticket money went to the detachment, and the event was run with the Interbrigades movement, which Stimson says he introduced to the regiment's drone and assault squads in early 2025. Afterwards Stimson wrote that the evening raised about 7,500 roubles and that "Christopher Helali and the American Communist Party pledged funds to buy our guys a new generator".[56]

Reed kept working with the same network. The KPRF recorded him addressing the Moscow Komsomol in August 2025. At a KPRF Moscow conference on 15 March 2026, "Left patriots of the whole world for Russia", Helali spoke as International Secretary and Reid also spoke; the KPRF reports that every speaker endorsed theses including that achieving the aims of the special military operation is a necessary stage. In June 2026 Stimson wrote that Reed, "with his comrades from the ACP, stepped up to help us with humanitarian aid when others didnt" and proposed taking him on the next run to Donbass.[57]

Helali signed a Russian military contract in February 2026, while he held the party's international post. In his own account, he "originally signed with Redut in Donetsk in February 2026 to serve in Rodnya", a volunteer unit formed by the writer Zakhar Prilepin, under its commander Evgeny Nikolaev, call sign Gaiduk. A broken ankle stopped his training, and Nikolaev was killed on the Slavyansk front; his death was announced on 10 March. Helali attended the funeral, where, he says, news of his contract first came

out. TASS reported on 22 March 2026 that "American journalist and member of the Communist Party of the USA Christopher Helali" had signed a contract and would go to the war zone, and Daily Storm quoted him: "Yes, I signed a contract. I signed it with Evgeny, so he was my commander." The party announced Hinkle as International Secretary in Helali's place on 5 June 2026.[58]

On 19 October 2026 Helali announced that he had signed a Ministry of Defence contract and passed training to join Akhmat Spetsnaz, the Chechen special forces unit, as its "FIRST American and Western citizen", and as the first elected US official to join a foreign military while in office; he remains an elected official in Orange County, Vermont. He thanked Putin, Ramzan Kadyrov and instructors "from PMC Wagner Group". The unit's commander, Apti Alaudinov, announced that the former US Marine with the call sign "Vermont" had signed, and told TASS that Helali had asked for Russian citizenship and planned to give up his US passport once he received it. Helali credited the Moscow branch of Sovintern, led by the A Just Russia deputy Aleksandr Vorobev, with supporting his recovery. United24 Media reported his enlistment on 9 November 2026.[59]

Helali also knew other Western volunteers. In April 2026 he interviewed Aiden Minnis, a veteran of the war who renounced his British citizenship, and in June he wrote that "many of us" had spent time with the British volunteer Bradley Townsend before he signed his contract. Townsend was killed near Lyman.[60]

Assessment. Money the party raised became equipment for a Russian line regiment fighting in Ukraine, with help from the KPRF. Its International Secretary appeared at a fundraiser for the same regiment under a party title, pledged party money for it, and then held a Russian military contract for about four months while still in office. Whether other leaders knew of the first contract is not established.

3.8 The press tours and their backers

The trips that took Haz and Hinkle into occupied Ukraine were organised by an outlet whose named backers are under US indictment, and its publisher's money comes from donors it does not disclose. Vashi Novosti, an online newspaper whose material Prilepin's Telegram channel carries as its own, runs a project called "Foreign Journalists for Russia" that takes for foreign commentators to the occupied regions. Prilepin's channel, which is run with the same editorial team, says Haz "twice took part" in these tours and that Hinkle visited Donbass in 2024 on a tour "organised by our editorial office". During the December 2024 tour, it says, the group sheltered in a basement when Ukrainian missiles struck central Donetsk on 20 December; Haz wrote that one landed near where he was staying.[61]

Summing up that sixth tour on 10 January 2025, Vashi Novosti wrote that the tours "would not have taken place without the active support of Zakhar Prilepin, the State Duma vice speaker Aleksandr Babakov and his adviser Aleksandr Vorobev". Babakov also attended Prilepin's jubilee in July 2025, where Prilepin's channel listed "American communists, the bloggers Jackson Hinkle and Chris Helali" among the guests.[62]

The US Justice Department unsealed an indictment in April 2022 charging Babakov, his chief of staff Aleksandr Nikolayevich Vorobev and a third aide with conspiring to have an American act as an unregistered agent of Russia, conspiring to evade US sanctions and conspiring to commit visa fraud. It alleges that from 2012 to 2017 they "operated an international foreign influence and disinformation network to advance the interests of Russia", offered members of Congress free travel and solicited Americans for a conference in occupied Crimea funded by its Russian installed leader. All three have been under US sanctions since 2017 and remain in Russia. An indictment is an allegation.[63]

A deputy named Aleksandr Nikolaevich Vorobev took a vacant A Just Russia seat in the Duma in October 2025 and was elected to the new Duma in September 2026. His party biography says he has advised Babakov since 2022 and organised the Duma's conferences with Africa and Latin America; his name, patronymic and age match the indictment. Helali described him in October 2026 as head of Sovintern's Moscow network hub and thanked him for support during the recovery that preceded his Akhmat contract.[64]

Vashi Novosti's legal publisher, according to its contacts page and the Russian company register, is a nonprofit called Dobrovoltsy kultury (Volunteers of Culture), registered in 2019 in Izhevsk by a founder the public register does not name, and run by its director, Sergei Ershov. It added online publishing, broadcasting and excursion work to its charter in May 2021. Its filings with the tax service show 66.6 million roubles in donations in 2023 and 59.5 million in 2024, the years the foreign journalists project ran, without naming donors. The Presidential Grants Fund, Russia's main source of state grants to nonprofits, gave it about 3.1 million roubles in 2020 and 2021 and rejected its later bids, including one in 2024 for a project on Russia "through the eyes of foreigners".[65]

Assessment. Haz's travel into the war zone, which the party presents as solidarity with Russian comrades, was arranged by a project that credits two officials charged in the United States with running a Russian influence operation aimed at Americans. One of them now runs the Moscow hub of the network the ACP helped found. The money behind the tours came through a nonprofit that does not disclose its donors.

4. Iran and Its Allies

IN BRIEF

- ACP leaders were guests at Hezbollah's funeral for Hassan Nasrallah in Beirut, a Houthi conference in Sanaa and Ayatollah Khamenei's state funeral in Tehran.
- Helali and Hinkle met the leader of an Iraqi militia under US sanctions in Baghdad, and Helali was filmed filling out a volunteer form for Kata'ib Hezbollah.
- Party leaders interviewed Hamas officials under US sanctions.
- No host or organiser has said who paid for these trips.

4.1 Beirut, Sanaa and Tehran

The party's leaders began travelling to the Axis of Resistance in early 2025. The Jerusalem Post reported that influencers were invited to Beirut for the funeral of Hezbollah leaders Hassan Nasrallah and Hashem Safieddine on 23 February 2025, with a tour of southern Lebanon and a conference called "Global Awakening and Palestine". It named Hinkle and Helali among the guests, with the head of the Houthi movement's media office, and captioned a photograph "Jackson Hinkle with two other American Communist Party members" at the funeral. Hinkle called it the "honor of my life to be invited to this". L'Orient Today reported that Hezbollah invited about a hundred social media figures. The party said Haz was also questioned on his return about attending the funeral.[66]

A month later Hinkle and Helali went to Yemen. Ynet reported that Hinkle arrived on 22 March 2025 for a Houthi conference on Palestine and then spoke from the main stage of the Quds Day rally in Sanaa's Al-Sabeen Square. The Jerusalem Post listed Helali, Hamas's representative in Yemen and the senior Houthi official Abdelaziz Bin Habtoor among the participants, and cited sources on the ground saying that no one reaches Sanaa without the Houthis' coordination or invitation. The former Irish members of the European Parliament Mick Wallace and Clare Daly were among the foreign guests. The Houthi movement, Ansarallah, is designated by the United States as a Foreign Terrorist Organization.[67]

In July 2026 Hinkle went to Tehran for the state funeral of Ayatollah Khamenei. Shafaq News reported that the head of Iran's Islamic Culture and Relations Organization told Tasnim that 400 foreign bloggers and influencers, Americans among them, attended the six day funeral. Hinkle led chants in English in Enqelab Square and, according to the Daily Wire, met government spokeswoman Fatemeh Mohajerani and Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei. Helali posted from the funeral. In May 2026 Helali had met Baghaei, who also heads Iran's Center for Public Diplomacy, in Tehran; Iran's embassy in Norway reposted the photograph.[68]

Assessment. In each case a government or armed movement invited foreign influencers as a group, and ACP leaders were among them. The hosts chose the ACP's leaders as voices worth bringing, and the leaders posted the visits to large audiences.

4.2 Iraq and the militias

Hinkle visited Karbala in early August 2025, according to IraqiNews. MEMRI reported that in August 2025 Helali and Hinkle met Abu Alaa al-Wala'i, Secretary General of Kata'ib Sayyid al-Shuhada, in Baghdad. The United States lists Kata'ib Sayyid al-Shuhada as a Foreign Terrorist Organization and its leader, under the name Hashim Finyan Rahim al-Saraji, as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist.[69]

On 30 January 2026 Sabereen News, a Telegram outlet tied to Iraqi militias backed by Iran, published video of Helali, then the ACP's International Secretary, filling out a form to volunteer as a "martyrdom seeker" in the "Battalion of Fidayeen" of Kata'ib Hezbollah and pledging to defend Iran and its leader, MEMRI reported. Kata'ib Hezbollah is a US designated Foreign Terrorist Organization.[70]

MEMRI also reported that Helali, Hinkle and Haz interviewed the Hamas leaders Basem Naim and Osama Hamdan on a tour of Qatar and Lebanon. Both men are on the US list of Specially Designated Global Terrorists.[71]

Assessment. ACP leaders have met and publicly pledged support to armed groups that the United States designates as terrorist organisations. The public record shows meetings, interviews and a pledge, and no source reviewed shows material support passing between them.

4.3 Venezuela and Iran's diplomats abroad

Hinkle's Telegram channel shows contacts with the wider circle of states aligned with Iran. On 17 May 2026 he called Alex Saab "my friend". Saab is on the US sanctions list under its Venezuela programme and on the UK list under its anticorruption regime. On 22 June 2026, while posting from the World Cup in Mexico with Iran's team, Hinkle met Iran's ambassador to Mexico, Abolfazl Pasandideh.[72]

Assessment. Hinkle maintains personal ties to sanctioned figures in Venezuela's government circle and meets Iranian diplomats outside Iran.

4.4 Who paid

None of the hosts, the party or its leaders has said who paid for the trips to Beirut, Sanaa, Baghdad and Tehran. The Jerusalem Post noted calls to investigate who covered the costs of the Sanaa conference, and called the Beirut visit a "Birthright-style trip". The party's 2025 return, which covers the Beirut, Sanaa and Baghdad trips, lists no travel line and no foreign contribution. Its revenue was $134,565.[73]

Assessment. Organised group invitations of this kind are usually paid by the host. The party's own return shows no money for foreign travel, which leaves the hosts or the leaders' personal income as the likely payers.

5. China

IN BRIEF

- Hinkle and Garrido are tied to The China Academy, an English language outlet of a Shanghai network around Fudan University's China Institute and the news site Guancha.
- A foundation under China's internet regulator sponsored a China Daily interview with Haz.
- Beijing Review, which the State Department designated a foreign mission of the People's Republic, has published both Haz and Garrido.
- Garrido visited China in April 2025; the host of that trip has not been named.

5.1 The China Academy and the Thinkers Forum

The ACP's closest Chinese contact is a network based at Fudan University in Shanghai. The university's China Institute lists Professor Zhang Weiwei as director and Eric Li, founder of the news site Guancha, as chairman of its advisory committee. Its programmes include the annual Thinkers Forum, and it reports a strategic partnership with the Guancha Syndicate and the Shanghai Chunqiu Institute. The Global Project Against Hate and Extremism quotes a Brazilian organiser of the February 2024 Moscow Multipolarity Forum saying the Thinkers Forum supported it.[74]

The China Academy is the network's English language outlet. It lists the same contact addresses on its YouTube channels as Guan Video, the video studio of Guancha, links to a Thinkers Forum channel and names Eric Li among its contributors.[75]

The founders met Zhang within days of the Moscow forum. Haz posted on 4 March 2024 that Zhang had given him a forthcoming book and discussed theory with him. The China Academy published, on 29 April 2024, a transcript of Zhang meeting Hinkle "here in Moscow" minutes before a plenary session, in which Hinkle pitched a party that would "get us on track with countries like China". The outlet had already published a conversation between Hinkle and a China based commentator about how "MAGA communists" see China. Garrido is listed as a contributor on its advisory board page and has had his own column since January 2025; a February 2025 column on Trump and American hegemony is filed under the Thinkers Forum.[76]

Assessment. Hinkle and Garrido write and speak for a Shanghai outlet tied to a university institute, a state aligned news group and a forum that helped back the Moscow conference the founders attended. The network gave the party's founders an audience in China before the party existed.

5.2 State media

China Daily published "Key quotes from an interview with Haz Al-Din", chairman of the ACP, on 19 December 2025, credited as "Sponsored by China Internet Development Foundation (CIDF)". The foundation was set up in 2015 with State Council approval under the Cyberspace Administration of China. The administration's own site reports the foundation's board meetings of December 2025 and March 2026, chaired by Wang Xiujun with "responsible comrades of the supervising unit" attending. China Daily files under the Foreign Agents Registration Act.[77]

Beijing Review, which the State Department designated a foreign mission of the People's Republic in October 2020, has published both men. Garrido wrote on the Los Angeles protests for it in June 2025 and "Why Cuba could be America's next target?" in its Voice column on 17 August 2026, credited as ACP Secretary of Education. Haz followed on 28 September 2026 with "China's rise, America's dilemma", marked as a web exclusive. In 155 Voice pieces published from March to November 2026, they are the only ACP authors.[78]

Assessment. Chinese state outlets publish the ACP's chairman and its Secretary of Education under their party titles, and a body under China's internet regulator paid to place an interview with the chairman.

5.3 Garrido's visit

Garrido made his first visit to China in April 2025. Midwestern Marx, the institute he directs, posted video from China on 27 April and on 2 May from a tea farm commune in Enshi, Hubei. Beijing Review's reporter Li Wenhan interviewed him during the visit for its Pacific Dialogue series, published on 8 July 2025. In June 2026 he appeared on The Bridge to China podcast, whose host says he works for China Radio International, now CGTN Radio. None of these sources names who invited or paid for the April 2025 trip.[79]

The DPRK International Solidarity Group also works through China: in March 2026 its president met Helali in Beijing and set a programme that includes ties with the ACP.[80]

Assessment. Garrido's China contacts run through state media and the Fudan network, and his column at The China Academy predates his first visit by three months. Whether that network hosted the visit is open.

6. The US Government

IN BRIEF

- A court order kept Google from telling Haz that it had given his account data to the FBI; he learned of it in April 2026.
- DHS and border officers questioned Haz once and Helali twice after trips to Lebanon and Yemen, and the FBI and DHS questioned Shaw in 2024.
- Both sides of the January 2025 split accused others of being informants without producing evidence.

6.1 Stops at the border

The first known federal contact came before the party's first conference. Shaw wrote that FBI and DHS agents held him for about three hours at Chicago O'Hare on 28 August 2024, after a film festival in London, demanded the names of his contacts and organisations, refused him a lawyer and seized his phone, computer and notebooks.[81]

On 25 February 2025 the party said Haz had been detained and questioned by DHS for five hours on arriving at Detroit Metropolitan Airport the night before, and that Helali had been questioned by customs on arriving home, both about attending Nasrallah's funeral. On 2 April 2025 Helali wrote that on returning from Yemen he was held for three hours by Customs and Border Protection at the Vermont border with Canada and that his phone and iPad were confiscated.[82]

Assessment. Border agencies questioned party leaders after each trip to an Axis event in early 2025. Phones and computers were seized from at least two of them.

6.2 The Google notice

On 3 April 2026 Haz posted that he had received an email from Google "confirming I've been under investigation by the FBI", and that according to the case number "the legal process began in 2025 and the gag-order on it just expired today". The post drew about 971,000 views. The images he attached show a Google message saying it "received and responded to a legal process issued by the Federal Bureau of Investigation compelling the release of information related to your Google account", and that "a court order previously prohibited Google from notifying you". The image is cropped before the agency reference number, and the court is not named. The message headers show it was sent and signed by google.com.[83]

Haz had said in January 2025 that there was "literally none right now" when he described a federal investigation. By his own account of the case number, the legal process began later in 2025.[84]

Assessment. A court authorised the FBI to obtain the chairman's Google data in secret, and that order ran for part of 2025 and into 2026. The notice does not show what the inquiry was about, whether it concerned the party or Haz alone, or whether it continues.

6.3 Informant accusations

The January 2025 split produced informant accusations from both sides. Haz said Molera, the party's legal deputy, told him in late 2024 that "his attorneys were absolutely convinced" that Andrew Saturn of the Socialist Party of America, who calls himself a "federal appointee" in his X bio, was an FBI informant. Haz then suggested that Molera himself had been "blackmailed" by federal agents into turning on him, adding "I have no proof for this". Tutt told Cohen that Saturn's bio made him suspect federal intervention. Haiti Liberté reported that the commentator Fiorella Isabel privately told Cohen that Hinkle was an FBI agent, "providing no evidence".[85]

Shaw, for his part, said the leaders used his detention to impress "their foreign handlers". Tutt said he did not suspect Shaw of being an agent because of Shaw's record of refusing to cooperate with police.[86]

Assessment. Every informant accusation in the record is a claim by a participant in the split, and none is backed by a document. Federal agencies had grounds to watch the party in the travel, the sanctioned contacts and the border stops set out above.

7. Conclusions and Indicators

7.1 Conclusions

The far right reached the ACP through its founders. Haz and Hinkle came up in the same streaming world as Fuentes, spoke for the LaRouche movement, and met Dugin and the Tsargrad network in Moscow. The party they built took officers from the communist left, borrows the far right's language of conspiracy and welcomes nationalist allies abroad. The records reviewed show no far right organisation placing members in the party or directing it.

Russia's political system treats the ACP as a partner. Party money bought equipment for a Russian regiment at the front, A Just Russia names the party a cofounder of Sovintern, Sputnik and RRN give its leaders airtime, and its International Secretary signed with the Russian army while still in office. The press tours that took its chairman into occupied Ukraine credit two Russian officials under US indictment for influence operations, one of whom runs Sovintern's Moscow hub. The Vatan Party's newsroom in Istanbul connects the party to two sanctioned Russian influence outlets. Iran and its allies host the party's leaders at their funerals and conferences. A Shanghai network close to the Chinese state publishes two of its officers. Every one of those ties runs through the small group of leaders who founded the party. No record reviewed shows a foreign government paying the party or directing its decisions.

On the US government, at least one FBI legal process obtained the chairman's data under a secrecy order, and border agencies stopped three leaders and a former leader. Who, if anyone, informs on the party remains unproven.

7.2 Likelihood

JUDGMENT	LIKELIHOOD
A far right organisation directs or controls the ACP	Very unlikely
The founders' earlier far right ties shape the party's language and audience	Likely
Russian state bodies treat the ACP as an asset for influence abroad	Very likely
A foreign government directs the party's decisions	Unlikely
Hosts paid for at least some leaders' trips to Beirut, Sanaa, Baghdad and Tehran	Likely
Party fundraising has supplied Russian units fighting in Ukraine since 2025	Almost certainly
Other party leaders knew of Helali's February 2026 military contract while he was in office	Likely
The ACP recruited members to fight for Russia	Roughly even chance
Russian state or state linked money paid for the press tours that took Haz and Hinkle to occupied Ukraine	Likely

JUDGMENT	LIKELIHOOD
A federal investigation touching party leaders was active in 2025	Almost certainly
A federal informant has reported on the party	Roughly even chance

Sources.[87]

7.3 Indicators

Signs that would raise our estimates of foreign direction:

- A record of payment from a Russian, Iranian or Chinese body to the party, its officers or Infrared.
- A host named for any of the Beirut, Sanaa, Baghdad, Tehran or Enshi trips, with costs covered.
- A party statement, or a further report, tying the ACP to the travel of Seth Albert Noon or Ryan Gallant.
- Delivery of the second generator Helali pledged in October 2025, or further party fundraising for the 242nd regiment.
- A party statement acknowledging Helali's Rodnya contract during his term as International Secretary.
- The names of the donors to Dobrovoltsy kultury, or any payment from Babakov's or Vorobev's circle to party figures.
- New Vatan, Aydınlık or RRN staff links to party activity in the United States.
- A registration under the Foreign Agents Registration Act by any party officer or outlet.

Signs that would lower them:

- A full account of travel funding from the party or its leaders, matched by a later tax return.
- Public breaks between the party and Sovintern, the KPRF or Vatan.

Signs of US government action:

- An unsealed warrant, order or indictment naming Haz, Helali or the party.
- Court records from any suit by Molera, or any document naming an informant.
- Further border seizures after foreign trips.

Open possibilities that remain unresolved: the identity of the member Shaw called Abe; the founder of Dobrovoltsy kultury; the host of Garrido's April 2025 visit; whether DD Geopolitics commissioned Klusmann's interviews with party leaders; and whether the company that owns Harici and employs a United World International editor has further ties to the party's Turkish contacts.

Notes

Key Judgments

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