



TRUMP'S SHOWDOWN

2 x 60, 1 x 120 **HD**



PBS

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Throughout 2018, Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation—and President Donald Trump's fury about it—dominated the headlines.

As the investigation ensnares powerful members of Trump's inner circle and threatens the President himself, FRONTLINE presents *Trump's Showdown*. This two-hour documentary traces the dramatic events that have led the White House and the United States to the brink of what could become a Constitutional crisis.

Trump's Showdown methodically reveals how an investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 U.S. election has grown to threaten Donald Trump's presidency. The film draws on more than 60 in-depth interviews with former heads of U.S. intelligence agencies, Trump insiders, attorneys, authors and journalists.

Thousands of photographs and hundreds of hours of archival footage help pull together the entire story—from the days just before Trump's inauguration to increasingly chaotic recent events including the President's summit with Vladimir Putin in Helsinki and his furious response to revelations about Oval Office intrigue.

Looking back over the nearly two-year trajectory of the story, FRONTLINE underscores several key moments. The program begins with the president-elect's meeting with the leaders of the intelligence community just before his inauguration. In the meeting, senior officials warned Trump that Russia had interfered in the 2016 election.

The documentary traces the President's combative approach to his adversaries to the mentorship of notorious attorney Roy Cohn, infamous for his role in the McCarthy hearings. Cohn was a key player in Trump's first battle with the Department of Justice back in the 1970s, when Trump and his father were sued by the government for discriminating against black renters looking for apartments. Trump and Cohn hit back—accusing the DOJ of discrimination and comparing it to the Gestapo.

As Mueller's investigation heated up, Trump returned to Cohn's attack strategy. The President publicly attacked the Special Counsel, the FBI and the Department of Justice.

As talk of impeachment grows, Trump and his attorney Rudy Giuliani have doubled down on a concerted campaign to undermine confidence in the authorities, the Justice Department and Special Counsel investigation—and to use the country's political divide to protect the president.

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CREDITS

Director: Michael Kirk

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Image: FRONTLINE



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