Mueller and dozens of seasoned attorneys and investigators spent more than two years and upwards of $30 million to reach a conclusion that Donald Trump's election in 2016 was a legitimate and fairly reached decision, that his campaign did not enter into a surreptitious arrangement with Russian agents to influence the outcome.

In those two years, the American people were bombarded by media reports that Trump's election was tainted by a nefarious plot with a longtime and bitter enemy.

Major television networks joined leading national newspapers in a barrage of õbombshellò revelations purporting to prove that highly placed Trump campaign officials eagerly sought the help of Russian operatives to swing the election. That several of the õbombshellsò turned out to have all the power of a wet firecracker was no deterrent and the relentless pursuit of even greater and often poorly-sourced erroneous reports merely providedTrump opportunities to gleefully ridicule õfake news.ò

Members of Congress tripped over one another in their quest for facetime on cable and network shows, sharing their views with political and media figures of the same mindset – Trump was an illegitimate president whose election was fraudulent and, as a result, should be impeached.

Words like treason, betrayal and Putin's puppet were tossed around recklessly along with predictions of indictments and prison terms.

With the release of the Mueller report, the house of collusion collapsed.

Prominent media figures defended the coverage, insisting they had nothing to apologize for and their reporting was in the noblest tradition of journalism and the First Amendment.