

*Among things that have been “**weaponized**” in news coverage: personal information, history, wit, opposition research, electoral processes, credentials – and dogs. Some recent examples:*

Augmenting the party's voter file has been one of the top priorities of the RNC, which hopes to **weaponize** personal information about voters this year the way Obama's team did in 2012. [The Washington Post, June 11, 2016]

This is what makes it so easy and tempting to **weaponize** history, to forgo any interest in "how it actually was" – to use the 19th-century historian Leopold von Ranke's definition of the true goal of the study of history – and to bend it toward our own present ends. [The New York Times, June 5, 2016]

Groucho, a wounded religious-minority male, developed a surpassing capacity to **weaponize** wit, to out-bully the bully. [The Virginian-Pilot, May 8, 2016]

The Clinton campaign is likely to be ruthless, and won't be as reluctant as Trump's GOP opponents were to **weaponize** the opposition research that's been compiled against him. [The Lancaster New Era (Lancaster, PA), May 5, 2016]

Irresponsible owners – or worse, criminals who mistreat dogs and **weaponize** them – are the problem. [The Courier (Findlay, Ohio), May 4, 2016]

"Russia is starting to **weaponize** electoral processes in Europe," said Joerg Forbrig, senior program director of the German Marshall Fund of the United States in Berlin. "The Lisa Affair was a real eye-opener." [Daily News (Bowling Green, Ky.), April 22, 2016]

If someone could **weaponize** credentials – if a person could have a résumé so impressive that the mere sight of it could turn the tide of a war – that person would be Merrick B. Garland. [The New York Times, March 20, 2016]