

Raging Hawk John Bolton: Trump's New National Security Advisor

By [Stephen Lendman](#)

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John Bolton replacing HR McMaster as Trump's national security advisor (effective April 9) likely means more war and greater world instability, not less.

His appointment to a sensitive administration position is something to lose sleep over.

Hillary's defeat didn't dodge a nuclear bullet, as hoped for. It gave Trump the trigger, perhaps as willing to squeeze it to prove his machismo, a terrifying possibility.

Straightaway in office he proved he's America's latest warrior president, placing hawkish generals in charge of geopolitical policymaking – accentuated by replacing Rex Tillerson with Mike Pompeo, and now raging hawk John Bolton as national security advisor.

The most perilous time in world history is now more frightening. Long forgotten is Trump's campaign hyperbole, calling NATO "obsolete," along with criticizing trillions of dollars spent on militarism and warmaking.

Instead of stepping back from wars he inherited, he escalated them. With Pompeo at State and Bolton as national security advisor, greater war on humanity is likely.

One observer ripped Bolton, saying

"(h)e never met a country he didn't want to destroy."

Another said he's much more than "a run-of-the-mill hawk...He's never seen a foreign policy problem that couldn't be solved by bombing."

Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation director Alexandra Bell said

"(b)etween Pompeo and Bolton, you're looking at a neocon foreign policy jacked up on steroids."

Bolton is militantly hostile to Russia, China, Iran, North Korea, and Syria, among other nations on his target list.

In February, he called for a “decidedly disproportionate,” anti-Russia cyber offensive. He urged Trump to let Putin “hear the rumble of artillery and NATO tank tracks conducting more joint field exercises with Ukraine’s military.”

During a recent Fox News interview, he said

“Russia, China, Syria, Iran, North Korea. (They) make agreements and lie about them,” adding:

“A national security policy that is based on the faith that (nations) like that will honor their commitments is doomed to failure.”

He joined the “Russia meddled in America’s electoral process” crowd straightaway – recently calling Moscow’s (nonexistent) attempt to undermine the 2016 presidential election “a casus belli, a true act of war, and one Washington will never tolerate,” adding:

“For Trump, it should be a highly salutary lesson about the character of Russia’s leadership to watch Putin lie to him.”

“And it should be a fire-bell-in-the-night warning about the value Moscow places on honesty, whether regarding election interference, nuclear proliferation, arms control or the Middle East: negotiate with today’s Russia at your peril.”

“I think in order to focus Putin’s thinking, we need to do things that cause him pain...”

He called for “abrogat(ing) New START between Washington and Moscow, a nuclear arms reduction treaty agreed to in 2009, signed in 2010.

He urged a “very strong response” to the Sergey Skripal incident Russia had nothing to do with.

He advocates confronting nonexistent Chinese “aggressiveness...shak(ing) up” Washington’s relationship with Beijing – urging greater toughness along with closer ties to Taiwan.

According to East Asia analyst Abraham Denmark,

“(w)e should expect an even more confrontational approach to China. A trade war may just be the beginning of a broader geopolitical competition.”

Bolton earlier called for military action on Iran and North Korea. In a 2015 [NYT op-ed](#), he headlined: “To Stop Iran’s Bomb, Bomb Iran,” turning truth on its head saying “Iran’s steady progress toward nuclear weapons has long been evident,” adding:

“The inescapable conclusion is that Iran will not negotiate away its nuclear

program. Nor will sanctions block its building a broad and deep weapons infrastructure. The inconvenient truth is that only military action like Israel's 1981 attack on Saddam Hussein's Osirak reactor in Iraq or its 2007 destruction of a Syrian reactor, designed and built by North Korea, can accomplish what is required."

In an April 2017 interview with [Breitbart News](#), he urged ending North Korea, saying "the only longterm way to deal with (its) nuclear weapons program is to end (the) regime."

"It's not enough...to impose sanctions...(North Korea) poses a threat to stability in the region that undermines security..."

"I think further discussions with North Korea, further efforts to pressure North Korea, are basically a waste of time. The way to end the North's nuclear program is to end the North."

Bolton bashed Bashar al-Assad, calling him "a satellite of the ayatollahs in Iran". He said Obama's "red line" Syria strategy restrained US policy against the government.

Commenting on Bolton's appointment, former State Department official Philip Crowley tweeted:

"EU diplomats will not sleep well tonight given the latest news."

Anti-nuclear weapons Ploughshares Fund president Joe Circincione tweeted:

"This is the moment the administration has officially gone off the rails."

According to Third Way foreign policy vice president Mieke Eoyang,

"Bolton is so much of an ideologue that I don't think he would accurately portray the consequences (of policy options) to the president."

In February 2015, he launched the Foundation for American Security and Freedom (FASF), a neocon advocacy group "committed to restoring and protecting our vital national security interests and preserving our way of life for our children."

Bolton's way is through militarism and endless wars of aggression. He considers all sovereign independent states a threat to US security.

As national security advisor, he'll exert considerable influence over Trump's geopolitical agenda.

With him involved in administration policymaking, escalated wars of aggression are likely, a greater risk of nuclear war instead of stepping back from the brink.

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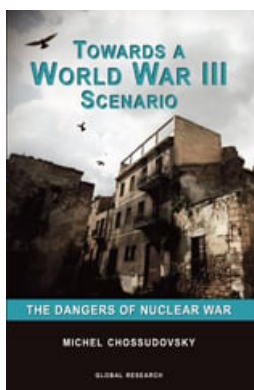
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My newest book as editor and contributor is titled "Flashpoint in Ukraine: How the US Drive for Hegemony Risks WW III."

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["Towards a World War III Scenario: The Dangers of Nuclear War"](#)

by Michel Chossudovsky

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[Michel Chossudovsky](#) is Professor of Economics at the University of Ottawa and Director of the Centre for Research on Globalization (CRG), which hosts the critically acclaimed website www.globalresearch.ca. He is a contributor to the Encyclopedia Britannica. His writings have been translated into more than 20 languages.

Reviews

"This book is a 'must' resource – a richly documented and systematic diagnosis of the supremely pathological geo-strategic planning of US wars since '9-11' against non-nuclear countries to seize their oil fields and resources under cover of 'freedom and democracy'."
–John McMurtry, Professor of Philosophy, Guelph University

"In a world where engineered, pre-emptive, or more fashionably "humanitarian" wars of aggression have become the norm, this challenging book may be our final wake-up call."
–Denis Halliday, Former Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations

Michel Chossudovsky exposes the insanity of our privatized war machine. Iran is being

targeted with nuclear weapons as part of a war agenda built on distortions and lies for the purpose of private profit. The real aims are oil, financial hegemony and global control. The price could be nuclear holocaust. When weapons become the hottest export of the world's only superpower, and diplomats work as salesmen for the defense industry, the whole world is recklessly endangered. If we must have a military, it belongs entirely in the public sector. No one should profit from mass death and destruction.

-Ellen Brown, author of 'Web of Debt' and president of the Public Banking Institute



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Stephen Lendman lives in Chicago. He can be reached at lendmanstephen@sbcglobal.net. His new book as editor and contributor is titled "Flashpoint in Ukraine: US Drive for Hegemony Risks WW III."

<http://www.claritypress.com/LendmanIII.html> Visit his blog site at sjlendman.blogspot.com. Listen to cutting-edge discussions with distinguished guests on the Progressive Radio News Hour on the Progressive Radio Network. It airs three times weekly: live on Sundays at 1PM Central time plus two prerecorded archived programs.

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