

Trump's New War Cabinet

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Region: [Asia](#), [Middle East & North Africa](#)

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On Thursday, President Trump moved one step closer to completing his preferred cabinet. General H.R. McMaster, whom Trump [called](#) boring, was replaced as national security advisor by ultra-hawk John Bolton. This is the same John Bolton who wrote the forward for [Pamela Geller](#)'s hate-filled book about President Obama, called on Israel to [nuke Iran](#), urged the United States to [bomb Iran](#) and [North Korea](#), [abused](#) a female USAID employee, advocated on behalf of the NRA for [more gun rights](#) for Russian citizens, and still [defends](#) the Iraq war. I could go on.

Trump's other appointments have similar attributes. Mike Pompeo, set to take over in Foggy Bottom, compared Iran to the ISIS and [called](#) it a "thuggish police state" that is "intent [on] destroying America." Lastly, Gina Haspel, set to take over the CIA, has a [history](#) of torturing detainees under the Bush administration. She even destroyed the recordings taken of the torture years later. Meanwhile, John Kelley remains in a [precarious position](#) as chief of staff.

This team constitutes a *gang of evil*. The anti-diplomacy, pro-torture, pro-war initiatives they have supported have cost lives and created [instability](#) in the Middle East to the [detriment](#) of U.S. national security and international standing. Additionally, [Bolton](#) and [Pompeo](#) have ties to hate groups that promote division at home (no wonder Trump likes them). Also, some of the initial appointments belong to the same gang, including UN Ambassador [Nikki Haley](#) and [Michael D'Andrea](#), the head of the CIA's Iran operations.

Three upcoming dates likely encouraged Trump to make these rapid changes.

North Korea and Iran

Trump is slated to meet directly with Kim Jong Un by this coming May. The changes in Trump's cabinet have put a damper on the preparations as the deadline approaches. However, the changes are no accident. Trump has used bellicose language towards North Korea from early on in his presidency. By having a like-minded secretary of state and national security advisor in place, he is sending a deliberate signal to Kim Jong Un. If Trump is going to play lead diplomat, he still has threatening cabinet members in place as a counterforce. But with such a high-level start to the talks, as many analysts have repeated, there's little room for diplomatic recourse should the Trump-Kim [discussions fail](#). Bolton would be the ideal person to [game](#) the next move in such a situation and show an aggressive posture. That [some](#) in the president's own party don't seem to care about the consequences of war or even the consequences of a [limited strike](#) does not bode well should the talks fail (or fail to happen).

The Iran nuclear deal is another worrying case. On May 12, Trump must decide whether the deal should be recertified. The International Atomic Energy Agency, assigned to overlook the implementation of the deal, has said that Iran has [complied](#) to the benefit of the international community. Meanwhile, the Europeans and the Iranians have [grown frustrated](#) regarding Washington's threats to tear up the deal. The Europeans have proposed adding an addendum regarding Iran's ballistic missiles, but the Iranians are not having it. Iran remains irritated by the [lack of investment](#) from foreign businesses and banks, which they blame on Trump's bellicose language.

The recent hiring of Bolton sends a major signal to Iran's leadership that the United States is doubling down on its aggressive posture. Again, this is by design. Trump wants either to provoke Iran to withdraw from the deal first—thus shifting blame away from Washington—or to add sanctions in May in direct violation of the deal and thereby killing it. Either way, Bolton's presence increases the chance of a conflict that [already](#) has concerned U.S. allies.

Several regional enemies of Iran would support an American intervention. The overlap of the Bolton announcement with the visit to Washington of [hawkish](#) Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, responsible for the [deadly](#) Yemen intervention, is likely no coincidence.

The Blue Wave

Everything points toward November. The president and the Republican Party know that they are [likely](#) to suffer a "blue wave" on election night. This is the third date likely inspiring Trump's recent moves. The president is a showman at heart. He is more timing and appearance than substance. Trump is likely to ratchet up tensions with Iran and North Korea in reaction to, or in prevention of, a blue wave. Of course, Trump would need the unlikely approval of Congress for any major intervention, but the intervention does not have to be on a regular armed conflict. It could also be in the cyber realm. Or it could be clandestine, which requires less congressional oversight.

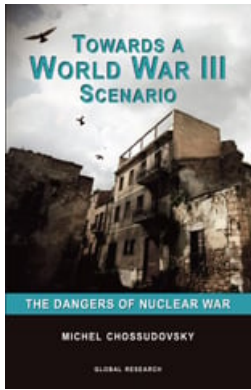
During the campaign, Trump loved to say that he was against the Iraq war, which he called a "disaster." Apparently during negotiations with Bolton, Trump had him [promise](#) that he "wouldn't start any wars." However, this is the same Trump who has continued America's war for the Greater Middle East despite [lamenting](#) the "trillions of dollars spent and thousands of lives lost" in the region.

The president has many attributes, but consistency is not one of them. Putting Pompeo and Bolton in such major positions of power suggests that Trump and his gang of evil are preparing for the very conflicts that he promised to avoid.

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Featured image is from the author.



[“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

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–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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