



## John Bolton Unabashedly Peddles Islamophobic Fake News

Mehreen Kasana

March 23, 2018

For anyone remotely interested in following American foreign policy, John Bolton has the reputation for being one of the most unrepentant and inflammatory jingoists in the country's modern political history. The Republican politician, diplomat, and lawyer served during George Bush's regime as the American ambassador to the United Nations, and is considered one of the most unhinged pro-war hawks in American politics by leading foreign policy analysts. On top of a war-glorifying métier, Bolton chairs the Islamophobic myth-perpetuating Gatestone Institute, a nonprofit publisher founded by Sears Roebuck heiress Nina Rosenwald.

Gatestone Institute has a reputation for propagating baseless myths about an imaginary Islamic takeover of the West. Some of the Bolton-chaired institute's articles include false claims about "no-go zones" in Europe established by blood-lusting Muslim immigrants and unverified claims about a nonexistent rape epidemic orchestrated by wayward Muslim men. Time and again, the fact-checking website Snopes had repeatedly debunked fake articles and videos by Gatestone Institute. Now the man who chairs the fear-mongering nonprofit will offer his expertise to Donald Trump after the president declared General H.R. McMaster would step down from his role as a national security adviser in Trump's administration.

Bolton's name causes apprehension for several key reasons. In addition to being a Fox News favorite, the Republican has written unhinged diatribes on initiating attacks on North Korea and bombing Iran, two opinion editorials greenlit and published by the *Wall Street Journal* and the *New York Times* respectively. In 1994, Bolton—who opposes the very existence of the United Nations—joked about wiping off the top ten stories of the United Nations' building in New York City. During Bush's administration, Bolton passionately advocated for and cheered on invading and occupying Iraq. In 2002, he called for launching attacks on Cuba for nonexistent biological weapons, an unsubstantiated assertion that rattled State Department officials at the time.

Libertarian Cato Institute's Christopher Preble told Vox that he wouldn't trust Bolton with catching a dog, much less working in the capacity of a national security adviser to Trump, which Bolton will officially start in April.