



Was President Trump right to fire H.R. McMaster?

March 22, 2018

According to the New York Times, Lt. Gen. H. R. McMaster will be resigning as President Donald Trump's National Security Adviser. Trump will replace McMaster with former UN Ambassador John R. Bolton. McMaster's resignation comes shortly after Trump agreed to an unprecedented meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un, leaving critics scratching their heads. Bolton is widely seen as a war hawk and has said the U.S. should declare war on Iran and North Korea. **What do you think?**

McMaster will resign as National Security Adviser and Bolton will replace him. Here's the latest from the New York Times:

General McMaster will retire from the military, the officials said. He has been discussing his departure with President Trump for several weeks, they said, but decided to speed up his departure, in part because questions about his status were casting a shadow over his conversations with foreign officials.

McMaster was widely seen as one of the adults in Trump's administration. His appointment to the National Security Adviser office reassured many in the establishment -- at least he would temper some of Trump's worst tendencies. With him out, who knows what Trump will be up to.

Worse yet, Bolton may be the worst person possible to replace McMaster. Bolton is extremely hawkish and has repeatedly called on the U.S. to go to war against Iran and North Korea. Critics worry that Bolton will only enable Trump's worst tendencies.

Here's what one expert told Vox about Bolton:

"I operate on the assumption that John Bolton should be kept as far away from the levers of foreign policy as possible," says Christopher Preble, the vice president for defense and foreign policy studies at the libertarian Cato Institute. "I think I would rest easy if he was dog catcher in Stone Mountain, Georgia. But maybe not."

When it comes down to it, McMaster and Trump did not see eye-to-eye on many important issues. They've been clashing over issues like how to deal with Iran, the war in Afghanistan and more since day one. Trump's supporters argue it's better to have someone in office who can actually get along and work with Trump. That person is Bolton.

McMaster was no saint either. He was consistently one of the more militant voices in the Trump administration.