



[President Trump Fires John Bolton as National Security Advisor](#)

President Trump fired John Bolton last week, his third National Security Advisor, after months of disagreements over key foreign policy issues. Trump and Bolton clashed on several global challenges including Iran, Afghanistan, North Korea, and Venezuela. Bolton was a harsh critic of Iran and had been a strong advocate of military strikes against the nation. He was also at odds with President Trump over his decision to host the Taliban for talks at the presidential retreat of Camp David. Additionally, while Trump loved to boast about the warm relationship that he had established with North Korean Leader Kim Jong Un, Bolton was more hawkish on the regime and wanted Trump to hold his ground for more concessions from the regime. Finally, Trump and other officials in the administration grew irritated with Bolton's stance on Venezuela, where he pushed for harsh sanctions on the Maduro regime and opposed renewing a waiver to allow the energy company Chevron to keep operations running in the country.

The two men also disagreed on the nature of Bolton's departure, with Trump claiming that he decided to let Bolton go while the former National Security Advisor stated that he made the call to resign from his post. In his announcement of the departure on Twitter, Trump stated: "I informed John Bolton last night that his services are no longer needed at the White House. I disagreed strongly with many of his suggestions, as did others in the Administration, and therefore I asked John for his resignation, which was given to me this morning. I thank John very much for his service. I will be naming a new National Security Advisor next week." However, shortly after that tweet, Bolton posted a tweet of his own stating: "I offered to resign last night and President Trump said, Let's talk about it tomorrow." Bolton also texted a Fox News host to emphasize the fact that it was his decision to resign from his post as National Security Advisor. Regardless of the circumstances, several National Security Council officials were caught off guard by Bolton's firing, with many of them learning about it only when they saw the headline pop up on news networks.

Deputy National Security Advisor Charles Kupperman initially replaced Bolton, but Trump has since named Robert O'Brien, the State Department's top hostage affairs official, as the new National Security Advisor. Robert O'Brien now becomes Trump's fourth National Security Advisor, following the departures of Michael Flynn, H.R. McMaster, and John Bolton. Most of O'Brien's recent work dealt with U.S. hostage situations, and Trump recently assigned him to help free rapper A\$AP Rocky who was detained in Sweden on assault charges this past summer. O'Brien was a partner in a law firm focusing on high-stakes trials and appeals, and was also a foreign policy advisor to Mitt Romney during his presidential run against former President Barack Obama in 2012. His ascension to the post of National Security Advisor comes at a time when the Trump administration is facing a bitter trade war with China, a recently botched effort to negotiate with the Taliban in Afghanistan, and rising tensions with Iran, among other global challenges.