

# Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn

- Michael Flynn is a retired Lieutenant General, a former head of the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), and was named **National Security Advisor** for the Trump administration in November 2016. His cabinet appointment is no subject to congressional confirmation.
- As *USA Today* reports, Flynn has been “a **critical force shaping Trump’s world view** that the United States is at war with ‘radical Islamic terrorism.’” In mid-2016, Flynn published a book, *The Field of Fight: How We Can Win the Global War Against Radical Islam and Its Allies*. Flynn has repeatedly insisted the U.S. is at **“war” with “radical Islam.”**
- Flynn serves on the board of **ACT! for America**, a group run by Brigitte Gabriel that campaigned against teaching about Islam in school textbooks, and supported anti-Sharia bills in many states. **Considered an anti-Muslim hate group** by the Southern Poverty Law Center, ACT! for America has expressed optimism about their “direct line” to the White House through Flynn.
- Flynn voiced the falsified claim that **Democrats are helping to “impose Sharia law”** in America. ACT! for America, the group Flynn advises, was part of a broader campaign to engender concern around Sharia in recent years.
- In February 2016, Flynn tweeted **“fear of Muslims is rational”** with an attached Youtube video which claims Islam “wants 80% of humanity enslaved or exterminated” and includes a litany of violent attacks carried out by Muslims. As of this writing, he has not removed the tweet.
- Flynn has referred to Islam as a “political ideology based on a religion,” and said **“it’s like a malignant cancer.”** In July 2016, he tweeted that Arab and Persian leaders should “declare their Islamic ideology sick and must B healed [sic].” In his book, he called the Muslim world a “spectacular failure.”
- Flynn shared on Twitter a picture of Hillary Clinton wearing a headscarf. He wrote: “This is not showing respect. This is showing disrespect for American Values and Principles. #NeverHillary.” Flynn also tweeted about a controversial *Atlantic* article that argued the Islamic State group is **“very Islamic,”** and about Ayaan Hirsi Ali’s view that Islam should be reformed.
- Flynn also encouraged his followers to watch a video about Islam by Youtube commentator Pat Condell, who has said that Islam is a **“religion of war.”** Flynn commented: “Does it really have nothing to do with islam [sic]?”
- In an interview with Breitbart radio in 2016, Flynn claimed that Arabic signs had been posted along the US-Mexico border to direct “radicalized Muslims” into the US.

**IMPACT:** Gen. Michael Flynn, who asserts that “fear of Muslims is rational,” spreads falsified claims about Muslims, and supports a group considered by many to be an anti-Muslim organization, serves in Donald Trump’s cabinet as National Security Advisor.