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Issue Brief

Who's Who in Trump's Administration; Major Appointments

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February 01, 2017

President Donald Trump recently announced key posts holders in his administration. The announcements as well as speculations of his nominations began soon after his taking over the office. The nominations for his cabinet, however, came under great criticism as they were highly unexpected, which resembled a board room of any big company in the US. The top picks of his cabinet include several multi-billionaires, without any prior experience in government and those who have invested heavily in his presidential campaign. Another significant change in the structure of appointees came as none of the top positions were occupied by a woman.

Some of the major appointments include:

Mike Pence as the Vice President. Mike Pence is considered to be a pivotal appointment by president Trump, as he has enough administrative experience having served as Indiana governor and as the member of the Congress. This choice of nominations is also seen as a way to build a workable relationship with the Congress by President Trump.

Lt. General Michael Flynn as his national security advisor, who also served as the Vice Chairman on President Trump's transition team. In 2012 he served as the head of Defence Intelligence Agency, but retired a year later as he came in conflict with the policies issues by former President, Barrack Obama. He was also advisor on national security issues to President Trump during his campaign.

Congressmen Mike Pompeo as the Director of the CIA, has previously served on the House of Representatives Intelligence Committee, which oversaw the CIA, National Security Agency and cyber security. Mike Pompeo is also amongst the members of the cabinet who supports scrapping the nuclear deal with Iran.

As the Secretary of State, President Trump picked Rex Tillerson. Rex Tillerson is the CEO of Exxon Mobil, with no prior political experience. Also, Tillerson maintains extensive business and personal ties with the Russian President, Vladimir Putin and was awarded with the Russian Order of Friendship.

President Trump appointed General James Mattis, who is also nicknamed 'mad dog mattis' as the Defence Secretary. He has a vast experience of 41 years in the US military, where he oversaw the US war in Iraq and Afghanistan and also once noted that it's fun to shoot some people. His appointment comes under conflict in respect of the US law where it requires a span of seven years post military retirement

to serve in the government, whereas, General Mattis retired in 2013, and requires a waiver from the US Congress.

The least controversial appointment is of Steven Mnuchin, as the Secretary of the Treasury. Steven Mnuchin will be third person who will serve as the Secretary of Treasury affiliated with the Goldman Sachs.

As the Chief of Staff, President Trump nominated, Reince Priebus, who also served as the Chairman of the Republican National Committee in 2011. This move by President Trump, by nominating Priebus is also seen as a conciliatory signal of Trump's willingness to work with Congress.

Jefferson Sessions is President Trump's pick as the Attorney General. He was the first senator who endorsed Trump as a Presidential candidate. He also has a strong stance on opposing immigration reforms, as well as protection of minorities. Also, while serving as the Senator he voted against a bill that banned cruel or inhumane treatment of the prisoners.

Although, it is too early to judge how the new formed Trump Administration will talk the talk and walk the walk. His cabinet picks to some extent reflects on how the years ahead of his as President of USA will go. He has been under fire for his choice of nominations and is referred to as billionaire surrounded by billionaires. In a broader overview, his cabinet has more than four billionaire, along with three Generals, and being labelled to as 'Cabinet of Villains,' 'Cabinet of Horrors' and the 'billionaires club.'