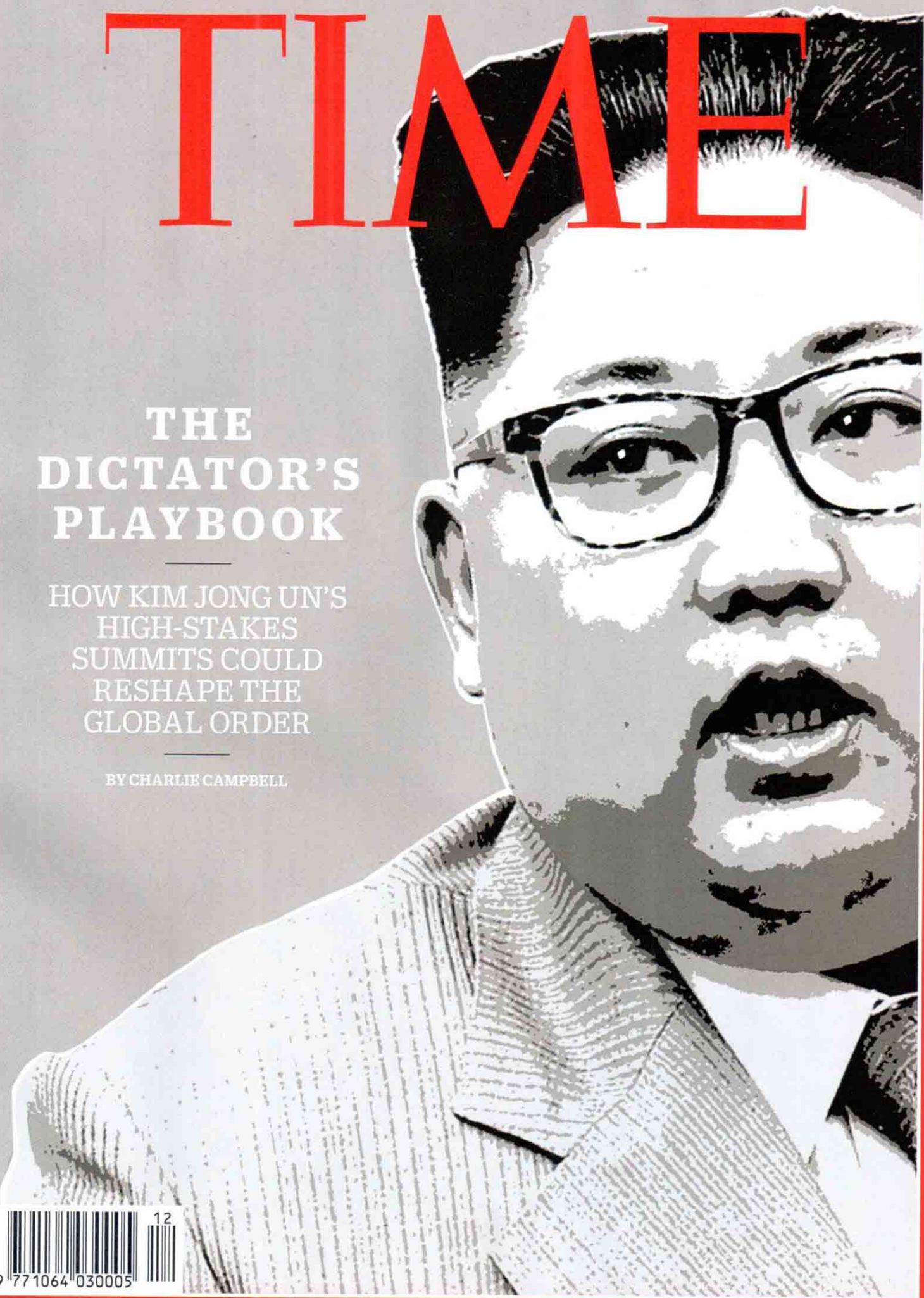


TIME

THE DICTATOR'S PLAYBOOK

HOW KIM JONG UN'S
HIGH-STAKES
SUMMITS COULD
RESHAPE THE
GLOBAL ORDER

BY CHARLIE CAMPBELL



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South Korean children at the only school in **Tongilchon**, a village of about 400 located inside the DMZ, on **March 20**

Moises Saman—Magnum Photos for TIME

ON THE COVER: *TIME* Photo-illustration. **Kim Jong Un:** AFP/Getty Images

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EXPOSING SYRIA'S HORRORS
 RE "THE AGONY OF SYRIA"
 [March 12]: News is not just about political leaders shaking hands or giving rousing speeches. Nor is it about celebrities and their exploits. News is a human story with its own emotions and logic. TIME exemplified this by sharing the horrific details of the daily life of Syrians in the line of fire. It would have been even better if you had featured people who have borne the brunt of forces opposed to President Bashar Assad. But this does not take away from the tremendous hard work, research and raw courage that must have gone into putting together this story.

Gulbahar S. Sidhu
 JALANDHAR, INDIA

AFTER SEEING THE HORRIFIC and heart-wrenching pictures of the mayhem that is being meted out by Assad's regime on his own people, it is incomprehensible that no Western power is willing to get involved in trying to put a stop to this carnage. It is time to send a message to Assad, that his air force will not be unchallenged allowing him to commit these atrocities with impunity, and to his Russian and Iranian allies that retribution will be handed out for their crimes.

Allan de Sousa,
 CALDAS DA RAINHA,
 PORTUGAL

THE LESSONS OF CALVIN
 RE "MARILYNNE ROBINSON Promotes Reason in Unreasonable Times" [March 12]: Sarah Begley's article caught exactly the Marilynne Robinson that her readers have come to know. Except in one respect: it did not mention that Robinson is a confessed Calvinist. Her citation of John Calvin in support of her openhanded liberalism shows how the image of Christianity's paradoxical God can be reflected in human history, cultures and politics. I don't agree with Robinson on everything, but she is driving me to take my copy of Calvin's *Institutes of the Christian Religion* from the shelf where it has been lovingly kept for 28 years, but never read.

Richard Wilkins,
 WATFORD, ENGLAND

A MESSAGE DIMINISHED
 RE "A HOUSE DIVIDED"
 [March 12]: I was a little disappointed by Elizabeth Dias' article on Billy Graham. Instead of focusing on the family's differences, Dias should have concentrated on the impact Graham has made in the lives of people across the world and how he conveyed the message of love of God. It is a universal truth that when a leader dies, family members show some kind of division to own the legacy. It need not be the theme for the



first article after one's death.
 R. Bhakther Solomon,
 CHENNAI, INDIA

AN ABSOLUTE MISTAKE
 RE "CHINA STEPS CLOSER to Despotism as Xi Becomes Leader for Life" [March 12]: Rulers of authoritarian states have absolute power because they cannot be removed. They are free to abuse their power for as long as they live. To err is human, and a leader who tolerates no checks is even more likely to err, because power can make one impervious to other views. The Cultural Revolution led by Mao Zedong from 1966 to 1976 was the best example of abuse of absolute power. Chinese President Xi Jinping should have known better.

Song Xiaowen,
 TAOYUAN CITY, TAIWAN

READING THE BRIEF REGARDING the Chinese leader,

my first thought was, "I hope Donald Trump doesn't read TIME." You know what happened when he saw the big parade in France.

Bob Newell,
 SUTTON, MASS.

MONEY ISN'T EVERYTHING
 RE "WHY IS THE GOP TOUTING New Gun Restrictions After Parkland? Follow the Money" [March 12]: In doctrinaire leftist fashion, this piece deliberately conflates the NRA with gun manufacturers. The NRA did not shoot up the Parkland high school. Its members did not. Its members' interest is not in whether more or fewer guns are sold, or whether gunmakers are more or less profitable. The NRA's focus is on gun safety and the constitutional right to keep and bear arms.

Steve Baur,
 WESTMINSTER, COLO.

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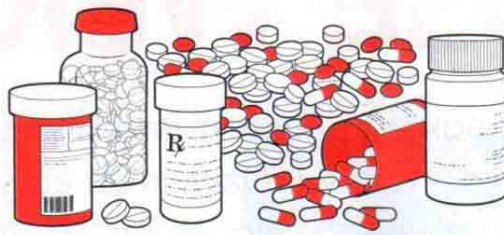
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39%

Increase in global human consumption of antibiotics from 2000 to 2015, according to a new study published in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*



'I was like, "Turn around, drop 'em."'

STEPHANIE CLIFFORD,

known in her porn career as Stormy Daniels, claiming in an interview with CBS's *60 Minutes* that in 2006 she spanked President Trump with a magazine that had his face on the cover

'Demonstrators should seek more effective and more lasting reform. They should demand a repeal of the Second Amendment.'

JOHN PAUL STEVENS, retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice, in a *New York Times* op-ed responding to the March 24 March for Our Lives demonstrations, which called for gun-control reforms



9,009

Distance, in miles, flown during the maiden voyage of a nonstop 17-hour Qantas flight from Perth, Australia, to London's Heathrow Airport

'THEY ARE AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT MODERN-DAY COLONIALISM LOOKS LIKE.'

CHRISTOPHER WYLIE,

Cambridge Analytica whistle-blower, describing staff members' involvement in foreign elections, at a U.K. parliamentary hearing

in•ter•sti•tium

A series of connected, fluid-filled spaces found under skin, the gut and elsewhere in the human body

This previously unknown organ was discovered by a New York University–led team of researchers, whose findings appear in a new study published in Scientific Reports

'Whether a person portrayed in one of these expressive works is a world-renowned film star—"a living legend"—or a person no one knows, she or he does not own history.'

ANNE EGERTON,

a justice on California's second District Court of Appeal, tossing out actor Olivia de Havilland's lawsuit alleging that the creators of the FX docuseries *Feud: Bette and Joan* didn't have permission to use her name and likeness

Amazon Studios
Cannes says streaming services won't be eligible for the festival's top prize, the Palme d'Or



Amazon rain forest
New research suggests that up to a million people lived in a part of the forest thought to have been uninhabited

23

Number of female U.S. Senators, a record high, after the appointment of Cindy Hyde-Smith to replace Mississippi's Thad Cochran, who is stepping down because of health issues

NATIONAL SECURITY

The bomb thrower in the White House

By W.J. Hennigan

AFTER TOILING IN THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION, JOHN Bolton received a symbolic gift from his colleagues intended to sum up his tenure: a bronze-plated hand grenade. It became a prized possession that Bolton showcased on a coffee table in his Washington office for years afterward. Now the man who relishes his role as a bomb thrower will serve as President Donald Trump's next National Security Adviser, further unsettling a world that both men appear to enjoy keeping off balance.

Bolton's appointment on March 22 registered as the biggest lurch yet in the ongoing White House shake-up, not least for the contrast he offers with the departing H.R. McMaster, the three-star general who was viewed as a steadying influence on Trump. Starting on April 9, Bolton will coordinate U.S. strategy for some of the nation's toughest diplomatic challenges. In May, Trump must decide whether to certify the multilateral deal signed during the Obama Administration under which Iran suspended its nuclear program. By that same month, the President is slated for a historic summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un to discuss the future of that regime's nuclear arsenal.

In op-eds and television appearances, Bolton has been unequivocal in his opinion that both efforts are a waste of time. In fact, he's made the public case to go to war with both nations, while excoriating their leadership. Fears abound in Washington that Trump is surrounding himself with people who will encourage the President's most dangerous impulses. Bolton is an unabashed hawk, whose views largely align with newly nominated Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who awaits congressional confirmation after the March 13 dismissal of Rex Tillerson.

It remains to be seen how Bolton, whose decades-long résumé is defined by a distaste for treaties and contempt for diplomatic niceties—despite serving three times as a diplomat—will mesh with Defense Secretary James Mattis, who like McMaster has been seen as a calming influence on Trump. Mattis, a retired Marine Corps general with firsthand experience of the human costs of war, emphasized the need for international alliances. He displayed his penchant for diplomacy in acknowledging that there may be issues on which he and Bolton disagree.

"I hope that there's some different worldviews. That's the normal thing you want, unless you want groupthink," Mattis told reporters on March 27.

'Taking hard-line stances in op-ed pages is all good and well, but reality begins to set in once you're briefed on military plans.'

Anthony Cordesman



The Iran deal is one point of disagreement. Though no fan of Tehran, Mattis supports the pact, which bars Iran from enriching uranium until at least 2024. Bolton disapproves of the deal, which Trump has promised to decertify in May unless changes are made. "No fix will remedy the diplomatic Waterloo Mr. Obama negotiated," Bolton wrote in the *Wall Street Journal* in January. "Mr. Trump correctly sees Mr. Obama's deal as a massive strategic blunder." In 2015, Bolton argued in the *New York Times* that "only military action" could thwart Iran's nuclear ambitions. "A strike," he wrote, "can still succeed."

If the deal is dropped, Tehran will be free to sprint to create a weapon. Its regional archrival, Saudi Arabia, would respond in kind, its Crown Prince recently said, setting up an arms race in the world's most volatile patch.

THE QUESTION IS whether Bolton, once in the West Wing, will prove as tough as he's talked. "Taking hard-line stances in op-ed pages is all good and well, but reality begins to set in once you're briefed on military plans," says Anthony Cordesman, a former intelligence official at the Pentagon who now works at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Bolton, born in Baltimore and educated at Yale, has worked for every Republican President since Reagan, including a stint as U.S. ambassador to the U.N. under George W. Bush, whom he also served as a lawyer during the Florida recount following the 2000 election. In 2003, just as the so-called six-party talks to discuss dismantling Pyongyang's nuclear-weapons program were set to begin, Bolton delivered a speech denouncing then North Korean leader Kim Jong Il as the "tyrannical dictator" of a country where "life is a hellish nightmare." Pyongyang responded by calling Bolton "human scum" and a "bloodsucker."

Bolton has continued to reiterate his aversion to diplomacy with North Korea. In January, he said that talking with the Hermit Kingdom was a "waste of time." His most recent *Journal* op-ed was headlined, "The Legal Case for Striking North Korea First." Eight days after it appeared, Trump accepted Kim's invitation to meet in person.

And 14 days after that, Bolton was named to the position Henry Kissinger first made a nexus of power and influence in the Executive Branch.

McMaster, who plans to retire from the military, will stay on to ensure a smooth transition. And it could well be smoother than widely expected. In an interview with Fox News, where he was a frequent commentator, Bolton said while he never has been shy about what his views are, that's all behind him as he heads to the White House.

"Bolton is very hard-line, but he is smart and thoughtful—not impulsive," says Michael O'Hanlon, a military analyst at the Brookings Institution. "I am worried, but there is some hope."