

Peter Navarro

Donald Trump nominates Peter Navarro as senior economic adviser

China hawk who served in president-elect's first term was imprisoned for contempt of Congress over 2021 Capitol attack



Peter Navarro was a prominent adviser in trade talks with Beijing during the president-elect's first term in office © J Scott Applewhite/AP

Aime Williams in Washington YESTERDAY

Donald Trump has nominated Peter Navarro, a former aide who was imprisoned for contempt of Congress over the January 6 2021 storming of the Capitol, to be a senior White House economic adviser.

On his social media platform Truth Social, the president-elect [announced](#) that he would make Navarro his senior counsellor for trade and manufacturing to help “truly Make American Manufacturing Great Again”.

[Navarro](#), a prominent China hawk, was a central White House adviser in Washington's trade confrontations with Beijing during Trump's first term in office.

Over that time the US moved away from striking new [trade](#) deals abroad and instead focused on measures designed to reshore manufacturing and protect American workers.

“During my First Term, few were more effective or tenacious than Peter in enforcing my two sacred rules, Buy American, Hire American,” Trump wrote on Wednesday.

“He helped me renegotiate unfair Trade Deals like Nafta and the Korea-US Free Trade Agreement (KORUS), and moved every one of my Tariff and Trade actions FAST.”

Trump said that Navarro’s mission in his new post “will be to help successfully advance and communicate the Trump Manufacturing, Tariff, and Trade Agendas”.

Navarro spent four months in a federal prison in Miami after being convicted for refusing to comply with a subpoena from a congressional committee probing the January 6 attack on the US Capitol.

During the 2023 trial, prosecutors said Navarro “chose allegiance” to Trump over complying with the subpoena from lawmakers. His attorneys argued the state had not proven the former trade adviser “wilfully” ignored the subpoena.

Even after Joe Biden won in the 2020 presidential election, Navarro remained a loyal public defender of Trump as he continued to claim that the results of the vote had been rigged and victory stolen from him.

Trump also wrote on Wednesday that Navarro had been “horribly treated by the Deep State, or whatever else you would like to call it”.

Among numerous other nominations announced on Wednesday, the president-elect said he was tapping Michael Faulkender to be deputy Treasury secretary.

Faulkender held a post in the Treasury during Trump’s first administration and the president-elect said in a post that the University of Maryland professor would “help Treasury Secretary Nominee Scott Bessent usher in a new Golden Age for the United States by delivering a Great Economic Boom for all Americans”.

[Copyright](#) The Financial Times Limited 2024. All rights reserved.
