

Governmental Dependencies and Financial Resources

Regardless of the aforementioned examples that accurately depict the Crisis Group's alignment with White House policies, the track record of the political figures within the group and its sources of funding also corroborates this alignment. While the Crisis Group claims to be non-governmental and impartial, its close ties with policymakers at the White House and the convergence of the group's recommendations with US government strategies, cannot be viewed in isolation from political and financial support. Therefore, its alleged neutrality and independence from the US government and its allies, despite the repeated claims of its leaders, have been challenged and undermined. Moreover, the presence of figures like George Soros, the architects of color revolutions in the world, and the Rockefeller brothers in the list of major financial contributors to this organization, further demonstrate the alignment of the group's viewpoints and actions with these influential individuals. Consequently, one can label this group as an effective arm of the US Department of State and the CIA.

This group has very close ties with George Soros to the extent that, according to information on the group's website, Soros is one of its principal financial contributors. Soros is also a member of the International Crisis Group's board of trustees, and in 2010, the Crisis Group awarded its annual prize to George Soros.

Open Society Foundation

The activities of the Open Society Foundation, which is chaired by George Soros and is known for its involvement in color revolutions, were first openly witnessed in 2004 during the Orange Revolution in Ukraine. The Foundation's track record includes the Rose Revolution in Georgia in 2003, the Rohingya crisis in Myanmar, the Tulip Revolution in Kyrgyzstan in 2005, and even the unsuccessful attempt at fomenting unrest in Iran in 2009. Media outlets like The New York Times, The Guardian, and The Washington Post have openly stated that the West, led by the US, has been directly involved through organizations supporting democracy and associated charities in orchestrating color revolutions in developing countries.

However, these events are not exactly hidden, as George Soros himself charac-

terizes himself in his book "Soros on Soros" in the following way: "If there ever was a man who had all the qualities of a global Zionist elite conspirator, that man is me!"

In February 2011, while just over a year had passed since the events of the 2009 Iranian election protests, and his involvement in Iranian affairs had become widely known, George Soros appeared on a television program and said: "I would like to bet that the Iranian regime will not be there in a year's time."

As a result, given that those who secure budgetary conditions and financial resources are the ones who can align themselves with and not deviate from the policies that provide those resources, the scope of the International Crisis Group's activities is not limited to merely providing reports and written materials and diplomatic activities. Instead, it serves as a complement to planned and field operations for intervention and disruption in countries.

The Rockefeller Foundation

This institution, responsible for the interests of the Zionist regime, reduced its financial support to this international entity in 2016, following the approval of the sole United Nations Security Council resolution regarding restrictions on the regime's urbanization. Ali Vaez's presence also underscores the institutional connection of this group to the White House. He played key roles in negotiations and his access to negotiation teams is rooted in his collaboration with the CIA from 2004 to 2008. Moreover, during this period, he worked as a correspondent for "Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty" in Switzerland. Radio Free Europe was launched by the CIA during the Cold War and its budget was exclusively and, of course, covertly funded by the CIA until 1972. In that year, with the release of reports about this radio's affiliation with the CIA, the CIA cut its direct budget, and the radio's budget came under the oversight of the US Congress. However, virtually all political and security experts know that this radio is currently both directed and financially supported by the CIA. It is worth noting that the anti-revolutionary radio network "Radio Farda" is the Persian-language branch of Radio Free Europe.

The primary objective of the Crisis Group is to foment a crisis

Contrary to its stated purpose of managing crises and providing solutions, this organization's actual activities and reports seem to aim at destabilization as one of its main goals. It exploits crisis indicators to further its agenda and has actively tried to spread these crises across the country, especially during critical moments like recent protests.

For example, the organization has focused on turning natural disparities in Iran into social fault lines, a topic that national security services consistently monitor. Consequently, the studies and recommendations produced predominantly cater to espionage and information services, aiming to undermine the existing order in these regions. This shows that their real objective is not just to address crises, but rather to identify potential crises that help create a cognitive warfare infrastructure supported by Western-sponsored media.

One of their reports, titled "Iran's Khuzestan: Thirst and Turmoil," thoroughly examines the situation in Khuzestan. It not only provides a detailed account of the challenges faced by the province, but also presents a somewhat biased portrayal of these issues. The report specifically emphasizes the difficulties that the Islamic Republic of Iran encounters in resolving these problems and highlights the issue of Iranian ethnicities, including Arabs and other ethnic groups.

A careful analysis of anti-Iranian media, backed by the US and its allies, in recent years clearly demonstrates that one of the central strategies to advance the agenda of regime change or fragmentation in Iran is to exacerbate ethnic and religious divisions within the country. These reports actively contribute to this agenda, employing various tools

and techniques. These perspectives have been expressed before in other American think tanks and institutions like FDD, and the only discernible approach is to fuel discord and exploit existing differences.

In alignment with US policies regarding the JCPOA

The Crisis Group managed to play a significant role in the negotiations leading to the Iran nuclear deal, also known as the JCPOA, between Iran and the P5+1. This group engaged with both Western powers and Iran through consultative efforts, using constructive and impartial proposals as a pretext to address areas of disagreement. However, the release of a document titled "Solving the Nuclear Rubik's Cube" several months before the signing of the JCPOA by the International Crisis Group raised suspicions that the group's involvement was meticulously orchestrated by the White House, serving its interests. Furthermore, the recommendations outlined in the nuclear negotiations reports consistently urged Iran to make concessions.

For instance, as a sample, Iran was suggested to open up its monitoring processes and provide access as requested by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), a move seen by some as a result of manipulation and pretextual maneuvers by the Zionist regime. This recommendation essentially aimed to grant the IAEA broader oversight, in line with the agency's demands.

Furthermore, in the early stages of the JCPOA negotiations in 2013, the report "Spider Web: The Making and Unmaking of Iran Sanctions" attempted to convey the idea that American sanctions against Iran were used as a tool for altering Iran's behavior. It stated: "For now, the priority is devising a menu

of meaningful, realistic sanctions relief to match meaningful, realistic nuclear concessions."

In another context, despite former US president Trump's withdrawal from the JCPOA, it is suggested that Iran is perceived as the party responsible for the JCPOA violation by the US. Iran is expected to return to the JCPOA while the US takes no immediate action: "Iran developing a timetable, in consultation with the JCPOA's Joint Commission and International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), to completely reverse its breaches of the nuclear deal within two to three months. Tehran will need to dismantle excess centrifuges and blend down or ship out the enriched uranium stockpiles that go beyond what the deal allows."

Another clear example that underscores the interventionist methods aligned with the foreign policy objectives of this country is the report titled "On Thin Ice: The Iran Nuclear Deal at Three," issued in December 2018. This report advises Iran to move towards regional alignment within the framework of the JCPOA and reminds Tehran of the White House's extrajudicial demands, stating:

"Iran should not test the JCPOA's boundaries or escalate regional tensions... Arguably the most likely place to start is Yemen, where UN-sponsored talks offer a genuine hope for de-escalation and potential resolution of the four-year-long conflict... Iran's regional discussions with the E4 (the E3 plus Italy) should be deepened and broadened to other security issues of common interest beyond Yemen."

This is while Antony Blinken, the Secretary of State under the Biden administration, needs to explicitly outline his and Biden's stance on Iran, which ultimately may not lead to the lifting of sanctions, considering their implications for regional and missile negotiations.

Security threats

Another notable aspect observed in the content of these reports is the deliberate undermining of national security and territorial integrity of target countries, including Iran. Portraying internal conflicts and challenges within a country and simultaneously attempting to highlight the government's inability to address them based on skewed analyses is a recurring method in the written reports by this group. This approach relies on creating an incongruity between the social fabric, either among the people themselves or between the people and the government. By identifying contentious issues, it provides valuable fodder for Western intelligence services and the Zionist regime to exploit in their efforts to foment violent crises in target countries, primarily for their interests and ultimately for the US as the principal orchestrator. This strategy aims not to resolve rifts but to exacerbate tensions and identify capacities for destabilization against the ruling authority.

Furthermore, it explicitly addresses security threats posed by the US and Israel against Iran, with an attempt to coerce Iran into backtracking from its positions. The International Crisis Group has issued a warning that if Iran and the global powers involved in the JCPOA revival negotiations do not make "significant progress" soon, the JCPOA could reach a "point of no return" and that the US and its allies may resort to "coercive diplomacy" or even "military actions" within a few weeks.

Earlier, during the visit of Israel's Foreign Minister to the US, Antony Blinken, the US Secretary of State, stated that if diplomatic efforts with Iran to prevent it from obtaining nuclear weapons fail, "we are prepared to take other (military) options, as the Israeli Foreign Minister has said."