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Guest contributor

EXCLUSIVE

Thierry Meyssan, the French journalist and the president of the media organization Voltaire Network, cited Otto Reich, John Negroponte, Henry Cisneros, and Elliot Abrams as some of the most historic figures who were both involved in the CIA's covert actions and, at some point, members of the NED's Administrative Council or its board of directors.

So, it can be argued that democracy is used as a deceiving façade to further the goals of the United States intelligence services and Department of State.

Dr. Michael Pinto-Duschinsky, who is a political consultant and writer, democracy building's institutional formation rests upon a reconfiguration of Cold War positions, which itself relies on retaining the subversive covert operations previously perpetrated by the CIA or MI6 to overthrow the governments opposed to America.

The foundation seeks to present itself as a non-governmental organization to stress that it is not affiliated with the United States government. However, the evidence suggests that it is funded by Congress as part

NED TROJAN

National Enemy for Democracy

'National Endowment for Democracy' or National Enemy for Democracy?
How does the NED destabilize countries by interfering in their internal affairs?

The National Endowment for Democracy (NED) was founded in the early 1980s during the presidency of Ronald Reagan after the CIA's crimes and destructive activities were revealed in the second half of the 1970s. NED's website introduces itself as "an independent, nonprofit foundation dedicated to the growth and strengthening of democratic institutions around the world". In 1991, right at the end of the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union, David Ignatius wrote a detailed article for the Washington Post, titled "The New World of Spylesse Coups," on the activities of the NED and the CIA as well as one of the NED's founders, Allen Weinstein. The article quotes Weinstein as saying that "a lot of what we do today was done covertly 25 years ago by the CIA," adding that the NED foundation "did openly what had once been unspeakably covert".

In a report published in 1997, titled "Foreign Taint on National Election? A Boomerang for U.S.," the New York Times discussed the NED's role as the overt arm of the CIA. "The National Endowment for Democracy, created 15 years ago to do in the open what the CIA has done surreptitiously for decades, spends \$30 million a year to support things like political parties, labor unions, dissident movements, and the news media in dozens of countries including China," the report said.

of the United States Agency for International Development. Although the foundation is private, its budget is mostly provided by the government.

What sets NED apart
By studying international affairs and patterns followed by governments, think tanks provide recommendations or develop guidelines that fall in line with policy-making goals. So, the goal of these organizations is to empower policymakers to make better decisions.

Even though some think tanks get to implement their research findings and strategies using covert networking and establishing contact with dissident elements in other countries, their main activity revolves around analyzing national and international issues and subsequently issuing recommendations. However, the National Endowment for Democracy, for one, has a completely practical field approach that, as it was already established, carries out the programs and operations of the CIA under the justified guise of democracy to evade allegations.

Pursuing a calculated diplomacy, the foundation engages with criminals or popular dissident groups directly and overtly. Then,