Jared Cohen

Jared Cohen is the founder and director of Google Ideas and an advisor to the executive chairman at Google, Inc. He is also an adjunct senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations and a bestselling author. Previously he served as a member of the Secretary of State's Policy Planning Staff and as a close advisor to both Condoleezza Rice and Hillary Clinton.

Mr. Cohen has conducted research in Iran, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Afghanistan, throughout Africa, and has traveled to more than eighty-nine countries. As part of his research, he has interviewed members of Al-Qaeda, Hezbollah, the Taliban, and Somali pirates. In January 2013, he was one of three members of the first high-level American delegation to North Korea following the ascension of Kim Jong Un to power.


In 2013, he was named as one of Time’s “100 Most Influential People in the World.” Vanity Fair named Mr. Cohen as a member of the “Next Establishment,” the Washington Post and Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government named him one of six “Top American Leaders,” and Foreign Policy listed him as one of the “Top 100 Global Thinkers.” He is also one of the World Economic Forum’s Young Global Leaders.

He currently serves as a member of the National Counterterrorism Center’s (NCTC) Director’s Advisory Board. Mr. Cohen also serves on the Board of Directors of SFX Entertainment and the Tribeca Film Institute. He received his BA from Stanford University and his MPhil in international relations from Oxford University, where he studied as a Rhodes Scholar. He speaks Swahili.