

LETTER FROM STOURBRIDGE

“The Disastrous 21st Century”

A Eurasian Conflict Imagined in London in 1992



During the First World War Rudolf Steiner said that: “all cultural evolution of the future...is a question of [the] union between Central Europe and Eastern Europe.”¹ By this he meant that the Central European cultural and spiritual impulse of the 5th Post-Atlantean epoch, centred in Anthroposophy and the Threefold Social Organism, had to be passed on to the Slavic peoples, who are to be the standard-bearers of mankind’s development in the 6th Epoch. The Ahrimanic forces of opposition, working in the 5th Epoch, predominantly but not exclusively, through

the materialistically-oriented English-speaking culture as it has developed since the 17th century, are striving both to prevent this connection being made and also to direct, to ‘nurse’ or to ‘tutor’ Russia and the Slavic peoples along a different path of ‘education’.

2011 imagined in 1992

Exactly 70 years after the destruction of the First Goetheanum in Dornach, Switzerland, and also at the very same time that the Single European Market 1992 project was due to begin (1st Jan. 1993) an article appeared in *The Economist* magazine of London (double issue 26.12.1992 - 8.1.1993) which gave a stark indication of how the Ahrimanic forces would seek to block what Steiner had said is so necessary for the future. The article, written in 1992 on the very verge of the age of the World Wide Web, outlined a conflict that would last for most of the first half of the 20th century; it would begin with an Islamic group seeking a Caliphate and along the way it would involve the destruction of Russia as we know it. The anonymous, three-page article was quite specific as to the year in which the strategy would begin – 2011!

The article was written in the form of an extract from an imaginary history of the world written in the year 2992, and is titled: “Looking Back from 2992 - A World History, Chapter 13: The disastrous 21st century”. It is

accompanied by three illustrations in mock mediaeval style. This is a semiotic reference to the well-known book by the American historian, the late Barbara Tuchman, *A Distant Mirror - The Calamitous 14th Century*. Tuchman’s book dramatically portrayed the real disasters of Europe’s “puberty crisis” in the 14th century, which was in many respects truly cataclysmic. *The Economist* article’s subtitle implies that the 21st century will be a similar century of calamity. This reflects an occult truth - that 21 is the birth of the Ego in the life of the individual just as in the life of humanity as a whole; it is thus a major marker, as 14 also is, marking the birth of the astral body at puberty. But 21 is more than that; it is in a sense *the* major marker, because it is the age at which mankind for the first time takes conscious responsibility for the planet – the century of the Ego of Mankind, so to speak. This means, from an anthroposophical perspective, that *The Economist* was also declaring that the second century (1979-2079) of the Age of Michael (1879-c.2300), when the Michaelic impulses really begin to ‘get into their stride’, as it were, will be one of disasters, because the article paints a picture of disaster for much of mankind in the 21st century (except for the USA and Israel which would be unaffected by the conflict in Eurasia) because mankind did not do in the years after 1992 what *The Economist* felt it should do, which was of course to allow the world to be influenced by the English-speaking world and its “belief in every man’s right to political and economic freedom.”²

Although the article purports to be Chapter 13 of a world history that extends up to 2992, in fact it discusses only the first half of the 21st century – events up to about 2050. In short, from 2011, (the year in which the Arab Spring took place and Anders Breivik carried out his massacres in Norway) the Eurasian conflict gets underway after a military coup takes place in a Muslim country, which leads to the emergence of a new pan-Muslim super-entity that avails itself of Arab oil resources and launches an offensive that seeks to restore the Caliphate – a single state for all Muslims. This pan-Islamic entity somehow allies itself with China, which has its own issues with ‘the West’ in the Asia-Pacific region and ends up bullying

Japan into submission. Together, the Chinese and the Muslims turn against the West. Interestingly enough, Israel is not even mentioned in the article; it is apparently unaffected by all the disasters of the 21st century and nothing happens to it – perhaps because the Rothschilds are well-known to have a 30% stake in *The Economist* and Lynn Forester de Rothschild sits on the board. Clearly, the author of the article imagined some kind of war would be going on elsewhere in the Levant, however, in and around Syria in 2014, because the article refers to the “Battle of Antioch” (Antakya) in that year. Antakya today is in Turkey just over the border from NW Syria. Antioch in classical times was a Syrian city, the place where St Paul went, and where Christians were first known as ‘Christians’. Turkey - seen by the pan-Islamists as a traitor to Islam - becomes the first victim of the alliance, but most significantly, the main target of the alliance turns out to be - Russia!

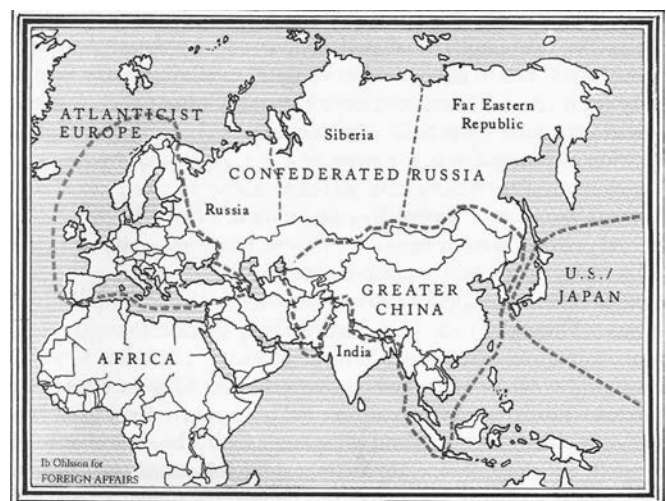
Russia’s intended fate

By the middle of the 21st century, Russia is described in the article as having lost to the alliance all its territory east of the Urals – a vast region: “in two brief campaigns Russia’s borders were pushed back to the Urals and to an uneasy line running from the central Urals to the Sea of Azov.” America retreats into isolationism and merely looks on at the conflict in the ‘Old World’ as Russia is reduced. The article describes how Europe holds off the alliance attack by means of its nuclear weapons, so that most of the conflict apparently happens between the Chinese-Muslim alliance and Russia. The West in effect provides the anvil and the East provides the hammer, and between them Russia is broken in pieces.³ The Chinese take eastern Siberia and the Muslims take the rest. Russia would thus be returned to its borders of the late 16th century and would become, in geopolitical terms a purely European state. As such, although this is not mentioned in the article, Russia would then be ripe for integration in what Zbigniew Brzezinski in the 1990s was already calling “Atlanticist Europe”, “Euro-America” etc. In other words, as a result of this 21st century Eurasian war which would begin in 2011 and end in about 2050, Russia would be taken over by Euro-America; the latter is a combination we can see turning into reality around us today in the form of NATO, the EU, **and now TTIP**, which Hillary Clinton has praised as “an economic NATO” and Anders Fogh Rasmussen, former NATO Secretary General, has hailed as “an integrated

transatlantic community”. This would be the ultimate victory for Brzezinski and those who think like him in the British elite (e.g. *The Economist*) as it would mean the complete termination of what he, with all his family’s Polish aristocratic antipathy, has long called ‘the Russian Empire’. Indeed, in an article for the Council On Foreign Relations journal *Foreign Affairs* (Sept/Oct 1997, USA), Brzezinski was already imagining a “Confederated Russia” in three pieces: “Russia”, “Siberia” and a “Far Eastern Republic”. The notion of the integration of Russia into the EU and NATO was, interestingly enough, then floated in articles in *Foreign Affairs* in 2010 (May/June issue).

Imperial strategies

In view of the increasingly close links between Russia and China today, the Eurasian energy and transport infrastructure networks they are jointly developing and the military connections between them, it might seem as though *The Economist*’s prospect of a Chinese-Islamic alliance breaking up Russia is sheer fantasy. We should remember, however, that stranger things have often happened in history and that the British elite are accustomed to “playing a long game”. *The Economist* is not known for indulging in mere speculation and fantasy. If one had said in 1887 (when Britain was in its diplomatic “splendid isolation”, while maintaining friendly relations with Germany and hostile ones with France and Russia), that within 20 years, Britain would be allied with France and Russia *against* Germany, one would have been thought a fantasist by those Europeans familiar with diplomatic affairs, but precisely that realignment was organised by a certain circle of British diplomats and statesmen between 1887 and 1907. Zbigniew



Brzezinski and his allies look back to their British imperial 'mentor', the first geopolitician Halford Mackinder, who argued that at all costs, a Russo-German combination must be prevented, as only that could threaten Anglo-Saxon world domination; the strategist George Friedman of the influential thinktank STRATFOR said the very same thing earlier this year in the USA.⁴ Mackinder also warned against a Russo-Chinese alliance for the same reason: it would allow the vast resources of Central Asia and Siberia to be used to create a mighty fleet which could challenge the fleets of what he called the "Sea Wolves", Britain and America. Three times in the 20th century (First and Second World Wars, and the Cold War) the Anglo-American elite were successful in preventing any kind of Russo-German understanding; indeed, they even managed – with a great deal of help from the stupidity of the two countries' own leaders – to get Russia and Germany to make war on each other twice within 30 years.

Russia and China

But Mackinder's other nightmare is now fast becoming reality, namely, a Russo-Chinese alliance, and China is now far more powerful than it was in his day. We can therefore be sure that deep within the elites of 'the West' plans are already afoot to break up that alliance by some strategem or other, and most likely within the next few years, before the economies of what Mackinder called "the Land Wolves" become inextricably linked by the growing energy and transport networks across Siberia. Between 2010 and 2012 Russia's allies Iran and Syria negotiated with Iraq for an "Islamic pipeline" to cross from Iran via Iraq to Syria, to their joint advantage. This pipeline was bitterly resented by the US-aligned Sunni states of Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Turkey, who have had pipeline plans of their own which all feature the removal of the pro-Russian President Assad of Syria. Meanwhile, the Iranians are also busy building a pipeline to link them with India via Pakistan, a Chinese ally. The prospect emerges - with Iran as the key hub - of energy and transport links that stretch all the way from China to Syria – a new 'iron silk road' indeed



that could actually greatly benefit the peoples of Asia and beyond!⁵ But it represents a terrible concern for the "Sea Wolves" of the West and their economic 'values'. They see it as a threat, as the British elite once saw the Germans moving into South African gold and diamond mines as a threat, and as they saw the Berlin-Baghdad Railway as a threat – a threat to their own monopoly on the material fundamentals of global domination.

The Middle East conflict 2011-2015

A military coup (in Egypt) emerged out of the "Arab Spring" in 2011; Libya was destroyed by the West; much of Syria has been destroyed as a functioning state by a combination of so-called 'opposition forces', many of them

Islamist fanatics and foreign mercenaries, backed more or less covertly by the Sunni states of Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Kuwait. At first, these forces were too weak to gain the advantage. Then in 2014 there exploded onto the scene a new fanatical pan-Islamic movement calling for a Caliphate. It too was covertly backed by the West and their Sunni Arab allies. It quickly seized oil resources to finance itself. By 2013, President Assad was on the back foot; then he received support from Hezbollah and Iran, behind whom was Russia. The Western leaders Obama and Cameron sought to intervene militarily against Assad to change the balance back against him but were denied by their own peoples. Instead, they struck at Russia through Ukraine in late 2013/early 2014 by covertly organising and supporting an illegal coup. Putin responded with his own 'coup de main' in Crimea and by backing separatists in eastern Ukraine. This led the West to declare economic warfare against Russia; a new "Cold War" had begun, the media told us repeatedly. But while the Russian-backed Ukrainians fought the Western-backed Ukrainians to a standstill in the Donbass, the balance shifted again in Syria when the West, in mid-2014, suddenly played its ISIS card: the Caliphate-seeking fanatics had arrived. The West has pretended to take military action against ISIS, or 'Islamic State', but has achieved little after over a year of 'air strikes'; the situation has merely worsened. A stream of refugees, many from Syria, began to pour across



to Europe in 2015, and the West immediately sought to use this new crisis to make demands for the end of Assad's state, its logic being that unless Assad goes, the Syrian disaster will only worsen and the refugee crisis will cause ever more problems for Europe. By mid-2015, the military situation was again looking bad for

Assad until at Michaelmas, Russia stepped in to prop him up with air strikes of its own aimed at all Assad's enemies in Syria. Meanwhile, NATO member Turkey, ever prickly and oversensitive about its borders and about the Kurds, and still hungry to overthrow Assad for economic oil-and-gas-related reasons, is making hostile noises about Russia's intervention, and NATO begins to do the same....

What is at stake in all this is the future of Russia and the Slavic world and their capacity in the future to take up the more positive elements of our current fifth post-Atlantean epoch, elements that are, for example, carried by Anthroposophy. Russia today in global terms is in the same situation as Germany was in 1914 in Europe – in the middle, the bridging culture between East and West, between China and Europe. As they did with Germany in the 20th century, the counterforces to human progress (both inside and outside the 'middle state') are seeking to *remove the middle term and reduce a triad to a binary*.

The USA is seeking, via the TTIP plan, to merge North America with Europe, as we saw prefigured in Brian Beedham's article *A New Flag – A Survey of Defence and the Democracies* in *The Economist* 1990 (1-7 Sept). It might seem as though the Anglo-American goal is to produce a binary counterweight to a Russo-Chinese alliance, thus producing a colossal East-West binary which would be truly dangerous, and indeed, we are already perilously close to that scenario today. But the 1990 article by Beedham (he was a close personal friend of Samuel P. Huntington, who first published his *Clash of Civilizations* thesis in *Foreign Affairs* in 1993) showed Russia separate from both Europe and China - and this is the long-term aim of the Anglo-American elite: Europe with N.America, and Russia weakened and reduced between Euro-America and China.

The military coup, the neo-Caliphate, war in Syria, Saudi Arabia, the Gulf States, Turkey, Russia, Iran are all involved, with China and 'the West' in the background (not to mention Israel) – the elements of *The Economist's* 1992 scenario for the 21st century are thus all in place only four years after 2011, when the scenario was set to begin. The elites of the West have always acted covertly, but they have also often 'leaked' out information about their plans in 'coded' form; they did so in Steiner's day⁶ and they do so today. Why they do this is a question to ponder but the rest of us do at least have a chance to perceive those intentions, expose them and thus seek to defend against them or prevent them from being realised.

Terry Boardman, Stourbridge (England)

Notes

- 1 12 March 1916 GA 174b
- 2 That personal liberty (competition and self-assertion rather than cooperation and service) should be the ruling principle of economic life flies in the face of threefold thinking as presented by Rudolf Steiner from 1917-1922. Steiner insisted that cooperation is the true basis of economic activity.
- 3 *The Economist* article of Dec. 1992 is examined in detail in chapter 3 of Terry Boardman's book *Mapping the Millennium - Behind the Plans of the New World Order* (1998 and 2013).
- 4 Friedman speech to the Chicago Council on Global Affairs 3 Feb 2015. Full video here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sh3dp_AnIQI. Most relevant section here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z5SjPLJOjqc>
- 5 This represents only the "Southern Corridor" of the three-pronged "Iron Silk Road" planned by China. There is also the "Northern Corridor" (essentially the Trans-Siberian rail network) and the "Central Corridor", from China to Europe via Central Asia. Since 2011 rail links have already connected Chongqing in central China with Duisburg in Germany.
- 6 E.g. the article in the English magazine *Truth* at Christmas 1890 (see Rudolf Steiner, *The Karma of Untruthfulness*, Vol. 1, p.289, Rudolf Steiner Press 1988 and 2005) and the lecture by the English occultist C.G. Harrison in London in 1893; see C.G. Harrison, *The Transcendental Universe*, Lindisfarne Press, 1993, pp.96-99.