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Regarding a military confrontation between East and West, the possibility – maybe even the inevitability – of such a thing happening is dictated by European karma itself. The East is led by great Luciferic initiates. They see evil in the whole of Western civilization and aim to avenge the suppression of Eastern spirituality by forces of materialism and the relentless spread of technology. This is the prevailing conviction in the East – that for the good of humanity as a whole Western civilization must be destroyed. One need only listen to the views expressed by Islamic fundamentalists in this connection.

When Europe during the First World War was still – in accordance with its own will – soaked in streams of blood, Rudolf Steiner gave the following warning: “If it does not come about that more and more people appear who hold fast to the idea that a united European resistance must oppose the militarism of powers that operate covertly, then the collapse of European culture is unavoidable. Across from the East there are already rumbling toward us, from Japan, the menacing tones of an imperialism that may be far more powerful than that of previous empires. The will to conquer can be heard in the new national anthem which, as an echo of the English “Rule Britannia,” now gives utterance to the “Rule Nippon.” And then Rudolf Steiner read out a hymn that had been published by a Japanese newspaper: “When Nippon at the Lord’s command / Rose from the waves in morning’s glow / Resounding through the world’s expanse / A call proclaims from heaven’s blue:/ For domination thou wast born, Japan ...” (GA 174, 08.01.1917)

Against this background, the fantasies of our Russian Eurasians and those in the West who dream of the creation of a great alliance stretching from Lisbon to Vladivostok, are simply laughable. There is very little sense of reality in Russia’s intention to create a financial and economic bloc of the States of the Pacific region, in order by this means to undermine the global dominance of the United States of America. Viewed externally, such a plan might appear to correspond to the objective process whereby – due to the fact that Europe has no inclination to turn away from materialism and toward the spiritual foundations of life – a shift of the process of history and civilization from Europe to the Pacific region must take place. But one needs to recognize that this is a process of the downfall of Europe (and of Russia, too, of course). Rudolf Steiner says in this connection:

“There will be no rest on the Earth until a certain harmonization has taken place where the great issues of East and West on the spiritual level are concerned.” But as this is not happening, “the great war will be waged between Asia and the West, despite all disarmament conferences ...”

– it is unavoidable,

“... if the Asiatic peoples cannot see coming toward them from the West something that is the spirit of the West, which can be a beacon of light for them and in which they can place their trust because they comprehend it out of their own – albeit decadent – spirituality.

Peace in the world depends upon an understanding of this situation and not on the talks engaged in by the external leaders of humanity. It all depends upon recognition of the fact that the essential thing is the spirit that lies hidden within European-American culture, and from which one flees, refusing in comfort and complacency to engage with it, but which is the only thing that can lead humanity to forces of ascent ...”

Hope for improvement is baseless, so long as it is nourished only by a spirit of fatalism ...

“Humanity must itself decide whether it wants spirituality, or whether it does not. [*This is, in the final analysis, the choice that needs to be made by humanity, and not the one proposed by the globalists.* – G.A.B.] If humanity wishes to have spirituality, the progress of mankind will be possible. If it has no wish for it, then the downfall of the Western world is guaranteed and, accompanied by the most terrible catastrophes, a quite different further development, unlike anything that many people could dream of, will have to take place.”
(GA 209, 24.11.1921)

These were the words of Rudolf Steiner in 1921. Today one is fully justified in saying that humanity does not want spirituality, despite the fact that it is “politically awakened.” And in these circumstances the events will unfold which were planned according to the scenario of the last two wars! For the Luciferic initiates of the East, China is nothing other than a gigantic cudgel which can be made to descend upon a powerful military opponent. For the Ahrimanic initiates of the West, Russia is a cudgel of this kind. And so, if it comes to a military confrontation between East and West, one cannot hope for a display of any form of courtesy. In a deadly conflict there will be, not a crossing of swords, but a swinging of cudgels.

This conflict was foreseen by Vladimir Soloviev who speaks of it in his “Three Conversations.” He regarded it as unavoidable and also saw its cause in the spiritual decline of the West. He found expression for this viewpoint in his famous poem:

Pan-Mongolism!
A savage sound –
But luminous and familiar to me it rings.
It is as if God’s voice of destiny
Is speaking of the course of world history.

When in deeply corrupt Byzantium
The Divine altar was extinguished
And when Prince, Priest, people and Tsar
Took leave of the Messiah

From the East there came like a mighty
storm
A foreign stream of heathen warriors,
And trembling under the crushing blow

The second Rome collapsed to dust.

The fate of this fallen Empire
Leaves Russia unperturbed.
The flatterers of Russia always say:
The Third Rome – is you! is you!

So be it then!
The God-sent plagues
Have not yet all been used.
The awakened might of the nations
Arms itself for new battles.

From the Archipelago to the Himalaya,
Led by the island kingdom in the sea,

A gigantic army boundless in number
Crowds against China's ancient wall.

Locust-like, vital, ravenous,
Wild, insatiable, uncounted,
Charged with an excess of strength
Its ray pours northwards.

Russia! Forget the feelings of glory and
fame

The Double Eagle exists no longer,
And the torn fragments of your flag
Are given as playthings to yellow-skinned
children.

In humiliation and offense they tremble
Who forgot the commandment to love
one another ...

The Third Rome is dust, is vanquished –
There will never be a fourth.

Thus there are good reasons for Russia to abandon the well-worn paths of her forward movement, which still lives disturbingly in the memory. She ought in her external relations to abstain from over-engagement in political activity, although this does not, of course, mean a policy of isolation. She should pursue a path similar to that of, for example, Sweden, Norway, and Switzerland. She ought to avoid involvement in dangerous international adventures, and follow the method of refraining from action. This lesson ought to be taught us by the painful experiences of the past.

When Rudolf Steiner spoke about the beginning of the First World War, he remarked that the important question is not: *Who was responsible for the outbreak of war?* but a different one, namely: "Who could have prevented the war? There can be no other answer to this than: The Russian government could have prevented the war!" (GA159, 18.05.1915) *And in what way?* we ask today. *By doing nothing!* Simply by not joining in the military action. It is interesting to note that Wilhelm II telegraphed to Nicholas II on July 29, one day before signing the decree for general mobilization: "I believe ... it will be possible for you ... to watch the Serbo-Austrian conflict without plunging the world into one of the most terrible wars." The Kaiser added that it would not damage Russia's reputation in any way. Russia had this possibility of "preventing the war" through the whole duration of the war. W.A. Sukhomlinov writes in his *Memoirs*: "In 1915, Russian diplomacy had every opportunity to pursue an independent policy, which could have led to a peace accord of the Entente with Germany, as Russia could not have been forced to fulfill the conditions of an agreement *not adhered to by the other side.*" (Emphasis G.A.B.)

Of course, in the conditions of that time it would not have been easy to remain a mere onlooker; it would be even more difficult today. This would require strong forces within the country, not, above all, military – which are obviously also needed – but primarily spiritual forces. These will only be acquired through an appeal to the higher spiritual Beings; but in the life of society such an appeal can only take the form of social threefolding. (Here we would remind the reader of what was said by Rudolf Steiner regarding Germany's opportunity in 1919.)

Those living in Russia – the decision-makers and the populace as a whole – must of necessity – for the sake of their own survival, and that of their country and its culture, for the sake of the prospect of a continued life and development on the Earth – summon the inner strength to burst open the fetters of materialism, overcome the sleep of the intellect, and turn their gaze to the

wide world of the reality that is, in its unity, both sensible and supersensible; and they should recognize that Divine beings of the greatest holiness and immeasurable power are inclining in love toward them and the world of human beings walking the Earth, and are simply waiting for the human beings with an understanding of the world constellation to call upon them and their forces, and they will immediately provide help. For as soon as people grasp this situation, they also understand what has to be done to bring them into harmony with the laws of development which lead the human individuality toward freedom.

As the outcome of a mighty evolutionary process, the human being has finally arrived at a phase of development whereby he is able, like those Divine beings, to reach through to his own higher "I." He must bring this about himself. The Gods value him to the highest degree as he engages in this task. But he must himself take the decision to fulfill it. Then, the help from the Divine realms will take on the character of a *collaboration*. Help in the old sense, however, whereby the Gods take the human being by the hand like a small child, is in contradiction to present development, and only leads to human beings remaining behind in their development. For this reason, the Gods are silent when a person tries to obtain this kind of help from them.

Besides the correspondences that exist between the situation in the 20's and 30's of the 20th century and our own century today, there are also differences. The greatest of these lies in the fact that we stand at the threshold of the earthly incarnation of the Ahrimanic monad. The author fully recognizes that when he turns to this theme he risks being classified among the numerous "mystics" of our time, with parapsychologists, etc., who fill the pages of the relevant printed matter with confused and almost entirely misguided predictions. It must be admitted that these muddy waters seriously undermine confidence in esotericism of any kind and discredit it enormously. Leaving aside certain terminological correspondences, we must draw a sharp distinction between Anthroposophical and all other forms of esotericism. The esotericism of Anthroposophy is a spiritual science. It is as exact and as logically consistent as any other of the recognized sciences. This cannot be said of any other of the forms of esotericism known today. And as a science, it is fully autonomous. Falsification, however, and profanation can, of course, be found not only in occultism but also in the well-known sciences. For example, the dialectic of Marx represents nothing other than a falsification and profanation of the dialectic of Hegel.

Prophecy regarding the "coming of the Antichrist" is very ancient. It is there in the New Testament Book of Revelation. That this advent is to take place in our own time is known and believed by very many people on the Earth. For example, in the United States there is a sect with many millions of members which advocates comprehensive support of Israel, as the coming of the Antichrist will supposedly happen there and Israel will need a huge amount of strength to handle the situation. Moreover, everywhere in the mass media – on television, in newspapers – one can see politicians and the powerful in finance, etc., making a certain gesture with their hand which means the number 666 spoken of in Revelation as the "number of the Beast." Many make this gesture in order to show that they are initiated into the secret and also to give evidence of their "chosenness" (a culturally illiterate person has no difficulty profaning anything whatsoever). Others, by showing this gesture when they appear publicly, want to call out, as it were, to the participants at

certain functions: “What are we arguing about? Why are you disagreeing with us? This is it! This is happening!” – or at least something of this kind. An exact interpretation is not possible, as the meaning of this gesture is kept secret.

If we speak here of the incarnation of Ahriman, we let ourselves be guided by the statement of Rudolf Steiner. He not only points to the event, but, rather, explains the laws which make it possible. He says that in Asia in the 3rd millennium B.C., the incarnation of Lucifer took place (thanks to which, Confucianism, for example, came into being). A consequence of this was that from then onwards, the evolution of humanity took an extremely one-sided direction. And in order to establish a balance in a certain way, the incarnation of the Christ occurred – but also for the sake of mitigating, neutralizing in advance, the harmful consequences of the forthcoming incarnation of a second retarded spirit; and in order to endow the human being with forces that will be needed for an encounter with this spirit in the sense-world.

From the beginning of our fifth post-Atlantean cultural epoch, as the individualistic development of the human being is advancing at great speed, forces have been taking shape which make the incarnation of Ahriman unavoidable. He has an objective right to incarnate and nothing can and will prevent him from making use of it. It is up to the human being to prepare for it in the right way so as not to succumb to its temptations and confront it in full consciousness. Thus:

“As truly as Lucifer walked on earth and Christ walked on earth objectively in a human being, so will Ahriman walk upon the earth with enormous power to manifest earthly intellectual capacity.” (GA195, 25.12.1919)

Concerning the time when this will occur, Rudolf Steiner says the following:

“... just as there was a bodily incarnation of Lucifer, and just as there was a bodily incarnation of the Christ, so will there be, before even a [*small* – G.A.B] part of the 3rd millennium A.D. will have elapsed, in the West a real incarnation of Ahriman: Ahriman in the flesh.” (GA191, 01.11.1919)

One could try to determine the year meant by Rudolf Steiner, if one takes into account the law to which the movement of the Ahrimanic spirits is subject in world evolution. This evolution is woven through in all its phases by a sevenfold rhythm, following the path of seven-membered metamorphoses. The retarded Ahrimanic spirits make use of the sixth element of these rhythms in order to prevent them from being realized and thereby attaining their goal (here, we will not go into details). Thus arises the number 666. And by means of its number the human being is steered in the direction which can lead one to expect the most favourable conditions for the future incarnation of Ahriman in the 3rd millennium.

Within the historical process Ahriman moves in the rhythm of the number 666. In this connection, Rudolf Steiner pointed to the special significance of the years 666, 1332, and 1998 A.D. In all probability, one can regard the latter as the year of the incarnation of Ahriman, the year in which the body was created into which Ahriman steals. Its creation was obviously not a simple matter – after all, Ahriman is the god of death! Rudolf Steiner also speaks of this. In a lecture of 4 November 1919, he points to that special field of technological progress in which knowledge is used of

the connection of the material realm with the human spirit: “ ... through a given application of these things, certain secret societies will ... prepare that through which the Ahrimanic incarnation will be able to be here on the earth in the right way” (GA193). One can assume that they were able to combine the most up-to-date technological procedures with the means of black magic in order to create a body with the capacity to bear within it for a number of years the Ahrimanic monad. (Could it be three years?)

Thus, it is in no way unjustified to assume that the incarnation of Ahriman is well under way. And according to an entry in a notebook of Rudolf Steiner (we spoke about it in our book *The Christmas Conference in the Changed Condition of the Times*), Ahriman will reveal himself to the world at the age of 18. Here it is probably more correct to speak of 18-1/3 years, which corresponds to the so-called lunar node or Metonic cycle. It follows from this that humanity needs to be ready by early 2017.

In his “Three Conversations,” Vladimir Soloviev also speaks about the “Coming of the Anti-christ.” But according to him, the war between East and West breaks out prior to this event. In this question, we incline to the view that the opposite will be the case. Time brings all events into their right place. No prophecy of the future is fulfilled down to the last detail. And then Soloviev’s clairvoyant experiences were spontaneous, not guided by his “I,” and thus they may contain various kinds of overlapping and confused images. By means of Anthroposophy, one can consider such matters hypothetically, without having at one’s disposal clairvoyant experiences.

Conclusion

Any development offers alternatives. Even the scenario we have outlined can undergo change. There might be, for example, ecological reasons or, as Brzezinski puts it, a “resistance that is rooted in individuals within the population” whose political consciousness grows. Consciousness – self-consciousness – is an extremely important factor in the spiritual world. The path of inquiry that follows the method of historical symptomatology plays a particularly favourable role in this connection. Once one has recognized the impulses that the Ahrimanic spirits carry into the stream of earthly history, then there is a law according to which – insofar as one knows these impulses, recognizes them, takes them up into one’s consciousness – one can oblige them to undergo certain corrections and give them another direction.

During a course of lectures held in June 1924 on the estate of wealthy landowner Count Carl Keyserlinck in Koberwitz near Breslau (its theme was the possibility of a renewal of agriculture on a biodynamic basis), Rudolf Steiner uttered a warning which has a direct bearing on our own time: “The true antithesis is not between America and Russia – that is only apparent. The real conflict comes between China and America. Whether this is across Europe or across the Pacific Ocean, that is the question. Europe would justifiably hope that it would happen across the Pacific Ocean.”

On the basis of all that we have brought forward in our discussions, we can come to the conclusion that in this conflict, the decision has fallen in favor of the first option – namely, that it will be fought out *on European territory* (and thus, in the first place, in Russia). But in view of this, the

human beings of this world who are possessed of a healthy judgment have every reason to appeal without ceasing, with their knowledge and their understanding of the processes involved, to God and the higher powers who guide and guard over humanity: "May this cup pass from Europe!"

This choice is, in its essential nature, determined by that gigantic complex of measures in which the world is enveloped in order that the incarnation of Ahriman should be given a form that is particularly favourable for him. This includes gender mainstreaming, the brutal, unspeakably vulgar, barbaric destruction of all classical art, the monstrous advance of technological development in the field of electronics, which is being applied for the development of psychotronics, and many, many other things. All this taken together robs humanity of the meaning of its existence. And this movement of civilization accelerates faster and faster, like the increase in speed of the flow of the Niagara River as its masses of water approach the Niagara Falls.

And yet the possibility exists of reaching the safety of the riverbank. Humanity still has a chance to give a decisive, positive turn to its destiny. Russia also has this chance. But if nothing happens apart from the restoration of a united statehood within the boundary and the spirit (the choice of words can vary here) of the former USSR; and if in addition, the so-called "polar" forces of occult Bolshevism rise to power (we spoke of them in our book *Crisis of Civilization*), then Russia will, of necessity, miss this chance, just as it missed its chance in 1914 and as Germany did in 1919. Then it will have to wage a war on two fronts, which will stretch it beyond its limits. The neo-Bolsheviks of occult Bolshevism were masters in the creation of that scenario; it is tailor-made for them, to perfection. And then "the Third Rome crumbles to dust." Everything will happen as Soloviev predicted: an army four million strong advances from Chinese Turkestan into our central Asiatic regions, crosses the Urals and inundates Eastern and Central Russia. "As ... the enemy was vastly superior in numbers, the Russian troops could only demonstrate their military gifts in a defeat that was at least honourable", etc. The peaceful populace – women, children, old people – will be plunged into a state of misery comparable to that of the civil population of Germany in 1944-45, or even worse.

But whatever the course future events may take, no one has the right to surrender to fatalism. For from the standpoint of eternity, things are different from what they are when seen from an earthly perspective. Humanity is passing through a difficult phase of evolution which threatens to plunge it massively into materialism and utilitarianism. This is the reason for the chaotic conditions that are arising in Central and Eastern Europe. For they are the regions in which the spiritual future of mankind is meant to be prepared through the instilling of life and spirit into today's material culture, the striving to spiritualize it. This calls forth the resistance of the forces of decline, of decay, of retardation. Rudolf Steiner said the following:

"It is certainly not possible to speak without an undertone of sorrow about this chaos that has descended upon the lands of Central and Eastern Europe, and which, externally, shows little prospect of a return to harmony in the near future. But something else is there, too. Where this chaos is spreading, there will be a world which, on the outer physical plane, will in the very short term give human beings the least one can possibly imagine. The blessings of the physical plane will not be abundant in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. All that the human being can receive

through the fact that he bears his existence through external forces – all this will not amount to much. The human being will have to take a strong hold of himself in the inwardness of his soul in order to stand firm in life. And ... he will be able to make the decision to move forward to the spirit, from which alone future salvation can come.” (GA186, 21.12.1918)

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Postscript, December 2014

Eight months have gone by since these essays were written, and so far the events in the world have not given us reason to alter their content in any significant way. The imposition of a series of relatively mild sanctions on Russia still aims to bring the country to focus on its own development: to build up industry and agriculture again, and of course to arm itself, etc. But for some reason Russia persists in her reluctance to do this. Many sensible things are said, but beyond this nothing happens. Everybody is waiting for the price of crude oil to reach the 100 dollar mark and exceed it. Then there will again be enough for everyone, there will even be a bit extra for the public health service and education. – And this is a very remarkable fact and, indeed, a symptom. What lies behind it?

If one observes attentively the development in the world in connection with the events in the Ukraine, then it becomes increasingly obvious that these events represent in their essence the conflict, the relentless battle, between two gigantic world powers. One of these powers remains faithful to the scenario described above, the realization of which is to enable it to achieve world domination. The other power favours the continuation of the process that is underway in the world, whose main points can be summed up as follows:

1. To steadfastly promote the semi-violent mixing of all the races;
2. To continue the work of radically altering the character and type of the human personality, and even its kind, by means of the sexual revolution; and
3. To continue the process of the destruction of the monolithic State with the help of “orange revolutions” in order to bring about in the world a total but controllable chaos.

As soon as the one part of such a development gains the upper hand, the peoples of the world will be joined together in a State which encompasses the planet, with a government that rules over this planetary State. In this case, a third World War would not be necessary.

The advocates of these two globalization projects battle with each other in all parliaments, even in the world’s monarchies, in all financial, economic, ideological and other structures. Each of these groups has its voters, a mass of conscious and also unconscious followers representing all strata of society.

And in these circumstances, which of us is qualified to judge who is the friend and who the enemy of the welfare of mankind? But here there is something else to grasp: namely, that there exist two forms of globalism and that the realization of either the one or the other would mean the downfall of human evolution. And so it is the supreme task of any individual who has been able to

maintain a healthy judgment and an independent personality to oppose the movement of civilization in either one of the directions mentioned. For, what paths are they? What lies in store for humanity if it follows them?

The vision of one of them (the Ahrimanic) is found in the utopian novels *We* by Yevgeni Zamyatin (1884-1937) and *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley (1894-1963); and of the other in *The Earthly Paradise*, the utopia of Dmitri Mereshkovski (1866-1941).