

The End of the USA?



Professor Igor Panarin

For over a decade a Russian academic called Professor Igor Panarin has been predicting that the U.S.A. will collapse in 2010. For most of that time few have taken seriously his idea that an economic and moral collapse would spark a civil war and the break-up of the U.S.A. However, since the economic crisis he has begun to find an audience. Recently he has been interviewed as often as twice a day about his predictions.

Professor Panarin, 50 years old, is not from the lunatic fringe. A former KGB analyst, he is head of the Russian Foreign Ministry's academy for diplomats. He is invited to Kremlin receptions, lectures students, publishes books and appears in the media as an expert on U.S./Russia relations.

A polite man, Mr. Panarin does not dislike Americans, but he warns that the outlook is grim. 'There is a 55%-45% chance that disintegration will happen', he has said. 'Some might rejoice in that process', he added, 'but if we are talking reasonably, it is not the best scenario for Russia'. Russia's economy would suffer because it still depends heavily on the dollar and trade with the U.S.A. Mr. Panarin said that mass immigration, economic decline and moral degradation would spark a civil war in 2010 and the collapse of the dollar. In summer 2010 he says that the U.S.A. will break into pieces.

Mr. Panarin's ideas are now widely debated among Russian experts. He presented his theory at a recent debate at the Foreign Ministry. The country's international relations school has invited him as a main speaker. During an appearance on the TV channel Rossiya, the station showed his comments and TV footage of queues at soup kitchens and masses of homeless in the U.S.A.

It was in September 1998 that the Professor attended a conference in Austria on information warfare, using data to get advantages over rivals. It was there that he first presented his idea about the collapse of the U.S.A. in 2010. 'When I pressed the button on my computer and the map of the United States disintegrated, hundreds of

people cried out in surprise,' he recalled. He said that most of the audience had been sceptical.

He based his prediction on classified data from analysts. He predicts that economic, financial and demographic trends will trigger a political and social crisis in the U.S.A. He says that wealthier states will withhold funds from the U.S. federal government and leave the Union. Social unrest up to and even including a civil war would follow. The U.S. 'melting pot' would then split along ethnic lines and foreign powers would move in.

According to him, California will form the nucleus of what he calls 'The Californian Republic' and will be under Chinese influence. Texas will be at the heart of 'The Texas Republic', a group of states under Mexican influence. Washington, D.C. and New York will be part of a European 'Atlantic America'. Canada will take over a group of Northern States which Prof. Panarin calls 'The Central North American Republic'. Hawaii, he suggests, will become a protectorate of Japan or perhaps China and Alaska will be taken back into Russia.

Interest in the Professor's predictions recently revived when he published an article in Izvestia, one of Russia's biggest national daily newspapers. In it, he repeated his theory, called U.S. foreign debt 'a pyramid scheme' and predicted that China and Russia would take over Washington's role as a global financial regulator. (American debt is largely financed by China). Americans hope that President Obama 'can work miracles', he wrote. 'But when the spring comes, it will be clear that there are no miracles'.

The professor says that he believes that people are taking his theory more seriously. People have forecast similar disasters before, he said, and been right. He quoted as an example the French political scientist Emmanuel Todd. Mr Todd (like several others) forecast the fall of the Soviet Union 15 years before it happened. 'When he forecast the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1976, people laughed at him', recalled Professor Panarin.

Will we laugh at Professor Panarin, even if his predictions are a few months or three or four years out? We recall how in the 1960s the Russian writer Andrei Amalrik predicted the fall of the Soviet Union by 1984. He was wrong – but only by a few years.