

Eurasian Chaos

Commentary for January 16, 2016 — The Majority of the World's Population

I want to present what I believe is a very useful understanding of how the world system works, and the cause of many of the world's problems. Geopolitical scholar Dr. George Friedman has written an interesting January 11, 2016 article titled "[The Eurasian Storm](#)" for the publication *Mauldin Economics*. Friedman begins by discussing China's stock market downturn, the "spending" of China's foreign reserve to maintain growth in its economy (and failing to do so as its economy declines), and a possible "crack" in the Chinese Communist planned economy and even its political structure. Then he tells of a larger issue beyond just China's economic problems:

"China is not the only nation in Eurasia facing social and political instability as a result of economic shifts. Almost all of Asia, with the major exception of India, is undergoing growing instability of different sorts.

- The Europeans are struggling to deal with massive economic and political divergences within the European Union.
- The Russians are simultaneously attempting to deal with an economic crisis stemming from declining oil prices, but rooted in their inability to use oil revenues to build a more robust economy.
- The Middle East is in political and military chaos, due to reasons ranging from US attempts at disengaging from the region to deep animosity between Shiite and Sunni Muslims.
- And Central Asian countries, caught between Russian and Chinese dysfunction and the lapping waters of Muslim discontent, are struggling to contain the resulting unrest."

• Friedman, "[The Eurasian Storm](#)," bullet points mine

Change is coming, the rate of change is increasing, and the changes will be traumatic for the populations of the countries within the region. What is Eurasia as a geopolitical entity? Friedman describes it:

"What we are seeing is a region — from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and from the Arctic to the Indian Oceans — destabilizing. Of the 7 billion souls alive today, 5 billion live in this region.

In most of Eurasia, the realities that have been taken for granted for the past generation are no longer certain. There has been a belief in much of the region that, at some point, everything will go back to normal. It was assumed

- that China's economy would flourish;
- that Europe would sort out its problems;
- that, without the US presence, conflicts in the Middle East would subside; and
- that Russia would, in due course, accommodate itself to its new liberal democratic principles.

However, none of those things are going to happen. Instability, uncertainty, and increasingly impotent regimes trying to find their way out of the crises they have stumbled into, are the new normal. The different parts of Eurasia will not experience the same type of crisis. China's problems are not the Middle East's, and the Middle East's are not Europe's, but these regional crises have a common cause and interact with each other, complicating them enormously."

- *Friedman, "The Eurasian Storm,"* bullet points mine

Friedman identifies the trend toward "interdependence" as the cause for the increasing chaos. Interdependence is a movement over several generations by leaders of many nations to try to solve humanity's problems. Eurasia is the largest single landmass in the world, and it is progressing toward increasing instability. This worldwide movement is failing and causing more problems than it solves. Dr. Friedman elaborates:



"I wrote a recent article for Mauldin Economics about an emerging crisis for major exporting countries. I want to expand on this in order that we might understand the root cause of the Eurasian crisis — interdependence. Interdependence has been seen as a panacea for humanity's problems. However, it solves problems, but also creates them. Its most important weakness is that a systemic failure in one region rapidly spreads to other regions.

The attempts to solve problems in some nations also affect other countries. Therefore, a byproduct of an interdependent system actually turns into the most dangerous reality of all. This byproduct is conflict among nations, as they struggle to stabilize their own crises and are constrained by the behavior of other countries. The conflicts brought on by interdependence are the most dangerous because they breed the greatest desperation."

- *Friedman, "The Eurasian Storm,"* underline emphasis mine

Friedman then presents details of how that interdependence causes problems for various countries and regions. One key sentence of the quote above is this: **"Interdependence has been seen as a panacea for humanity's problems."** The mistaken trend toward one world government through cooperation of nations cannot work. Friedman notes, **"not only is Eurasia as a whole in crisis, but the crises in individual countries and regions are increasingly interactive."**

Those of us who acknowledge a biblical model of history know that a human desire for cooperation and interdependence has been sought since the time of the Tower of Babel when God acted in Genesis chapter 11 to separate nations (read Genesis 11:1–9). A one-world government and cooperation will not occur until antichrist rules for a brief period just before Christ returns. Until then, there shall be continued attempts — and failures — for complete interdependence to take place. In my opinion, this is likely to be one of many problems that will seem to be solved briefly by the antichrist. But only the true Christ can do that.

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