

The Day Before the Last Day

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;I would like to talk to you about the next global conflict. I am not a fortune teller, I am a futurist. I am using methodology to express my views. I am a scientist, practising a multi-disciplinary discipline. Which means I don't know what will happen in the future, but I can tell you the percentage of probability that something will or will not happen. But you should remember there is no on future. There are several directions in which a future can be developed.

What I was asked to talk about is the nature of the next global conflict. Imagine the thin crust of the earth. In its core it has a bubbling hot lava that constantly has the need to find a way to erupt. It might erupt though the obvious places where you have active volcanoes, but you should always remember you might be surprised somewhere else by a huge earthquake or a huge tsunami that can change the face of the earth in a few seconds.

Before we continue talking about the possible nature of the upcoming crisis, there is one thing that all experts would agree on and, surprisingly enough, it is when this next global conflict might happen. And, almost mystically, some might say: All different models are pointing to the conclusion that the next global conflict could occur within the years 2018-2020. It's true that some of those models are referring to predictions of a religious war. Since 9/11 many experts have pointed out that that attack was just the beginning of a dangerous fundamental period in which religious fundamentalism could lead to the next clash. I suggest another point of view – my private prediction about the four volcanoes:

The most recent and surprising and unexpected volcano would be what we call the current revolutions in the Arab world. And their effect throughout the Middle

East. But some of the powers activated in these conflicts under the surface are still premature, which makes it still difficult to tell where those revolutions might lead.

You have a very thin layer of crust on top of a boiling financial pressure that might burst violently at some point. And I am talking about the rising superpower of China versus the declining empire of the US.

The location of the third volcano is in Europe. We are actually at the moment standing on top of the world's biggest sleeping volcano. Europe has its racist and violent past and still holds onto a feeling of superiority. Its current economical crisis and the predictions of waves of immigrants might lead to a violent supervolcanic eruption – we could already look at the Norwegian terrorist as the first geyser to mark the geological unrest that might erupt.

The fourth old and always active volcano is obviously the Middle East and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, even though it can be seen as a local small-scale fight between neighbours. Because of its religious nature, and the connection to the holy places, it has the ability to enflame the whole world, and drag it into a devastating global war.

Surprisingly enough all the three monotheist religions point out to the Judgement Day, Armageddon, The Last War, as a war that would start in Jerusalem. As a futurist, obviously, I do not take religious prophesies as sources of information, but one does have to keep in mind that some people do take those prophesies as a source of inspiration. And it would only take the action of a few individuals to turn those spiritual prophesies into a vivid hell.

But before you go and point at religion as the source of evil, you should bear in mind that most of the horrifying acts of war and violence in the last decade were not religious wars. They were territorial, imperial, economical and civil, and were caused by Godless atheists and secular ideologies. We might find ourselves wondering how the world wasted its precious time defending itself against religious fundamentalism, instead of concentrating on being prepared for the real threat'

-Lecture by Dr. rotem Keinan, Jerusalem
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