

Information Sheet for 2012 Study of China's Future to the year 2050



Chinese word for crisis

By Michael Lee, Founder of the Institute of Futurology

The key elements of China's future to 2050 are:

- Expect an era of increased Chinese nationalism and national pride, including the flexing of military muscle, between now and 2050
- China's economy will surpass that of the USA before 2020
- However, there are many similarities between Russia before its 1917 Revolution and China today - the likelihood of history repeating itself grows by the day
- China should succeed in landing a man and a woman on the moon before 2030
- China will eventually establish strategic domination of Southeast Asia over its rivals the USA and Japan
- China will struggle to find sufficient resources, including energy and food, for its growing population
- The impact of the industrialisation of China on its environment will be severe
- The CCP's one-party dictatorship will be reformed in the long-run as education and knowledge produce millions of citizens demanding greater democratic freedom
- Political reform will be accompanied by decentralisation of power to regions & cities
- Chinese women will equal to men in their influence and power before 2040
- A great new peaceful Chinese civilisation could emerge towards the middle of the century which would benefit, rather than harm, humanity

Read futurist Michael Lee's three 2050 China scenarios in his essay "Too Big to Succeed? Three China Scenarios to 2050" [China's Runaway Train Future](#), [China's Juggernaut Future](#) and [China's Xanadu Future](#) at <http://www.futurology.co.za>.

Read "The Ten Greatest Predictions of All Time" at <http://www.futurology.co.za>.

Michael Lee is a futurist who founded the World Future Society's Southern African Chapter and the Institute of Futurology. He is CEO of the ATM Industry Association (www.atmia.com), a non-profit trade association with more than 3,500 members in 60 countries. Lee is a member of the World Future Society (www.wfs.org), the International Society for the Study of Time (www.studyoftime.org), the Royal Institute of Philosophy (www.royalinstitutephilosophy.org) and the Institute of Physics (www.iop.org). He serves on the Board of Directors of the global ATM Industry Association and the US-based Benefit Corporation Standards Institute (<http://www.bcorpinstute.org/>). His book *Knowing our Future – the startling case for futurology* will be published in November 2012 - http://www.infideas.com/pages/store/products/ec_view.asp?PID=1804. The book is also available on Amazon at <http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/1906821984>

Appendix 1

Similarities between China Today and Russia before its 1917 Revolution

Similarities between Russia before its 1917 Revolution and China today include:

- Empires with huge populations following diverse religions and cultures
- Undergoing an irreversible, state-led, large-scale industrialisation process
- Playing economic and technological “catch up” to the West in a modernisation programme
- Rapid and widespread urbanisation
- Rural poverty and growing urban squalor for migrants
- Class polarisation with rising middle class breaking away from poor masses
- Government by a remote, autocratic government with no political voice for democrats or full rights for workers (i.e. too many disenfranchised people within a non-democratic political system)
- Partial state emancipations carried out – Russia emancipated its slaves in 1861, 56 years before the Revolution, while China has embarked on a private sector revolution, allowing significant economic freedom
- The world at the time of the Russian Revolution, like the world today, was a time of massive historical change of empires; today the Age of the West is slowly being overtaken by the Age of Asia, while Peak Oil and climate change represent considerable global resource challenges
- Environmental stress– the crop failures and severe famine of early 1890s in Russia radicalised its already disconnected population, while China today faces environmental challenges ranging from drought to land degradation and pollution