

Information Sheet for the Long-Term Future of Russia

By Michael Lee, Founder of the Institute of Futurology

Key elements for the remainder of the 21st Century for Russia include:

- A new golden age for Russia beckons between 2015-2050
- Russia will become an energy giant due to its large stocks of oil and natural gas and Gazprom will increasingly exert monopolistic power in European markets
- A Russian cultural and scientific renaissance could accompany this rising prosperity if massive investments are made in social development over the next generation
- It is incumbent upon Russia to control corruption and ensure its newfound wealth is invested in social development and social justice, otherwise its prosperity from energy wealth will be dissipated and an increasingly dysfunctional future will follow
- Expect Russia to become a leading military power in the first half of this century
- Managed correctly, the Russian rise to power would see the Ruble becoming a major international currency before 2030
- Russia will pursue a policy of Mutually Assured Power in the three-way power contest with the US and China, continuously shifting its alliances between them while giving both superpowers enough to keep them from becoming antagonists
- Expect a restless cat-and-mouse foreign policy from Russia for the next few decades as it balances its newfound wealth, power and demographic challenges
- Depopulation is a threat to the future of Russia and its total population could shrink to 60 million people by 2100, suffering net losses of around 850 000 people per year
- Russia will become a much older society, with its median age rising to about 45 years old by 2040 compared to 25 years old back in 1950
- There will be a sharp decline in the size of its working population which will gradually shrink the economy unless Russia brings in huge numbers of foreign migrant workers

Read Michael Lee's scenarios for Russia: the Prowling Bear Future and the Russian Chess Master Future in his essay "The Bellow of the Eurasian Brown Bear: Russia in the 21st Century" at www.futurology.co.za

About Michael Lee

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.bcorpoinstitute.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>