

TOLSTOY'S PROPHECY

As history counts, the time will not be long until this great dramatic chapter will be finished, and the Slav, untamed by outsiders, may suddenly find himself, and rise up, purified and strong, to surprise the world with his own powers for civilization of a new type. Somehow every Russian, whether of high station or low, with whom I have talked seems to share my own prophetic feeling as to this coming development. And an old prophecy upholds the theory. Made long before the war, by Tolstoy, of whom the Czar in 1910 had asked it, it announces the coming cataclysm; and it very much upset the ruler then. The paper containing it was kept in His Majesty's secret archives, it was said. In a trance, the old writer, then in his dotage, saw all Europe in flames, and predicted, such a war as the universe had never known before. After this he said: "The end of this great calamity will mark a new political era for the world. There will be left no empires or kingdoms, but there will be born a federation of united states, and there will exist four great giant races -- The Anglo-Saxons, the Latins, the Slavs and the Mongolians. And I see a change in religious sentiments, and the church as known now will fall. The ethical idea will nearly vanish, and humanity will be almost without morality; and then a great reformer will rise about the year 1925. He will lay the corner stone of a new religion -- God, soul and spirit, immortality, all to be molten in the new furnace and to form a new power of spirituality. And I see the peaceful dawn of a new day at last.

"And the man determined on for this mission is a Mongolian-Slav; already he is walking the earth. He will be a man of active affairs, and does not realize now the position in history assigned to him by superior powers."