

Third Rome tendency surfaces in Russian election results

by Konstantin George

The Dec. 12 Russian election results ought to teach the West the lesson it needs. The victory of Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the avowed exponent of the anti-western, messianic Russian imperial doctrine of "Moscow, the Third and Final Rome," is a direct result of the Russian electorate's rage at having been subjected to two years of devastating and humiliating "shock therapy" economic policies. The outcome dramatized just how precise have been the warnings of *EIR* and its founder, Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., in exposing the strategic folly of the Anglo-American-dictated western policy toward the former Soviet Union.

According to the results as of Dec. 16, Zhirinovskiy's Liberal Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR) received 24% of the vote for the 225 seats of the 450-seat State Duma or lower house of the future Parliament, which were elected by national party lists. Notably, Zhirinovskiy received a high number of votes from the Armed Forces overall, and even higher totals from middle- and lower-ranking officers. This reflects the fact that Zhirinovskiy is not some strange fringe creature, but the choice of the Armed Forces and security forces' policymaking groups who directed the Oct. 4 Yeltsin coup crushing the old parliament, and who since have let Yeltsin rule as their captive. Zhirinovskiy is the candidate of these groups, who expresses an undiluted "Third Rome" imperial policy.

The "Russia's Choice" bloc of Deputy Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar, who has implemented International Monetary Fund (IMF) policy, and which was the only party that campaigned explicitly for the continuation of shock therapy, was routed. The more "final" the election results become, the

greater the dimensions of that rout appear. The initial trends of Dec. 13, showing 19% for Gaidar's bloc, have been scaled down to first 15%, and now 14.5%. When final results are in, Gaidar could well fall to third place, behind the Communist Party of Russia, which has climbed from an initial 11%, to almost 14%.

LaRouche hit the nail on the head

The results confirm the prognosis of the Russian situation uniquely put forward by LaRouche. LaRouche had said that the continuation of the policies begun by George Bush and Margaret Thatcher toward the former Soviet Union would ignite a revival of Russia the thermonuclear superpower to become again a bitter adversary of the West. This danger is not inevitable, but only under condition that the West finally wakes up and adopts the Eurasian development, war-avoidance policies proposed by LaRouche.

LaRouche, in the weekly "*EIR Talks*" radio program on Dec. 15, addressed what is going on in Russia today: "Yeltsin in a sense has no independent power. He is owned by the military and security forces. That's his constituency, that is who rules Russia today. The leading candidate, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the one who causes the nervousness in the stomachs of the State Department, is an outright, avowed imperial 'Third Romer.' He is also a creature politically of the Russian military and security forces. However, he reflects their policy more accurately than does Yeltsin.

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and security forces are engaged in a time-buying operation. They're keeping their figurehead, totally owned by them, Yeltsin, up there, as part of their arrangements with Washington and London, arrangements which are not permanent."

Zhirinovsky provided more evidence of this analysis in his first post-election press conference, where he read out telegrams congratulating him from the Russian General Staff, the Baltic Fleet, the Black Sea Fleet, and from other "military units." He pledged he would do everything possible to ensure the restoration and buildup of the Armed Forces, and to end the miserable housing and living conditions affecting hundreds of thousands of officers, their families, and soldiers. Finally, he called for vastly expanding state orders to military industry and for a much bigger export of military hardware.

In accordance with the dictates by the Armed Forces, Zhirinovsky, alone among the opposition, strongly supported the absolutist new constitution of Yeltsin. The election contained a referendum for this constitution which officially resulted in its adoption, even though to date, no official vote totals on the referendum have been given. The constitution may have received at best 50% of the vote, but it did not meet its second requirement, that at least 50% of all eligible voters actually vote. Participation in the election was less than 50%. However, the dictatorship has spoken; the constitution has been adopted.

The overall results

While no final results are known at this writing, key trends can be projected. The largest single area of "missing information" concerns the elections to the Federation Council, or Upper House, with 178 seats, two from each of Russia's 89 regions and "republics."

Concerning the State Duma, the LDPR has emerged as the largest single group, with a minimum of 78 seats. The opposition as a whole will comprise the majority of the lower house. In this category, the Communist Party of Russia received nearly 14% in the national party slate vote; the Agrarian Party got 8%; and the centrist Democratic Party of Russia, led by Nikolai Travkin, received 6%. Travkin's party, which had the strongest public profile against shock therapy, alone among the various centrist parties managed to clear the 5% hurdle and get into the parliament by the direct route.

An interesting pattern is starting to emerge from the results of the 225 seats of the State Duma elected on an election district (ED) basis. Here, the rout of the Gaidarites was even more pronounced. They won only 27 EDs. The largest single group which got elected via this route are about 100 non-party independent candidates. Many of these are local managers or directors of key industrial plants, a force which will bring into the new parliament in an officially "non-partisan" manner, demands for policy changes to stimulate production and en-

courage an industrial revival.

The ED races also showed the depth of popular anger at the policies of the Yeltsin regime. A pattern emerged where figures who were well-known as anti-regime or as opponents of the "Yeltsin" Oct. 4 coup, won their districts. The nationalist Sergei Baburin, head of the "Russian General People's Union" party and one of the defenders of the old parliament, was elected in Omsk, Siberia. Vasili Lipitsky, the co-chairman, along with now jailed Vice President of Russia Aleksandr Rutskoy, of the "People's Party for a Free Russia" (banned since Oct. 4), was elected as an individual in Novosibirsk, Siberia. Aleksandr Nevzorov, who had moderated the anti-regime TV program "600 Seconds," was elected in St. Petersburg. Nikolai Lysenko, head of the Great Russian nationalist "National Republican Party" was elected in Saratov on the Volga. The only two August 1991 coup plotters on trial who ran, Anatoli Lukyanov, former chairman of the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet, and Vasily Starodubtsev, former head of the U.S.S.R. Peasants' Union, were both elected, in the cities of Smolensk and Tula, respectively.

The election of Yuri Vlasov, an anti-regime, independent candidate, is important: Vlasov, famous during the 1960s as a world champion weight lifter, won on a platform of denouncing shock therapy as "a revolution of the rich against the poor." He demanded "economic planning," not in the Soviet form, but as conducted in dirigist western and Japanese models. He expressly demanded that industrial priorities be established and supported by the state through "tax breaks" and "subsidies," and a program set up to plan production in each region according to national priorities. He called for a mixed economy with a strong state sector being maintained in energy, raw materials, transport, communications, military industry, and state support for all basic research and development. Finally, Vlasov called on the state to establish protective tariffs for industry, and to assist agriculture through parity price policies "to guarantee food independence" and to prevent Russia from becoming "a puppet of foreign forces."

The 'Near Abroad'

The most dangerous thrust to come from the Russian elections is a major escalation in Moscow's drive to geographically reestablish the Russian Empire. The Third Rome policy currently governing Moscow will exploit the Zhirinovsky victory to accelerate its ongoing policy of attempting to reconquer the non-Russian republics, the area Moscow calls "the Near Abroad."

The post-election reaction in these republics, especially along the western periphery of the former U.S.S.R., ranges from alarm and fear to outright despair. The theme of Ukrainian reactions over Dec. 13-14 is fear of what is called "the Russian effect," where it is expected that Moscow will now increase its vicious pressure on Ukraine. Russia's with-

holding of oil and gas supplies has already plunged Ukraine into its worst winter catastrophe since the World War II. Across the nation, lack of energy has forced the wholesale closure of factories. Homes go unheated in bitter cold. School classes are cancelled for the same reason. Electricity is rationed in most cities to several hours per day.

The escalation was signaled by Yeltsin on Dec. 15 in his meeting in Moscow with U.S. Vice President Albert Gore, where once again the superpowers used the phony nuclear arms issue to slander Ukraine and cover their intent to subject Ukraine to genocidal destruction. Yeltsin blustered, "Ukraine is deceiving all of us; it is deceiving the United States, Russia, Europe, deceiving the entire world, and we are so helpless that we are not dealing with this evil."

Unfortunately, some leading Ukrainians do not yet see that the Anglo-American group is even more evil. The reaction of Dmitro Pavlychko, chairman of the foreign affairs committee of the parliament, typifies this. "I believe that many in the West will now better understand our position on disarmament questions," he said, referring to why Ukraine has been reluctant to surrender the nuclear weapons on its territory. Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Tarasyuk expressed the Kiev government's concern over the high vote Zhirinovskyy received from officers and sailors of the Black Sea Fleet.

The reaction was even stronger in the small Baltic republics, who know that Zhirinovskyy's program calls for their reconquest. Zhirinovskyy has made statements such as, "Who has oil, has power. When I'm President, in three days, there'll be no more Latvia." Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar said, "Our worst prognoses have come true." He blamed the West for the result: "If the West now believes that Zhirinovskyy now will not be so dangerous, then there will be a development threatening like in Germany in the 1930s. However, if the West has learned from history, then nothing tragic need happen." On Dec. 15, the Presidents of the three Baltic republics met in the Estonian capital of Tallinn to discuss the Russian situation. Estonia is especially nervous. Although only 25% of its ethnic Russians took part in the Russian elections, 60% of them voted for Zhirinovskyy.

The mood in Belarus among those still hoping to cling to independence is completely bleak. The government, prime minister, President, and official press are silent. A pro-independence Minsk daily commented that if Zhirinovskyy ever became President of Russia, he wouldn't have to reconquer Belarus, he would merely have to appoint a governor. The independent newspaper *Zvyazda* wrote, "The victory of the Reds and Browns means the end of Belorussian independence."

The situation, however, is not necessarily hopeless. Often in the course of history, a shock, which may be provided this time by the Zhirinovskyy vote, may alert enough people to the dangers and thereby start to force through the types of policy changes required to shift humanity away from the fate of a global war.

Interview: Lyndon LaRouche

Dump the free trade insanity toward Russia

Lyndon LaRouche made the following comments on the weekly radio program "EIR Talks" on Dec. 15.

Forget Mr. Yeltsin. He didn't do all well or all badly. The problem is, that the U.S. media coverage of this thing is absolute childishness, infantile irrelevance; and the State Department, while a little bit shaky in their coverage of the elections, are trying to keep up a stiff upper lip or something; and they're pretending to go along with the usual nonsense about the Russian elections; about "Yeltsin up," "Yeltsin down," that kind of nonsense, which the rest of the news media is doing. . . .

The reality is something which anyone would understand who had read my reports on the Third Rome tendency in Russia from the spring of 1983, or who might recall a half-hour program on the subject of the Third Rome which was broadcast as a part of my 1984 presidential primary campaign. He would know more about the current Russian elections from those two pieces of my production back in the 1983-84 period, than he would know from paying any attention to any of the news reports. . . .

Very simply, President Boris Yeltsin, with the bloody coup of Oct. 4 shutting down the Parliament and throwing away the Constitution, which was actually planned four days in advance, became totally dependent upon the people who made the coup for him, that is, on the consent of those forces in the military and security forces which went along with him.

So Yeltsin, in a sense, *has no independent power*. He is owned by the military and security forces. That's his constituency, that is who rules Russia today. The leading candidate, [Vladimir] Zhirinovskyy, the one who causes the nervousness in the stomachs of the State Department, is an outright, avowed, imperial Third Romer. He is also a creature politically of the Russian military and security forces. However, he reflects their policy more accurately than does Yeltsin.

Yeltsin is being used by the military and security forces because the West wants him; and therefore, in order to placate Washington and London in particular, the Russian military and security forces are engaged in a time-buying operation. They're keeping their figurehead, Yeltsin, totally owned by them, up there as part of their arrangements with London and Washington, *arrangements which are not permanent*. . . .

Washington has the idea that you get elected, you have an agenda, you think you have a constituency for it, you think that by political controls and other things you can ram