

# RUSSIA'S FUTURE AFTER PUTIN

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Russia's future after Putin was recently explored by *The Economist* in its issue of July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026 (*The man who would change Russia*). Using some of the ideas expounded there, **HE** proposes five possible future scenarios for the country. In order from least to most likely these are:

- AN: Russia descends into anarchy with various warlords in control of their part of the country.
- MC: Russia becomes a moribund state dependent on the Chinese economy.
- ME: As for MC but with Europe replacing China.
- PS: Russia becomes an isolated pariah state similar to North Korea.
- SQ: Status quo - the Communist Party with new leadership remains in control.

Note SQ was not an option in the analysis of the article, but an addition by **HE**.

**PROBABILITIES FOR THE POSSIBLE FUTURE STATES OF RUSSIA**

| Events | Likelihood Ratios    | Pairwise Range |      | Compound Likelihoods |              | PROBABILITIES |              |              |            | More Likely # |      |
|--------|----------------------|----------------|------|----------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|------------|---------------|------|
|        |                      | Low            | High | Low                  | High         | P(Low)        | P(High)      | Average      | %          | Average       | %    |
| AN     | Base $\Rightarrow$ 1 | 1.00           | 1.00 | 1.00                 | 1.00         | 0.129         | 0.068        | 0.098        | 10         | Base          | Base |
| MC     | MC/AN                | 1.50           | 2.50 | 1.50                 | 2.50         | 0.194         | 0.169        | 0.182        | 18         | 1.86          | 1.80 |
| ME     | ME/MC                | 1.00           | 1.00 | 1.50                 | 2.50         | 0.194         | 0.169        | 0.182        | 18         | 1.00          | 1.00 |
| PS     | PS/ME                | 1.00           | 1.00 | 1.50                 | 2.50         | 0.194         | 0.169        | 0.182        | 18         | 1.00          | 1.00 |
| SQ     | SQ/PS                | 1.50           | 2.50 | 2.25                 | 6.25         | 0.290         | 0.424        | 0.357        | 36         | 1.96          | 2.00 |
|        |                      |                |      | <b>7.75</b>          | <b>14.75</b> | <b>1.001</b>  | <b>0.999</b> | <b>1.001</b> | <b>100</b> |               |      |

The article recalled how Nicholas II was forced in 1905 to accept the October Manifesto and relinquish some power to a legislative assembly. By 1907 he had crushed the reforms but was himself replaced in turn by the communist revolution. The SQ outcome could repeat the 1905 scenario with the Communist Party as the current "royalty" continuing to reverse innovations of the Gorbachev, Yeltsin eras.

Note too, that there is historical precedent for collective leadership of the Communist Party. There is a high probability (54%) Russia slides into irrelevance due to its lack of strong, independent institutions such as The Washington Post, Fannie Mae, the BBC, world financial markets and similar – part of the checks and balances of a democratic system. But Russia's future exact form is unclear. The most likely outcome, in **HE's** view, is a form of status quo (SQ) with the Communist Party still in control and Russia still an important, sovereign country.