

ROCKY AUGUST

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It was nine o'clock in the evening on the second of August - the most terrible August in the entire history of mankind.

A. K. Doyle "His Farewell Bow"

It is known that everything that happens on Earth is subject to an annual or seasonal periodicity. This manifests itself not only in changes in the weather, the length of daylight hours, but also in the organization of people's lives. Summer is a time of rest, vacations and vacations, autumn is the beginning of work and study, winter and spring are rich in annual holidays. But sometimes this periodicity, seasonal recurrence of phenomena manifests itself in the most incredible and, at the same time, frightening way.

The fact is that there is a period in the year - it falls on August and partly in the adjoining months - which seems to attract and concentrate all possible troubles and misfortunes. It is enough to recall the last decade and a half of the history of our long-suffering country to make sure that almost every year it was haunted by a harsh fate. Let's go in order:

- 1991 - the coup of the State Emergency Committee (August 19);
- 1992 - voucher privatization (sale of the country, started on August 14);
- 1994 - Chechen war (declared on August 10);
- 1998 - "the collapse of the ruble," and the name "August crisis";
- 1999 - explosions of residential buildings in Moscow (September 8 and 13);
- 2000 - the sinking of the Kursk submarine with a crew (August 14);
- 2004 - tragedy in Beslan: seizure of a school, death of hostages (September 1).

So August, more precisely the period from about mid-July to mid-September, became an inexorable and diverse scourge of fate for the Russian state, but only for the Russian state? The greatest crises in other countries broke out during the same period of the year. Take, for example, the global power outage in the USA and Canada on August 14, 2003. Let's recall the terrorist attack on the United States on September 11, 2001, which resulted not only in the death of hundreds of victims buried under collapsed skyscrapers, but also served as a pretext for the US deployment of military operations in Afghanistan ...

By the way, about the wars. Recall that the most global and disastrous of them - the world ones - also began in a fatal period: World War I - August 1, 1914, World War II - September 1, 1939. The latter gave the bloodiest battle in the history of mankind - the Battle of Stalingrad, which began at the same time of the year - July 17, 1942. But world wars are still flowers. The berries that grew out of them, or rather mushrooms (nuclear explosions, weapons), are what became a real curse for humanity:

- July 16, 1945 - the explosion of the first atomic bomb (USA);
- August 6, 1945 - the first nuclear bombing (Hiroshima);
- August 9, 1945 - the second nuclear bombing (Nagasaki);
- August 29, 1949 - the explosion of the first Soviet atomic bomb;
- August 12, 1954 - the explosion of the first hydrogen bomb (USSR).

Of course, not all nuclear tests took place during the pernicious August period. But we specifically mentioned here only the very first, fundamental explosions, which opened Pandora's "nuclear briefcase". And so they almost all fell on August. (By the way, the Day of Judgment in Terminator 2 was set for

August). The same applies to wars, crises, coups d'etats, terrorist attacks. Not all of them happened in August, but the most tragic, global, destructive and disastrous of them fell on the near-August period. Those who wish can easily find many more examples and confirmations of this, and among the most diverse phenomena.

Thus, examining world events, we suddenly discover that the pernicious influence of August is also subject to events that are almost or not at all dependent on people. Let us recall the great fire that broke out on September 15, 1812, in which Moscow burned to the ground. Or the Great London Fire, which began on September 2 of the diabolical 1666, which destroyed London in the same way. Well, having gone mentally to a very gray-haired antiquity - in the 64th year of our era - we will see the flame that took up on July 18 and burned Ancient Rome. However, it is believed that the fire engulfed the three great capitals not without the direct intervention of people.

Let us then recall a purely natural fire - the greatest volcanic eruptions. The most powerful in the history of mankind is considered the destructive volcanic eruption of Krakatoa (Indonesia) on August 26, 1883. In August (August 24, distant 79), the famous eruption of Vesuvius in Italy also happened, burying three ancient Roman cities under a multi-meter layer of ash and lava: Pompeii, Herculaneum and Stabia. Finally, if we talk about the most disastrous disasters of a volcanic nature of recent decades, then many, perhaps, remember the mysterious death of almost two thousand people, suffocated in a cloud of carbon dioxide released by the volcanic lake Nyos and covered several villages in Cameroon on August 22, 1986.

Continuing the theme of seismic activity, let us recall the famous Tanshan (China) earthquake on July 27, 1976, a record among earthquakes in the number of victims (650 thousand!) Over the past few centuries, if not in the entire history of mankind. Remembering the fires, we can add that another strong earthquake that happened in Japan on September 1, 1923 and became a national disaster, not only claimed many lives (more than 100 thousand), but also caused the Great Fire in Tokyo: the 4th capital suffered in the ill-fated near-August period. Other natural disasters - the most powerful forest fires, hurricanes, floods, thunderstorms and hail - as it is easy to check, at least from the reports of recent years, also usually fell on the August strip. It is interesting to look for such disasters in order to clarify the boundaries of the fateful period. Perhaps, they should be moved to one side or the other. So, the entire third quarter (July-August-September) as a whole may turn out to be fatal.

Why, then, one sixth of the year - a black stripe stretching from about July 15 to September 15 - in violation of all statistical laws has absorbed the main troubles and crises? However, if there are difficult days on the scale of the week (the notorious Monday), unhappy summers on the scale of the century, then why not have a fatal month on the scale of the year. Another close friend of Tsiolkovsky, the famous biophysicist A.L. Chizhevsky pointed to the periodicity of terrestrial catastrophes, epidemics, social crises caused by the cycles of solar activity (see, for example, the book by F.Yu. Siegel "The Sun Is to Blame"). Of these cycles, the 11-year cycle is best known. Its influence on earthly processes is epidemics, crop failures, invasions of agricultural pests, repeated every 11 years, etc. - is no longer disputed. But astronomers have also identified a mass of other cycles of the Sun, including the weekly one, monthly and annual. The latter, apparently, gives birth, like the 11-year-old, to crises - in the form of natural disasters or social instability - every August.

It is possible, of course, that in fact there is nothing fatal in August, and all of the above is nothing more than a set of random coincidences. Moreover, the choice of the most fatal events is a somewhat arbitrary and subjective thing (see, for example, VA Mezentsev's book "In the Dead End of Mysticism"). But it is for such controversial cases that a special term was coined - "risk factor". The risk factor - a set of presumably dangerous conditions that should be avoided if possible - is the period around August. So, in August it is better to refrain from long, distant and especially foreign trips. It is not worth going on vacation in August, if only because by this time it usually gets colder, it starts to rain, and they do not recommend swimming: the deer also does its dirty work in August (the second, on Ilyin's day).

Also at this time it is recommended to be extremely careful and careful (especially on the roads

and on the water), not to abuse alcohol, not to risk unnecessarily, but the main thing is to be vigilant, report all suspicious phenomena, persons and objects. This especially applies to employees of airports, transport, special services, police and the Ministry of Emergencies. However, for fans of extreme sports, thrills, adventures and everything unusual, August is, perhaps, on the contrary, the most favorable and interesting time. And for risky entrepreneurs, those who like to go all-in, this time of high stakes can be successful, bringing ruin when and when a big win. So, August, as if to justify its Latin root meaning “growth”, “rise”, turns out to be a time of increasing activity of all phenomena, especially rare and mysterious ones.

Sergey Semikov

Other important fatal events not included in the text:

- mid-summer 1996 - the first Chechen explosions in Moscow;
- August 7, 1999 - the beginning of the 2nd Chechen war;
- mid-July 1977 - complete emergency blackout in New York;
- September 14, 1954 - test. the damaging effect of the poison. weapons (including on people) in the Orenburg region;
- mid-July 1789 - the beginning of the Great French Revolution;
- August 24, 1572 - Massacre on St. Bartholomew's Night;
- July 25, 1980 - Vladimir Vysotsky died;
- August 15, 1990 - the death of Viktor Tsoi in a car accident;
- August 16, 1977 - the king of rock and roll Elvis Presley passed away;
- August 31, 1997 - Princess Diana was killed in a car accident;
- August 24, 1992 - Hurricane Andrew became the most costly natural disaster in the United States;
- end of August 1979 - Hurricane David became one of the strongest in a century;
- August 18, 1769 - lightning that struck the powder store, destroyed the city of Besscia in Italy, 3000 victims;
- the end of July 1916 - a shark that entered the river killed 4 people in 10 days (the prototype for the movie "Jaws");
- July 17, 1918 - Nicholas II and his family were shot ;
- September 5, 1919 - Chapaev died;
- July 26, 1908 and 1947 - the creation of the FBI and the CIA;
- August 2, 1990 - the invasion of Iraqi troops into Kuwait;
- July 21, 365 - an earthquake in Alexandria: 50 thousand victims, the Alexandria lighthouse was destroyed (the wonder of the world);
- July 23, 1981 - the economic crisis in Poland;
- July-August-September 2004 - a series of powerful hurricanes (not only in the USA, but also in Russia, and even in Moscow);
- August 25, 1987 - the emergence of a powerful crisis on the stock exchange;
- September 29, 1947 - the atomic accident in Chelyabinsk-40, exceeding the Chernobyl accident;
- August 2002 - a domestic gas explosion in a multi-storey building in Moscow (many victims);
- August about 1600 - in Moscow, at the height of summer, all rivers became icy for 3 years;
- September 9, 2000 - the atomic accident in Sverdlovsk, which almost turned into the 2nd Chernobyl;
- August 2005 - the accident of the bathyscaphe in Kamchatka and the death of M. Evdokimov in a car accident.

Only a small part of the far from complete list compiled by the author is given. For example, numerous natural disasters in August (earthquakes, eruptions, floods, hurricanes, etc.) have been omitted, although powerful, global, disastrous, but not the most record ones. The same applies to the August wars, revolutions, economic crises, and terrorist attacks.

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