

# THE SPIRIT OF CAYCE'S 'World Affairs' Readings

BY ANN JAFFIN, MS

**D**URING THE DARK DAYS of the Great Depression and World War II, Edgar Cayce gave some of his deepest and most riveting psychic discourses. They are now called the World Affairs readings and are filled with questions about the challenges and turmoil of those decades. Their guidance is universal, profound, and very relevant to our world today.

At present we find our nation in economic chaos and at war. We seek to understand how all this came about and what we, as individuals, can do to help. Cayce's message is always one of hope. But the piercing and humbling wisdom of the Source of this material calls us to shoulder our portion of responsibility while it also helps us to understand the larger and very powerful unseen forces at work.

We'll focus on what these readings have to say about the world's three superpowers—China, Russia, and America.

## China



Despite the fact that the acronym for World Affairs readings is W-A-R, these 29 readings in the 3976 series are among my favorites. Indeed, the third reading, which is only one paragraph long, is especially profound. It was given in 1925, early in Edgar's career while he was in Dayton, Ohio. Very significantly, it is a voluntary reading; that is, no suggestion was given requesting this information. It immediately followed a dream interpretation reading for Morton Blumenthal and presents a spiritual perspective on tragedy and suffering.

*Have some terribly hard times in China to day. In the Manchurian region, a flood and fire both. Many peoples are passing into the Borderland...those conditions arising from*

*this great boredom in the consciousness of many that will bring the revolution in the minds of many peoples, and begin that understanding of the purpose of the Gift of God to the World in the One made manifest in the flesh, and able to bring the consciousness made manifest in the world to the peoples. Hence many will be able through this to lay aside the physical and again manifest in...[the] physical before men. (3976-3)*

This brief but amazing reading which says that because of twin disasters many people are dying may at first seem callous. But it explains the deep, unseen spiritual purpose behind the mass exodus of this soul group and seems to imply that they were unable to fulfill their purpose for incarnating. Therefore, these souls, who understood the purpose of God's gift of Jesus to the world would, in their next incarnation, be able to bring this understanding to many peoples which would constitute a "revolution" in thinking.

When Hugh Lynn Cayce asked for comment about the Japanese and Chinese situation on June 24, 1938, the reply again seemed harsh but also rich with promise.

*Might does not make right. Rather will the principles of the Christian faith be carried forward in and through the turmoils that are a part of both China and Japan.*

*For without those cleansings and purifyings, tradition alone may not be destroyed. For it is through the purging that the strength and beauty of each will come forth. (3976-19)*

The final World Affairs reading, given on June 22, 1944 for the Thirteenth Annual A.R.E. Congress, included a stunning





prediction for China which builds upon the information provided in the above two readings.

*Here, will be one day the cradle of Christianity, as applied in the lives of men. Yea, it is far off as man counts time, but only a day in the heart of God—for tomorrow China will awake.* (3976-29)

## Russia



In January 1932, the first study group requested a reading about “Present World Conditions.”

When asked about political and economic trends in Europe, that reading zeroed in on Russia.

*Europe is as a house broken up. Some years ago there was the experience of a mighty peoples being overridden for the gratification and satisfaction of a few, irrespective of any other man’s right. That peoples are going through the experience of being born again, and is the thorn in the flesh to many a political and financial nation in Europe, in the world...*

**Q.** What is the name of that nation referred to?

**A.** Russia! (3976-8)

Three weeks later when Cayce was asked, “What should be the attitude of so called capitalist nations toward Russia?” his reply was likely unexpected.

*On Russia’s religious development will come the greater hope of the world. Then that one, or group, that is the closer in its relationships, may fare the better in the gradual changes and final settlement of conditions as to the rule of the world.* (3976-10)

Six months later, additional information was presented which helped to clarify this earlier prediction.

*Out of Russia, you see, there may come that which may be the basis of a more world wide religious thought or trend...* (3976-12)

When Hugh Lynn Cayce asked about the Russian situation in June 1938, he was told:

*A new understanding has and will come to a troubled people. Here, because of the yoke of oppression, because of the self indulgences, has arisen another extreme. Only when there is freedom of speech, the right to worship according to the dictates of the conscience—until these come about, still turmoils will be within.* (3976-19)

As with China, the final World Affairs reading given in 1944 emphasized Russia’s vital role in the future of the earth but in “friendship” with America.

*In Russia there comes the hope of the world, not as that sometimes termed of the Communistic, of the Bolshevistic; no. But freedom, freedom! That each man will live for his fellow man! The principle has been born. It will take years for it to be crystallized, but out of Russia comes again the hope of the world. Guided by what? That friendship with the nation that hath even set on its present monetary unit “In God We Trust.”* (3976-29)

## America



up call for each of us.

**Q.** What is the cause of the great economic depression and when may conditions be expected to become normal in the United States?

**A.** The United States may not expect to recover sooner than another nation, unless its basis for recovery is founded in that that brings peace, harmony and understanding. As it, the United States,

*(in the present) is the leading nation in attempting to give an understanding of the principles of “Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself;” it stands above all others in its financial, in its social positions in the world; yet it has faltered, and—as of old—when troubles arise, when fearful conditions beset thee, the same answer as was of old, “Know ye that sin lieth at thy door!”*

*When there are, then, the greater number that would see that the ideal is again made the standard, then may conditions be expected to improve. This not as men count improvement, in dollars and cents, but in contentment and understanding—and one is the fruit of the other!* (3976-8)

When Gertrude Cayce asked for information on national and international affairs in June 1938, the reply was likely unsettling.

*It is also understood, comprehended by some, that a new order of conditions is to arise; that there must be many a purging in high places as well as low; that there must be the greater consideration of each individual, each soul being his brother’s keeper. There will then come about those circumstances in the political, the economic and the whole relationships where there will be a leveling...it behooves all of those who have an ideal...to be practicing, applying same...in their relationships as one to another. For unless these are up and doing, then there must indeed be a new order in their relationships and their activities.*

*All too often has this message been forgotten in the pulpits and in the organizations, not only in the national relationships but in the international relationships...And there cannot be one measuring stick for the laborer in the field and the man behind the counter, and another for the man behind the money changers. All are equal—not only under the material law but under the spiritual.*

*Though there may come those periods when there will be great stress, as brother rises against brother, as group or sect or race rises against race—yet the leveling must come. And only those who have set their ideal in Him and practiced it in their dealings with their fellow man may expect to survive the wrath of the Lord... And then there should be, there will be those rising to power that are able to meet the needs. For none are in power but that*



*The World Affairs readings are filled with guidance relevant to our world today.*

have been given the opportunity by the will of the Father—from which all power emanates. (3976-18)

This reading was continued four days later and warned of the unthinkable—the possibility of revolution in our country.

*We are our brother's keeper. Then if those in position to give of their means, their wealth, their education, their position, do not take these things into consideration, there must be that leveling that will come. For unless these are considered, there must eventually become a revolution in this country—and there will be a dividing of the sections as one against another. For these are the leveling means...to which men resort when there is the plenty in some areas and a lack of the sustenance in the life of others. These are the manners in which such things as crime, riots, and every nature of disturbance arise...*

*For all stand as one before Him. For the Lord is not a respecter of persons, and these things cannot long exist...then, America—the United States—must take warning. For to whom does the wealth belong? To whom do the possibilities of the land belong? Does it belong to those who have inherited it, to those who have been given the positions by power? Or to those who have by their labor, by the sweat of their brow produced same? (3976-19)*

A year later in June, 1939, when Cayce gave a discourse on the major problems confronting the American people, it again warned of possible revolution.

*The ideals, the purposes that called the nation into being are well...there needs to be on the part of each man, each woman, the adhering to those principles that caused the formulating of the American thought.*

*...if there is the turning of every man and woman to the thought of God, then we may solve every problem...Ye are to have turmoils...That such is to be a part of the experience of America is because of unbelief!...Unless there is a more universal oneness of purpose on the part of all, this will one day bring—here—in America—revolution!*

The reply to the last question in this reading not only asks us to reexamine our own values and ideas, it cuts straight to the heart of the spirit of the Cayce readings.

*Q. How can [we]...protect...our democracy?*

*A. Raise not democracy nor any other name above the brotherhood of man, the Fatherhood of God! (3976-24)*

In the final World Affairs reading given on June 22, 1944, less than six months before Edgar's death, he addresses the spirit and "the sin of America."

*What is the spirit of America? Most individuals proudly boast "freedom." Freedom of what? When ye bind men's hearts and minds through various ways and manners, does it give them freedom of speech? Freedom of worship? Freedom from want?...In the application of these principles...America may boast, but rather is that principle being forgotten...and that is the sin of America. (3976-29)*

Reading 3975-15, given on January 19, 1934, is one of the most complex in the World Affairs series. The subject was the spiritual, mental, and physical changes coming to the earth. In answer to the question, "Is America fulfilling her destiny?" this amazing reading replied by making a prophetic statement about China and changes that we are experiencing in our world today.

*Rather should the question be sought...are individuals fulfilling those channels to which they have been brought through their own application of the knowledge within themselves to fulfill their position? For each and every one, each and every nation, is led—even as in heaven. For that ye see in Earth is a pattern of that in the mind... and is as a shadow of spiritual truth, life and light...If there is not the acceptance in America of the closer brotherhood of man, the love of the neighbor as self, civilization must wend its way westward—and again must Mongolia, must a hated people, be raised. (3976-15)*

## Spreading Light to the World



On April 12, 1931, Hugh Lynn Cayce and two businessmen got a follow-up reading, 3976-7, about the possibility of building a world organization to benefit mankind. This had been

broached four years earlier by Edgar Cayce and three other men. At that time, the reading was encouraging. But this time, Cayce's source spent over half of the reading stressing the great amount of thought and preparation which this undertaking would require as well as the necessary ideas and ideals. The first question asked how many men should compose the "central board of control of the parent holding corporation." Cayce's reply talked about service and prayer. The second question again asked who should be on this board. Surprisingly the Source answered with four words: "We have no suggestions." Nevertheless, the men persisted and asked three more questions about who should be members of this board. Edgar continued to respond with spiritual guidance.

*Q. Any other advice and guidance for these three?*

*A. Thou hast had set before thee that thou art able, wilt thou but sacrifice self, wilt thou crucify the flesh that the light may shine forth. ... (3976-7)*

We must remember, as stated in 3976-19 earlier, that "...the Lord is *not* a respecter of persons..." All of humanity are one family.

It is no accident that we, collectively and individually, are here in the earth now. Our souls chose to incarnate in these tumultuous times. Each of us can choose to be a positive influence right now. And most important, these challenging times are just what our souls need for growth. Looking at what the Cayce readings have to say about the Great Depression and World War II helps us to understand our own times and provides insights about how we may transform our future. 🌍

Ann Jaffin shares additional material about the World Affairs readings, including the non-traditional sources that came through, in an online supplement to this article at [EdgarCayce.org/members](http://EdgarCayce.org/members).



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



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