



2001 will not be our year, trend seer says World is against us 'dangerous' Americans

[FINAL Edition]

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Document Text

Get ready, America. If a trendmeister's predictions are on target, 2001 will be no walk in the park.

The Trends Journal, published by the Trends Research Institute in Rhinebeck, N.Y., today announces its Top Trends of 2001.

And, with few exceptions, they are dismal:

* A wave of anti-Americanism will sweep the globe. American culture, "with its emphasis on violence, mindless consumption, fake sex and real stupidity," will be seen as "numbing and dangerous."

* A pre-recessionary economy will shape markets. The financial market dive that began at the end of this year will continue through 2001.

* The war on drugs will lose its popular support. Citing "the inescapable evidence of a racial basis to the failed drug war," the researchers predict that resources will be redirected from fighting crime toward improved treatment for addiction.

* Immigration will "inflare passions and become a major polarizing political force." During leaner economic times, people tend to want to pull in the welcome mat.

* Closed minds and continued polarization on everything from politics to social issues will create a climate of conformity, stifle debate and place America's leadership role in danger.

* The shop-till-you-drop mentality will come up against a declining economy, turning "legions of spendthrifts into a corps of penny pinchers." People will focus more on feeding their families, paying their bills and filling the gas tank than on luxury cars or new kitchens.

* Russia and other former Soviet countries will back away from the 10-year experiment in capitalism leading to a "Soviet Re-Union." There is a "strong probability" that Russia and its former republics will be involved in a civil war.

* Corporations will react to a slowing global economy by slashing their workforces, a tactic the research institute calls "Corporate Dumbsizing II."

Instead of enhancing profitability, "trimming the already lean workforce will further deplete the overworked and overstressed human assets who have not recovered from the last loyalty-shaking round of 'dumbsizing' that began in the 1990s."

Gerald Celente, editor and publisher of the journal, says the desire in 2001 will be "for stability and business as usual," but "it's unlikely we're going to see that."

"The bad news is that there are rough times ahead. The good news is that old systems are coming under attack and under question, and when something dies, something new is born. This is the darkness before the dawn."

Happy new year.

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Abstract (Document Summary)

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