

It is extremely difficult to make correct predictions of events a few months in advance. When we try to look further ahead it becomes still harder.

During World War II it was constantly stated that the end of the war would introduce such a time of universal peace as the world had never seen. Many people talked about the great opportunities that would be open in China after the war. I never heard anyone suggest that within a few years China would be a closed world as far as most Americans are concerned. How wrong we were in our judgment of what the future held!

When the war ended we immediately began to destroy great amounts of ammunition and of armament. The United Nations had been set up. Universal peace was expected. Yet within two or three years the whole feeling of the country changed, as it was proved that, in destroying Hitler, we had actually strengthened the power of an equally brutal aggressor.

At New Year's time it is common for our newspapers and magazines to give the opinions of various people as to what the year ahead contains. Rarely does anyone bother to dig these out a year or two later. It is sometimes amusing to do so and see how rarely human predictions of the future turn out to be true.

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