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### Conspiracy, Russian-style

From: Greg Sandow <[gsandow@prodigy.net](mailto:gsandow@prodigy.net)>  
Date: Sun, 16 May 1999 13:08:19 -0400  
Fwd Date: Mon, 17 May 1999 15:48:41 -0400  
Subject: Conspiracy, Russian-style

From the New York Times (New York edition), May 16, 1999, page 6 -- the Russian nationalist leader Vladimir V. Zhirinovskiy puts forth his own conspiracy theory:

"It cannot be said that the country [he means Russia] was ruined in 1991 [when the Soviet Union fell]. That decision was made in 1717 in Paris. 280 years ago the West made a decision to destroy the Russian empire. Do you think Napoleon invaded Russia just for kicks? That Hitler attacked Russia, just like that? That Yugoslavia is being bombed just like that? The target is one -- the Russian empire, the Soviet Union; never mind that we are now a democratic country. They are moving closer and closer to the Russian borders."

>From which we might conclude:

(a) There are more conspiracies than we knew about -- look, here's another one!

(b) Zhirinovskiy is a nutball, but our own conspiracy theories are valid.

(c) Zhirinovskiy never said what the NY Times quoted. Since the Times is a well-known mouthpiece for the conspiracy, it made up this quote to discredit conspiracy theories.

(d) It's all too easy to imagine conspiracies. Any of us (like Zhirinovskiy, alas) can find "evidence" to support whatever conspiracy we go out looking for.

Greg Sandow

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