

BRAZIL VERSUS AMERICAN DOMINANCE

By Robert Gover © 2003

During the early and middle 1970s, I explored voodoo as a word of contradictory meanings which speak to the human race's problem with "the other," xenophobia. The original West African meaning of the word (no matter how you spell it or reemphasize its vowels) means "Creator of the Universe." The question my book, *Voodoo Contra*, posed was: how did a West African word meaning God get translated into European languages as meaning evil witchcraft or black magic?

Actually, these two very different meanings aren't diametrically opposed, for the African Creator of the Universe brings evil black magic as well as the love and goodness brought by the Christian God and Jesus. The African concept of God differs by being larger and more encompassing. Which is why so many Afro-Brazilians see no contradiction when, after an all-night *Condomble* ("voodoo" ceremony), the faithful leave the *macumbeiro's* abode and make their way to the nearest Catholic Church for early mass. In church, they find the Christian depiction of their African Yoruba *Obatala*, god of light, love, enlightenment, *Christos*. In the Yoruba belief system, this god's astrological embodiment is the Sun.

Last year, when a leftist from the Brazilian lower class arose to the presidency, I was not shocked or even much surprised. I'd visited a lot of *macumbeiros* (voodoo priests) of *Condomble* in the slums of *Sao Salvador da Bahia*, nicknamed "the Voodoo Vatican," and found many to be extraordinarily intelligent and politically aware. One of the political nuances Brazil's priests were aware of was timing. Some *Condomble* drumming patterns have been passed down from centuries ago, and speak of this keen sense of cyclical timing. For in the Afro-Brazilian *gestalt*, every god, ancestor, living human, even each political mode has its own cyclical rhythmic pattern. (1)

The presidency of *Lula da Silva* marks the first time a Brazilian has arisen from the poverty stricken to achieve this lofty position. At his swearing in on January 24, 2003, *da Silva* said something that, in a different political context, might have caused the crowd to erupt with cheers, but "was in the context strangely and quietly moving." (2) What *Lula* quietly said was, "We cannot have

some eating five times a day while others go five days without eating."

Lula quickly demonstrated that he's not the usual leftist firebrand revolutionary bent on nationalizing industries and sending bankers fleeing to Miami.

"In fact, he belongs to another century, before the advent of the Bob Forehead-type politician, the golem hatched and shepherded by imagemakers and nurtured with cash channeled from on high. As he phrases it, 'I wasn't elected by a TV network or because of my intelligence or personality but through the high level of political awareness of the Brazilian people.' And unstated, but always present, is the fact that Lula isn't just the first president to be for the Brazilian poor, but to actually be one of them." (2)

What Lula said summed up the situation for not only Brazil, but most countries beyond the parameters of the US-European Union-Japan axis of affluence. The question to be determined over the next few years is, Can Lula find a way over, under or around the concrete blockades of this US-dominated world economic system?

He has not been warmly welcomed by operatives of the World Trade Organization, International Monetary Fund and World Bank. On the other hand, he has not been labeled "a friend of Fidel Castro's or of Venezuela's cruel dictator, Chavez" and sabotaged by the CIA. Not yet, at least.

For one thing, the American financial elites have learned that the regime in Communist China is more compatible than the politicians of the European Union. The EU is democratic; China is run like one gigantic holding corporation. The top people from GE and the PRC Central Committee--for all their apparent differences--are aligned ideologically: they're autocrats bent on maximizing profits. Leaders of the European Union, on the other hand, operate in a democratic mode: they must be sensitive to the will of their populations.

Another reason the American propaganda machine has not been loosed on Lula (yet) is that, although he surrounds himself with working class progressives, he also reaches out to those across the political divide. His economic team includes a textile magnet (Jose Alencar) and a Central Bank president (Henrique Meirelles). Lula also shocked many of his leftist supporters by going to Davos.

It would seem at first glance that Brazil's huge debt to the bankers in Washington could easily bring it down. When Argentina's economy went down in 2001, its debt was 45 percent of GDP. Brazil's is currently 65 percent of its

GDP. But debt is also Brazil's best friend in its dealings with the corporate executives-cum-politicians at the White House. Citicorp's exposure in Brazil is 10.2 percent of its equity. Master and slave are in bed together.

"If Brazil is pushed beyond its limits and tanks, investors are also liable to take a nasty hit. Twenty percent of all US exports go to Latin America, and US investment in the region amounts to \$163 billion. The idea of watching Brazil nosedive, taking half the continent's GDP along with it, can't be comforting, even for Republican right ideologues put off by the Lula entourage. And this at least partially explains why Lula has--so far at least--found Washington far more accommodating than Salvador Allende did."

Which brings us to an astrological question: What are the chances that Brazil, guided by a Lula Administration, can narrow the huge divide between its rich and poor while increasing its international trade and growing its overall economy? Is the time right for Brazil to fulfill its economic potential?

For a natal chart of Brazil, I turned to Glenn C. Malec, who uses the date for the signing of the Federal Republic of Brazil's constitution, March 15, 1967. It could be argued that the Portuguese brought the concept of national borders to Brazil in the 1500s, but it's also true that modern statehood was established with the constitution of 1967. Says Malic:

"The wealth of (Brazil's) resources is shown by the greater benefic, Jupiter, in the second house trining the Midheaven and conjunct the Part of Fortune. This wealth, though, does not reach the common people. The Sun, ruler of the Part of Fortune, is in the tenth of the ruling class. The fourth house rules the ghettos. Uranus in the fourth shows people wanting to be free of this lowly condition...Uranus co-rules the ninth. Virgo rules the fourth and the dispositor, Mercury, is in the ninth, the house of religion. Uranus and Mercury are in mutual reception by house, placing Mercury in the third and Uranus in the tenth, so conditions can change to a great extent..." (3)

Both the USA's natal pattern for July 4, 1776 (Gemini Rising chart) show Jupiter in Cancer well aspected in the second house of money, material well-being. The USA's Jupiter is conjunct Sun and Venus in Cancer, but forms a square to natal Saturn in Libra. Brazil's Jupiter forms a grand trine to Sun and Saturn in the tenth house, ruled by Pisces, and Neptune in watery Scorpio in the sixth.

Brazil's grand trine to water signs indicates a more fluid and adaptable economy, as compared to the USA's square from the second house stellium to Saturn in the fifth, indicating a more deliberately structured system.

When these two birth patterns are compared in a biwheel chart, and the question is about change in their relationship, we see that Brazil's Jupiter is conjunct the US Mercury, opposite the US Pluto, and Brazil's Uranus and Pluto are conjunct the USA's financially sensitive Neptune in Virgo, square the US Mars in Gemini. The Uranus-Pluto conjunction occurs once every 127 years on the average, and colored the 1960s. The Brazilian Uranus-Pluto conjunction is also opposite its natal conjunction of MC, Sun, Chiron and Saturn.

Including the US Mars/Neptune square, this creates a very busy T square. Given the number and economic influences of the six Brazilian planets in this T square, it's possible that Brazil's economy, transforming under a Lula Administration, could have a negative effect on the USA's financial structure. Wall Street, the IMF, World Bank and World Trade Organization could have its collective hands full dealing with a resurgent Brazil.

The rise of Brazil economically can have much the same disquieting impact on the USA's financial structure as the social uprisings of The Sixties had. Another indication of this is Pluto now in Sagittarius, square where it was when Brazil was "born" with its constitution in 1967. This puts it also square the US Neptune, indicating confusion in US-Brazil relations.

One major reason for the USA's world economic dominance is that the dollar has become the international trade currency of choice. Culturally, Brazil is more compatible with France, Germany and the West African countries than with the USA. When I was there to do research in the mid-1970s, I found, too, that Brazilians are compatible with the Japanese (they share a pantheistic gestalt). So I think it is reasonable to expect an economically resurgent Brazil to erode ties to the USA and strengthen ties to these other nations. This, in turn, could put more downward pressure on the dollar in relationship to the euro, further threatening the USA's economic dominance.

I must admit my interpretation is biased, for I would rather see my country's hegemony undermined so that a more balanced domestic economy could arise, uplifting an increasingly more troubled working class. Empire-building, joyous as it may be for the ruling elite, is bad news for

the Empire's people, as history has so often shown. But then Malic's interpretations of both Brazil and the USA charts is biased too.

Of the USA chart, Malic says, "Describing the economy, the Moon in Aquarius occupying the leadership tenth also indicates that the Presidency periodically switches hands. Uranus ruling this house, found in the first, describes how the President acts for the people. The life ruler Mercury in the third shows that the people go to the polls to vote. God bless America!"

This flag-waving interpretation contrasts with his reading of Brazil's chart, quoted above. Astrological charts, like art objects, are prone to become Rorschach tests, as each interpreter is likely to bring his/her own beliefs and expectations. Objective detachment is difficult.

Yet the Brazilian Uranus, Pluto, MC, Sun, Chiron and Saturn affliction to the USA's Mars/Neptune square can hardly be read as good news for Wall Street. It remains to be seen what changes the da Silva Administration will bring about in Brazil, but President Lula has shown himself to be an adroit and persistent politician. The obstacles he overcame to rise from starvation poverty to the highest office in his country indicates he probably has what it takes to steer Brazil economically.

Endnotes:

1. *Muntu* by John Janheinz, trans. Marjorie Grene, Faber & Faber, London, 1961.
2. "Lula's Movement: Brazil's Revolution of the Possible" by Marc Cooper and Tim Frasca, *The Nation*, March 10, 2003.
3. *International Horoscopes Volume I* by Glenn C. Malec, Federation of International Astrologers, Inc., 1982, Tempe, Arizona.

Chart 1: Brazil's natal chart.

Brazil
 Mar 15, 1967
 Brasília, BRZ
 12:00:00 PM BZT
 ZONE: +03:00
 047°W 55'00"
 15°S 47'00"

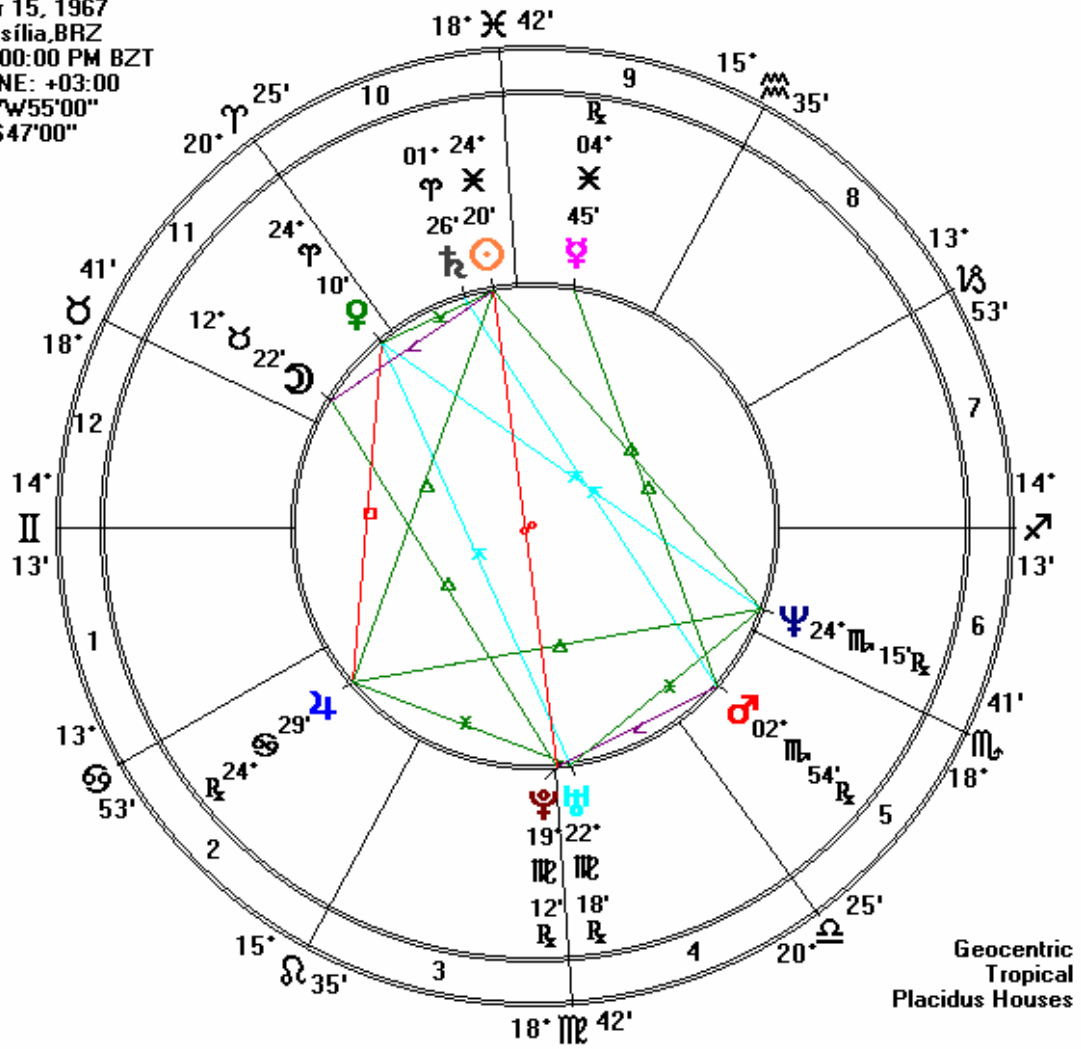


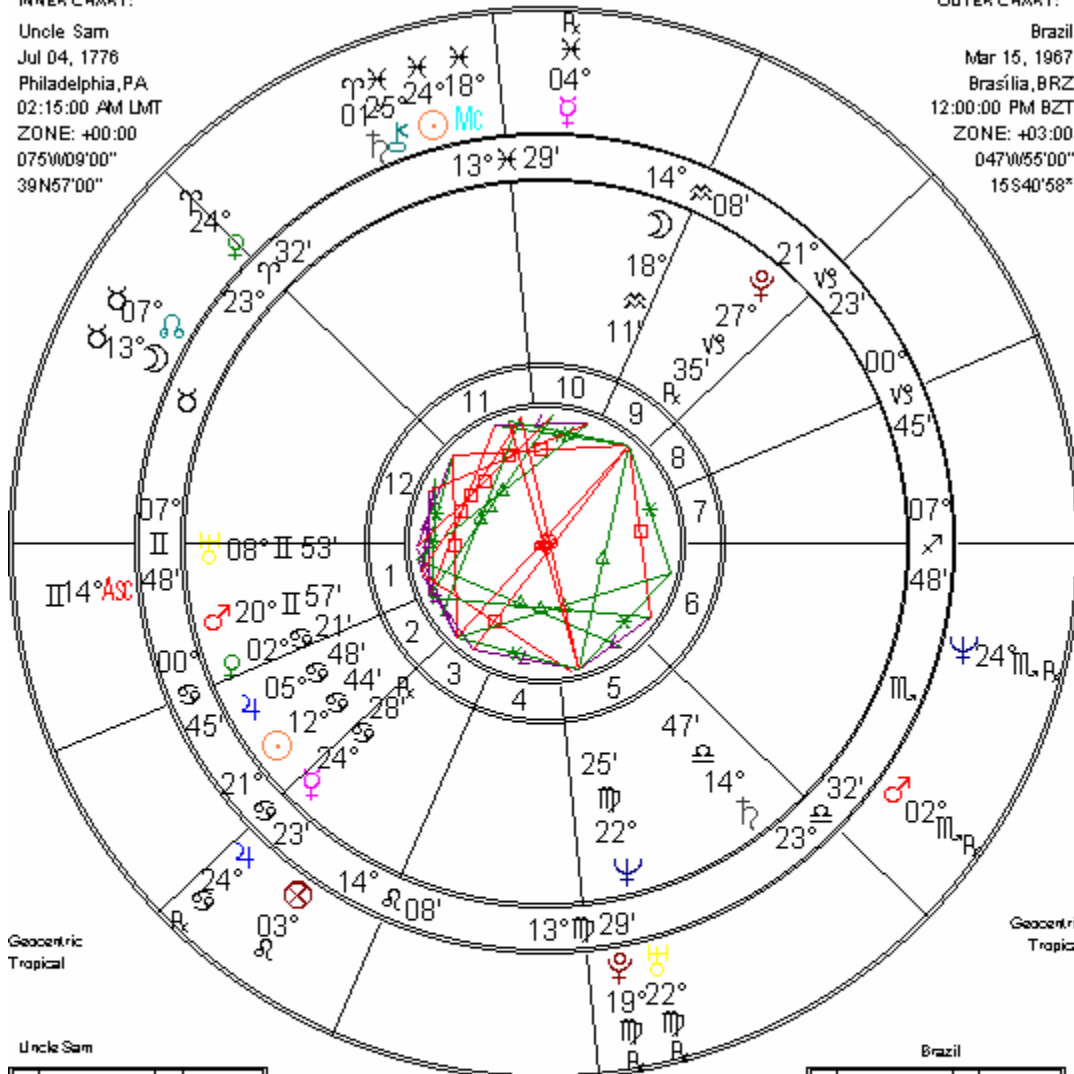
Chart 2: A comparison of the USA and Brazil.

INNER CHART:

Uncle Sam
 Jul 04, 1776
 Philadelphia, PA
 02:15:00 AM LMT
 ZONE: +00:00
 075W09'00"
 39N57'00"

OUTER CHART:

Brazil
 Mar 15, 1967
 Brasília, BRZ
 12:00:00 PM BZT
 ZONE: +03:00
 047W55'00"
 15S40'58"



Uncle Sam

Pl	Geo Lon	Pa	Decl.
☾	18° 11' 03"		- 16° 24'
☉	12° 43' 50"		+22° 51'
☿	24° 28' 15"	Pa	+17° 34'
♀	02° 20' 37"		+23° 31'
♂	20° 11' 05"		+23° 32'
♃	05° 47' 33"		+23° 16'
♄	14° 47' 13"		-03° 31'
♅	08° 11' 53' 24"		+21° 44'
♆	22° 10' 24' 34"		+04° 10'
♇	27° 13' 34' 36"	Pa	- 23° 43'
♁	14° 09' 02"		- 16° 36'

Brazil

Pl	Geo Lon	Pa	Decl.
☾	13° 11' 50"		+16° 31'
☉	24° 20' 15"		- 02° 15'
☿	04° 44' 39"	Pa	- 08° 15'
♀	24° 11' 16"		+09° 07'
♂	02° 11' 53' 50"	Pa	- 10° 04'
♃	24° 28' 45"	Pa	+21° 49'
♄	01° 12' 21"		- 01° 21'
♅	22° 10' 17' 59"	Pa	+03° 49'
♆	24° 11' 30"	Pa	- 17° 09'
♇	19° 10' 12' 05"	Pa	+18° 21'
♁	07° 13' 12"		+14° 02'