

WAR FEVER

By Robert Gover ©

With talk of the Bush Administration leading the USA into an attack on Iraq to topple Saddam Hussein (and/or to acquire Iraq's rich oil reserves), I researched astrological patterns coinciding with past American wars.

The planets most involved in wars are Mars and Uranus, and the USA was born with Mars and Uranus in Gemini. Depending on which Ascendant one chooses for a birth chart of the USA, Gemini occupies the first, seventh or second house.

Uncle Sam's Persona

I use the Gemini Ascendant because I feel it best depicts Uncle Sam's persona in the community of nations. It puts Uranus conjunct the Ascendant, indicating an entity who is bold, headstrong, innovative, and by turns benevolent and violent. Also, the USA was "born" in the Revolutionary War of 1776 and this chart places Mars and Uranus in the First House, and one expects to find these two planets prominent during wars.

It takes Uranus 84 years to circle the Sun, and the USA has gone through its most devastating wars when

Uranus has returned to, or near, its natal position in the USA's birth chart: the Revolution, Civil War and World War II.

How Many Wars?

How many wars have there been in US history?

Hendrik Hertzberg, writing in the New Yorker Magazine's September 30, 2002 issue, took on this question:

"How does a couple of hundred sound? There have been eight or nine that were big enough so that most reasonably attentive college students could probably name them, from the War of 1812 to the Persian Gulf War. There have been a dozen other conflicts that involved the accoutrements of bigtime warfare, such as pitched battles or naval engagements. And if you count the many so-called Indian wars, the various Latin-American adventures, and all the military episodes that, to the participants at least, felt an awful lot like war (from the forays against the Barbary-pirate states of North Africa at the outset of the nineteenth century to the Balkan interventions at the close of the twentieth), the numbers begin to mount up."

There have been only five declarations of war: War of 1812, Mexican War (1846), Spanish-American War (1898) and the two World Wars of the twentieth century. Some

of the bloodiest wars were fought without formal declarations by Congress. And some of the most decisive conflicts in terms of America's destiny were not called wars. So I have researched those which I think were the most influential in our history.

Pluto Behind the Scene

Following the American Revolution, Uranus had returned to its natal position when the Civil War broke out in August 1861. Mars and Uranus were both conjunct Uncle Sam's Uranus at 9 Gemini then.

But we should not overlook Pluto's role in the lead-up to this tremendous transformation of America, for it is a classic example of Pluto's subtle, long-range effects. During the 1830s, Pluto was in mid-Aries, opposite the US Saturn in Libra and square the US Sun in Cancer. This is when the Underground Railroad came into existence, when the Southwest and California were being wrested from Mexico, and when Frederick Douglas and William Lloyd Garrison boldly and righteously agitated for the abolition of slavery.

Possessed by Pluto

Garrison produced the first issue of his newspaper, *The Liberator*, on January 1, 1831, with transiting Pluto square the US Sun and opposite the US Saturn. He wrote

as though possessed by Pluto: "I shall strenuously contend for the immediate enfranchisement of our slave population....On this subject I do not wish to think, or speak, or write with moderation....I am in earnest--I will not equivocate--I will not excuse--I will not retreat a single inch AND I WILL BE HEARD."

The Underground Railroad was an elaborate network of secret routes established during Pluto's affliction to the US Sun/Saturn square. From 1830 to the Civil War, at least 40,000 slaves followed this network to freedom. By 1840, there were no less than 2,000 antislavery societies with a membership of around 200,000. Pluto, we might say, inspired outrage over slavery and seeded the Civil War that erupted 30 years after Douglas and Garrison launched their philosophical assaults.

On December 7, 1941 when Pearl Harbor was attacked by the Japanese, Saturn at 23 Taurus was conjunct Uranus at 27 Taurus, with both moving toward a conjunction with the US natal Uranus. Saturn and Uranus moved over Uncle Sam's Ascendant/Uranus between the tide-turning battle of Midway and the A-bombing of Hiroshima in 1945 which changed the nature of war for ever.

"We are good..."

All wars are orgies of mass murder instigated by those who have convinced themselves that "we are good, they are evil." But not all wars have been fought with military weapons.

The first unconventional war fought on American soil occurred in 1610 in what was then the Jamestown Colony, two orbits of Uranus before the birth of the USA as a nation. Uranus was conjunct what would become the USA's natal Uranus for this. In history books, it's called "The Starving Time." Local Indians, humiliated by the high-handed ways of those early colonists, withdrew their support, leaving the newly arrived English gentlemen to their own devices. Those interested in history will find the details of this time exceedingly gory.

Salem Witch Trials

The next time Uranus transited over what would become the US natal Uranus occurred in 1694, coinciding with another nonmilitary war, the Salem Witch Trials. It marked the end of a thousand or more years of Christian persecution of pantheists and other non-Christians.

Those major wars and turning points--Jamestown, Salem, Revolution of 1776, Civil War and World War II--

all correlated with Uranus returning to its natal position in the US birth chart. Each was unique and different in detail, but all were primarily fought for ideals or ideas. The emphasis in other American wars has been on commercial or imperial interests.

The Mexican War, declared May 13, 1846, found Uranus conjunct Venus in mid-Aries making a T square to the US Sun/Saturn square, and Pluto conjunct Mercury forming a T square with the US Mercury opposite the US Pluto. This was a war of territorial expansion.

Erecting biwheel charts for the War of 1812, World War I, Korean War, Vietnam War and the Persian Gulf War show that for these, it was Uncle Sam's financially sensitive Mars/Neptune square which was afflicted.

In 1812, Pluto was at 19 Pisces opposite the US natal Neptune at 22 Virgo, with both square the US Mars in Gemini. Transiting Mars was opposite transiting Saturn with both afflicting the US natal Jupiter-Sun conjunction in Cancer: the newly formed nation was feeling righteous.

For World War I, transiting Jupiter was at 22 Pisces conjunct Chiron at 18 Pisces putting both opposite the US Neptune and square the US Mars. Pluto

and Saturn in Cancer afflicted the US natal cluster of Venus, Jupiter and Sun in Cancer.

Neptune and Vietnam

For the Korean War's outbreak, transiting Uranus at 5 Cancer was square transiting Mars at 7 Libra, forming a grand cross to Uncle Sam's Venus, Jupiter and Sun in Cancer. Chiron at 17 Sagittarius was opposite the US Mars, and soon to join Jupiter and Saturn in a grand cross affliction to Sam's Mars/Neptune square. Sam's Sun sense of "I am" was aroused but with the US Mars/Neptune square so afflicted, this was primarily an economically-motivated, Neptunian-deluded conflict.

There was no official inception date for the Vietnam War. It grew gradually after World War II when the US came the aid of French companies and troops, faced with mounting resistance in what was then the French colony of Vietnam. With the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution passed August 7, 1964, the US military became fully committed. Astrologically, Uranus, Pluto and Mercury were conjunct in Virgo at this time, with Saturn in Pisces opposite Virgo. In retrospect, this was a Neptunian war: most Americans were foggy as to why "we" were fighting it, or were deluded by the media into

believing "we" were "stopping communism" and saving the shores of California from an Asian invasion.

By the winter of 1966 as an unprecedented (Uranus) antiwar movement changed America for ever (Pluto), all the usual planetary suspects were implicated: Uranus was conjunct Pluto with both conjunct the US Neptune, opposite a conjunction of Mars, Saturn and Chiron in Pisces, with all these warrior energies square the US natal Mars in Gemini, which was hit at the time by a conjunction of Jupiter, enlarging the drama.

A TV War

The Gulf War, more glamorously called "Operation Desert Storm," was kicked off on February 24, 1991 with transiting Mars in Gemini between the US Uranus and Mars, and transiting Uranus and Neptune conjunct in Capricorn opposite the US Sun in Cancer. This was more military target practice than conventional conflict because the Iraqi military was way overmatched.

It was also a television show in which our guys routed the bad guys and sent them limping back to Baghdad. The media told Americas "we" were protecting the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, although it was no secret that it was Israel the Iraqis were lusting to attack. The end result, it seems, was to wash the horrors of

Vietnam from America's collective memory, preparing us for Bush Two's pet passion: "installing" American democracy in Iraq by "removing" Saddam Hussein.

The "Ideal" Month

As I write this, news shows carry talkers who speculate that February will be the "ideal" month for Bush to send American troops to Iraq. So I did a chart for February 24, 2003, and then compared it with the US natal chart.

Based on the astrological history of previous American wars, we look first for the positions of Mars and Uranus, then Pluto, Saturn and Jupiter, and whatever aspects these might make to the US natal Uranus/Ascendant, and/or Mars/Neptune square, and/or the US Sun in Cancer.

What we find is that Mars and Pluto (plus the Moon on February 24) are in Sagittarius opposite Saturn at 22 Gemini: a T square affliction to Uncle Sam's natal Mars/Neptune square. Transiting Uranus at 29 Aquarius is soon to move into a square with the US Uranus/Ascendant. Chiron at 15 Capricorn is opposite the US Sun and also thus square the US Saturn. And there is at this time an opposition formed by Jupiter and Neptune which, although it doesn't directly afflict

US planets, is definitely not helpful. Most interesting is that Pluto will be at 19 Sagittarius then, square where the Uranus-Pluto conjunction of 1966 occurred, at 17 and 18 Virgo.

Markets and Warriors

Especially ominous is the affliction to Sam's Mars/Neptune square by transiting Mars, Pluto and Saturn. This can be expected to crash financial markets as well as confuse warriors.

If the Iraqis welcome American bombs and soldiers, as some in the Bush Administration have suggested they will, the world may be saved from a massive spread of violent chaos through the Middle East and beyond. In that case, Bush and Co. may get to do what they say they intend to do: "install democracy in Iraq," which is to say enable global companies to control Iraq's oil and bring Big Macs, etc., to Baghdad.

But, unless the people of Iraq are totally incapacitated, they will do what every nation has done: resist invasion by every means possible. In that case, the mightiest military machine the world has ever known will be busier than the British military was when Pluto was last where it now is, and when the Spanish were

"securing" the Caribbean and Mesoamerica two turns of Pluto ago.

What the Bush Administration means by democracy is government by, for and of the big corporations with millions of voters dutifully going to polls to choose between corporate-approved Tweedledee and Tweedledum and thus maintain the delusion of democracy.

Bribe-ocracy

Modern politicians can't get votes without first getting campaign funding, and it's the big corporations which provide that funding. Of course, politicians like to pose as doing the people's will, but follow the money trail and it's clear that Congress is facilitating corporate plundering.

It should also be appreciated that transnational corporations and banks are a huge cooperative, powered by the belief that what's good for their profits is good for all humanity. Most attended "our finest schools" where they learned of "the glories of Rome" and how "the Sun never set on the British Empire." They were educated to tingle to martial music and adore empire building.

There are rumors of whispers in the halls of Congress that this war-drumming is really wag-the-dog

political campaigning: fear and/or anticipation of war, it is presumed, will help stock Congress with a Republican majority. Certainly all-out war would enable the Bush Administration to become more autocratic than it already is, and perhaps find an excuse to declare an emergency and postpone or cancel the presidential election of 2004. Given rightwing control of the American media, it would also deliver real live TV action/adventure starring "our boys" against the epitome of Evil, Saddam Hussein. If several million innocent civilians happen to get killed, well, that's "collateral damage." US military leaders tell us collateral damage is "regrettable" but "War is hell."

One gets the impression that if the Bush War Chiefs couldn't stand before TV cameras and growl like guard dogs at Saddam, they'd become indolent and soon resemble a 1980s propaganda poster of "Welfare Queens."

Bush and Columbus

When Bush uses the words, "Freedom and the American way," he means freedom to expand the American Empire. In this regard he is in the tradition of Columbus who expanded the Spanish Empire 500 years previous, during another transit of Pluto through Sagittarius. Columbus and Co. acted on the belief that they were saving the

souls of heathen, pagan "Indians." Bush says he will save Iraqis from their leader. Well, Saddam Hussein isn't the people's choice, but then neither is Bush: he lost the popular vote to Al Gore and was appointed President by a rightwing Supreme Court.

In the second biwheel chart for January 1, 2004, the question that guides interpretation is, Will Dubya and his merry band of corporate buccaneers succeed if they launch their much advertised war on Iraq?

I think the short answer is, Yes, at first, but in the long run, no.

The US military is awesomely overpowering, so a new round of bombing of Baghdad will mean another session of target practice--in the short run. But to dethrone Hussein, ground troops will have to fight their way through Baghdad and other Iraqi cities and towns. And an invasion of Iraq will multiple the number and increase the virulence of terrorist attacks on Americans at home and abroad. Celebratory parties in Washington, DC, may suffer nasty disruptions, or worse. Today's wars, in US military lingo, are "asymmetrical": a Britney Spears look-alike could deliver a hatbox full of death to the Capitol Building.

What Then?

By January 1, 2004, as the biwheel chart shows, the US Mars/Neptune square will be afflicted by a T square formed by transiting Pluto at 20 Sagittarius and Jupiter at 18 Virgo. Simultaneously, the US Sun/Saturn square will be afflicted by a grand cross formed by Chiron opposite Saturn and both square Mars in Aries, which in turn is opposite the US Saturn.

The afflicted US Mars/Neptune square suggests the financial markets will be in the dumpster by this time, and the grand cross affliction to Sam's Sun/Saturn square suggest that the whole society will be in deep trouble.

Wag the Dog

Let's hope Dubya's war talk is just a wag-the-dog ruse to prevent Democrats from winning a decisive majority in Congress November 2002. But even if Dubya's just playing wag-the-dog politics and doesn't take the country to war in Iraq, by early 2004 he'll have his hands full, given the astrological indications that both the financial markets, overall economy, and whole society will be struggling.

The prudent thing would be for Congress to revise the corrupt laws which have enabled corporate executives to rob billions from investors and employees. But how

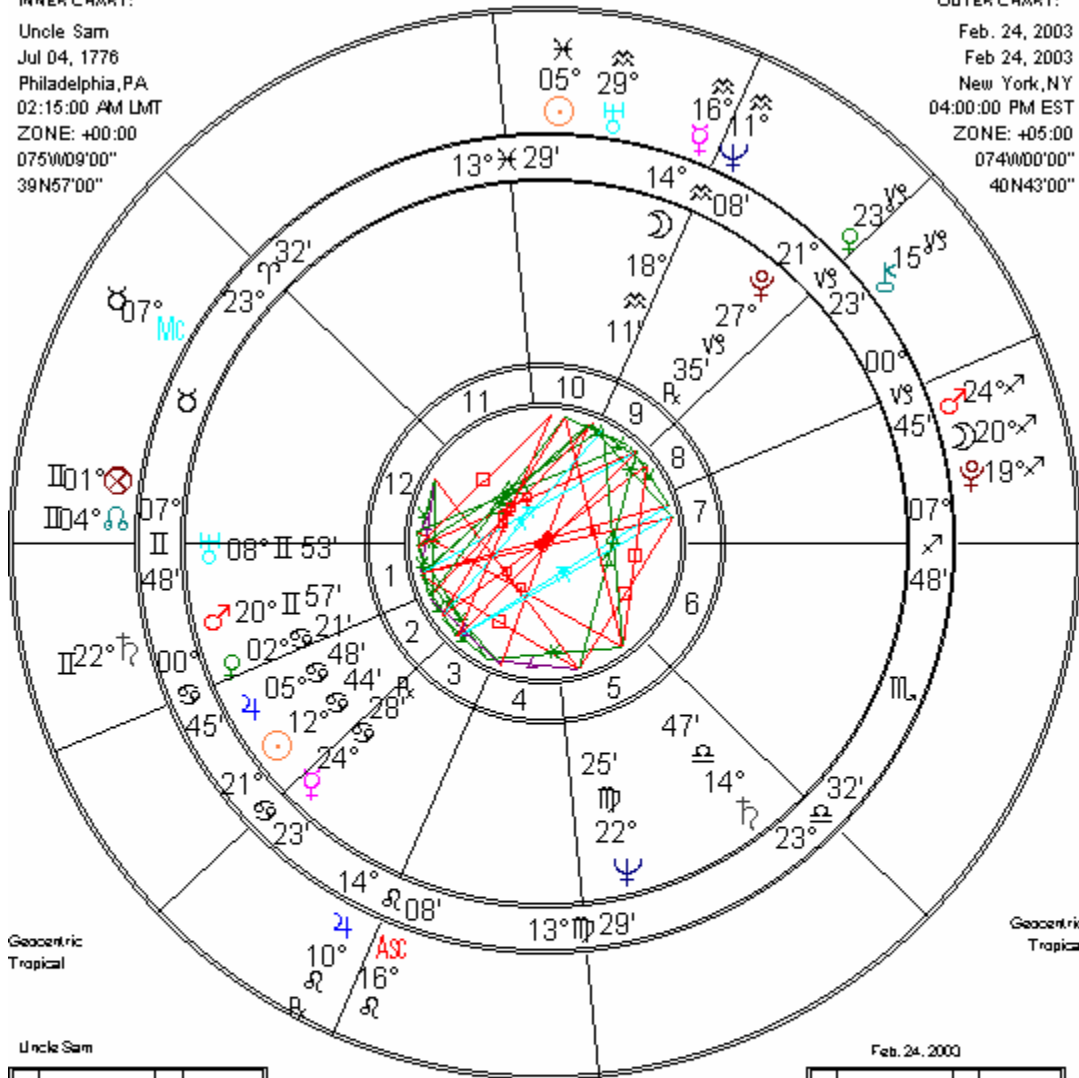
long has it been since a US Congress has done a prudent thing?

More likely, the Bush Buccaneers will manage to trick the public out of concern for corporate corruption and keep the focus on their credo: "Take the money and run." Two transits of Pluto through Sagittarius previous, this worked for Columbus. Can it work for George Bush in the first decade of the 21st Century? Have only the proper nouns, costumes and technology changed?

Planetary patterns can tell us what mood or spirit will prevail but not how we humans will collectively respond.

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

OUTER CHART:
 Feb. 24, 2003
 Feb 24, 2003
 New York, NY
 04:00:00 PM EST
 ZONE: +05:00
 074W00'00"
 40N43'00"



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° 11' 24' 34"		+04° 10'
♌	27° 13' 34' 36"	Pa	-23° 43'
♍	14° 08' 02"		- 16° 36'

Feb. 24, 2003

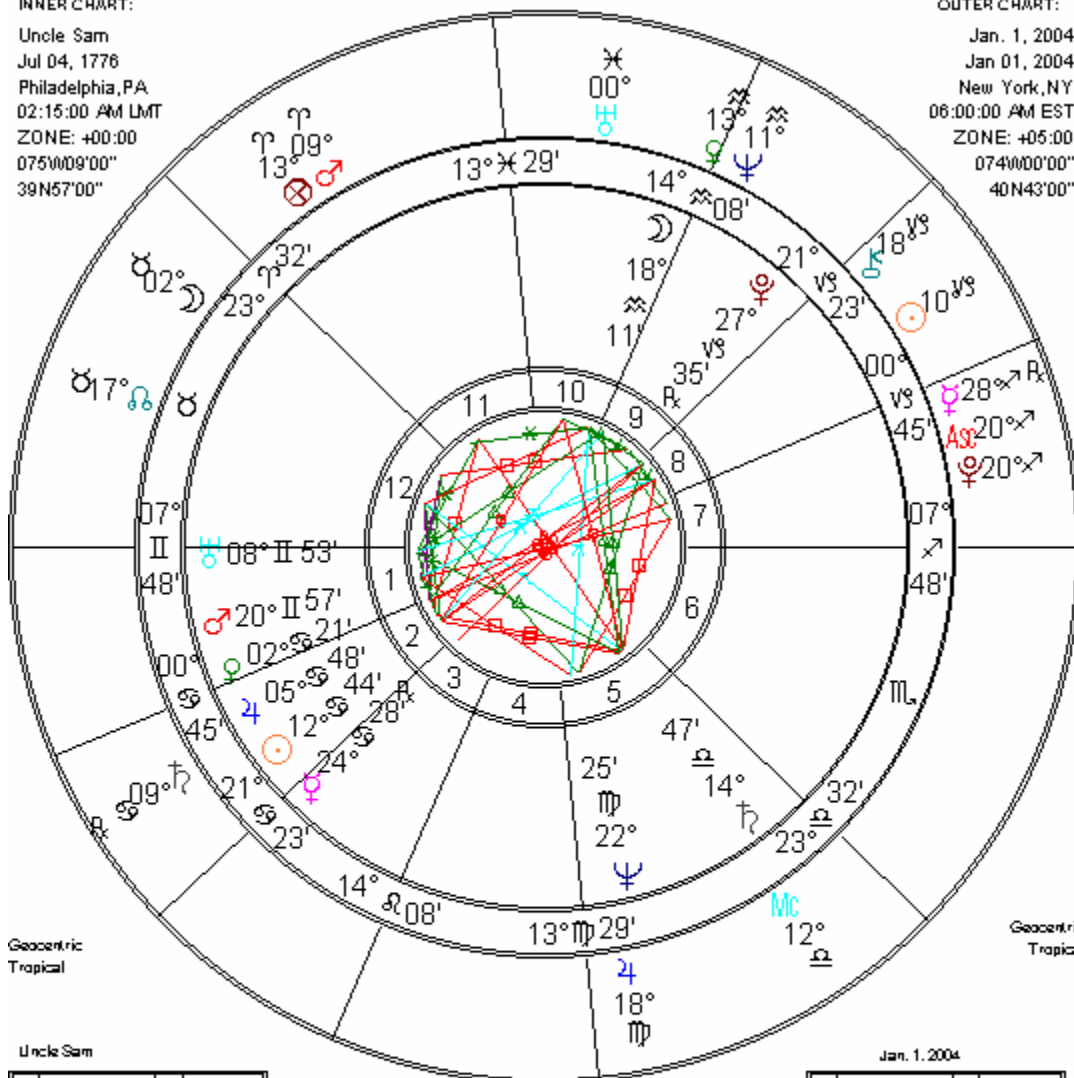
Pl	Geo Lon	Pa	Decl.
♃	20° 50' 57"		- 24° 34'
♄	05° 50' 00"		- 09° 22'
♅	16° 50' 44"		- 17° 29'
♆	23° 15' 22' 00"		- 20° 11'
♇	24° 15' 52' 52"		- 23° 17'
♈	10° 41' 15"	Pa	+18° 31'
♉	22° 10' 08' 29"		+22° 06'
♊	29° 12' 34"		- 12° 29'
♋	11° 35' 14"		- 17° 17'
♌	19° 14' 52' 21"		- 13° 45'
♍	04° 10' 07' 36"		+20° 58'

INNER CHART:

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 Jul 04, 1776
 Philadelphia, PA
 02:15:00 AM LMT
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Jan. 1, 2004
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Uncle Sam

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♃	05° 47' 33"		+23° 16'
♅	14° 47' 13"		-03° 31'
♆	08° 15' 24"		+21° 44'
♇	22° 10' 34"		+04° 10'
♈	27° 34' 36"	Pa	-23° 43'
♉	14° 09' 02"		- 16° 36'

Jan. 1, 2004

Pl	Geo Lon	Pa	Decl.
☾	02° 57' 29"		+11° 08'
☉	10° 21' 31"		- 23° 02'
♁	28° 24' 14"	Pa	- 20° 16'
♂	13° 46' 45"		- 18° 26'
♄	09° 12' 40"		+03° 48'
♃	18° 53' 36"		+05° 31'
♅	09° 42' 51"	Pa	+22° 28'
♆	00° 09' 07"		- 12° 08'
♇	11° 42' 08"		- 17° 18'
♈	20° 30' 40"		- 14° 30'
♉	17° 40' 48"		+17° 06'