

ISBA Corporations

A CLERK'S MISTAKE AND CORPORATE SUPREMACY

By Robert Gover (Copyright 2003)

The birth of the modern corporation was a mistake. The mistake was made by a court clerk, J. C. Bancroft Davis, writing a "headnote" or summary of an obscure case designated *Santa Clara County v. Southern Pacific*, on May 10, 1886.

On that day as shown on Chart #2 below, Saturn at 5 Cancer was square Uranus at 4 Libra which was opposite Venus at 4 Aries, forming a T square. Saturn is the planet of structures and strictures, and J. C.'s mistake in 1886, by changing the legal status of corporations in the US, has brought new structures and strictures to all humanity's economic life.

Clerk J. C. Bancroft Davis was a former railroad official, and the headnote he wrote said, "The defendant corporations are persons within the intent of the clause in section 1 of the Fourteenth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States, which forbids a state to deny any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

The Fourteenth Amendment was passed June 13, 1866 following the American Civil War. See Chart #1. Its main purpose was to provide equal legal protection to former slaves. It would not fulfill this purpose till the next Uranus-Pluto conjunction opposite Saturn 100 years later during the 1960s, when the USA was racked with political assassinations, antiwar protests and a massive civil rights movement.

I feel it's safe to assume that J. C. Davis' intent in 1886 was merely to enrich himself and his friends, not to create a future world dominated by global corporations. That's why I call his headnote a mistake, not an intentional act. Also, J. C. did ask Chief Justice Waite if he was correct in assuming the court had ruled on corporate personhood. Waite responded, "We avoided meeting the Constitutional questions." Let's assume the judge was also motivated by what Wall Streeters like to call "healthy self-interest."

Next came armies of gentlemen who dress up in their church-going best in order to facilitate plunder. "Corporate attorneys seized on the headnote, quoting it as the law of the land, and it was not long before politicians

and judges themselves joined in the farce, either because they were eager to support the corporate cause or were simply too lazy to read the actual case." (1)

It is ironic, even bizarre, that global corporate dominance should have taken root in the USA, a nation state forged in a revolution fought to free Americans from the economic oppression of King George's corporate entities. It was British East India Company ships the Sons of Liberty boarded in that historic event, now a tourist attraction known as "The Boston Tea Party." It was corporate product American colonist dumped into Boston Harbor about a hundred years before J. C. Davis made his mark.

American rebels used terrorist tactics against King George's "indomitable" army to defeat the plutocratic imperialism of British trading corporations that were imposing their private will on the colonies. (1)

Until J. C.'s booboo, corporations in the USA were tightly controlled by government. Since 1886, the rise of corporate domination has been subtle, largely unnoticed, but dramatic--the qualities that describe how Pluto brings conceptions of the new. Now much of humanity toils for the profits of a Global Corporate Empire headquartered in Washington and protected by the American military, the mightiest in history.

It seems every empire has had the mightiest military of its time: Rome, Spain, Britain, Nazi Germany, etc. Note that the duration of each has been shorter than its predecessor. Nazi Germany's imperial dominance lasted less than a decade. Another fact about empires of the past is that they were gloriously enriching only to a few, detrimental to the many. The Spanish people did not share in the tons of gold brought from the New World 500 years ago. The German people are still dealing with the after-effects of Nazism.

Likewise, the American Corporate Empire benefits only a tiny minority in the USA and European Union. The working class of the USA has been losing ground economically since the mid-1970s. Those who profit from the Global Corporate Empire see it as bringing economic improvements to all humanity but the evidence points in the opposite direction.

"At the beginning of the new millennium, of the 100 largest economies on the planet 51 were companies and 49 were countries...The sales of the 500 largest transnational corporations are equal to 47 percent of the gross product of the planet, but they provide employment for only 1.57 percent of the world labor force. Small-scale farmers represent 25 percent of the world population, and they

directly feed half the world's people and an even higher percentage indirectly." (2)

By year 2000, 75 percent of the world's grain trade was controlled by 5 corporations.

By 2002, 90 percent of the world's agricultural chemicals were controlled by 10 corporations.

By 2003, all major media (information, entertainment) inside the US were controlled by six corporations, and this trend was spreading worldwide.

Eventually, agribusiness corporations are expected to be swallowed up by the supermarket chains, the largest of which is Wal-Mart. This would mean corporations profiting on our need for food, controlling food from seed to stomach.

Corporate control of our lives may soon be accelerated by "terminator technology"--genetically-altered seeds which cannot reproduce and will need to be purchased by farmers every new planting season. Farmers will also need to purchase chemical fertilizers from the same corporate conglomerate. Small farmers who cannot afford to buy a new supply of genetically-modified seed will go out of business, and giant agribusiness operations, subsidiaries of the terminator-tech and supermarket corporations, will supply practically all humanity's food. There have been limp attempts to stop the takeover of humanity's food but such attempts are no match for the battalions of corporate lawyers, lobbyists and beneficiaries in high government positions.

Thus, J. C.'s mistake has led to an economic system which generates magnificent profits for the wealthiest 1 percent but brings starvation or worse to billions of humans at the other end of the economic spectrum. Currently in the USA the phrase "top of the food chain" is used to describe those who head huge corporate entities. Just as whales suck up tons of plankton, corporate empire bosses feed lavishly on humanity's need for food, clothing and shelter.

There are those who believe a few global corporate conglomerates will soon own everything from drinking water to cemetery plots. Corporate public relations experts are busy persuading us that this economic system is "the American way." When President Bush speaks of "freedom and democracy" he means the freedom of global corporations to dominate all humankind, and to decide which politicians will be presented to the people of all nations for their democratic choice at the voting polls.

This is not to say that Bush and his friends are mean-spirited or evil. They truly believe that Corporate Global dominance is best for all mankind. Where there is a hated dictator sitting on an abundance of petroleum, they will bring bombs and their own spin on democracy to the people of that nation. They see themselves as idealistic saviors, but practical. "Anything worth doing," they like to say, "is worth doing for money."

They are masters of the fine art of the political swindle, taking tax money from working class Americans and transferring it into the pockets of corporate bosses, who are thus capitalized to exploit foreigners--most recently Iraqis and Afghanis--to make even more money. If you're a devotee of George Bush, this system is God's blessing; if you're among the billions who are hurt by it, it's the Great Satan.

One thing is certain: the only constant is change. To quote the famous saying, "Events conspire." And our best way of doping out how events are likely to conspire is by noting what planetary patterns have coincided with which major turning points historically.

Saturn and Pluto are the two heavenly bodies which have historically had the most impact on matters economic. Saturn's cycle takes about 29.5 years, Pluto's about 248 years.

Court clerk J. C.'s mistake was inspired by the Fourteenth Amendment, which passed Congress June 13, 1866. Saturn, at that time, was in Scorpio opposite Pluto and Mars in Taurus. To be more precise, Saturn's opposition to Mars was separating while its opposition to Pluto was applying.

Fast-forward 20 years to May 10, 1886 when J. C. wrote that headnote which has had such a fantastic impact on world economics, and we find Saturn in Cancer forming a T square with Uranus in Libra and Venus in Aries. Pluto, Neptune and the Sun are forming a beneficent 120-degree trine angle to Uranus.

Comparing those two charts, we find that Saturn in 1886 is conjunct where Uranus was in 1866, putting both conjunct the US natal Jupiter-Venus-Sun conjunction in Cancer. Uranus is famous for bringing bolts from the blue, the kind of surprise no one anticipated.

Saturn is due to return to 5 Cancer in July 2003, where it will be conjunct the US natal Jupiter, as it was in 1886. Jupiter in turn forms a stellium with the US Venus and Sun, putting all three into a square aspect to the US Saturn in Libra. Saturn's last visit to this area

brought an end to the Vietnam War and to Richard Nixon's Presidency.

It is likely to take a decade or more to unravel the Global Corporate Empire so that wealth can again flow in a more equitable way, nourishing all extremities of the economic community. Looking ahead for upcoming planetary patterns which are likely to impact the Global Corporate Empire, the year 2012 looms up out of the mist.

The third chart shown is a biwheel depicting the USA's natal pattern on the inner wheel and the Winter Solstice of 2012 on the outer wheel. Ancient Mayan astrologers point to this date as a major turning point in our planet's sojourn. Note that at this time, Pluto will be 8 Capricorn, opposite where Saturn was when J. C. dipped his pen, and Uranus at 4 Aries will be square both that position and transiting Pluto.

Since Saturn and Pluto are the heavenly bodies having the most to do with economic structures and the de-structuring of the old or unworkable, my surmise is that 2012 is when corporate dominance of the world economy will feel its bolt from the blue.

Pluto's revolutionary effects are said to begin subtly and manifest dramatically, sometimes explosively. There are signs that subtle change is in the air. Even many global corporate CEO's see that something must be done about the ever-widening gap between the richest and poorest if our illustrious species is to survive and prosper.

For instance, Bill Gates, founder and CEO of Microsoft Corporation and widely believed to be the richest man in the world, appeared on the PBS TV show NOW with Bill Moyers in May 2003 and uttered an intriguing line: "Wealth is a tool to measure human welfare."

That's a "silly putty" line you can twist just about any way you want. Gates believes the key to ending world poverty is to stop disease epidemics. Apply high-tech medical science to find immunizations, free people from centuries-long battles against killer diseases, and they will get busy creating new wealth for themselves. They will stop having so many children and start upgrading their lives. The "population bomb" will thus be defused, Malthusian law repealed.

It could be argued that freedom from killer diseases will not bring freedom from unregulated usury. What is gradually eating away at the welfare of Americans now is unchecked lending practices which sink small companies, the government, and the general population deeper and deeper in debt.

Nevertheless, it's a sign of what is due to ripen by 2012 to 2015 that a Bill Gates is devoting so much time and energy to this problem of growing disparity between the world's Haves and Have-nots.

Endnotes:

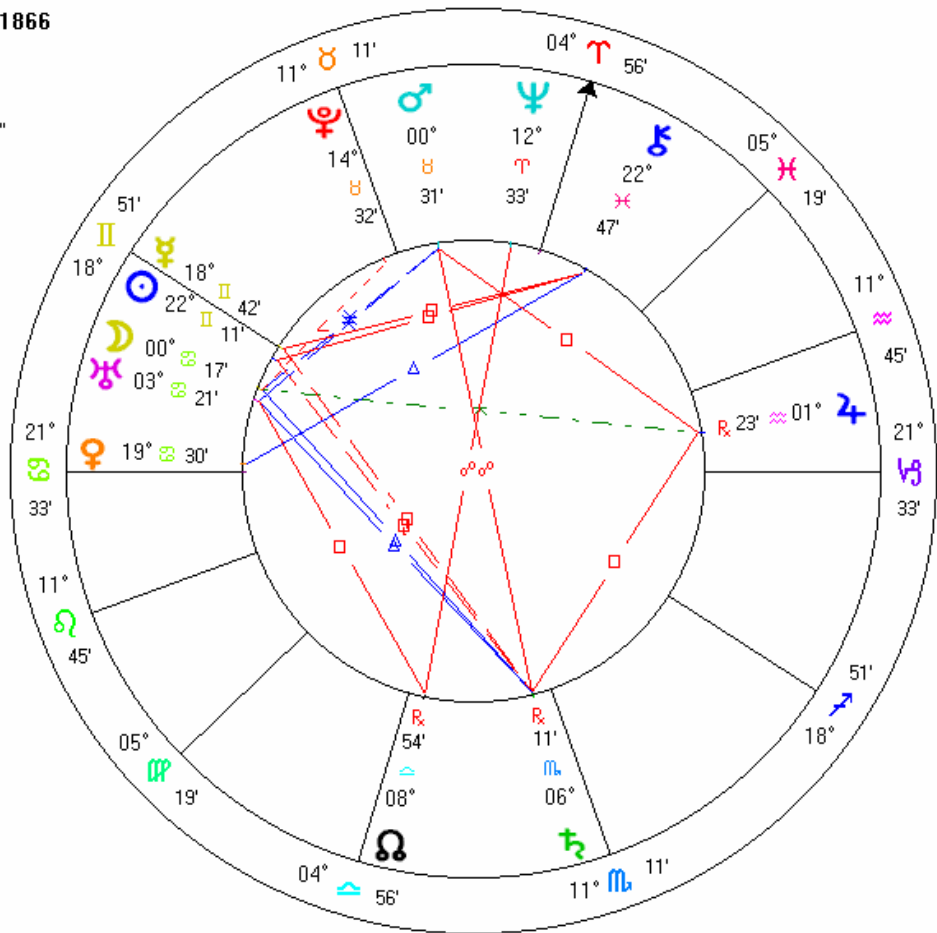
1. "How a Clerical Error Made Corporations 'People'" by Jim Hightower, The Hightower Lowdown Newsletter, April 2003, PO Box 20596, New York, NY 10011.

2. "Who's Eating and Who's Being Eaten" by Silvia Robeiro, *La Jornada*, Mexico City, March 1, 2003. Robeiro cites her main information source as The ETC Group, www.etcgrp.org.

14th Amendment 1866

Natal Chart (2)

Jun 13 1866 NS
 12:00 pm LMT +0:00
 Washington, DC
 38°N53'42" 077°W02'12"
*Geocentric
 Tropical
 Placidus
 True Node*



Inner Wheel
USA Declaration of Independence
Natal Chart (5)
 Jul 4 1776 NS
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 Philadelphia, PA
 39°N57'08" 075°W09'51"
Geocentric
Tropical
Placidus
True Node

Outer Wheel
Winter Solstice 2012
Natal Chart (4)
 Dec 13 2012
 3:30 am EST +5:00
 Washington, DC
 38°N53'42" 077°W02'12"
Geocentric
Tropical
Placidus
True Node

