

PLUTO'S ROCKS

By Robert Gover ©

In a previous article published on this page,
"Pluto, Logic and Irrationality," I said:

*"Warning Flags Fly...Financial markets are likely
to be in another hurricane season in May.*

Nothing so photogenic as the events of 9/11
coincided with the late May Saturn-Pluto opposition, but
in the un-photogenic realm of corporate accounting and
public confidence, the build-up of chaos was amazing.

Uncounted thousands of people learned their
pensions had disappeared or been drastically reduced as
a series of corporate scandals came to light and stock
prices, despite what Wall Street called "good economic
news," continued a steady trend downward. Investor
confidence evaporated and foreign investors were pulling
funds out of US markets. By mid-June, the national mood
toward the "war on terrorism" had changed from
unquestioning support to suspicious cynicism.

This new mood was captured by Will Hutton, author
of *The World We Live in* (Little Brown, London), in an
article published on the World Wide Web:

"The US faces a grave economic crisis. The confidence in the balance sheets and reported profitability of American companies has been shattered by an orgy of unprecedented corporate fraud, plunder and malfeasance that has demanded the connivance of its most reputable accounting firms, business leaders and banks. Only last week news broke of the biggest ever accounting fraud in history at WorldCom, to be followed days later of an epic accounting swindle at Xerox....

"The truth is that American business has bought the American executive and legislature alike...It is this that makes crafting the right reaction to the crisis so hard."

Even the conservative Economist Magazine expressed concern ("An Economy Singed" June 22nd 2002): "Almost 1,000 American companies have now restated their earnings since 1997, admitting in effect that they had previously published wrong or misleading numbers. As the Securities and Exchange Commission cracks down on creative corporate accounting, more such admissions lie ahead, even among household names. Phoney accounts mean that much of the profit growth of the late 1990s, the ostensible justification for Wall Street's bubbling up

to its ephemeral heights, was equally phoney. It is hardly surprising that investors are so anxious."

While "creative accounting" on Wall Street disappeared pensions and wiped out shareholders, the Bush Administration raided the federal budget surplus it had inherited from the Clinton Administration, and was on the horns of a dilemma in the Middle East. President Bush agreed that the only possible solution to the Middle East conflict was a separate state for Palestinians, yet in "the best democracy money can buy" he could not resist taking money from Israeli lobbyists. The press reported "verified rumors" of conflict within the Administration between Secretary of State Colin Powell, said to be in favor of declaring a Palestinian State immediately, and a far-right faction led by Vice President Chaney, who believed creating a Palestinian State would "reward terrorists."

Polling of American college students showed about two-thirds would resist military service overseas. This despite tight corporate controls of the "facts" Americans get from their news media--and thus what information they have to form their opinions.

Meanwhile, corporate-owned TV pundits kept up a steady chant, asking why Palestinians won't stop the

terrorism against Israelis and cooperate. This chatter seemed to suggest that if Washington, DC were invaded by a foreign military force, bombing and shelling the White House and Capital Hill, George Bush would be the first to cooperate. Just like he cooperated with the Vietcong during the Vietnam War by keeping a low profile while he was supposed to be up in the sky with the Texas Air National Guard cowboying jet fighters.

Growing resistance on American college campuses together with polite resistance to Bush's war policies from G-8 nations, the disappearance of Osama bin Laden and al Qaeda, the sickening "collateral damage" from the bombing of Afghanistan, collapsing corporations threatening the telecommunications infrastructure--all this and more had Bush forcefully reading "get tough" words from his teleprompter. Even while the TV news continued to bleat out Israeli propaganda, see-your-doctor take-this-pill infomercials, and "hard news" about movie stars and upcoming feature films, the American people decided it was no longer unpatriotic to question their government.

A virtual epidemic of questions about what Bush knew and when he knew it spread, along with speculations about how much American taxpayer money the CIA had

funneled to al Qaeda before 9/11, and how chummy Bush and Chaney had been with the bin Laden's in recent years. The entire American Empire, it seems, was coming undone--not from foreign terrorist bombs but from corporate/government scandals and loss of public confidence.

It all added up to a textbook example of the Saturn-Pluto opposition and of Pluto's longer-lasting effects: growing chaos leading to a breakdown of the old, from which the new will arise.

Another ratcheting up of Plutonian intensity can be expected to commence in November 2002. This phase is due to be effective till around February 2007. During this roughly five-year period, transiting Pluto will linger within orb of an opposition to the US natal Mars in Gemini, being exact in 2004.

The US natal Mars at 21 Gemini forms a 90-degree square to the US Neptune at 22 Virgo. It is this pattern in the USA's birth chart which is most sensitive to market crashes and panics. My research shows that there has never been a major stock crash in US history going back to 1857 when the US Mars-square-Neptune was not negatively impacted by transiting planets. (See *Time & Money*, Chapters 2 and 3 elsewhere on this site).

To put it another way, every time the US Mars-square-Neptune is negatively aspected American stock markets enter a time zone when crashes and panics are likely. There has never been a major stock crash when this affliction has not been extant.

However, not every time this affliction forms do stocks crash. In past crashes, it's been Uranus, Saturn and Mars which have coincided with the worst. There is no historic precedent for Pluto's impact on stocks from this area of the heavens.

That's because it takes Pluto an average of 248 years to circle the Zodiac, so it's not been where it now is since the mid-1700s. Since stock markets then were nothing like they are today, we cannot consult history for the effects on today's equities markets of Pluto's opposition to the US natal Mars-square-Neptune.

But we do know from history what types of events coincided with Pluto's previous travels through the third decan (last 10 degrees) of Sagittarius. It was during the previous transit of Pluto through this Saturn-ruled decan that passions for revolution were enflamed in the 13 original colonies, giving birth to the USA as a separate nation.

During the 1750s and 1760s, the French and Indian War transformed North America. During Pluto's prior trip through Sagittarius, the 1500-teens, Spanish conquests left the Caribbean and Mesoamerica transformed. In both cases, huge, intense and long-lasting changes occurred within 10 or 15 years.

Focusing on the 1750s and 1760s, not only were the economies of North American Indians vastly changed, but the westward expansion of immigrating Europeans, bringing diseases which the natives had no immunity to, spelled the virtual extinction of those previous inhabitants of what is now the USA.

During the 1500-teens, the economy of Western Europe was also revolutionized. The discovery of gold in the Americas triggered hyperinflation and a series of wars in Europe.

During the past orbit of Pluto around the Sun--the roughly 250 years from the 1750s to the first decade of the 21st Century--the USA went from a colony itself to the world's leading commercial colonizer (what is now called "the new global economy" dominated by US corporations).

I think it's reasonable to surmise, based on a study of Pluto's transits and US history, that by 2010

America's economy, and the world's, will be revolutionized in some way. The question is, what way?

We now see hints in Pluto's current impact as it moves toward an affliction to the US natal Mars-square-Neptune. Assuming that the economy is the core of the culture, and stock markets are an indication of confidence in the economy, the American Empire has rather suddenly hit the skids. This suggests the last gasp for the kind of plundering called "free-enterprise capitalism."

We have already seen considerable chaos in the overall economy: dishonest accounting practices hoodwinking investors and employees of such mega-corporations as Enron, Global Crossing, Tyco, World Com with the list growing daily as I write this in June 2002. Government agencies are also being upended to reveal various forms of corruption, i.e., the estrangement between the FBI and CIA, with both estranged from other related agencies, leading to the lack of intelligence about terrorist plans to attack American economic and military installations: the most dramatic example to date being 9/11 when the World Trade Center and Pentagon were hit. If the various fiefdoms of the vast American intelligence empire had "connected

the dots" (pooled their information), some believe the horrendous attacks of 9/11 could have been prevented.

The astrological "skinny" on Pluto's effects is that they begin subtly, often bringing on a period of mounting chaos when the old is breaking down, and then leading to a transformation when the new emerges from the remains of the old. The most recent economic chaos was triggered by the most recent Saturn-Pluto opposition. It was within 2 degrees of exact when the attacks of 9/11 occurred, and it was exact during late May when a less volatile but nonetheless dramatic change of attitude took over scandal-racked America.

My guesstimate is that this present attitude will lead to a far more contentious atmosphere when transiting Pluto reaches 16 Sagittarius in November 2002. Pluto will then be within 5 degrees of an opposition to the US Mars at 21 Gemini, and thus also square the US Neptune at 22 Virgo. This is where Pluto was when, following the French and Indian War, Colonial America was undergoing a rash of revolts and riots which coalesced into the Revolutionary War.

During the 1700s, the British Empire ruled the American Colonies; now American corporations rule much of the world. The British military was dominant in the

1750s-1770s, but spread thin around the world. Today the sun never sets on the American military, protecting American corporate interests.

Pluto's transit through Sagittarius in the 1700s led to the birth of the USA, which then proceeded to replace the British Empire as the world's dominant economic and military power. Pluto's present sojourn through Sagittarius is coinciding with mounting chaos in the American economic system, threatening to end the American Corporate Empire faster than it arose.

By the end of June 2002, President George Bush, the Supreme Court's choice, appeared to be steering the American ship of state toward Pluto's rocks.