

Outer Planet Cycles and the United States
by John Halloran

Transiting Pluto will conjoin the USA Independence chart Pluto at 27 Capricorn 33 for the first time on February 20, 2022. The conjunction will be exact again on July 11, 2022 and again on December 28, 2022. The best guide to what to expect are the earlier Pluto oppositions that occurred on August 10, 1936, January 21, 1937, and June 22, 1937. A host of schemes to fix the 1930s economic depression and to meet the needs of retired folks gained adherents throughout the nation, starting with the Townsend Plan in 1933. The official government reaction was to create a social insurance program, where there was a deadline of January 1, 1937 to register employers and workers. The nation was also involved with massive infrastructure building projects from 1933 to 1939. In 2021, Congress finally passed an infrastructure spending bill, but infrastructure can also refer to the coming 5G network. Dated recycling infrastructure is causing \$8.9 billion worth of recyclable materials to end up in landfills each year. Some kind of massive reform to the Internal Revenue Service will be needed this year as the IRS is buried under 10 million paper returns with errors or adjustments from last year that remain to be processed.

Transiting Neptune is currently opposing its 22 Virgo 25 location in the USA chart, with exact dates of May 1, 2021, August 21, 2021, and February 28, 2022. We seem to be experiencing the opposite of what happened when Neptune conjoined its place in 1938 and 1939. The Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to regulate drugs passed in 1938. Throughout the year 2021, the FDA issued a number of Emergency Use Authorizations to allow the use of unapproved medical products to diagnose, treat or prevent serious or life-threatening diseases on account of the novel SARS-CoV-2 virus, which causes the disease COVID-19. Also, the Center for Disease Control reports that in the last seven years, drug overdose deaths have doubled to now exceed 100,000 annually. In 1939, movie studios released two of the biggest grossing movies of all time, *The Wizard of Oz* and *Gone with the Wind*. The country must have united to make those movies so very popular. In 2021, movie studios had a terrible year in which they hemorrhaged money by making unpopular films such as the girl power spy movie *The 355*. The Neptune square, which happened five times from 1980 to 1981, was a time of stagflation and hurt feelings, with the assassination of John Lennon on December 8, 1980 (3rd square December 14, 1980) and the Iran hostage crisis which stretched from November 1979 to January 1981.

Even more instructive for Neptune opposing Neptune is the nation's experience when this exact aspect previously happened five times from 1857 to 1859. History seems to be repeating itself. The 15th U.S. President from 1857 to 1861 was a Democrat with the initials JB who was born in Pennsylvania. James Buchanan was against slavery. However, his loyalties were divided because his boyfriend, senator and vice-president William Rufus King and his relatives formed one of Alabama's largest slaveholding families, collectively owning as many as 500 people. Buchanan personally purchased many Southern black slaves in order to give them their freedom in the North. At the start of his presidency, the nation ran a surplus of \$1 million and had a national debt of \$29 million. When Buchanan left office, the surplus had been replaced by a deficit of \$25 million and a national debt of \$76 million, forcing the nation for the first time to borrow money to pay for routine government functions. Driving the spending was bribe-fueled graft and the use of government funds to help Buchanan's political machine. History rates Buchanan as the country's worst president because his corrupt inaction led to the Civil War.

Are there astrological similarities between James Buchanan and Joe Biden, other than both being born in Pennsylvania? Using Buchanan's 9:11 a.m. birth time, from Doris Chase Doane's compilation of U.S. Presidents, Buchanan had Pluto at 23 S 08 and Ascendant at 23 N 08. Biden has Uranus at 20 N 34 and

Ascendant at 20 S 48. Joe Biden has Pluto at 23 N 17. Both of their Plutos aspect the U.S. Jupiter at 23 N 16. Note how close Biden has the aspect—23 N 17 vs. 23 N 16. The meaning of that aspect, according to Ebertin's transits book, page 82, is "pursuit of fanatic goals, desire to exploit others, extravagance, loss of everything, conflict with authorities, arrest." James Buchanan did, in fact, come into conflict with authorities. A congressional committee called the Covode Committee investigated Buchanan and his associates, including John Floyd, for possible impeachment for treason and corruption. There is another similarity. *AstroDeluxe* 10.1, from Halloran Software, added a ranked list of 108 vocational and personal categories, derived from big data processing of aspects in thousands of charts. Until Joe Biden became President, James Buchanan was the only U.S. President to have Marketing as his top-ranked vocational category. The only world monarch who had Marketing ranked number one was King Edward VII, the feckless son of Queen Victoria, whose actions led to the English Constitutional Crisis of 1909-1911. Users of version 10.1 can select and look at the Vocational Rankings list for all three charts from the bundled Famous Persons collection.

Buchanan's closest aspect to the U.S. chart was Uranus at 18 N 22 parallel North Node at 18 N 23, which Ebertin describes as leading to "a family quarrel." The Civil War started with an attack on Fort Sumter near Charleston, South Carolina at 4:30 a.m. on April 12, 1861, about one month after James Buchanan left office. Transiting Pluto at 08 Taurus 34 then opposed the Scorpio Ascendant of the most commonly used USA Independence chart, which is set for either 2:21 p.m. or 2:22 p.m. in Philadelphia, at 08 Scorpio 35.

What is currently interesting is that 25 days after transiting Neptune first opposed the U.S. Neptune on May 1, 2021, Derek Chauvin initiated something similar to the attack on Fort Sumter when he killed George Floyd at a time when transiting Uranus was at 08 Taurus 15, opposing the U.S. chart Scorpio Ascendant. Uranus is not as pitiless as Pluto, so that Ascendant opposition was more of a wakeup call. Transiting Mars was at 08 Pisces 44 and transiting Chiron was at 08 Aries 32. Note that transiting Mars was then square the Moon's North Node at 08 Sagittarius 35 in the composite chart between Derek Chauvin and George Floyd. The Moon's Nodes relate to group connections. One hundred and sixty years after the Civil War, there are still race problems.

While working on the 108 vocational and personal categories for version 10.1 of *AstroDeluxe*, I noticed that the big data vocational ranking predictions were more accurate for Whites than they were for Blacks. The chart aspects predicted that Hank Aaron had the potential to become a lawyer and Muhammad Ali had the chart potential to become a law enforcement agent. Those predicted categories, however, would be more socially-integrated careers, as opposed to the free-agent roles that were actually open to Blacks in the field of sports in the 1950s.

Thomas Sowell asserted in 1998 that the 1965 Moynihan Report was "the last honest government report on race." That report emphasized the importance for avoiding poverty and living a normal life of being raised in a two-parent family. George Floyd's parents separated when he was two. I believe that being raised in a two-parent family makes it easier both to integrate into society and to realize one's astrological potential. Once we get past the confusing time of the current Neptune opposition, there might be fundamental, honest progress that is more than just virtue signaling and window dressing.

These are historic times. On February 28, Neptune will conclude the last of its three oppositions to its own place. On February 20, Pluto will start the first of its three conjunctions to its own place. The country will be moving from Neptune oppositions, that emphasized hard experiences involving drugs and equality, to what should be essentially constructive Pluto conjunctions. I recently finished researching

and writing a set of 300 separate male and female Pluto aspect natal interpretations. What gives Pluto its power is its ability to focus, to see what is essential in the big picture, streamlining and eliminating what is outmoded, tangential, nonfunctional, or frivolous. It would be very presumptuous to say that 2022 would be the right time for the states to convene an Article V convention to propose amendments that would reform the United States Constitution, but 2022 would at least be a good year in which to start.

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