

Historical Events around US Neptune Cycles

US Neptune: 22°25' Virgo

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As we are in the midst of the United States' Second Neptune Opposition, I initiated this research to consider the historical threads of this nation's Neptunian narrative throughout its past 245 years. That this Neptune Opposition arrived to usher in the US' First Pluto Return and its Fifth Chiron Return emphasized its prominence. Upon delving into this work, however, I came of the opinion that to isolate Neptune and its cycle would not do justice to what I sense is its place and purpose in the greater scheme of all relevant planetary cycles. Given that one Uranus cycle is roughly half of a Neptune cycle, Uranus Oppositions and Returns coincide with Neptune Squares, Oppositions, and Returns. Since its inception, the United States has had six Neptunian Timeline events: one return, two oppositions, and three squares. Among these, Pluto's Timeline events have coincided four times. Given Pluto's erratic orbit, this was by no means guaranteed. Pluto's opposition occurred almost two-thirds through its entire orbit – in 1935, not even 100 years ago – instead of at the half way point of slightly before the turn of the Twentieth Century. This timing provides a clue as to the purpose, the plan, and the mission of these planetary cycles at this particular point in history. While it would be possible to isolate Neptune, perhaps, or any of the other cycles, I choose not to do so, as I do not believe that inquiry is worthy of individual pursuit for my purposes here. While the thoughts and conclusions presented herein are subject to revision over time and as events unfold, I memorialize my current views below.

Rather than provide the dates of all of the transits and cycles and the historical events that correspond to them, I will summarize the key points that I have identified at these critical crossroads in history to illustrate what I perceive as their relation to the Outer Planetary influences. Inasmuch as I recoil from the thought of the United States as the 'center of the world' – indeed, I believe "American Exceptionalism" is part of the American shadow – I am increasingly of the view that some sort of exceptionalism will be necessary in order to navigate to a more stable and sustainable state. Whether I like it or not, in many respects in the Twenty First Century, the United States and its destiny aligns with the collective destiny of the world. In economics, in politics, and in military might and warfare, the United States influences and exports its dominance throughout the globe. This will be reflected in the work that I share below.

Original Intent

To begin, I quote some critical text from seminal documents to highlight the tension and contradiction inherent in the United States and its gestalt since inception. The first two textual references are from the Declaration of Independence; those following are from the US Constitution:

1: "All Men Are Created Equal"

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, - That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.

Declaration of Independence (US, July 4, 1776).

2: Domestic Insurrections

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavored to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes, and conditions.

Declaration of Independence (US, July 4, 1776).

3: Migration or Importation Clause

The Migration or Importation of such Persons as any of the States now existing shall think proper to admit, shall not be prohibited by the Congress prior to the Year one thousand eight hundred and eight, but a Tax or duty may be imposed on such Importation, not exceeding ten dollars for each such person.

U.S. Const., Article 1, Section 9, Clause 1, 1787 (ratified Sept 17, 1788).

4: The Three-Fifth Clause

Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons.

U.S. Const., Article 1, Section 2, Clause 3, 1787 (ratified Sept 17, 1788).

5: The Fugitive Slave Clause

No Person held to Service or Labour in one State, under the Laws thereof, escaping into another, shall, in Consequence of any Law or Regulation therein, be discharged from such Service or Labour, but shall be delivered up on Claim of the Party to whom such Service or Labour may be due.

U.S. Const., Article 4, Section 2, Clause 3, 1787 (ratified Sept 17, 1788).

The first passage from the Declaration of Independence is frequently cited and quoted: 'All men are created equal'. We brandish this statement as a badge of honor, as a banner of democracy, and as proof of our commitment to equality and justice for all. The United States through its declaration was the first modern nation to introduce such ideals, and its founders were prepared to die to realize them. We are the land of the free and the home of the brave. It is etched on the frontal lobe of our collective identity, and nothing can ever erase that indelible mark. Meanwhile, that very same document includes as the last among its twenty-seven enumerated crimes against the Crown the attempts by the King and his loyalists to emancipate the slaves through 'domestic insurrections'. In other words, slaves were not part of the fight for American independence but viewed as threat against it. If they were to fight, their only option could be to align with the King. Thus, freedom for the enslaved – not forthcoming from the colonists – was levied as a just cause for war.

The three following passages from the US Constitution, written and ratified 11 and 12 years *after* the Declaration of Independence and *after* the Revolutionary War, not only codified and sanctioned the

institution of slavery and its inherent inequality, but it *prohibited any discussion of the matter* for twenty years. Additionally, the Constitution memorializes how the South utilized slavery for use in apportioning representatives – each slave would count as Three-Fifths of a person – encouraging the expansion of slavery to further tilt the balance of power in Congress in its favor. Finally, the Constitution inherently recognized slaves as property with the inclusion of the Fugitive Slave Clause. While it is true that there was much debate and wrangling over the language over moral objections to those who opposed the institution – thus, the word, ‘slave’ or ‘slavery’ is never explicitly mentioned – these clauses nevertheless appear, exist, and were ratified by the Colonies to join together to form ‘A More Perfect Union.’

When we talk about ‘original intent’ of the United States, we tend to focus on the light, not the shadow. It is no matter, in my assessment, that Constitution was written after the natal chart of the United States was cast. The United States, at first, ratified the failed and flawed Articles of Confederation and later held a Constitutional Convention to fortify what was at first feared: a strong central government. By the time of the Constitutional Convention, the Founding Fathers had greater clarity about not only their objectives, but also on how to achieve them. The Constitution thus memorialized the intent, the objectives, and the purpose of the colonists at the time of independence. It captures for history the thoughts, the morals, the beliefs, the compromises, and the denials of the men who fought for their right to self-governance and what it meant to them. Is it sufficient that ‘moral men’ from the North objected to slavery? Does negotiating away the use of the word matter when the practice is emblazoned on the foundational law of the land? By the time of the American Revolution, many nations had begun to abolish slavery, including England, and yet this new, revolutionary nation fighting against the established monarchies on novel principles of equality forbade any such recognition of the same to persons of color from the moment it took its first breath. How does one measure the integrity in a statement of intent when the corresponding charter contradicts its fundamental essence? The Constitution ensured that the debate over slavery would be suppressed and ignored for a generation in the wishful hope that somehow all would resolve itself even if never confronted or addressed directly. “No taxation without representation” was just cause for the removal of the King, but freedom for a man of a different color was not. This was one step forward and one step back simultaneously. I argue here, quite emphatically, that this shadow component is equally inscribed in the collective consciousness of this country, and it is one that we do not and have never recognized. This theme of economic prioritization above all else despite the seductive abstractions to which we blindly pay homage will be revisited time and again over the course of the history of the United States. It, too, is part of our original intent, and in fact, more accurately reflects it, and I believe it must be understood in that way.

I recognize that there is a distinction between ‘original intent’ of the United States in its collective psyche and ‘original intent’ as it is reflected through astrological interpretation from its natal chart. Using the Shamanic Astrology Paradigm™, the United States has the Sagittarian job in the Sagittarius Tribe. I submit here that the archetypal promise (i.e., ‘original intent’) reflected in the United States’ natal chart has been subverted because of the conflict embedded in its ‘original intent’ in seeking independence and what that meant.

Astrological Considerations for US Neptune Cycles

There have been six Neptunian Timeline events since the inception of the United States. As mentioned above, all of these Timeline events coincide with Timeline events concerning Uranus, and four of them include Pluto. Some patterns emerge:

First, in virtually every case, the Neptune event occurs *before* the Uranus event. There is one minor exception, in 1816, with the First US Neptune Square, discussed below. That Neptune cycles precede Uranian cycles makes intuitive sense: there is first a question or confusion of identity and purpose that impels one to seek clarity and ultimately connect to a deeper sense of one's core mission. The unpredictable events of a Uranian cycle could then therefore follow, propelling one forward consistent with whatever insight that Neptune may have provided.

The second astrological consideration that arises from the convergence of these Outer Planet cycles involves the inclusion of Pluto. In four of the six Neptunian Timeline events, Pluto has a temporally proximate Timeline event of its own. It sometimes occurs before the Neptune cycle; it sometimes occurs concurrent; it sometimes occurs after. Since the founding of the country, however, it has never occurred after the Uranus cycle. In the 1980s, Pluto's Second Square overlapped with 40% of the Uranus Opposition, but the Uranus event continued for a year after Pluto's energy subsided. Consistent with this observation, since the US Chart was cast, the Uranian cycle has never preceded these other two cycles. This suggests that the unpredictable and unknowable events that appear with Uranus are designed to benefit from both the clarity that comes from the confusion of Neptune as well as the empowerment that comes from composting what is no longer necessary with Pluto.

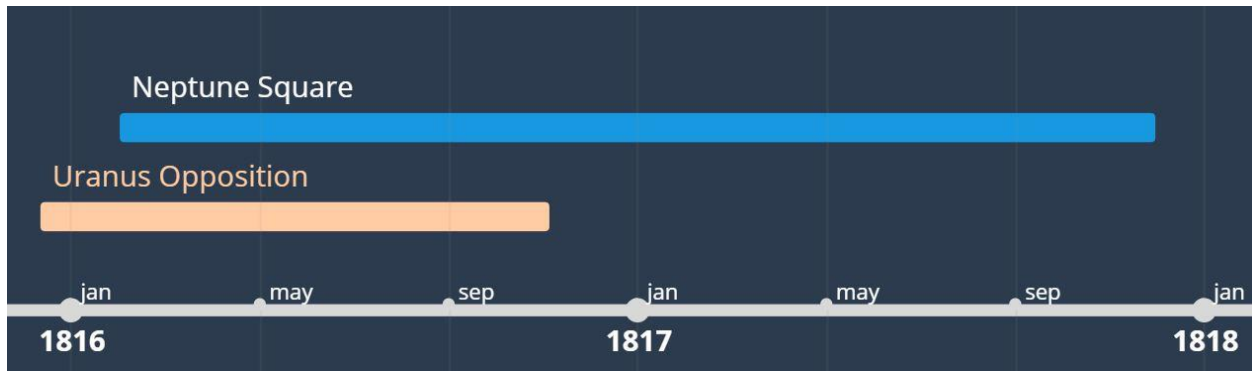
Finally, at both US Uranus Returns to date – in 1860-61 and 1943-45 – the United States has been involved in a major historical war that changed the direction of the country, even if the themes underlying the trends that developed thereafter remained unaltered. Both of these events also occurred proximate to a Plutonian Timeline event. This suggests that the Uranus Returns are more instructive and more insightful in clarifying the major themes involved with the convergence of these cycles, rather than Uranus Oppositions. One factor could be the presence of Pluto, as its cycle was involved during the two above-referenced wars. That said, during the Third US Uranus Opposition in the 1980s, Pluto was also present, but there was no corresponding military conflict that changed the country thereafter. This suggests particular emphasis and significance that I attribute to the US Uranus Returns.

We are currently at the crux of the Fourth US Uranus Return commencing in 2027. Consistent with the pattern identified above, it follows the Second Neptune Opposition and the First Pluto Return as well as the added element of the Fifth Chiron Return. While I cannot know whether or what kind of conflict may arise in the United States or around the globe at that time, there is little doubt that the upcoming Fourth Uranus Return reveals an assemblage point. I suspect this is not only for the United States, but that its effects will be much broader. I believe that the compression and convergence of cycles at this time corroborate this conclusion.

First US Neptune Square: February 2, 1816 to November 30, 1817

As identified above, this is the one and only period in US history where the Uranus cycle commenced before the corresponding Neptunian cycle. As it was only by a mere seven weeks, however, for all

intents and purposes, the two cycles were concurrent. As can be seen below, the Uranus Opposition was subsumed by the Neptunian Square, as the latter ended one year after the Uranian event completed:



That this minor exception occurred at this early stage of America’s development is consistent with the maturation narrative. At this point in history, the United States barely knew what it was. It had just negotiated the Treaty of Ghent to end the War of 1812 with the British. Would the nation survive? Was it capable of fending for itself? The British set the White House and the US Capitol ablaze during that war – not only the very situs of the government, but also its iconography. Although a Uranus Opposition, I liken this to an individual’s First Uranus Square that propels one into adulthood. The United States sustained its first major international scuffle. Its survival after this point was assured. Here we see both the Neptunian and Uranian cycles acting in tandem, with the afterthought of Neptune and the confusion that arose therefrom to help this nascent nation understand its identity.

I should add that this war was unpopular, with divisions falling along regional and political party lines – a theme that the United States has almost never shaken. More illustrative, perhaps, is this early example of the United States using the convenience of conflict to achieve its political ends. It is true that the British were seizing American ships and subjecting sailors into forced conscription as “British” subjects, but it is also relevant that the United States was eager to go to war to justify its expansion. While Britain was distracted by the Napoleonic Wars, James Madison felt it was an opportune moment to capture parts of Canada. While the United States was defeated in its attempts to expand north, after the war, the British were no longer in a position to oppose American expansion west. By the end of the war, as often comes from military conflict and existential threats, Americans became more unified, however short-lived. It was from an attack on Fort McHenry in Baltimore in that war from which Francis Scott Key penned the national anthem. That said, the division that surfaced from that time presaged further division in the ensuing decades.

After the war, the United States began its expansion both in territory and in commerce. In 1817, construction on the Erie Canal started; its completion was critical to the flow of commerce and westward expansion. The following year, the first trans-Atlantic ocean liners (“Packet Liners”) carried people and cargo back and forth between New York and Liverpool on a set and regular schedule – an entirely novel concept at that time.

From this first series, the origins of repeated themes that surface around Neptune/Uranus cycles appear: (1) War and the opportunity it provides, however just or unjust it may be; (2) Division and disagreement over national identity and direction; and (3) Innovation and expansion.

First US Neptune Opposition: April 15, 1857 to February 11, 1859

The First US Neptune Opposition occurred in the lead up to the Civil War. The War, itself, did not start, however, until the end of the First US Uranus Return. This is the first time that a Pluto Timeline event – the First US Pluto Square – influenced the unfolding of the Neptunian and Uranian Timeline cycles:



While I typically wouldn't include or group events with such a large time gap – there are over six years between the end of the Pluto Square and the beginning of the Neptune Opposition – I believe that the US Pluto Square and what is likely its Middle World manifestation – the Compromise of 1850 – are directly relevant and pertinent to the Neptune and Uranus cycles that followed.

The Compromise of 1850 attempted to resolve the dispute over whether slavery should be permitted in new territories admitted to the United States. The compromise, itself, allowed California to enter the Union as a free state, but it allowed new states, such as Utah and New Mexico, to decide for themselves whether slavery would be allowed within their borders. While it may seem like a reasonable compromise, this legislation effectively nullified the Missouri Compromise that drew a hard and fast boundary forbidding slavery in any territories north of the 36°30' parallel. This affronted those in the North opposed to the expansion of slavery. An additional component to the Compromise of 1850 made it easier for slave owners to recapture their slaves in free states and territories.

Historians acknowledge that the Compromise of 1850 delayed the onslaught of the Civil War by ten (10) years. Accordingly, I believe despite the time gap that the Pluto Square is directly linked to the lead-up and unfolding of the Civil War, as its influence held jurisdiction over the short-lived compromise intended to avert it. This raises the question of what can be understood from Pluto's initiation on a nation-state's timeline. Is the Compromise of 1850 evidence that a nation can negotiate the timing of its initiations? I don't subscribe to that notion inasmuch as I do that the nature of these initiations as they pertain to nations – large operational networks with millions of people – work differently. An individual is agile. A nation is not. Legislation enacted today oftentimes does not take effect for several years in order to prepare for whatever transition must be made to implement it. An individual can stop the use of plastic in an instant. In contrast, if the United States were to legislate the abolition of plastic, it would be enacted with a target date several decades in the future. I believe that developments, rumblings, and clues regarding these assemblage points and the themes that give rise to them must include pertinent events that can be directly identified as relating to the specific timings of the Outer Planet initiations in question. To that end, there is little doubt that the US Pluto Square was related to – and prepared the United States for – the upcoming Civil War.

The Civil War, which occurred nearly 85 years after the founding the country, harkens back to the very dissonance reflected in the passages provided above from the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. Who are we? What is our identity? What do we *really* and *truly* believe? And, do we have the courage to stand for those principles? Perhaps regionally there was less confusion – the South wanted slavery and the North did not – but as a nation, there was immense confusion. In 1856, the Caning of Senator Charles Sumner of Massachusetts occurred on the floor of the Senate until he was rendered unconscious after he spoke out against slavery and indicted some of his congressional counterparts. In 1857, the Supreme Court issued the infamous Dred Scott Decision ruling, among other things, that African Americans were not citizens of the United States under the Constitution, and thus had no standing to sue in federal court. Until this decision, the prevailing law had generally been that a slave would be deemed free if he resided for a time-certain in a free state or territory, which were the facts that supported Dred Scott’s suit for emancipation. To speak of confusion, the Chief Justice of the United States, Roger B. Taney, believed he was settling the issue of slavery through his opinion when, in effect, he lit the match that ignited the Civil War.

The Uranus Return began on May 30, 1860, and continued until the end of April 1861. While the Civil War is largely reputed to have begun at the end of the Uranus Return with the Confederate attack on the Army’s outpost at Fort Sumter in South Carolina, on April 12, 1861, the truth is that the unraveling of the nation started several months before, in mid-cycle. Southern States started their secession immediately following the election of Abraham Lincoln in November 1860. On December 20, 1860, South Carolina was the first state to secede. Three weeks later, Mississippi, Florida, and Alabama followed in sequence. A week thereafter, Georgia followed, and Louisiana a week after that. On February 1, 1861 – a month before Lincoln took office on March 4 – Texas joined the exodus, and on February 4, 1861, those seven states held a convention in Montgomery, Alabama, to adopt a constitution and form the Confederacy. Despite the mass secession and the subsequent Confederate Convention, no war had yet ensued.

In contrast to the conflicting statements and reflections of intent expressed by the United States, the newly formed Confederacy clearly understood its original intent. In his Cornerstone speech of March 21, 1861, the Vice President of the Confederacy, Alexander H Stephens, declared:

Our new government is founded upon exactly the opposite idea; its foundations are laid, its corner-stone rests, upon the great truth that the negro is not equal to the white man; that slavery subordination to the superior race is his natural and normal condition. This, our new government, is the first, in the history of the world, based upon this great physical, philosophical, and moral truth.

I don’t want to aggrandize the mission statement of the Confederacy, as its clarity sounds reminiscent of that of the Third Reich. At the same time, it *knew* its principles and why it was fighting for them. The Neptunian confusion and the subsequent Uranian Return that influenced the United States didn’t affect the Confederacy the same way. The clarity expressed by Stephens in the Confederacy’s purpose reflected, in fact, the Union’s assemblage point. The Northerners did not believe in slavery but agreed to it and allowed it to continue. The Southerners did not believe in the ideals of Aquarian equality, but like the Northerners, signed on the dotted line anyway. This philosophical and ethical incompatibility reflected a fundamental difference that could not withstand the tension of time.

I want to add here that the ‘free’ North, though infinitely better than slavery, did not afford African Americans the same freedoms and opportunities as their Caucasian counterparts. Indeed, this legacy carries through to this day in states where slavery never existed. This point can get lost because of the very theme raised at the outset: we tend to focus on the positive, on the light, on the principles of equality and justice, and not the Orwellian iterations that even though all men are said to be equal, in truth, “*some are more equal than others.*” This is precisely how these ideals have been expressed over the past 245 years. This conflict in the United States’ purpose is reflected in fighting the Civil War itself, and I argue here that we see this same uncertainty, equivocation, and stammering in subsequent historical cycles.

In furtherance of this assertion, it is imperative to recognize that the Union did not fight the Civil War over slavery, however anathema the institution may have been. Not a single bullet was fired when the first seven states seceded, not a single troop dispatched. It was only when the US Army outpost at Fort Sumter was attacked that the war began in earnest. Abraham Lincoln repeatedly pledged to preserve the Union at all costs, irrespective of whether the slaves were freed or otherwise. In Lincoln’s letter to Horace Greeley, the then-editor of the New York *Tribune*, the president memorialized his guiding principle, which until then, had been criticized by Greeley as lacking direction:

I would save the Union. I would save it the shortest way under the Constitution. The sooner the national authority can be restored; the nearer the Union will be "the Union as it was." If there be those who would not save the Union, unless they could at the same time *save* slavery, I do not agree with them. If there be those who would not save the Union unless they could at the same time destroy slavery, I do not agree with them. My paramount object in this struggle *is* to save the Union, and is *not* either to save or to destroy slavery. If I could save the Union without freeing *any* slave I would do it, and if I could save it by freeing all the slaves I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing some and leaving others alone I would also do that. What I do about slavery, and the colored race, I do because I believe it helps to save the Union; and what I forbear, I forbear because I do *not* believe it would help to save the Union.

Abraham Lincoln, Aug 22, 1862 (Letter to Horace Greeley).

It is understandable why Greeley felt the president lacked direction. Lincoln did not enjoy the clarity of Alexander H Stephens. Rather, Lincoln, as did our forefathers, equivocated. While Lincoln may have personally objected to slavery on principle, he compromised that conscience. Lincoln is revered for what he did in freeing the slaves, but such was not his intent. Rather, he gave his life for the principle of a Union as an end in itself, not for the greater principles that such Union could represent. By reframing the Narrative at the expense of these historical facts, we amplify the shadow by allowing it to remain unexamined. Moreover, by defeating the Confederacy and forcing the Union to remain intact, the clarity of the statement of principles articulated by Alexander H Stephens above and unabashedly believed by the Southern states remained a fundamental part of the American psyche. Instead of allowing what no longer worked to be let go – the composting power of the Plutonian Square – Lincoln insisted on retaining it after it was already gone. There was now, however, the added element of resentment, hatred, and humiliation from the South. The country may no longer have been divided geographically, but the divisions were clearer than ever. Perhaps this is the reason why the Uranian events of that timeframe didn’t engender the monumental shift towards Aquarian ideals. Twenty years after the war,

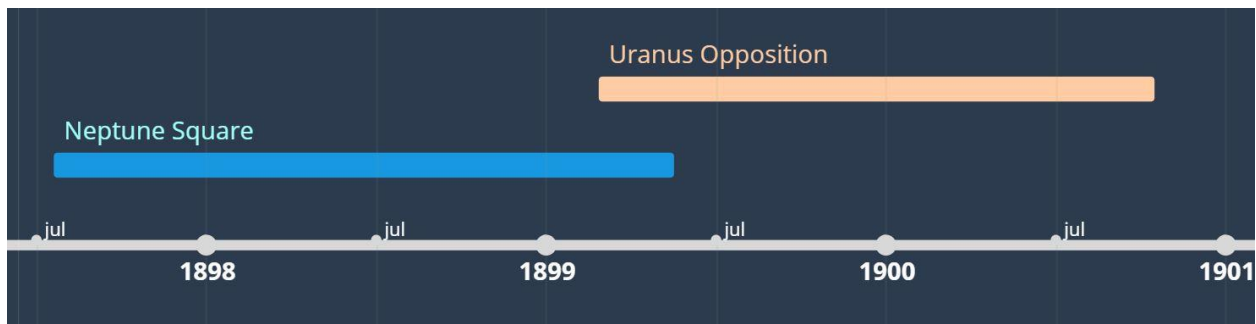
with Reconstruction dead in the water, new forms of racial injustice surfaced, Jim Crow flourished, and violence against the African American community went unchecked and unexamined. The history of the United States from the Civil War until this very day is a struggle in recognizing this legacy. Had Lincoln allowed secession, the Union could have actively helped slaves without being beholden to the demands of the slaveholding South, and any attempt by Southerners to reclaim their slaves in Union territory would have been an assault on the Union's sovereignty. The newly-fashioned United States, through the expression of the values of the North, could then have grappled with the higher principles of freedom, liberty, and equality unencumbered by appeasing their Southern brethren. There still would have been shadow and I imagine equality still would have been elusive, but a more honest exploration could then have surfaced. What's more, perhaps the South, too, may have had to take stock of its supremacist foundations. The institution of slavery was the Confederacy's *raison d'être*. It was doomed to fail. By not allowing the South to secede, however, the North may have deprived the Confederacy the lesson of its shadow that could have changed the course of history with a real transformation in race relations. Instead, we refashioned a new way forward without any real change at all.

So, what we may be seeing is Uranus contributing to the reconstitution of a national identity after its hit to an assemblage point. Without the composting of the old with the Pluto Square and without the clarity that ensues from the Neptunian Opposition, everything gets reassembled, looking somewhat different, but operating more or less the same. Growth? Evolution? Progress? Maybe a little, but mostly in name and optics, not in reality.

The one area that doesn't seem to be thwarted during these Uranian cycles concerns technology and technological advancement. In the previous cycle, the movement and goods and people created intercontinental exchange and intracontinental expansion. At this juncture, right before the Civil War, the first commercial oil well was drilled in the United States, on August 27, 1859, in Titusville, Pennsylvania, and this changed not only the history of the United States, but the history of the modern world. From oil, John D. Rockefeller became the wealthiest man that the United States and the world has ever known, with an estimated wealth of \$420 billion in 2020 inflation-adjusted dollars.

Second US Neptune Square: July 20, 1897 to May 17, 1899

At the Second US Neptune Square, there was the corresponding US Uranus Opposition. As mentioned previously, I believe the Neptunian events associated with Uranus Returns illustrate the power and potential more clearly rather than those that occur with Uranus Oppositions. Even so, the themes of these cycles surface. The Neptune Square once again precedes the Uranus Opposition, with a few months of overlap as the Neptune cycle waned:



While I do not read the historical account from this period as significant as the previous cycle or the one that follows, the themes here are consistent: (1) the legacy of racial inequality and its persistent clawing at our national psyche, (2) war, just or otherwise, and opportunism associated therewith, and (3) technological advancement.

Starting with the issue of racial inequality, the Supreme Court considered its most important – and one of its most wrongly decided – cases on race and equality in the post-War era: Plessy v. Ferguson (May 18, 1896). *Plessy* held “separate but equal” is equal. The ruling wasn’t close – seven out of eight Justices joined the opinion – and this ushered in an era of discrimination and injustice for the emancipated African American, the legacy of which continues to this day. In a word, by ruling that separate is equal, the Supreme Court provided Constitutional cover for segregation by allowing states and local jurisdictions to pass laws enforcing segregation replete with criminal penalties for violating it. Moreover, it effectively legalized much of Jim Crow. No doubt, this landmark ruling contributed to, if not ignited, the White Supremacy movement as well.

The second theme that continues in this cycle is that of war and the opportunity that such war provides. In this era, it was the Spanish-American War of 1898, in which in the period of four short months, the United States acquired Puerto Rico, Guam, Cuba, and the Philippines from the Spanish. The rationale for going to war was the sinking of the USS Maine in Havana’s harbor, which was widely believed to be the result of American negligence: five tons of gun powder ignited blowing one-third of the ship into the sea. Several high-ranking officials (including then-Assistant US Navy Secretary, Theodore Roosevelt) seized on the opportunity to go to war under the claimed cloud of uncertainty that it may have been Spanish provocation. This was the United States asserting its dominance as a world military power and expanding its influence. In truth, the US wanted to ensure that the Panama Canal would be built, and it later, in 1903, created a false conflict with Colombia in order to wrest independence for Panama and ensure that very outcome. Not coincidentally, the latter occurred on Roosevelt’s watch as president, as he became vice-president for President McKinley’s second term, and assumed the office when McKinley was assassinated in Buffalo, NY, in 1901.

This ‘war as opportunity’ theme harkens back to the First US Uranus Opposition to which I attribute the War of 1812. In both cases with these Uranus oppositions, we see the United States asserting its military for its own designs on expansion. In the first opposition, the United States was young, immature, and uncertain. By this time, however, the United States began to assert its power and realize its dominance. The Panama Canal was a marvel achievement, linking the Pacific Ocean with the Atlantic, saving time, money, and enhancing the flow of international commerce. Once again, this is akin to a higher octave of the Uranus opposition from 1815-16, which gave rise to the then novel Erie Canal which revolutionized commerce and expansion as the United States embraced its manifest destiny.

Finally, there is the unmistakable Uranian signature of technology here around this Uranus opposition: Max Plank formulated quantum theory (1900), for which he later won a Nobel Prize (1918); Sigmund Freud published *The Interpretation of Dreams* about his theory of the unconscious (1900); and Marconi’s first trans-Atlantic wireless transmissions took place between Newfoundland and England. With each successive Uranian cycle, the technological advances become more global, more universal, and more expansive, and thereby benefit, influence, and potentially affect an increasingly greater number of people. At the same time, these Uranian advances also irrevocably unite the collective destiny of humanity, for better and for worse.

Upon reflection, it strikes me as if these incredible Uranian technological advances have, perhaps, obscured the profound inquiry that Neptunian cycles have invited. After these initiations end, both of these Upper World cycles ultimately seek to find their expression in the Middle World. With Uranus, monumental shifts that change the course of history can ensue, however, irrespective of whether any integration of the significance of those assemblage point shifts occurs. Did the United States think about the people of Puerto Rico, Guam, or the Philippines and the ideals of equality and liberty and justice when it assumed control over those territories? I doubt anyone gave it any thought other than the recognition that the United States now had strategic positions for military bases all over the world. Thus, with Uranus, 'progress' can seemingly occur without growth or awareness. This is its danger. In contrast, Neptune demands that one work through the confusion in order to arrive at a place of greater clarity. Unlike Uranus where shifts happen irrespective of deeper insight, Neptunian clarity does not. Instead of honoring the confusion in the American mind, we have apparently repudiated the reflection that would be required for any powerful reorientation. What happens when one refuses to reflect? One gets stuck. Nothing really changes, or to quote the old adage, "*The more things change, the more they stay the same.*" To that end, we can put a 'man on the moon' but we can't allow black people to ride in the front of the bus. In the case of the Civil War, President Lincoln simply wanted to preserve the Union at all costs. Quite literally, he wanted to go back to the way things were, even though stagnation runs counter to the purpose of these initiation cycles. As suggested, perhaps the Union and the nation would have been better off allowing the Southern states to secede and to delink our destinies at that point. It's a big question that is confusing to sort out. Instead of taking inventory, however, the nation took action.

Perhaps this is a conflict between the mind and the heart as they compete for spaciousness in our world. Just as Uranus produces events that affect us, the resulting technologies trickle down and we can passively accept them. We can do so unconsciously, soullessly, robotically. Neptune seems to demand more from us. Who are we? Where are we going? What do we stand for? What will be our legacy? In the three cycles considered thus far, we could not answer those questions without contradiction. Nevertheless, we still observed greater affluence, power, and technological advancement. It is said that making money is the American Dream, and yet the ideals of equality and justice are part of the American Dream as well. Abstract principles, however, cannot descend passively. They must be earned through conscious reflection, assessment, and reorientation as we evolve and purposefully work towards their manifestation, without which there is little to show. The lack of awareness with the Uranian ideals comes with great peril as well, which will be discussed in the next cycle. The difference highlighted here, however, is that without conscious awareness we can see what appears to be progress with the influence of Uranus, but we do not see the same with Neptune.

First US Neptune Return September 28, 1938 to July 25, 1940

With the First US Neptune Return, I believe these themes that I've been describing and documenting come into unmistakable clarity and focus. The events around this time are so extreme, so consequential, and its signature so unmistakable, that it is difficult to ignore. I'd like to say *impossible to ignore*, but humanity has demonstrated its ability to look away from the most obvious, and if anything proves this point, it is this particular epoch and the response thereafter. To put it mildly, it was a warning – a spiritual shot across the bow, if not a wake-up call – signaling an SOS that we are on the brink of losing the essence of our humanity. It is not only no mistake that the US Pluto Opposition occurs proximate to this Neptune Return, but I believe it is imperative. During the First Neptune Opposition around the time

of the Civil War, Pluto provided its power to compost so that we could remove what no longer worked. While I don't believe we were successful, its placement here is for that same purpose.

I'd like to add that I believe that the events at this time demonstrate the interconnectedness of the destiny of the United States, its ideals, and its promise with that of the world. I do not necessarily advance the converse argument, however. During this period, the events that take place do not occur on American soil, while at the same time, I believe it offered us the profound opportunity to ask ourselves that Neptunian question about who we are and what is our place in the world? Do we even know where we stand? I don't believe we've ever truly answered those questions nor do I believe we know. So, in the face of that unknowing, we amass wealth and power, but we don't know to what end, as the underpinnings of not only a free and just society, but a free and just world have not yet been realized.



This era involves the Second World War. Similar to the First US Neptune Opposition that occurred around the Civil War, the Pluto initiation occurred before Neptune. As I mentioned at the outset, if Pluto had a more circular orbit, we would have expected to have seen the Pluto Opposition around the turn of the century, during the Spanish-American War and around the time that discrimination in the US was constitutionally codified with Plessy v. Ferguson. But we don't. We see the Pluto Opposition now, leading up to the advent of the Second Great War, and we see its placement much more closely aligned with the Neptune Return. There is not a window of five, six, or seven years between them as there was in the 1850s. Here, the Pluto Opposition ends mere months before the Neptune Return begins. I suspect there are a few reasons, and they differ from those of the Civil War era. At that time, the matter of slavery and the Union was entirely a domestic affair. Like anyone contemplating a breakup or a divorce, it doesn't usually happen overnight. Adjustment, compromise, give-and-take, trial-and-error are often employed to see if they can make any difference, and it takes time in order to make that assessment. It also takes time in order to wake up to one's denial.

In the case with the Second World War, there was no break. The message was clear and unmistakable: there is nothing to rationalize; there are no intervening events. Here it is, presented before you, in your face, clearly, directly, linearly. Recognize it. Understand it. Own it.

The era of the Second World War encompasses what I recognize as the most atrocious, extreme, and horrific events that humanity has ever perpetrated upon itself. Specifically, I refer to the Holocaust and the attempted annihilation of an entire race from existence while the rest of the *Christian* world watched and participated. I emphasize *Christian* world, because these actions of gross degradation, extreme depravity, and the purest of evil were perpetrated by one of the most advanced civilizations

known in the modern era and could not have been accomplished without the complicity of Christendom. The Germans were not barbarians of the back country who killed for pleasure and drank blood for sport. These acts did not arise from a primitive people who did not pray to *our* God, who didn't understand *our* beliefs, who weren't accustomed to *our* civilized governance, or didn't subscribe to *our* fundamental tenets of morality. If any of these variables were different, as they often are, we can divert our gaze, place blame on the *other*, and thereby escape the scrutiny of self-reflection. What did we learn from the beheadings of Isis and how did we change our discourse as a nation? I imagine not much. No one would do that sort of thing unless they were *sick*. *Those people* are literally *insane*. We would *never allow anything of that sort* because we are better than they are and their actions have nothing to do with us. Right? None of those excuses avails itself for our convenient utilization here, however. Germany flourished artistically, politically, culturally, and even religiously during the Renaissance. Its contributions are undeniable for the foundations of modern Western thought, and those contributions reverberate to this day. Meanwhile, half of the fifteen men at the Wannsee Conference – the meeting of January 20, 1942, whereby senior officials of the Nazi regime discussed the implementation for the Final Solution in the mass extermination of Jews – had Ph.Ds. Josef Mengele, the 'Angel of Death' and the 'Butcher of Auschwitz', took the same Hippocratic oath that all physicians do, and yet he conducted controlled experiments without anesthesia on his tortured subjects in the name of human advancement and science. With flashes of Uranian brilliance, the Germans turned killing into an art through the mechanism of science. The extermination camps were highly advanced, extremely efficient slaughterhouses. During the course of the war, with the application of better technology and scientific study, the Germans evolved from killing squads to mobile gas vans to small gas chambers to larger gas chambers to ultimately gas chambers that could kill thousands of victims at once.

The Germans are a Christian nation. Europe is a Christian continent. Our ancestors may have left that continent to start a new life in the New World, but *their* values are *our* values. They read the same Bible that we do. They pray to the same God. They have the same beliefs. We share the same roots, want the same things, and have the same blood. The Holocaust did not happen in backwater Barbaria. In essence, it happened right here. It not only *could have been* us; it was. This was its message.

That it wasn't *our* diabolical design or *our* perverse plan does not erase our culpability. In order for the Third Reich to have been successful, it needed the overt or covert complicity from, essentially, the entire Christian world. This includes the United States. There have been plenty of exposés about American involvement and aid to the Nazis, but I refer to something much simpler. *Mein Kampf*, was published in 1925. Hitler had been screaming about the 'Jewish problem' since he rose to power in 1933, the very same year that Otto Frank took his daughter Anne and their family to Amsterdam to escape the storm on the horizon. It wasn't as if the world hadn't been on notice. Newspaper headlines of the day documented Hitler's hostilities in great detail and through its evolution. Berlin hosted the Summer Olympics in 1936, and not a single country in the world boycotted. To the contrary, the United States *rejected* such a proposal. This was after the Nuremberg Laws, discussed below, went into effect. No one could legitimately claim ignorance. When push came to shove, however, what did the United States do? Nothing. It turned away a ship of 963 refugees to return to Europe to confront their fate. Canada was no different. Mackenzie King, the Canadian Prime Minister, famously offered, "*None* is too many." It is not lost on history that a non-Christian nation – China – accepted more Jewish refugees – approximately 20,000 – than the entirety of North America. Had the United States insisted on its neutrality, it could have attempted to broker a solution to aid Jews in seeking resettlement around the world – wherever

and however many – to escape the hatred that hunted them. Instead, it closed its borders and looked away. The feel-good stories of survival whereby certain Jews were saved, as beautiful as those stories are, amounted to a pittance of those who perished. Jewish children saved in the Kindertransport to England numbered approximately 10,000. Oskar Schindler is credited with saving around 1,200. Meanwhile, 6,000,000 Jews were murdered, 1,500,000 of them children. The Germans would have been unable to accomplish this monumental task without assistance from its Christian counterparts. Whether it was denial or anti-Semitism or most likely both, the Germans could not have murdered so many if occupied nations didn't serve up their targeted populations without resistance. Had everyone worn the Star of David, as King Christian and the Danish citizens did, the Nazi plan would have been thwarted, at least for a while. It provided the Danish sufficient time to deport most of its Jewish population to Sweden, saving approximately 90% of its pre-War population of 6,000. Meanwhile, after the War, when few Jews survived, people feigned innocence: "It's not my fault! I didn't see it! How could I have known?" In any center where Jews lived, everyone knew. It was *impossible not to know*. Jews were marched through towns with suitcases in tow as spectators watched from every angle until the Jews boarded their crammed trains to never return. How is it that everyone is complicit but nobody is responsible? In a word, that's the legacy of the Holocaust and how much humanity has learned. "Never Again" has been the Jewish mantra ever since, while this is not a mantra about which the Jews need reminding. "Never Again" should be the mantra of the Germans, the mantra of the Europeans, the mantra of the Christians who stood idly by and allowed this horror to happen because it wasn't happening to them. As an aside, a similar pattern surfaces in the United States with the African American community. "Black Lives Matter" should not be a mantra for African Americans, but rather a mantra for the police, for the White majority, for the country. Black people already know that their lives matter. History reveals, however, that this belief is not widely recognized other than through plaques, speeches, and holidays.

The signature of the Holocaust was so extreme, so barbaric, so beyond the beyond – and I do not apologize for saying this – it was so *human* – it was a wake-up call for the world to pay attention to who it is and what it is becoming. The Holocaust could not have occurred at any other time in history because the technology did not exist to allow it. We now have the capacity as humans to lose our humanity entirely. This was the warning that our shadow was consuming us. I believe the astrology of the time not only suggests this, but also implicates the United States at the leading edge of this warning. As has been evident with each subsequent Neptunian cycle, these events have become more and more global until this time, when the events of the day and the themes that surfaced with universal relevance became unmistakable. I don't know what may have been foretold from the charts of other nations. I do recognize, however, that the US Chart and its pertinent cycles identify a global concern around this time. To this end, as the world has continually become more interconnected, I believe that it is likely that the current cycle that started with the Neptune Opposition in 2021 could very well be a harbinger for humanity as well.

The Timeline of these Outer Planet initiation cycles corresponds with the events and the consequences I describe above. The First US Pluto Opposition was the time associated with the Nuremberg Laws (1935) that stripped Jews of citizenship, deprived them of working with non-Jews, and forbade their marriage to or any sexual relation with one of German ancestry. The campaign against the Jews crescendoed pre-war to Kristallnacht, the Night of Broken Glass, on November 9 and 10, 1938. The name derives from the smashed glass and destruction that littered the streets after two days of violent pogroms against the

German Jews. During Kristallnacht, Jewish property, stores, and synagogues were destroyed and set afire while the German authorities watched without intervention. While the number of deaths during Kristallnacht was relatively low – it's uncertain, but estimated to be in the hundreds – over 30,000 Jewish men were arrested and sent to concentration camps. While this was before the gas chambers and the killing squads, it was intended to send a message to the Jews that they were no longer welcome. To add insult to injury, the Germans levied the Jews with the bill to pay for the destruction that was perpetrated against them. The cost incurred during that two-day pogrom was 1.5 billion Reichsmarks. In 2020 US dollars, that amount is reputed to be an incomprehensible US\$7 billion.

In 1938 and 1939, Germany annexed Austria and the Sudetenland, respectively, and on September 1, 1939, Germany invaded Poland and the war began. Despite that Poland had a defense pact with the British and the French, neither intervened, allowing German expansion and aggression to remain unchecked. Within one month, the Germans were experimenting with gas chambers for involuntary euthanasia in a eugenics program for the sick, infirm, and disabled. While that program was soon shut down over national objection, that very program with that very same team of engineers, experts, and authority figures appropriated that technology and the lessons gleaned from that previous work to rapidly deploy the Final Solution and exterminate the Jews. This time, however, there was no objection.

As described above, the First Pluto Opposition and the First Neptune Return are practically seamless. The events of the Pluto Opposition lead directly into the Neptunian Initiation. Once again, the United States was faced with its identity. Who are we? What do we stand for? What is our purpose and our place? The United States had been late to the First World War and refused to ratify membership in the League of Nations despite that it was Woodrow Wilson's brainchild. With these transits, the United States was now being invited to reconsider its stature in the world. What is telling about their timing is that the Pluto Opposition and the Neptune Return lasted from August 1935 until July 25, 1940. In addition to any wisdom learned from lessons of its past, the United States was given five years of an Under World and an Upper World initiation to compost and ultimately receive clarity on who it was and how to proceed forward. While the war had started by the time that the Neptune Return had passed, the *systematic mass extermination had not*. Earlier US involvement could have changed the outcome dramatically. At the start of the war, the Einsatzgruppen, the German death squads, went to towns and villages and conducted mass killings after their victims dug their own graves. The Germans quickly learned that they could only kill thousands using death squads, not millions, and it wasn't efficient enough to accomplish their objectives. During this time, the Germans also discovered a psychological toll on the men who comprised the firing squads. Shooting ten thousand people in one day with the screams, the blood, the fear, and the deaths was difficult for these soldiers to manage over time and many developed symptoms of post-traumatic stress. The solution was technology. The gas chambers removed the soldiers from the barbaric nature of what was happening. Fewer people were involved with more efficient killing, and what's more, Jewish captives could be employed to do much of the dirty work in dealing with the dead bodies, extracting gold from their teeth, and transporting them to the crematoria. This is the paradox of Uranian progress: technology revolutionized while technology dehumanized.

The United States finally entered the war after the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. There appears to be a correlation between the United States' response and behavior with the Neptune Opposition that occurred before the Civil War and the Neptune Return that preceded World War II. In both cases, the United States had completed its Neptune initiation, and in both cases the United States

had an opportunity to become clearer about what steps it wanted or needed to take. In both cases, however, the United States did neither. Rather, the country preserved the status quo until events forced its hand. With the Civil War, it wasn't the rights and freedoms of those enslaved that prompted the Lincoln's response, but rather the attack on Fort Sumter. In World War II, it wasn't the debasement and annihilation of the innocent, the likes of which humanity had never imagined, that prompted the United States' involvement, but rather the Japanese attack on a Hawaiian naval base. I believe it is an important signature that the United States was not attacked by the Germans. The higher principle to counter the horror of mass extermination that had begun by December 1941 could not be offered in denial as the stated reason the United States entered the war. Rather, it was the Japanese who forced our hand. In other words, as with Lincoln and the Civil War, the United States entered the war because it *had* to, not because it *chose* to. The Universe intervened, perhaps, but because we were not clear about our objectives or our purpose – or worse yet, perhaps those in power actually were – the course of our collective destiny and our awareness of it has not changed.

Confirmation of this hypothesis is suggested by American hegemony post-WWII. These events were intended to catapult the United States onto the World Stage. I suspect that much was fated. The real question – and our part in this calculus – was: *to what end?* As with the founding of this nation, we had a choice: what kind of nation do we want to be? Do we want to be a beacon of truth and justice, as a model of the greatness and potential inherent in the human experiment? Or do we want to be a prosperous and powerful nation largely indifferent to those ideals as long as our commercial interests remain unfettered? In my estimation, we have chosen the latter at every juncture.

The Second US Uranus Return began at the end of July 1942 and lasted until, essentially, the end of the war. As an interesting point, the one and only exact Uranus conjunction occurred on May 30, 1944 – just one week *exactly* before D-Day. We can see tremendous technological advancement driven by our involvement in the War, the most notable of which is the nuclear bomb. It is not lost on me that although the Germans are guilty beyond any and all possible measures of annihilating a race of people, this Uranian event has implicated the United States in ushering the world into an era of the possibility of annihilating all of humanity. To date, we are the only nation that has ever deployed this technology. While I will never equate the actions of the United States with those of the Nazis – they are beyond compare – I cannot help but to wonder whether the US had done more of its Neptunian work in earnest whether dropping the bomb would have been a precedent that we could have set. Is that the nation we want to be? Does this action align with our true and original intent of honoring the divinity of all fellow beings? If, as Thomas Jefferson wrote in the Declaration of Independence, each individual receives his rights from the Creator, then aren't the lives and the aspirations of other men and women all over the world also entitled to those very same privileges? I am not suggesting that acting in accordance with that original intent would abrogate the necessity, at times, of war, but perhaps our willingness to engage in war and *how* we engage in that war would be different. The United States was more prepared to go to war with England and Spain to expand its territory and dominance than it was to save the lives of innocent people who were guilty of nothing other than belonging to the Semitic race. We have fought our wars with self-interest rather than with right intention, even if sometimes those two purposes have aligned. To do the right thing for the wrong reason, however, does not aid in evolution or growth. Without consciousness and without awareness, there is little learning to understand our power, how to work with it, and what it means. It is my suspicion that the United States fell into the Uranian shadow by this time, if not long before. After the unleashing of the atomic bomb, we crossed a line from which we

can never retreat. With its systematic mass genocide, this is true of the Germans as well. Our only redemption is conscious awareness and conscious application of our power, with soul, with wisdom, and with measure in alignment with higher ideals and higher purpose. Wealth and power for their own sake do not suffice. The Second World War changed humanity. The Germans did it with brick and mortar; the Americans with atomic science. Both illustrated the risk of technological advancement as the unexamined shadow brought us to the precipice of racial and collective extinction.

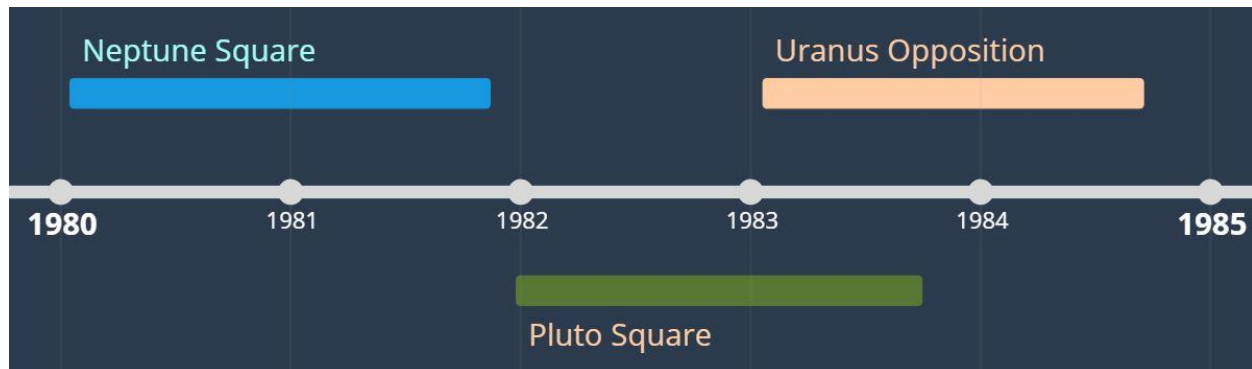
The themes of American exceptionalism and technological advancement once again resurface, and I believe, overshadow our omissions in evolution. Post-war America grew in prosperity and stature. With the Marshall Plan, the United States helped rebuild Europe. We became a dominant power in every facet of human existence – food, medicine, development, science, technology. At the same time, however, we also participated the Cold War, nuclear proliferation, and the dominance of and dependence on fossil fuels that strained the environment, the air, the soils, and our waterways for promise of profit. I suspect we do not reflect on the past, what was missed, and the forks in the road that went unseen, and Uranus allows us to do that because the progress of technology cannot be stopped. Without Neptune, I fear it becomes soulless. In a sense, perhaps Uranus pulls farther ahead while Neptune falls further behind, when the astrology – at least at this point in time for the US Chart – indicates that the two must work together in tandem.

Furthermore, the theme of the Nazi regime – eugenics and genocide – has relevance to the American Narrative. Slavery is not the same as genocide, but it would be inane to conclude that slavery from the past has no bearing upon or relevance to race relations in the present day. We can still see evidence of incongruity and inequality, as the White majority utilized its power to perpetuate imbalance and injustice even after emancipation. If we cannot see the effects of our own policies and prejudices, the Nazis provided a window for the Americans to see the outcomes if these imbalances and distortions remain unchecked. With the Nazis, the objective was eradication; with slavery, it was suppression, exploitation, and dominance. In a sense, systematic suppression leads to eradication through the denial of one's right to exist, thrive, and prosper. It simply takes more time. I believe that the lesson from the Germans was to appreciate that their darkness is in all of us. All forms of injustice, disrespect, and hostility need to be examined. If we do not see it, we cannot own it; and if we do not own it, one day, it can own us. From the trajectory of the American experience, it does not appear as if this lesson was identified after the war. Instead, we focused on prosperity, influence, and domination, both economic and political, and by many metrics, we have succeeded. At the same time, it seems to me that if we do not learn our lessons consciously that we are forced to learn these lessons from consequence. We prevailed in the Second World War, and without grounding in our essence – both light and dark – what did we win? The potential to destroy ourselves.

US Neptune Square: January 15, 1980 to November 14, 1981

The US Neptune Square that occurred in the early 1980s is the most difficult to appreciate. Similar to the Neptune Square at the turn of the Century (1897-99), this does not appear to be an assemblage point with the resonance that occurred around the two major wars identified with the previous Uranus Returns. This is not surprising, as consistent with previous observation, this Neptune Square appears with a Uranus Opposition. This time is important – just as American dominance and elevation as a world power were important during earlier Uranus Oppositions – but the themes that surface in this cycle are more subtle in their expression. Issues of racial justice still existed, of course, but I was unable to identify

any watershed moments during this time. The Sadat assassination (1981) and the bombing of the US Embassy in Beirut (1983) occurred in the Middle East, and the United States invaded Grenada (1983), an incursion that lasted all of four days. These events did not force the nation to confront its identity as it had been invited during the previously identified wars, nor were they expansionary and opportunistic as the two Neptune squares from the previous Neptune cycle suggested around the War of 1812 and the Spanish-American War. With that said, there is a different configuration with respect to this particular Neptune cycle compared to those we have already seen:



For the first time, the Pluto initiation occurs *after* the Neptune cycle completes. In fact, this is the precise inverse pattern between Neptune and Pluto from the previous cycle around WWII. In that era, the Pluto event ended almost seamlessly as the Neptune event began. Here, we see the opposite, with the Pluto Square initiating just over one month after the Neptune Square closes. This suggests that the United States was invited to consider its national identity and direction before it went into its composting phase. I might even view the Pluto Square as additional support for the Neptune Square so that the Uranian Opposition could be met with the consciousness those preceding squares invited.

In my opinion, there is only one event worthy of note that could have been associated with the confusion and realignment with purpose of Neptune and given us the collective opportunity to proceed with greater integrity: the AIDS crisis. Although the CDC published its first report in 1981 regarding men infected with what would later be referred to as AIDS, President Reagan ignored its urgency. Reagan did not publicly mention AIDS until four years later, in 1985, nor make it part of his national agenda. Not only was this an opportunity for the United States, still well within its Neptune cycle, to grapple with its conscience and its soul about the equality and dignity of all people, it was an opportunity to bring alternative forms of sexual identity and expression into the mainstream. Neither of these was addressed, let alone accomplished. This is part of a thread that links to the racial themes previously raised, aptly captured by Martin Niemöller's well-known quote:

*First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out – because I am not a socialist.
Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out – because I am not a trade unionist.
Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out – because I was not a Jew.
Then they came for me – and there was no one left to speak for me.*

Consistent with the past, “*It doesn’t matter because I’m not a black, a Jew, or a homosexual*” seemed to be the national response. If it doesn’t affect me, then why should I care? While not in alignment with

one set of original ideals – those of the Declaration of Independence – it is in alignment with the competing compromised values encoded within the Constitution. That HIV is transmitted primarily through sex and intimacy is a human signature. It assaults the essence of human connection, love, and expression. While it may have initially targeted one demographic over another is irrelevant. I wonder whether these collective US transits from the 1980s were offering this more personal invitation. We didn't see it with slavery. We didn't see it with mass genocide. Would we see it with something that hit closer to home with something with which we could all identify? That the Uranus Opposition overlapped but outlasted the Pluto Square could have offered advances regarding treatment, prevention, and palliative care. There were technological advances during this time, but none that had to do with the treatment of AIDS: The Commodore 64 computer; the first artificial heart transplant; the first woman in space; the Microsoft IPO. These are all impersonal advances that led, in some ways, to miraculous things, but they are agnostic about the individual who may or may not benefit from them. It is advancement for its own sake, indifferent to the suffering of those in crisis. This is not to suggest that there is no value to scientific exploration or the study of the unknown if there is no tangible benefit. Rather, these considerations arise out of the specific Outer Planet cycles in effect at this critical time in American and human history. As a point of stark comparison, it was fewer than nine months between the first county in the United States went into lockdown in response to COVID-19 and the first dose of a purported vaccine was administered. The first case of AIDS was isolated over forty years ago, however, and there is still no vaccine. Something simply doesn't compute with these calculations. Either the COVID vaccination is not what it claims to be or forty years should have been more than enough time to make significant advances in HIV immunization. Heaven forbid, maybe both are true.

Finally, the one race-oriented theme I was able to identify that fell within this time frame is the enactment in November 1983 of MLK Day as a national federal holiday. As is reflected in the dichotomy between the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, the ideal is only one part of the equation. Reality is the other. How much progress has been made in the past thirty-eight years? The disparities between the Black and White populations in terms of infant mortality, poverty, unemployment, college matriculation and graduation, net worth, arrests, police killings, and incarceration reflect that these two groups continue to live in two different Americas even 156 years after the end of the Civil War. At best, a national holiday offers little more than hope that one day the status quo might change. At worst, it is used to deny the examination of the shadow that would be necessary to stop the repetition of the cycle of suppression that has persisted since this nation's birth. I suspect 'cancel culture' is another iteration of this very same deflection. Instead of promulgating a national statement to gloss over the required reflection, something (e.g., a statue, naming rights) or someone is removed and marginalized, averting the same. In either case, no profound reflection occurs, and thus the opportunity for growth is stymied.

Second US Neptune Opposition: March 31, 2021 to January 25, 2023

We now come to the present day, as this Second US Neptune Opposition is in progress as I write. What makes this particular cycle different from all other cycles previously considered is that now all four Upper and Lower World initiations are unfolding at once. We have seen Neptune and Uranus together with the inclusion of Pluto at times, but in this current iteration, Chiron is also a component of consideration:



At first glance, one notes that Uranus is the outlier: it occurs almost two and one-third years after the Fifth US Chiron Return completes. Once again, Neptune starts this process, providing, under cover of fog, the opportunity to surrender to the unknowing to obtain greater clarity. The overlapping cycle of Pluto suggests that the composting and recycling of that which no longer serves can begin in the first half of the Neptune initiation. Chiron's presence in the latter part of the Pluto Return theoretically offers an opportunity for deep distillation of healing the fractures and wounds that are identified through these processes. What strikes me as most unusual about this cycle, compared to all of the other cycles considered, is the length of time into this period until the Uranus Return hits. There are four and a half years between the end of the Neptune Opposition and the beginning of the Uranus Return. There were three years between these same two cycles during World War II, and fifteen and a half months at the start of the Civil War. More time may signify more momentum and greater impact. While the events associated with Uranian cycles are unpredictable and unknowable by definition, at every US Uranus Return, there has been a major and unmistakable war that changed this country and changed the world. To that end, I'd group the American Revolution into this consideration as well, as not all countries are born from war. The addition of Chiron into this calculus further compounds the significance of what is presented. Optimistically, one could interpret this as an opportunity for great healing and evolution. While I could subscribe to that possibility in theory, I am more inclined to see this in light of the missed opportunity that the Civil War presented: a true composting after clarifying the disease and division that may very well make the current stage of this American experiment unsalvageable. Those fractures have been ever-present since this nation's birth, so clearly and unmistakably revealed by Alexander H Stevens at the outset of the Confederate declaration, but have thus far been denied. Without acknowledging our division and owning our shadow, I do not believe great healing or evolution can ensue. I cannot begin to imagine how this would have to unfold, and the entire scenario seems radically implausible. At the same time, one thing seems clear from the examination of past cycles: whatever happens almost certainly will not occur peacefully.

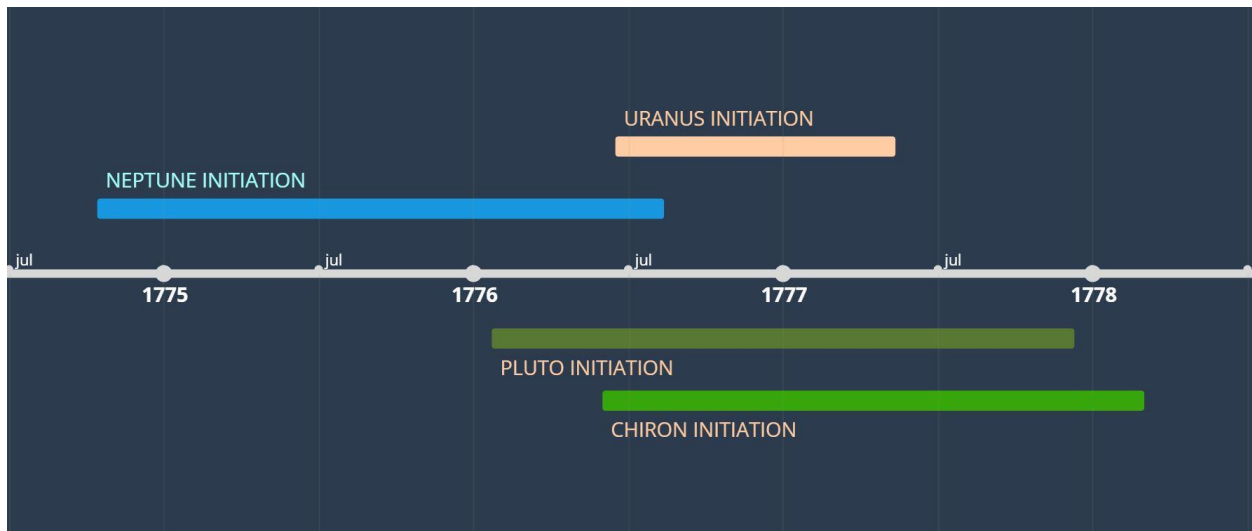
I imagine the themes that will arise during this time are the themes I have already identified. It's not surprising that this period starts with Neptune: we *should* be confused. We have a lot to think about. We have just ended a four-year reign of tyranny from a president who ignored the facts, advanced alternative narratives, assaulted the media, reinterpreted the Constitution, and acted in contravention of law and convention whenever it suited his purpose. He propagated lies about the election and its results without producing a single shred of evidence that could have contributed to any change in any jurisdiction, let alone an overturning of the election itself. As if that isn't enough, in spite of knowing these untruths, the present-day Republican Party allows these lies to stand for no other purpose than to ignite its base, extolling the former president as its leader and best hope for reclaiming the White House

in the next election, while rewriting election laws to suppress Democratic voters in the states where the former president lost. Those who speak truth-to-power within the party are marginalized and demoted from their ranks. That same leader orchestrated and incited an insurrection on the day that Congress and the Vice President were to certify the election results, some chanting, “Hang Mike Pence” as they stormed the Capitol. What’s more, the Republicans have blocked attempts to investigate the truth of what happened and why, even though their lives were imperiled as well. Immediately following these events, after witnessing the consequences of material fabrication run amok, four senators still moved to block certification of the election. This, I believe, is what we have seen at every Neptunian cycle: denial, obstruction, shadow, and a stubborn refusal to take inventory and reorient. Instead of facing the truth and the ugliness of what has been allowed to transpire so that we could collectively evolve, the truth is ignored, suppressed, and recharacterized in the attempt to hold onto power. For reasons that I could never explain, so far, it seems to be working.

All of the themes raised above are still very much at issue. Race is a more important issue now than ever, and a federal law for Juneteenth just passed is not going to change the systemic problems that have persisted since slavery any more than ‘thoughts and prayers’ will stop gun violence. During the pandemic lockdown, the richest people in the world became wealthier while the rest of world watched its nest-egg erode. At some point, the distortion may become too great and the experiment could collapse under the weight of its own imbalance. As I propose above, I suspect if we do not learn our lessons consciously, we will be forced to learn them from consequence.

Pre-American Revolution Neptune Cycle: October 14, 1774 to August 13, 1776

As a final parting thought I offer the Neptune, Pluto, Chiron, and Uranus cycles as they appeared from the time surrounding American Independence:



Of course, the United States’ chart wasn’t seeded until the colonists declared independence from the Crown. Even so, I still think this chart is instructive for a handful of reasons. Most notably, this chart reveals *where* independence fell in the cycles defined by its very declaration. As determined by the birth of this nation on July 4, 1776, the Neptune cycle was at its end, suggesting its waning momentum, barely having one month until its completion; the Uranus cycle was at its beginning but was entirely subsumed by the two Under World cycles; and both of the Under World cycles of Chiron and Pluto – including

almost the entirety of the Chiron cycle – were in full effect and culminated long after the Upper World cycles had ended, suggesting the power and depth of shadow at this moment of activation. Interestingly, the entirety of my analysis is consistent with this signature: the Upper World has been dominated and overshadowed by the Under World. The United States has not had the momentum to collectively engage with its Neptunian work as Neptune’s influence was on its last thread at the time of independence; it has defaulted to the unconscious acceptance of its Uranian work, as Uranus was subsumed by both Under World cycles; it has not composted or learned from what does not serve, but instead has shrouded itself in its shadow, ignoring, averting, and denying its failings without an honest assessment of the thematic lessons that resurface throughout its history. It is little surprise, then, that it has never had any material healing. Much of that shadow, I believe, is reflected in the dishonesty about this nation’s initial intentions. That the Founding Fathers offered a profound contribution to modern democracy on principles of equality and justice was not enough to ensure that vision would be realized, for they were unwilling to realize it themselves. Even the author of the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson, owned hundreds of slaves. Did he believe the words he wrote to justify the American Revolution or was he profoundly unaware of the incongruence between his words and deeds and how that disparity would affect this new nation? The answer, most likely, is both, coupled with the pragmatic calculations arising from the expediency of the moment. It is that fracture that was captured and seeded in this country’s birth and reflected in our historical documents. That same incongruence plagued the soul and conscience of this nation as it matured, and it continues to this very day. There is also the added consideration that the reasons for the break from England were largely financial, so it is little surprise that prosperity has prevailed over equality during the course of this country’s history. “No taxation without representation”, however, does not make for an inspiring call to arms or the cornerstone statement of a new democratic experiment.

The Founding Fathers did believe in freedom, but a specific kind of freedom. Though couched in a philosophical doctrine that beseeched universal values and higher principles – the ideals of the Aquarian nature – the reality was applied with incongruence that nurtured the Aquarian shadow and allowed it to grow. We see this division reflected at every critical Neptunian juncture in the history of this country. The United States has advanced and prospered with power and affluence while ignoring, minimizing, and denying institutional policies that belie its stated intentions. Should this ever change, I believe that American exceptionalism will have to surface for the sake of this country as well as the sake of the world, and that requires an honest account of our collective responsibility for the denial of our inhumanity. We need to confront the shadow as never before, and in so doing, consciously realign with who we choose to be. The current cycle, I suspect, is unfolding with that purpose as its end even though history does not suggest the outcome is likely. At best, perhaps we can allow the fragmentation to begin, if and only if, like Alexander H Stephens, we have the integrity and the clarity to admit to who we are, as uncomfortable as that might be.

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1 July 2021
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