

The Long Stay of Mars in Sagittarius from 14/02/2001 until 08/09/2001

One of the more interesting articles in the Astrological Association's book 'an Astrological Anthology', must be Dane Rudhyar's article on the importance of the long stay of Mars in a particular sign. This recurring 79 year cycle is divided into two periods of 32 and 47 years, so at these intervals we are able to observe the influence of Mars in a particular sign over a longer time span. Next year we will witness a long stay of Mars in Sagittarius and this has prompted me to explore the prolonged transits through this sign in 1922 and 1969 and based on my findings to speculate on events in 2001.

While I recognise the importance the positions of the outer planets play in world affairs, it was striking that the long stay ingress charts did seem to capture something of the essence of the period.

Before going any further, it might be relevant to distinguish Mars in Sagittarius, from Mars in Scorpio (the sign of its rulership) and Mars in Capricorn (where it is exalted). Whereas Mars in Scorpio is driven by an iron will and phenomenal staying power, and Mars in Capricorn is particularly geared towards achieving concrete results, Mars in Sagittarius seems to be motivated by a healthy competitiveness and an attitude of "let the best man win". The "me first" so often expressive of Mars has an altogether much lighter feel: right action, right motivation, and a lot of action are indicated.

The horoscope for the ingress of Mars into Sagittarius in 1922 (18 Feb. 16.15, UT) has remarkable similarities with the ingress for 2001 (14 Feb. 20.07 GMT). Most notably, both charts have Moon approaching the conjunction with Mars in square to the Sun. In mundane astrology the Moon represents the people, Mars the military, and the Sun the regent or the ruler. One might therefore expect militant people, unruly masses, or strong individual leaders to be at loggerheads with established order and authority. The Moon also represents women: in the 1922 chart the struggle for greater emancipation is one possible indication.

1922 was quite a remarkable year: in March, Mahatma Gandhi was given six years imprisonment by the British Government; in the same month Pope Pius XI spoke out about Women's fashion (in May, skirts in Paris went down below the knee again); in May, Lenin suffered a serious stroke which rendered him ineffectual as a leader; in July the workers in Italy organised a general strike against fascism, which was broken in August; also in August the first championship athletics for women was held. 1922 saw the birth of the Irish Free State. Egypt gained independence from Britain and the British Mandate in Palestine came into effect. Yitzak Rabin was born in March (and it is interesting to note that he was assassinated under a transit of Mars in Sagittarius). Plenty of Moon-Mars-Sun stuff here. 1922 also saw the start of hyper-inflation in Germany.

In comparison the 1969 ingress of Mars (25th Feb. 1969, 6:21 GMT) tells a wholly different story. It makes a truly sparkling entrance into Sagittarius, sextile Uranus, bi-quintile Saturn, conjunct Neptune, almost exactly trine the node.

Here Mars is uninhibited, the contours of the personal ego defences sublimated, freedom and idealism seem to be the big issues, and what an inspiring year 1969 was.

Here we have the first (non-commercial) flight of Concord (4/March/69). Man set foot on the Moon. In March John Lennon and Yoko Ono held a bed in at the Amsterdam Hilton as a protest against the Vietnam War. Gay Rights were on the agenda, as were civil rights. Sadly, April saw the assassination of Martin Luther King. However, speaking personally, the event of that year has to be the "3 days of Peace and Music Festival" held in August: Woodstock.

The horoscope for Woodstock [see chart](#), taught me a lot about an unimpeded Mars in Sagittarius. The music began at 17.07 on 15 August and finished on Monday 18 August. The clean up took 5 days. There were two deaths during that period and two births.

Observing the planetary movement during and immediately after Woodstock, the build up of sublime energy is striking. Mercury in Virgo separates from the opening square to Mars, leaving the latter free to bi-quintile Venus, bi-quintile Saturn and quintile Uranus. These are the only aspects Mars makes the whole weekend if we do not use the Moon and the angles. Venus in Cancer makes quintiles to both Saturn and Uranus.

The Moon separates from a kite formation (involving Venus in Cancer, the Node in Pisces, Neptune in Scorpio, sextile Pluto conjunct Mercury) and conjoins Mars in Sagittarius on August 21st, bringing with it the awareness that something "out of this world" something truly 'BIG' has happened.

Woodstock as a phenomenon deserves an article in its own right (undoubtedly already written). However, the question arises "what did this exercise teach me about Mars in Sagittarius"? The answer lies somewhere between the axiom "we do without doing and everything gets done" and the value of trust, in our ideals, our actions and our humanity.

To consider what 2001 holds in store, we need to focus on particular charts in relation to the ingress chart, so let's take a look at the chart of the UK and Tony Blair.

Popular protest could dominate the news in the UK. The actions of lorry drivers earlier this year will probably be repeated. Anger throughout the transport sector is likely to be highlighted, as Mars passes over the UK Mercury no less than three times. With Mars in Tony Blair's 7th house, he will begin to show more aggressive leadership, which will seem to come naturally, particularly at the end of April and during May, and the first week of September when transiting MA=SO/MO. The Uranus opposition to the UK's Saturn also seems to indicate militancy. With the transport sector highlighted and Uranus in the fifth, it seems that individual freedom will be the big issue here.

The election battle next year will be fought and won on education, transport and communication issues.

In the ingress chart itself, the Moon's approaching conjunction with Mars implies that women will also be taking up arms against the establishment next year: matriarchy versus patriarchy? Well perhaps not quite, but religious, legal, ethical and controversial issues will be a particular focus of concern, where women, if subjected to prejudice, will be hitting back via the headlines in 2001.

Staying with the Moon but now focussing on relations with Europe, it is obvious that popular support amongst the European community for the Euro is low. It is possible that a campaign to redress this could be conceived in May while Mars contacts sensitive points both in the EEC chart as well as the chart of the Single European Act (conjunct Mercury, IC, and ASC/MC in both charts). That this will be aimed at boosting the image of the new coinage is shown by transiting Jupiter which will conjoin the MC in both charts (July 2001).

This year Mars will pass over the Ascendant and transit the 1st house of the USA (Sibley 5.10 pm) chart. With the North Node conjoining the USA's Sun (and President Bush's) in March it is interesting to note that the conjunction of Mars and Pluto in Sagittarius takes place on March 18th. Perhaps the first test for president Bush will come at this time and the world will have a first taste of what his presidency has in store for us.

The chart for the USSR (8/11/1917, 2.12.am, Petrograd) shows Mars passing through the 4th house, while in the horoscope for China, it is the tenth house that gets the goodies.

With so much worldwide angular Mars activity, 2001 promises to be an eventful year.

Please use the following Mars ingress data:

1922, 18 Feb. 1922, 16.15 UT, Greenwich, England (Asc. 19 degs.01 Leo, MC, 3 deg. 50 Taurus, Sun, 29 degs 15 Aquarius, Moon, 28 degs 28 Scorpio) ;

1969, 25th February 1969, 06:21 GMT, Greenwich, England (Asc. 16 degs. 59 Aquarius, MC, 11 degs 43 Sag., Sun, 6 degs.29 mins Pisces, Moon – 18 degs 13. Gemini),

2001, 14th February 2001, 20.07 GMT, Greenwich, England (Asc. 27 degs 39 Virgo, MC 26 degs. 56 Gemini, Sun 26 degs 12 Aquarius, Moon 22 degs 39 Scorpio)

data taken from The American Ephemeris, Michelsen

Data for UK Jan. 1st 1801, 00LT, Westminster, (7 degs 10 Libra rising, MC 9degs 20, Sun 10deg. 11 Capricorn, Moon 19 degs. 26 Cancer)

Book of World Horoscopes

USA, July 4th 1776, 5.10 pm, Philadelphia, PA, (Asc. 22 degs 21 sag., MC, 1 deg 03 Libra, Sun, 13 degs. 19 Cancer, Moon, 27 degs 10 Aquarius)

Book of World Horoscopes

Russia, November 8th, 1917 2.12 am, Petrograd (Asc. 23 Virgo 41, MC 20degs41 Gemini, Sun,, 15 degs 01 Scorpio, Moon 29 degs 09 Leo)

The Book of World Horoscopes by Nicholas Campion

Data for the EEC: Jan. 1st 1958, 00.00 MET, Brussels (Asc. 29 degs36 Virgo, MC 29 degs 29 Gemini, Sun, 10 degs 02 Capricorn, Moon, 10 degs. 23 Taurus)

Source: Mundane Astrology

Single European Act :Jan. 1st 1993, 00.00 MET, Brussels (29 degs 58 Virgo, MC 29 degs 57 Gemini, Sun, 10 degs 33 Capricorn, Moon 8 degs 23 Aries)

Source: Mundane Astrology

China: October 1st, 1949, 15.15 LT, Peking, (Asc. 5 degs 54 Aquarius, MC 27 degs 07 Scorpio, Sun 7 degs 47 Libra, Moon, 3 degs 10 Aquarius)

Source: also from Mundane Astrology by Baigent, Campion, Harvey

Data Tony Blair, from birth certificate and given to Caroline Gerard (AA), May 6th 1953, 06.10, Edinburgh, Scotland (Asc. 4 gemini 50, MC, 26 Capricorn 03, Sun 15 Taurus 22, Moon 11 Aquarius 30)

Woodstock, NY, 15 August 1969, 17.07, (Asc. 3 Capricorn 19, MC, 28 libra 52, Sun 22 leo 50, Moon 22 Virgo 51) Source, the Woodstock site: www.woodstock69.com