

# President Trump's Astrological Vulnerabilities

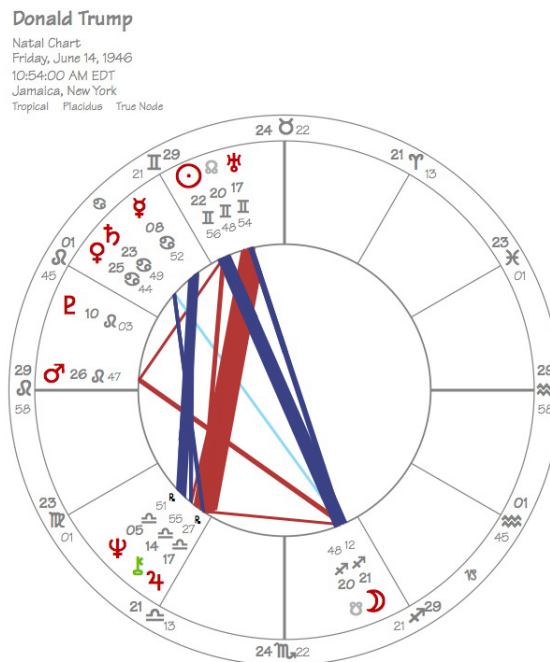
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I'm not particularly thrilled at the prospect of writing more about national politics and government, but that arena is the most obvious and center-stage melodrama in the current slow-motion train wreck of our country, and, by extension, global civilization. So, I will.

Every astrological chart includes indications of vulnerabilities — symbolic components of potential difficulties or challenges. In the natal chart of an individual, these difficulties and challenges may be dealt with in various ways. They may be accepted, compensated for, or overcome. Acceptance offers us a path to spiritual maturity through humility, by acknowledging that we are imperfect and flawed. Compensation is a more normal route, where we call on other resources in ourselves (and our charts) to get through our difficulties or weather our challenges. Overcoming is less frequent, but some people manage to change themselves, essentially improving on what they were given.

Our current President, Donald J. Trump, was born on June 14th, 1946, at 10:54 a.m. EDT, in Jamaica, New York. His birth chart appears below.



Trump's chart contains clear indications of a set of vulnerabilities, which I'll discuss in this commentary. Before I do that, though, I need to define how my view of Trump's chart differs from that of many other astrologers.

The rules of traditional astrology place the full moon alignment in Donald Trump's natal chart in the 4th/10th house axis. That would mean that, with a 10th house Sun and 4th house Moon, he would be oriented most centrally toward career success and home or family. I disagree. Although I believe that career and family are important factors in Trump's life, I see other astrological reasons for that. But I place his Sun and Moon within the 5th/11th house axis, and that changes the equations fundamentally.

Having written and published a large textbook on the astrological houses, I feel that I bring some authority to bear on this subject, but I readily admit that my approach to determining occupied house positions is decidedly in the minority.

For most astrologers, house "cusps" are the beginning boundaries of each of the twelve houses. From my perspective (and with the aid of research from the Gaugelin data), I believe that house cusps represent the strongest point in each of the twelve areas of experience. So, what appears for the majority of astrologers to be a 10th house Sun in Trump's chart is to me actually an 11th house Sun, and his presumed 4th house Moon becomes 5th house by my reckoning.

This means that Trump is essentially an artist, not a businessman. He is, at heart, an actor onstage giving a performance, creating himself as a character. The question is about his billing. Is he a character actor working in an ensemble troupe or does he aspire to be the unquestioned star of the show, as well as its writer, director, and producer? Well, yes. Both, but in ways that may be difficult for Trump to reconcile.

The Gemini Sun opposite the full Sagittarian Moon is clearly the backbone of Donald Trump's natal chart. But it's not just a full moon. Trump was born during a Total Lunar Eclipse, meaning that the sun, earth, and moon were in a straight line.

Had Trump been born at a "regular" full moon, the Moon would have fully reflected the Sun's light, illuminating the night sky. Symbolically, that would mean harmonious cooperation between the Sun and Moon to align both conscious and unconscious perceptions. At a total lunar eclipse, however, the full Moon's reflected light is obscured by the earth's shadow. Symbolically, this means that the Moon is "debilitated" and cannot effectively distribute the Sun's light. (I'll explain how that works in Trump's chart in the pages ahead...)

One more salient fact: Solar and lunar eclipses always occur in close alignment with the Moon's nodal axis. The Moon's nodes are the two opposite points in the

ecliptic (i.e., the zodiac) where the plane of the Moon's orbit around the earth intersects the plane of the Earth's orbit around the Sun. The two nodes are identified in the chart by the Omega and upside-down Omega glyphs and are termed the North Node (or "Dragon's Head") and South Node (or "Dragon's Tail").

In metaphysical astrology (sometimes called "Evolutionary Astrology," which is a very popular approach among professional astrologers and astrological students), the Moon's Nodes are important. They reveal the larger direction of the Soul's evolution, beyond this particular life-incarnation. The North Node represents the future — where the Soul is headed and what it seeks to learn. The South Node represents the past — where the Soul has been and what it's already learned. In that approach to astrology, the South Node is regarded as a potentially major point of vulnerability in the chart. While it can represent an anchor or a reserve of resources to be called on, it's more often considered as the "point of self-undoing." If we stay with our South Node — which is easy and effortless — we risk not moving ahead and losing our way.

The full, eclipsed, 5th-house Sagittarian Moon in Donald Trump's natal chart is located at the South Node. What does that tell us about his life?

The 5th house is, at one interpretive level, the arena in life where our ego shines, where we go on stage to star in a command performance — our own one-person Broadway show. Trump's Sagittarian Moon in the 5th, conjunct the South Node, implies that Donald Trump is a natural, spontaneous, and enthusiastic performer, whose Soul has already learned what it means to be a star. Rather than do that again, evolutionary astrology suggests that Trump needs to evolve toward his 11th-house Sun conjunct the North Node and Uranus, which means moving away from egotism (i.e., personal creativity) and toward a unique brand of comradeship in ensemble performance (i.e., shared creativity).

Clearly, Trump knows this. He speaks of surrounding himself with "the very best people" to whom he will delegate tasks and responsibilities. Time and time again, however, Trump falls back toward his South Node and eclipsed full Moon in the 5th house. For instance, Trump discovered in the presidential campaign that he loves being the star of rallies, where he plays to his base and (like the salesman he is) whips their passions into a frenzy in various ways. One way is through promises about how he is the only person who can give his supporters what they want. Another way is through extreme verbal attacks on his presumed enemies. The fact that he still holds these rallies six months into his term as President is not a positive indication of well-being, nor of spiritual growth.

Another astrological indication of the Lunar Eclipse configuration in Donald Trump's chart is his limited attention span. As a sign archetype, Gemini speaks to a reality orientation based on continual but short-term mental stimulation. Gemini is akin to the bumblebee, flitting from one flower to the next in search of nectar. Mental stimulation is brain candy for Gemini.

Trump's attention span is particularly short. Reports from his aides tell us that he can barely get through a single page of text before becoming bored and distracted. This is why Trump prefers to watch television, since the moving image and spoken word provide kaleidoscopic and ever-changing stimulation. In addition, Trump's command of policy can hardly be called deep or comprehensive. He lives mainly on the surface of life.

These traits — a short attention span and marked superficiality — were apparently not detriments in Trump's business life, but they are almost certainly serious liabilities for a President. One report claims that Trump's nomination of Christopher Wray to become the new FBI Director occurred because Trump became bored with assessing the long list of potential nominees and simply took the recommendation of the last advisor he talked to about it.

What other telling astrological vulnerabilities are clearly indicated in Trump's natal chart? One serious difficulty is his almost complete disregard for the truth, indicated by his natal Mercury in Cancer/11th house in square to Neptune in Libra/2nd house. Does Trump know the difference between fact and fiction? Does it even matter to him? So far, his supporters don't seem to mind the outrageous lies Trump tells, but that may not last forever.

Another problem Trump's chart indicates is his insecurity about whether or not he is loved.

If we want to see where any person is insecure, we need look no further than the condition of Saturn in the individual's natal chart. Saturn shows us where we will encounter fear — fear of failure, fear of rejection, fear of blockage, and the general fear that somehow, in some way we can't quite pinpoint, we aren't good enough, no matter how hard we try. The positive meanings of Saturn in astrology include long-term maturity achieved through diligent work and sustained effort to climb one's personal mountains, even in the face of delays, frustration, or lack of fulfillment along the way. That said, Saturn remains the planetary archetype that most people associate with trouble and pain (along with Mars and Pluto, all three of which are termed "malefics" in traditional astrology).

Donald Trump's chart has Saturn conjunct Venus in Cancer/11th house. Venus symbolizes beauty and art, but also personal love and money. With Saturn and Venus right together, Trump is likely to feel frustration and anxiety with both all those, especially love and money. The 11th house indicates "love received" (rather than love given), so it's the experience of feeling loved (or lovable) that is under heavy stress in Donald Trump's life. In Cancer, this stress involves deeply personal feelings and probably family members.

What about Donald Trump's narcissism? Does his chart imply that as well? No, I think not. Narcissism is a serious condition within humanity, as are arrogance, hubris, aggression, and lack of empathy, sympathy, or compassion, but I know of nothing in astrology that can predict clinical narcissism. Basically, it's an

illness. In similar fashion to some alcoholics, one can be a high-functioning narcissist, and Trump apparently qualifies for that dubious distinction, if just barely. Still, I wouldn't blame his chart for that.

The most I can say about the issue of Trump's self-centeredness is that various potent factors in his natal chart do indeed lean strongly toward egotism. Taken together, the Sun-Uranus conjunction, the Eclipsed full Sagittarian Moon conjunct the South Node, Leo Rising, and Mars in Leo on the Ascendant indicate a sizable and quite combative ego.

Ah, but here's the final icing on the cake. It's well worth noting, as many astrologers already have, that the total solar eclipse of August 21st, 2017, occurs within one degree of Donald Trump's natal Ascendant and a mere two degrees from his natal Mars. Wow. That's a very potent alignment. Given also that Mercury's direct station within its current retrograde loop occurs two weeks later on September 5th at the exact degree of the eclipse, and during a conjunction with transiting Mars as well, we have ample astrological reasons for concern. Trump's naturally aggressive nature is intensified over the entire Mercury retrograde, from late July on, and early September represents a potentially dramatic climax.

So, to recap, Donald Trump was born during a total lunar eclipse, and now, 71 years later, he will soon experience a total solar eclipse right on his Ascendant and Mars, which will then be triggered again two weeks later by both Mars and a stationary Mercury. Just how serious is this? Cuban Missile Crisis serious??? I don't know, but I wonder.

After all, Trump's aggressive impulses (i.e, his Ascendant and Mars) are already heating up during the Mercury Retrograde Loop, which is mere prelude to the eclipse and the provocative triggers that follow. The pressure is building. We've heard Trump threaten North Korea with "*fire and fury the likes of which the world has never seen*" if Kim Jong Un and North Korea so much as look at Trump and the U.S. sideways. However unsettling such unhinged verbal bellicosity is from an American President, it's right in line with past Trump behavior and with the unfolding astrology, which is not yet close to maxed out.

The next month qualifies as a real, if anecdotal, test of astrology, at least with regard to eclipses. If nothing major happens in early September, we can all breathe a sigh of relief and go back to taking astrology with a large grain of salt. If, however, Trump blows a gasket, it will go a long way toward validating the symbolic power of eclipses in astrology.