

The USA Chart in 2020

Part One (of Four)

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2020 USA Sibly Major Active Cycles (Transits)

♃♁☉□♄	<i>Jupiter oppose USA Sun; square USA Saturn (Jan-Feb)</i>
♃△♁♁♁	.....	<i>Jupiter trine USA Neptune, oppose Mercury (Feb-Nov)</i>
♃♁♁	.....	<i>Jupiter conjunct USA Pluto; trine Midheaven (Apr-Dec)</i>
♃△♁♁	.....	<i>Jupiter conjunct USA Pluto; trine Midheaven (Dec)</i>
♄△♁♁♁	.....	<i>Saturn trine USA Neptune; trine Midheaven (all year)</i>
♄♁♁♁♁	.....	<i>Saturn oppose USA Mercury; conjunct Pluto (all year)</i>
♅*♃	<i>Uranus sextile USA Venus (all year)</i>
♁□♁	.....	<i>Neptune square USA Mars (May-2021, not yet partile in 2020)</i>
♁△♁♁♁	.....	<i>Pluto trine USA Neptune; oppose USA Mercury (all year)</i>

Of the 14 transits listed for the USA chart in 2020, four stand out: Jupiter opposite the USA's Sun, Jupiter conjunct the USA's Pluto, Saturn opposite the USA's Mercury, and Saturn conjunct the USA's Pluto.

The year begins with a burst of national optimism as Jupiter opposes the USA's Sun. That's a single-pass transit, however, which has a very brief effective period — a mere two months at the outside. The rest of the year is more challenging and amounts to a power struggle that will intensify over 2020 and through the three years that follow.

Background

As we leave the 2010s and move into the next decade of the 2020s, two different but interconnected levels are relevant in assessing astrologically the probable tone and possible meanings of that transition for America — as a nation, as a society, as a people, and as a powerful agent in world affairs.

The first factor is the ever-changing panorama of the ten outer-planet cycles that comprise what I call "civilizational astrology." These paired cycles apply to humanity as a whole — all of us — and indicate the particular symbolic qualities that are foremost in the archetype field during any particular time period. I use the phrase *archetype field* to describe the poetic "water around the fish" — the invisible ether that undergirds collective events, perceptions, thoughts, and

feelings. Other phrases also describe this ether: collective unconscious, zeitgeist, background radiation, whatever. I like *archetype field*.

2020 is an unusual and significant year in civilizational astrology, because three of its ten dyadic cycles are starting over. Three outer planets — Jupiter, Saturn, and Pluto, will be moving through Capricorn. That means that three cycles will begin anew: the 13-14 year Jupiter-Pluto cycle, the 20-year Jupiter-Saturn cycle, and the 31-38 year Saturn-Pluto cycle.

The Saturn-Pluto cycle begins in January 2020, the Jupiter-Pluto cycle follows with an eight-month gestation and birth from April through November 2020, and then the Jupiter-Saturn cycle kicks off in December 2020. The fact that they all begin within a one-year time span implies that developments and events in civilization during 2020 will be harbingers of things to come, revealing symbolic portents that will resonate for decades ahead.

All three cycles begin within an 8° arc of the zodiac from 23° Capricorn to 1° Aquarius. That implies that their correspondences will be focused on humanity's political, social, and economic structures (as opposed to other important human experiences, such as family, marriage, or education). From the perspective of astrology, we are entering a period where governments around the world will struggle to maintain their authority and will likely attempt to do so by any means possible, including authoritarian force. Revolts, rebellions, and coups seem to me inevitable, and no nation will be totally exempt from those possibilities.

The general meanings of these cycles go beyond a particular nation or individual to encompass all of humanity, but astrology allows us to see how their symbolism might be expressed for any individual or group. We do this by analyzing the personal transits that occur in each chart.

Pluto in the USA Sibly Chart

In the birth chart I use for America, called the USA Sibly chart, the most important planetary symbol that will be activated soon by this trio of moving outer planets is Pluto.

As a symbol in astrology, Pluto tends to operate as a power source from deep within the unconscious that often bypasses conscious sentience completely. Thus, it functions as a motivation that is often deeply obsessive and compulsive. We may not realize how much our orientations and actions are being shaped by Plutonian urges that are deep but invisible to us until they burst into full view, almost like a volcanic eruption. Pluto makes us powerful, but it also may destroy us.

Pluto is not the most important astrological factor in the USA chart. Those distinctions go to two squares — from the Sun to Saturn and Mars to Neptune —

which imply a national character that is tough and aggressive, and pragmatic yet idealistic. Pluto, however, is the subterranean wild-card in the American archetype, both a great resource and a serious liability.

Located in late Capricorn in the USA chart, occupying the 2nd house while ruling the 12th, Pluto indicates the drive for self-worth (2nd house). Psychologically or spiritually, that means proving the value of the self by doing sustained good work. Pragmatically, it means amassing wealth. Good work is America's great resource, but the pursuit of wealth through money is our most striking liability.

From the end of our Civil War in the 19th century through the end of World War II in the 20th century, America became an industrial giant, a commercial empire, and a global power. Fueled by bountiful natural resources, a fortunate position (protected by two oceans), a genius for invention, an outsized appetite for big projects, and a willingness to work hard (aided by an influx of immigrant labor), America not only prospered, but became the envy of the world. This was the Plutonian drive in its most grounded dimension.

After the mid-20th century, however, America turned. From our position of dominance as an economic and military world superpower, the elites decided to outsource much of our heavy industry and manufacturing to countries around the world where labor was cheaper. We also chose to shift our compulsive pursuit of wealth from making tangible goods to financial services. We were rich, so we decided to use our amassed wealth to make money, relying on the global economy to provide products and components. We assembled goods rather than building them from scratch. Our obsession with money became all-consuming. This is the shadow aspect of Pluto's drive for self-worth.

Three of the five moving outer planets are about to start new cycles to America's natal Pluto. Jupiter, Saturn, and Pluto are all moving through Capricorn, and each will pass over the position of Pluto in America's chart. Two of these cycles begin in 2020 — Jupiter-Pluto and Saturn-Pluto. The third and most important, called the Pluto Return, meaning the beginning of a new Pluto-Pluto cycle, doesn't occur until 2021-2023 (with the exact start in 2022).

The Pluto Return is an extremely rare event. Since Pluto takes almost 250 years to complete one orbit around the Sun, no individual human being lives long enough to experience a Pluto Return. Not even close. Nations can, but few do. While many cultures have ancient roots, most have not had consistent governments. In terms of "sovereign states," America is now one of the oldest nations on earth, having existed since 1776 with a single continuous system of government. By contrast, a country such as Iran is far older than the USA as a culture, but much younger as a nation. In 1953, Iran's then-new secular democracy, formed after World War Two during the early phases of the Cold War and led by Prime Minister Mohammad Mossadegh, was overthrown and the Shah reinstated (in a coup engineered by John Foster Dulles and carried out by the

CIA). That regime lasted only 26 years before the Islamic Revolution led by the Muslim cleric Ayatollah Khomeini overthrew the Shah's monarchy in 1979 and replaced it Iran's current theocratic government.

So, America's Pluto Return is a singular event of potentially profound astrological importance — not only for the USA, but for the world as well, since we are such a powerful force in global affairs. Astrologers, especially here in America, have been awaiting this rare Pluto Return with a combination of great anticipation and somber concern, even dread. Since that event is still 3-4 years away, however, I won't go into the possible meanings in this commentary.

In June, I wrote and posted a commentary about the coming Saturn-Pluto cycle in mundane or civilizational astrology, which happens to nearly coincide this time with the Saturn-Pluto cycle in the USA chart. They are different — one applies for all humanity, the other specifically for the USA — but their coincidence in 2020 is meaningful. For readers who missed that or want to go back and re-read what I wrote then, here's a link to that commentary:

<http://www.billherbst.com/Comm99.pdf>

End Part One

[In Part Two of this quartet of commentaries, I'll focus on America's decline and the three transit cycles to the USA's natal Pluto in 2020-2023 that have so many astrologers concerned about our financial and economic future.]