

# The Plutonian Meltdown of the United States 2000-2023

## *Part Two (of Three)* *USA Pluto transits 2000-2011*

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Since the year 2000, when the 21st century began, ten major Pluto transits have occurred in the USA chart. On three occasions, two transits occurred simultaneously. This means that between 2000 and 2023 Americans have lived through seven different Plutonian periods, each of two years' duration.

I will list each period with its transit or transits, and then discuss actual events that occurred in America. The question arises: Am I simply including any major events that happened during each period, regardless of their meaning? No. The events I'll include must reflect the astrological symbolism of the particular Pluto transit or transits that define the period.

### **1. Jan 2000 – Oct 2001      Pluto conjunct USA Ascendant**

This transit occurs only once in 244 years. It had never happened before since America was founded as a nation.

The relevant event the corresponds to the transit is the attack on the World Trade Center Twin Towers in New York City and the Pentagon in Virginia across the Potomac River from Washington D.C. that used hijacked commercial airliners as suicide missiles. This happened on the morning of September 11th, 2001, and is now famous as "9-11." Millions of Americans watched the attack unfold on live television. Both towers of the World Trade Center collapsed soon after they were rammed by the commercial planes, and the Pentagon suffered significant damage. 2,996 people died in the attacks and included citizens from 102 countries. In the aftermath, more than 2,000 people died from toxins at Ground Zero that destroyed their health. That number includes many First Responders.

Interestingly, the attack occurred just as the Pluto transit had reached its third and final peak alignment.

As the most destructive foreign attack on U.S. soil since the War of 1812, it is no understatement to say that 9-11 changed everything in America.

## **2. Jan 2004 – Nov 2005      Pluto oppose Mars square Neptune**

Mars and Neptune are exactly squared in the USA chart, so these two Pluto transits occurred simultaneously and acted as a single symbolic indicator.

The U.S. invaded Afghanistan on October 7, 2001, in retaliation for the 9-11 attacks. This military objective was to dismantle al-Qaeda and remove the Taliban from power. Early on, the Army missed a chance to capture Osama Bin Laden, and the war stretched out for nearly 20 years.

On March 20, 2003, the U.S. invaded Iraq, because Saddam Hussein was presumed to have weapons of mass destruction that threatened America. As it turned out, no weapons were ever discovered, but Hussein was captured and executed, and his regime was overturned. Soon after President George W. Bush declared victory, however, an insurgency arose, and Iraq devolved into a military and political quagmire reminiscent of Vietnam.

The symbolism of the two Pluto transits to Mars and Neptune reflects the various elements of confusion and miscalculation that resulted in what turned out to be a more than decade long fiasco. Taken together, the invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan devolved into even more tragic misadventures and serious defeats than even Vietnam had been.

## **3. Mar 2008 – Nov 2009      Pluto square Midheaven Jan 2009 – Nov 2010      Pluto oppose Venus**

This third period was characterized by two Pluto transits that were slightly sequential rather than perfectly simultaneous. They overlapped in time. The result was a longer period of Plutonian destruction, closer to three years than two.

The obvious and clear correspondence in this period to the two Pluto transits in both symbolism and time were the events that surrounded the sudden, catastrophic meltdown of the major Wall Street investment banks that began in September, 2008, because of the bursting of the subprime mortgage bubble and collapse of the dubious financial scheme of derivatives. The removal of Glass-Steagall during the Clinton administration had opened the door to anything-goes-financial-malfeasance, and the big investment banks pushed that until it imploded.

Venus symbolizes money in astrology, and in the USA chart, Venus is perpendicular to the Meridian (the vertical axis of the chart), which represents

business and economics, either personally or collectively. Astrologically, this alignment implies that America is both blessed and cursed by extreme wealth, through both the bountiful natural resources of our country and also the focus on wealth and the drive to acquire it of our citizenry. This is a great and terrible double-edged sword, and the two Pluto transits reflect that duality.

Previous Pluto transits to Venus and the Midheaven occurred in 1912-1918, when America cleaned up loaning money to the great powers fighting World War I, and American industry and agriculture profited handsomely from that war. The next Pluto passage over Venus and the Midheaven was 1971-1974, when Nixon took us off the gold standard and we suffered the OPEC oil and gas crisis. Stagflation was the result, from 1973-1982.

The economic disaster in America that ensued after the events of late 2008 has never been corrected, and the terrible effects are still with us in 2026, with even more serious repercussions now than in 2008. No one was prosecuted or went to jail for the clearly criminal fraud. The big banks were bailed out by a policy that was called "quantitative easing." This was a polite term to describe the fact that the banks were given permission through the printing of free money — taxpayer debt — to continue their nefarious practices with no consequences or changes to protect regular Americans.

What followed for many years after has been called the Great Recession, in which six million American households lost their homes to foreclosure. The rise of the billionaire class of tech robber barons is also a result in part of how we dealt (or rather, didn't deal) with the 2008 financial collapse.

#### **4. Feb 2010 – Dec 2011 Pluto oppose Jupiter**

I would not have thought that this transit would mark a major period, but there is one striking correspondence that shows me how wrong I could be. It has to do with Jupiter's position conjuncting Venus in Cancer and the 8th house of the USA chart.

On January 21, 2010, the U.S. Supreme Court issued its ruling in the case of Citizen's United vs. the Federal Election Commission. This landmark decision was shocking and changed the entire landscape of American politics.

The case was about big money in politics, specifically through laws governing campaign finance. By a 5-4 vote, the Court decided that money was the same as free speech and could not be restricted. The result was the corporations and wealthy donors were subsequently allowed to flood American political campaigns with huge sums of money. The upshot was that ever since that decision, American elections have been effectively controlled by the ultra-wealthy.

Basically, Jupiter, which is the symbol in astrology for philosophy, law, and justice, was destroyed by Pluto's transit. Or rather, it was destroyed by human beings — judges who were besotted with the idea of unlimited power for the wealthy. This one decision went a very long way toward cementing the corporate takeover of American politics. It transformed America from the republic it had been into the plutocracy it is now. Ever since, what we've had in America is government of the rich, by the rich, and for the rich.

— End Part Two

*In Part Three of this Commentary, I'll go through the remaining three of the seven multi-year periods in the 21st century that were defined by either one or two of the ten major Pluto transits in the USA chart. I'll note significant events and developments in America that transpired during each of the remaining three periods, and I'll discuss at least briefly how each contributed to the changes that are hollowing out the American psyche.*