

THE MID-YEAR REPORT ON THE MOUNTAIN MONKEY

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Just 'cause you got the monkey off your back doesn't mean the circus has left town.

Source unknown¹

Mid-year greetings, Friends!

To say the [Year of the Mountain Monkey 2016](#) has been a year of change, upsets and decisive conflicts would now seem to be an understatement, given the events of this year thus far. It has been a very violent year on the terrorism front, with the steady beating back of Daesh and their concerted attacks Muslims, especially in the closing days of the month of Ramadan. This is seen as a reaction by Daesh to their battlefield losses, resorting now more to terrorist tactics than outright warfare. The tide appears to have turned against the group, but they are still very dangerous. In [the last full moon letter](#) I mentioned that this quarter was likely to be full of surprises and a wild ride. And we are only a couple of weeks into the quarter. Then, we had the recent events in Britain which some people see as a beginning of the breakup of the EU. I wouldn't be too sure about that one just yet. We will get to those events in due course. We are witnessing changes that would have seemed out of reach a few years ago. To preface a look at the year up to this point, though, there are two things that stand out from behind the events thus far that underlie all of them, if we could see it: The rising discontent of the people in countries the world over with government and finance as it has been practised in the past decades, and the emergence of a not-insignificant challenge to the rise of the corporate hegemony that has increasingly corrupted the governance of the Western world in the past decades.

We have seen two prime examples of the challenge to the latter this year, with the Russian intervention in Syria which has stymied the efforts of Western powers to topple the Assad regime, and with the Brexit decision that has just sent shockwaves through the world. It is a most hopeful and amazing period in geopolitical affairs, unexpected in many respects. And there is a little planet, on par with Pluto in its effects, that is making its presence known through these events. This planet is Eris,² which is currently conjunct Uranus, and both planets can signal radical change. This summer in the north will write the preface for a new chapter in world affairs for years to come. The change for which we have hoped, prayed and meditated has signaled its arrival. I am not referring to any sort of expected 'ascension' or such. Rather, this is the grassroots change to political and economic systems the world over that has been steadily building since the turn of this century, especially since the economic collapse of 2008. Now we begin the real work of re-making the geopolitical landscape in a way that is more reflective of the needs and desires of the common world citizen. So, having had time to reflect on what has happened, what do we see unfolding before us and what can we expect?

There are some key points to be addressed in this letter in terms of coming and continuing trends for the remainder of this and for following years. And although the list is not all-inclusive, we might list them as follows:

- Coming changes to the US Congress. This will mark a more progressive movement, one that is not so much geared into special interests and big money. This will be a real fight and will unfold over the next decade or two. This alone will have world implications.
- The end or a great lessening of US hegemony as it is practised in economic and military affairs. The proxy war between the West and Russia in Syria has signaled this, a war which the West has lost, at least in the present form.
- A restructuring of the leadership within the EU. Note that I do not say an end to the EU. The Brexit has signaled the former. There are great changes coming for the EU in the next few

years and it will be painful, but needed. Europe will survive as a union, but it will be significantly changed, along more realistic lines. Britain will be changed, too.

- A recognition by Europe that NATO is more trouble than it is worth, or unnecessary. NATO may well be replaced by a European defense force in the near future, separate from the overriding influence of Washington and Britain.
- A more cooperative era in world economic affairs, rather than their being ruled by a few central banks. This will likely be preceded by a crisis, which will be engineered in order to try to bring things under more central control. We're a little wiser, though, we would hope, after the 2008 crisis. There is a lot to this, which is really beyond the scope of this letter, but it will be useful to touch on it briefly.
- Rapprochement between Europe and Russia. This, too, will take time, as it will take time to build trust. The Brexit has begun to enable this, as we will see as time goes on.

We might think that some of the above points are pie-in-the-sky thinking, but 100 years ago we would never have thought there would be a united Europe, NATO or a US hegemony, for example. Change begins with an idea, though, and there are some pretty good ideas floating around and being tried out these days. One of those is the European Union in its more idealistic aspects. With that in mind, given the recent shock result in Britain with the Brexit vote, we will start our look at the year with that event, since it is fresh on everyone's mind.

The European Union is a great experiment in the unity of nations. That it is not a perfect expression is true. That it is at present dysfunctional is also true. But from the standpoint of social history, it is a very young effort, not quite 60 years old. Old international animosities persist and still color relations between the member nation states. This is particularly true between Britain, France, Italy and Germany, and these attitudes are more prevalent among the older generations, some of whom lived through WWII. All three of these nations have suffered greatly at each other's hands at one time or another over the centuries. Italy and Spain have played lesser roles in these conflicts, but great wars were fought between these nations in the past 500 years. It should not be forgotten, also, that Italy has played a major role in European growth and development, first through the influence of the Roman Empire which essentially unified the greatest part of Europe and then through the influence of the Catholic Church, based in Rome. Europe has a problem with big government, too, which is a cultural hangover from past centuries, but that is being challenged now. To study the history of European development is quite instructive given the present state of European affairs. But because of the two World Wars, the necessity of European union, interrelatedness and cooperation was driven home. The following quote might leave a bad taste for some readers, but is at the same time enlightening and it is useful to restate it:

...Europe is the field for the educating of the world in the ideas of a true world unity and for the wise presentation of the Plan. From that continent can the inspiration go forth to the East and to the West.³

'Europe' includes European Russia, which is poised to play an ever-increasing role in European affairs. Where else in the world today would we find a group of nations who, having warred amongst themselves for centuries, have now made an effort instead to cooperate and break down the barriers that have separated them for so long? I can hear the more skeptical readers thinking, "Well, the EU was largely an effort at control of the European population and wealth under the banner of a 'New World Order' under central banking control..." and all that. We'll get to the new world order later in the letter. Those sorts of efforts have been there in the background, but rather than being the main game behind European Union, I would submit that these have been used as a sideline and as a vehicle for something greater, which is the more noble idea of European Union under humanitarian principles and ethics, and as an effort to avoid future wars and promote cooperation between member states. The central, monolithic and overbearing control is what has been challenged by

Britain, which has been the legacy of European leadership for centuries. And she has served as the needed catalyst for the riddance of Europe from the yoke of central banking and bureaucratic control – the monkey on Europe’s back – that is disenfranchising so many Europeans. I would add to this the one nation that I know is a Mountain Monkey, which is the United States, and her overbearing economic influence and meddling in the affairs of the EU, especially via NATO and trade deals, along with her ideal of democracy. At this point in world history, it is most likely that only something like a Brexit would wake Europe up to itself and to the outside influences that in the long term will disadvantage or help that Union.

As for the Brexit itself, it may seem a hard or unfair question, but it needs to be examined: If racism and xenophobia had not been a factor in the British decision, would Britain have chosen to remain in the EU instead of leaving? Very likely. There have been ugly uprisings of racist sentiment exhibited since the vote, which has exposed an ugly undercurrent in the vote. But lest we brand Britain a racist country, we might note that it would have been no different in any country that chose to leave the EU. And can we imagine what it would be like in the US with a Trump presidency, for example? Shameful, disappointing and horrifying are words that come to mind, reminding us of the forces that gave rise to fascism in Europe in the last century. This period in world history is showing us many things. With the increased light that is coming into the planetary sphere, it means that all of our collective ugliness is shown in its ignominious glory, along with all the beautiful and noble things we have achieved.

There is a point about the Brexit that has been missed by most sources I have seen, though, and it is more to the point of why the Tory and UKIP parties in the UK pushed for the referendum. When it comes down to it, the Tories were interested in business, free of the fetters of EU controls. UKIP was as well and the latter used the uglier public sentiments to get what they wanted. Well-played, boys, but it probably won’t play out exactly as you might have hoped. As I see it, the British were duped as to the real reasons behind the Brexit vote. The back-peddling on promises started the day the vote was announced, and it would appear that many people in the UK think that because Britain chose to leave the EU, that all the immigrants will be forced to leave. British politicians know very well what drives public opinion, as is the case with politicians in every country. There is a lesson in this for Trump supporters in the US. People are going to be none-too-happy when they wake up to the fact that the immigrants are going to stay, that immigration to the UK will continue, although modified, and they were lied to by the politicians that promised to ‘make Britain independent/great again’. British independence from Europe is a furphy. Britain might gain direct independence from EU regulations for the time being, but they are still going to have to deal with them. The circus is still in town. And to top it all off, the man who spearheaded the effort – Nigel Farage – has stepped down as the leader of UKIP, after he got what he wanted.⁴

These things being said, there are times in life when a shakeup is needed to get the personality to wake up to a higher purpose. That is exactly what has happened with Europe and with Britain. If it had not happened with Britain it would have been another country, but all the signs of it happening were there. Why are we now surprised? And even if a shakeup takes place for apparently some of the wrong reasons, as it has in Britain, the soul’s purpose is still served. Our own self-sabotage is often the thing that starts us on a journey of self-discovery and the growth of wisdom. Britain may have shot itself in the foot, then again, maybe not. Having had a chance to look at the situation, who is to say it was the wrong choice for Britain? The desired effect on Europe has been registered, though. Europe has now “smelled the coffee” and knows that it has to wake up to itself.⁵ Britain must now, too, undergo self-examination and see what the true causes of dissatisfaction with European Union were and act. And it is of real interest to note that London, being a planetary center of synthesis,⁶ had chosen to remain in the EU, while the other parts of England voted to leave. Notice neither Scotland or Ireland voted to leave. It was the English ‘John Bull’ sentiment that voted in favor of leaving. We can see clearly now where the more separative, nationalistic Taurean

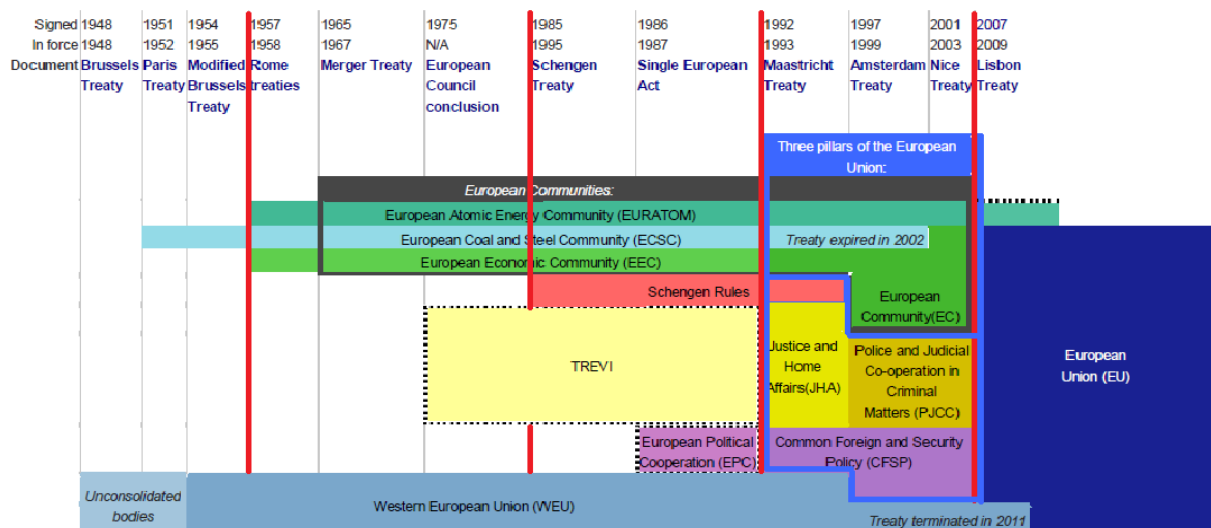
forces lie in Great Britain, and where the more soul-centered pluralistic Geminian tendencies are. This is not to cast any aspersions on the British or Britain. These problems exist everywhere, and countries like the US and Australia are going through our versions of these issues, too.

Then, there are those in Europe who would want to make an example of Britain and punish her for leaving, and if that comes to pass, it means that we have learned nothing from the past. Britain has an intimate relationship with the other countries of Europe, and as with the breakup of any intimate relationship, the temptation to want to punish the party who left is there. Initially there is pain, amazement, indignation, anger, etc. But many people who go through such a breakup fail to ask themselves what is perhaps the most important question: Why would this person want to leave? What, if anything, did I do to want to cause them to leave? Yes, it is true that often people leave relationships because they are shallow and selfish, but this is hardly the case with Britain. The British have been through a painful process to arrive at this decision. The decision has been made, however, for better or worse, and now the process needs to go forward without delay. The British government wants to draw out the process of exit, but understandably Europe wants it done as quickly as possible. Also understandably, Britain wants time to sort things out for herself. There is one thing that has already been made very clear, however, and that is that the exit from the EU has very clear consequences, and that Britain will not be able to pick and choose conditions for dealing with Europe. But then, Europe is going to have to learn to bend, too.

Since the focus now is on Europe, there is some very interesting astrology to consider here. There are several main charts involved with European unification, and we might list them here:

- [The EEC](#), or European Economic Community (aka. The Treaty of Rome): 1 Jan 1958 at midnight, Brussels, Belgium. Interestingly, Britain was not a signatory to this treaty.
- [The Maastricht Treaty](#), which created the legal entity we now know as the EU, or the European Community. 1 Nov 1993 at midnight, Brussels, Belgium.
- [The Schengen Agreement](#), which was the agreement on freedom of movement between European countries. 26 Mar 1995 at midnight, Schengen, Luxembourg. This is the one agreement with which Britain had the most trouble.
- [The Eurozone](#), which was the introduction of the Euro currency. 1 Jan 1999 at midnight, Brussels, Belgium. Britain opted out of this one, but it has caused huge headaches for the signatories.
- [The Treaty of Lisbon](#), 1 Dec 2009 at midnight, Brussels, Belgium. This, along with Maastricht, created the monolith that is now the European bureaucracy.

These are the main treaties that have formed the European Union over time, as can be seen from the graph below.⁷ To see the chart full size, click [here](#).



The main treaties are marked by the bold red lines in the graphic. We can readily see from this that Europe has steadily ensconced itself in bureaucracy. And, after Maastricht, the bureaucrats more or less had full control. That is what we see being challenged now. However, that bureaucracy is not wholly to blame for Europe's troubles. The individual states have contributed quite a bit to Europe's woes, too, and we will see that as we go along. We could go into comparison of these charts and there is some fascinating mundane astrology there, but all we can do here is to touch on them. The chart that is the most troublesome is the Maastricht chart, followed closely by the Lisbon chart, and as stated these are the two treaties that have given rise to the Europe that we now know. Added to this are the troubles that have arrived for the Eurozone and its cumbersome and strangling financial regulations. It is the Eurozone that has given trouble to the PIIGS countries, especially since the financial meltdown of 2008. Each chart has its story to tell and unravels part of the troubles with Europe. However, doom and gloom aside, the next few years will be the real crisis years, but after that I see a brighter picture for the EU. What we will see is a fundamental reorganization over time. Europe has too much to lose by just falling apart. And Italy and France⁸ look poised to make the next big steps in that reorganization, maybe starting with possible exits from the Eurozone, or a strong push to reorganize it. With that in mind, what do we see for the Eurozone?

To begin, a common feature with many of the above-listed charts is that the Sun, representing the leadership of the entity, stands alone; i.e., it is not integrated with the rest of the chart. What this indicates is that the leadership is out of touch with the larger entity, is isolated to a degree and follows only its own direction, or has a lack of direction. The Eurozone Sun is in the 4th house in Capricorn, and the Sun rules the 11th house of group relations. So, even though there should be a focus on homeland, state sovereignty, the 'European family', etc., there is a disconnect of sorts, and this further exacerbates the group relations between the various countries and with the wider world. The Moon is elevated in Gemini just behind the Midheaven, is co-ruler of the 10th house, opposed by Mercury and square to Jupiter. The Moon/Mercury opposition is not good for communication and generally indicates that the person or entity in this case is somewhat anti-social and would generally just want to be left alone. The Moon in a mundane figure represents the populace. The saving grace with the populace is that the Moon is sextile Saturn, which co-rules the 4th house (home, infrastructure and the borders of the state), which gives a note of stability. The ascendant is at the last degree of Virgo (the chart has not been rectified), but may well turn out to be in Libra, being a financial chart. The next few years will be telling with regard to this chart. But there are indications that there is merit to it.

For example, when the Greek financial crisis hit in recent years, Pluto was applying to the Eurozone Sun (from 2012 onward), with Uranus squaring it. This exposed the weaknesses in the Eurozone regulations and leadership, as well as those within Greek financial markets and banking, bringing up hostilities within Europe among nation states. There was a fair amount of finger-pointing and blaming going on at the time, if we remember, and as we would expect with a Pluto transit to the Sun, and Greece was plunged into its worst crisis in recent memory. At the same time (2012), Saturn was making a solar arc to the Eurozone Uranus and Neptune had just completed solar arcs to the Eurozone angles, indicating the uncertainty of the period, a test of ideals and the heavy nature of the crisis. The Eurozone crisis began in 2009⁹, just after Saturn had crossed the Eurozone ascendant. That transit usually indicates a setback of some sort and the commencement of a time of inward looking, on average for a period of around seven years. Pluto had set things off and signaled trouble a year or so before when it contacted the Eurozone's angles, when the world financial crisis had hit.

If the Eurozone is to survive we will probably know in 2018 when Saturn has emerged into the fourth house and contacts the Eurozone's Sun. Saturn transits to the Sun indicate that the chickens have come home to roost: i.e., it is a period of culmination, wherein the results of one's ambitions are there for all to see. If things are not going well, then one knows that fundamental mistakes in judgement have been made and a new course of action is needed. Thus, we have a couple of years yet to see in fullness if the Eurozone was a good idea, although most people I speak with already have a firm opinion in the negative. Uranus will have finished its transit over the Eurozone's Saturn by then, indicating a possible restructuring, or a fracturing. Currently, if the chart is correct (and it seems to be), the Eurozone is groaning under the influence of a solar arc by Saturn to its angles, indicating a crunch time and reassessment as well as a major life milestone, and with both angles making solar arcs to Mars, which rules the 8th house, hence its economic troubles and internal conflicts. The leadership of the Eurozone has been pretty unyielding in its response to the economic crises of countries within its borders, as we have seen with the recent Greek crisis. And this brings us to Italy.

Italy has been in a banking crisis for the past several years, and in general Europe on the whole faces a banking crisis. Italy has not publicly acknowledged its own crisis, but all the markers are there. I could tell you stories, but the main point to be made is that if the EU does not relax its rules for countries like Italy and Greece and the other PIIGS states, there will be a full-scale mutiny within the EU. Italy will not be crushed under thumb like Greece, though, and it faces an immediate crisis that demands a resolution in favor of its citizens. Italy has a powerful industrial sector which pulls a lot of political weight, too, strong ties with other countries and a long and proud history of independence. The Fiat dynasty controls 1/7 of the industrial sector in Italy. In some ways Italy is its own worst enemy, however, which is at the heart of its troubles. It suffers under a combination of old culture, corruption and a legal system that is reticent to prosecute white collar crime. It typically takes a long time to reach any sort of legal resolution in Italy in criminal cases, if one can be reached at all, and this is one of the big factors that is at the root of the banking crisis there. The situation in the south of Italy is especially dire, with many people finding they can only exist through the 'black economy' (being paid under the table) and there is no safety net in such cases. The wages in such cases are typically subsistence level if that and unemployment is high. The south is not industrialized and organized crime is much more prevalent there than in the north of the country.

Just to give an idea, Italy has no deposit insurance, so if a bank folds – and many smaller ones have – then families lose sometimes generations of savings and then have to turn around and pay fines to the bank, while the bank managers who committed fraud walk away with million-Euro payouts (a conservative figure) due to the perversity of the legal situation. Now, the government is well aware of what will happen if the situation there is allowed to continue and by the end of this year we are going to see some *terremoti* (Google translate) in Italian politics – and Italy may well be telling the Eurozone what it can do with its Euros. At the end of November Saturn will be opposing the

national Sun/Uranus conjunction and there will be a Saturn solar arc to the Italian Mercury, the latter ruling the 8th house – change, transformation, legacies and bank bailouts – as well as co-ruling the 10th house (national standing and prestige). It will be crunch time for Italy, and for the Eurozone. And, we will see if Italy has a Prime Minister, government and industry leaders who have the *marrone* to bring some sovereignty back to Italy. Year's end will tell.

Saturn transiting opposite the Sun often signals crises and a re-evaluation of one's direction and choices in life. It will mark a period of soul-searching for Italy, and thus for the Eurozone. What happens with Italy will be watched very closely by countries like Greece and Ireland, too. There is another decisive conflict coming for Europe at the end of this year. We can see the possible directions Italy would take, too, because Italy is currently pursuing exchange of farming technology with Russia, for example, which is not very pleasing to its NATO allies. There is actually a close astrological connection between Rome and Moscow, with both Rome and Moscow having Taurus as their soul ruling sign.¹⁰ And with Rome's personality ruled by Leo, it also feels at home with the Russian Leo personality. My sense is that Italy will play a leading role in the future with normalization of relations between Europe and Russia once the present disagreements and sanctions between Europe and Russia have ceased.

Then there are the riots in France¹¹ ("Nuit debut"), another Leo personality,¹² that are largely unreported in the mainstream media, and these relate to French workers demonstrating against measures the elites in France pushed through their parliament without a vote. Those measures would make it easier for companies to hire and fire French workers, among other things, and the French workers and unionists are not having a bar of it. The demonstrations have swelled in recent weeks and Hollande has tried bringing in measures against them, outlawing protests, etc. Uranus and Eris are currently square to the French 5th Republic horizon, a chart ([here](#)) which clearly showed the Charlie Hebdo shootings and attacks in Paris last year. And yet, for all this there is barely a whisper about the French riots in the Western press. This should be headline news throughout the West. The fact that we hear so little about it is quite revealing in itself, showing either that the mainstream media is not allowed to report it, being controlled by the corporate interests, or that the major media outlets lack the courage or are incompetent. My guess is a combination of all three. The riots started on March 9 this year, when Mars moved up to the opposition of the 5th Republic's Mars, activating an eclipse. Saturn was moving to a station near its Saturn return, and will complete the return on Christmas Eve this year. Saturn will station close to the square with the 5th Republic meridian early next year, and Uranus and Eris will both square the horizon then. These have been called the largest French protests since the French Revolution in 1791. Keep your eye on France these next months.

This brings us to the Schengen chart. The Schengen Agreement was a bold experiment, which flew in the face of protectionism and nationalism in Europe. It has been likened to other free trade treaties, but it is more than that. Schengen affects more than 400 million people, and allows the free movement of citizens among nation states, in which border checks were effectively abolished. Schengen was not signed by the EU as a whole, though, even though it was a part of the original EEC treaty. Now it is a central part of EU policy and one of the pillars on which it stands. It is effectively similar to the model of the US and its 50 states, where people are free to move between and work within any of the 50 states. Britain and Ireland were not signatories to the Schengen treaty and had an opt-out clause. The refugee crisis in the Mediterranean has brought about a re-think of Schengen, but this again is not open to much in the way of negotiation.

The Schengen chart is quite interesting, and in some ways is the jewel of the European charts. Pluto is conjunct the Sagittarian ascendant, representing the high idealism of the plan, and with Pluto breaking down the borders between people, which the ascendant represents. The Sun is not isolated in this chart, though, as it is with the Eurozone chart. It is trine Pluto and the ascendant, and sextile

a Moon/Uranus conjunction. On the whole it is quite reflective of the institution and of the effect it has had. The Uranus/Moon conjunction has brought diverse peoples together, has enforced freedom and diversity in a way, has contributed to the independence of the European spirit all the while aggravating tensions, and being at the midpoint of the Sun/Pluto trine and in the 2nd house, has generally contributed to the luck and welfare of Europe, as well as its economic strength, and as well as injecting fresh ideas all the time into the European psyche. London had taken to the idea of Schengen fairly well, whereas the rest of Britain has reacted less favorably to it. The problems with Schengen have come to the forefront with the refugee crisis, especially since 2015, and at that time Saturn was hovering around the Schengen ascendant/Pluto conjunction, finishing an eclipse that had occurred there in 2012. Saturn with Pluto is not known for its good times, to say the least, and usually indicates a lot of hard work, but Pluto and the ascendant in the chart are well-aspected to the luminaries, indicating general good fortune and favorable outcomes. However, when Saturn made its last transit over the Schengen ascendant Europe saw its largest influx of refugees ever in September and October of 2015. After that the number began to rapidly taper off.

The main problems with Schengen are found in three main areas, starting with the Saturn placement, which is conjunct the 4th house cusp (homeland) and Mercury, with both of them square to Jupiter. This is also involved in a quintile triangle with Mars and the Pluto/ascendant conjunction. The dynamic shows the sometimes pessimistic thinking that can overshadow European citizens at times (Saturn/Mercury) and at other times the optimism that can overtake the European peoples with the agreement (Jupiter square). The Saturn/Mercury conjunction gives wisdom through duress, the ability to concentrate on problems and the heavy sense of responsibility Europe feels about the agreement. The square by Jupiter gives the ability to push through the pessimism and find solutions. The next problem area is with the quintile triangle, which can be explosive and frustrating, as we have seen. Pluto and the ascendant are at the midpoint of the triangle and the Saturn transit there brought all the frustration out. It also forced countries to make choices about their borders. Some countries closed their borders and riots and protests, both pro and con migration, broke out as a result. The thing is, though, migration has steadily *decreased* in recent months, and unless there is a larger flare-up in world tensions in the Middle East of Africa at some point, there may be no further need to close borders.

The last problem in the Schengen chart is the square between Venus and the Pluto/ascendant conjunction, which indicates a lack of cooperation between the members, which we have seen, especially with regard to the main points of entry into Europe by fleeing migrants, which are Greece and Italy. Those two countries have been left hanging out to dry in many respects by the other states due to the huge number of migrants. Germany has suffered, too, because most of the migrants have wanted to go there, or to Britain. When Austria closed its border, though, the route through Italy was closed off, for instance, and we have seen similar events in Hungary, Macedonia, Calais and elsewhere. Now there are arguments between the signatories about what must be done. An end to the conflicts that have caused the migrations in the first place would be a good start. Schengen, I think, will survive, with modifications for emergencies, and the forecast for the future looks brighter. So long as there is not another huge influx, the biggest part of the storm has past and things will settle down.

Now, this brings us to the EU itself, and the two most troubling charts, mentioned previously. Turning to the Maastricht chart, we see the crux of the problems with the EU and what must be done in order for the union to survive and thrive. I have looked at the chart for the EU many times, and I have come to ask myself why in the world anyone would pick such a time and date for a project as grand as the EU. The chart is terrible for such a high-minded ideal as the EU has put itself forward as being. The Sun for the chart, representing the leadership, is in Scorpio, is unaspected, or in very distant conjunctions with Mercury and Jupiter, indicating a disconnection from the organization, isolation and a lack of direction or errors in the same.

Finances are misdirected or problematic, as indicated by a square from Mercury (ruling the finances of the EU, or the 2nd house of the chart) to Saturn (the heavy-handed and pessimistic nature of its financial dealings) and opposite the Moon (ruling the 12th house of institutions but also self-sabotage and hidden enemies). Saturn is in the 7th house of partnerships and litigation and is squared by Mars, the latter of which is a classic aspect for financial mismanagement and bad judgement. It is also an insidious aspect that causes one to think that one is getting away with things, only to find out that plans were built on a foundation of cards. Furthermore, Venus is square to a very close Uranus/Neptune conjunction, which indicates a high idealism on the one hand, but on the other hand a type of idealism that in some ways is pie in the sky and which invites people to take advantage of the native and is often an indication of unreliable and even deceitful friends. If this was the chart of a person I would be advising that person to engage in some serious soul-searching and fact-checking, a re-evaluation of goals in life and very probably advising the person to get a new set of friends. However, this chart was superseded in 2009 by the Lisbon chart.

The Lisbon chart is no less troubling than the Maastricht chart. However, this is also the treaty which gave the member states the legal right to leave or rejoin the EU and the procedures to do so. This is an important point to remember, given recent developments. Although Britain has chosen to leave, it can also choose to rejoin at a later date, given the current treaty, and provided the rest of Europe chooses to allow it. So, with the Brexit, what do we see with the Lisbon chart? On the day of the Brexit vote Neptune had come within orb of a solar arc square to the Lisbon meridian, indicating the disillusionment within the EU, the uncertainty the move generated, the fears within the EU it generated and the need for clarity about exactly what had taken place and why. It was a wake-up for the EU. At the same time, Neptune can also indicate subterfuge. Neptune rules the 7th house (partnerships) of the chart, and it was receiving solar arcs by Mars and Pluto. The progressed Midheaven was also opposite the Sun and square the ascendant of the chart. So, we could see that something dramatic was coming through this period, and something that in some ways was unexpected and not altogether on the up-and-up, given the aspects to and from Neptune. Pluto by transit was sesquiquare the Midheaven. The Uranus/Eris conjunction was also transiting through the 8th house (transformation) and completing the apex of a 'finger of the world' pattern with the Sun and ascendant of the chart, a most difficult but transformative configuration. It was quite an extraordinary event in the history of the EU and signaled that big changes had arrived.

I won't analyze the Lisbon chart here. Saturn makes its direct station conjunct the Lisbon chart Sun on August 11 and things will begin to move forward from there. In October Neptune makes its last square to the Lisbon Sun, and there will be greater clarity about the way forward for the organization after that, noting also that the Lisbon Sun is square to the horizon of the chart. So, any planet that makes a hard aspect to the Sun also affects the horizon. In other words, the crisis is here and now, has been at its worst and will begin to clarify and move toward resolution in the months ahead. This is indicated by solar arcs by Jupiter to the Moon and Venus next year. The Moon rules the 11th house of group relations in the chart, and Venus co-rules the 3rd and 9th houses. We may see a new EU constitution out of this or a revision of the current one. Over the next few years the EU will come under the combined influences of Mercury, Venus and Uranus by solar arc, and we can expect more positive changes for the EU.

The preceding points having been made, the EU needs an overhaul, and it is coming. The hope is that there will be real change and not just patchwork and window-dressing. If there is not real change, then other states will leave. The thing is, any entrenched bureaucracy, if history is any indicator, will do anything it can to preserve itself, so we can expect a hard fight for survival between the bureaucracy of the EU and the member states. There may be more states that choose to leave. That does not necessarily spell an end to the EU. The US fought a bloody civil war for states' rights and the union survived, for example. And it has since thrived. There is still work to be done in the US as a result of its civil war for certain, and we can see that social change takes decades to

effect. But, the point being made, fracturing within the EU does not necessarily spell its end. Unions like the EU and the US are ongoing experiments and experiences in the unity of diverse cultures and peoples. And there are other such experiments going on in other parts of the world, too. The British Commonwealth is another such example, as was the old Soviet Union. The main thing is that in the next years public pressure for change in governmental and economic institutions must be maintained if we are to see true and lasting change. Europe will survive and move on from Brexit. Britain will be changed, too, but will also move on. And this brings us to the US.

We have the conventions for the US presidential race coming up on the US this month, and these look to be quite interesting and full of surprises. There are two presumptive candidates for the major parties, Trump and Clinton. ‘Presumptive’ is the operative word here. The mainstream press has written off Bernie Sanders, but he has not withdrawn, and there is speculation as to why, ranging from the fact that he fundamentally wants to change the Democratic platform, to speculation that Clinton will be indicted for her email scandal and that he will have to take over the race. Well, Clinton has since been cleared of indictment, but now the Republicans are calling for an investigation of the investigation (!?), so the fight goes on. I didn’t expect her to be indicted. The establishment is too locked in to a Clinton presidency and she has that sort of protection in a big way. But Bernie Sanders has wide public support, and he can and has brought changes to the Democratic platform. He is also motivating the public to force change. The wild card is Trump. And there are a few things very sobering to consider in light of what has just happened in Britain.

What we just saw in Britain and with Europe is reflected in the US and Australia, for example. There is widespread dissatisfaction with establishment politics, which is increasingly seen as disadvantaging the average voter and as catering to the rich and powerful. This was driven home with the Brexit vote and with the recent Australian elections, where there may just be a hung parliament – a clear rebuttal by the public of Malcolm Turnbull’s policies. However, with Britain it was the older and working class British who turned the tide in the British referendum, and the exit camp played on the fears of the public to get out the vote. This is what we see happening with Donald Trump in the US. He will say whatever he thinks will get the vote, regardless of whether or not it is true, and it is working, especially among white voters, who are the majority voting bloc in the US. He and Hillary Clinton have run neck-and-neck in the polls since the polling started and he currently leads Clinton in some polls by as much as 4%. 65% of white voters are prepared to vote for him. Let that sink in, because if there is voter complacency among Democrats and people who think that Clinton is a done deal, Trump will be the next US president, with all the current markers holding true.

There were many people in Britain who voted for ‘exit’ because they thought that *any* change was better than no change at all. And there are many in the US who feel the same way with regard to the political situation there. And passions are running high about immigrants, especially Mexicans and Muslims, in the US. But then, the establishment does not want to see Trump in the White House. He is anti-free trade deals (or so he says) and talks of normalization of relations with Russia, which would be an affront to the arms industry – a powerful lobby in Washington. There is much of merit in those two points, but they are hardly a reason to vote for Trump. And, it is doubtful he would carry through on anything he promises now. There would be no wall on the Mexican border, for instance, or if there were the American taxpayer would be picking up the bill for it. Could you imagine?! No, there is still too much in flux at the moment, too many hidden agendas, too many people in the public who are taking a wait-and-see attitude to really know what will happen in the next months. All I can say is, expect the unexpected. The thing is, though – and it is big warning to the American public who do not want to be hearing ‘President Trump’ – if you think it can’t happen, think again. We are about to see in November if the country votes for change or not. And, we will see what sort of change, and if white America rises up and rallies under Trump’s banner. Saturn has been hovering around the US ascendant now for the past months and will not cross it for

the last time until a month before the elections, when it will finish an eclipse that took place on the US ascendant in 2012. The mood in the US is very pessimistic at the moment. Given the solar arcs to the US chart on election day, there could well be an upset in the election in the US.

But the executive branch (the President) is not where we need to see the change in the US. It is in the Congress. The US Congress, for those readers who do not know, is responsible for passage of all laws and for allocation of revenue in the US, or passing a budget each year. The President can enact executive orders, but the courts can repeal them if they are unconstitutional. It is the Congress alone supposedly that can send the nation to war, and they must approve all important presidential appointments to office, such as Supreme Court justices, for example. Senators are elected for 6-year terms, and Representatives are elected for two-year terms. The Senate has the final say over presidential appointments. So, it becomes fairly evident how important Congressional elections are, especially in the Senate, in distinction to the presidential race. In many ways, the presidential race is a distraction from what is currently the biggest problem in US government – the US Congress. Why I say this is as follows:

Firstly, there is a raft of practices that open Congressional members to corruption,¹³ and much of it goes on behind the scenes. Practices such as IPOs (initial public offerings of stocks), land parcel payoffs, foreign campaign contributions (bribes, in other words), corporate donations to campaigns, the revolving door into high-paying corporate jobs after leaving office, insider trading information, etc. – these are just a few of the practices that entice members of Congress to legislate in favor of their own interests over the public good. These things are all legal, too, or are very difficult to prosecute. Congress has a veil of secrecy over it with regard to what goes on behind closed doors and law enforcement is often not privy to information that would lead to conviction of members of Congress, or that information is withheld until it is too late to do anything about it. Then, there are no term limits in Congress. A member of Congress, once elected, can stay in for life if he or she manages to get re-elected time and again. There were a few members of Congress who were in office for upwards of sixty years.¹⁴

The US Congress has legislated itself into a plum position, which has left it wide open to corruption. While the courts can overturn the laws that give advantage to Congress, it is the Congress who approves court appointees. There is now no limit to the amount of money that corporate interests can inject into campaigns and corporations have been given the status of ‘individuals’. So, since it is the Congress that passes laws, it is only the Congress that can change the current laws. Given human nature, we know that Congress has little motivation to better police itself. However, there is one area over which Congress has little power and to which it is very sensitive, and that is public opinion. The only way Congress is going to change and become more representative of the people of the US is for the people to elect members of Congress who will stand for overturning the current structures that open the body to corruption. So, every two years we have an opportunity to begin to tip the balance of power in Congress starting with the House of Representatives. And then, every six years for the Senate. With this, though, we see that change within the US Congress will be slow in coming, unless there is a mass public uprising. That could happen, too, given current public sentiment.

The thing is, few people in the US pay attention to the congressional races, and many people vote a straight ticket when they go to vote, without bothering to check up on the candidates. Both of the major parties are to blame for the current state of affairs, but more to the fact, the public keeps electing them. That is the astounding point, given the current approval ratings for Congress. Currently, Congress would vote in a second for treaties such as the TPP or the TTIP, for example, because these favor corporate interests in the US and thus campaign money. And, they keep the revolving door open. Those treaties would be good for corporate America, but terrible for the US worker and the world at large, especially for countries like Australia and for European countries.

Upwards of 50% of members of Congress go on to lobbying jobs, meaning corporate positions, after leaving Congress. So, if we want to make changes in the world situation, paying attention to the state of the US Congress is a big concern, because they are the ones who decide on where the money goes in the US, and that is a big chunk of the world economy. That also translates into military spending and military intervention, and the US has played a big role in world instability since the turn of the century.

How to change the situation there? – a start would be to limit congressional terms of office, and that alone would have a big effect. There are arguments there pro and con. Another move would be to strike down the Citizens United initiative, which has poured money in to lobbying and campaign contributions. But probably the single biggest change would come through making congressional elections publicly funded and eliminating corporate and special interest donations. Closing the revolving door would help, too. These are just a few points, and Bernie Sanders' platform advocates some of them. I hear no other presidential candidate echoing these views. And this brings us to the situation between the US and Russia, meaning also NATO, Europe and Russia, since it is Congress that so regularly approves defense spending and hawkish attitudes.

We hear a lot in the US about 'Russian aggression' these days, and about the need for NATO to beef up defenses along the eastern European border states. The eastern states in the EU are calling for it and NATO leadership is pounding the point home. We hear about Russian ships and planes making provocative maneuvers with regard to US ships and planes. But I have a question: Where is the Russian aggression? If Russian ships were in the Gulf of Mexico or off the east coast of the United States, I could understand it, but they are not there. These events are happening in the Black and Baltic Seas, Russia's 'Gulf of Mexico'. Would we be hearing about provocative maneuvers by US planes and ships with regard to Russian vessels if they were off the coast of the US? No, we would be preparing for war, seeing such activity as Russian baiting or aggression. But they simply aren't doing that. We recall the Cuban missile crisis and what happened then. If a Russian warship were thirteen miles off the coast of New York, what would the American response be? It wouldn't be allowed. And yet, that is exactly what the US is doing with regard to Russia. The point is, the US and NATO are playing chicken the Russians especially, and the Chinese. Russia is sending the US and NATO vessels a message with their maneuvers: "You're in our neighborhood and far from where you should be. You've been warned!"¹⁵ Apparently, this is routine.

Why has Russia consistently been cast in an aggressive light in the Western press, though? It isn't just about defense spending or trying to egg Russia into a conflict. This is a throwback to Cold War days and before. Russia has not helped herself in that regard in the past with its bellicose rhetoric, ideological differences with the West, its human rights record and its political assertiveness, but the Russian outlook has changed since the fall of the Soviet Union and Russia is remaking herself. She has gone from survival mode after the Soviet era, to where she is now becoming more affluent and is beginning to exhibit more of her immense potential. She is also seeking to reassert herself on the world stage and is making trade and security pacts in Central and East Asia. These things are especially concerning to the more conservative elements in Western governments and to Western corporate interests. A strong pan-Asian economy will undercut the Western economic dominance that has prevailed from the last century up until now. But, it is part of Russia's destiny to bridge and unite the East and the West. Given the West's current prickly relations with Russia it is no surprise Russia has turned her sights to China and the rest of Asia for cooperative efforts and financial gain, and she is making good progress on that front. Russia is bringing in a fresher approach to world affairs now, but the West still hangs on to the fears and the old stereotypes about that land and its people. Russia is changing, and the rest of the world doesn't quite know what to do with her. And this brings us to NATO and the current tensions with Russia.

It was stated in 1949 when NATO was founded that NATO's goal was "to keep the Russians out, the Americans in, and the Germans down."¹⁶ So, NATO's expressed purpose was as a protection against the Soviets and to keep the Germans from re-arming. NATO came into effect on 24 Aug 1949 at 11:42 AM, Washington, DC. ([see chart here](#)) This was just after the new moon of Virgo that year, and the time gives a Scorpio ascendant, indicating its deep suspicion of Russia and its secretive nature. Russia saw the treaty as a war pact between the US and the NATO members in Europe, and they formed the Warsaw Pact in response. The actual reason the Soviets formed the Warsaw Pact was because they had tried to join NATO the year before. This was as a consequence of West Germany entering NATO and thus being rearmed. Russia and the eastern European states still had fresh memories of German invasions of their lands in WWII, and they sought European stability and protection against German rearmament through entering NATO. They were refused membership in NATO and formed the Warsaw Pact the year after. The Warsaw Pact was dissolved in February 1991 after the Revolutions of 1989 had spread through eastern Europe and the Pact had proved ineffective.

But here is the question regarding NATO: If there is no real threat from Russia and European countries one-by-one begin to realize that it is better to make peace with Russia than be defensive, why would NATO need to exist? The Brexit has caused a big concern for NATO leadership, especially in Washington, because now Washington has lost its biggest leverage in the European Parliament with the exit of Britain from the EU. It now has to find another ally in the EU to champion NATO initiatives, and frankly there is not another country ready to step into that role. This goes to the point made about NATO at the beginning of this letter. I can see difficulties coming for NATO early in the next decade. Of real interest is to note that NATO has only been invoked once in any meaningful way, after the 9/11 attacks in the US. At the time Neptune had been transiting to and fro across the 4th house cusp of the treaty. The fourth house among other things represents opposing political parties, legacies from foreign lands and homeland security. It made its first contact in April of 2001, when warnings about pending attacks became more pronounced. In June at the retrograde station and transit of Neptune there was a sharp spike in currency circulation in the US. Somebody knew what was coming.¹⁷ In the first half of 2002 the Russia-NATO council was established for handling security issues and joint projects, with Neptune still hovering around the IC of the NATO chart. It was suspended in 2014 following the Russian annexation of Crimea after the ousting of Yanukovych in Ukraine with the Euromaiden riots. At that time Saturn had transited past the square to the NATO Pluto, ruling the 1st house and uncertainty was again injected into European affairs with Russia, along with all the old suspicions and fears.

So, there are still strong suspicions about Russian motives, and suspicions by Russia about Western motives in countries on her borders. Both sides have good reasons to be suspicious and only time and cooperation will overcome them. I would not look for anything to happen quickly with Western relations with Russia, but there are many encouraging signs that things can be worked out. It does not help, though, that NATO forces started a sharp buildup of troops along Russian borders after the Crimean incident, but such is human nature. However, the Brexit may just hasten a thawing of relations between Europe and Russia.¹⁸ Over time I expect we will see a cooling of tensions, especially since Washington has up until now been able to heavily influence European policy toward Russia through Britain. So long as Russia can keep a cool head and be patient, she will see a rapprochement with Europe, and probably before too long. Europe will be too preoccupied with Britain's exit and its own internal problems to be too concerned with sanctions against Russia, sanctions which are increasingly unpopular within Europe anyway. Britain out of the EU also means a sharp lessening of NATO influence in Europe, and although the Brexit has raised concerns of a renewed Russian influence in the region, that influence will probably be more economic than militaristic. This is going to be fascinating to watch. Russian responses to the situation, as well as US responses, will be very telling over the coming months as to the future of NATO and Europe.

We hear quite often about the coming new world order, and most often this amounts to a dystopic and dictatorial sort of super-state that is presided over by a few elites, while the remainder of humanity is more or less enslaved. Strangely, Alice Bailey's books have been associated with such a view. There are a few people who would like to see that happen, but that is definitely *not* the plan that we are moving toward as an awakening humanity. There is a new world order that is outlined in Alice Bailey's books, and it is a far cry from a dictatorial state. We might list a few of the characteristics of the coming new world order here, and some points are direct quotes:¹⁹

- A steady and regulated *disarmament of all nations*. This is not negotiable.
- It must meet the immediate needs of all nations, and not some far-off goal.
- The produce and natural resources of the planet will be shared by all, based upon the needs of each nation.
- The *sovereign rights of each nation will be recognized and its peculiar genius*, individual trends and racial qualities will be permitted full expression. In one particular only should there be an attempt to produce unity, and that will be in the field of education.
- The attitude between nations will be one of "all for one and one for all".
- *Neither capital nor labor will control*. There must be cooperation between the two.
- The new world order will be founded on the recognition that all people are equal in origin and goal but that all are at differing stages of evolutionary development; that *personal integrity, intelligence, vision and experience, plus a marked goodwill, should indicate leadership*.

This is hardly dystopic or dictatorial. Yes, it is an *ideal* at the moment and a long way off given present trends and world tensions. No region in the world is close to this ideal yet. But, it is the goal of the Aquarian Age, or over the next two thousand years or so. It will grow out of world that is weary of war and want, one that has had enough of the old order and which recognizes the fundamental commonality of humanity, while yet recognizing individual uniqueness. Do we see the seeds of it now? It will happen only insofar as the people of the nations will it to be. There is much to overcome in this intervening period if we are to realize these goals. However, we are beginning to see the signs of its coming, with the changed tone and enactment of Russian foreign policy, for example, with the great experiments in Europe, with the steadily growing recognition of the people of the US that war and military-economic domination is not the answer, so on and so forth.

A decisive conflict for the hearts and minds of humanity is upon us. The elites will try their hardest to preserve and entrench the old order – what they would call their version of a 'New World Order' – but which is simply the old ways re-branded. What the rest of us must do if we want to avoid and avert a more catastrophic event for humanity is to keep public pressure on the existing system for change more toward the vision for a new world order presented above. But to think in the long term and to have patience is not easy in a world that now moves so quickly and can be so tiring on already frayed nerves. To be able to enter into stillness and direct thought toward humanity's most cherished and pressing goals clears the way forward and heals the upset that comes from the constant barrage of irritating messages that come to us every day. But in doing this we invoke the souls of ourselves, others and nations, and in that lies the safety of humanity. It is a worthy habit to cultivate, yet one that is easy to lose. Let us not lose sight of what is most important and vital, especially now. The way forward is carved with the heart.

Blessings,

Malvin

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- ¹ <http://www.georgecarlin.net/boguslist.html#monkey> Commonly attributed to George Carlin on the net, but there is no record of him having said it. It is a saying commonly used with 12-step programs (addictions), but in this context it refers to something else entirely.
- ² [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eris_\(dwarf_planet\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eris_(dwarf_planet))
- ³ Bailey, Alice A., *Discipleship in the New Age I*, p. 161
- ⁴ <http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2016/jul/04/nigel-farage-resigns-as-ukip-leader>
- ⁵ <http://news.sky.com/story/1719175/sturgeon-dealt-blow-over-scottish-eu-membership>
- ⁶ Bailey, Alice A., *The Destiny of the Nations*, p. 92.
- ⁷ Adapted from: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Union
- ⁸ <https://next.ft.com/content/d76b5fcc-b83f-11e2-bd62-00144feabdc0>
- ⁹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2000s_European_sovereign_debt_crisis_timeline
- ¹⁰ Bailey, p. 69.
- ¹¹ <http://yournewswire.com/france-protestors-rise-up-in-their-millions-against-ruling-class/>
- ¹² Bailey, p. 50.
- ¹³ <http://www.truth-out.org/news/item/5432:license-to-profit-legalized-corruption-in-the-us-congress>
- ¹⁴ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_members_of_the_United_States_Congress_by_longevity_of_service
- ¹⁵ <http://observer.com/2016/04/flight-control-heres-why-russia-buzzes-u-s-destroyers/>
- ¹⁶ Reynolds, David, *The Origins of the Cold War in Europe: International Perspectives*, p. 13
- ¹⁷ http://www.historycommons.org/timeline.jsp?timeline=complete_911_timeline&before_9/11=&startpos=500
- ¹⁸ <https://www.sott.net/article/321276-Does-Washington-fear-a-Brexit-could-undermine-its-anti-Russian-policy>
- ¹⁹ Bailey, Alice A., *The Externalisation of the Hierarchy*, p. 190, 191