

**TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE 2016**  
**9 Mar 16**  
**America, the Middle East and Beyond**  
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Hello Everyone!

Seeing as we just had Super Tuesday<sup>1</sup> in the United States and we are about to have a most interesting electoral process in the US, along with the shaky ceasefire in Syria, and two eclipses coming up, it might benefit us to have a look at what is coming up and where we might be headed. Although I do not normally send out letters at the new moon, I will have to make an exception for the new moon on the 8<sup>th</sup>



or 9<sup>th</sup> of this month, the date depending on where you live. The coming new moon will be a total solar eclipse, the only one for this year, and it will activate quite a lot with its subsequent activations—hence its importance. We will have a total of five eclipses this year—two in the next few weeks and then three, each of the latter separated by two weeks starting in August. Of the five, this one will be the most powerful, especially in terms of geopolitics, not least of which is because it will activate another eclipse. It also closes the spiritual cycle for the past year, the spiritual high point being from March through June, with the spiritual cycle beginning with the full moon of Aries. This is the natural order of the zodiac, anyway.

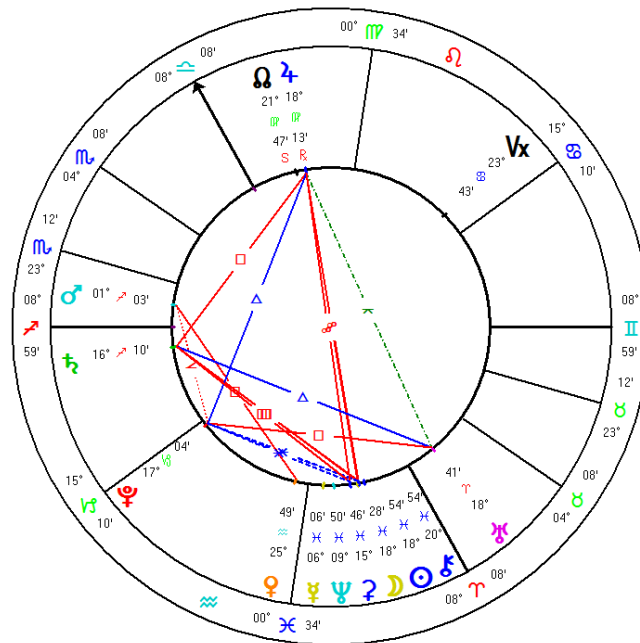
Super Tuesday, as it is called in the US, is one of the main indicators in the US electoral cycle of who will win the nomination from the major parties for the presidential election. This one has gone pretty much to forecast, with some minor surprises. Donald Trump has swept the Republican states with the exception of Oklahoma and Texas, but this was expected. What is a little unexpected and an indicator of his strength (or lack thereof) is that Marco Rubio might lose his home state of Florida in the coming primaries to Trump, and he is currently trailing well behind Cruz, which would not bode well for his chances at the nomination. Then, Bernie Sanders has won in four of the fourteen states that held primaries or caucuses, which was a little unexpected, and that sends a message to the Clinton camp. She is now busy trying to woo the voters who voted for Sanders. Sanders has said he is not finished with the elections by a long shot. So, March and the next few months is going to be a fascinating look into American politics. What is shaping up is that either Trump or Cruz will win the Republican nomination with Clinton winning the Democratic ticket. We will cover all this later in this letter.

The reason there is so much activity and so much bad news in the news at the moment is that Mars has been activating a group of eclipses and will go on to activate six more in this period through to the next full moon toward the end of this month, which will be the Aries full moon, or the start of the spiritual high point for 2016. In addition, Saturn is finishing off another (2 Jun 12 eclipse) through to May of this year, and Jupiter is activating another one as well through to the 16<sup>th</sup> of March. One of the Mars transits (on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March) will activate the 20 Mar 15 eclipse, which signaled the most recent Paris attacks. The latter does not necessarily mean that there will be another big event, but we are likely to see something. The 9/11 event, for instance, was signaled by a Mars transit to an Aries point eclipse, but subsequent Mars activations to that one did not signal any further large-scale events. Instead, those Mars transits to that eclipse signaled two transit disasters and a small terrorist incident, which is normal for Mars activations, but there was nothing on the scale of 9/11. It is as if the first activation of such eclipses releases the largest amount of

pressure and the subsequent events are lesser releases. So, without further ado, let's see what this eclipse will bring.

The eclipse chart can be seen below. It is marked by its conjunction with the south node, indicating endings and/or finishing things of the past. South node eclipses highlight the status quo—what we might call ‘the system’ and instincts to self-preservation, hence its importance with the US election, because this election is seeing a shakeup in the Republican establishment and the rise of a public that has been fed a steady diet of fear in the media, especially since 2001. The eclipse point also forms as t-square with an opposition to Jupiter and square to Saturn, the latter of which is the apex planet. Hence, we already get the idea that it will be a very significant eclipse. It is number 52 out of 73 of the solar Saros 130 series.<sup>2</sup> Thus, the series is starting to wane in intensity, but it is still quite powerful. The eclipse itself will be visible over Indonesia and much of Oceania and East Asia, including Japan. For the most part, except for Indonesia, it will be visible only as a partial eclipse. It will trace a path just west of the island of Sumatra in Indonesia and end just east of Hawaii in the north Pacific. It will start at 6:20 local time at Palembang, Indonesia, reach the maximum at 1:55 UT and end at 6:06 PM local time in Hawaii. The total time the eclipse will be visible at any one location is roughly two hours, depending on the observer's point of reference.

Solar Total Eclipse (NM)  
 Event Chart  
 Mar 9 2016, Wed  
 1:21:53 am UT +0:00  
 London, England  
 51°N30°00'W10'  
 Geocentric  
 Tropical  
 Fleciobis  
 True Node  
 Parallax Moon



For a little history and to see what this eclipse might signal, the first one of this series took place at 20 Aug 1096 at 18:36 UT. It is a south node series and thus began over Antarctica. The inception eclipse of the series had Saturn and Mercury in attendance and was trine to Uranus, with Jupiter on the north node, indicating an optimistic series and one where communication and looking forward to the future were highlighted. The last few we saw from this series were at 26 Feb 98, 16 Feb 80, 5 Feb 62 and 25 Jan 44. I won't go through all of the events associated with these, but some of the more notable are the ‘Great Escape’ in WWII from Stalag Luft III. For those people familiar with the film, and contrary to popular belief, there were no Americans involved in the Great Escape, as they had all been moved beforehand to another Stalag.<sup>3</sup> In addition, the Battle of Iwo Jima started, 980 Japanese soldiers were killed elsewhere by long saltwater crocodiles and the Philippines were liberated. It was the beginning of the end of WWII. I think we are seeing the same sort of thing with the war in Syria now.

With the next eclipse (1962), John Glenn became the first American to orbit the Earth, the Women's Movement in the US was reawakened, the CIA's Domestic Operations Division was established, the Cuban missile crisis ended, and Patsy Cline died in a plane crash. With the following eclipse (1980) Zimbabwe gained its independence from Britain, we had the hostage crisis in Iran with the US severing diplomatic relations, Anwar Sadat was assassinated and Mubarak assumed the office of Egyptian President. With the most recent eclipse in the series (1998) we saw the start of the Kosovo War, there were several important astronomical discoveries about water on other worlds in our solar system (that eclipse was in Pisces), there was the pipeline explosion in Nigeria that claimed the lives of over 1,000 and Hurricane Mitch began to form in the Atlantic, which was quite a deadly and destructive hurricane. In addition, AOL purchased Time Warner, we saw the peak of the Dot-com bubble, there were violent anti-globalization protests in Prague, the Al-Aqsa Intifada began, India and Pakistan were brought to the brink of war and George Bush withdrew the US from the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty (this was post-9/11).

Since this current eclipse falls at a critical juncture for the Syrian conflict, it will benefit us to have a look at how this eclipse and the one to follow in the next two weeks will play on world events, by having a look at certain of the key leaders and countries in place for the next year, especially as they relate to Syria and the Middle East. This includes the US, which has a wide influence in the region. The eclipse is automatically activated by Jupiter and moderated by Saturn. Jupiter is retrograde now and will move off the eclipse point within a couple of weeks, to return on July 1, reaching exactitude on July 9, in the heat of the US elections. It will not receive any further activations until the end of the year. Mars will be exact on the eclipse point just before the US inauguration, which is on the 20<sup>th</sup> of January next year. Of interest to note is that Saturn returns to within a degree of orb to its eclipse position the day of the election, on November 8, and will exactly square the eclipse point more or less on Pearl Harbor day, December 7. The timing of this eclipse with the US elections couldn't be more perfect. Things in Syria will likely be all but decided at that point, at least for the foreseeable future.

Starting with Bachar al-Assad of Syria, and then moving on eventually to the US, he will have the eclipse opposite his Sun/Uranus/Pluto conjunction, ([see chart here](#)<sup>4</sup>) conjunct his moon and near his Saturn. Jupiter will bolster him through this period, as can be seen with the advances being made by the Syrian army and the ceasefire. He is not going anywhere any time soon. Then, Recep Erdogan of Turkey is already being strongly affected at this eclipse, ([see chart here](#)<sup>5</sup>) with Pluto approaching his ascendant and Uranus passing the square to his horizon for the final time. The next two eclipses will not affect him directly, but the aforementioned transits have been sitting on him, in a manner of speaking, since Russia started bombing runs in Syria at the behest of the Syrian government. Vladimir Putin's natal Sun/Saturn conjunction ([see chart here](#)<sup>6</sup>) squares Erdogan's horizon, so the relationship between the two leaders was never going to be easy. The two men are markedly ambitious, in different ways, but Putin's actions have definitely thrown a wrench in the works of Erdogan's plans for Turkey and the wider region. Both men are under a fair amount of stress in this period, the obvious causes notwithstanding, as Uranus and Pluto have been affecting them both as a result of the connections between them astrologically and politically. Putin is unaffected by the coming two eclipses, either, although the Uranus/Pluto square has featured strongly with him as is the case for Erdogan, affecting Putin's Saturn directly. Thus, Erdogan is weakened now and Putin is emboldened. Pluto with Saturn can be a very stubborn and resilient combination if rightly handled. It is a test of ambitions.



Saudi Arabia will be affected by this eclipse and the next one. The current one falls on the Saudi north node ([see chart here](#)<sup>7</sup>) and the next on the Saudi natal Sun. I am using the chart for the proclamation of the Third Saudi State, which was announced on the September equinox in 1932. We don't have a time of day, but the planetary influences are clear enough. The present kingdom was founded with a Uranus/Pluto square in attendance, with the Sun and Moon squared and the Sun sextile to Mars. Jupiter was conjunct Neptune in Virgo, all of this indicating the rigid religious stance in their government, and the Sun was trine to Saturn which was in Capricorn, indicating their steady ambition and wealth-building. However, that Saturn was also opposite a Mars/Pluto conjunction, which is a classic for bad judgement, rags-to-riches-to-rags stories with regard to wealth, and a very deep-seated insecurity, which is highlighted by the fact that Saturn is retrograde in the chart. Hence, their marked ambition, extremism (Libra can be contribute strongly to extremism when unbalanced) and meddling in the affairs of other countries in order to place themselves in positions of influence.

Saudi Arabia has now emerged as one of the main contributors to extremism in the Middle East and as one of the main players trying to destabilize Syria and depose Assad. In addition to the preceding astrological indications, the Saudi Sun is conjunct the dwarf planet Ixion, marking a decidedly belligerent influence at times, and also at times a mania that seems to border on insanity. Ixion is the malcontent and is implicated in insurrections and escalation of tensions. US President Lyndon



Johnson, for example, had Ixion conjunct his Sun and he was known as an ambitious and imposing figure, ruthless in getting his legislation passed. He was known for his 'Johnson Treatment'<sup>8</sup> when he worked to persuade people to his way of thinking—probably a good thing to remember when dealing with kingdoms like Saudi Arabia. He, like Saudi Arabia, had Mars in aspect to his Sun, and he would work for 18 – 20 hours a day without a break. Unlike Saudi Arabia, though, he was a champion of social justice, even though he escalated the Vietnam War. Ixion is a tireless agitator, for good or ill. In the case of Saudi Arabia, it has been agitating for ill for some time now, and it is now seen as one of the most repressive regimes remaining on Earth—and certainly no friend to peaceful world relations. Its recent behavior toward Syria and Iran, as well as its treatment of its citizens and women in particular, are cases in point.

Iran will be affected by this eclipse, too, with the eclipse falling on their south node. ([see chart here](#)<sup>9</sup>) However, Jupiter is on their north node, giving a more optimistic note, as can be seen with the recent sweeping victories by moderate candidates in their elections over the weekend. Eclipses to the nodes can indicate major turning points for people or countries. Those victories will aid Iran in its reintegration into world trade and cooperation, as they are not so likely now to take a strident stance against the West. This eclipse could very well mark a change for Iran's direction for the better, which would be welcomed on the world stage, and the scale of the election results of this past weekend have come as a complete surprise, at least outside Iran.



As for the general tone in the Middle East, it will be better than last year. For all the talk and hype about WWIII we saw a few weeks ago, that has fizzled. The temporary truce put in place continues to hold, and better than expected. This is not to say a wider war could not happen, but it is highly unlikely. Nor is the use of nuclear weapons likely. To be clear, though, there are people and factions



in governments and otherwise who are livid about the Russian involvement in Syria and the halt to any imperialistic initiatives there. Those people would like to see an escalated conflict, but they have no clue about what they would be up against. The European NATO partners have no stomach for a war with Russia, for example, and would offer no support to a Turkish/Arab intervention. Russia is entrenched in Syria now and is ready for anything. As well, they could more or less easily dispatch an invasion by a coalition of Arab countries if they tried to intervene in Syria without Western support. If there is to be an intervention in Syria it would come next year after a new US president is installed, which brings us to the mess—or the surprising blessing, depending on one's point of view—that is US politics at the moment, and one of the more important elections in US and world history, for reasons we will see. Of course, we could say that every US election is important, but this one looks set to change the course of the Republican party, perhaps for at least generation to come.

To start with, this eclipse will square the US Mars and oppose the US Neptune. Eclipses to the US Neptune do not in general signal major events, but this one might, especially as Saturn has recently crossed the US ascendant.<sup>10</sup> ([see chart here](#)<sup>11</sup>) The last time Saturn was there was in the midst of the Iran-Contra affair, and it was the waning years of the Reagan presidency. Before that was the Eisenhower era, and he was not favorably viewed at the time, although he was later remembered as a good president. Before that was in the Roaring '20s, with Coolidge as president. Every time Saturn has crossed the ascendant in the past 100 years there has been a Republican in the White House and the public mood has not been the best, largely due to scandals or fears. During the Coolidge administration the Teapot Dome and other scandals from Harding's administration (Coolidge's predecessor) were still very much on the public's mind and Coolidge did much to offset that and restore faith in government. Eisenhower's administration took place in the McCarthy era, and Eisenhower was criticized for his handling of it, which was largely a hands-off policy. Reagan's administration was embroiled in the Iran-Contra affair. And now, we have Hillary Clinton's email scandal and the Republican witch hunt which were the Benghazi hearings, among other things. The public mood clearly does not favor establishment politics right now, and this is why we might see the present melee as a blessing. This eclipse is likely to signal more widespread disillusionment with government, the candidates for president and plays on public fears.



To expand on this theme a little bit, on both sides of the political divide, Democratic and Republican, there are factions of the voting public who want to see things changed, who are unhappy with the system as it is, the deadlock we have seen in Congress and the seemingly endless finger-pointing and blaming that has been such a distraction from the main issues. Especially since 9/11, American politics has devolved into an adolescent squabble between parties in many ways with big money increasingly calling the shots and a public who is jaded with the whole mess. This is what we see with the phenomena of Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump and the huge turnouts at their rallies. The other candidates would simply deliver more of the same policy or further divisiveness that we have seen in recent years. This is a theme I hear consistently. Trump and Sanders are very important, for different reasons, and on opposite polarities of US politics and sentiment on many issues. But what they are doing is sending a message to the establishment: The game as it was is up, and people are starting to demand more of a voice. We may also eventually see an end to the stranglehold of the two-party system in the years to come as a result of what we are seeing now. It is actually a very encouraging sign from the standpoint of public sentiment, even when some of that sentiment is not in the best interest of the country. It is calling politicians to account. With any luck at all, it will lead to progress instead of insular and punitive practices.

But there is more to this than meets the eye. The current state of the Republican party can be traced back to the early 1960s and the racial tensions that were extant in the country at the time. Racial segregation was ending, civil rights legislation was on the menu, the Cuban missile crisis happened, the Vietnam War was on, and JFK and Lyndon Johnson were in the White House. It was a period of major social change and many people in the public were fearful of it. We see the same thing being repeated now, with other added influences, such as migrants, the constant threats of terrorism in the media, people's incomes slowly disappearing, etc. It is again a time of change for the public and people are frightened, looking for someone who can lead them out of the mess. The people who want a strong hand look to Trump, unable to see past the bravado into what is really there, who plays to the lowest common denominator in the US public and thus on people's fears. On the other side we have Bernie Sanders, who is a voice of calm and reason, and that plays on the other end of the public spectrum. Of interest to note is that there were two eclipses at the start of the decade of the '60s that fell on the US Neptune, and they signaled disillusionment for the public and highlighted the fears of many, while at the same time bringing forward some inspired legislation by more forward-looking politicians in the years to immediately follow.



There are similarities in between this election and the 1964 presidential race. In 1964 we saw the rise of Barry Goldwater in the US, who like Trump was conservative and a businessman. He was against the New Deal of Roosevelt, anti-communist, anti-labor unions, and he held many of the views that Tea Party candidates hold now. He had appeal to the Southern states, who were much more deeply racially divided then than they are now, attracted many voters in the primaries and went on to win the nomination of the party over Nelson Rockefeller, who was the preferred candidate of the moderate Republican base. Goldwater won the deep South in the 1964 election, to give an indication, just as Trump is doing now. But, an important point to remember is that he frightened many people with his views and was defeated in one of the largest landslides in US history. The US under Johnson went on to see the 'Great Society' legislations,<sup>12</sup> which led to sweeping social change in the country and some of our most beloved programs, such as Medicare, Medicaid and the Public Broadcasting System, among others. Goldwater would have gutted those initiatives, and we see similar calls by the Republican candidates now for any sort of social initiatives.

The other thing to remember from 1964 is that Goldwater's rise deeply divided the Republican party and set it back for years. It also paved the way for the rise of the 'religious right' in the Republican party, which eventually led to the election of Ronald Reagan and the eventual emergence of the Tea Party. Prior to 1964, the Republican party was more moderate and progressive—the Republican party of the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Think Teddy Roosevelt, Calvin Coolidge, etc.—hardly what we see now. The similarities between the early '60s and now are quite striking, especially in terms of politics and social change. The white population in the US is soon to become a minority if things keep going the way they are, and it is this portion of the populace who forms the largest part of Trump's support base. The phenomenon is not restricted to the US. I see posts and articles all the time of people who question the sanity of the American public, who decry the dumbing down of the country, but I can tell you from personal experience that this is not restricted to the US. It is alive and well in places like Australia and Europe. too. Germans and Italians, for example, are very intelligent, articulate and socially-minded people, but they have had their Trumps in the past, too, survived them and moved on and became much wiser and richer as a result of those experiences. So, let's have a look at the candidates.

What we have with the candidates on both sides as we pass onwards from Super Tuesday is the following: A field of candidates on the Republican side with no real experience in government, all of which are hard-liners and far-right (Cruz and Rubio), and one of which has been characterized as

a fascist and akin to Benito Mussolini (Trump). These are the only three Republicans in the field who stand even a chance at the office of President. On the Democratic side we at least have two people with more experience in government—Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton. The Democratic establishment more or less fully endorses Clinton, as she is seen as the most electable and able to work within the establishment. Sanders is a stand-alone candidate, but he has wide public support. But Sanders is the most trusted, and Clinton has major problems with credibility. Saturn's cycle generally tells the tale of the rise and fall from power and ambitions, so we will have a look at that in relation to the candidates for President, along with the eclipse.

Before we do, though, regardless of the candidates, the big 'if' with regard to the next presidency will be the congressional elections of 2016.<sup>13</sup> There are 24 Republican seats to be decided in the Senate and 10 Democratic. Fifty-one are needed for a majority. The Democrats need to regain only 5 seats to reclaim the majority in the Senate, which can happen, but they need to gain more than that if they want to keep control until the next presidential race. All of the seats in the House of Representatives are up for reelection. The recent death of Antonin Scalia places a greater importance on these races, because the confirmation process for a possibly liberal-leaning judge would have to garner at least 60 votes in the Senate. It is unlikely that the Democrats would regain control of the House, as they would have to pick up 30 seats—difficult, but not impossible. The majority of Republican incumbents in those races swept to victory on the Tea Party ticket, and some of these seats are toss-ups. If voters really wanted to influence future US policy and legislations, then the Senate races in particular are extremely important. A swing either way would influence the course of the country strongly for the next two years at least, and at a critical juncture, regardless of who makes it to the White House. So, let's have a brief look at these people and see what is in store, starting with the Republicans.



Ted Cruz is a graduate of Princeton and Harvard, is a lawyer and is known as a skilled, though scripted, debater. His wife, Heidi, is an investment manager at Goldman Sachs. Remember Goldman Sachs? Cruz loves to spoil for a fight, and his closest advisors, especially on foreign policy, are neocons.<sup>14</sup> He has Capricorn Sun with Libra Moon, ([see chart here](#)<sup>15</sup>) which can be a feisty and ambitious combination, with Libra rising as well. But one of the more revealing aspect patterns is

the retrograde Saturn handle of a bucket in his chart, which opposes Mars and Venus, which are in a very wide conjunction, and is at the midpoint of his natal Sun/Pluto square. This combination gives a very high ambition, capacity for hard work, but also a tendency to be quite hard and unyielding. Mars opposite Saturn is a classic for poor decision-making as well, and is not good for economics. He is a man with something to prove. It is not difficult to see why he can be belligerent and unbending. The current eclipse will not affect Ted Cruz, but the next one will, falling on his ascendant, but it will not really benefit him for this election.

As for his timeline, in 2003 he assumed the office of Texas Solicitor General,<sup>16</sup> when Saturn was in his ninth house, serving in that role until 2008. This was in the wake of the Bush campaign, where he was involved as a supporter, and he was elected to the US Senate in 2012 when Saturn was transiting through his second house, trine to his Midheaven. He is a polarizing influence even within his own party and is disliked by most Republicans—Democrats aside—including John McCain and Mitch McConnell. He has few close allies. In short, he has a way of rubbing people the wrong way and is not seen as a cooperative influence—not a good look for a President, who has to be able to compromise. He is very right-wing in his views, claims that most violent criminals in the



US are Democrats<sup>17</sup>, for example, is a climate change science denier, opposes Obamacare and the Iran nuclear deal and has vowed to scrap them if he makes it to office, is a free-trade advocate, wants to abolish the IRS and is against the rapprochement with Cuba, calling it a monumental mistake, among other views.<sup>18</sup>



Moving on, Marco Rubio is the neocons' choice<sup>19</sup> when it comes to all the candidates.<sup>20</sup> He echoes their views quite strongly. He likes to paint himself as a moderate, but in reality he is an extremist conservative. ([see chart here](#)<sup>21</sup>) He was voted the 17<sup>th</sup>-most conservative senator out of one-hundred in the Senate in 2013. He supports comprehensive immigration reform, denies the science of climate change, wants to repeal Obamacare,

opposes same-sex unions, wants to scrap the Iran nuke deal and re-impose heavy sanctions, and supports the TPP, among other views. He is pro-interventionist and advocates force in the American interest when it comes to foreign policy. However, if he makes it to the nomination of the Republican party, he will will have Saturn applying at 2° to the opposition with his natal sun on election day—not a good omen for success, plus the fact that it will be in his 4<sup>th</sup> house. His greatest successes came when Saturn was at his 10<sup>th</sup> in 2000 at his Saturn return, late in 2000 when he was named as Florida House majority leader.<sup>22</sup> The last time Saturn was there he was nine years old, so we don't have much to compare his Saturn cycle to. He was elected to the US Senate in 2010 when Saturn was on his Uranus but trine to his natal Sun, which rules his Leo ascendant, even though Saturn was then transiting through his second house. He has emerged from this latter period, but from his astrology his time in the Sun has yet to be fully realized. He is on the rise now, though, and over the next 7 – 14 years we are likely to hear more out of him unless the tea party/neocon style of politics goes strongly on the nose of the US public. He is not affected by the coming eclipse.



Then, there is Trump. Donald Trump is a dreamer, and he will have this eclipse square to his natal Sun/Uranus/node conjunction. ([see chart here](#)<sup>23</sup>) He has always been a wild card anyway, given that conjunction, and with his Gemini Sun and Leo ascendant he knows how to talk a good story and hold a crowd. He has been cast as a liar, but with his astrology it shows that he lives in a sort of dream world and can be highly impractical. Truth is a very fluid construct with him and changes according to his mood. I wouldn't call him a liar so much as I would someone who doesn't really know what the truth

is, unless it is his truth, but even that is questionable. It is not a good look for a US President. He has a Gemini Sun/Sagittarius Moon opposition along with a Mercury/Neptune square, which says enough about his versions of the truth. He is a particularly interesting study in relation to the US, though, as the aforementioned triple conjunction falls directly on the US Mars, which rules the US fourth house (security issues and homeland) and squares the US Saturn. He knows how to play heavily on American insecurities and hopes and knows how to galvanize parts of the US public. In addition, his natal Saturn sits on the US Mercury (the media), and he thus has a curious control or influence over media that leaves observers in a state of wonderment as to how someone with his outlandish views can monopolize media attention the way he does. There is a warning in that



control over media, as Saturn is anything but transparent, and he is already made talk of suing journalists when they disagree with government.

Trump's Leo ascendant is opposite the US Moon and sextile the US Venus. But here is a thing to consider: the personality of the US is ruled by Gemini, and in a way—depending on which side of the fence one is on—he is either a breath of fresh air or one of the biggest dangers to the US to come in a long time. The same could be said of Marco Rubio, also a Geminian. In short, Trump is able to play to many sides of the American personality, and tends to exhibit the worst aspects of it with his views on race, women, foreign relations (the insular side of US policy) and at times US belligerence and insistence that our way is the best way—nationalistic fervor, in other words. Much of the rest of the world disagrees with his views, and a few countries have spoken of banning him if he is elected.<sup>24</sup> With the Gemini Sun, though, he is like Teflon when it comes to media—he can slide his way out of attention and arguments that is a thing to behold.<sup>25</sup>

To be clear, Donald trump is in the 1%, economically, although he is not in anyone's pocket, at least not to the extent of the other candidates, excluding Bernie Sanders (who is not in anyone's pocket). He has built on what his father left him. Many people in the Republican Party, as well as donors with deep pockets, see him as a disaster and are hoping he will self-immolate. That may happen, starting with this eclipse, but if he suddenly pulls himself in and exercises some Leo self-discipline he could go on to win the nomination of the party. These next weeks are going to be a fascinating time in US politics. Expect to see attack ads coming out against Trump as he continues to build momentum. He plays a good game of divide and conquer, but that will not work so well for him as the field narrows and more disciplined hopefuls such as Cruz and Rubio garner more support. March will tell the tale, since many must-win states are up for grabs this month. An even more alarming prospect than Trump, if he self-destructs, would be for Cruz to win the nomination. We are at a juncture in world affairs where we need people who can negotiate and find common ground, and none of the three Republican candidates seem to be able to muster that. Instead, they see it as a sign of weakness.

Trump will have Saturn opposite his natal Uranus and in the 4<sup>th</sup> house on election day, approaching the opposition to his Sun, as well as to the conjunction of his Moon. As in the case of Rubio, it is not a good indicator for success. The last time Saturn was there was in 1987 when he published *Art of the Deal*, which spent 51 weeks on the New York Times bestsellers list. It is very similar to what we see now as Saturn approaches the retrograde station opposite his natal Uranus in terms of media presence. That may seem to be a good indicator for him, but if we look back, three years after Saturn was last there he divorced Ivana. A year after that he appeared for the first time on the cover of "Time" magazine, again a good media presentation, but the divorce from Ivana is telling. The same year he divorced Ivana he was removed from the Forbes 400 list,<sup>26</sup> not to be reinstated for six more years, when Saturn was approaching his 7<sup>th</sup> house cusp and trine to his natal Sun. A quick look at that list now shows he is no longer on it.

A year after the divorce he declared bankruptcy for the first time, even though he was anything but bankrupt. It was a financial maneuver instead of an actual bankruptcy, and it gave him time and space to reorganize, which gives clues about how he operates. He married Marla Maples when Saturn was on his 7<sup>th</sup> house cusp. In all, what we see from the present period, in comparison to his previous Saturn transits to this area of his chart, is that it is not a strong period for him and can be fraught with problems. He plays to the lowest common denominator in the US public and though he might talk a story that makes some people feel empowered and hopeful, it is largely perceived that he would be a disaster for the US. However, he is the most likely candidate to win the Republican nomination, which is a very disquieting thought. In fact, looking at all three of the Republicans with their inexperience in government, their restrictive views and polarizing influence, it is very difficult to see how any of them would be good for the US and for a world that needs peace and stability

instead of hawkish intervention or dreams of greatness. With that, we move on to the Democratic hopefuls.

The March 8<sup>th</sup> eclipse falls close to Hillary Clinton's Moon in her fourth house, ruling her ninth house, which in the case of a leader is connected with foreign policy and transport. ([see chart here](#)<sup>27</sup>) It also has a lot to do with her appeal to the public. Jupiter will be supporting this through July. She tries to paint herself as a populist candidate, but it is known that she has strong Wall Street connections.<sup>28</sup> There is a general mistrust of Hillary Clinton among many parts of the American public. Perhaps it is her proposed double-Scorpio Sun and ascendant.<sup>29</sup> The US has never elected a president with Scorpio rising, at least not where the birth times of presidents were known. Scorpio rising is prone to secrecy, and people tend not to trust them in positions of power. If her chart is correct, she has an elevated Mars/Saturn/Pluto conjunction in the ninth house squaring her natal Mercury/Venus conjunction, which would be a troubling indicator in terms of foreign



policy. Her twelfth house has the latter two along with the Sun, indicating skill in working behind the scenes and with institutions, but also bringing in the element of secrecy, which has many people concerned. The Mercury/Venus conjunction is trine to the Moon, which marks her as a skillful communicator, but that same conjunction square the ninth house Mars/Saturn/Pluto marks difficulty with relating, especially in an intimate sense, and an argumentative streak that has to be watched.

However, of the other candidates, she has the most experience in places of power, which may or may not be a good thing. Clinton was appointed as Secretary of State under Obama when Saturn was in her tenth house—the highest point of her career thus far. The House Select Committee on the Benghazi affair was convened when Saturn was sitting on her ascendant. When Saturn squared her meridian in March of 2015 she was embroiled in the controversy over her use of a private email account for sending sensitive emails. On election day Jupiter will be transiting across her natal Neptune, the latter of which rules her fourth house, which bodes well for her. Saturn will be in her first house, which is not a strong placement for progress in and of itself, but it will be trine to her natal Mars/Pluto conjunction in the 9<sup>th</sup> house, both of which co-rule her proposed Scorpio ascendant. If she does make it to the White House she will be dogged by the Republican Party like her husband was and we could probably expect a near-endless trail of allegations of wrongdoing, investigative committees and more of the bitter divisiveness we have seen between the two major parties in recent years, unless the Republicans lose control of the Congress, which could happen.



Then, there is Bernie. The present eclipse will fall on his south node and opposite his natal Sun, which means Jupiter is bolstering him over the next months. We don't have a birth time for Bernie Sanders, but we could probably trace something with regard to Saturn's transits. ([see chart here](#)<sup>30</sup>) When Saturn was last in this area of his chart he was the mayor of Burlington, VT, and would soon go on to be elected to the House of Representatives in Congress a few years later. So, it would appear that he is on the rise. He was elected to the Senate in 2007. Bernie Sanders is the one candidate for the US elections that stands against the gross corporate interests in the US and for the average citizen. He describes himself as a 'democratic socialist', which

to the mind of many in the general electorate of the US means ‘communist’, which is perhaps why there is somewhat of a media blackout around him. In Europe he would be classed as a ‘center left’ candidate, but in the US he is seen as more leftist than is comfortable at this point in US politics. Sixty years ago, in the McCarthy era, he probably would have been branded a communist and ostracized. His wide support base, though, shows how much public opinion has changed over the past decades. Unlike Ted Cruz, Bernie is well-liked in by the Democrats, meaning the people on his own ticket, although the Democrats generally line up behind Hillary Clinton, as she is seen as being more electable.

Bernie says he admires the Nordic model of democracy, which is semi-socialized. Unlike Trump, who’s views change with the wind, Sander’s views have remained consistent throughout his political career. He is against international trade agreements, is pro-working class, pro universal health care, a higher minimum wage, reducing student debt, pro campaign finance reform, is a liberal on social issues, advocates bold action to reduce global warming, is against the death penalty, etc. Like Clinton, he knows the inner workings of the political system and has had decades of experience on the Hill. If one wanted to end corporate intervention in US policy-making, US interventionist policy abroad, a more cooperative attitude with other countries and strike a blow for the working class, Bernie is your man. He is a likeable sort, as evidenced by his natal Sun/Jupiter square, with Venus trine to Jupiter. This gives his sunnier disposition, openness and ability to relate to others. His natal Saturn/Uranus conjunction gives him a steely magnetism as well, and these combined with his natal Virgo Sun/Aries Moon combination marks him as a person of influence and general good business sense. Some people may not agree with the good business sense, given his liberal leanings, but of all the candidates, he has proved himself as a trusted member of Congress and one of the most consistent and frank about his policies. We’ll leave this discussion at that for now.

Anything can happen in the next weeks and months, but as the saying goes: “A week is a long time in politics.”<sup>31</sup> In all, though, we see progress in the Middle East. The US is about to undergo a period of disillusionment from what I see. I have doubts that Donald Trump or Bernie Sanders would make it to the White House and great concerns if the other Republicans do. What we will probably see is a runoff between Clinton and Trump, with Clinton as the victor. The thing is, whoever makes it to the White House is in for a big wake-up, unless it is Clinton. No one is going to be able to walk in and change the system overnight, nor set it on a more destructive course immediately. The wheels grind slowly in establishment and there are still checks and balances in place, as well as a populace that is jaded about politics in general. That being said, the outcome of the US elections will have a big influence in world affairs, so it is a thing that has to be carefully considered in the trends of the future and the working out of plans on all sides. The election will either set us back or move us forward, especially on the world stage. If there is one word of advice I have at this juncture for American readers (being one myself), it is this—VOTE—no matter what your persuasion. Our voices matter, and we do send a message. Politicians are much more sensitive to popular opinion than we might think. And, if you live in Oceania or Hawaii, enjoy the eclipse!

All the best,

Malvin.

2 Mar 16

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/about-super-tuesday\\_us\\_56d4d0a8e4b03260bf77ea50](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/about-super-tuesday_us_56d4d0a8e4b03260bf77ea50)

<sup>2</sup> [www.eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/SEsaros/SEsaros130.html](http://www.eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/SEsaros/SEsaros130.html)

<sup>3</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stalag\\_Luft\\_III#The\\_.22Great\\_Escape.22](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stalag_Luft_III#The_.22Great_Escape.22)

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.malvinartley.com/PDF%20Files/charts/Bachar\\_al\\_Assad.pdf](http://www.malvinartley.com/PDF%20Files/charts/Bachar_al_Assad.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.malvinartley.com/PDF%20Files/charts/Recep\\_Erdogan.pdf](http://www.malvinartley.com/PDF%20Files/charts/Recep_Erdogan.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.malvinartley.com/PDF%20Files/charts/Vladimir\\_Putin.pdf](http://www.malvinartley.com/PDF%20Files/charts/Vladimir_Putin.pdf)



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<sup>7</sup> [http://www.malvinartley.com/PDF%20Files/charts/Saudi\\_Third\\_Kingdom.pdf](http://www.malvinartley.com/PDF%20Files/charts/Saudi_Third_Kingdom.pdf)  
<sup>8</sup> [www.face2face.si.edu/my\\_weblog/2009/05/lyndon-johnson-and-the-johnson-treatment.html](http://www.face2face.si.edu/my_weblog/2009/05/lyndon-johnson-and-the-johnson-treatment.html)  
<sup>9</sup> <http://www.malvinartley.com/PDF%20Files/charts/Iran.pdf>  
<sup>10</sup> I use the Sibley chart for the US, which places 12 Sagittarius as the US ascendant.  
<sup>11</sup> [http://www.malvinartley.com/PDF%20Files/charts/United\\_States.pdf](http://www.malvinartley.com/PDF%20Files/charts/United_States.pdf)  
<sup>12</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great\\_Society](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Society)  
<sup>13</sup> [https://ballotpedia.org/United\\_States\\_Congress\\_elections,\\_2016](https://ballotpedia.org/United_States_Congress_elections,_2016)  
<sup>14</sup> <http://www.libertyconservatives.com/ted-cruzs-neocon-problem/>  
<sup>15</sup> [http://www.malvinartley.com/PDF%20Files/charts/Ted\\_Cruz.pdf](http://www.malvinartley.com/PDF%20Files/charts/Ted_Cruz.pdf)  
<sup>16</sup> <http://www.chron.com/news/politics/slideshow/Milestones-in-Ted-Cruz-s-life-105897/photo-7702005.php>  
<sup>17</sup> [www.politico.com/story/2015/ted-cruz-planned-parenthood-democrats-crime-216288](http://www.politico.com/story/2015/ted-cruz-planned-parenthood-democrats-crime-216288)  
<sup>18</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ted\\_Cruz](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ted_Cruz)  
<sup>19</sup> <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neoconservatism>  
<sup>20</sup> <http://nationalinterest.org/feature/marco-rubio-the-neocon-man-15348>  
<sup>21</sup> [http://www.malvinartley.com/PDF%20Files/charts/Marco\\_Rubio.pdf](http://www.malvinartley.com/PDF%20Files/charts/Marco_Rubio.pdf)  
<sup>22</sup> <http://www.nbcmiami.com/news/local/Marco-Rubio-Timeline-Key-Events-in-His-Life-299600241.html>  
<sup>23</sup> [http://www.malvinartley.com/PDF%20Files/charts/Donald\\_Trump.pdf](http://www.malvinartley.com/PDF%20Files/charts/Donald_Trump.pdf)  
<sup>24</sup> <http://fusion.net/story/255400/ireland-trump-ban-petition/> and <http://www.cnbc.com/2016/01/08/after-uk-germans-call-for-trump-ban.html>  
<sup>25</sup> [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DnpO\\_RTSNmQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DnpO_RTSNmQ)  
<sup>26</sup> <http://www.forbes.com/forbes-400/list/#version:static>  
<sup>27</sup> [http://www.malvinartley.com/PDF%20Files/charts/Hillary\\_Clinton.pdf](http://www.malvinartley.com/PDF%20Files/charts/Hillary_Clinton.pdf)  
<sup>28</sup> <http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2014/11/why-wall-street-loves-hillary-112782?o=0> It's an old article, but it illustrates the point made.  
<sup>29</sup> Hillary Clinton's birth time is disputed, but the double Scorpio seems to work well.  
<sup>30</sup> [http://www.malvinartley.com/PDF%20Files/charts/Bernie\\_Sanders.pdf](http://www.malvinartley.com/PDF%20Files/charts/Bernie_Sanders.pdf)  
<sup>31</sup> Usually attributed to British PM Harold Wilson in the 1960s.