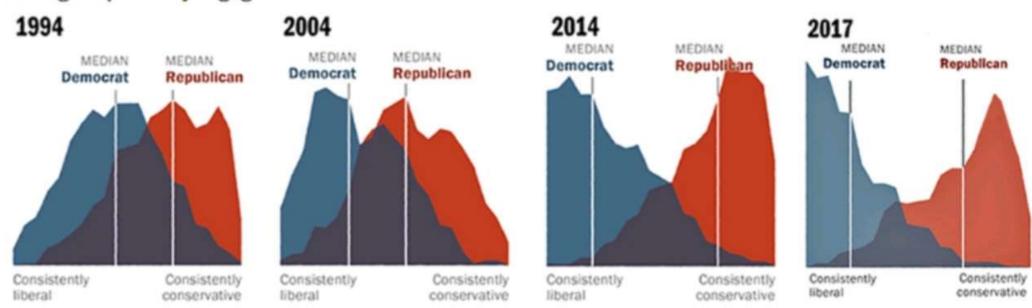
## IS AMERICA HEADED TOWARD ANOTHER CIVIL WAR?



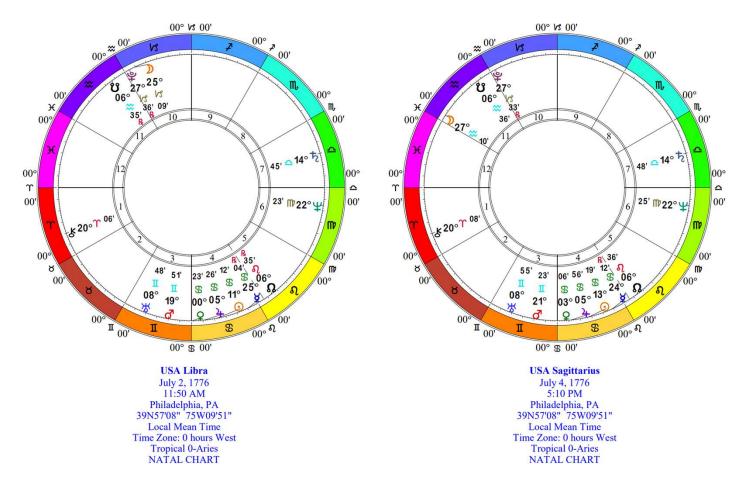
## Polarization Surges Among the Politically Engaged

Distribution of Democrats and Republicans on a 10-item scale of political values, by level of political engagement

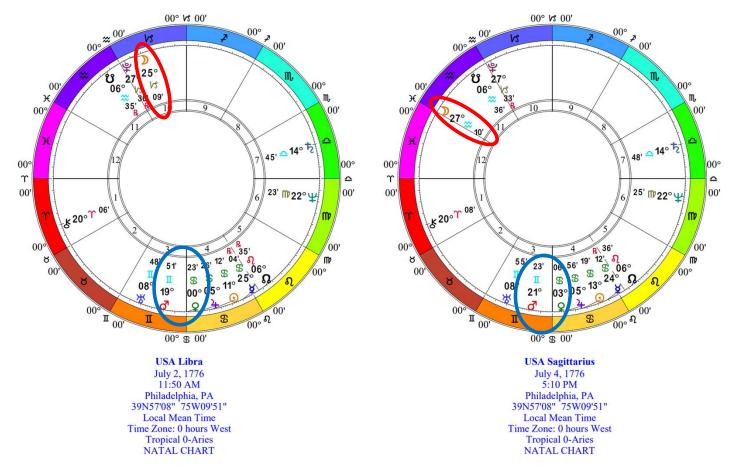
## Among the politically engaged



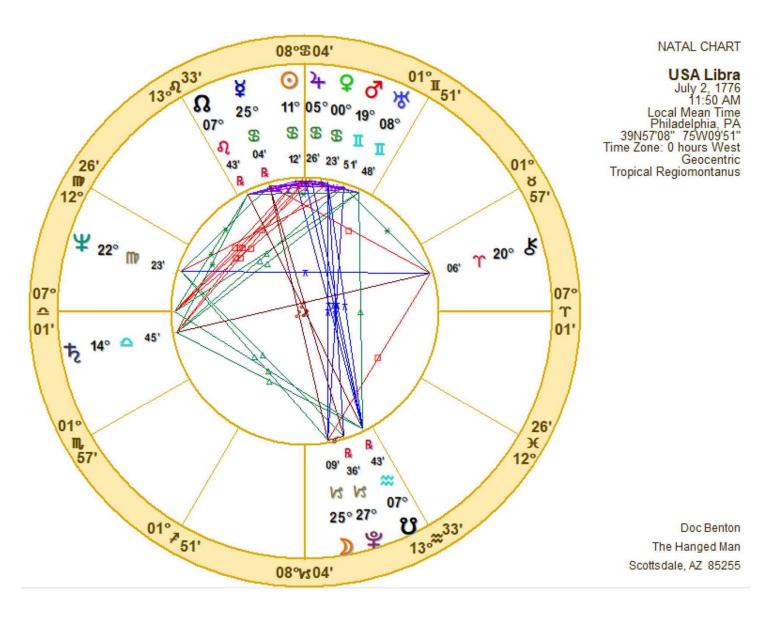
Since the 1990s, America has become increasingly polarized as the political center has shrunk more and more over the years, and today many historians and pundits are repeatedly saying that current conditions are as they were right before the American Civil War in the 1860s. However, before these people were talking about civil war, the very first person that I heard raise this possibility was an astrologer, and so let's look at the astrological indications that we are headed toward some sort of conflict.



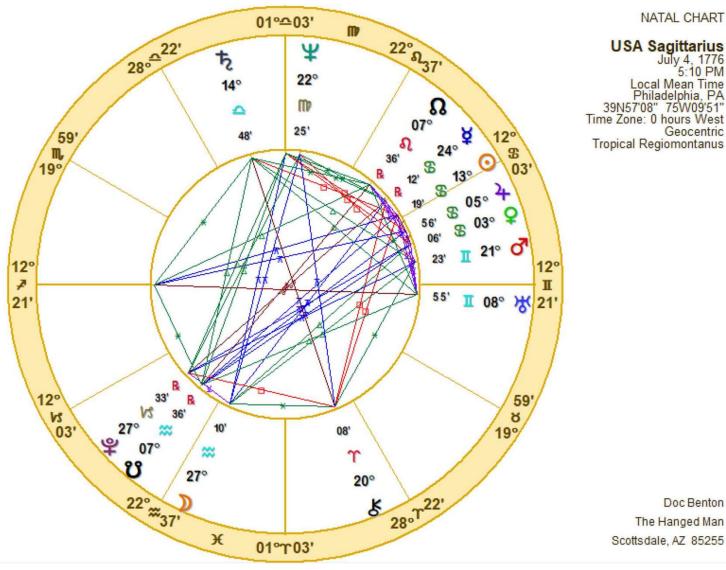
One good question to ask is which chart to use for America because there are actually several since sometimes the birth of a country is a process rather than a specific moment in time. I generally use a July 2, 1776, chart for when the Resolution for independence was unanimously passed as well as a July 4, 1776, chart for when the text of the resolution was ratified. I call these, respectively, the Resolution for Independence and the Declaration of Independence charts.



The main differences between these two charts are that the Moons are in different signs and Mars and Venus have moved on a few degrees. Also, one has Libra rising while the other has Sagittarius rising. However, I often like to depict mundane charts with 0 degrees Aries rising and use the natural association of Aries with the first house, Taurus with the second, and so on.

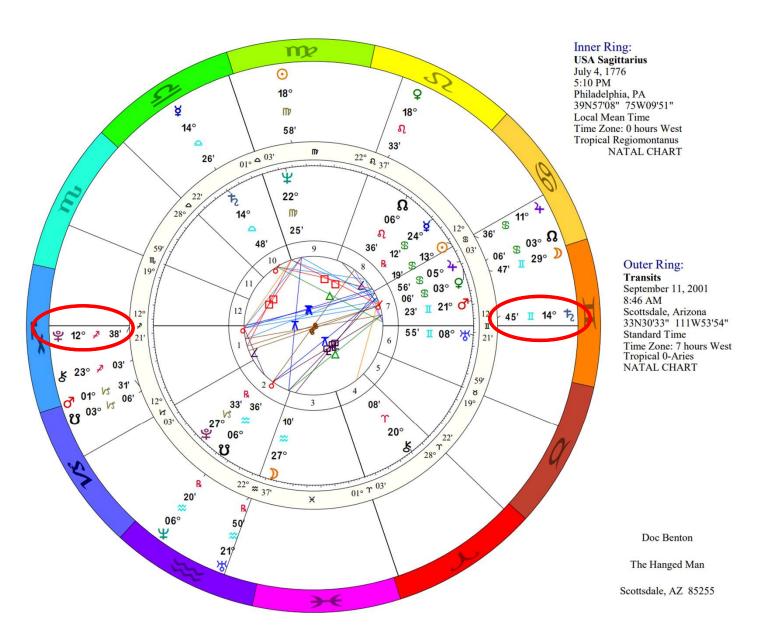


Here is the large version of the July 2, 1776, Libra rising, Resolution for Independence chart.

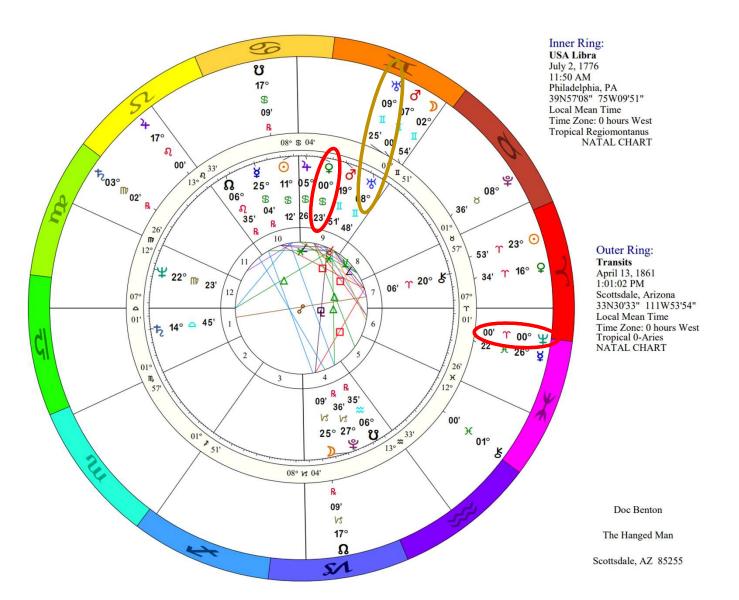


And here is the large version of the July 4, 1776, Sagittarius rising, **Declaration of** Independence chart.

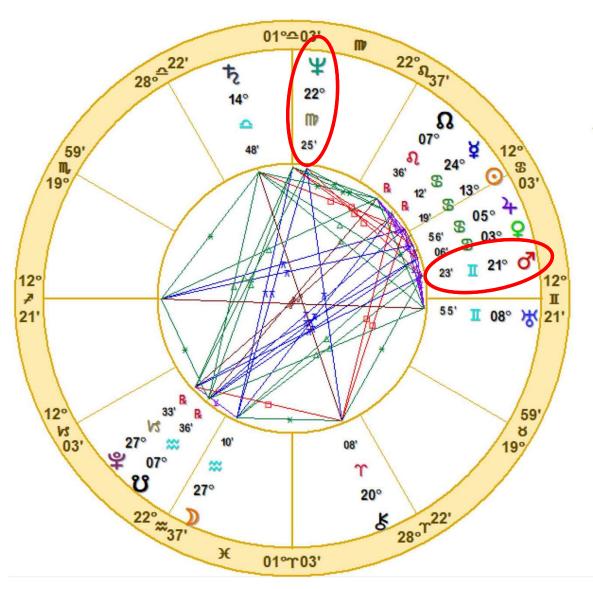
Doc Benton The Hanged Man



The Declaration of Independence chart works well to explain the tragedy of 9/11 since on that infamous day transiting Pluto was conjunct the **Ascendant and** transiting Saturn was conjunct the **Descendant. This** indicated possible destruction of infrastructure.



Likewise, the **Resolution for Independence chart** works well to explain the outbreak of the Civil War. The day after the opening shot at Fort Sumter, transiting Neptune in **Aries (militaristic** fanaticism) was exactly square to the degree natal Venus (core values), the ruler of the first house, and transiting Uranus (revolution) was conjunct natal Uranus.

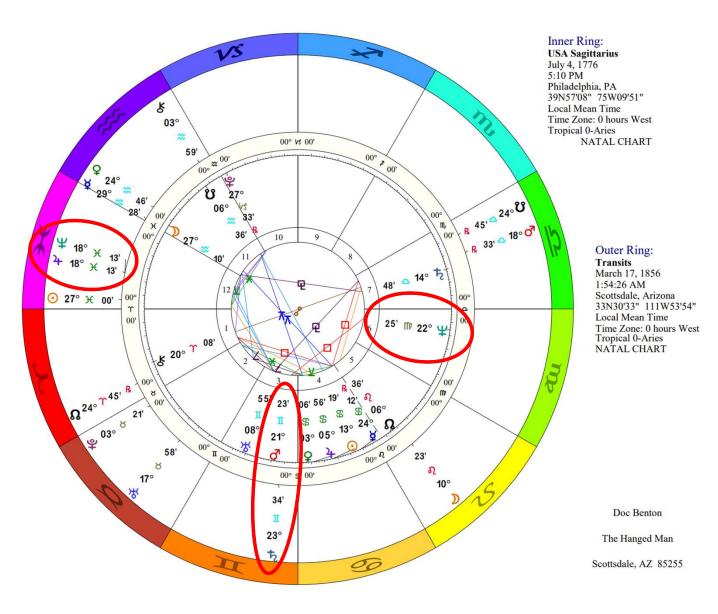


NATAL CHART

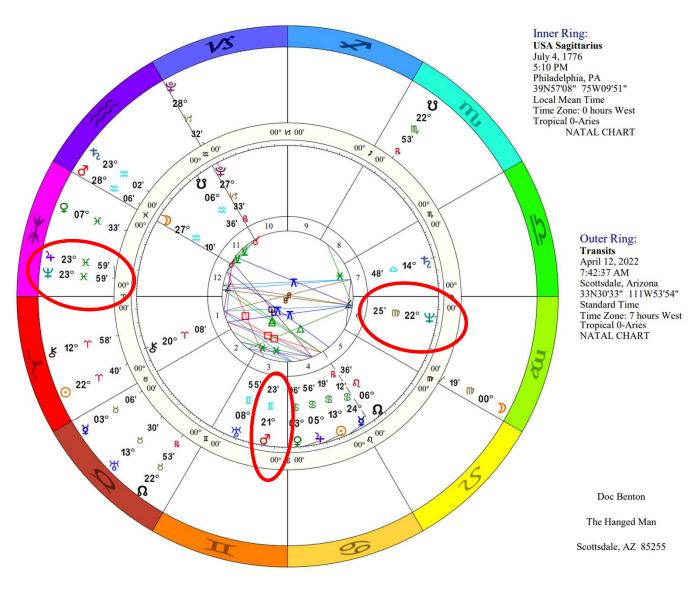
USA Sagittarius
July 4, 1776
5:10 PM
Local Mean Time
Philadelphia, PA
39N57'08" 75W09'51"
Time Zone: 0 hours West
Geocentric
Tropical Regiomontanus

In both charts for America the planet Neptune is in Virgo squaring Mars in Gemini. Neptune in Virgo gives our country an unfortunate capacity to convince itself that delusional thinking is logical, and we have seen this happen repeatedly all the way from slavery and the mistreatment of Native Americans to the current interpretation by some that White Nationalism is moral and just. And then the square by Mars in Gemini inflames the passions surrounding such thinking in ways that lead to violent rhetoric if not violent action. When Neptune and Mars are stimulated in these charts. trouble can follow.

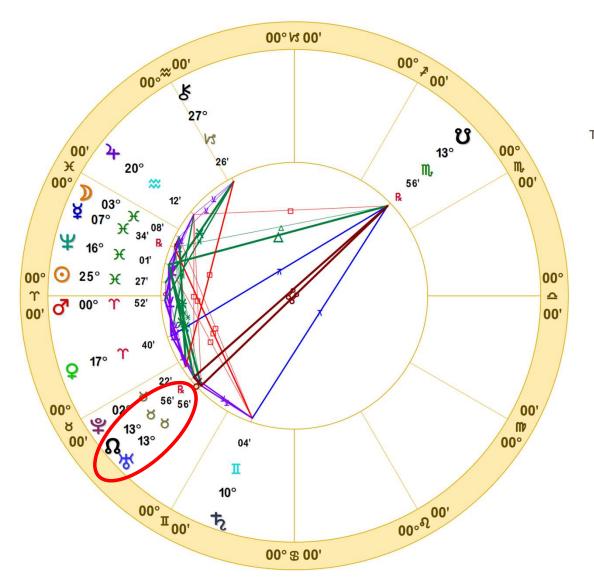
Doc Benton The Hanged Man Scottsdale, AZ 85255



In March of 1856, there was a conjunction of Jupiter and **Neptune in Pisces that was** in opposition to natal Neptune and square natal Mars in both of the charts that I use for America. Additionally, transiting Saturn (frustration & restriction) was conjunct natal Mars (aggression). In America, this was a time of violent clashes between pro- and anti-slavery forces that went down in history with the name "Bloody Kansas."



The next time Jupiter and Neptune were conjunct in Pisces was in April of 2022, and once again the conjunction was in opposition to natal Neptune and square natal Mars. **Jupiter and Neptune in Pisces** represent a more progressive philosophy that clashes with Neptune in Virgo, and it stirred up the aggressive rhetoric of Mars in Gemini. Also, while things have yet to become as violent as they did in 1856, we are a very divided nation, and passions are becoming hot.

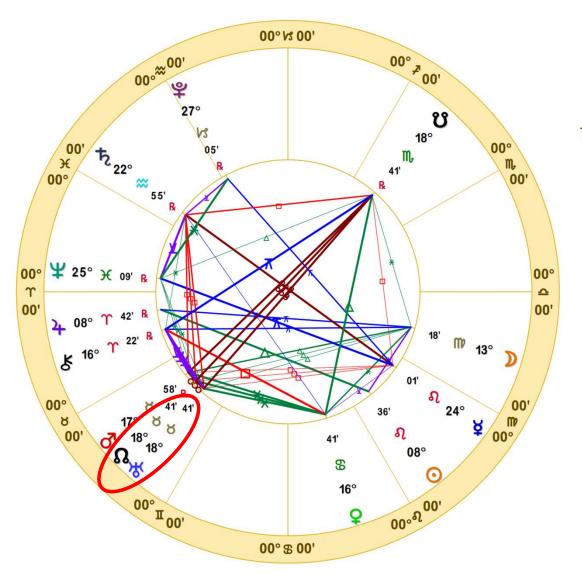


**NATAL CHART** 

Transits
March 16, 1855
6:45:54 AM
Local Mean Time
Scottsdale, Arizona
33N30'33" 111W53'54"
Time Zone: 0 hours West
Geocentric
Tropical 0-Aries

In March of 1855, the year before "Bloody Kansas," the planet Uranus was in Taurus conjunct the true North Node of the Moon, and two weeks later the territory of Kansas held its first election. This was an election that put Kansas at the epicenter of the slavery issue as many people from Missouri crossed the border to vote in that election in order to elect a pro-slavery legislature. Those people who did that are now referred to in history as the "Border Ruffians." Fortunately, six years later, Kansas entered the Union as a free state.

Doc Benton
The Hanged Man
Scottsdale, AZ 85255



NATAL CHART

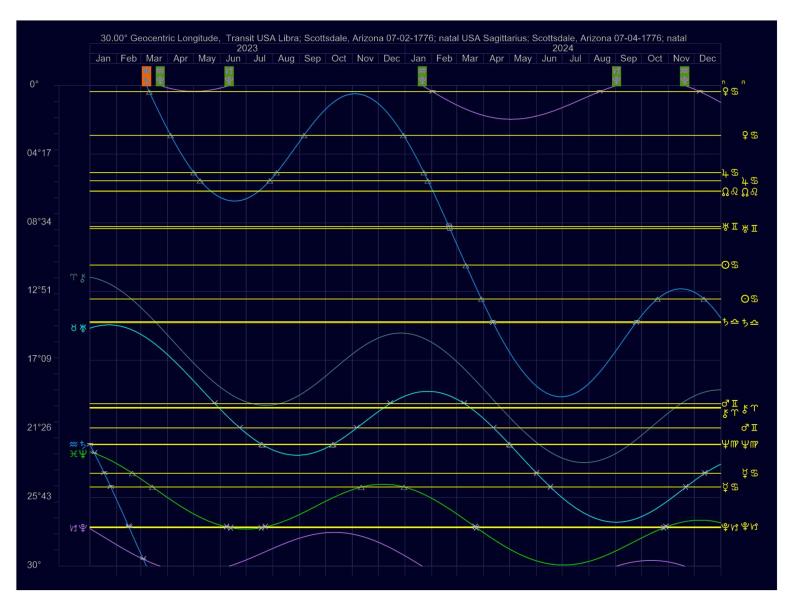
Transits
July 31, 2022
1:05:05 PM
Standard Time
Scottsdale, Arizona
33N30'33" 111W53'54"
Time Zone: 7 hours West
Geocentric
Tropical 0-Aries

Taurus happened on July 31, 2022, and it was joined by transiting Mars. Also, Kansas was once again at the political epicenter since on August 2 there was a vote on whether to remove protections for a woman's right to choose an abortion from the state constitution. Once again there were efforts to suppress the vote of political progressives, but fortunately the voters were overwhelmingly pro-choice. Still, this election may have been a preview of the issue that will dangerously divide America again, resulting in great conflict. History is repeating itself!

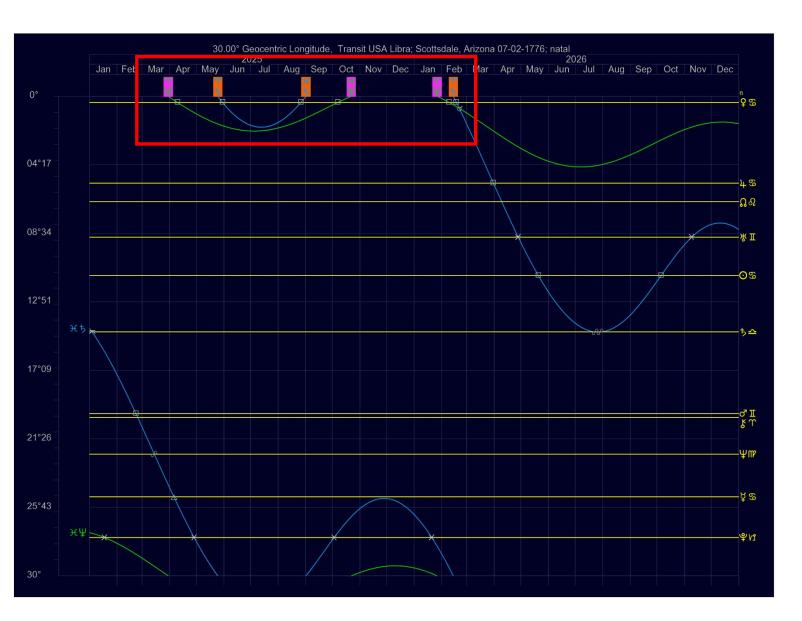
The next occurrence of Uranus

conjunct the North Node in

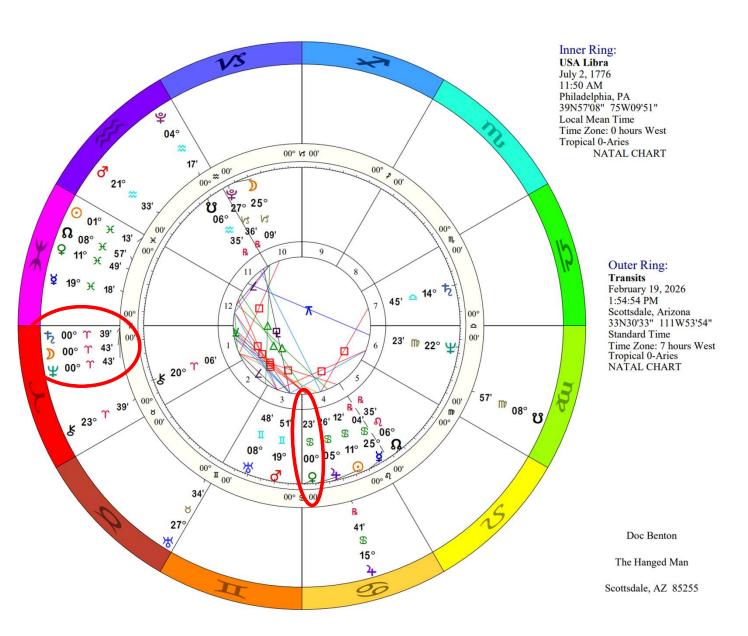
Doc Benton
The Hanged Man
Scottsdale, AZ 85255



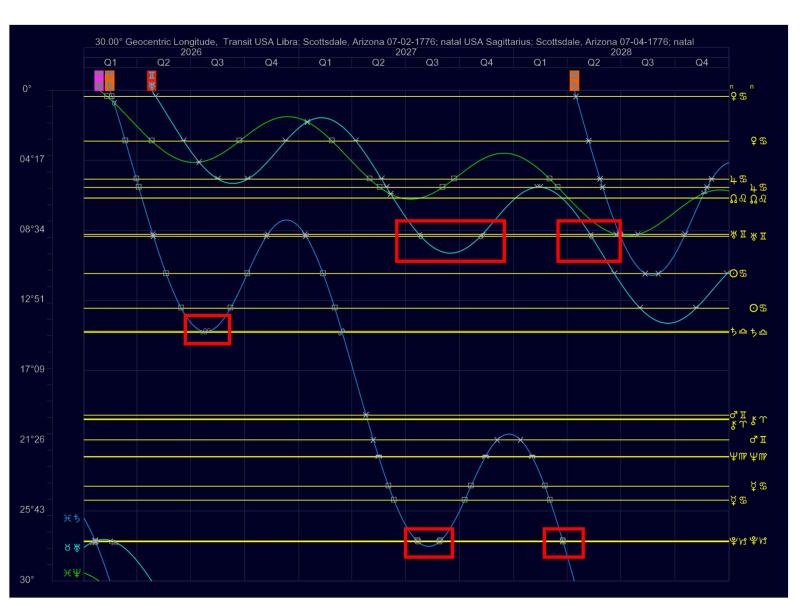
The planetary transits to both our charts for America don't look too bad for 2023 and 2024 as there are more sextiles and trines than squares or oppositions, but things will begin to change in 2025.



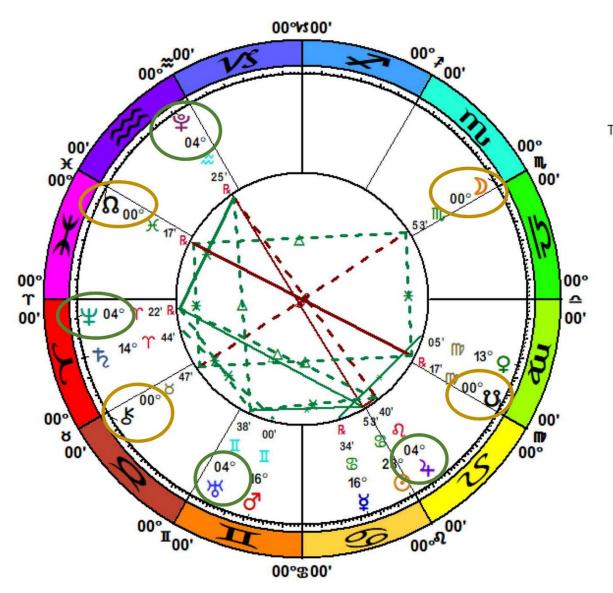
Recall that just one day after the official start of the American Civil War, Neptune entered Aries and was making a square to Venus that was exact to the degree in the Resolution for Independence chart. **Between March 2025** and February 2026, Neptune will again make this square to Venus three times as will transiting Saturn.



However, the date I'm keeping the closest eye on is February 19, 2026. On that date, transiting Saturn, Moon, and Neptune will all be conjunct at **0** degrees Aries and squaring natal Venus at 0 degrees Cancer in the Resolution for Independence chart. The late, great mundane astrologer **Andre Barbault has written** that Saturn/Neptune conjunctions are often "about popular insurrections that are usually fired up by ideological beliefs." This could be a very dangerous time for America.



If we look at 2026 through the first quarter of 2028, we see that Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune will be making a whole lot of conjunctions, squares, and oppositions to our two charts. In July and August, 2026, transiting Saturn will oppose natal Saturn, in July - August, 2027, and March, 2028, transiting Saturn will square Pluto, and in July November, 2027, transiting Uranus will be conjunct natal Uranus. If we do not make the best choices, then these could be quite difficult times.

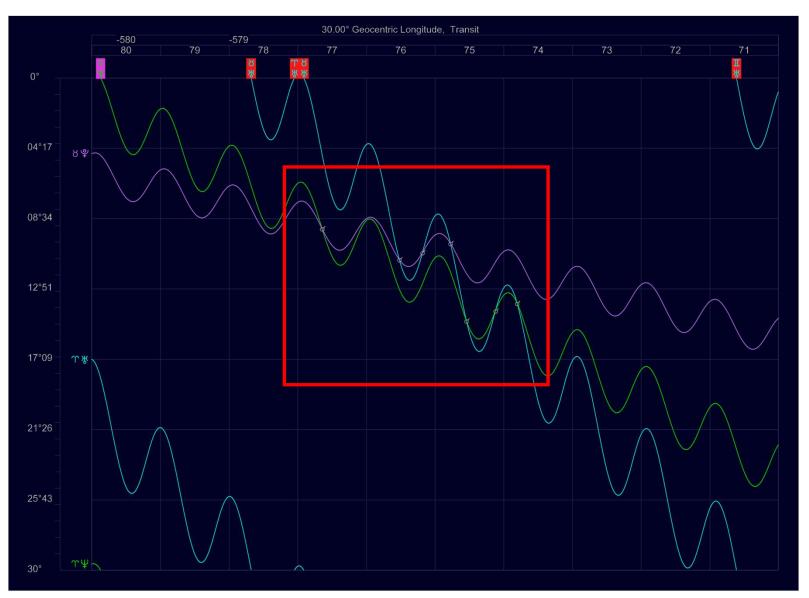


NATAL CHART

Transits
July 21, 2026
8:16:33 AM
Standard Time
Scottsdale, Arizona
33N30'33" 111W53'54"
Time Zone: 7 hours West
Geocentric
Tropical 0-Aries

So as you can see, there is a lot of turmoil ahead for America over the next five years, but there will also be one shining moment in time for the whole world that may also mitigate some of the tensions in the United States. That moment is on July 21, 2026, when almost all the planets will be joined in great harmony through trines and sextiles. Whatever is born at this moment will likely unleash a harmony that will impact the world for decades to come or even longer.

Doc Benton The Hanged Man Scottsdale, AZ 85255



The beneficial aspects on July 21, 2026, are reminiscent of the period from approximately 580 -570 BCE when a series of conjunctions between the outer planets occurred, and we saw the birth of Taoism, Confucianism, Buddhism, the **Upanishads**, Greek philosophy, and the writing of the Torah.

So will there be another civil war? That is difficult to say. There are certainly adverse conditions ahead, but it is we who collectively decide how to respond to them. The more mature and spiritually awakened we are, the less difficulty there will be. Plus, it's hard to imagine a war between the Blue and the Grey such as occurred in the 1860s. Today, the divide is between the Blue and the Red, but even without deadly battles between armies, there are certain conflicts that are either happening now or could easily happen in the future. Here are some of the things that could be:

- The country is already badly divided between the Blue and the Red.
- Abortion, rather than slavery, may be the issue that divides us the most.
- LGBTQ rights is another issue that the political parties are divided on.
- There is also division related to marijuana, immigration, white nationalism, and Donald Trump.
- California has already blocked official state travel to states that don't support LGBTQ rights.
- And we are at the start of a division into states that allow abortion and those that don't.
- If more states begin restricting official travel to other states or curtail the economic flow, then we may indeed drift apart into two separate countries.
- Throughout all of this, the severity of climate change is a wild card since that may invoke certain responses from us whether we like them or not.
- And as tensions grow, we will likely see more domestic terrorism first from lone wolves, and maybe later from more organized militia groups.
- And lastly, I note that Ron DeSantis in Florida has recently announced his intention to create a civilianmilitary force called the "State Guard."

So, there are a lot of ways in which conflict can occur and the Union weakened without an all out military conflict between the states. However, the choice is ultimately ours. We can choose to build rather than destroy, we can choose revolutionary inventions instead of revolutionary war, and we can choose positive transformation over death. It's all up to us. Thus, I don't really know if there will be a civil war or not. It all depends on the choices that we make. All I know is what the weather ahead will look like and some of the choices that will be given to us. Hence, may we all choose wisely!

