

Take Care of this House

By Matthew Carnicelli, Human Potential Left

Could it be that the die is already cast, the pattern already etched in stone? Does it even matter which candidate America elects in November 2012? In this astrologer's opinion, based a study of Inaugural charts in United States history, the answer is both yes and no. In my opinion America is almost certainly headed towards extreme crisis during the term of the next President, a crisis unlike any we have experienced in recent years; and yet, it may also be that the specific expression and ultimate outcome of this crisis is largely up to us.

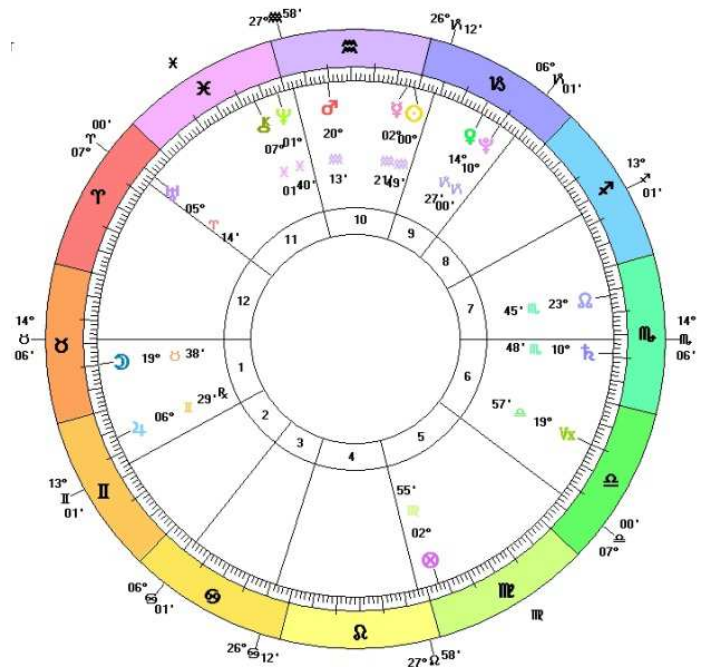
Introduction

Contemporary-era Presidents of the United States are inaugurated every four years at or around 12 noon on January 20th in the year following a presidential election. Now, I say at or around because sometimes the actual inauguration moment can be delayed as much as an hour (as it was with John Kennedy in 1961) or even a day (as in the case of Zachary Taylor who in 1849 literally refused to take the Oath of Office on the day duly prescribed by the Constitution because it fell on the Sabbath, and only took it the next day, March 5). It is nothing more than mere coincidence that both those Presidents died in office. However, the assumption underlying both my study and this piece is that the astrological symbolism embedded in the precise moment that the oath is taken persuasively describes the archetypal challenges and opportunities to be confronted or embraced by an incoming Administration.

To anticipate in advance an oft-posed astrological objection to this theory, I argue that the President elect's physical taking of the oath to uphold our Constitution is no mere formality – and that a President-elect who announced that he had no intention of taking the oath would never be allowed to simply assume his office. I cite in defense of my theory the fact that when it even appeared that President-elect Barack Obama and Chief Justice John Roberts had flubbed the swearing-in ceremony in 2009, it was thought necessary that the process be re-enacted, with the words precisely repeated, the following day. The Framers did not believe the swearing of an oath to defend the Constitution an empty rhetorical gesture. The Constitution may indeed stipulate that a President takes office precisely at Noon on January 20th – but I submit that only the man or woman willing to take this solemn oath to uphold the Constitution is entitled to its protection in this area.

The Next Inaugural Moment

Assuming tradition stands, and this swearing-in indeed proceeds on the day and time stipulated by the United States Constitution, then I submit that the cosmic weather for the next four years is beyond that of the routinely stormy. The likely Inaugural chart for 2013 features one harrowing feature: a nearly exact hard aspect between Moon in the first house and Mars in the tenth, suggesting either an aroused & angry populous or a wounded people having experienced a grievous shock. The hard aspect in question is a square, and it is within '35 minutes of orb (assuming a Noon ceremony) – and hence extraordinarily tight. In fact, was the ceremony to happen a bit later, with the Oath being administered closer to 1 pm, then the orb of this aspect would become nearly exact. I note with great sadness that, as is, it represents the 5th tightest hard aspect between Moon & Mars in US inaugural history. To offer a degree of perspective, America has been through quite a number of crises over the past seventy-five years (9/11, Watergate, Iran Contra, Clinton Impeachment, etc.) – but none of these were described by a hard aspect between Moon and Mars. For purposes of definition, I stipulate that a hard aspect, considered in the astrological literature the most challenging and compelling configuration between two bodies, consists of one of these five aspects: conjunction (0°), square (90°), opposition (180°), sesquiquadrate (135°) or semi-square (45°).



As a point of reference, a hard aspect between Moon and Mars was present in each of these previous Inaugural charts.

Year	President	Aspect / orb*	Events
1789	Washington	Square / 2°34'	Hamilton-Jefferson clash over implied versus enumerated powers & creation of the First Bank of the United States
1805	Jefferson	Square / 4°40'	Escalation of Napoleonic Wars; Jefferson imposes an embargo on exports to shield American shipping from involvement in the conflict
1837	Van Buren	Opposition / 5°30'	Economic depression
1841	Harrison	Square / 0°2'	Death of President due to illness
1849**	Taylor	Opposition / 0°28'	Death of President due to illness
1857	Buchanan	Square / 4°	Sectional tensions escalate as a result of Dred Scott decision, John Brown's attack on Harper's Ferry and eventual execution (Actual configuration is Moon conjunct Saturn square Uranus-Nodes)
1861	Lincoln I	Sesquiquadrate / 0°17' orb	Outbreak of Civil War
1865	Lincoln II	Conjunction / 0°36'	Assassination; Johnson impeachment (Actual configuration is Moon-Mars square Sun-Chiron)
1877	Hayes	Semi-Square / 1°33'	End of reconstruction as a result of deal to award contested election to Rutherford Hayes; great railroad strike of 1877
1881	Garfield	Square / 1°35'	Assassination
1889	Harrison	Conjunction / 6°33'	Massacre at Wounded Knee, coup d' état against Queen Liliuokalani in Hawaii; Passage of Sherman Anti-Trust Act
1901	McKinley	Conjunction / 7°30'	Assassination (Actual configuration is Mars-Moon-IC)
1913	Wilson	Conjunction / 2°31'	Outbreak of war in Europe, escalation of suffragette movement
1917	Wilson	Square / 0°0' orb	Sinking of the Lusitania, American entry into WWI, women win the right to vote, passage of prohibition (Actual configuration is Sun conjunct Mars square Moon)
1921	Harding	Square / 3°	Death of President due to illness
1929	Hoover	Opposition / 0°43'	Stock Market crash of 1929, Great Depression
1937	Roosevelt	Opposition / 3°51'	Outbreak of WWII, Recession of 1937, FDR Court-packing scheme
1963	Kennedy	Square / 7°58'	Assassination of President; entry into Vietnam conflict; Cuban Missile Crisis; Bay of Pig invasion (Actual configuration is Mars square Moon quincunx Uranus)

* For the purposes of this study, a time of exactly 12:00 pm was used where an exact Inaugural time could not be confirmed.

** Zachary Taylor's inauguration is calculated for 12:00 on March 5, 1849, not March 4th, the day the Constitution stipulates that he takes office.

The above listing represents a complete accounting of every Moon-Mars hard aspect configuration in US Inaugural history. Note how the more precise aspects tend to produce extremely malefic expressions. Note also that this Inaugural Mars makes another hard aspect to Uranus, an exact semi-square (or 45° aspect) – suggesting an even greater potential for unexpected, erratic developments, if not a predilection for martial, rebellious behavior.

To provide additional perspective on these configurations, let me quote directly from Michael Munkasey's *Reflections on the Planetary Pictures*:

Moon plus Mars

Emotional reactions energized by people or events. Inner passions evoked due to interactions with people or situations. Hyper-emotional responses which may get out of control. Outbursts of passion and / or rage.

Moon plus Mars plus Uranus

Pressures to perform, even in difficult conditions. Physical dangers possible from unexpected events or situations.

Obviously, no single astrological configuration should be viewed outside of the context of the larger Inaugural chart, not to mention the likely overarching cosmic weather for the larger four year period and the President-elect's chart. Unfortunately, this likely overarching cosmic weather is anything but reassuring. As I noted when I first touched on the explosive potentials for this next Administration, in my 2010 Pluto in Capricorn study, [Size Matters: Understanding the Size-Related Dynamics of Our Emerging American Crisis](#):

Add to this the arrival of the transiting Uranus-Pluto square in cardinal signs, which will form its first exact aspect in June 2012, and make 6 more additional exact aspects through April 2015 - several of which will be in close proximity to any July 4, 1776 United States natal Sun . To give some sense of the generic impact of

Uranus in hard aspect to Pluto, without involvement of the US Sun (which itself is typically associated in mundane studies with either the President / Ruler of a country, or alternatively, a nation's 'direction', particularly in a democracy), consider this brief chronology (dates given are for the period from the first exact aspect in a series to the last, an orb of at least several months on either end is advised):

September 1792 - July 1794 (opposition): National unity lost, Republican & Federalist parties formed; Citizen Genet arrives in America and foments unrest against Washington's policy of neutrality; Louis XVI & Marie Antoinette executed; Jefferson resigns from Washington's cabinet; 'The Terror' in France, worst days of French Revolution; Robespierre executed; Whiskey Rebellion

January 1820 - September 1821 (waning square): Tensions over slavery rise, leading to Missouri Compromise; 'Relief Party' formed in response to 'Panic of 1819' and subsequent economic depression; Relief Act passed; George III dies; revolutions in Spain & Piedmont; Bolivar defeats Spanish army in Venezuela, guaranteeing independence; property qualifications for voting removed in New York

June 1850 - March 1951 (conjunction): President Taylor dies; Millard Fillmore takes over; sectional tensions in US escalate; Compromise of 1850; new Fugitive Slave Law passes; Louis Philippe dies; Louis Napoleon coup d'état in France

October 1876 - September 1877 (waxing square): Custer massacred at Little Big Horn; contested election of 1876, Hayes becomes President via deal to end Reconstruction; great railroad strike of 1877, accompanied by substantial violence and casualties

January 1901 - November 1902 (opposition): McKinley assassinated; Teddy Roosevelt takes over as President and announces centrist 'trust busting' plan; Queen Victoria dies

April 1932 - January 1934 (waning square): Hitler & Nazis win majority of seats in Weimar Republic election; FDR elected; Hitler named Chancellor; Reichstag fire; Hitler granted dictatorial powers; first concentration camps erected; boycott of Jews begins in Germany; US goes off gold standard

October 1965 - June 1966 (conjunction): Race riots in Watts and other major American cities; escalation of American involvement in Vietnam War; Voting Rights Act signed into law;

Possible Manifestations

My bias for this election cycle was always that Mitt Romney would win the Republican nomination and become the primary challenger to Barack Obama in November 2012. Given the current choice of candidates, and the GOP electorate's intense desire to remove Obama from office (by any means necessary, I sometimes fear) he appeared the logical choice, especially given Iowa and New Hampshire voters' curious lack of enthusiasm for the equally electable and yet far more intellectually consistent Jon Huntsman. But unfathomable enthusiasm for the candidacy of disgraced former Speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich, suggests that neither actual business acumen nor consistency of character is a high priority for 2012 GOP primary voters – and that, amidst these increasingly “interesting times”, the previously inconceivable is becoming possible, including the even more previously inconceivable possibility that Rick “man on dog” Santorum might win the nomination. If Santorum deserves to be a candidate for anything, it's to become the first American Pope. That he has any chance to win the Republican nomination in 2012 demonstrates how unique and extraordinarily perilous our collective moment in time truly is. It remains to be seen whether a credible third-party candidate will emerge between now and next November – and become a de-facto kingmaker by siphoning off support from either Obama or the Republican candidate.

It is not my intention in this article, written a year in advance of the next President's Inauguration, and with no firm knowledge of who that man or woman might be, to delineate this entire chart. But I am prepared to outline a number of possible scenarios in which this explosive symbolism might well express itself. This should not be considered a definitive list – but merely a preliminary look at some potential expressions.

First off, if President Obama indeed wins re-election in a close race, then I can easily see this Moon-Mars-Uranus configuration describing a potential for rebelliousness on the extreme right – who no doubt, egged on by FOX News and right wing media reports of either real or mythic voting irregularities, will convince themselves that Obama stole the election, and is therefore an illegitimate President. This narrative will fit like hand-in-glove within the larger narrative that has been used against Obama since 2009, a narrative that seeks to paint him as un-American, foreign, illegitimate, and socialist. To that point, Mitt Romney's current campaign rhetoric, which asserts that Obama wants to replace America's opportunity-based society with an alleged entitlement-based society that owes its inspiration to Europe, represents yet another variation on this dishonest and profoundly dangerous de-legitimization theme. While I will admit upfront that I am voting for Obama, my ambivalence towards his Administration is perhaps best communicated via sharing a quip I came across a few months ago on an Internet basketball forum. As the originating poster phrased it, he was rooting for Romney to become the nominee, inasmuch as his selection would insure that a Rockefeller Republican would be the next President of the United States, regardless of whether Obama or Romney won. Amidst a climate in which the center-leaning Obama can be accused of being either a socialist or the most dangerous President in American history, and his

accuser taken seriously rather than made the butt end of uproarious jokes, every form of collective insanity should be thought of as on the table, even calls for states to secede.

Another variation on this theme would be a scenario in which Obama wins re-election but the Republicans retain their hold on the House while taking control in the Senate. Given the profoundly adversarial approach that Republicans have pursued since the start of the Obama Presidency, I can easily imagine a Constitutional crisis emerging during a 2nd term, perhaps yet another attempt at impeachment, but this time the conflict spills onto America's streets.

On the other hand, were Romney, Gingrich or Santorum to win the Presidency alongside GOP majorities in the House and Senate, and then attempt to impose draconian cuts in funding of essential safety net programs, we should expect this same rebellious energy to infect elements of the underclass, working poor, organized labor, and activist left. The phrase "creative destruction" is one traditionally associated with the deleterious short-term impact of laissez faire capitalism; but the student of history can easily identify other plausible illustrations of this phrase. For instance, as briefly noted earlier in this piece, American cities suffered through numerous large scale riots during the Uranus-Pluto conjunctions of the 1960s. As Londoners discovered last summer, with Uranus and Pluto within 1° of forming their first exact square since those 1960s riots, a square that will form 7 separate times over the next 4 years, a riot can flare up under these volatile cosmic conditions as easily as an errant electrical spark can set a building aflame. Given that several instances of this square will form in tight aspect to any July 4, 1776 United States Sun, it is prudent to expect this volatility to viscerally impact both the next Congress & Administration as well as the American body politic.

A fourth option that could easily manifest, either as an alternative to these three scenarios or alongside them, is the emergence of a large-scaled people's movement for governmental reform and economic justice, a supersized version of Occupy Wall Street that would coalesce in response to any Congressional attempt to balance the budget on the backs of the middle class, working poor, and unemployed at a time of double-digit U-6 joblessness. The American people's patience with its political elites may not prove inexhaustible, especially amidst this intense cosmic weather – and even a restored Democratic Congress should not consider itself immune to such a reaction. In fact, given these potential scenarios, I would argue that this last scenario is the most positive expression of this emerging zeitgeist that I can imagine. Perhaps it will take an aroused, angry, but nonetheless non-violent popular movement to convince Democrats and Republicans to pay more attention to the authentic needs of the nation, and less to those of ideology-driven fanatics or corporate lobbyists.

Given the precedent set by the 1913, 1917 and 1937 Inaugural moments, it's theoretically possible that the United States could again find itself in the midst of a global military conflict. But it's hard to imagine a scenario where global conflict would be either necessary or advisable – although with Mars in the 10th house, a limited war is plausible, perhaps in response to yet another terrorist incident.

Needlessly to say, times of extraordinary psychic and political intensity have a tendency to encourage extreme reactions from both otherwise sane and seriously deranged individuals, many of the latter whom have yet to even be diagnosed, much less treated. Hence, the potential for domestic terrorism, directed either against civilians or high government officials, should be thought of as exponentially higher during this period. While one man's incendiary rhetoric may not be intended as an invitation to assassination and mayhem, it can easily be heard that way by the clinically or collectively insane.

Take Care of This House

My intention in writing this piece was not to offer a comprehensive forecast for the next Presidency, before the people have even spoken, but rather to alert as many Americans as possible to the explosive energy embedded in this next Inaugural moment, in an attempt to prevent the worst of these potentials from coming to pass. To echo how one of my teachers, Dennis Elwell, once described his primary function as an astrologer: "I'm not in the prediction business; I'm in the prevention business".

The way I see it, America today finds itself in the midst of a great economic crisis, a crisis that we collectively created, and hence can only successfully exit together. If recent experience should have taught us anything, it's truly that it takes a village to make or break an economy. Individual expressions of virtue are commendable, and always to be recommended – but sometimes even the truly virtuous can be swept away by the tides of outrageous financial fortune, while the guilty and politically well-connected do just fine. We can choose to point fingers and create scapegoats or we can instead do whatever is necessary to correct the underlying dynamic that created the problem, and thus guarantee that it can never happen again.

The way I see it, everything these candidates say and do from now on, until that next Inaugural moment, can have a material impact on how these volatile cosmic energies ultimately play out. I'd argue that they each have a responsibility to the nation that must trump any desire to win at all costs, even if it means losing their chance to be

President. There is simply too much at stake this time. I may no longer be a Christian, but this contemporary Deist will nonetheless never forget Jesus' admonition against putting the affairs of the world ahead those of the spirit: "For what profit a man if he gains the whole world yet loses his soul?" Dare I paraphrase Him here, to assert the obvious: "For what a profit a man if he gains the Presidency yet loses his country?" And lose his country he may – or worse.

The way I see it, everything that the partisan media do and say from now on, until that next Inaugural moment, can have a powerful impact on the fashion in which these energies play out. We need to hold them accountable when they cross the line in the best way we have – by changing the channel, or finding another newspaper, magazine, or web site to read. As it is, according to a recent study, watching one of these flag-waving cable networks apparently leads its viewers to be less informed on the critical issues of the day than if they had been watching no television at all. Jefferson and Adams weep in eternity.

Finally, the way I see it, a people inevitably get the democracy that they have first individually, and then collectively, earned in consciousness. Hence, everything we say and do, from now on until the conclusion of our next President's term in office, can have a powerful impact on how these energies ultimately play out. Democracy is a creative, collaborative process. It requires us to listen to each other, argue with each other, curse at each other, find common ground with each other, and, ultimately, learn from each other. That's the beauty of our system – although it can sometimes feel less than beautiful. But when compared to the alternatives, it surely is beautiful. Democracy emphasizes the interconnectedness of people, the common interest that we share in everyone's life working out as best as God will allow. Think about it. The better your neighbor's life works out, the less of a burden he or she will ever be on you. And inasmuch as our 50 states share a collective roof that extends from sea to shining sea, we are inescapably neighbors – neighbors albeit in a vast, spiritually diverse, multi-ethnic, multi-racial village called America. Some may hate this new America; but every time I stop and think about us in this way, I swear, the beauty of our glorious mosaic takes my breath away.

"Take Care of This House" is one of the few musical numbers to emerge from Leonard Bernstein and Alan J. Lerner's eloquent and impassioned, if critically unloved, bicentennial musical, *1600 Pennsylvania Avenue*. The song has since become a staple of the American Inaugural repertoire. Originally conceived as a trio to be sung by a soon-to-be departing John and Abigail Adams to a young runaway slave to whom they entrust the care of the President's new mansion, it celebrates the hope for a brighter future that the White House came to symbolize for a young nation. But as touching and beautiful as it is when heard in this context, it is perhaps even more eloquent, if harrowing, when it returns one last time, at the end of the musical's First Act, sung now by the assembled cast, at the announcement that Lincoln has been elected President and South Carolina is preparing to secede. And it is in that spirit that I close with its famous refrain:

*"Take care of this house;
Be always on call.
Care for this house;
It's the hope of us all."*

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For more on the cosmic weather impelling our times, see:

A Brief Look Forward – <http://hpleft.com/120307.html>
Size Matters – <http://hpleft.com/040810.html>
America at a Crossroads – <http://hpleft.com/090809.html>
Beginning of the End or End of the Beginning – <http://hpleft.com/012608.html>
A Bubble in Time – <http://hpleft.com/040303.html>
Winning the War for Hearts and Minds – <http://hpleft.com/110603.html>
The Bush Presidency: Storm Clouds at High Noon – <http://hpleft.com/highnoon.html>