



Bringing Order and structure to Expansion: **Pluto moves from Sagittarius to Capricorn**

Astrologer, Robert Currey, shows how we are poised on a major astrological shift and what might happen.

by Robert Curry



In January 2008, a seismic astrological shift occurs. We are already starting to feel it but the full impact will be felt from 2009. Our slowest moving planet, Pluto, first begins the crossover from Sagittarius into the sign of Capricorn. Though redefined by a minority of astronomers as a dwarf planet last year, Pluto fits the classical definition of a planet as a wanderer against a background of fixed stars. Imagine a roomful of individuals redefining ancient Greek words like democracy, harmony or amphitheatre!

The End of an Era of Growth and Religious Fundamentalism

For the past 13 years, we have experienced the effects of Pluto passing through the sign of Sagittarius both in our personal lives and in the world. Sagittarius is about religion, expansion, education, excess and adventure. Pluto in this sign has brought a period of rapid growth in militant fundamentalism, expansion of western capitalism and consumerism into new frontiers, new wealth and power to the business of sport, unparalleled growth in low cost air travel and greatly increased migration. These trends are about to change profoundly. A new Era where plans become concrete and theory becomes practice - Pluto takes 248 years to travel around the zodiac. Therefore it is possible to review what happened last time Pluto passed through Capricorn [1762-1778], before that [1515 - 1532] and so on, right back to the aftermath of Jesus' crucifixion. On each occasion when Pluto was in Sagittarius, there was intellectual expansion as philosophy, theology and theory evolved. When Pluto moved from fire to earth, this evolution became more concrete through solid application, structures, organisation, rules and definition. While Jesus preached his gospel, Pluto was in Sagittarius. When he died, all that was left was the faith and the memories of his followers. Yet, it was during the time of Pluto in Capricorn, that Paul - the hardened sceptic - became the 'Apostle to the Gentiles'. Paul's missionary work and letters were crucial in establishing the early Christian church. It was as if the fire was set up and lit with Pluto in Sagittarius, and stoked up and maintained into a self-sustaining blaze in Capricorn.

Martin Luther, the founder of Protestantism, wrote his 95 Theses [1517] that led to his confrontation with the Roman Catholic Church at the Diet of Worms [1521], when Pluto was in Capricorn. However, his way was paved by the theoretical and philosophical work of writers like Erasmus that occurred when Pluto was in Sagittarius. Jump a quarter century ahead, to a time when Pluto was again in Capricorn and you will find James Watt in an iron works developing the steam engine - technology that was a critical impetus to the Industrial Revolution and the formation of modern Capitalism. Work started in 1763, soon after Pluto moved into Capricorn and culminated with a viable commercial version in 1776 in the final years of the cycle. The work was of course only possible with the expansion, plans and theories in the preceding years when Pluto was in Sagittarius.

Across the Atlantic, the colonial expansion, the questioning of class hierarchy influenced by the writings of Rousseau and the desire and consciousness of freedom and autonomy expanded with Pluto in Sagittarius. It was not until 1775, when Pluto was in Capricorn that the first shot was fired at Lexington.

So how will it work for us today? Will Osama bin Laden die, to leave a 'cult following' far more powerful than Al-Qaeda? Will secular extremists like Dr Richard Dawkins, author of the God Delusion, reach a reversal point on the road to Damascus? Will Scientology get a foothold? The turning point for Empires Pluto in Capricorn regularly coincides with the establishment of a new world order. With each cycle, significant developments occurred: In the first century, Christianity started to become the established religion. In the 16th



century, the Reformation took shape and arguably created a new religion with a work ethic suitable for the Industrial Revolution. Meanwhile in South America, Cortes brought about the dissolution of the Aztec Empire (1521), and Pizarro destroyed the Inca Empire (1532) to create the Spanish global Empire, bringing untold wealth to Spain and establishing Roman Catholicism in the New World. Though the pre-Columbian dates are uncertain, it appears the both native empires were established with Pluto in Capricorn and destroyed some 250 years later when the cycle returned. Similarly, the Ottoman Empire entered a golden age, under Suleiman the Magnificent in 1520, and their European ambitions ended from 1768 with the Russo-Turkish wars.

The Disunited Kingdom

Will Empires be created and destroyed this time around? Yes! This is most likely to occur over the next sixteen years. It is arguable that the British Empire started during the reign of Henry VIII with the unification of England and Wales, Henry taking on the title of King of Ireland and his severance from the influence of Rome. Though Pluto was in adjoining signs during his reign (1509 - 1547), Pluto was in Capricorn for nearly half of this period. A quarter of a century later, the next cycle of Pluto coincided with a reformation of the British Empire. While a new era opened with Captain James Cook's landing in New South Wales in 1766, American Independence ten years later transformed the nature of colonial exploitation. In this next phase starting around 2011, we are likely to see a break-up of the United Kingdom, with independence for Scotland, followed by Wales. The British Isles will be reformed with home rule by each of the eight kingdoms and the republic of Ireland. Instead of control by Westminster, power will be increasingly vested in a peripatetic central council, which will act as a forum for settlement of matters of common interest such as border control, taxation, coastal waters or terrorism.

Australia - more proactive world role.

These changes will precipitate a constitutional crisis and there will be serious questioning of the, albeit limited, power, status and financial basis of the monarchy after 2011. Since the Commonwealth of Australia, like the UK, was founded on January 1st, both Capricorn countries will be especially affected around 2013, when Pluto crosses over the Sun in the Australian and the UK founding chart. Because Capricorn is quite paternalistic, some compare the evolutionary state of the two nations as analogous to a father retiring to hand over the family business of policing the world to his son who is in a better position to do the job. For example, the EU may represent a divided UK on the UN Security Council, while Australia may become a permanent member in its own right.

USA - no longer the only superpower

The United States will also reach the beginning of the end as the super power. As the nation slips into increasing debt to Japan and China, the Euro will eclipse the Dollar as the world currency. The US chart has planets (Sun, Mercury, Jupiter and Venus) in Cancer and Pluto in the opposite sign of Capricorn. From 2010, the country will be deeply divided between those who want an isolationist policy and reliance on internal resources and those who want to protect US import needs and interests overseas. The only solution for the isolationists is a radical ecological programme and the imposition of

alternative fuel to preserve the existing lifestyle. The interventionists face a contradiction between acting as world cop and enforcing capitalist values (Pluto in Capricorn), versus the urge to fiercely protect and rampantly acquire resources to feed the nation's huge internal needs - (Sun in Cancer and Sagittarius Rising) - such as fuel.

Pluto returning to this sensitive planetary axis will expose this contradiction, which will alienate traditional allies and attract respect from nations who are more motivated by self-interest. The shift in world power and money will move significantly to the east, with China starting a new empire and other national groups such as the EU, India, Japan, Russia and Pan-Arabic powers competing for superpower status.

When Pluto was in Sagittarius (1995 - 2009), politics was often about chasing lofty ideals. Bush and Blair claimed that they had divine inspiration for their wars and Chirac had a romantic Gaullist view of France as a dominant world power. According to the press, they justified their visions with spin. More recently elected leaders fit the Capricorn mould: pragmatic and grounded. Instead of expansion with expensive foreign quasi-religious wars of the Sagittarian era, less adventurous plans and legislation with lasting practical benefit will be prioritised. Such projects could be connected with control of the environment and a fundamental redefinition of the rules of fair trade with Africa and the third world.

Sagittarian Excess to Capricorn Deprivation

During the Pluto in Sag years, there was much concern about the increasing levels of obesity especially in children in the West. With Pluto in Capricorn, concern centres on the underlying cultural pressure to be

Advert

underweight and the resultant condition of anorexia. Certain professions like modelling and racing jockeys, where weight control is a professional requirement, will come under question.

Sport is more regulated - While Sag is concerned with expansion and taking risks with new activities, Capricorn will solidify, define and codify any new venture. So while the premier golf course in the world, St Andrews in Scotland was founded in 1754 with Pluto in Sagittarius, rules limiting the game from 22 to 18 holes occurred in 1764 with Pluto in Capricorn. The foremost early cricket club, Hambledon in England first rose to fame in 1756, but the first 'laws' of Cricket were agreed in a pub in London in 1774. So given the sporting developments and controversies of recent years, sport will become more regulated and safety conscious. For example, the ownership and sale of players by clubs will be clarified with a strict set of rules. Because Capricorn is associated with the mountain goat and capable of endurance, sports like mountain climbing, Iron Man Triathlon and marathon running will reach 'new heights'. While some entrepreneurs have been flirting with space tourism in the past few years, space travel will be used for more practical and necessary purposes.

Revival of Classical Architecture and Prestige Buildings.

Capricorn is also associated with architecture and buildings that will last many lifetimes or confer status. Westminster Abbey (completed 1517), Henry VIII's Hampton Court Palace (1515-1521), Edinburgh New Town (started 1765) and Monticello, Virginia (1768), were built with Pluto in Capricorn. Today competition exists to build the world's tallest building, between the Burj Dubai scheduled for completion in 2008/2009, and other rivals also under construction. Besides prestige buildings, the style of many new buildings will, like their predecessors from history, be part of a classical or traditional revival.

Breakdown of trust in Government and by Government

While the war on drugs and terror, enabled governments to justify increased surveillance, powers of detention and border controls in recent times, there will be a backlash when Pluto goes into Capricorn. Trust between government and the people will breakdown. The potential abuse of omniscient CCTV, speed cameras, ID cards, finger-printing, genetic monitoring and racial profiling, will become increasingly controversial throughout the world. Powers acquired by governments for our protection, like the Patriot Act in the US may be used to spy on less harmful activities, such as personal finances, health, political affiliations, working practices or personal relationships.

A new accountable corporate culture.

How will it be for you? When I started writing this article, I realised that I had acquired many books while Pluto was in the educational sign of Sagittarius. I felt the urge to start sorting these books and make new shelves to store them. The Pluto shift will affect everyone, but only a few like those born under the signs of Capricorn and Cancer will experience it in a very personal way. For many, your working life will change especially if you work for a corporation, as there will be a new culture of professionalism. Corporations, who cut corners with telephone menus, rely on exotic call centres with linguistic challenges, tolerate incompetence or who keep customers waiting will become beached whales. Products and advertising will be less oriented to providing the

cheapest deal in the shortest time and move towards quality, trust and durability. Air travel will not be as cheap with regulations and fuel tax, but it will be easier to avoid the queues and the feeling of being 'herded like cattle'. So we are moving from theory to practice, from philosophy to scepticism, from benign idealism to honest self-interest, and from excess to economy. In this world the slow tortoise will surpass the haphazard hare. ■

1748 - 1763	<p>1754 Rousseau's Discourse on the Origin & Basis of Inequality among men.</p> <p>1762 Rousseau writes and publishes The Social Contract and Emile</p> <p>1754 St Andrews Golf Club founded</p> <p>Spread of knowledge and technology. Increased migration of population from country to towns as a result of the Agrarian Revolution.</p> <p>1751 France: First Encyclopedia published.</p> <p>Start of Canal network in England 1759.</p>
1995 - 2009	<p>Expansion of Low Cost Airlines and unregulated air travel.</p> <p>Mass migrations into Australia, NZ and into and within the EU.</p> <p>Growth of militant fundamentalism and terrorism.</p> <p>Inflation controlled in western world.</p> <p>New power and wealth to international sports stars especially football.</p> <p>UK focus on large projects, foreign wars and national interest with common threat.</p> <p>US focus on war on terrorism, fear of foreign religion and neglect of debts to far east as a result of heavy consumption and low production.</p> <p>Australia drawn into war on terror.</p>
1762 - 1778	<p>1775 Start of American Revolutionary War.</p> <p>1776 Declaration of Independence.</p> <p>Turning point in English colonial expansion.</p> <p>1764 New Golf Rules enforced by St Andrews.</p> <p>1763 - 1775 James Watt develops Steam Engine.</p> <p>1769 Richard Arkwright patents water frame for cotton spinning patented.</p> <p>1764 Hargreaves invents Spinning Jenny.</p> <p>1768 Ottoman Empire declines with a series of wars with Russia.</p> <p>1766 Captain Cook, maps New Zealand and makes first European contact with eastern Australia with a view to establishing a penal colony.</p>
2008 - 2024	<p>Travel restricted on environmental grounds.</p> <p>New, cleaner means of transport developed.</p> <p>Selective immigration based on skills.</p> <p>Less terrorism, more political and economic pressure and control from Islamic States.</p> <p>New regulations restoring control of ownership and transfer of players and endorsements to clubs and promoters.</p> <p>Kingdoms of the British Isles start to set up home rule, leading to the break up of the UK as a single country.</p> <p>The end of the supremacy of the US as a super power and the Dollar as a world currency.</p> <p>2010 US alliances change radically.</p> <p>Australia takes a more powerful, but less traditionally allied international role. Shift to Labor Premier.</p>