

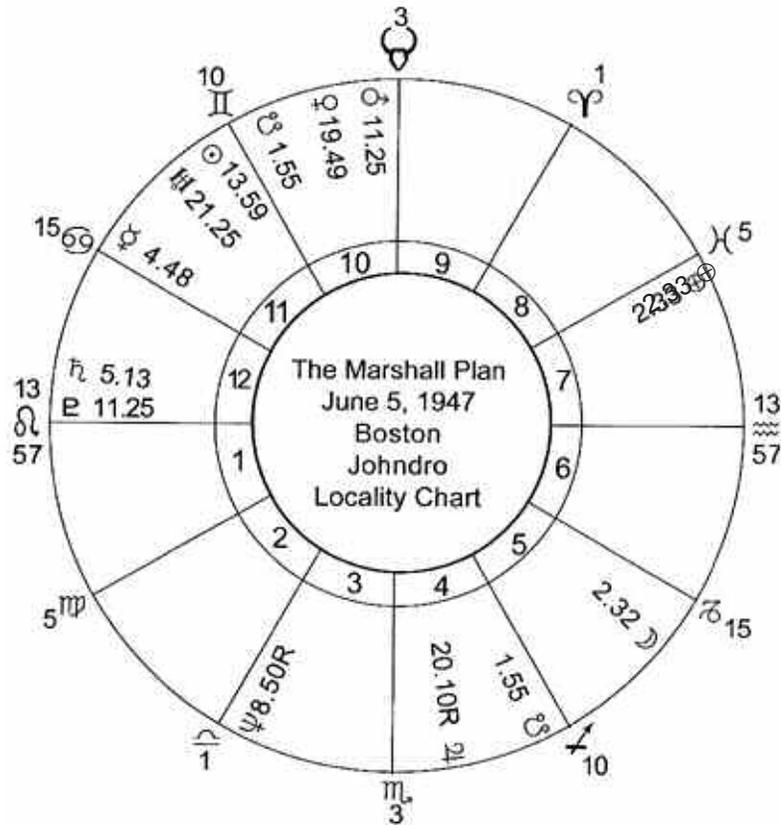
ASTROLOGY

America at its Best—The Marshall Plan’s

Semi-Centennial

IT MAY WELL have been the world’s most important university commencement address ever. For the speaker, Secretary of State George C. Marshall, did not so much dwell on the upcoming commencement of new chapters in his youthful listeners’ lives, as the need for America to help start a new chapter in Western Europe. Twenty-five months after the end of World War II in that area, he discussed at “the most famous university in the most powerful county”¹ how to hasten its economic post-war recovery, which until then had seemed unable to get off the ground.

In a chart for the occasion, the lunar orb’s previous transit had been over Jupiter: his plan was motivated by generosity. “The American spirit has always expressed itself in a willingness to help the suffering.”² The 8th cusp deals with motivation. Its degree is one of “a special genius for philanthropy.”³ The 12th cusp concerns “hidden sustainment,” and here it is one of “satiety.”⁴ This truly marked the U.S. at the time, for in the immediate post-war era it produced over half the world’s goods, standing at an unprecedented economic pinnacle never before attained by any nation in recorded history. The chart’s Locomotive pattern (all planets within 240 degrees) bespeaks of the plan’s powerful activation, all the more with the Capricornian (hence ambitious) Moon being the “trailing” planet and energetic Mars, closest the M.C., the “cutting” orb.⁵



Fiery Mars’ dominant position points to another reason for the European Recovery Plan (ERP)—to give its official name—war. The Cold War had begun, and there was widespread fear that a weak Western Europe would fall under communist sway.⁶ Pluto is also a planet of war,⁷ and as the orb closest the Ascendant, it confirms Mars’ message. For good measure, in comparing this chart with that of the U.S., we find that the closest tie is this map’s Uranus of freedom with the U.S. Mars of war: the Marshall Plan most definitely was an integral part of the U.S.’s effort to safeguard Western Europe’s freedom during the ongoing East-West struggle, one for supreme power—the Ascendant’s logo, Leo the lion, is one of power.

Mercury of mental focus is in the 11th house of ideals and in the sign of Cancer, that of home. Though this undertaking obviously had in it much idealism, yet it was not entirely altruistic. It was generally recognized at the time that if Western Europe were to be “lost,” survival would be difficult for America, the home base for resistance to communist aggression. All the more so since China at the time was in the process of “going communist,” as it was to do officially on October 1, 1949, with the “fall” of Peking, presently known as Beijing.

Neptune in the 3rd house of the lower/practical mind points to the imaginative nature of the enterprise; there was absolutely no precedent for it whatsoever. Neptune’s degree fittingly is one of “consummate insight in planning the course of events.”⁸

The very practical side of this idealistically conceived undertaking is confirmed by Venus of values in the eminently practical, down-to-earth sign Taurus, along with Mars. It helps greatly if one’s values (Venus) and course of action (Mars) are harmoniously aligned.

As the Sun is central in our Solar system, so it is in the chart relevant to its most basic nature. Its location in Gemini, sign of relationships, and house of idealism, is self-explanatory and correct. So is its conjunction with Uranus, extra strong because not only in the house of which the latter is natural ruler, but also in its own Aquarian decan. Uranus is the planet of brotherhood, hence cooperation, and the ERP envisaged not only cooperation between the U.S. and Western Europe, but the European countries themselves were obliged to assist each other while receiving American aid!

The material aid furnished by the U.S. was produced in the U.S., thus boosting the American economy. Intra-European cooperation was to help bring down centuries-old barriers and rivalries. No doubt the outstanding example of this was the brand-new Franco-German spirit of harmony, all of which played a major role in saving Western Europe as America’s ally from communist control. We note Venus in its own sign and the 10th house of destiny, in a degree of “efficiency in controlling events.”⁹ Has America, or any other nation for that matter, ever achieved so much with so relatively

little? Surely, therefore, the Marshall Plan in more ways even than one, can be said to be America at its best!

But alas, things earthly have a way of being less than perfect. The ERP is no exception. The dominant orb, Mars, points to the key of the shortcoming. The fiery orb is in the very material sign Taurus, yet ruler of the very spiritual 9th house of the higher mind. It is afflicted by a quincunx from Neptune and square from Pluto, those highly spiritual bodies to which the masses of mankind have not yet learned to respond constructively.¹⁰ Mars is also in a nonagen, a minor restrictive aspect of 40 degrees, with Uranus.¹¹ Obviously, the great lack is of a spiritual nature. Out of the ERP has developed the American foreign aid program, which undoubtedly has achieved much good, but because the U.S., by precept and example, has failed to convey the great spiritual ideals upon which it was founded, some recipients have “grown lazy and dependent on the U.S. dole.”¹² And, it should be noted, example has a more potent impact than precept. As someone said, “Your actions speak so loud, I can’t hear what you’re saying.” And the great Albert Schweitzer, asked to list the three great principles of child training, replied, “Example, example, example.” It also is and ever will be the very best principle in influencing other nations.

According to *Time*, June 5, 1995, page 20, Japan leads the world in foreign aid (“gross aid”) with the U.S. a close second; as “percentage of GNP,” Denmark, Norway, and Sweden lead, with Japan in 17th and the U.S. in 21st place. □

—a Probationer

1. *The Christian Science Monitor*, June 9, 1985, page 18.
2. *The Christian Science Monitor*, May 26, 1995, page 20.
3. *The Sabian Symbols*, Marc Edmund Jones, page 305.
4. *Op. Cit.*, page 254.
5. For information on the “cutting” and “trailing” planets, see *Predictive Astrology*, Frances Sakoian and Louis Acker, chapter 10.
6. Eastern Europe was invited to join, but under orders from Moscow it refused.
7. Mars symbolizes overt warfare, Pluto the covert, subversive kind.
8. Marc Edmund Jones, *op. cit.*, page 158.
9. *Op. Cit.*, page 198.
10. *Astrology*, E. Parker, page 121; Alan Oken’s *Complete Astrology*, Alan Oken, page 224.
11. *A Spiritual Approach to Astrology*, Myrna Lofthus, page 249 ff.
12. *Newsweek*, May 29, 1995, page 50.