

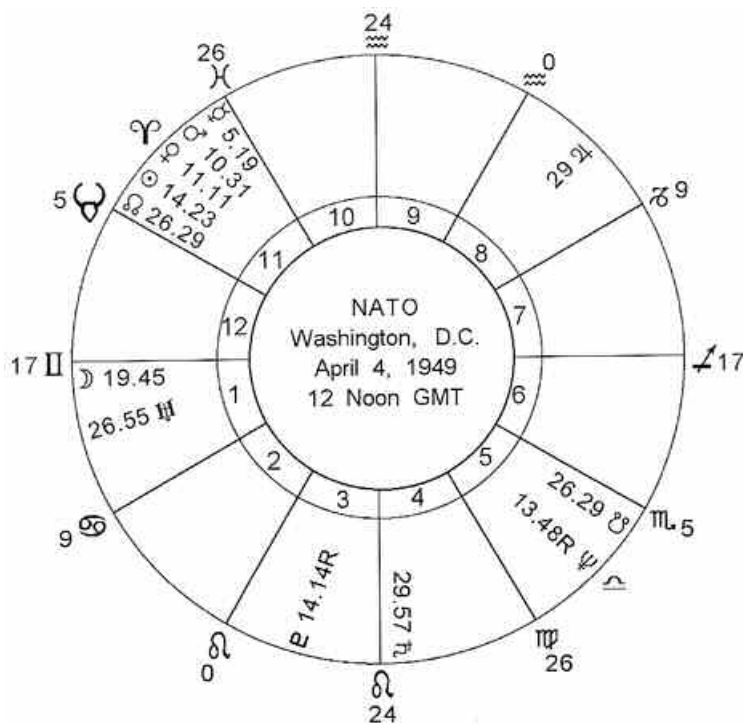
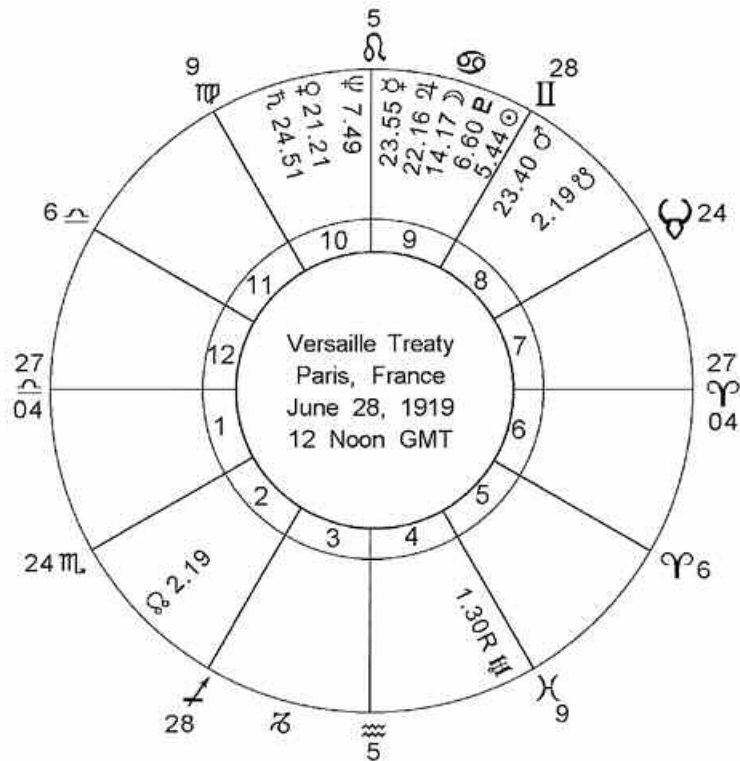
# ASTROLOGY

## *Stars over NATO*

**I**F YOU WERE AN ADULT in 1949, you may remember the time of the inception of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. It came during the Cold War's first major crisis. The Soviets had cut off land access to Berlin, 110 miles behind the iron Curtain; it had to be supplied entirely by air. There was justified fear that Communist Russia would move into Western Europe—all the more since the Communists in early 1949 were also about to seize China. So, to contain world Communism, NATO was founded April 4, 1949, in Washington D.C.

Even a cursory glance at its chart reveals the prominent U.S. role in the event. There are too many similarities between the two maps to doubt their close relationship, all the more significant since 173 years are between them. That is a little more than two Uranus cycles, and so we find the planet of freedom in both charts in Gemini, just below the Ascendant, and lord of the M.C. of direction and destiny. When the U.S. was born, freedom's future was the issue; also at NATO's nativity.

Moreover, the four-planet Aries cluster in NATO's chart is square the four-planet cluster of Cancer in that of the U.S. A square is the aspect of challenge. The U.S. cluster is in its house of finances. U.S. financial resources had indeed been chal-



lenged by NATO to the tune of hundreds of billions of dollars over the years. Had there been no need for NATO, there might today be no federal deficits and debt!

This is underscored by the closest planetary tie between the two charts—NATO’s Neptune conjunct the U.S. Saturn.<sup>1</sup> These are “karmic” orbs. The U.S. was correct in helping found and lead and sustain NATO. No other nation could have filled that role. Britain had yielded its primacy of the West the year before, which had resulted in the Truman doctrine of U.S. leadership in the struggle against global Communism. At the time, half the world’s goods were being produced in the U.S., and “unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required.”

NATO’s birth certificate also bears comparison with that of the Treaty of Versailles of June 28, 1919, which “ended” World War I. That treaty’s Saturn is conjunct NATO’s Saturn; its Neptune is over NATO’s Pluto, another potent karmic link. The 1919 treaty was one of history’s worst, practically “asking” for revenge. That produced Hitler, chief instigator of World War II, which brought Russian Communism into Central Europe, leading to the setting up of NATO.

Now for a look at the NATO map itself. The timing certainly was excellent; shortly after a New Moon is generally a good time to launch new projects: NATO has been described as “the most successful military alliance in history.”<sup>2</sup> An early spring is also good, since the Sun then transits Aries, in which it is “exalted.” Aries is also the sign of war, and NATO was a contingency plan for military struggle.<sup>3</sup>

Seven of NATO’s planets are in the top half and Ascendant. Six are in the eastern half; all but two are in strength-imparting conjunctions of various widths. Of the two “loners,” Neptune is conjunct a critical degree and supported by six major aspects: to the Sun, Moon, Mercury, Venus—all the inner planets—plus Mars and Pluto. It has also minor ties to the others: a semi-square to Saturn and bi-septiles to Jupiter and Uranus. And as to Jupiter—being closest to the M.C., it is helpful for the dominant orb to be a benefic. It is the natural ruler of the 9th house, and therein “all planets...have a

higher vibration than when placed in any other area.”<sup>4</sup> All planets are in masculine, odd-numbered signs, eight are in odd-numbered houses—more strength.

Aren’t there any “negatives” in this amazing map? Yes—and no! To be specific, there are no orbs in water signs, a “technical” minus, an “imbalance” of sorts. Water signs are the emotional ones; no planets therein would therefore indicate absence of emotion. In *personal* maps, absence of emotion and feeling certainly are a serious void,<sup>5</sup> but in a *military* organization this is a definite plus. War is extremely serious business; one must stick strictly to the cold facts, to reality.

And NATO has done that. It not only has kept Communism out of Western Europe, but by its strength and resolve it has contributed to the Soviet Union’s demise and saved Europe from *national* wars longer than any previous effort. Prior to NATO, Europe’s longest respite from war between nations was 38 years—from the Congress of Vienna after Napoleon’s fall in 1815 to the outbreak of the Crimean War in 1853. But now Europe has seen no *trans-national* war since 1945. The struggle in Yugoslavia was a *civil* war.

History, it has been truly said, is His story, *God’s* story. Even as an earthly father wants his children to learn life’s lessons, so does our Heavenly Father. What great lesson can the spiritual student garner from NATO? When asked before the battle of Waterloo who would win, Napoleon said, “The side with the most reserves.” Victory goes to the strongest, if not in men and material, then certainly in mental acumen. NATO kept the peace through strength, a determined deterrent. An ancient aspirant was told, “Be thou strong.” (Ecclesiastics 10:17) Max Heindel’s observation is that “Strong souls are the darlings of the gods.” (*Letters to Students*, page 197) □

—A Probationer

1 Counting degrees and minutes, the square between the NATO Mercury and U.S. Jupiter is closer, but Saturn and Neptune are more powerful, and a conjunction makes a stronger impact than a square.

2 *U.S. News & World Report*, April 29, 1996, page 1

3 Jupiter also was moving across the top of Europe’s Foundation chart. See *Sex and the Outer Planets*, Barbara Watters, page 28.

4 *Astrology: A Cosmic Science*, Isabel M. Hickey, page 196.

5 *Essentials of Astrological Analysis*, Marc Edmund Jones, p. 288