

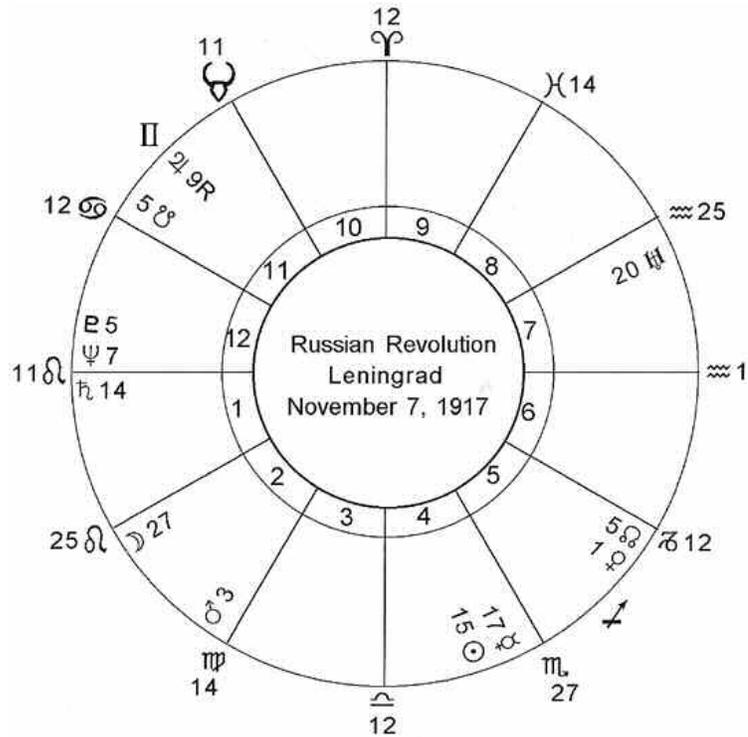
## *Stars Over Russia*

**I**S URANUS POWERFULLY posited in your natal chart? Barring influences to the contrary, your life will tend to run in seven year cycles.<sup>1</sup> Does this also hold true with nations? It certainly does with contemporary Russia. The territory of Russia is ruled by Uranus; also Moscow, the capital.<sup>2</sup> And the flow of events in that vast region during this century, beginning with the inception of Communism in 1917, clearly reveals seven-year periods.

1. The Aries cycle, 1917-24. Aries' ruler, Mars, is the planet of war. The Russian Communist Revolution of 1917 was followed within a few months by an invasion of over a dozen nations to eliminate that new regime, but the half-hearted effort failed.

Mars-ruled Aries is also the planet of pioneering. Not only was Russia the first "modern" country to "adopt" Communism, so a "pioneering" task had to be done there, but at the same time Communist Russia undertook "pioneering" efforts abroad: for a brief period Hungary and Berlin, Germany's traditional capital city, were under Communist sway.

2. The Taurus cycle, 1924-31. Venus, ruler of Taurus, is the planet of peace. Stalin, Russia's dictator after Lenin's death, realized that after World War I, and the anti-Communist invasion thereafter, Russia needed peace. Accordingly, after an internal power struggle with Trotsky, Stalin called off efforts to spread Communism abroad by force of arms. Taurus is also the sign of building, and the Russian government during this time emphasized the need to build Communism at home; it also



launched a huge building program to hasten full industrialization.

3. The Gemini cycle, 1931-38. Gemini is the sign of communication and relationships. Russia had become isolated during the previous two cycles as an international pariah. It was not until this cycle that President Roosevelt established diplomatic ties with Russia in the hope that more trade would speed the demise of the Great Depression. Russia also was admitted to the League of Nations, forerunner of the United Nations.

Not only that, Russia eagerly sought alliances with the West. For in 1933 Hitler had seized power in Germany and his anti-Communist tirades caused Russia to tremble. So it not only sent aid to the anti-Nazi forces in Spain's civil war of 1936-39, but also joined a defensive alliance with France and Czechoslovakia to "contain" Hitler.

4. The Cancer cycle, 1938-45. In 1938 Hitler forced Czechoslovakia to cede him the Sudetenland, part of Slovakia to Hungary, and Teschen to Poland, and in 1939 he grabbed the rest of the

weakened land. Russia refused to intervene because France wouldn't act, and Stalin realized that "the West" was unreliable. So, he decided to build up Russia's defense system alone. Cancer is the sign of home, and Russia's "home base" now became Stalin's main focus. In June, 1941, Hitler attacked Russia, and for 46½ months the defense of "home" was that nation's topnotch priority.

5. The Leo cycle, 1945-52. In mundane astrology, the logo of the predatory lion symbolized imperialism and/or colonialism, which aptly describes Russia's chief activity. It set up its system in Eastern Europe, sought to drive the West out of Berlin, supported the Communist revolution in China as well as North Korea's attack on its neighbor to the south.

6. The Virgo cycle, 1952-59. Stalin died in 1953, succeeded by Khrushchev, who startled the world with a lengthy speech in which he bitterly denounced his predecessor's outrages and promised a more humane regime. Virgo is the sign of criticism, analysis; the world now had the most complete critical analysis of Communism.

7. The Libra cycle, 1959-66. When Cuba went Communist in 1959, the Soviets tried to sneak missiles in to threaten the U.S. This led to the great Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962, with the threat of nuclear war. Both sides realized there would be no real winners, and it was recognized that a mutually agreed balance of power would preserve the peace despite irreconcilable differences. Libra is the sign of the scales, balances.

8. The Scorpio cycle, 1966-73. Overtly, the Russians paid lip service to a balance of power, but covertly they soon set out on a course of conquests. They helped Communist forces in North Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, as well as numerous other parts of the Third World. Scorpio is ruled by Pluto, lord of the underworld and things covert.

9. The Sagittarius cycle, 1973-80. 1973 saw the start of the Watergate Crisis that led to President Nixon's fall from office. Moscow believed this had weakened America, so it embarked on open adventures of aggrandizement; Sagittarius is the adventurous sign. When Portugal's overseas empire collapsed, Russia sent Cuban forces there to establish Communism. And its own army marched into Afghanistan.

10. The Capricorn cycle, 1980-87. Capricorn is the sign of government, and the Kremlin itself now became the focus of global attention. Its leader, Leonid Brezhnev, during a state visit to West Germany, was so feeble he couldn't rise unaided from a chair and died in 1982. He was succeeded by Andropov, who lasted only until 1984; his successor, Chernenko, breathed his last in 1985. He was replaced by Gorbachev, whose plans for the future were highly irregular for an avowed Communist and they startled and puzzled observers worldwide.

11. The Aquarius cycle, 1987-94. Gorbachev was faced not only with the remediless problems of Communism, but also the results of the weaknesses of his three predecessors, the huge costs of the arms race with the West, as well as a national malaise. He realized that extreme situations call for radical measures. He called for *glasnost* (openness) and *perestroika* (reorganization). Those two policies would inevitably bring transformation—a keyword of Aquarius. Boris Yeltsin, who came after him, also tried the same approach.

12. The Pisces cycle, 1994-2001. Pisces' symbol is that of two fishes swimming in opposite directions. What an apt picture of Russia during this epoch! At times one hears of progress toward more freedom and prosperity; then again of rueful retrogression. Pisces' ruler is Neptune, one of whose keywords is *nebulousness*,<sup>3</sup> also a good description of "post-Communist" Russia. Neptune is also lord of the ocean, hence the tides.<sup>4</sup> And we know that unless one looks closely, carefully, and for quite a while, one cannot always tell high tide from low tide.

But the good news is that eventually "the Russian people...will reach a degree of spiritual development which will advance them far beyond their present condition."<sup>5</sup> For centuries they have suffered greatly; under the *Law of Compensation*<sup>6</sup> they surely deserve what is promised here. □

—Dr. Paul Freiwirth

1 *Astrology: A Cosmic Science*, Isabel M. Hickey, page 183

2 *Raphael's Horary Astrology*, Raphael, page 57; *The Compleat Astrologer*, Derek and Julia Parker, page 105.

3 *The Modern Text Book of Astrology*, Margaret C. Hone, page 34.

4 *A to Z Horoscope Maker and Delineator*, Llewellyn George, p. 563.

5 *The Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception*, Max Heindel, page 305.

6 Max Heindel, *op. City.*, page 306.