

ASTROLOGY

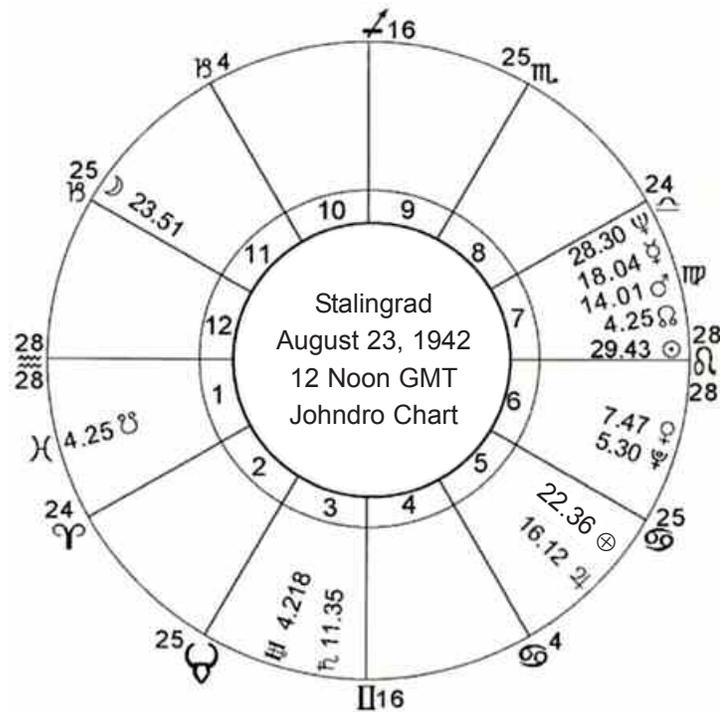
History's Greatest Land Battle

ON AUGUST 23, 1942, 1,000 Nazi planes devastated two thirds of a once beautiful city stretched along 30 miles of Russia's Volga River, signalling the start of the battle of Stalingrad.¹ Some 164 days later, the remnants of a once proud army—it had conquered France in 1940—surrendered. The stars tell why.

The Russians, the defenders, are described by the Descendant. In it, we note the Sun in its own sign, also Mercury thus posited. The latter is flanked by Mars (physical energy) and Neptune (psychical energy, or spirit), all in practical, prudent, dedicated Virgo—a powerful combination: body, mind, and spirit are united. In the chart's 6th house, Russia's 12th, are Venus and Pluto: suppressed emotions. Had the defenders been swayed by feelings—hunger, cold, fear—they would not have survived.

Yet this battle was not so much won by one side as lost by the other, the Germans, who are described by the Ascendant. Its ruler, Uranus, is square the nodes, a fateful indication; its co-ruler Saturn, which is also ruler of the 12th house of self-undoing, is widely conjunct Uranus, both in Gemini and the 3rd house of communications. Gemini, negatively, is the sign of overextension: the Germans lost because of overextended supply lines!

We note the Moon, ruler of Russia's 12th house of secret activities, about to enter Germany's 12th houses her "rear." The Russians moved stealthily, secretively, behind the main body of the Germans' overextended forces, cut them off, and ever after



the question was not if, but when Field Marshall von Paulus would succumb.

Overextension! That caused Hitler to lose the one battle which, more than any other, sealed his doom. The irony is, in World War 1, in which he had fought, the Germans committed the same blunder: their lines were too tenuous during the First Battle of the Marne, which was the battle they needed to win. Hitler claimed to be a student of history: had he never read what happened to the Greeks, the Romans, the Spanish, and other armies because of overextension?

Overextension. How powerful a temptation! In one's personal life, its lure may be due to the fact that the word has something of an innocent ring to it; nowhere does the Good Book say, Thou, shalt not overextend!

But doesn't it? Before we "overextend" financially, we need to read Romans 13:8: "Owe no man anything." Ere we "overextend" by taking on too many activities, the admonition of 1 Corinthians

3:16-17 should be considered: "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God...? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy." For too many activities could undermine our health.

When tempted to overextend we would be wise to ponder Isaiah 54:2: "lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes." The former requires the latter. Thus, Martin Luther wrote that when he was busiest, he prayed 3 hours a day!²

Our Lord once described a man who had "overextended": "He said, this will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater....But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee." (Luke 12:18, 20) Folly, spiritual ruin—that was our Lord's opinion of "overextension." Has it become ours?

1. Since the "De-Stalinization" of the 1950's, Stalingrad has also come to be called Volgograd and appears under that name in many maps.
2. For some sympathetic suggestions on how to avoid "overextension," the reader is referred to Letter No. 54, "Waste Through Scattering One's Forces," in Max Heindel's *Letters to Students*, p. 131. □

—A Probationer

Windows of the Soul

Let there be many windows in your soul
That all the glory of the universe
May beautify it. Not the narrow pane
Of one poor creed can catch the radiant rays
That shine from countless sources.
Tear away the blinds of superstition.
Let the light pour through fair windows,
Broad as truth itself, and high as heaven..
Tune your ear to all the wordless music
Of the stars, and to the voice of Nature;
And your heart shall turn to truth
And goodness as the plant turns to the sun.
A thousand unseen hands reach down
To help you to their peace-crowned heights;
And all the forces of the firmament
Shall fortify your strength.
Be not afraid to thrust aside half-truths
And grasp the whole.

—Ella Wheeler Wilcox

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