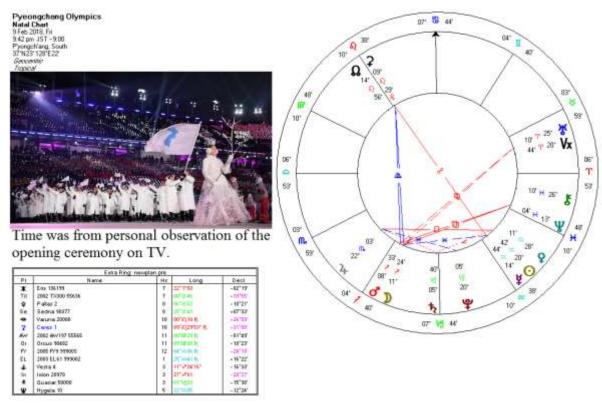
PEACE ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA?

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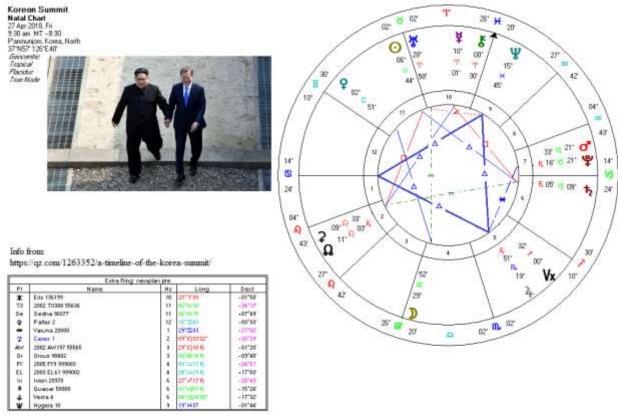
Finally, after nearly seventy years, there are real hopes for peace between the Koreas, and more especially, between North Korea and the US – a final resolution of the Korean Conflict – a war by any other name. At least, many people would like to think so. It has been a long and difficult path, sabotaged at every step of the way until recently for a variety of reasons, not the least of which is the foreign policy of the US toward China and hawkish elements within South Korea. But times do change, and there is new leadership in South Korea – a left-leaning government under the leadership of Moon Jae-in. This, coupled with the fact that North Korea now has a missile capable of reaching anywhere in the US mainland, supposedly capable of being armed with a nuclear warhead, and the fact that over 80% of the Korean public in the South want a peace treaty between the US and the North and rapprochement with the North, means that the US has again been brought to the table. Mix this with a US President who is not afraid to go against the prevailing establishment trends of Washington, and we have what might be called a perfect storm of circumstances. It is a fascinating story, far too involved to go into detail here, but a quick look at the astrology, a tiny bit of history and the context of the trending geopolitical shifts will tell us what likely outcomes to expect, but it will take time. There are several events key to this story. We will start this tale with the Pyeongchang Olympics, which started the process. The chart is below:



The feel for the coming rapprochement began at these Olympic games. Talks had been ongoing beforehand between officials in the North and the South about the possibility of a united Korean team after the North had been invited to participate. And indeed, the two teams marched into the opening ceremony under a unification flag for the two nations. Kim Jong-un's sister was in attendance at the games as emissary for the North, and she was greeted warmly by Moon Jae-in. She was also snubbed by Mike Pence, the US Vice-President. The games were a great success and there were invitations for talks afterward between the two Koreas, resulting in a summit between Kim and Moon, which we will look at little later. As for what the astrology of the Olympics chart indicates, the first thing that stands out in the Aquarian Sun making a bridging conjunction and stellium between the Sun, Mercury and Venus, showing a very idealistic, humanitarian and internationalist event. This is further aided by a sextile between a Moon/Mars conjunction and

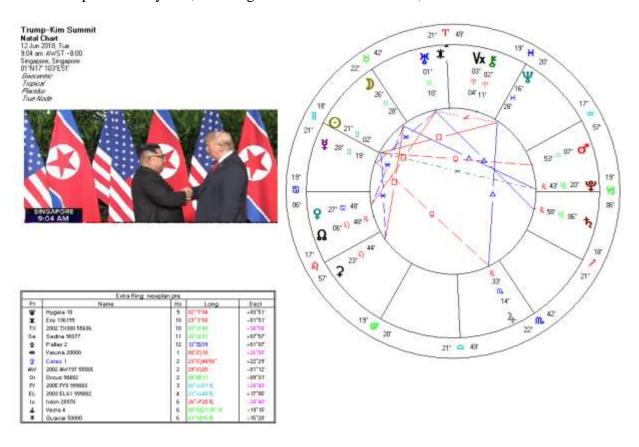
Mercury. The stellium is in the 5th house (entertainments, games, youth and also government officials in the higher houses of parliaments).

The optimism expressed at the games is augmented by the square between the Sun and Jupiter, Jupiter ruling the 3rd house (communications and brotherhood in general), with Jupiter also sextile to Pluto from the 4th house. And, with the ascendant being Libra, the ruler of the ascendant (Venus) being in the stellium in the 5th house, we have overall a figure that indicates goodwill, cooperative efforts and generally a very happy atmosphere, which it was. There was a more sour note indicated by Saturn in hard aspect to all the angles, posited in the 3rd house. Saturn sits at the midpoint of the Sun/Jupiter square, perhaps indicating what we might call "cautious optimism", but Saturn also represents choice and ambition, and there were choices made at these games that were to have possibly far-reaching consequences. As a PR move, it was very well executed by the Koreans on both sides. Pluto on the 4th house sextile Jupiter indicated the talks going on behind the scenes at the games, as well as the successful outcome of those talks. But, in addition to Saturn being placed as it is, we also find the meridian axis at the midpoint of the Sun/Jupiter square, an indication of great success, wealth and happiness. The more negative side of Saturn, in this case, is overridden by the other indicators in the chart and instead indicates an event that went against the established order (Midheaven) and rallied the ambition of the Korean people, in effect, setting a direction for the people involved (in a positive manner) and marking a choice that would be to the benefit of the parties involved. The only sour note in the games was the snub by Pence, himself representing the old order, but that was quickly and duly ignored by the world at large as the games progressed. The success of the games and the accompanying discussions between Koreans led to the first summit between Moon and Kim at the end of April. That chart is below:



Here again, we see a chart that indicates success, happiness and goodwill. It was a feel-good summit. The first indicator of that is the grand trine between Jupiter, Neptune and the Ascendant. Neptune rules the 10th house (the sitting governments). The ruler of the ascendant (the Moon) is sitting on the 4th house cusp (homeland, public opinion and opposition parties) and trine to Venus, one of the most favorable aspects for talks. Venus is in the 11th house (national aims and projects), Venus also being the ruler of that house, and of the Sun-sign (Taurus). The ascendant is conjunct

the star <u>Sirius</u>,² the latter also being part of the grand trine mentioned previously. This is a further indicator of great success and of leadership. We find Mars conjunct Pluto in the 7th house, by itself a possible indicator of tragic conflict, but in this case linked by sextile to Jupiter and the grand trine. What we see in the latter combination, in reality, are the negotiations aimed at *ending* the conflict and tensions that have existed between these nations for almost seventy years. The success of the talks are further indicated by the Sun/Saturn trine (Saturn ruling the 7th house), and the seriousness of them, as well as the depth of concern, indicated by the Mercury/Saturn square. The result of these talks was the <u>Panmunjom Declaration</u>, which set out the intent and aspirations (11th house, again) of the two Koreas into the future. That document is worth reading, as it will be important when considering the outcomes of the Trump/Kim summit. Trump was invited by Kim on March 8th to meet and accepted on May 10th, resulting in the summit of June 12, the chart for which is below:

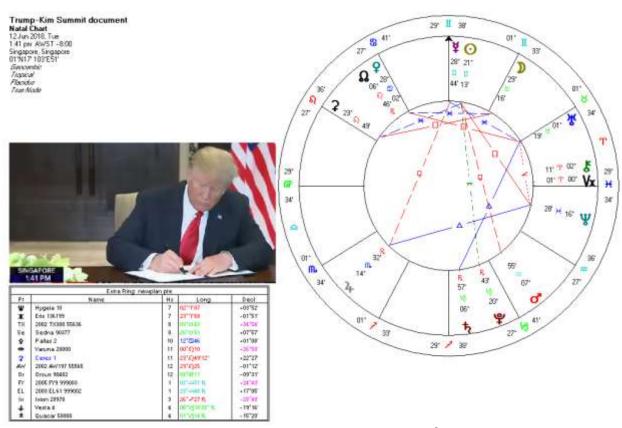


Some very interesting symbolism presents itself in this chart – another one marked for success. To start, the Ascendant is conjunct the star Castor, one of "the quarrelling brothers". ⁴ of the Gemini twins. Up until the start of this year we certainly had the "quarreling bothers" in Trump and Kim, comparing the size of their buttons – nuclear, that is. In addition, this chart is marked as one which will overturn an existing order, or at the very least to shake things up considerably, indicated by Eris in the 10th house conjunct the Aries Midheaven. The success of the endeavor is indicated firstly by the ruler of the Ascendant (the Moon), being in the 11th house (aspirations) and in mutual reception with Venus, ruler of the 4th house (opposition parties and homeland) and the 11th house, plus the Moon and Venus being sextile, indicating strong negotiating positions and the ability to easily and freely talk. This is further enhanced by a trine between the Moon and Pluto (the latter ruling the 5th house). Pluto and Eris play pivotal roles here, in square to each other and with Pluto in hard aspect to all the angles of the chart. This is a chart that fully indicates the end of old conditions, a new contract (Pluto on the Descendant) and an end to or at least lessening of hostilities, with the Moon trine to Pluto, Pluto again on the Descendant (hostilities). There are a couple of caveats here.

There would appear to be some cognitive dissonance between the two camps as well as some fantasy, indicated first by the square between the Sun and Neptune. That dissonance is further

enhance by the sesquisquare between the Sun and Mars, as well as the Pluto/Eris square on the angles. It is also enhanced by a touch of over-optimism, shown by the Mercury/Jupiter sesquisquare. Mercury rules the 12th house, too, as well as the 3rd, which is not the best for communications, and Mercury is in the 12th. The 12th house in mundane charts can indicate subversive influences and secret enemies, among other indicators,⁵ and the press in the US has been particularly strident in its response to this summit, and in its criticism of Trump. Mercury rules the press. At the time of the summit, Saturn was opposing the US Venus/Jupiter conjunction by transit and the Sun was on the US Mars. In addition, there was a nodal axis return and the Ascendant/Vertex axis of the document signing was in the US Midheaven.

It was not a happy day for Washington. Trump's actions at the summit, especially the suspension of the military drills, has greatly angered the establishment in the US. Even the so-called 'liberal media' in the US attacked Trump for it, going so far as to say in one case that it "endangered one of the pillars of US national security", that Kim got suspension of the drills "for free" and that "Russia was behind the summit and the suspension of the drills", all of those statements being patently false and inflammatory. Much of the American reporting played to the sense of American exceptionalism, even to the extent of some commentators complaining that the North Korean and American flags at the summit were placed side-by-side and equally, which one commentator went so far as to call, "a debasement" of the American flag". In reality, such placement is normal flag protocol in times of peace – as in a peace summit.



There was also a propaganda piece that was released in North Korea⁹ by SBS Korean News (not the Australian channel), which was quite extraordinary for many reasons (worth a watch, but be prepared!), showing a triumphant event by the North Korean leader, and which would likely be met with particular anger by opponents of the summit. To the North, then, this was a great victory for Kim Jong-un, finally bringing the Americans to heel in their minds, and many in the US liberal press saw the summit in the same vein. So, the press in both nations was quite active after the fact, and it shows from where opposition to future negotiations is likely to come, predictably. More on that in a bit. At the conclusion of the summit the two leaders signed a broad and indefinite statement of intent of indicating the direction of future talks. The chart is on the previous page:

The 'document chart' is ruled by Mercury, which is placed in the 9th house a degree away from the Midheaven, which it also rules. This was a big media event and many commentators have called the summit a photo-op instead of resembling anything of substance. It was far more substantive than those commentators might suppose, which we will discuss shortly. Of interest to note is that all the angles of the chart are now placed at the final degrees of their respective signs, suggestive of the end of an old order. The aspects are the same as those for the start of the summit. The Moon itself has moved up to the final degree of Taurus. Mercury is sextile Uranus, the latter conjunct the 8th house cusp. Uranus rules the 6th house, which concerns the military among many things, and one of the key takeaways from this summit was that the US would be discontinuing the regular military drills that had caused so much concern for the North Koreans and which had led them to develop nuclear weapons in the first place. Uranus rules technology, bombs and bombing, upsets, overturns and humanitarian pursuits. The 8th house rules death in general, along with the 4th house and international banking. Uranus is well-aspected, though, being trine to Saturn as well as sextile Mercury, indicating positive and hopefully lasting change. On a final note, Chiron is conjunct the Vertex, which is also conjunct the Descendant – a contract for international healing, perhaps? These are the main points for this chart, though there is much more we could say.

The summit has been welcomed by most of the world, but in the US the mainstream media, media 'experts' and Democrats have attacked it, accusing Trump of everything from surrendering to Kim, being naïve, endangering the US/South Korean alliance, of playing up to dictators, of granting a brutal dictatorship legitimacy, of "giving away the store" without getting anything in return". Such comments are ill-informed, play to domestic politics and miss the point. The summit occurred for the two main reasons stated at the outset of this article, but bear reiterating:

- The Koreans on both sides are pushing hard for it. The <u>public in the South</u>¹² is very supportive of this and future talks. There is now a left-leaning government in South Korea that is looking after its people rather than pandering to US interests. After the summit, Moon Jae-in's party won local elections in landslides, further indicating the public support.
- The North Koreans now have a ballistic missile that can reach anywhere the US, supposedly, tipped with a nuclear warhead. North Korea has reached its objective: an effective deterrent to any attack on its territory. It developed nuclear weapons out of necessity, 13 in their eyes.

The US has no recourse now, in any sane analysis, other than negotiating with the North Koreans. These are the two fundamental changes that have taken place in recent months, and which have not been present with past efforts. What emerged from the summit was a 'freeze for freeze' scenario, with both sides having to show good faith. We have seen this attempted before by past administrations, but the conditions were not correct on the South Korean side (conservative, hawkish administrations) and the North had yet to develop its deterrent. The US, in consultation with Chinese authorities, has recognized that "security guarantees" to North Korea were essential for delivering on a denuclearization process for the Korean Peninsula." As a result, at the end of the summit Trump announced a freeze of the military drills on the peninsula. So, it was not Russia that was behind the freeze for freeze, but China instead. Those drills had been timed in the past to coincide with the rice planting and harvesting seasons, which caused great hardship in the North, as their entire military was put on high alert during the drills and were taken away from the rice fields. Having a nuclear weapon also means that the North no longer has to spend so much on its military and can focus instead on its domestic economy, which it sorely needs to do.

From its side, the US has relied on those military drills for defense contracting, for training, and as an excuse to keep troops on the peninsula. Those troops are there as a hedge against China, though, not as a deterrent against North Korea. The <u>South can easily defend itself</u>¹⁵ against the North on its own. It has a modern, well-equipped and well-trained military that is more than a match for the North. Trump's suspension of the military drills has caught the <u>Pentagon and regional allies off</u>

guard¹⁶ and has caused concern among them, with Pompeo having to quickly make the rounds to reassure everyone that security alliances between them are still very much intact. But, this also means that defense contractors in the US will have to find other sales points for their weapons if this continues, and their stocks took a hit¹⁷ after Trump's announcement. Trump has called the drills provocative and very expensive, which they are, and suspended them out of the spirit of the summit. In return for freezing the drills, the North has halted all nuclear and missile testing.

The preceding brings us back to the signed statement, and to the sense of cognitive dissonance this summit has evoked in the minds of many. The statement, "*reaffirms* (sic) the April 27, 2018, Panmunjom Declaration, [and] the DPRK commits to work toward the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula." There are a few key statements in the Declaration between the Koreas:

- The two leaders solemnly declared before the 80 million Korean people and the whole world that *there will be no more war on the Korean Peninsula* and thus a new era of peace has begun.
- South and North Korea affirmed the principle of determining the destiny of the Korean nation *on their own accord*
- South and North Korea agreed to completely *cease all hostile acts against each other in every domain*, including land, air and sea, that are the source of military tension and conflict.
- South and North Korea agreed to carry out *disarmament in a phased manner*, as military tension is alleviated and substantial progress is made in military confidence-building.
- South and North Korea confirmed the common goal of realizing, through complete denuclearization, a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula

To reaffirm this document 18 has many implications and ramifications. To start, the words "complete, verifiable, irreversible denuclearization" were eliminated from the joint Trump-Kim statement, which had been an absolute demand before sanctions are lifted on the North. The preceding statements will not sit well with more hawkish elements, and especially the 2nd point above will not sit well with Washington. But the last point is where the real dissonance comes in. There is no timeline on the statement. But, the document states clearly that there can be no nuclear weapons in the South, either. Washington wants to tie the lifting of sanctions to the complete denuclearization of *North* Korea. China wants to see the troops gone from South Korea, as does the North, in all likelihood, and as does Russia. North Korea will not give up its nuclear weapons so long as there exists the possibility of a threat from the United States, which means at least a peace treaty to formally end the war before the North will even consider dismantling its arsenal. Also, there is wide room for interpretation on what a "phased manner" of disarmament might mean. On the whole, though, the first statement says it all in terms of what is now taking place: A new era of peace has begun. Given all the preceding, then, what might we see in terms of possible outcomes, and what really happened, aside from the reality TV show component of the summit?

- North Korea was legitimized at this summit, even going so far as for Trump to refer to Kim as 'Chairman Kim' rather than 'Little Rocket Man'. North Korea can no longer be seen simply as a pariah, rogue state with whom no one can negotiate. It is now a nuclear power. Kim has shown himself to be, or at least presented himself as, a leader of a state committed to disarmament and to the welfare of North Korea. Over time, other world leaders will be visiting North Korea for business, for agreements and in friendship, most especially China and Russia. 19
- North Korea will eventually be integrated, along with South Korea, into China's Belt and Road Initiative, which will represent a major geopolitical-economic shift in the region. This would have Japan thinking very seriously about its place in the scheme of things. Integration would mean things such as a gas pipeline from Russia, through the North into the South., completion of rail links between the North, South, China and Russia, greatly increased trade and prosperity for the North, and the removal of sanctions, ²⁰ most of which are illegal.

- Russia and China China especially were behind the North Koreans approaching Washington²¹ for the summit. They were the ones pushing for the freeze-freeze agreement. Kim went to China to consult with Xi twice beforehand, which shows the influence that China has with North Korea. He did not travel to Russia. North Korea in all likelihood has firm security agreements with China and probably Russia, too. This will enable the North to more easily give up its nuclear weapons.
- A peace treaty and denuclearization will lessen if not eliminate the stated need for American troops on the peninsula. That prospect alone already has US Senators contemplating introducing <u>legislation that would hamstring any president</u>²² from withdrawing the troops. We are going to see push-back from Congress about any moves toward peace in Korea.
- Trump will face considerable backlash from his dealings with the North from within the US, and to a lesser extent from allies. The media has already started in on him.
- The summit may even inspire similar summits between old enemies, such as <u>India and Pakistan</u>, ²³ for instance. Just imagine!

Two main points emerge from the media coverage in the US and the rantings of the Democrats: The Washington establishment wants the military tensions on the peninsula to continue (the majority of Americans do not) and they want the North Koreans simply to capitulate, to submit to the "Libya model". The idea which has been voiced that somehow the summit weakens the alliance between the US and the South is instead rhetoric that veils the fear in Washington that US troops may have to be removed or very significantly reduced from the peninsula before the North would dismantle its nuclear arsenal. No matter what, if there is to be denuclearization of the peninsula, it would take years, very careful handling, and a minimum of US interference. We can in all likelihood expect the North to keep its arsenal in the next few years at least, rather than expecting a Libya model or Rambouillet ruse being foisted upon them. ²⁵

Regardless, this summit has accomplished two major things already, which are a reduction of tensions on the peninsula in the short term, enabling the North to feed itself at least, and for the rest of us to be able to sleep a little better at night. Kudos to the Koreans, who are the real winners here, and to Trump for bucking the Washington establishment. He has pulled off a coup of sorts in meeting with Kim. We are all winners with this summit and with moves toward peace there, provided they continue. Such a summit probably would not have happened with an establishment President. And much of the criticism of Trump is taking place because, well, Trump did it, with the focus being on the personality of the man and not the act itself. It is simply partisan sour grapes. The losers here are the hawks in Korea, Japan and the US, the mainstream media in the US and the military-industrial complex, along with anyone else who sees moves toward peace on the Korean peninsula as a bad thing or as a loss for the US/win for the North Koreans.

I have read many comments from people saying, in effect, that we have been here before with Korea, that the North Koreans will renege, that the Washington establishment will scuttle the talks, etc. The latter may well turn out to be true, but there are the two main differences stated previously to consider this time, which cannot be ignored and which are not insignificant, plus a President who is willing to buck the established norm in Washington. Among all the things for which people can fault Trump, this is one thing he did to better the world situation, regardless of how we perceive his motives or his methods. The path to peace in Korea will be long and carefully trodden in any case. Provided we have a similarly-minded administration in 2021, and provided the Koreans continue (or are allowed to) on their present path, then we can expect the Koreas to be well on the road to their mutually-aspired objectives in the very near future, as stated in the Panmunjom Declaration, and for all of us to be one step closer to the rapidly evolving multipolar, and more peaceful world.

Malvin Artley
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malvin@malvinartley.com

¹ https://apnews.com/61ff23a76b144e719d62853f48091486/Timeline-of-recent-events-on-the-Korean-peninsula

http://www.constellationsofwords.com/stars/Sirius.html

³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Panmunjom Declaration

⁴ Bailey, Esoteric Astrology, p. 56

⁵ http://malvinartley.com/PDF%20Files/rulerships.pdf

⁶ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TrHHA97jd-c

⁷ http://www.newsweek.com/seeing-us-flag-alongside-north-koreas-was-disgusting-says-ex-cia-official-971645

⁸ https://www.united-states-flag.com/displaying-flags.html

⁹ https://youtu.be/8AwmdHH5-V4

¹⁰ http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/49613.htm

https://consortiumnews.com/2018/06/13/democrats-put-partisanship-before-prospects-for-peace/

¹² http://www.businessinsider.com/trump-kim-summit-what-south-koreans-think-2018-6?IR=T#more-on-the-trump-kim-summit-8

¹³ http://www.moonofalabama.org/2017/04/the-reason-behind-north-koreas-nuclear-program-and-its-offer-to-end-it.html

¹⁴ https://www.rt.com/op-ed/429776-trump-north-korea-deal/

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¹⁷ https://www.investors.com/news/defense-stocks-trump-kim-north-korea-summit/

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¹⁹ http://www.dw.com/en/vladimir-putin-invites-kim-jong-un-to-russia/a-44225601

²⁰ http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2018/06/15/565082/Russia-North-Korea-sanctions

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https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/senators-move-block-trump-removing-us-troops-south/story?id=55866351

²³ https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/asia/trump-kim-summit-us-north-korea-india-pakistan-peace-talks-a8396941.html

²⁴ https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mueller-northkorea-commentary/commentary-forget-the-libya-model-for-north-korea-idUSKCN1IX549

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