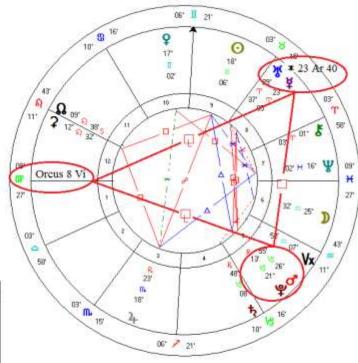
THE ABROGATION OF THE JCPOA AND ITS CONSEQUENCES

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On 8 May 2018, Donald Trump took the United States out of the JCPOA, the nuclear deal with Iran, that had been signed also with Britain, France, Germany, Russia and China. The 'deal-breaker' chart is shown below:





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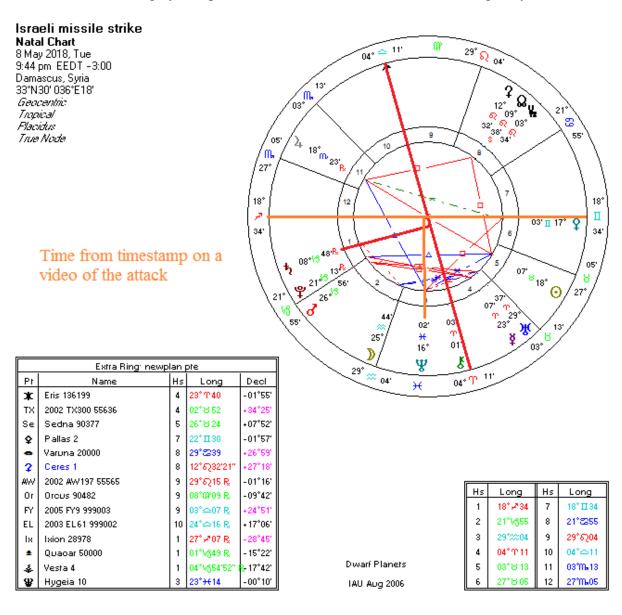
Before we get to how this will affect us, we begin with the following from the <u>Goodwill letter</u> for 2018, where I had posted the following excerpt:

"Orcus was on the ascendant of Trump's announcement, indicating a breach of contract. Additionally, Mercury was conjunct Eris, the "goddess of discord", squaring the midpoint of Mars and Pluto, altogether a most explosive combination. Eris is associated with Mars through her mythology. She is the "goddess who calls forth war and discord" in her lower manifestation. Further, Orcus is said to be the son of Eris² in one accounting. And lastly, the event marks yet another crossroads or turning point in international affairs, indicated by Ceres on the North Node and forming a t-square with the Sun and Jupiter. I won't go into a full analysis here, except to say that foreign influence is strongly indicated, as is the banking sector. This event will likely have quite negative effects for the US, even though many Gulf states, Zionists and Israel will momentarily be gleeful at the prospects." [We can add here that the Orcus/Ascendant conjunction forms a 'finger of the world' configuration with Mercury, Uranus, Eris, Pluto and Mars]

There was also a small spike in sunspot activity at the time, which normally indicates tensions in the world. That spike fell off rapidly in the days following. Fleshing this out a bit more before moving on the wider view, influence by foreign powers was indicated by the 9th house placement of the Sun. Venus, ruler of the 9th and also the 2nd house (banking and bankers) was elevated in the 10th house (the sitting administration, as well as the national reputation), and was square to Neptune, the latter indicating the sullying of the reputation of the US in the eyes of the wider international community. Venus was also linked to Jupiter, the latter ruling the 4th house (opposition parties, the

reputation of opposing nations), indicating the hubris of the event, with Jupiter placed in the 3rd house (media and domestic intelligence services). Another interesting aspect of the chart is the Neptune placement, in the 7th house (enemies of the state), and ruling that house, which can be read in several ways. In this case it represents the <u>fallacious nature</u> of many of Trump's statements in abrogating the agreement, the <u>illusory nature</u> of the threat that Iran poses to either the US, Israel or the wider international community, and being square to Venus, indicates the deceptive nature of why the US was pulled out of the agreement. It is also an aspect that can indicate being betrayed by one's friends or loved ones. Trump is in <u>up to his neck</u> to the banking sector, especially to <u>oil interests</u>, and with whom the Kushner family has also been connected since 2013, and is leveraged heavily in the direction those banking interests lean. Neptune is trine to Jupiter and sextile to Neptune, indicating the successful lobbying of the Trump administration toward abrogating the agreement, and with the Sun (national leaders) ruling the 12th house (hidden enemies of the state, institutions, subversion and mass delusion), that further lends to the thought of probable subversion.

The aforementioned aspects between Mars, Pluto, Uranus and Eris indicated what was to come. Not two hours after the announcement, <u>Israel launched</u> a strike at purported Iranian positions south of Damascus, which was largely unreported in the MSM and was not acknowledged by Israel:



Discussion of this strike will become important later in this piece. We note Neptune squares the horizon and Saturn squares the meridian of that chart. This strike was planned beforehand, indicated by the Saturn square, and was meant to test the Syrians. The fact that it did not escalate further is due to Russian pressure on both sides. Putin told the Syrians it was a trap and not to engage. The trap is indicated by the Neptune square, along with the Saturn. On the day of the Israeli strike Netanyahu was in Moscow for meetings with Vladimir Putin and had viewed the Russian military parade, a visit which in itself appears to have been a successful lobbying effort aimed at preventing Russia from sending its S-300 antiaircraft system to Syria. However, it is reported that Putin had warned Israel³ against escalation of tensions. More than that, though, it shows the importance that Israel places on Russia in the present state of affairs. Netanyahu was in Russia, not the US, when Trump made his announcement. Besides that, Russia has close familial relations with Israel via the fact that 14% of the Israeli population is comprised of Russian expat Jews. Russian-Israeli relations are thus a somewhat complicated affair, given the conflict in Syria.

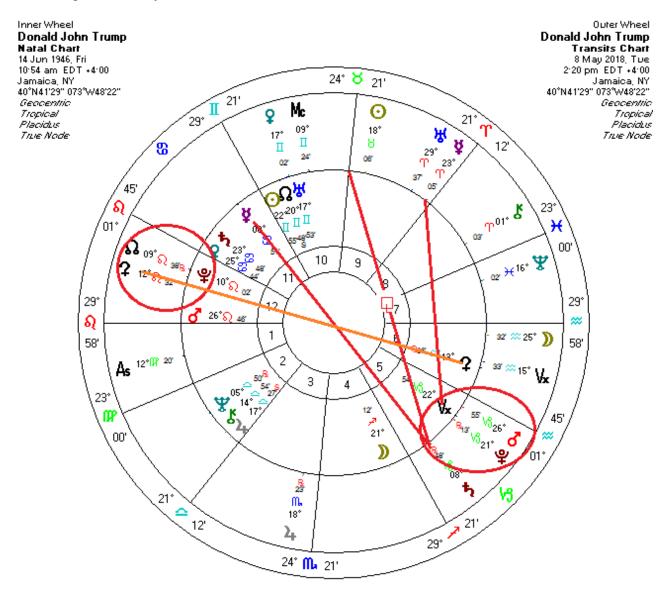
A day later, on 9 May, Israel again launched an attack, this time in Quneitra. On May 10, against the advice of the Russians, the Syrians (not the Iranians, as was reported in Western and Israeli media) launched a missile barrage into the Golan heights, with what was reported in Israeli and Western media to be 20 missiles. The actual figure was more than 50, aimed at four sensitive military installations. Casualties and material damage were reported. Israel then painted this as an 'Iranian aggression'. Israel then retaliated with a larger strike against multiple Syrian positions. After the attack, Israel announced that "there was no further necessity for action", since 'Iranian' objectives had been 'neutralized'. The Golan Heights is Syrian territory, which Israel has been occupying and exploiting since the 1967 war, so the Syrians had every justification in striking back. Half of the Israeli missiles were either shot down or diverted. The Israeli announcement about the success of their counterstrike was very similar to Trump's announcement in April that all of the 103/5 missiles had hit their mark in the strike against Syrian chemical weapons sites. Both announcements were false and clear propaganda, meant to bolster support and calm the public.

There is much more to these events than meets the eye, some of which will be addressed later in this piece. But, the immediate goal of the Israelis is to drive Iranian forces out of Syria in the near future, to weaken Syria so that Israel can retain the Golan and to oust Assad, hopefully to be replaced with a government more Israeli-friendly. What we see in the preceding exchanges and their reporting is a clear attempt to paint the counterattack by Syrian forces as 'Iranian aggression' in Syria, in order to try to justify Israeli actions in Syria. This sort of misinformation and media bias will more than likely escalate over the coming months. There is a far more significant point to be noted here, though: The Syrians have taken matters into their own hands with their counterstrike, demonstrating that they will no longer tolerate Israeli strikes in their territory. It also probably demonstrates that the Golan Heights will at some point be targeted for recapture by Syrian forces. The rules of engagement between Syrian and Israel have now changed. Israeli military forces can no longer expect to act with impunity in Syria. Further such actions may come at a cost. This is but one of the unintended side effects of Trumps withdrawal from the JCPOA. It has certainly thus far backfired on Israel, who had prompted Trump to leave the deal. Israel has launched over 100 such attacks on Syrian territory and forces since the start of this so-called civil war.

Then, there is Trump, and how he is currently being affected. From the Gemini letter again, we have the following:

"It is very clear from his astrology that Trump is being played by powerful people, indicated by transiting Pluto on his Vertex, retrograde Saturn transiting opposite his Mercury, transiting Mars opposite his Venus, the latter ruling his 10th house (his public image), and with transiting Neptune squaring the ruler of his 7th house (agreements), Uranus. There is also a solar arc of Uranus to his Mars (indicating probable reckless actions) and a solar arc of Mercury to his Uranus."

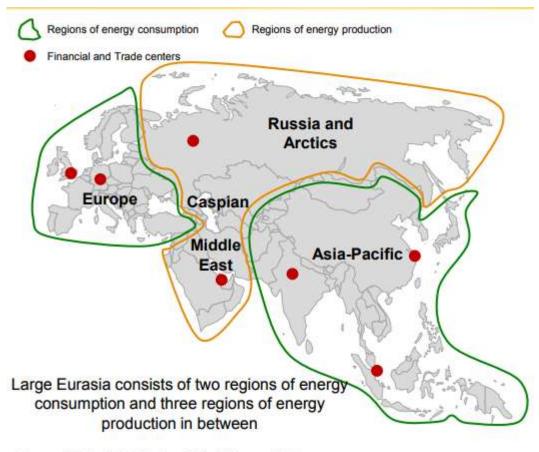
We note also two additional factors. Transiting Saturn is sesquisquare to Trump's Midheaven, and there is a transiting Ceres opposition across his 6/12 house axis. Transiting Saturn is in his 5th house, which rules children and administration officials aside from the President. Probably the two most influential people at Trump's ear in the US at this time, especially regarding Israel and Iran, are Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner and John Bolton, Trump's National Security Advisor. Now, by rights, son's and daughter's-in-law are indicated by the 11th house (partners of one's children), but given Ivanka Trump's influence on her father it is probably not a stretch to include Kushner in the picture. Plus, Trump's natal Mercury is in his 11th house, and Mercury indicates young people, among many other things. The Kushner family, in addition to their business ties with Israel, are close personal friends with the Netanyahu family, all of which the Israelis had sought to exploit. The heavy influence of these people on Trump is indicated by the transiting Saturn in Trump's 5th house, affecting also his public face (10th house), opposing his Mercury, as if telling him, or controlling, what to say.



The Cerean opposition to its own place indicates a turning point for Trump, and it is conjunct his natal Pluto, which is in the 12th house natally. The 12th house can indicate self-sabotage as well as institutions and blackmail (or influence counter to one's wishes at the very least), among a host of indicators. If all this sounds negative, then the summary to come later will show the reasons for saying so. This brings us to a very important consideration regarding Trump and confirms the natal chart as shown above.

Trump's *modus operandi* when he wants something done is based on his belief that 'power works', indicated by his bellicose rhetoric and coming from his Mars on his ascendant in the 12th house. Trump's Mars was opposed by the transiting Moon on the day of his announcement. But, that 12th house placement of Mars also carries the unintended consequence of foot-in-mouth syndrome or of 'shooting oneself in the foot'. He has made three important decisions based upon that belief that 'power works': to withdraw the US from the JCPOA, his belief that his bellicosity towards North Korea is what has brought them to the negotiating table, and his trade war with China. We have just examined the immediate effects on Israel of his withdrawal from the JCPOA, although we cannot blame Israel's actions on Trump, but their purposes are intermixed with those of the Trump administration and previous administrations as well. His MAGA⁵ campaign and subsequent actions after taking office primarily reflect this power dynamic. Negotiation is seen as weakness, unless he is the one forcing someone else to the negotiating table. This is what he believes to be the case with the Koreas. He also believes the same toward Iran.

Trump believes that North Korea has surrendered to pressure from the US, and that is the reason for their talks. He is more than likely about to be proven wrong in his belief. His bellicosity likely did play a small role in that, but the rapprochement between the Koreas has been a long time in coming and conditions were ripe for it, regardless of whether or not Trump had been in office. He also likely believes that his trade war with China will force China toward negotiations, but that, too, is unlikely. And then, he has been influenced to believe the fable that Iran is a serious threat to the region and especially to Israel, whereas in point of fact, Iran has only advisory staff in Syria, has no real influence in Yemen, and while it supports Hezbollah, the latter is a force in its own right, without the support of Iran. As well, it is no longer the major supporter of Hamas. Turkey and Qatar are now their biggest supporters. Apparently there are more Hezbollah fighters in Syria than there are Iranians. So, why all this focus on Iran, Syria and Israel at this point in our history? A picture is worth a thousand words, as the saying goes:



Source: BP Statistical Review of World Energy 2016

From the map preceding, certain points immediately stand out, digressing momentarily from Trump:

- Europe and Russia are closely linked in terms of energy supplies. It is in Europe's interest to make peace with Russia to ensure a stable energy supply and in Russia's interest to be more integrated with Europe, in a spirit of cooperation. That will take time.
- Iran is the 'choke point' between the south-Asian energy producers and the 'Stans and Caucasus region. It, along with Syria and Iraq, isolate the Arabian peninsula from the north and the west.
- China is a natural match with Russia for energy supply. India and Pakistan are natural matches with Iran in the same vein.
- A greater Eurasian union would ensure a stable energy supply for all nations concerned and trade routes (re: China's Belt and Road) for both Europe and Asia, providing for a powerful economic bloc that would compete with Western economic interests and eventually dwarf them. Europe is eyeing that union with great interest, as is Oceania and Southeast Asia.
- The Korean peninsula is also a natural match with Russia in terms of energy supplies, as is Japan. Korea, too, would become an even more powerful economic player in the years to come. The US would very much like to see a united Korea, but under American control.

From the preceding points, then, we can probably safely engage in a bit of speculation here. Given Iran's position on the map as a 'choke point' in the energy-producing regions, it is perhaps not difficult to see why the US in particular, and Britain and France secondarily, would want to see a Western-friendly government in Tehran. If that map were to be extended, that energy-producing region would also reach down into northeast Africa. Thus, we had the Bush II era doctrine of regime change for seven countries in five years, ending with Iran. A successful execution of that plan would have secured the entirety of northeast Africa and southern Central Asia under the umbrella of American and British domination and control, thus isolating Russia and China. The only other major outlier in that equation in Venezuela, which the US has been trying to overthrow for some years now, but which Venezuelans still resist. However, the situation in Venezuela is looking increasing bleak and unstable, with support from Russia and China falling off recently, and with increasing belligerence from the US and neighboring South American states.

But perhaps the biggest take from this map is that regime change in Iran toward a more Western-friendly government would disrupt the greater Eurasian union for the time being and also China's Belt and Road initiative, which sees Iran as a key player in that plan. Thus, a larger plan by Washington emerges, and we can see it in the moves and media campaigns against Iran and Russia in particular, and to a lesser extent against China. The end game for the West, in particular the US, is to isolate China and bring it 'down to size' and to attempt to reduce Russia to the status of a "gas station". The main goal for the Trump administration for the remainder of this year is regime change in Tehran through economic pressure. Sanctions are set to come into effect on 4 Nov 18. Prior to that date we can probably expect things to go on as they have been. After that, if Rouhani is still in government at that point, we may hear calls for a larger conflict.

So, to tie all this together, then, what will be some of the likely results of Trump's abrogation of the JCPOA, along with other seemingly isolated, but in fact connected, events? We have the following:

• Europe increasingly moving away from the US and beginning to actively oppose US measures that go against European interests. The abrogation of the JCPOA by Washington has made for bad blood with European partners and only cemented the realization for Europeans that Europe needs to be independent of Washington's influence. This will include increasing rapprochement with Russia over time, and moves toward China's Belt and Road.

- The isolation and endangerment of Israel. Israel now finds itself in an increasingly precarious position from the standpoint of security. It's recent massacre of innocent protesters at the Gaza border fence has shown its hand and has drawn international condemnation, souring any gains it had made with Arab neighbors recently. Its strikes into Syrian territory will be tolerated less and less, referring to the missile strike discussion previously. Much of the international community condemned the US move of its embassy to Jerusalem under Trump's direction. Any further hostilities will only strengthen the resolve of neighboring states to bring Israel to heel. Syria will eventually move on the Golan Heights. What then?
- There will <u>not likely be any major escalation</u> in conflicts until November of this year, if then. Much of that will depend on how Europe and Iran can come to agreements on trade.
- Sanctions against Iran will only <u>drive it further</u> into the greater Eurasian union, will <u>rally Iranians</u> around their government and probably cause regime change alright toward the hardliners, more likely than not. And if they restart their nuclear program, what then? Europe would not be so likely to back US intervention on Israel's behalf, Israel will not go it alone, and Russia and China would be allied with Iran. Besides, Europe at the moment stands firmly with the JCPOA, seeing it as their best bet for security. No good, solid reason has been given as to why Trump saw the JCPOA as a bad deal.
- The withdrawal will cause <u>unintended economic backlash</u> against the US and move the world even further toward multipolarity. Europe has decided to <u>trade oil with Iran in Euros</u> instead of dollars, a major snub of Washington, as a result of the abrogation.
- The US has lost face in the international community. The JCPOA was probably the most restrictive such nuclear agreement in history, and Iran was in full compliance. The US is now seen to be an unreliable negotiating partner.
- The abrogation endangers the rapprochement talks between the Koreas, unless the Koreans decide to go it alone in defiance of the US. It is not so far-fetched a notion. Russia and China both are keen to see the Koreans succeed. And if they have Kim's back, things are indeed about to get very interesting on the Korean peninsula. There would be no Peace Prize for Trump if that were to be the case. North Korea has just suspended talks with South Korea due to continuing joint US/SK military drills, for instance.
- Higher energy prices. Any major uncertainty in the Middle East has the carry-on effect of
 driving up oil and gas prices. This in turn will only aid Iran and Russia, as it puts more
 money in their coffers, provided they can sell their oil and gas, which is increasingly the
 case.
- <u>Trade wars</u> and sanctions by the US will cause spikes in prices for consumer goods worldwide and only encourage the sanctioned countries and companies to seek other avenues for goods and services. Who does this really help? Certainly not the US. Trump has <u>announced economic sanctions</u> on Germany if they continue with the Nord Stream II project, for instance.
- <u>De-dollarization</u> on an increasing scale and nations abandoning US Treasuries (national IOUs). This means countries setting up their own <u>independent SWIFT</u>⁶-like monetary exchange systems and the end of the dollar-based system as it currently stands. We already have these between China and Russia, India and Iran, Japan and Russia, for instance. These moves will be part and parcel of the Uranus transit through Taurus, starting next year. Watch for the economic reality to really begin to bite in the next months.

There is <u>another article</u>, which explains in more depth what we are likely to see economically in the next year or two as a result of Trump's actions. His moves have played largely to domestic politics and to his backers/financial handlers. His greatest weakness is his vanity and his need to appear strong, shown by the nature of the Mars on his Leo ascendant – we must say, the lowest expression of Leo. We are likely to see changes of government in many countries if Trump's administration continues along its present line because of the economic hardships such policies will produce, but

one of those will not likely be Iran. Trump's world view is not that of a statesman, but of a mercantilist, and adventurist entrepreneur. It is not the era of post-Cold War Russia any longer. Russia has found her stride and her pride again. China's economy at least equals that of the United States. Any solidarity the US had with the rest of the world post-9/11 is fading very quickly. And the economic policies of the West, of free market capitalism, are biting hard now on many home fronts, with public discontent rising sharply and the rise of nationalist parties internationally. The world is a very different place now than it was just a few short years ago, and is about to become quite a bit more different yet again, and more than likely *not* in the interests of the United States. And because of the US backing out of the JCPOA, the Middle East is about to see dramatic shifts in the balance of powers in that region, with Israel probably to become the biggest loser, and with violence on the increase, referring back to the 'deal-breaker' chart and the discussion of the missile strikes immediately following the abrogation of the deal. It is going to be a bumpy ride. Hold on to your hats! This one act by Trump and his administration has altered the course of world affairs for years into the future.

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16 May 18
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¹ Homer, *Iliad* 4. 441 ff (trans. Lattimore). See also: http://www.theoi.com/Daimon/Eris.html

² Hesiod, *Theogony*. 231, Op. 209; *Herodotus*. vi. 86. § 3 See also: http://www.theoi.com/Daimon/Horkos.html

³ http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/57441 4th paragraph, diplomatically stated, which Netanyahu ignored.

⁴ http://aliceportman.com/what-is-the-vertex/

⁵ "Make America Great Again"

⁶ Starting around 10:30