

THE ARIES FESTIVAL 2018

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"There is nothing more deceptive than an obvious fact"
Sherlock Holmes¹

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Greetings Everyone!

Recent reflections on 2025: I recently gave a talk for the Pisces full moon that focused on the state of world affairs. As I was preparing for the talk it became very clear to me the extent to which international relations will be changing dramatically in the immediate future, and we will get to why I would say that after a look at the full moon of Aries. But there was more to what emerged from my preparations than simply the changing face of the world, and it relates to a few quotes about what we can probably expect in our emerging world order and global community by [the year 2025](#). In that regard, and in doing research for these letters in the past years, I feel more encouraged by what I see now than I have in some years. The reason for that sense of encouragement relates to events that have taken place in recent months, on top of everything else. In this letter I have departed somewhat from the format in last letters, in that I have hyperlinked articles and graphics in this letter rather than citing endnotes, which would have taken up another page. I would encourage readers to go to those links, as they will go toward explaining much of what will be outlined. It will take time, but it will be time well-spent, unless we want to stay in the comfort of our personal opinions and echo chambers.

To readers of Alice Bailey's books, with which most readers of these letters are familiar, 2025 has greater than the average significance, because it marks a turning point for humanity, with the rapid passing out of old influences and the slow appearance from that year onwards of what would be called in our modern vernacular, "beauty out of chaos",² or words to that effect. The latter relates to a subjective planetary cycle, otherwise known as a ray cycle,³ of which there are many. These do have their effect, especially as they influence consciousness. But because they do influence our consciousness, they also have the carry-on effect of influencing and guiding world events. As we are becoming increasingly aware of the power of the mind, we are finding increasingly that energy follows thought. This is a theme that would be helpful to keep in mind as we read on, and which has a particularly strong connection with Aries. It also relates strongly to the work to be done in the intervening years, which is the dispelling of illusions and glammers, as well as putting into play a

more positive outlook amongst the public and a vision to the emerging Aquarian Age. (Read the hyperlinked paper, above, to get the overall view.)

Aries, the new and the coming world order: The Aries interval each year starts a new spiritual cycle, with the peak impulses for the year, coming with the full moons of Aries, Taurus and Gemini. With that in mind, these letters this year will focus on the various emerging realities in many fields of human activity as they relate to the twelve zodiacal signs. This particular letter will focus later on what has emerged from the past year and how it sets the tone for the next years. And, in terms of the year as a whole, it may interest you to watch a ([video](#)) outlining what is likely to emerge in terms of world events over the next decades, aside from geopolitics. To be clear, we are now witnessing in real time (if there is such a thing) what to many will be very disturbing events. However, what those events are leading us toward is a multipolar, more peaceful and equitable planet. A human analogy to what we are seeing now would be something in the nature of a ‘healing crisis’, wherein a disease or condition suddenly appears to get worse, but then subsides just as quickly as the body balances itself. Except in this case, that healing crisis is on a planetary scale. It has manifestations in all areas of human and planetary life.

We have focused on geopolitics to a great extent in these letters for the past few years and I keep trying to get away from it. But given the pace and nature of events in the those years, people have asked me what I have seen around events and I have done my best to respond. We can begin to move on from that as a more central focus now. I made an outline in the nature of notes of what 2025 represents, what the legacy of the Piscean Age has bequeathed us and the major areas of change that are upon us leading into the Aquarian Age, which you can see ([here](#)). It is only 44 pages (joking, but not). Use it only for reference if you care to look, as it is more in the nature of seed ideas than explanation. But, I will be pulling ideas out of those notes as themes for these letters as the year progresses. With these points being made, we move onwards to Aries and what it represents for us.

Aries, orthodox and esoteric: Aries is the first sign of the zodiac in our current understanding. It is the sign that denotes commencement, new activities, spring in the northern hemisphere, thus the surge of new growth, the birth of animals, the movement of the sun northwards and the consequent thawing of the winter cold. In the southern hemisphere the physical manifestation is in opposite, but we are talking here of a general theme, especially as it relates to one’s outlook. Therefore, Aries is associated with a fresh outlook on matters, in the common interpretation a “Me first!” attitude. Aries types have a demeanor that is great at starting initiatives, or trouble, but not necessarily in finishing them, unless the luminaries receive aspects that mark one as being more ambitious and patient. It can be an unpredictable expression in that respect, because the more Martian aspect of Aries (its orthodox ruler) can be quite impulsive, forceful, careless of outcomes, courageous sometimes to the point of foolishness, but always indefatigable. If you want to get something started in a big way, talk to an Aries and get them inspired. They will take an idea and run with it. Paradoxically, one of the great gifts of Aries is precisely its ability to stir things up. Why this is so will become apparent as we go on.

When the Aries type is more spiritually focused, the outlook changes and becomes more Mercurial. Mercury is the guiding force and ruler of Aries on the spiritual path – its esoteric ruler⁴ – although Mars is still very active as well. Mercury transmits the fourth ray of harmony through conflict, and thus ‘leads Aries into the Mysteries’,⁵ or onto the spiritual path. In that expression, the Aries type can express a lot of color in their life (or otherwise be a ‘colorful personality’), will love a tune, actually requiring music in their life through producing it or simply enjoying it, will vacillate between periods of relative quietude and activity, and will otherwise be inclined toward all modes of communication and dialog, represented by Mercury. Mercury leads us to the esoteric motto of Aries: “I come forth and from the plane of mind I rule.”⁶ The Aries type under the influence of Mercury is enthusiastic in their pursuit of wisdom, even to the point of forcefulness. But perhaps the

aspect of Aries that interests us most with regard to this letter is what we could call ‘the pursuit of better conditions’, which is the ultimate aim of Aries, meaning a freer expression of one’s spiritual potential. And this brings us to the highest, we might say universal ruler of Aries, which Uranus, thus relating this sign in an intimate manner with that of the incoming Age of Aquarius, also ruled by Uranus.

Uranus “...gives innate spontaneous activity and this produces evolutionary development – both natural and spiritual. It is the urge to better conditions.”⁷ Perhaps in this statement we see the origins of the often spontaneous nature of Aries, their great desire for freedom of expression, their constant search for the next, newest thing or idea, and so forth. It is also the reason, universally considered, why some of the great pioneers in human thought have had Aries prominent in their makeup. When this urge gets stepped down to Mercury, it gives birth to a flurry of activity and ideas, often quite abstract in nature, flashes of intuitive insight (Mercury is connected with *buddhi*, or intuition), and fluid in execution. In art it gave us the likes of da Vinci and van Gogh. In music it gave us Stokowski and Johann Bach. In stage and screen it gave us Spike Milligan and Charlie Chaplin, Francis Ford Coppola and Robert Downey, Jr. In astrology it gave us Dane Rudhyar. In literature we had Tennessee Williams and William Wordsworth. And these are just a few from the sun-signs. These are people who changed our world view and who pioneered in their fields, adding much to our culture in the process. And there is a long list of such, in both the sun sign and the ascendant. They also did something more: They established new standards, and high ones, new benchmarks toward which those who followed could aspire and hopefully transcend. Therein is the promise and gift of Aries when channeled to its highest expression. It also applies to the coming Age, as exemplified in the unpredictable but always saving force of Uranus.

From Pisces to Aquarius: the promise: So, in these years immediately ahead, and indeed in the decades to come, we should keep our eyes open to incoming new standards as the Uranian influence of the slowly unfolding Age opens before us. The bar will be raised higher and higher as the years unfold, but we are up to it. It is the nature of the human soul to excel and to seek freer expression, and that is the world toward which we are moving. Our old social and international orders, gifted to us through the passing Piscean Age, are quickly crumbling. They no longer suit us, and this introduces uncertainty and fear in the minds of people who cannot see a wider purpose behind it, nor the opportunity presented by the incoming energies. These energies will produce a more ordered, equitable, peaceful social landscape, wherein our individual unique abilities will be honored and which we can explore more fully, free of the overt materialism and stultifying need to slave away just in order to pay the bills or even to survive. We are facing drastic changes in the years ahead. That is cause for celebration and inspiration, rather than fear and loathing. More than that, these changes should motivate us to explore our potential and share that with those in our communities, enabling others in kind. At its highest, Aries is an inspiration to us all, a call to the soul, a call to excel. With that let’s explore the full moon and what lies immediately ahead in our quickly changing world.

The full moon of Aries takes place on 31 Mar 18 this year at 12:37 UT (8:47 PM AEST). Before we get to that, though, we have just had the ingress of the Sun into Aries, marking the entry into the high point of the year and the tone for the first quarter of the astrological year – Aries, Taurus and Gemini. In the [ingress figure](#) we find a very Aries-like configuration, with Mars squaring the Sun, approaching a conjunction with Saturn. There is a square between Mercury and Pluto. The Moon is square to Ceres and at the bending of the nodal axis. The Sun is also in a separating trine from Jupiter. In all, this indicates a restive quarter, albeit within a solar minimum period. What we can expect overall in this quarter is a period of polemics, high rhetoric, flash points in various parts of the world, but no major conflicts. More on that later. We already see the polemics and rhetoric in places like the UK and the US.

As to [the full moon](#), we also find a similar situation to that of the quarter, but more pronounced. Mars has moved to its conjunction with Saturn, forming a t-square with the full moon axis. This will strongly affect the US, with the Mars/Saturn opposite the US Sun. The Sun rules the house of foreign relations and the judiciary in the US horoscope. When Mars was approaching the square of the US meridian, we saw the firing of Rex Tillerson and the subsequent firing of Andrew McCabe – changes or militancy within the sitting administration, and also the fiery rhetoric about Syria and Russia in the UN from Nikki Haley, the US ambassador to the UN. Mars will directly oppose the US Sun in the first half of April, at the same time squaring the US Saturn. That also means that sometime later transiting Saturn will be making its lower square to the US Saturn. Suffice it to say, from now until the end of this year will be a restive period in the US. It also marks a period of desperation for certain factions in the US, which is one of the reasons we are seeing so much posturing at the moment. And Saturn will square the US meridian in October at its retrograde station. When Saturn was first there Trump was talking about his large nuclear button, with the heightened threats to North Korea, the *Fire and Fury* flurry was taking place and so forth. These points about the US will have a bearing on what we will cover shortly.

As for individuals, this full moon could bring some breakthroughs in initiatives and understandings. Mars conjunct Saturn can be used as a powerful focalizing force, and when square to the Sun and the Moon, can bring success in the area of one's choosing. It gives the ability to set aside emotional concerns, strong ambition and great creative potential. In a sense, it is the perfect accompaniment to this Aries period for those with a mind toward achieving objectives. So, take advantage of the opportunity and press ahead if this full moon falls on your luminaries or angles. But by the same token, handle the energies with care!

Recent shifts: Russia: Moving on to events, then, we will not focus on the more warlike aspect of Mars here, except in passing. But certain points are worth consideration. Firstly, in keeping with the geopolitical shifts that typically take place in [Mountain Dog](#) years, we have recently witnessed such a shift, and probably the most significant one in recent memory. It relates to the nuclear balance of power in the world, among other military matters, especially between the US and Russia. But it was [downplayed](#) in the US media, if not outright dismissed as an election stunt by Vladimir Putin, who [was just re-elected](#). It has been said that denial is the [first stage of grief](#). Denial can also be a sign of stupidity, hubris or willful ignorance. In what we are about to consider, we can probably have credible that such denial is the result of accurate intelligence. We'll have more on the latter point in the future.

In his [state of the union speech](#) to Russia earlier in the month, Putin revealed what the Russian military-industrial sector had developed in a relatively short amount of time, and why they did so, and it essentially points to the fact that all the Western missile defense systems (which can also be used as first strike systems) have been rendered useless. The nuclear balance of power (mutually assured destruction, or MAD) has [just been restored](#), according some sources I have read. Yet, according to others, that balance of power has remained in place, but had been replaced dangerously in the Washington mindset by an illusion of American superiority. If so, then why would we (the US) need to upgrade the nuclear arsenal? The US has been keen to be able to eliminate the ability of Russia to strike back against large scale military intervention by the West for some time, which is the true purpose of the missiles on Russia's borders. Russia has seen this as a very aggressive move by the US and NATO, and has responded to the perceived threat.

We won't go into what all those new Russian weapons systems are. The most interesting thing about it perhaps, is the denial that Washington and the mainstream media has evidenced about them. But here is a question: if they are not real, and if there is to be a new arms race, then why is Russia *decreasing*⁸ its defense spending and turning its focus on to domestic matters, as outlined in Putin's speech? As well, why is [there an effort](#) by a few members of the US Congress, Bernie Sanders among them, to re-open nuclear negotiations with Russia, based upon Putin's speech? This

disclosure by Putin, once their existence is proven, will eventually force the major nations of the world to again sit down at the table and restore the nuclear ABM treaty that was [abrogated](#) by the US in the first years of this century. That effort by Sanders and Co. has received little to no attention in the corporate press. Putin has been blamed in the US for starting a new arms race, instead, but the more likely result in the future will be forced negotiations after the realization of what all this means finally sinks in, if it does sink in.

Weapons as a way to peace?: But there is something else in Putin's address that is perhaps of even greater significance, and which is actually more hopeful, strange as that may sound. If the Russian and soon-to-be operational Chinese hypersonic missiles prove effective, then the massive surface naval fleets the US has in its arsenal would also be [rendered useless](#), and sitting ducks in the world's oceans, at least for the foreseeable future. What we are seeing are the first gleanings of an eventual move toward world disarmament if all this proves out. This also has a great occult significance, though. It means that warfare is quickly being taken out of the water and into the air – from the astral realm to the mental – and that in itself can be far more dangerous, or far more of a deterrent, depending on how it is used. The mind can be either a great liberator when used in service and investigation, or the great enslaver when it becomes trapped in personal desires and reactions.

These new weapons also mean that, unless a system can be found quickly to counteract these missiles, any spending on large battle cruisers and aircraft carriers is pointless, and even more, downright wasteful. It is quite unlikely the US can find a countermeasure prior to other events taking place, and especially prior to 2025. We could also argue that such military spending is already wasteful. The billions of dollars spent on such vessels can be better used at home for infrastructure, for instance, which would do far more for domestic security than floating fortresses. Carrier groups are about to go the way of the old medieval castle and full body armor, as happened after the cannon and firearms came into use. I pass these decaying medieval relics on a daily basis, reminders of the insanity of warfare. These new weapons have a similar connotation. And lastly, rather than being seen as offensive weapons, nuclear weapons are actually more of a deterrent to war, and should be seen as an opportunity to negotiate peace.

The future of warfare: public opinion: In reality, future wars will more likely be fought through manipulation of public opinion, in the mental/emotional realm, as we saw with the recent color and Arab Spring revolutions. These are largely fomented now through various NGOs (non-governmental organizations), as was done by the CIA in the past, such as the [National Endowment for Democracy](#) for instance, which played a large role, unreported in large part, in the [Ukrainian Maidan uprising](#). Military force from outside would be used only as a last resort if the planned revolutions fail, as we saw in [Syria](#). If the preceding scares us, it shouldn't. It should motivate us instead to vote out the people who would lead us there. But the propaganda will surely try to lead us there. And for anyone who would advocate such military actions 'on humanitarian grounds' or otherwise, there is a [video](#) you need to watch. It will change your mind about war and the idealism that is manipulated us to get there. But aside from the preceding, as frightening as it might sound, what all this means in truth is that we are moving toward a multi-polar world, with war eventually being set aside, and new models of international relations which are more peaceful.

Propaganda and our beloved social media: It would probably be helpful if we take a moment to address this issue of propaganda and how it affects us, given that the main occult theme from now until 2025 is the dispelling of glamour. There are many experiments going on with the uses and abuses of media in the shaping of public opinion, [especially with social media](#). There are many examples we could cite: [Operation Mockingbird](#) (print and mainstream media), [recent abuses](#) that have come out regarding [Facebook](#), Russia-gate, China's [social credit experiment](#) and the obvious abuses and state control mechanisms that will unleash on China's citizens (*1984*, anyone?), Canada's [Carrot Rewards](#) (of interest, registered by a crowd called '[social change rewards](#)'), [Cambridge Analytica](#), [the curious case of Qanon](#) and all the carry-ons from that one, algorithms

and AI (artificial intelligence) used in Google, Facebook, and so-forth. And these are just to cite a few examples. A study of the astrology of the linked charts is revealing in terms of the purpose of their web presence, and it is on my list of things to do. For now, I can only furnish the charts, but they are quite telling.

For the unsuspecting public and for those who choose not to educate themselves about such matters, these media platforms provide rich and very potent propaganda tools. They can be used for good or for ill. These can also be seen as a great tool for training in common sense and seeing behind the emotional pull that many of these platforms try to evoke from people, if one is on a path toward a more spiritual mode of living. They can also be seen by more nefarious factions as a means for manipulating public opinion and for manufacturing consent for actions that would otherwise be unpalatable to the public, such as going to war, for instance. There is a clue in this: If we have a knee-jerk reaction to something we hear or read, especially a negative one, there is probably something there about which we need to educate ourselves.

This leads to our main consideration for the remainder of this letter. The idea of more peaceful relations is not based in any sort of optimism. It is based in observations of what is unfolding and is unstoppable, given our current state of affairs. Why I say this is as follows: We have been conditioned – brainwashed, really – in the West, and in the US especially, to see nations such as China, Iran and Russia as threats. Any nation that opposes the think tanks in Washington, London, *et al*, draws the ire of the those establishments, thus influencing foreign policy. China and Russia have recently been characterized by the Washington establishment as [‘revisionist powers’](#), with the focus of the US shifting away from attention on terrorism and towards ‘great power competition’. But are such nations actually threats? Who have they threatened militarily, except in the nature of defensive actions if attacked themselves? Instead, what we see is that those nations hold out proposals to peaceful relations, to be consistently ignored or knocked back in the West. But that is changing. China and Russia especially are a concern to the corporate interests in the US.

We will focus a bit more in depth on China in the next letter (Wesak), since Taurus rules the soul expression of that nation. As a side note, China is [not a wanna-be neo-imperial power](#) as some media pundits claim. But the point to be made here is regarding the personality rulership of that nation, which is Libra, and which is geared toward forming partnerships with other nations.⁹ That personality is also ruled by the third ray, which can be manipulative in its expression, as we see with their efforts at social programming, but which is also profoundly inventive and interactive.¹⁰ As we read on, if we can take a larger view and set aside emotional reactions to problems such as the Tibetan situation – a topic for another letter – for instance, we might perhaps see a greater plan working itself out, which will result in a world that will restore cultures rather than destroying them, and autonomy to regions of the world that have been oppressed or disadvantaged, sometimes for many centuries. That will eventually lie further into the future, probably after we have moved on to greater service. But, it will bring lagging cultures into the present age, and rather quickly. It is a world movement, one of the major ways forward being indicated and spearheaded by China at the moment, as seen in their Belt and Road Initiative. This initiative is at the root of what Washington means with its ‘pivot to the East’ under Obama and great power competition under Trump.

China’s road to a multipolar world: Aside from the militaristic geopolitical shifts mentioned previously that have recently rudely awakened us – hopefully awakened us – there is another more profound shift that has taken place in the past year, one which has also been largely unreported in the mainstream press in the West. It is economic in nature, is cooperative, is not without its problems to be sure, but is lateral in its scope, meaning there is no central, vertical authority and which is linked to the Belt and Road now. In short, it is a model much more in tune with emerging Aquarian principles. That is the central idea, anyway, but over time it will have many offshoot initiatives put forward in other nations and regions. The nations aside from China where the aforementioned shifts in the past year have taken place especially are in France, Germany, African

nations, Latin America and especially Panama. The latter little nation will have more than a little significance for the Americas. It, too, is likely to bring the ire of Washington upon itself because of its actions.

Shortly after the Wesak moon last year, [Panama normalized relations](#) with the government of the PRC (mainland China), thus sidelining Taiwan and at the same time embracing the One-China policy, also at the same time announcing that they wanted to work with China on the Belt and Road. They did so in order that they could be a bridge between China's Belt and Road and Ibero-America, and also stating that the first high-speed rail link in the western hemisphere would be built between Panama City and the border of Costa Rica. Do we see the implications? The plan is eventually for that rail link to extend to Mexico City and beyond to the north, and past the [Darién Gap](#) into South America in the future. Shipping from the Belt and Road would initially arrive through Panama, pass through the canal and onwards to the Caribbean nations. There are bold plans for major port developments in Puerto Rico and Cuba, also. The [CELAC](#) nations embraced the Panamanian/Chinese initiatives shortly after the Panamanian normalization with China. So, at least the northern half of South America and the Caribbean nations (aside from the US) look to be embracing the Belt and Road in the very near future. That will be a switch, because it would mean there would be Chinese influence in the back yard of the US. It will be of great interest to see the reaction or response in Washington as a result.

Europe and China: But wait, there's more... France and China are very closely linked in terms of their ray energies. France and China both have the third ray for their personality expressions, and the fifth ray of France in the soul expression is very closely related to the Chinese first ray soul expression.¹¹ So, has there been any dialogue between France and China regarding the Belt and Road? In fact, yes. It got only passing mention in the corporate press, but France's president Macron visited China in early January on a mission to deepen economic ties between the two countries, and more specifically to explore the [possibility of ties](#) to the Belt and Road. The focus on that news in the Western corporate media was more on the downside of Chinese-Western economic relations in terms of trade barriers and predatory Chinese practices, downplaying the significance of the visit. But there is a greater significance here, meaning that Europe is swinging more toward the East in trade relations, and away from the US. Hence, we see moves by conservative governments in Europe to shore up NATO and Western alliances.

Europe is already China's biggest trading partner, leading the US in both imports and exports. Eastern Europe has already enthusiastically embraced the Belt and Road. France is the second-leading economy in Europe, and the first Western European country to move toward fully cooperating with the Chinese in economic initiatives. And with the strong third ray the two countries share, that probably comes as no surprise. The third ray is intimately connected with economics, especially with the ideas of pervasiveness, interrelatedness and, at its most negative, manipulation. The Leo personality of France also resonates with the Leo personality of Russia, and relations between those two nations remain strong, despite France being a member of NATO. Germany also has increasingly strong relations with Russia, as evidenced by the building of the [Nord Stream](#) gas pipelines between Russia and Germany.

So, why all the posturing and resistance?: If we really want to know why there is so much resistance to China, Iran and Russia in the US, Britain and some other Western countries, then there is a [map](#) that one might want to keep in mind as a sort of seed thought toward a projected future. Keeping that image in mind, is it any wonder why the hegemony-minded folks in the US and elsewhere see [Russia, Iran and China as threats](#), given the economic powerhouse that would emerge from the Chinese initiative? Russia and Iran, and Turkey are all keys to the success of this initiative. If all goes to plan, Eurasia will become the largest trading bloc in the world, far overshadowing the US. Therein lies the main threat to 'American security and interests'. And unless the US changes its policies, it will be sidelined more and more into the future. This applies also to Britain, whose

financial elites have sought to divorce her from the EU. Brexit was decidedly a right-wing, financial/industrialist initiative. More on that in the Gemini letter.

It may seem an odd question to Americans and many Westerners, given our conditioning toward China and Russia in particular, but would it not make more sense to embrace something like the Belt and Road rather than to waste the futures of the people of the West in trying to call a halt to it? What about the old saying, “If you can’t beat ‘em, join ‘em”? Globalization as practiced by the neoliberal, transnational model (the present model there is so much negative reaction to these days) is dying a quick death now, as people especially in affluent countries see it as a model that takes away their sovereignty and continually makes them poorer, except for the very few. This is why we are seeing the rise of far right, nationalist, populist movements worldwide, for example. Those movements promise change to people in their campaigning, much like Trump did in the US, even though they advocate going backwards toward old policies. The promise of the Belt and Road is that participating nations would retain their sovereignty. Whether that would work out in practice or not is another story.

Towards a new view of the East: In the past a few people have taken me to task on my more positive view on China, Russia and their leaders, especially when it comes to issues of human rights, for example. Just to be clear on the matter, the intention in these letters is to take a wider, more long-range view of unfolding human events. The focus is not so much on personalities, but on the trends of human social evolution and the growth of soul expression, with a side aim being to present alternative views to what we are presented in the corporate media – i.e., the major media outlets. Unless we examine all sides of any matter, the tendency is for us to become locked into one-sided arguments, knee-jerk reactions, national glammers – national exceptionalism, for example – and so forth. As far as human rights go, no nation can really claim to have clean hands, especially Western powers. We won’t go into all that here, but suffice it to say the US and European powers have and still do get up to quite a bit of mischief. Virtually no nation can justifiably point fingers. And when it comes to motivating the populace against ‘offending nations’, human rights violations are a meme trumpeted to motivate the left of politics toward military action. This is not to say human rights abuses do not take place, but human rights abuses by Western powers are more often than not conveniently left out of the corporate media.

In terms of the wider view, though, Russia and China in particular have come a long way in their development and social progress in just over a century, compared to a great many nations. At the turn of the 20th century both of those nations were ruled by emperors and their societies were essentially feudal states, with extremes of poverty for the majority of their people, constant warfare, etc. At the end of the 19th century around 80% of Russia’s population were dirt-poor peasants,¹² with a very few wealthy families at the top of a very rigidly imposed hierarchical society. Does that sound familiar in today’s world? Well, that is where the United States especially and some other Western nations are headed with our current economic and political systems.

The situation in China at the end of the 19th century was particularly dire, with land shortages, famines, overpopulation, mismanagement, foreign interference, weak central government and extremes of poverty, not to mention internal conflicts and war with other nations. In the past I had a *tai ji* instructor who lived and taught in China for three years, and he once told me that until communism took over China, the Chinese had not known any sort of peace or prosperity in recent history until very recently. Foreign meddling and pillaging of China by the West in the past few centuries came to a head in the 1800s, which began what the Chinese call their ‘[century of humiliation](#)’. The suffering of the people in both China and Russia in recent centuries has been extreme. They now enjoy a period of relative stability and increasing prosperity, relative to where they were. They have moved from feudal states, to communist states with dictatorial central control, to mixed economies, governments starting to move away from more centralized control, with people now being allowed increasing freedoms. Those freedoms might be seen otherwise or as

coming too slowly for our liking in the West and their governments might seem still too oppressive and corrupted. But, when we consider where Russia and China came from, compared to where they are now, and then look at where they might be headed, who are we in the West to criticize too much, or to point fingers?

Those two great nations – referring to her people – are nations in transition, and from all appearances, they are moving toward the new world order referenced at the beginning of this letter. And we may not like it, but the leaders of those two nations speak often of that kind of world order, and they will be leading those nations until 2025. The common conditioned retort in the West to their statements is, “Well, you know you can’t trust those people.” But such reactive statements betray a lack of thought and investigation, as well as a narrow view of what is taking place and historical context. Given those leaders’ stated policies and goals for their citizens, I find that confluence of timelines and the progress they have made under those policies to be more than a little interesting. Unless we look past the ‘obvious facts’ as presented largely in the corporate media outlets and apply reasoned analysis, we stay trapped in our conditioning. These are the reasons I take a more positive view of those nations and their leaders.

As to Russia, we could go into a long consideration of Russia especially here, which is a subject that tends to bring strong reactions from many readers, for differing reasons. Given the dangerous state of affairs with which we are faced now regarding this anti-Russia hysteria, we need a serious [re-think about Russia](#), about [Vladimir Putin](#), and about China, too, for that matter. There has been a very concerted propaganda effort in the West in the past years, especially in the US and UK, to discredit, marginalize, push back against and even destabilize Russia. We (speaking of the Western public in general, of which we are a part, but certainly not all of us) appear to be all too comfortable with our beliefs about that nation, almost happy in our ignorance, with very little in the way of reasoned discourse – certainly not in the way of looking at the context of history and foreign relations. In many ways, it would appear that the public simply could not be bothered to get to the truth about a great many issues. We look at the ‘obvious facts’ and rush to conclusions, not bothering to look beyond ordinary appearances. And the corporate press is all-too-willing to constantly point the finger at Russia. Why do we not question this, given our experience with the Iraq War and many other conflicts, for example?

I had written quite a bit about Russia in preparing this letter, but in looking at it, decided to remove it and use it in a later letter. I will simply say at this point that the biggest part of what we hear in the mainstream media regarding Russia and their supposed wrongdoings is false to a great degree, reckless to the point of being dangerous, and intended to solidify support for domestic political and corporate interests in the West, especially among the rightwing parties. We just saw a recent example of this with the [Skripal poisoning](#) in the UK, which we will not outline. In looking beneath the surface of this [heinous act](#), though, we are seeing more and more that it was really [about selling gas masks](#), shoring up the Tory party, [discrediting Jeremy Corbyn](#) and distracting from money the Tory party [received from Russian oligarchs](#) than it was about ‘reds under the bed’, ‘evil Russia’ or that rascal Vladimir Putin. The story the British establishment has rushed to give out is [so full of holes](#) it is laughable, but Nikki Haley and crew have latched on to it like it was a proven fact.

We hear that there is another Cold War, but if so, this one is much more dangerous than what we saw around the Cuban missile crisis, for example. At that time there were no missiles on Russia’s border, except in Turkey. There was no instant communication, no monopolized corporate press, at least to the degree that we have today, there were only two major nuclear powers at the time, there were experienced people running the administration in Washington, we were talking with the Soviets, the US still exercised major control over much of the world’s resources, the Middle East was more stable, and presidents were predictable. And, there were not the major hot spots that could quickly turn to a wider war than that we see today, as in the Baltics, Ukraine and Syria. The situation is actually quite different now, and indeed, far more dangerous. It would be very helpful,

too, to remember that Russia is not the Soviet Union, is no longer a communist state, actually wants to integrate itself with the West in particular and despite what we hear, is increasingly a democracy.

WWIII – not!: Having said the preceding, I have had a look at the astrology for the main nations that are being affected in the present world crisis as well as the movement of the [sunspot cycle](#), and frankly, I do not see a conflict that would be a warrant a world disaster. That being said, I am still investigating some of those charts as to their validity, and people can lash out when they are under extreme pressure, as we see with the likes of Trump, Theresa May and Netanyahu. One of the indicators of major incidents, conflicts, disasters and so forth is the sunspot cycle, and right now we are [in a solar minimum](#), which will last through 2020, or thereabouts. Solar minima *decrease* the likelihood of major world conflicts. The [major conflicts take place during the solar maxima](#), with the last one having taken place in 2014, and the one before that in 2001, if those dates ring any bells. The next one forecast is for...you guessed it...2025. I would venture to say that if we make it through this quarter without a major conflict, then we can probably breathe a collective sigh of relief. There appears to be a definite timeline at work here, and it applies to the situation in Syria. If East Ghouta near Damascus is liberated soon and there is no other provocation, we will probably see a calmer period. Then, attention will turn to eastern Syria. But this will be a tense period over the next months. The main thing that emerges to me from looking at the heightened rhetoric is desperation on the part of the people just mentioned and their supporters. That does not mean that we should not pay attention.

A few other initiatives: There is one more piece to add to this growing puzzle of the Belt and Road, etc., and then we will close out this letter. China has invested heavily in infrastructure projects in other nations in an effort to put the Belt and Road into place. That also includes a planned [huge port in Venice](#), which Italian engineers have laid out and which is scheduled to be in place by 2030. There is also an old cultural connection between China and Italy, re: Marco Polo. Italy's soul motto is "I carve the paths",¹³ and the plans for this port in Venice are evidence of that, as well as Italian efforts at the [Transaqua project](#) in Africa, which would do much to relieve poverty and war in Africa. I mentioned before that there would be offshoots of the Belt and Road. There are also projects that will link into it, and Transaqua is one such, which will also incorporate a large network of roads, interestingly, and speaking of carving paths. But once this infrastructure is in place, if it all goes according to plan, and the debts are paid, what then? China will no longer have control. The nations of the world that participate will have to come to some sort of overarching agreements as to how all this interconnection will be handled. It cannot be left to a few controlling interests, as any key state in the links would be able to interrupt the flow of goods and services. Another thing to keep in mind is that Russia and Iran are key to the success of this network, and this is one of the main reasons we see all the Russia and Iran hysteria in the West at the moment. Russia's motto of "I link two ways" also fits very well with our emerging world order.

In closing, we could well look back on 2018 as the year when the world changed significantly toward a more Aquarian model, away from the vertical, central control that had characterized the Piscean Age. If we look at the nations outlined in the book, *Destiny of the Nations*, written decades ago now, and then remember the map referenced above, then a clear pattern and plan emerges. This emerging plan should not be seen as a Chinese plan in the case of the Belt and Road, even though they have instigated and are spearheading it. There are many aspects to the emerging plan, quite aside from the Chinese initiative. To list a few:

- The move away from fossil fuel toward renewable energy. This will eliminate war as we know it now. And it will radically reshape the geopolitical landscape.
- Moves back toward mixed economic models instead of free-market or central control. The mixed economy is what grew the American middle class, and toward which Russia and China are aspiring. We also see a rush to repatriate gold stocks taking place by many countries, notably northern and eastern European nations, Russia and China.

- Lateral, decentralized politico-social structures instead of central, vertical models.
- Interconnected, global networks that eliminate the middle man.
- Biosphere consciousness instead of geopolitical concerns. This involves moves to address climate change. We'll address climate change in a future letter.
- Education that focuses on educating the soul and the unique abilities of every person instead of schools as centers of indoctrination.

In reality, what we see emerging are true, international efforts. These have emerged because of many factors, not the least of which is the dissatisfaction of the average citizens of many lands with the world power and economic structure as it has been, the rapid increase of world interconnectedness via the internet, advances in other technologies, climate change, and a world that is sick of war, to name just a few things. There is much more we could say. All it takes to change things radically is for one person to have a good idea that other people can seize upon and make workable. If all goes according to this greater spiritual plan, and if the hegemonic, monopolistic system is pushed back to a significant degree this year, then it will mark a definitive event in the emergence of the Aquarian Age. And there is one more thing I would add here. There is a [proposed tunnel](#) under the Bering Straits that would connect the US and Russia, which lies in the future of the Belt and Road. That will mark a great occult event, and be another definitive moment in the emergence of the Aquarian Age, also showing a link between the Aquarian souls of the US and Russia. It is not so far in the future as we might think. But there will have to be very great changes in the US and in Russia before this can take place. Those changes are upon us even now.

Our moment of opportunity has arrived: We have only skimmed the surface here, but perhaps we can see that in a very real sense, our moment of opportunity has arrived. As the Piscean model of vertical, centralized control gives way toward the more group-focused and lateral Aquarian model – and quickly now as we are seeing – whether we know it or not we are seeing revolutionary change in many areas of life. That is why we are here. We are the ones who are aiding the transition into these new ways and means. This is why the messages we put across now are so important, because they will influence those who come after us. It is also why we need to stay positive, focused in the midst of all this apparent chaos and supportive of those souls among us who have thoughts that, though they may be different from ours, are toward a better future and helpful for humanity and the world in general. 2025 will be here and gone before we know it. We can make a big difference if we apply ourselves, applying our energies each in our own unique capacities. There will be resistance, being assured that if there is, then we are making a difference. We have no idea how far a message goes. Thoughts are like seeds in the wind. If we launch them in a strong current there is no telling how far or where they will land. That's the beauty of it, in a way. And in this age when people anywhere in the world can access those thoughts, we have everything to gain in putting them out there as far and wide as possible. Aries launches the thoughts that change the world view. Let us be mindful that we are part of that effort toward the emerging Age and a more peaceful, beautiful and transformed world.

Easter Blessings,
 Malvin
malvin@malvinartley.com
 21 Mar 18

These letters are sent as a service. If you wish to be added to or deleted from the mailing list, let me know. Feel free to send them to others, but do so without charge or alteration.

¹ *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes: Adventure IV. The Boscombe Valley Mystery*, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle It's worth a read, in light of what we are seeing:

http://www.pagebypagebooks.com/Arthur_Conan_Doyle/The_Adventures_of_Sherlock_Holmes/ADVENTURE_IV_THE_BOSCOMBE_VALLEY_MYSTERY_p3.html

² Bailey, Alice A., *Esoteric Psychology I*, p. 206

³ Bailey, *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire*, pp. 70, 153, 445 (Tabulation III), 1039

⁴ Bailey, *Esoteric Astrology*, p. 68, Tabulation VI

⁵ Ibid, p. 549

⁶ Ibid, p. 654

⁷ Ibid, p. 140

⁸ <http://tass.com/defense/982575> This is the Russian state news service. Take it in the same manner as you would a US media assessment of US forces and defense capabilities. There is propaganda there, but also some revealing facts.

⁹ Bailey, *The Destiny of the Nations*, Table — Page 67

¹⁰ Bailey, *Esoteric Psychology I*, p. 205

¹¹ Op cit

¹² <http://alphahistory.com/russianrevolution/russian-society/>

¹³ Bailey, *The Destiny of the Nations*, Table — Page 50