

# THE CAPRICORN FESTIVAL 2020

29/30 Dec 2020

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Happy New Year, Everyone!

And a belated Merry Christmas! At least, we hope the coming year is happier than this one has been. This letter marks the wrap-up of the solar festivals for 2020, ended by an eclipse and a Great Conjunction, the latter to be lightly covered later in this piece. There is a blog post on it, linked in the discussion, which describes it in more detail. And I can say, without much equivocation, that what we see evolving in front of us worldwide is actually according to an outcome that was deemed desirable for the destiny of the nations, quoted later. More than that, though, this letter is actually a summation of the past five years of various aspects of our evolving world from our investigations. 2020 will be remembered as the year many people would prefer to forget. But in other ways, it will be marked as the year that was the beginning of the end of the old order, much as the vested interests would like to rebrand it as something new and necessary in order to keep the status quo going. We'll cover that more here, later. But we should not forget this year, much as many of us would like to put it behind us, because it will be seen in hindsight as the year where our eyes began to open. It will also be noted in history as a decisive year in the annals of geopolitics, marking the solid emergence of a different world order, much as the vested interests in the West would like to prevent it. We'll cover those vested interests here in a little more detail, too, because there is a distinct Capricornian, materialistic theme there. But first, we look at local news.

As most readers will be aware, Europe is in the grips of its second wave of COVID infections. Here in Italy, since there was more widespread testing this time, our positive tests topped almost seven times what we had at our peak in March. Due to better handling this time, the hospitals are not overloaded and only certain regions are stressed. Hence, there will be only a brief period of stronger restrictions from the 24<sup>th</sup> to the 6<sup>th</sup>. It doesn't really bother us here. The restaurants and bars will be closed, but the government is going to reimburse them for their lost business over that period. They are the only businesses that typically operate over that period, except for a few retail stores. Contrast that with the United States, for instance, where the government seems to be at great pains to even manage a meagre 600 dollars of support for the average family, and which will be a one-time payment. By 'government', I mean Congress and the Executive. We'll have more on that later in this piece, too, as the US is the main battleground, along with the UK, for solving the problem of capital and labor. And speaking of the UK, the COVID mess there rivals that of the US in the way it has been (mis)handled, with the polls [steadily falling for Boris and the Conservatives](#). That may change a little now there is a Brexit deal, but in a few months that may be a different story yet again. We'll have more on that a little later, too.

As for family life, several of my in-laws have caught the bug, and a few of them are having a difficult time shaking it. They are on their way to coming out of it. We know several friends who have had it and a few of those have had a difficult time as well. And yes, most of those having troubles are elderly. This isn't like the flu, where one might have it for a week and then shake it off. Due to its biological effects, it can do odd things to one's system. But there is no panic here. People put on the mask, get on with their business, and otherwise life here would appear to be normal. Perhaps it is the 6<sup>th</sup> ray soul of Italy, producing a devotion to family and community, a unity of ideals in times of stress – that combined with the masculine government, which throughout this epidemic here has been proactive and has gained support throughout the year for its handling of it. PM Conte's esteem in the public eye has risen, whereas the populist ex-leader, [Salvini, has lost support in the polls](#). The number of positive test results here (That's for COVID, not cricket. Actually, we do have cricket squads here, bolstered by large numbers of Indian and Pakistani expats.) is steadily falling, a quarter of what it was just over a month ago. The brief period of restrictions is hoped to keep the numbers low in the coming weeks.

Talk of the pandemic, though, brings up some considerations for Capricorn, because Capricorn in mundane astrology represents crystallization, age and materialism when it is found in the personalities of nations.<sup>1</sup> But if we take a step back and look, where do we find the crystallization, age and materialism most marked in the world? Materialism itself is most marked in the West, though it has risen in the East in recent years. The West has handled the pandemic worse than the East, particularly in the US and UK. The East has its old staid remnants of culture, as in India, for instance, with its caste system. But the main thing we are looking at here is where the old, status quo in terms of a ruling class has been outlived and where it is being challenged, and we find that in the Gulf monarchies, which Iran challenges, the old capitalistic order, which the West maintains, the remnants of imperialism, which many nations have pursued and the dying Piscean Age, with its emphasis on conformity, adherence to ideals, its stratified social set and emphasis on the dominance of the heart in preference to the head. In reference to the latter, one's sense of or demands of loyalty have often overcome common sense and peoples' greater good. With that in mind, what does Capricorn represent to us? This will lead to a larger point in a bit.

**Capricorn** can express all that is best and worst in humanity.<sup>2</sup> In that sense, it represents extremes, either of high spiritual attainment or of gross materialism. The latter, in this Christmas season, is portrayed for us in the character of Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*, by Charles Dickens, with Scrooge described as, "...a squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous, old sinner! Hard and sharp as flint,...secret, and self-contained, and solitary as an oyster." This is Saturnian Capricorn at its hardest and basest. It is the stereotypical image we have of the banker set. This represents the ambition of Saturn turned solely toward material gain and security, at the expense of everyone else – or if to the benefit of someone else, only to effect greater gains for the Capricorn in the long run. Capricorn has been called the most material of all the signs.<sup>3</sup>

Capricorn can also represent spiritual ambition, ambition turned toward the attainment of some spiritual goal. This is not its higher expression, as it can be just as selfish as the material ambition and in some cases, even more damaging in terms of karma. Saturn rules this sign, both in the orthodox and esoterically. As such the lower expressions of Capricorn can accumulate quite a bit of earthbound karma, Saturn ruling karma, in that the selfishness expressed in that mode is solely to advance the Capricorn. The same can be true of spiritual ambition. Saturn expresses the third and fifth rays, the third via Saturn, and as such can display quite a manipulative character. The Capricorn always knows which side of the bread to put the butter on, as well as where to get the butter, to use the vernacular. The ambitious side of Capricorn expresses the motto, "And the Word said: Let ambition rule and let the door stand wide." For worldly Capricorn, we have:

"Ambition urges him on from life to life until he has discovered the worthlessness of all earthly gratification. Gradually then spiritual ambition and a desire for liberation take the place of worldly

ambition, and become an impelling impulse, **until finally the moment arrives when a true sense of reality supersedes both earthly and spiritual ambition.** The [wo]man can then say with truth "Lost am I in light supernal, yet on that light I turn my back." F[rom thereon] there remains now no goal but service."<sup>4</sup>

**Climbing the Capricornian mountain:** The preceding quote brings us to the more esoteric side of Capricorn, wherein one enters the bodhisattva path unreservedly and devotes oneself to service, meaning the uplifting of humanity to enlightenment. Referring to the Sagittarius letter in the esoteric discussion, we saw the archer on the horse, applying one-pointed meditative techniques toward the attainment of spiritual goals, but outside of the 'straight and narrow' path, instead plying the fields and plains, the mountains looming in the distance, beckoning, until all other avenues are either closed or exhausted. Then, the archer reaches the base of a mountain – 'base' being the operative word – and starts [getting in tune to the straight and narrow](#), eyeing the narrow path straight up to the mountaintop. This is the final goal, at least for that soul cycle. Leaving the horse behind, the archer also leaves behind the arrows as well, as they are not needed climbing up the mountain, the final goal clearly in sight, and would otherwise pose a hindrance. The archer becomes the *alpinista* and starts to climb upward. There is much in the way of symbolism here, as this period leads one finally to the first true realization of the space-like nature of reality, wherein the true nature of one's existence is finally revealed, that realization to be had upon the mountaintop, in the clear cool air, 'on top of the world', in a manner of speaking. That realization is indicated in the bold highlighting in the quote preceding.

What is being described in the preceding paragraph is the course of kundalini rising up the central channel of the etheric spinal column, from the 'base' (chakra) to the apex (the crown chakra and beyond). There are major chakras above the head. Those are traversed in the final two signs, archetypally.

In the [shamata diagram](#), the Capricorn phase begins with the monk seated at the base of the mountain, thereafter rising and climbing through the various pathways (determined by the terrain (karma) of the mountain. There are places of rest along the way (the major chakras). The mountain itself represents Capricorn and the ultimate earthy state, the rocky and steep nature of the mountain pathway indicating the last obstacles to the attainment of pure joy, or bliss. The mind at this point in one's practice is very clear and purified. No obstructing thought can interfere with the path upward and the rainbow bridge (antahkarana) can afterward be traversed back and forth at will. Capricorn represents the final linking and clearing of the antahkarana, or rainbow bridge. Though the path upwards is hard at first, the legs not used to climbing, finally the apex is achieved at the crown of the head (summit of the mountain, the body represented by the mountain).

From the mountaintop, everything is seen in absolute clarity, in the supernal light of the higher Self. It is an experience that transforms the person into something more – the spirit at one and in constant communication with the brain consciousness (waking consciousness). The mind from this point onwards becomes solely the vehicle wherein the subtle realms are explored and traversed. The bodhisattva is now an initiate, and the first clear vision – a true intuition – of the local cosmos is received, as well as the first experience of the monad, one's ultimate essence. The monad holds the keys to the universe, and is in itself universal. The transfiguration thus experienced and locked into place, there is no other path to travel than back into the world (base of the mountain), thereafter to serve in selflessness. An Arya being now walks the Earth, no longer just a human being.

**The third Path:** Capricorn marks the beginning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> path in Buddhism, 'The Very Joyous', described as follows:

The first direct realization of emptiness (the View, or ultimate truth) [is attained]. One rejoices at realizing this aspect of the truth. Ultimate bodhichitta [active kundalini] arises for the first time, and the burning desire to see all beings attain this state arises in fullness. *The outlook is forever changed—i.e., the personality is transfigured.* Predispositions to corrupted ethics are so eliminated that they will never arise

again. The bodhisattva is able to freely give away everything and without any thought of praise or reward for themselves. **The 3<sup>rd</sup> path, the path of seeing, is engaged.**<sup>5</sup>

This 3<sup>rd</sup> path, of 'Seeing', suggests the true 3<sup>rd</sup> eye – the integrated and synthetic functioning of the three major head centers (alta major, ajna and crown) – is thereafter fully engaged at will. Spiritual perception is now available to the Arya being at all times. The Arya being is also known in Christianity as '[the rich young man](#)', in Capricorn, and represents the first of several ultimate human attainments (initiations), if we can use the word 'ultimate' more than once. With Capricorn, we have the attainment of the 'rich young man', replete with newfound spiritual wisdom. But therein is a conundrum: One cannot be attached to such wisdom, seeing it is 'my attainment' and actually be of true, selfless service. The attachment to 'riches' must be abandoned – "Yet on that light I turn my back". Hence, at the third path, the strong impulse to give all away is encountered, and the rich young man recedes from the world and from fame and begins to pass through 'the eye of the needle', which the third eye used in service represents. If there is ego, the third eye becomes ineffective. There are two more signs to consider after this, and two more paths, after which the initiate becomes more than human – superhuman, in fact. Lives totally dedicated to service and salvation of all sentient beings thereby become possible and in fact, imperative. Capricorn thus marks an ultimate goal as well as the start of a new path in the long history of human evolution. With these points in mind, we move on to a consideration of the full moon and, coming down from our esoteric mountain, to take a look at the world as it is evolving. As it turns out, this is to mark a transitional year.

**The full moon** takes place on 30 Dec 2020 at 3:28 UT (2:28 PM AEDT). The full moon axis is at 8°53' Capricorn/Cancer. The main aspect is a trine between the Sun and Uranus, marking a more progressive turn of events for the month and the start of the year, measured in modern terms. That will not be so much in evidence in the West as it will in the East. The United States, for instance, is still torn from the election and growing domestic concerns, and we see growing concerns in Europe and Australia. Britain will be crashing out of the EU the next day, with the smell of a trade deal with the EU. And the financial bailout of Italy and Spain for the pandemic looks to be headed for trouble, which will further inflame tensions within the EU. The East, on the other hand, is moving on and will see growth in GDP this year, as well as being essentially free of the coronavirus, or becoming so. With these latter points in mind, we are not simply looking at the end of 2020. What we are seeing evolve is the end of an era and the emergence of a transitional world order, one which will be marked by multipolarity, the emergence of strong regional powers and the ebb of Western hegemony, including the end of any notions of a possible resurgence of imperialism within the old imperial orders. The latter includes virtually all the Western European nations and the United States. The Eastern nations, including Russia, do not appear to be imperialistic now, much as we might be told they are. In considering these points, a rather interesting timeline emerges, which will give us clues to the future.

**Certain key events:** Every century has its important years of note. These generally fall on the turn of each century, preceded by a summation in the few years preceding, then at the 25<sup>th</sup> year, and then at the 75<sup>th</sup> year. There is also a lesser impulse that comes at the 15<sup>th</sup> year of each century, and then every 15 years thereafter, ending with the 10 years before the turn of each century, leading to the summary years before the turn of the next century. These figures all represent subjective (ray) cycles, with the 100-year cycle being the determinative element. The latter is the lesser cycle of the 1<sup>st</sup> ray. Each decade also represents a further division of the 1<sup>st</sup> ray cycle. Although the lesser cycles in each century do not necessarily coincide with their 'parent' ray cycles, they are representative and suggestive. When these cycles coincide, as in the 30<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup>, 75<sup>th</sup> and 90<sup>th</sup> years, we usually see important and determinative events unfold that shape our social evolution. These have become quite marked in the last few centuries, as our mental comprehension and human attainment has grown. For the 20<sup>th</sup> century we have the following, as an indication, keeping in mind these are median and peak dates. The same can be done for the two centuries preceding the 20<sup>th</sup> century:

- 1900: Einstein and the Special Theory of Relativity (all is energy, matter and energy are one), the Curies discover radioactivity, the first powered flights, the first radio receiver, the first mass-produced cars (the production line), the Panama Canal, the 1<sup>st</sup> Russian Revolution (Russia began to reform itself), the [New Imperialism](#) (large colonizations by Western powers, especially in Africa and Asia). This marked a liberation for humanity.
- 1915: WWI, leading to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Russian Revolution and the birth of the first socialist state. The Theory of General Relativity, which revolutionized science. The end of WWI also [led to the end of the German colonial empire](#), Ottoman Empire, Austria-Hungary and the Russian Empire, reorganization of European states, territorial boundaries, and the creation of several new European states and territorial entities: Austria, Czechoslovakia, Estonia, Finland, Free City of Danzig, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Saar, Ukraine, and Yugoslavia.
- 1925: The dispensation from Alice Bailey (1922, with her magnum opus, *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire* in 1925), Helena Roerich ([books started appearing in 1923](#)) and the Temple of the People in Halcyon, CA (1925, [Teachings of the Temple](#)). The first feature-length motion picture with a sound track, Robert Goddard and his rockets, the first working mechanical TV, electrical recording process for vinyl records (more lifelike sound), frozen foods, the Roaring '20s, the rise of Fascism and Nazism. The [Scopes Monkey Trial](#). Biodynamic agriculture. The birth of quantum physics and [the wave-particle duality](#).
- 1930: The Great Depression, Mohandas Ghandi and the Indian Independence Movement, Japan invades Manchuria, Pluto was discovered.
- 1945: The end of WWII and the start of *Pax Americana*. The founding of the UN, the release of atomic energy, the founding of the NATO, Bretton-Woods, the liberation of the world from Fascism and Nazism.
- 1950: McCarthyism, the Korean War, the Cold War, the birth of the People's Republic of China (1949), the birth of solid state electronics, without which none of our modern tech would be possible.
- 1960: Communist takeover of Cuba (1959), the space race, beginning of the American build-up in Vietnam, the start of the decolonization of Africa *en masse*. 'The pill' was released, Yuri Gagarin was the first human in space (1961), the first working laser.
- 1975: Détente between the Soviets and the US, the rise of fiat currencies, Nixon resigns, the New Age Movement, energy crises and stagflation. China opens to the US. The last years of Mao Tse Tung. The first personal computers began to appear and Apple was born.
- 1990: The collapse of the Soviet Union and the gutting of Russia, the '[end of history](#)', America as the single world hegemon, the first Gulf War, the breakup of Yugoslavia, the rise of our current neoliberalism, the spread of the NATO to the east, the release of Nelson Mandela, the end of the Cold War, German reunification, the advent of the internet, the first commercial cell phones, CERN, personal computers domestically connected to the World Wide Web. The start of the surveillance state.

What follows on from this will not be found in the mainstream news to any large extent. If you get your news primarily from mainstream sources, the points to be examined from here to the end of this letter will seem off the mark, conspiratorial, just fanciful, pro-\_\_\_\_ (insert country), or anti-Western. On the other hand, once one begins to read news from sources who actually live and work in the nations to be mentioned, who know and love the cultures, meaning the general populace, and who study such matters deeply, a different picture begins to emerge about our world, one which very often runs counter to the narratives and 'experts' we see paraded in front of us on our 'infotainment news' networks. For myself, if I was a young man with means and unattached, I would go to these places and experience the people and the cultures for some months at a time if I could. Sadly, those days for me are long gone, though I have managed to experience expat communities of several of the countries to be mentioned. So, it's for each of us to decide: What is true, what is propaganda, and what is just nonsense? Experience is usually a pretty good guide.

**The End of History?:** These last ten years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century set the stage for the current century, with the internet and instant communications anywhere in the world possible from then, our current Ponzi scheme which our elites like to call ‘the economy’, China’s sudden growth into a real economy instead of simply being a factory and then – Vladimir Putin. The challenges of this century were set in place then, which bears a look if we are to get a sense of what is to come.

In 1990 the Soviet Union was collapsing, along with the Warsaw Pact. The two Germanys were looking at reunification. Bush, Sr. along with other European leaders had promised the Russians that [there would be no expansion of the NATO even one inch eastward](#). Other voices in Washington had other ideas. Yeltsin came to power in the summer of 1991 and the Russian Federation was born in December of that year. Privatization of Russian assets and trade liberalization quickly followed under Yeltsin, leading in a few years to a loss of GDP of 50%, upwards of 50% of the population in poverty, a declining birth rate and a rapid decrease in life expectancy. Lawlessness and criminal gangs flourished. Those reforms were encouraged by the IMF and the United States. The [Russian Mafia exploded and internationalized](#). Financial capitalism had come to Russia.

The aim behind the scenes in Washington and London was to balkanize Russia and to strip it of its resources and power. On the other side, [Putin stated in an interview a few years ago](#) that the blame for the collapse of Russia was largely at the feet of the Russians, led by Yeltsin, for a variety of reasons, one of the main ones being the divisions that existed within the Russian government itself. The main point he made was that Russia did not stand up for itself against NATO and the US. There was also the [souring of relations between the East Central European \(ECE\) nations and Russia](#) in the ‘90s, which contributed to the NATO expansion. Russia under Yeltsin saw the meteoric rise of the oligarchs, rapid and massive capital flight from Russia, as well as the flight of many of the oligarchs, a significant number of whom now live in London and the US. London was the favoured destination because of its tax secrecy and offshore havens, with London being dubbed “[Moscow on the Thames](#)” or “Londongrad”. If ‘Russia’ influenced the Brexit vote, for example, it was more likely these oligarchs than the Russian government. [Putin has stated he would rather see a strong EU](#) because it would strengthen trade ties, as well as promoting security. The EU has been looking at tax transparency, which has frightened the capitalist class.

**2000 and Russian rebirth:** Yeltsin was ousted from leadership at the close of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and Putin became PM of Russia. Russia began to swiftly change after that. Western readers may not want to see it, but Putin raised Russia from its knees, starting almost immediately after coming to office. Since the turn of the century, Russia has turned itself around, much as it did at the turn of the last century and to the angst of Washington, has reformed its military, banking and industrial sectors, [has reduced poverty to 9% at the end of 2019](#) from almost 50% in the ‘90s, has diversified its economy and is seeing major innovations in key areas. Obama’s comments that [Russia doesn’t innovate](#) or [make anything that anyone wants](#) are either rank ignorance or propaganda. The police forces have been reformed. Crime in the streets is at a minimum, the oligarchs are slowly being reined in. As one subscriber who works in Russia recently described the scene there today, the difference between the ‘90s and now in Russia is just astounding. The people are generally happy now, they don’t want to ‘Westernize’, remembering what happened in the ‘90s and they see a future for themselves now, whereas previously they experienced dystopia. There is still a ways to go, but progress is being made quickly. These are the facts on the ground in Russia, despite what we are told through our Western media. The young people there still have a yearning to experience the West and think it might be better than what they have, but the grass is always greener until one experiences the other side first-hand. But we return to the 90s, because it is important to understand why we are at our present conundrum in international relations and what faces us in the West in particular. In considering these points we will see what we are leaving behind and what is emerging.

**Joined at the hip:** The US and UK in many ways appear to be joined at the hip, their destinies running in a kind of parallel direction. There have been several events in recent history that have occurred in parallel between the United States and the UK. We might list them as follows:

- Nixon and ‘Britain’s Dark Ages’ in the early ‘70s. This period saw clashes in both nations, the [Nixon shock in 1971](#) and Heath’s [1971 Industrial Relations Act](#). These two events may not appear to be related, but they started a trend toward deregulation and overturning the power of labor unions. Both nations were in turmoil at the time – Britain through labor disputes and the US with Vietnam and war debts. The entire world was in recession. More importantly, in both nations this period spelled [the end of Keynesian economics](#). The demise of Keynesianism gave rise to the next pair...
- Reagan and Thatcher in the early ‘80s. ‘[Trickle-down](#)’ economics, [free-market capitalism](#), further [blows to trade unions](#) and [collective bargaining](#) for workers. This period marked the real start of neoliberal economics. It was one of the greatest scams ever foisted on an unsuspecting populace.
- Clinton and Blair in the ‘90s and their ‘[3<sup>rd</sup> Way](#)’ economics and politics, which really accelerated neoliberalism and consolidated power in the hands of financiers. This period, as the end of the century, is what gave us the growth of the billionaire/oligarch class – our burgeoning aristocracy. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Way also saw the end of a viable, true left in Western politics and the rise of liberalism [in its current, false form](#). There is no true liberal left in Western politics these days of any viability.

There were similar events to come in the next century, but we stop here to summarize these pairings. The Clinton administration, with the blessings of Congress, of course, gave the US its prison-industrial complex, the concentration of media ownership, the final gutting of Glass-Steagall (separation of commercial and investment banks), NAFTA (free trade globalization), ‘welfare reform’, GATT, the WTO and the expansion of the NATO eastward. To his credit, he raised taxes on the wealthy, which produced a budget surplus for the first time in years, but it probably also was a factor in seeing him face impeachment and it brought in a swathe of right wing Republicans, who opposed higher taxes and NAFTA. There were other reasons, too, behind the obvious sexual indiscretions. Blair and Clinton changed the politics of the US and UK. The left disappeared and politics swung sharply to the right. The Republicans in the US and Conservatives in the UK swung far to the right, while Democrats and Labour became centrist corporatist parties, with a veneer of liberalism, all the while abandoning progressive policies. In doing so, they began to lose their voter bases, which were traditionally working-class, and we began to see the swift flow of wealth upwards away from the middle and lower classes.

But there was one act perpetrated during Clinton’s and Blair’s terms in office that was a turning point in US-Russian relations, and that was [the illegal bombing campaign in Yugoslavia](#). That act, along with the NATO expansion, changed the Russian view toward the West and assured Russia’s distrust of Western intentions into the future. That event was also what kick-started Russia’s rejuvenation, its gradual move away from IMF policies and its centralization of authority – ‘restoring the vertical’ – a more 7<sup>th</sup> ray exposition of government. Russia’s actions, in turn, earned it the ire of Washington, the EU and London, because Russia kicked out the financial capitalists and returned to industrial capitalism. This was the central theme leading into the 21<sup>st</sup> century in terms of geopolitics. China had been rising quietly all that time as well. [The PNAC](#) had also been put forward in Washington and was to become a central doctrine in what think tanks in Washington would push, asserting military might over diplomacy. ‘Peace through strength’ remains conservative doctrine in foreign policy to this day.

**The sole hegemon:** At the turn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the US was the sole hegemon, for a time. Russia was still weak, except for its nukes, was still dependant on IMF loans and had not affected rapprochement with China at that point, except to sign a Treaty of Friendship. China was admitted

to the WTO in 2001. Meanwhile, Russia and China were quietly building their middle and lower classes and pulling millions of people out of poverty, as well as building their infrastructure and industrial capacity. China had announced its policy of [China's Peaceful Development](#), which would carry forward until Xi Jinping came to office. We should note here that with China's opening to the West and with restrictions removed on foreign ownership and development, the period of the Clinton-Blair years saw a vast deindustrialization, especially in the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, but which had its start in the 1980s under the market reforms of Reagan and Thatcher. Many of the industries lost went to China, Mexico and Southeast Asia. A great amount of blame for that has been heaped on China. But China did not 'take' those jobs, for example, in the sense of stealing them. Those jobs were handed to China and like countries on a silver platter by Western financiers and industrialists in the name of maximizing profits. So, instead of blaming those nations (China is the flavour of the times) for our loss of industry, the answer lies on our own doorstep.

On a personal note I witnessed the deindustrialization first-hand in my own region. In the late '80s and early '90s the textile industry in central North Carolina began to close up its shops and move production overseas. Bangladesh, India and China were favoured destinations. Burlington Industries used to be the biggest employer in my county, employing thousands. It exists no more as Burlington Industries, its assets being finally sold off in 2003. [Furniture in the Piedmont](#) also used to be king. Those industries, too, began to move out of the area and imports took the lion's share of sales in the region once free trade agreements kicked in and cheaper labor overseas replaced domestic labor. Iconic industries in the region closed their doors. Now those old factories are outlet malls and storage facilities. People who had permanent jobs in those factories were thrown into the temp market or retrained for other work, if they were lucky enough to do so. The 'gig economy' was born. I watched the same thing again in Australia with the automotive and mining industries, especially in the workshops that supplied those industries. Aussie wages just could not compete with India and China. And that brings us to the present century.

**The end of history? Really?:** Before going there, though, when the Soviet Union collapsed it was heralded by Francis Fukayama as "the end of history", meaning, "...the end-point of mankind's ideological evolution and the universalization of Western liberal democracy as the final form of human government." (pg. 16 of his book of the same title) His thoughts were premature, if not off the mark. The West celebrated the end of the Cold War and the coming of 'democracy' to the Eastern bloc. However, given the developments thus far this century and coming to our present year, the eclipse with the attendant Saturn/Pluto/Ceres conjunction on 9 January this year did indeed mark a point of no return, as in 'an end of history'. But instead of the end of Socialism, as in the Soviet Union, this 'end of history' marked the beginning of the end for the dominance of the West, which has been the dominant force across the world over the last half of the previous millennium. With all the preceding points in mind, we move on to the present century and Part 2 of this letter.

### End Pt. 1

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<sup>1</sup> Bailey, *The Destiny of the Nations*, p. 69

<sup>2</sup> Bailey, *Esoteric Astrology*, p. 169

<sup>3</sup> Ibid, p. 170

<sup>4</sup> Ibid, p. 174

<sup>5</sup> The author, *The Full Moons: Topical Letters in Esoteric Astrology*, Appendix 7, The Grounds Described