

LIBRA SOLAR FESTIVAL 2017
5/6 OCT 2017
“THE UNITED NATIONS LETTER”
©Malvin Artley

“The Charter of the United Nations which you have just signed is a solid structure upon which we can build a better world. History will honor you for it...It was the hope of such a Charter that helped sustain the courage of stricken peoples through the darkest days of the war. For it is a declaration of great faith by the nations of the earth – faith that war is not inevitable, faith that peace can be maintained. If we had had this Charter a few years ago – and above all, the will to use it – millions now dead would be alive. If we should falter in the future in our will to use it, millions now living will surely die.”¹

Harry S. Truman, 1945

Topics (linked to paragraphs):

What is in a contract?
Esoteric Libra
The ‘reversal of the wheel’
Uranus and the burning ground
Libra and the Nations
The seasonal outlook
The full moon
The astrology of the UN
The UN and the US
UN history and context
The Rohingya and other world crises
North Korea, Iran and US policy
The coming sea change in the Middle East
China, the real competitor to the US
You get what you pay for
Support for the UN and why it is needed
Living in interesting times

Greetings Everyone!

What is in a contract? Do we see one as a binding measure – a chain which restricts us – or do we see it as an agreement of cooperation? Do we see it as a fluid construct, subject to constant change and amendment, or do we see it as a rigid, unchangeable structure? Restriction or freedom – how do we see our agreements with others? We have all had experiences with contracts, many of them financially based. A contract can take many forms, too – a simple word of honor, a handshake (which usually succeeds the signing of a contract anyway), a signature, or a vow we make to ourselves – a ‘soul contract’, as it were. We do oblige ourselves within a contract, however. In some way, we have to deliver on a promise we have made, although sensibly the obligations must be allowed to be fluid within the bounds of changing conditions. But there is always something to which we have agreed, and an outcome expected by the other parties, otherwise the contract is broken or in violation until the situation is rectified. Prior to the sealing of any agreement there is always the period of negotiation, the finding of common ground, the vetting of possibilities. Contracts are part and parcel of basic human relations, starting with our own families, with whom we all have agreements and expectations, spoken and unspoken. Contracts have come to my attention in many ways in recent weeks, one of which concerned these letters as many of you now know, and I have had to make some changes with regard to providers as a result. But I have seen

contract negotiations between many other people as well, and also among nations, which we will get to later on – and Libra has a special relationship with contracts and relationships of all sorts.

Among other things, Libra is the ruler over contracts in the natural zodiac. A contract is a form of partnership, for which Libra is most famously known. And no contract is more important to us than that of our relationship with our higher Self. The higher Self, the soul, is our reason for being in terms of what we contribute to the uplifting of life, with our karma being our reason for having to be born in our present state. But even in the latter, we see the soul at work, in that karma is a vehicle for growth and for higher realizations, for realizing an enhanced state of being, both for ourselves and others. Libra is an air sign, meaning that it functions largely in the mental realm in its natural expression, and this function is based upon what we might call ‘the balancing of the pairs of opposites’.² In other words, the Libran type is always weighing matters in their mind, and nowhere is this more evident than in certain mental relations – right and wrong, ‘higher and lower’, self and other, what is fair and what needs to be righted – finding common ground, in other words. It is the zodiacal sign most associated with finding a just measure between what are often multitudes of factors. But more than that, it is known esoterically as the sign that is most suited to manifesting the truth of the soul in everyday and world affairs. And since we are talking about contracts and agreements here, there is perhaps no greater contract between nations than that which we know as the United Nations, hence the title of this letter. But first, we will have a look at some of the ‘mechanics’ of this often misunderstood sign.

Esoteric Libra: Libra is ruled by three planets, esoterically considered – Venus (orthodox), Uranus (esoteric, or ‘soul ruler’) and Saturn (hierarchical, dealing with great groups of lives). This combination of planets is quite powerful, which belies the often affable and seemingly changeable nature of Libran types, those people who have their sun or ascendant in Libra. It is also a combination that is hardline in terms of its energies, transmitting the Rays³ 5 (Venus), 7 (Uranus) and 3 (Saturn). The ‘softer’ Rays are absent (2, 4 and 6), as is Ray 1, and this in itself seems contradictory to the nature of most Librans we know. We are more likely to associate the more overt qualities of Venus with this sign, which gives a love of beauty, a strong sense of aesthetics, a focus on appearances, and a focus on intimate relations. Venus is more often than not associated with women and all things female in orthodox astrology, along with the Moon, but that is only the smallest part of the story. We all carry these qualities within us, regardless of gender. But returning to the Rays outlined before, once a Libran has found a sense of balance and reached a regular connection, however tenuous, with their higher Self, then these hardline Rays begin to operate in earnest, and such a Libran can become quite effective in the world, and manifest “...the power of the developed Libran to project the inner spiritual purpose or intended will into physical expression.”⁴

Prior to this though, the Libran can be a conundrum, even to him or herself. Librans are often chided for being unable to decide on things, choice being another common association with the sign. Librans will “...appear to vacillate but never for long and often unnoticeably, for there is always the final balancing of the qualities with which [the Libran] is equipped...”,⁵ and this through the actions of Uranus and Saturn, which govern the establishing of a new order in one’s life and the choices which lead one to that state of affairs, respectively. In the earlier phases of Libran evolution Librans can evidence fickleness and variability, bias and prejudice, dullness, a showy outer life, a sense of intrigue and quite a materialistic attitude. But once the corner is turned and the focus of life is turned inward and upward, Librans exhibit a sense of balance, a strong sense of justice, wise judgement, an enthusiastic pursuit of wisdom, straightforward conduct and spiritual attitudes.⁶ And this brings us to a final point: Libra governs what has been called esoterically ‘the reversal of the wheel’⁷ – major periods of reorientation with respect to one’s relationship with the higher Self, and thus the commencement of a period of spiritual effort.

This ‘reversal of the wheel’ in reality marks a point of crisis. If a Libran lives true to the sign, then

at some point in life a crisis will come wherein one will have to decide: Do I choose the path of constantly swinging back and forth in the realms of cyclic existence, or do I choose the way which leads out of that to-and-fro? Hence, we have the two Libran mottos:⁸

- 1) On the purely personal side, "Let choice be made"
- 2) On the side of the soul, "I choose the way which lies between the two great lines of force"

Uranus and the burning ground: When Uranus is sensed and used by a Libran, it brings about the 'burning ground', or the imposition of a new order in one's life, and thus an opportunity to move into a mode of living more in concert with the intent of one's soul. This is Ray 7 in action, which Uranus transmits. It is not usually seen as a welcome occurrence (hence the term, 'burning ground') and more often than not comes on unexpectedly, as is the nature of Uranus as we currently understand it. As we approach and enter fully into the Aquarian Age over the next century, this action of Uranus will become decidedly pronounced, and people in their millions will face such a burning ground, fortunately for all of us. The influence of Uranus began to make its influence felt since 1675,⁹ if we want to reflect on the history of technology and changing world orders, and is only set to wax in strength. The burning ground being thus engaged, returning to our Libran experience, Venus begins the process of integrating the new order into one's life, through the action of the mind in reflection, showing the action of Ray 5 through that planet. Saturn through Libra represents choice itself, but also the karmic imperative that brought the Libran to that point in their evolution. It also brings in the need to be fluid in one's affairs (a manifestation of Ray 3, through Saturn) throughout the period of reorientation and transition. But through all this, the only outward sign that is likely to be shown by the Libran to others is a withdrawal from their otherwise usual state of affairs and the exhibiting of a gentler, quieter rhythm in the way they live. Afterwards, the higher qualities of the sign will begin to show themselves. In the preceding, then, we have Libra's influence through individuals, but it also works through nations as well.

Libra and the Nations: In its manifestation of relations between nations, Libra governs over the balance of power in the world order, the meting out of justice and the keeping of law and order.¹⁰ Libra is related to many signs through its rulers – Venus, Uranus and Saturn – and thus brings into relation many nations through their soul and personality rulerships via those planets and the Rays they transmit.¹¹ It is a fascinating study and shows at a glance the trials and tribulations of international relations as well as the natural inclinations and friendships between nations and why we are all so closely interconnected. There is no escape from it, and any tendency toward isolationism in this period of history is bound by pressures and necessity to be short-lived. Venus rules through its various rulerships (conventional, esoteric and hierarchical) Taurus, Gemini and Capricorn, thus relating Libra to all those signs.¹² That rulership in itself relates the US, Great Britain, London, China, the four countries of Scandinavia, Austria, Argentina, Greece, India, Japan, Poland, Canada and Spain in various ways.¹³ And we can see the way Venus works through each of those countries, from either its higher or lower aspect. Venus through its more esoteric (soul) rulership tends toward fusion, inclusiveness, beauty, law as an expression of human progress and, with also in this present world period, an emphasis on women's rights. In its lower aspect Venus works with the aspect of imposing law and order, material gain and the balance of power, or imbalance.

Venus through Libra by itself relates China, London, Canada and Argentina through personalities, and by soul relates Scandinavia and Austria, the latter being a curious European relationship.¹⁴ Scandinavia, through its Libra soul, enjoys relative social equality, a high union membership, an active welfare state, social security, low levels of poverty, and so forth.¹⁵ Its relationship with Austria is not so overtly evident, aside from being a European state, but one might expect in the future that their collective Libran soul rulerships would have quite a significant effect on European

law and social justice. Sweden is sometimes held up as *the* model for European governance. We'll have to wait and see on that one.

As for China with other countries – and noting these here will have relevance later in this letter – Chinese Canadians form the 7th-largest Chinese diaspora in the world, just behind the US, looking at another aspect of international interrelations. The first Chinese arrived in Canada in the 19th century, the majority of those first immigrants arriving for the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway. It was a similar situation to that in the United States, along with the gold rushes in Canada and the US. Chinese Canadians now make up roughly 4% of the Canadian population. Chinese Argentines are one of the fastest-growing minorities in Argentina, numbering somewhere around 120,000 now, with many younger Chinese going there for work. The Chinese have now established themselves as a major financial player in South America and the Caribbean, right in what was long considered to be America's back yard.¹⁶ The relation by Libra of London and China manifested itself through the British invasion and takeover of Hong Kong, effectively controlling Chinese trade, when the British Empire was at its height, via the Opium wars. Hong Kong was the last vestige of British control in China after the fall of the biggest part of the British Empire after WWII. Hong Kong was relinquished back to China in 1997, representing the 'official end' of the British Empire. It will be interesting to note the influence of China now in Britain since China is soon to be the world's largest economic empire. With any grace at all it will be a relationship of cooperation and a strong partnership. Thus, given all the preceding, we see that Libra has played a valuable and powerful part in world affairs, and we have only touched the surface of themes here. Before we move on to the full moon and world concerns, remembering that outer events mask or veil the unfolding of spiritual qualities on Earth, what do we see immediately before us?

The seasonal outlook: In the outlook over the next few months (the fall quarter in the North/spring in the South), we do not see nearly the tension that we saw in the last quarter. What we see instead are more subtle, nuanced tensions, as evidenced by a hard rectangle in the [ingress figure](#). That rectangle is formed by sesquisquares between Mars and Uranus, along with the same aspect between Jupiter and Neptune. The rectangle is completed by semisquares between Uranus and Neptune, and Mars and Jupiter. This means that there are oppositions between Mars and Neptune, and the Moon and Uranus. The former will more likely than not be manifested by US efforts at manufacturing consent for military conflict, either with North Korea or Iran, possibly both. The US Congress has just passed a massive spending gift to the Pentagon of 700 billion dollars, and the rhetoric from the administration is the most strident we have seen in some time – over the top, really. We'll get to more of that in a moment. The latter, the Moon/Uranus opposition will likely manifest as social unrest and sudden events that grip the public consciousness. However, it is moderated by a Venus sextile to the Moon and trine to Uranus, which is quite a humanistic/idealistic combination, and which should help to offset any efforts at a push to war, also aiding in negotiations. This latter combination will also help with aid efforts in the Caribbean region (including Mexico) which has been hit by powerful 'acts of God' in recent weeks, with the earthquakes and hurricanes we have seen. There is a strong media emphasis in this quarter and we can expect the US media in particular to be all over the 'threats' from Iran, North Korea and Russia. But with the Mercury/Saturn square we see in the figure, we can also expect to see some good investigative reporting in alternative media which will counter the mainstream memes.

The full moon: As for the full moon, that takes place on 5 Oct 2017 at 18:40 UT (5:40 AM AEDT on the 6th). Before we get to the figure itself, the Sabian symbols,¹⁷ being slanted toward American symbolism, are particularly interesting at this time:

Children blowing soap bubbles. (13 Libra, the Sun)

An unexploded bomb reveals an unsuccessful social protest. (13 Aries, the Moon)

The solar symbol reflects a playful, carefree attitude, speaking of the innocence of childhood and the fantasies we live as children. At another level, it also speaks of world leaders making shapes out of hot air, ephemeral constructs that can be burst or float away with the slightest of efforts. At still another level, it speaks of the ephemeral and fragile nature of that in which we engage and produce. But at its highest and best, this symbol reflects the positive and unencumbered use of imagination in social settings and the value of a joyful and playful approach to life. The lunar symbol may not reflect what it appears to be on the surface – unsuccessful protests by the public. Instead, it speaks of the unsuccessful use of violence in the resolution of conflicts and an immature or ill-thought method of dealing with the existing world order. Does this give us any ideas? The non-violent approach to the resolution of social and international problems is a proven and powerful method to effect change in the existing order, and it can be argued that it produces more long-lasting and beneficial effects than the use of violence that we have seen in the past few centuries especially.

As for the full moon figure itself, the full moon axis is squared by Pluto, forming a t-square, and in this period we can likely see some instances of a ‘parting of the ways’ between people. There is always a sense of finality with Pluto, governing major endings and separations as it does, as well as indicating power plays among world leaders. This is also accented by the combust conjunction between Venus and Mars, both of which square Saturn in the figure. This is not a figure that exudes happiness, but instead indicates serious conversations between parties, resolutions that will not necessarily be to people’s liking, but which need to be. Libra is the sign most closely associated with litigation and resolution of conflicts, after all, and that can be a fraught process much of the time, as witness with most divorce cases and cases of broken contracts. But Libra is also the mediator of the zodiac, and in that capacity it can produce turning points and result in decisions that reach some distance into the future. One might expect, given current international tensions, that moves toward mediation will eventuate, that talks of warfare will be calmed, but that there will be parties that will be none-too-pleased as a result, speaking mainly of more hawkish elements in nations. What is called for in this figure is a sober look at realities, a patient attitude toward resolution of differences and the resultant cooling of tensions. In the meantime, the world will look on in uncertainty, as indicated by the Neptune link to the Sun and Mercury by quincunx. Steely nerves need to be brought to bear instead of fiery speech.

The astrology of the UN: Given the above and recent events, it might be of benefit for us to look at that great contract between nations that we have currently – the United Nations. The [United Nations](#) came into being after sufficient ratification at 4:50 PM, 24 Oct 1945 in Washington DC.¹⁸ This was effected by the final deposit by the Soviet Union at Washington of their protocol of ratification of the UN charter, sufficient for implementation of the charter. The UN has been under particular stress in the last few years, as we have seen in the news, in public opinion and in the astrology of the organization itself. The progressed moon for the UN had been balsamic since May of 2012, frequently experienced as a slow or even dark period emotionally, starting a new lunar cycle in June of 2016. We see from the chart that the institution has been bedeviled by conflicts throughout its history, with a Mars/Saturn conjunction square to the horizon of the chart. This was to be expected given the state of relations between nations then and even to now. But the UN itself in many ways has been the hope of nations and an optimistic enterprise, given the square of Jupiter to the meridian in the figure. The situation becomes greatly modified, though, if we superimpose the chart of the US onto the UN chart.

The UN and the US: In the [synastry between the US and the UN](#), we see a tale writ large. The UN has frequently been used by the US as a tool to advance US foreign policy, and we just saw an example of that with Trump’s recent speech to the UN, where he spoke about what a bad deal the Iranian nuclear deal was for the US, how there was too much bureaucracy in the UN, how member states should advance their own sovereignty, comments about ‘Rocket Man’ Kim Jong-un, etc., etc. It was seen by many conservatives in the US and Israel as a forceful and welcomed speech, whereas

much of the rest of the world was left with the clear impression that the present administration was bullying and aggressive and in clear violation of the UN charter. White House Chief of Staff John Kelly's body language spoke volumes about how he felt¹⁹ about the address and probably reflected much of the world's dismay as well. There were several glaring contradictions, misrepresentations, mistakes and even hypocritical statements in Trump's remarks, but we don't have the space to go into them here. In Trump's threatening to annihilate North Korea, though, he has advocated an illegal act in clear violation of Article 2, paragraph 4 of the charter, threatening a sovereign country with destruction. He was also in violation of paragraph 3, about both of which we might be reminded:²⁰

3. All Members shall settle their international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security, and justice, are not endangered.
4. All Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations.

Neither Iran, Venezuela nor North Korea have attacked anyone, although they have used threatening rhetoric at times. But so too, has the US. The US and other members, primarily the UK, Australia and Poland, were also in violation of those paragraphs with the war in Iraq in 2003. Iraq had not attacked anyone, nor was it threatening attack, and in fact was in compliance with the letter of UN resolution 1441 regarding weapons inspections.²¹ What should that matter now? Well, we see the same sorts of issues being raised especially regarding the Iran nuclear accord by the Trump administration that were raised by the Bush administration about Iraq's alleged non-compliance with the UN resolution.

UN history and context: As a bit of history and context, there are several countries in the main that have been or are in violation of the UN charter, and those are the US, Israel, Turkey and Morocco. The country that has produced the greatest number of violations is Israel following on the 1967 war, followed by Turkey with its occupation of Cyprus. The US typically blocks UN resolutions that would impact Israel using its veto power in the Security Council, and had done so on more than 40 occasions as of 2002.²² The US is essentially the only country that consistently supports Israel in its violation of UN resolutions, for obvious reasons. The main reason for this support is that Israel is a key ally in the Middle East. The US has just established its first permanent military base there.²³ The typical attitude of present and past US administrations toward the UN is as follows, as recounted by ex-US ambassador to the UN, Daniel Patrick Moynihan: "The Department of State desired that the United Nations prove utterly *ineffective* in whatever measures it undertook. The task was given to me, and I carried it forward with not inconsiderable success." The one thing the US wants to avoid is an independent international body throwing its weight around where US interests are impacted. Where do we see these sorts of things in the synastry between the US and the UN?

The US Saturn sits on the UN Jupiter and Chiron, which is a stifling and controlling influence on the UN, as well as being quite painful. This also squares the UN meridian, also equally controlling. On the other side, the Jupiter/meridian aspects to the US Saturn also show the insecurity that the UN can generate within US leadership, especially among conservatives in the US, who are among the most vocal critics of the organization. The US Mars is conjunct the UN Moon, indicating the sometimes belligerent attitude of the US toward the other member states and its desire to impose its wishes on the body. At other times, that Mars also puts teeth into UN resolutions. The US Mercury is conjunct the UN Mars/Saturn conjunction and square the UN horizon, which has a dual emphasis: on the one hand moderating the US discourse within the body and keeping it on point, but on the other hand strongly influencing the focus of the world body through US policy and through commerce.

The US Midheaven is at the bending of the UN nodal axis, again a strong moderating influence in UN policy, showing that US policy and administrations have the capacity to change the course of UN decisions, among other considerations. The US Sun sits on the UN 4th house and opposes the 10th, and this in itself is perhaps one of the strongest indicators of the undue influence the US sometimes imposes on the UN. The US is the largest funder of the UN, not by choice but by carefully calculated GDP measures, with the US Jupiter (Jupiter being the ‘planet of supply’) also sitting on the UN 4th house, and this again can be used to exert control over the UN. The US Congress has consistently used non-payment of US dues to the UN since 1985 in an attempt to leverage the UN toward US policies, and this has especially been the case with respect to UN policy toward Israel, which the US consistently supports over UN objections to Israeli policy. All this is not meant to sound overtly negative, but in the history of the UN there have been several glaring interventions by the US over the UN in foreign policy, especially with respect to Iraq, toward Arab states in general and toward the favoring Israel over regional needs and interests.

Be that as it may, the overwhelming majority of Americans support the UN and what it does and represents, and think that the US should stay in the UN.²⁴ The ideal represented by the UN appeals greatly to the American psyche, as well as to the world at large. The US has also done great good through the UN, especially through contributions to peacekeeping and through the World Food Programme.²⁵ The remarks in the preceding paragraphs should not be taken as meaning that the US only uses the UN for its own ends. The UN was founded as an organization whose primary purpose is to promote international dialog and avoidance of war whenever possible, after all. It is the more hawkish, interventionist factions in Washington which have used their power and influence to leverage the UN over the years towards certain ends, and who repeatedly seek to either withdraw from the UN in total or mold the institution more towards their agendas. And with the current attitudes and rhetoric flowing out of Washington and the Netanyahu administration in Israel, we are likely to witness another crisis in the UN body in the near future, probably building from around April of next year – during the subjective high point of the year.

The Rohingya and other world crises: But we currently face several crises in the world now that need our immediate attention, such as the Rohingya refugee crisis in Bangladesh, a country that is ill-equipped to handle the upwards of 500,000 refugees fleeing the violence in [Myanmar](#). This is a real crisis that needs our attention, not some imagined threat from ‘rogue regimes’ that could be better handled with negotiations. That crisis flared just after the ‘American eclipse’, which took place at the midpoint of Myanmar’s Mars and Saturn, which are separated by only 15 degrees in their 9th house. The roots of that crisis go back to 1982, when the Burmese government denied rights of citizenship to the Rohingya minority.²⁶ It was largely based in religious prejudices by Buddhists against Muslims. Not all Buddhist sects are peaceful, and they can be as militant as any other religion in their fundamentalist sects. The primary form of Buddhism practised in Myanmar is Theravadan, which is more individually based and does not stress service as a motivation on the whole, as does Mahayana or Vajrayana Buddhism as we see in Tibet. But the major problem now is that the fear of an autonomous Rohingya region in the Rakhine state, which the military in Myanmar views as a possible staging area for terrorism. Hence, the crackdown, which much of the world is seeing as ethnic cleansing. The US has given 32 million to the relief effort thus far, while the UN has assessed the need at 200 million – and that is just for one year. The outlook there is bleak.

There are other world crises as well, with the UN saying that we face the worst humanitarian crisis in the world since the end of WWII, with more than 20 million worldwide facing starvation and famine.²⁷ We hear little about that in the West, nor do we seem to care as a whole. We are more concerned with presidential tweets, whether or not the NFL are a bunch of ungrateful idiots or justified protestors, the ‘war on terror’ and so forth. Those 20 million people are not in our back yard. They are ‘someone else’s problem’. And then there are local disasters with which we should

be more occupied, rather than militaristic affairs. With the US we have just seen the disasters caused by recent hurricanes in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico which require the immediate attention of Washington and the US as a whole, wildfires in the west of the US, earthquakes in Mexico, a volcano in Bali that looks set to blow, and so forth. These sorts of events would appear to be of far greater concern to us than what the media presents to us about supposed threats to us from foreign nations far from our shores.

North Korea, Iran and US policy: One might well ask, then, why are we seeing such bellicosity toward North Korea and Iran now? Neither of those countries poses any real threat to the US or the world, not militarily anyway. If the truth were known, Iran is fighting alongside the US in Iraq and Syria in the fight against Daesh and the latter are on the run and close to being crushed militarily, soon to become simply another guerilla terrorist organization. Iran funds Hezbollah, true, but the latter are also fighting against ‘radical Islamic terrorism’, as Trump likes to call it. But there is where the problem comes in. Hezbollah is one of Israel’s biggest threats in the region. And Israel is fighting tooth and nail against Iran becoming a true regional power. But more than that, there is a major sea change taking place in the Middle East if anyone is paying attention, and this is where we get to the root of current US and Israeli foreign policy in the region, along with Trump and Netanyahu trying to distract people from domestic issues at home. Israel wants to see the US remain as the hegemon in the region, but we are seeing a Washington establishment in a subdued panic mode, covering it over with aggressive policy. Why?

Since the successful Russian intervention in Syria along with the Iranians, and the Iranian befriending of a large part of Iraqi society since the US-led invasion, some very curious and telling things are taking place in that part of the world. And in the large, China is playing a central role in what we are about to see, along with Russia. If China stays on course, it will soon replace the US as the world hegemon, and without even having to fire a shot if things go as they are now. They will do so through their economic dealings. This was at the root of Obama’s ‘pivot to the East’ and Trump’s bellicosity toward China on the campaign trail. The US is quickly losing its grip on control and power in Central Asia, the Middle East and the South China Sea due to failed policies, our disastrous ‘war on terror’ and other factors. And both Russia and China are stepping in to fill the void. China’s esoteric motto is “I indicate the way.”²⁸ Russia’s is “I link two ways.”²⁹ Much of China’s New Silk Road project, curiously enough (or perhaps not) runs along the southern border of Russia, linking two ways but also indicating a way forward for the region, linking Asia, Africa and Europe and much of those continents’ resources as a result, to which we will return in a moment. But we digress.

The coming sea change in the Middle East: The main developments that might lead us to think there is a change in the geopolitical landscape before us are multifaceted: First, there is the visit by the Saudi king to Russia in late October (the first time ever for such a visit), where among other things there will be discussions about Russia buying very significant shares in Aramco, the Saudi oil giant, along with joint Russo-Arabian petrochemical projects. Russia and Saudi Arabia are now effectively coordinating oil policies and decreasing production, which will cause a rise in oil prices, helping the economies of both countries. The Saudis have signed large arms deals with Russia and they are seeking to divest themselves of their dependence on the US and of the Saudi resource-based economy. They see what is coming and what is happening with regard to fossil fuels, along with the effects of American policy in the region, and they know there have to be drastic changes in their economic base. The Saudis are embarking on a complete rework of their economy, moving away from oil as a primary factor, which eventually will sideline US-Saudi relations. With respect to Russia-Saudi relations, there is the possibility that Russia could build up to 16 atomic power stations in Saudi Arabia. Relations between the two countries are the best they have been in years and only look set to improve.³⁰ This alone represents one of the biggest alarm bells for US policy in the region.

Russia is increasingly seen as a mediator in relations between Middle Eastern countries. It is successful because it has no ideological constraints in its negotiations and does not put pre-conditions on outcomes, such as demands about human rights and democracy.³¹ This will likely leave a sour taste for many readers, but it is the reality on the ground. And in this latter point we see one of the manifestations of the working out of its motto, in that it can link two ways of thinking and find a mutually beneficial order as a result, although it will still always make sure it benefits itself. Selfishness in nations will be very much alive for some years to come. However, this mediating ability is the 7th ray of its national soul at work, even if in a cold way by our standards. This is in distinction to its 6th Ray national personality, such as we would have seen with Soviet Russia or as we see with the personality of the US, which is on the same personality Ray. That latter point is one of the primary subjective reasons why the US and Russia are so frequently at odds, because being so idealistic but with different ideals, Russia and the US cannot seem to reconcile their differences on fundamentals, although that gulf is gradually being bridged since the fall of the Soviet Union and the rise of oligarchies in both countries. That same Ray was responsible for all of the terrible religious wars we saw in the last millennium, over what amounted to trifles. We saw that same Ray operating in Trump's speech to the UN in his remark about "the righteous many" needing to confront "the wicked few", which reminds of us of Bush II with his 'axis of evil' remarks in his 2002 State of the Union speech.³² It is the same reason we see the sectarian violence in the Middle East and the widening schism between evangelical Christians in the US and other sects of Christianity or other religions. It is also why we see the violence in Myanmar.

China, the real competitor to the US: But the biggest threat the powers-that-be in Washington face is from the rising power and influence of China across Asia, and Europe as well. It is also extending itself into South America. The third Ray of China's personality shows through its adaptability and its interest in economics and trade. It exhibits many of the same predatory economic practices that we see in many Western nations and Israel. But like Russia, China does not bind its negotiations to any ideology. It is working out its own economic model, like Russia, and while communism is still the dominant political force in that nation, it is also very pragmatic in its economic outlook, realizing that it has to give its people a certain amount of latitude in their business dealings. This latter point will probably eventually sound the death knell of communism as the ruling party in China, but that will take a long time, given the soul of the nation. Its soul Ray is the first, like that of India, hence the standoff we see happening at present at the Chinese-Indian border, with neither side willing to budge, along with its very controlling and often cruel treatment of its people. However, China has advanced very quickly in a material sense under communism, especially with its revised economic models of the past decades, and its combination of Rays one and three make it a very formidable economic force, albeit a very manipulating one at the same time, as we see with its policies of foreign investment.

You get what you pay for: The point to all this is that the Trump administration is very much focused on countering the rise of China, as recently revealed in an interview with Steve Bannon.³³ The same has been true with past administrations. But there is a big elephant in the room with this approach: So long as the American and European public insists on buying things made in China instead of those domestically-built – such as much of the cheap electronics that we see – China will simply continue its rise unchecked. This applies to every country. Here in Italy, Chinese shops are popping up everywhere. One can buy any and all manner of goods on the cheap, but there is a trade-off. At street markets, one can buy clothes marked with the label "Made in Italy" (translated, of course) and they are very cheap. But the thing people do not realize is that those 'budget Italian clothes' are frequently made in Chinese-owned Italian companies where labor practices are poor to say the least, frequently manned by foreign workers who are underpaid, and so forth. This is the price we pay for globalization as it is currently practised. Even though the products are made in Italy, citing the Italian example again, they are largely substandard and might last for a season if

one is lucky. Such practices also have the effect of killing Italian businesses. There are empty retail shopfronts everywhere in Italy, and the preceding points are part of the reason.

The old adage, “You get what you pay for,” still applies, perhaps now more than ever. And the Chinese are very patient, and long-range in their thinking. They know that all they need is enough of a military deterrent to keep themselves out of a war (and Russia is the same in this regard), and they can then continue their economic trade and policies unchecked, which will lead to the fall of American dominance over time. It is simple human nature that is killing the dreams of Western nations, along with greed and erroneous economics. If you keep people economically disadvantaged, they will do what they must to survive and have a little comfort, which means that the producers of cheap goods will dominate the market. If you give shareholders and industry a chance to relocate overseas, use cheap labor and maximize profits thus, why would they not do so? We have shot ourselves in the foot in the West with neoliberal globalization. As with politics, the economic trend must be reversed at a local level if we want to see a reversal of our fortunes, and this starts with a “Buy local!” approach. It is more expensive, and many people currently cannot do so, but if we do not support our own, who else will support us? It also means supporting our allies and in buying from lesser-developed nations who are not in the pockets of more predatory financial powers, as in nations or large corporations. The latter applies to goods that cannot be produced in our home countries, like coffee or chocolate, for instance.

Support for the UN and why it is needed: I know we have rambled on here a bit, but there is a point to it. The UN needs our support. It needs the teeth in its policies to get things done for a world in need, and to calm tensions instead of exacerbating them. If we can help those in dire need it would do much to promote peace among nations, rather than the militaristic posturing we see between a few nations. The US needs to pay its fair share of its dues, too, which would also help a lot – and 22% *is* its fair share, which has been carefully calculated. And in terms of the total US budget, that 22% of the UN budget is a pittance to the US. If we were to live true to the UN charter and to Truman’s speech at the UN charter meeting all those years ago (speaking to all nations), then imagine what we could accomplish in a short space of time! And imagination is a powerful force, pointedly directed and inspiring of our collective sense of humanity.

Living in interesting times: So, we hear the oft-repeated adage “We live in interesting times” in our conversations about the state of the world and our nations, but this is in the nature of a shrug of surrender. We also hear quite often that people are at the end of their rope with the state of things, that they cannot bear much more of what they see. For a few people this is true, but for the majority of us, this is simply the groaning of our elementals, like those of a grumpy child, and should be seen for what it is. We live a very privileged life in the West on the whole. Instead of complaining, it is far more useful to animate ourselves with renewed imagination as to how to overcome our difficulties and those of loved ones, to ignore the mainstream narratives that guide our home communities’ and nation’s policies (if they are harmful) and to lead by example, throwing ourselves into something useful that sustains us and which uplifts those around us.

Especially in these days of transition, when so many of us feel tired and worn, when there is no true material security any longer, we might ask ourselves, “How can I be heroic today?” Instead of expecting a hero to appear, be the one to appear. That sort of activity releases all sorts of endorphins, opens one’s heart, brings the light of day to others and lifts the local energies. And the acts do not have to be epoch or legendary. Just a simple helping hand is all that is needed in most cases. So the next time someone mentions that we live in interesting times, ask them, “What are we going to do about it?” It’s a conversation stopper, but also a call to action. The look on their faces will be priceless, but it will also set the gears of mind in motion, too. Let us set things in motion, especially for communities and nations, to unite for peace and the common good.

Libra blessings,
Malvin.
27 Sep 2017
malvin@malvinartley.com

These letters are sent as a service. Feel free to pass them along if you feel so inspired, but please do so without alteration or charge. If you wish to be added to or deleted from the mailing list, let me know. There is info for such at the end of this email.

¹ <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/?pid=12188> Address in San Francisco at the Closing Session of the United Nations Conference, June 26, 1945.

² Bailey, Alice A., *Esoteric Astrology*, p. 251

³ A Ray is one of the seven primary energies that guide and shape the evolution of our local universe. They are transmitted to us through the sacred planets: Vulcan, Jupiter, Saturn, Mercury, Venus, Neptune and Uranus, in order from one through seven. Information on the Rays are found throughout the books of Alice Bailey, but the most concise descriptions are found in the two volumes of *Esoteric Psychology*, as they apply to individuals.

⁴ Ibid, p. 249

⁵ Ibid, p. 251

⁶ Ibid, p. 249

⁷ Ibid, p. 101

⁸ Ibid, p. 251

⁹ Bailey, *Esoteric Psychology I*, p. 26, considering that Uranus transmits that Ray to this planet.

¹⁰ Bailey, Alice A., *The Destiny of the Nations*, p. 81

¹¹ Bailey, *Esoteric Astrology*, p. 68

¹² Op cit.

¹³ *Destiny of the Nations*, p. 67

¹⁴ Op cit.

¹⁵ Becker, Uwe, "The Scandinavian Model: Still an Example for Europe?" pp. 41 – 57, April 2007.

¹⁶ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2010/apr/18/china-brazil-south-america-trade>

¹⁷ https://cafeastrology.com/sabiansymbols_degreameanings.html

¹⁸ Moore, J.A. and Pubantz, J, *The New United Nations: International Organization in the Twenty-First Century*, (2017): Tylor and Francis pubs.

¹⁹ <https://www.redstate.com/sweetie15/2017/09/19/john-kelly-think-trumps-un-speech-see/>

²⁰ <http://www.un.org/en/sections/un-charter/chapter-i/index.html>

²¹ <https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/iraqchron>

²² <http://articles.latimes.com/2002/oct/17/world/fg-resolution17>

²³ <http://thehill.com/policy/defense/351274-us-opens-first-permanent-military-base-in-israel>

²⁴ http://www.huffingtonpost.com/kathleen-weldon/seventy-years-of-us-publi_b_7639210.html

²⁵ <https://usun.state.gov/system/files/197518.pdf>

²⁶ <https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2017/09/rohingyas-burma/540513/>

²⁷ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/mar/11/world-faces-worst-humanitarian-crisis-since-1945-says-un-official>

²⁸ Bailey, *Destiny of the Nations*, p. 50

²⁹ Ibid, p. 61

³⁰ <https://www.strategic-culture.org/news/2017/09/06/king-saudi-arabia-visit-russia-october.html>

³¹ <http://nationalinterest.org/feature/russian-style-diplomacy-can-break-the-middle-eastern-impasse-21156>

³² <https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2017/9/19/16333290/trump-full-speech-transcript-un-general-assembly>

³³ <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2017/sep/11/steve-bannon-compares-china-to-1930s-germany-and-says-us-must-confront-beijing>