

High Noon for Saturn and Pluto

Over the last year we have experienced the opposition of Saturn and Pluto in very clear ways. Much has already been written about this in the context of the 11th of September. What I aim to do in this article is to look at this in a wider context – in the whole cycle of Saturn and Pluto and then to see how this affects (and has affected in the past) the United States and the Netherlands. We then may get an idea of what it can mean on a personal level by seeing how this affects our own horoscope.

But first let us look at the two characters involved in the shoot out. I like to use the approach Liz Greene, a well-known astrologer, uses and to see the planets as Gods and use the signs for their clothes or personalities.

So taking Saturn first.

With a good upbringing Saturn can turn into a very wise God who is an authority in certain areas through his practical experience. He has learned well with time. He is practical and clear and can teach us many things if we take the time to learn. Our Saturn at the moment is dressed in Gemini clothes which in some ways is a strange mix of opposites. Saturn is old and wise – Gemini is young and curious. Saturn is fixed – Gemini is very changeable. So what image can we create when this combination works well?

Gemini rules trade and networking, communication of all forms and linking things together. So we may expect that our Saturn will be active in these areas. His goal (and he is very goal oriented) is for us to learn a few lessons here. He wants us to be clear about what we are saying.

A good image might be an older God with a youthful enthusiasm who lectures on the uses of internet. Or an experienced financial trader who still enjoys the risks involved but knows his business very well. One who uses fun to get across his goal or deal. He is probably a very busy God with many things on the go but they all have a purpose. And he has the ability to sort out from all the information he has, what is helpful to his goal. He is responsible for what he says and thinks.

But what about our Saturn if he has not been supported well in his childhood? We may then get a God who lies to achieve his goals. Or a God who fears failing to be understood or heard. Maybe then he reacts by becoming very authoritative and listening to no-one. He tells everyone what they should think and what is the right thing to do. He knows everything. He takes responsibility for everyone's communication. And he likes saying things that hurt.

I use the image of a shoot out as I see these Gods now standing on opposing sides. A few years ago (last time in 1982) they were together but have now come to the point where they have met twice on opposites sides (August 2001 and November 2001) and in May 2002 they must resolve their differences so they can go their own ways until they come together again on the same side in 2020. It's like going to two parties where you meet someone that you have a problem with but you know you really need to resolve it next time you meet them. These Gods' differences are still in the air.

So taking the idea of a shoot out on one side we have our Saturn cowboy. He is perhaps older and has been around. He has a very clear goal. Even although he is dressed in young cowboy's clothes and has an air of not being too serious – don't be fooled. He is.

Pluto

The other character is of course Pluto. He is also a very powerful God and that is what he wants – power. With a supportive upbringing we have a God who is a bit of a loner but he likes research. He loves the idea of being able to transform things. He digs and delves and analyses until he gets to the bottom of a problem. And when he decides to do something he is unstoppable. His problem is that he can be very black and white. But as long as he is in control everything is fine.

Our Pluto now is dressed in Sagittarius clothes. This is also a bit of a strange mix as Sagittarius is very outgoing and adventurous – Pluto is much more analysing and in control – he looks before he leaps- Sagittarius loves to leap.

This sign rules discovery and meaning (the opposite of Gemini which is about information). Sagittarius is about finding out what the information means – or finding patterns. It also rules travel especially flight, religion and higher education. And the environment. So we would expect our Pluto to be busy in these areas.

A good image for him might be someone who has studied many world religions and understands the basis of all of them. He has the knowledge to accept where their faith comes from. He does not judge as he has a deep understanding of the psychology of belief. He would like to make a difference in the world by transforming people so that the world becomes a better place to live. He could also be a space explorer who makes a discovery that makes us change our view of the world. Or someone with a love of the rainforests that finds a way to stop them being destroyed. He may also be a very powerful person who has a completely new view of how students should be educated.

But what about our Pluto with poor support in his childhood? He will be a very different character. He might use force and violence to get what he wants. If he feels out of control he may murder or rape to show he has power. He may use mind control and play mind games. He will be very devious and manipulative especially if he feels powerless. Undercover activities and secret missions are also something he will use. And most obvious at the moment he will do anything for his own belief system –“My belief is bigger and better than yours.” He is extremely judgmental and wants to win no matter what the cost.

The two sides

So our cowboy Pluto is facing our cowboy Saturn for the last time in May 2002. Our Pluto cowboy is not planning to lose. He can be sneaky and devious if necessary. Saturn is more likely to play by the rules. Both the good and bad sides of these characters are always present.

We have seen with the 11th of September very clearly how the negative Pluto can work in the world – Religion has taken a lot of the blame but I think we need to take a wider view and include Capitalism as a sort of belief system as well. It has been evident in the past that any type of belief system has played a role in this cycle. We have had much death and the use of many secret plots. Terrorism is a very Pluto in Sagittarius phenomenon. We have seen the rest of the world trying to act as the wise Saturns – recommending wisdom and patience and working together. We have also seen America's desire not to be beaten. To gain back their image of power. We have also seen many Saturnian authoritative approaches to world problems.

When these two Gods meet, one wants power and the other authority – it is a fight that is probably not winnable. If they both could use their positive sides we could get for example; authority through research or really going for goals or deep transformation in the areas mentioned. We could get different religions understanding each other and from that position agreeing to disagree. But with Pluto we first have to admit that we don't have control. No matter what measures the world brings in regarding terrorism there will always be someone who can get around those measures and show that they can do what they want. This has been very clearly shown. The message van Bin Laden is "I can get you whoever and wherever you are". Not that we should give up the fight but we need to admit we will never be completely in control. And perhaps we need to know what the other side really wants. To do some analysis here.

With Saturn we first need to admit our fear. Through facing the fear we learn, but often our first reaction is to make new rules and set new laws. This may give us a sense of security – for example that Pornography on the internet is illegal in some countries – but in reality laws are always broken. This sounds all very negative – in practice many very positive things are also happening in the world but particularly with Saturn in Gemini the news is all harsh.

It will be interesting to see what transpires around the last opposition in 2002 – May 26th at 16.36 of Gemini.

The Saturn Pluto Cycle

Let us place these characters in the context of the longer cycle. There are of course many aspects formed within a cycle and they all have meaning but I will take just the conjunctions, squares and oppositions as these are the ones that tend to bring about clear events. I have gone back a little way in the cycle. Going back further reveals very similar patterns.

Aspect	Year(s)	Sign Pluto	Sign Saturn	World event
Opposition	1931	♅	♄	Great depression
Square	March 26 1940	♄	♅	World War II
Conjunction	August 11 1947	13 ♄	13 ♄	Iron Curtain
Square	1955-56	♄	♁	War Israel Egypt, Suez Crisis
Opposition	1965-66	♁	♄	Vietnam
Square	1973-74	♁	♅	Oil Crisis Cease Fire in Vietnam
Conjunction	November 8 1982	27 ♁	27 ♁	European Community conflict End recession
Square	1993-94	♁	♁	Maastricht – Israel- Palestine agreement
Opposition	2001-02	♄	♁	WTC attack New York
Square	2009-10	♄	♁	
Conjunction	January 12 2020	22 ♄	22 ♄	

Looking back only to 1931 there are patterns emerging. We often see crises appearing in the world with these Saturn Pluto aspects. Often involving conflicting nations. Ray Merriman (for one) has produced much information about this cycle being an economic one. Particularly in America and therefore often the rest of the world this pattern is clear. At the opposition the economy changes from being too buoyant and turns down until the next square. From that square to the conjunction a base is formed and at the conjunction the recession ends and the economy goes up until the next square. At the next opposition again it turns downwards again. So if history repeats we will get a continuous down (with a rally at the trine) until 2009. A base will be formed so that in 2020 the economy can take off again.

Obviously wars affect economics so that connection is clear too. But it seems clear that Saturn Pluto is associated with heavy conflict.

United states

To take this further let us look at two countries to see how this works. Firstly the United States as this country is an obvious example to take at this time. The one good thing about the 11th of September attack for astrologers is that in my mind it has put the argument over which chart to use for America to rest. In my view the Nick Campion chart with a time of 17:10 is the chart that works the best – not only because of the Pluto transit but if you use the Huber Age Points Pluto is also very accurately triggered in this chart for the 11th September.

So the chart is for July 4th 1776 17:10 Philadelphia. This chart has 12.21 Sagittarius ascending so transiting Pluto was on the ascendant with the WTC attack. So the Saturn Pluto opposition now is across houses 1 and 7 in the US chart.

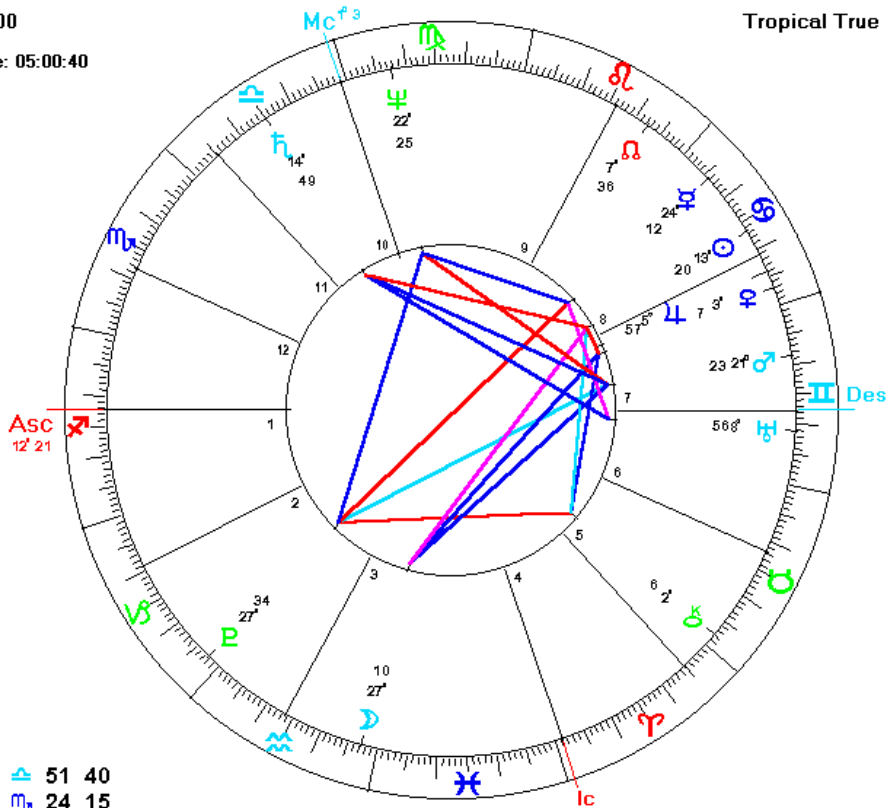
CHART United States

04 July 1776 Time:17:10:00
 Philadelphia PA
 39:57:00 N 075:10:00 W Zone: 05:00:40

♈	13	♄	19	43
♉	27	♃	10	23
♊	24	♂	12	19r
♋	3	♅	6	57
♌	21	♁	23	8
♍	5	♄	56	35
♎	14	♃	48	48
♏	8	♁	55	34
♐	22	♄	25	24
♑	27	♃	34	4r
♒	12	♁	21	12
♓	1	♂	3	27
♈	7	♃	35	39r
♉	2	♁	5	56

Koch

♋	2	9	♃	3	15	11	24	♁	51	40
♌	3	13	♃	39	57	12	18	♄	24	15



I will just take one interpretation first of Pluto in the US natal chart – of course the house it rules and the aspects are also important but for simplicity I will just take Pluto in the 2nd in Capricorn to interpret what the US sees as power. (Pluto in the chart showing where or how we are powerful or want to be.) So for America power is money and solid investment. The mighty dollar wins all. So it should come as no surprise that if someone wants to bring down power he would go for something connected with solid (Capricorn) money. Financial institutions and authorities. We see that Pluto is also linked to Mercury so trading institutions are also powerful in this chart and were also attacked under this opposition.

With Pluto on the ascendant by transit it is the image of the US that is transformed. A sort of loss of face. And the immediate response from the US was to win at all costs. Pluto in 2. Pluto ruling the 12th shows perhaps much secret activity going on.

With the attack (11th September 2001) the opposition was not exact and Pluto is more dominant I think as it is exactly transiting the ascendant.

Saturn was still within orb of an opposition and was at the midpoint of Mars and Uranus in the 7th house in the US chart. This is also a pretty determined combination to go into battle. Saturn in a chart shows where we want to have authority but also what we fear. Where we are vulnerable. In America's chart Saturn is in Libra in the 10th house – again house rulers and aspects are important but just taking Saturn in Libra in the 10th

America may fear working with others perhaps out of a fear that it will be unfair in some way. It can also find itself to be an authority on negotiating peace which it has done many times often with a fairly authoritative hand. On the one hand the goal of America is peace (MC Libra) but it needs to have a leading role. We have seen how this works too in the last few months.

With Saturn going through the seventh house though America has listened to other countries who have tried to act as wise elders, but they too are afraid and with good reason.

It is clear that the Saturn Pluto cycle will trigger these themes in different ways depending on the houses being transited.

If we take the table above and apply it to the US we see some interesting events showing up. I have included some areas without comment for your own research as these themes are also interesting in the current situation.

Aspect	Year(s)	Sign Pluto	Sign Saturn	US events
Opposition	1931	♄	♄	Great depression Al Capone in jail Empire State building open Star-spangled banner official song
Square	March 26 1940	♄	♄	World War II
Conjunction	August 11 1947	♄ ♄	♄ ♄	Iron Curtain Television War US – Soviet Union Truman Doctrine Marshall containment Prison for pro communists in Hollywood
Square	1955-56	♄	♄	War Israel Egypt, Suez Crisis US involvement
Opposition	1965-66	♄	♄	Vietnam US economy just peaked Gemini space programme
Square	1973-74	♄	♄	Oil Crisis Cease Fire in Vietnam Water Gate Nixon leaves Nixon and Ford visit Soviet Union – agreement about nuclear arms War Egypt Indian uprising End of the boom in the economy

Conjunction	November 8 1982	27 ♁	27 ♁	European Community conflict End recession Another nuclear arms agreement with Soviets War Falklands
Square	1993-94	♁	♁	Clinton comes to power Bomb WTC! Us attack Haiti Lot of banks out of business Israel- Palestine agreement in US Maastricht agreement
Opposition	2001-02	♁	♁	WTC attack New York Highest ever stock market Govt financial problems before attack
Square	2009-10	♁	♁	
Conjunction	January 12 2020	22 ♁	22 ♁	

Conflict, Money, Negotiations and Authority are definite themes.

A cycle that started in 1947 after the end of the war with a baby boom still seems to be active with this opposition.

The enemy then for the United States was communism. The term the Iron Curtain was first used in this year by Winston Churchill. A fitting image for Pluto and Saturn. Later the enemy was other groups which I haven't mentioned (Blacks, women, etc.) but in 1947 capitalism in the US was the thing after the war so Communism became the enemy. The conjunction was also in the sign of Leo so everyone was very self focussed.

The Truman Doctrine is also interesting to quote here as it also shows the US Saturn Pluto beliefs.

"I believe that it must be the policy of the US to support free peoples who are resisting subjugation by armed minorities or outside pressure. "

Inadvertently this lead to an anti-communism that went too far.

Harry Truman the president of the US at this time was famous for his quote of "The buck stops here" meaning that he would take responsibility for his actions.

Containment was American policy at this time. This meant keeping the Soviet Union at bay while helping western Europe recover from the war.

Interesting to note in the Saturn Pluto context that the Marshall Plan which shows the positive side of these planets was one of the mostly successful initiatives in history.

Maybe we could learn from it now. It was a program :

"not directed against any country or doctrine but against hunger, poverty, desperation and chaos."

Europe comes up again for the US in 1982 with the next conjunction of this cycle and the Soviet issue is resolved with arms agreements.

It is also interesting to note that television was introduced under this aspect – this has certainly played a strong role in the current conflict. Uncovering the reality but also manipulating using the media.

But in 1947 we do see the start of locking people away who have differing beliefs. And the US being involved in others' conflicts.

This is necessarily a brief overview of this cycle but if I was giving advice to the President I would suggest that he look back at these dates and honestly analyse how American power and authority were used at these times and see if lessons can be learned from this. We need power and authority – someone needs to lead. But it needs to come from a good place.

The cycle in the Netherlands

So how does this cycle affect the Netherlands? Of course many of the above American and world events have had an obvious effect in the Netherlands but other factors also emerge for this cycle. Let's look at the table for the Netherlands – again very briefly.

Aspect	Year(s)	Sign Pluto	Sign Saturn	Netherlands Events
Opposition	1931	♅	♄	Great depression
Square	March 26 1940	♅	♄	World War II Netherlands invaded by Germany Rotterdam bombed Royal Family move to England
Conjunction	August 11 1947	13 ♅	13 ♄	Iron Curtain Queen Wilhelmina steps down from the throne Juliana now Queen Anne Frank book published Gatt agreement (trade) Dutch involvement with Germany in Europe Marshall Plan
Square	1955-56	♅	♄	War Israel Egypt, Suez Crisis Economic crisis – government limits spending Warsaw Pact
Opposition	1965-66	♄	♅	Vietnam Cabinet crisis France a problem in the European community Problems with the Royal Marriage – riots in Amsterdam (German husband)
Square	1973-74	♄	♅	Oil Crisis Cease fire in Vietnam Germany joins the United Nations High unemployment
Conjunction	November 8 1982	27 ♄	27 ♄	European Community conflict (Britain) End recession Ruud Lubbers becomes Prime Minister in an early election Heavy limitations on Government spending

Square	1993-94	♁	♁	Maastricht treaty Israel- Palestine agreement First "paarskabinet" Auschwitz monument attacked before unveiling
Opposition	2001-02	♁	♁	WTC attack New York Conflicts around Royal wedding Willem-Alexander- Maxima Tribunal war criminals Introduction Euro
Square	2009-10	♁	♁	
Conjunction	January 12 2020	22 ♁	22 ♁	

There seem to be a few themes here. One is Germany – it appears in different ways in this cycle but is fairly prominent. The other one is that the Royal Family seems to be linked in some way to this cycle. And of course the economic cycle as in the US is also present. Another theme is the Netherlands characteristic of middle man or negotiator is also triggered by this cycle.

A look at one of the charts for the Netherlands might throw some light on why this may be the case.

I have used the William I. 16th March 1815 10:13. the Hague. This date is actually for the Proclamation . William I was actually crowned on 2nd December 1813 and gave the oath on 21st September 1815 in Brussels. Astrologers in Holland say that this (rectified) chart (16th March) responds well to transits. I would need to study it more to have an opinion about the time (When time permits I plan to do this.) Nick Campion in his book of world horoscopes gives no time for the proclamation only “ in the morning at Scheveningen.”

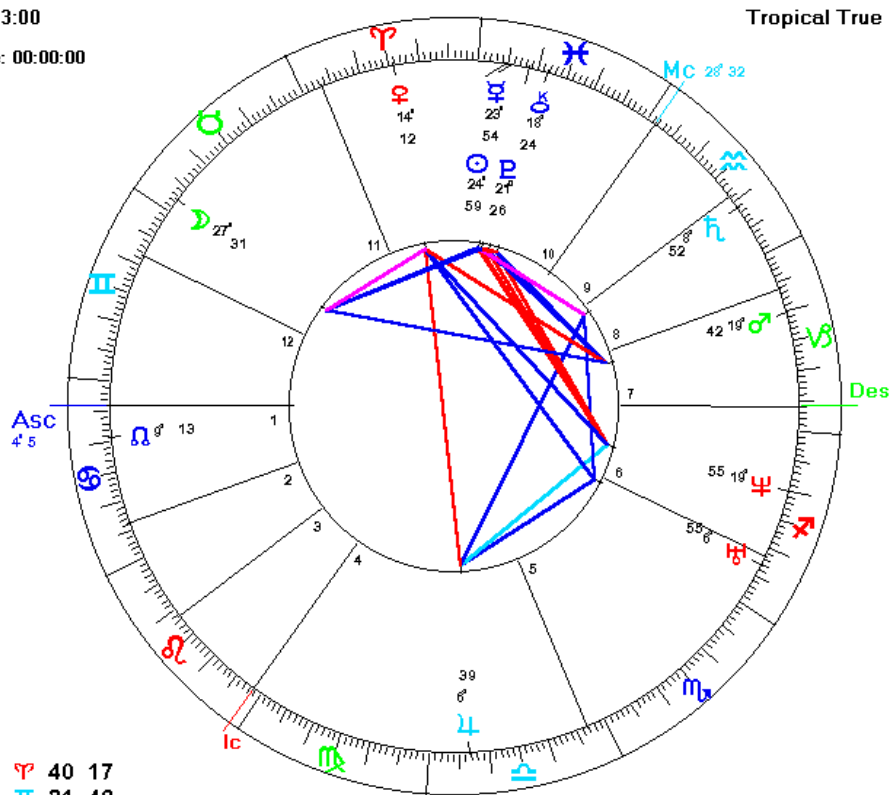
Chart Netherlands

16 March 1815 Time:10:13:00
 Den Haag
 52:06:00 N 004:18:00 E Zone: 00:00:00

☉	24	♊	59	14
☽	27	♋	31	21
♁	23	♊	54	3r
♂	14	♈	11	31
♀	19	♋	42	28
♃	6	♈	38	48r
♄	8	♋	51	33
♅	6	♈	55	21r
♆	19	♈	55	15
♇	21	♊	26	29
♁	4	♋	5	18
♂	28	♋	31	34
♃	9	♋	13	12r
♄	18	♊	23	56

Koch

2	23	♋	43	6	11	26	♈	40	17
3	11	♋	22	24	12	8	♈	31	48



What catches the eye immediately in this chart is the stellium in Pisces in the 10th house. Because Pluto is involved this stellium is also important for this article as again Pluto shows where we have or want power – or where we want to transform. So in the Netherlands power is associated with what we want and how we can negotiate that (Mercury also being involved). We see ourselves as having power if we lead negotiations or if we trade or translate or are a link in some way. The fact that the Sun is involved shows that Pluto or power is also tied up with people who have power or are in the spotlight – the Royal family and the Government – the leaders in the community. The Royal Family may not really be in power any more but they are a figurehead nevertheless and do have some influence in Government affairs. Perhaps 2009-10 will be another turning point for the cabinet and the royal family if history repeats.

Saturn is 8 shows what we fear or where we have become an authority. We have certainly had some experience in the areas of sex, drugs and death (euthanasia) to name a few 8th house issues. We know about these areas through practical experience and we treat them in a down to earth manner.

Saturn also rules the 7th and the 9th which explains the links with this cycle with foreign matters and cooperation e.g. the European Community.

From a transit point of view it is also interesting to note that Pluto is becoming closer to the natal Neptune in this chart which Saturn will oppose. This will bring in another dynamic to the end of the Saturn Pluto opposition.

A quick look at this Neptune in Sagittarius in 6 with the Saturn Pluto opposition across 6 and 12 may highlight Health and Hospital issues. Or service as both of these houses are about service. Neptune shows where we want to be compassionate or spiritual. It also shows where we sacrifice or escape. Where we have no borders or boundaries. In Sagittarius this has to do with Foreign Policy so this describes our attitude to refugees – we want to help and let everyone in. But we already hear rumblings of Saturn Pluto in this area. There are too many refugees and how should we control this? I think in the health system these themes of limits and controls will get even stronger. There are already hospitals closing. And we are seeing restrictions and new rules relating to homeopathy and alternative products. We are also seeing a tightening up of professions – Psychotherapy for example no longer being in the BIG wet as a registered profession. Also very Saturn (restrictions/ difficulties/ clarity) Pluto (psychotherapy).

If I was giving advice for an election campaign Health and service would certainly be two of my top issues to get clear.

I hope to have given an overview of the Pluto Saturn cycle that shows how it has worked in history. If we look to our own charts and see what our natal Saturn and Plutos mean and then see in which houses the current opposition falls we can get an idea of what the themes are for us on a personal level. If other planets are triggered by this opposition then that will add an extra dimension.

More research is definitely needed on all of the cycles. This is just one of many. I have given a framework here of one approach to this very rewarding research work. I invite anyone with interesting dates or events relating to this cycle to contact me so I can continue to make this more complete.