

Charts in the News

with commentary by Elisabeth Grace



All charts use Placidus houses (except where noted) and the Mean Node.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt, January 30, 1882; 8:45 p.m. LMT; Hyde Park, NY, USA (41°N47', 73°W56'); AA: quoted BC/BR (birth certificate/birth record).

Nobody makes news unless there's action in their horoscope. This rule applies to all newsmakers, dead or alive. The horoscope lives forever (as readers of *The Mountain Astrologer* learned in the Dec. 2016/Jan. 2017 issue), and can be used to anticipate developments in any life, long after an obituary is published.¹

FDR is all over the news, especially in op-eds comparing his administration to President Biden's. "Joe Biden Is Electrifying America like F.D.R.," wrote *The New York Times's* Nicholas Kristof on May 1, President Biden's 100th day in office — and just hours after the Sun-Uranus conjunction at 11° Taurus.² The Sun refers to leaders; Uranus refers to electricity and innovation. Awesome! Now, look at FDR's horoscope. (See **Chart 1**, inner wheel, below left.) Do you see that this conjunction exactly squared his 11° Aquarius Sun? A hard aspect (conjunction, square, opposition) from Uranus to the Sun often reflects "an intensified feeling of ego aggrandizement; excited state in relationship."³ Fascinating.

What other planets in fixed signs (Taurus, Leo, Scorpio, and Aquarius) are activated by transiting Uranus this year? (A pause, while you think.)

Now consider the potential of transiting Jupiter and Saturn in Aquarius. Jupiter is an expansive influence, for better or for worse. Saturn is streamlining, structuring, or cutting. Consider the house placement and the natal planet. For example, transiting Jupiter will hit FDR's partile (and persuasive) Mercury-Pluto square thrice in 2021. Mercury rules his Ascendant (ASC) and Midheaven (MC); Pluto rules his 3rd house. How might that expansive influence manifest?

Fun fact #1: FDR's first inauguration was March 4, 1933, with Saturn at 11° Aquarius. It's having its third Saturn return in 2021. My teacher, Noel Tyl, often said that a Saturn return is "a new lease on life." When our 32nd president first took

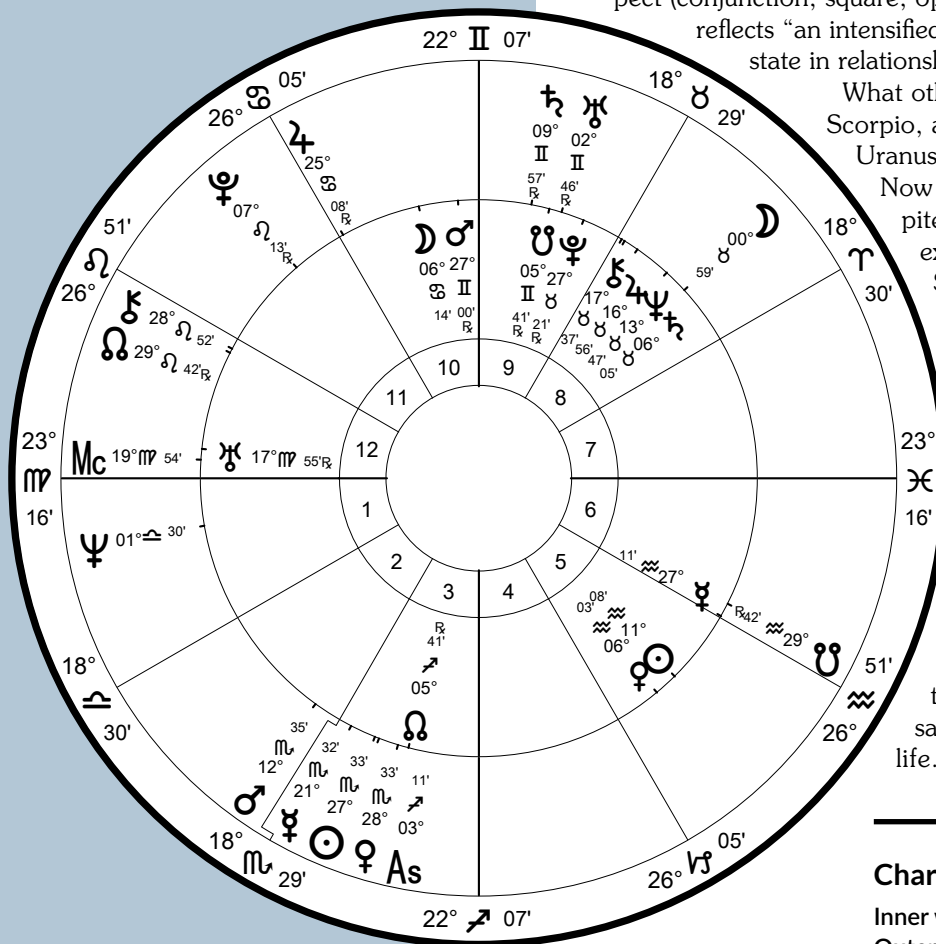


Chart 1: Bi-wheel.

Inner wheel and house cusps: FDR
Outer wheel: Joe Biden

office, the United States was at the “nadir of the worst depression in its history.”⁴ FDR’s New Deal created government agencies and used federal funding to invest in the nation’s infrastructure and human capital.⁵ Some 88 years later, President Biden’s “Build Back Better” proposals “echo” FDR’s and would also provide federally backed “Relief, Recovery and Reform,” benefiting American workers, families, and infrastructure (including energy and broadband access).⁶ Biden’s success would be a new lease on life for FDR!

FDR’s horoscope has significant solar arcs, too: SA Saturn = MC and Venus = MC (exact in August 2020) and SA Saturn = ASC and SA Venus = ASC (exact this October). The MC solar arcs suggest a peak in professional status and popularity. The ASC solar arcs suggest popularity, but also controls on personal projection. Any planet on an angle — whether in a natal chart or by transit, direction, or progression — is likely to command greater attention. Always pay attention to planets on an angle!

Speaking of angles, transiting Neptune at 22° Pisces has just begun a series of hard aspects to FDR’s ASC and MC that will continue into January 2023. Getting Neptune literally “from all angles” could be a surreal wipeout. California Governor Gavin Newsom has a 21° Virgo ASC and a 20° Gemini MC, close to FDR’s.⁷ Newsom faces a recall election this year, with Caitlyn Jenner being one of his challengers. Surreal! On the upside, Neptune can suggest success in the arts, charity, healing — or any other endeavor where an inspiring vision might be required. And let the record show that Joe Biden’s transit of Neptune conjunct his IC did not prevent him from becoming president, even though the election and its aftermath continue to be bewildering.

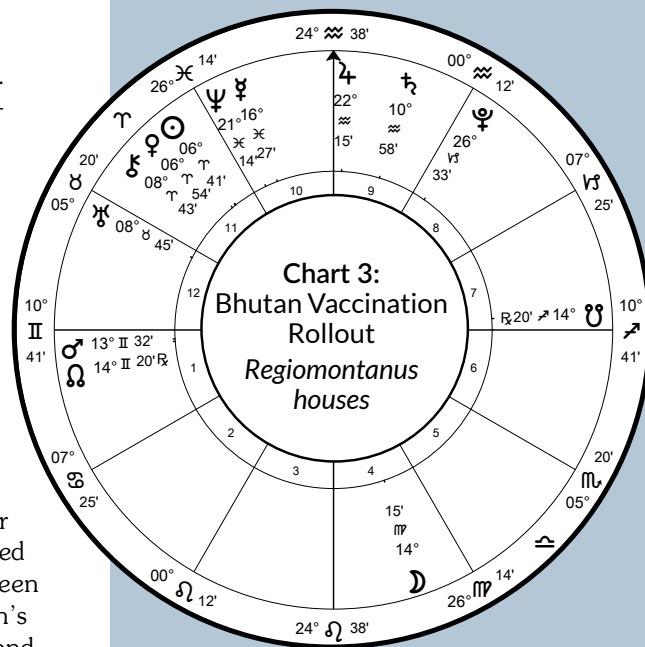
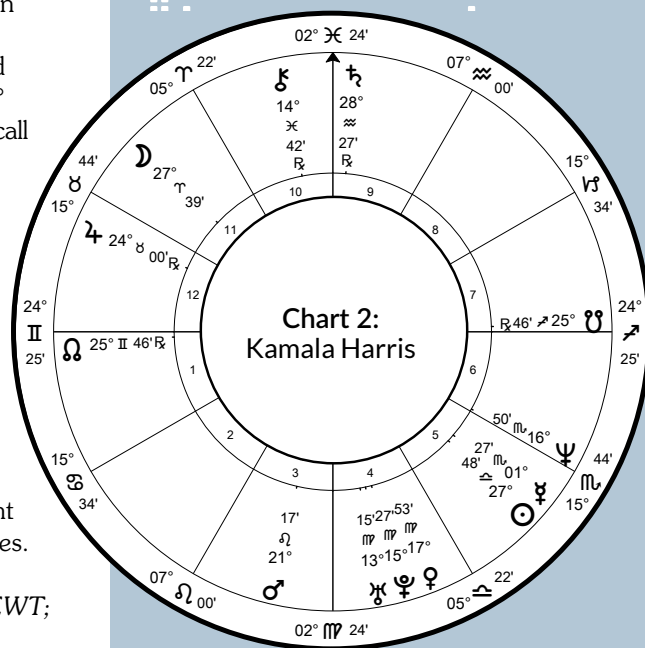
Fun fact #2: Many American politicians — especially those with great popular appeal — have planets and/or angles around 22° of mutable signs. They connect with the US Mars–Neptune square at 21° Gemini – 22° Virgo (reflecting our need for the “American Dream,” if you ask me).⁸ This brings us to the subject of synastry, and we’ll look at the connections between FDR and President Biden next. We know from the headlines that we will see powerful ones.

Joseph Robinette Biden, Jr., November 20, 1942; 8:30 a.m. EWT; Scranton, PA, USA (41°N25', 71°W40'); A: from memory.

President Biden’s natal chart was discussed in the June/July 2020 issue of *TMA*; a link is in the footnotes.⁹ It was written in March 2020, before COVID-19’s devastating toll and Biden’s election victory. Now let’s look at the driving patterns of his first 100 days in office — and beyond.

Biden’s reigning need is to create material comfort and security, represented by his Taurus Moon. (See **Chart 1**, outer wheel, previous page.) It was exactly squared by last December’s Great Mutation of Jupiter–Saturn in Aquarius. Squares are energizing, for better or worse. We see how Biden’s need to build (back better) material security would be supercharged by the seeds of innovative, tech-savvy, humanitarian, “get down to business” Jupiter–Saturn in Aquarius. We see how he would hit the ground running.

Speaking of running, note that Pluto, Jupiter, and Saturn were traveling at maximum speed in January 2021, another cosmic support for the turbocharged pace of Biden’s first 100 days. The pace is slower as I type this in May, with planets turning retrograde and farther away from the Sun. Meanwhile, Biden’s horoscope is personally affected by 2021’s most significant pattern: the series of three squares between Saturn and Uranus. These planets are making hard aspects to Biden’s Pluto and Mars, with exact patterns in June (for Mars), September and October (for Saturn to Pluto), November and March 2022 (Uranus to



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Mars), and January 2022 (Saturn to Mars). We anticipate hard, hard work; power plays; daring initiatives; and frustration over possible blocks.

By the time you read this, two of this year's four eclipses will have occurred. The May 26 lunar eclipse at 5° Sagittarius falls within two degrees of Biden's Ascendant. The June 10 solar eclipse at 19° Gemini squares Biden's MC. Those eclipses will be triggered by transiting Mars in Virgo in early and late August, and with SA MC = Saturn exact on August 16, a surge of bottlenecked energy regarding Biden's professional status would not be unexpected. On August 17, he'll have the second of three squares to his Sun from Jupiter. Since the Sun rules his 9th house, we may see an expansion involving publishing, travel, the courts, or foreign affairs.

On November 19, a lunar eclipse at 27° Taurus exactly opposes Biden's Sun and nearly opposes Venus. This eclipse will be triggered by transiting Mars on December 9 and by Jupiter (via the third square to his Sun) on December 15. Finally, a total solar eclipse occurs on December 4 at 12° Sagittarius, two degrees from an opposition to Biden's Saturn, triggered by transiting Mars at the end of December. Now look at FDR's horoscope and note where these four eclipses fall. What do you think?

Finally, look at the synastry between Biden and FDR. "Fated" connections are suggested by contacts between one person's lunar nodes and a planet or angle of the other. These nodal connections are sticky, in the way that a crab latches onto something with its claws and won't let go. Instantly we note that FDR's nodes fall on Biden's ASC-DSC, while the latter's nodes at 29° Leo-Aquarius engage FDR's powerfully persuasive Mercury-Pluto square. Another strong connection is suggested by Biden's MC-IC falling on FDR's ASC-DSC. Alignment between the angles of two horoscopes is another powerful connection. What other connections do you see?

Kamala Devi Harris, October 20, 1964; 9:28 p.m. PDT; Oakland, CA, USA (37°N48', 122°W16'); AA: BC/BR in hand.

Vice President Harris's horoscope was discussed in the Aug./Sept. 2019 TMA. Written in June 2019, the takeaway was that even if Harris did not succeed in her bid to become president, SA Sun = ASC, exact on December 19, 2020, suggested once-in-a-lifetime personal recognition.¹⁰ What now?

August looks assertive and provocative, as transiting Mars activates the angles of her horoscope and conjoins her Virgo stellium in the 4th house. (See **Chart 2**, previous page.) Her Venus is within two degrees of a square from the June 10 eclipse, and she will have the second of three conjunctions of Jupiter with her Saturn also in August. As it was in the spring, when she was tapped to lead a reform of US immigration policy (and the National Space Council),¹¹ we anticipate an expansion of responsibility and authority.

The gravitas we see in Biden's horoscope in October is echoed in Harris's, courtesy of secondary progressed (SP) Moon in Taurus square Saturn. Her Saturn will be nearly

squared by the eclipse on November 19, and by December, we can see her gaining still more recognition as transiting Jupiter conjoins her Saturn for the third time and prepares to meet her MC on January 9, 2022.

All of 2022 looks empowering and transformative in the extreme, personally and professionally. Transiting Pluto will square her exact Sun-Moon opposition. A major communication initiative she spearheads may culminate in mid April,

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as SA Sun = nodes. By the end of the month, she'll have the first of three squares to her 24° Gemini ASC from Neptune. Perhaps the status of FDR's legacy will give us clues for managing expectations, as Neptune will have been impacting his angles for several months.

However she meets the challenges of 2022, it sets her up for what is often a career peak: transiting Saturn conjunct the MC, with the first pass exact in March 2023. For the VP, this potential for taking on greater authority comes with the urgency of her second Saturn return, with its first pass exact in February 2023.

What synastry do you see among Harris, Biden, and FDR?

Bhutan's COVID Vaccination Rollout, March 27, 2021; 9:30 a.m. USZ5; Thimbu, Bhutan (27°N28', 89°E39'); multiple media sources.

"For months, Bhutan sat on hundreds of thousands of doses of AstraZeneca's coronavirus vaccine, waiting for the stars to align," reported the *Washington Post* on April 14. The tiny kingdom elected a start for the rollout after "astrological consultations with Buddhist monks," and within two weeks, it had vaccinated 93% of the population.¹² Wow! Since the success of the election included a requirement that the first person to receive and give the vaccine had to be a woman born in the Year of the Monkey,¹³ it's doubtful that the date was chosen using the logic of Western astrology. However, a Western chart calculated for the elected time is a fascinating study, and we will look at it through the lens of traditional astrology, not modern.¹⁴

One rule for a successful election chart is that it should look like the event that is being elected. "A chart for open heart surgery should not look like a wedding," according to expert electional astrologer and frequent TMA feature writer J. Lee Lehman, PhD.¹⁵ With a 10° Gemini Ascendant, the

chart for the vaccine rollout is ruled by Mercury in Pisces, fortified by its placement in an angular house, the 10th. (See **Chart 3**, p. 11.) If this were a chart for a time to start a medical treatment, Mercury would represent the patient and their vitality. A traditional astrologer might think twice about placing Mars right on the Ascendant, as Mars is considered a malefic influence. On the other hand, the chart represents the start of an *aggressive multitasking operation*, with *helicopters* key to delivering the vaccine to Bhutan's remote mountain villages.¹⁶ We can now see the logic of having an out-of-bounds Mars in Gemini (an air sign!) rising on the Ascendant and applying to a conjunction with a helpful North Node.

Note that Jupiter — a benefic — is applying to the MC. Jupiter rules the 7th house, which refers to the health practitioner. It's in Aquarius, the sign on the cusp of the 10th house, which rules the medical treatment (the vaccine). Saturn is the traditional ruler of Aquarius, and Saturn is *in* Aquarius, making it the most essentially dignified planet in this chart. This is good! Saturn trines the Ascendant and is the final dispositor of the chart.¹⁷ This is also good; we want the planet representing the vaccine to be in a sign that suggests strength and effectiveness.

Look at the 11th house, representing a hoped-for reward. There lies the Sun in Aries, sign of its exaltation, with Venus just barely separating from it by conjunction. A planet within 16 minutes of arc to the Sun is called *cazimi*, i.e., "in the heart of the Sun," and it is considered to be "wondrous strong."¹⁸ The Sun in a mundane chart refers to leaders, and its exalted placement here illustrates an astute strategy. The people were told by Bhutan's Health Minister that their beloved King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck "shared thoughts about taking the vaccine only after every eligible person in the country received their shots safely."¹⁹ Note that Venus (love!) is separating from the Sun and will sextile Saturn ahead of the Sun (the beloved king). The technical term for this pattern is "translation of light," and it argues that the king will receive the vaccine through the efforts of Venus!²⁰

Finally, look at the Moon, which is driving the action. It's in an angular house (the 4th), which gives it more power to act than it would have in a succedent or cadent house. In Virgo, the Moon aptly reflects the purpose of the elected event, which is to preserve the health of the people. The Moon is separating from a square to Mars (i.e., moving away from a potential malefic). Note that Mars, as the traditional ruler of Scorpio, rules the 6th house, which refers to the disease (i.e., COVID). The Moon next applies to a square to the nodes, supporting the incredibly challenging logistics of the rollout. Then the Moon opposes chart ruler Mercury, which is, frankly, not ideal. On the other hand, this Virgo Moon has no essential dignity, suggesting that whatever opposition it represents may be easily disposed (Mercury is literally the Moon's dispositor). How interesting to read that among those who did not show up to be vaccinated (at least initially), the excuses given were (1) too busy harvesting barley; or (2) concern over potential side effects. Both are apt Moon in Virgo concerns.²¹

Wouldn't it be fun to talk with the Buddhist astrologers who elected this chart and compare notes?

References and Notes

(All URLs were accessed in May 2021.)

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- <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2021/04/14/bhutan-vaccines/>
- Ibid.*
- In my experience, following the guidelines of traditional astrology produces more successful elections, even though I rely on the guidelines of modern psychological astrology for natal chart consultations. This is not a controversial statement.
- I can't remember if Lee wrote this in one of her books, or if she said it in one of her classes on electional astrology, but those words are burned into my brain.
- <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/18/world/asia/bhutan-vaccines-covid.html> Note that the NYT did not mention one word about how the date of the rollout was selected. Write them a disgruntled letter demanding to know why.
- As an exercise, consider this chain of dispositorship, starting with Mars in Gemini (ruler of the 6th house, a possible disease). Mars is disposed by Mercury in Pisces, which is disposed by Jupiter in Aquarius, which is disposed by Saturn in Aquarius. Consider what houses these planets rule. What do you think?
- <https://starsandstones.wordpress.com/2020/01/13/cazimi-planets-in-2020-21/>
- <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2021/04/12/986450910/the-advantage-of-our-smallness-bhutan-vaccinates-93-of-adults-in-under-2-weeks#:~:text=The%20country%20received%20550%2C000%20doses,astrology%2C%22%20the%20AP%20said>
- <https://www.skyscript.co.uk/gl/translation.html>
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