

Moments in Time

by Frank C. Clifford



PRESIDENT TRUMAN SIGNS THE NATIONAL SECURITY ACT:
 JULY 26, 1947; 12:15 P.M. EDT; WASHINGTON, D.C.

PRESIDENT TRUMP'S "MUSLIM TRAVEL BAN" GOES INTO EFFECT:
 JUNE 29, 2017; 8:00 P.M. EDT; WASHINGTON, D.C.

When President Truman signed the National Security Act in 1947, he set up the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the National Security Council, and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). Even though these were launched at later dates, this is the moment when all three organisations were signed into law. (See **Chart 1**, below.) In particular, the CIA was charged with “coordinating the nation’s intelligence activities and correlating, evaluating and disseminating intelligence affecting national security” (<https://www.cia.gov/about-cia/history-of-the-cia>). This is appropriate for a horoscope with Mercury (evaluation of intelligence) and Venus (coordination) straddling the MC (mission), in the security-aware and defense/defensive sign of Cancer. In fact, direct midpoints in this chart underscore the United States’ (Sun in Cancer) July 4, 1776 horoscope:

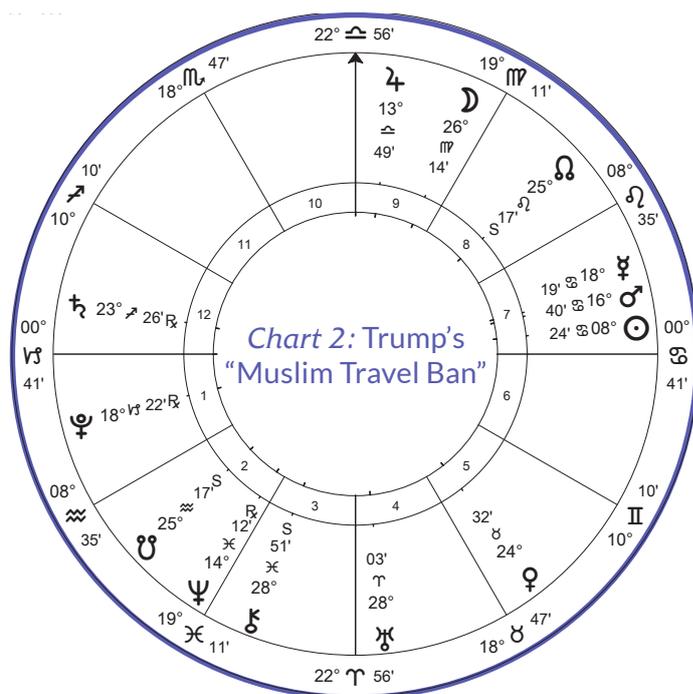
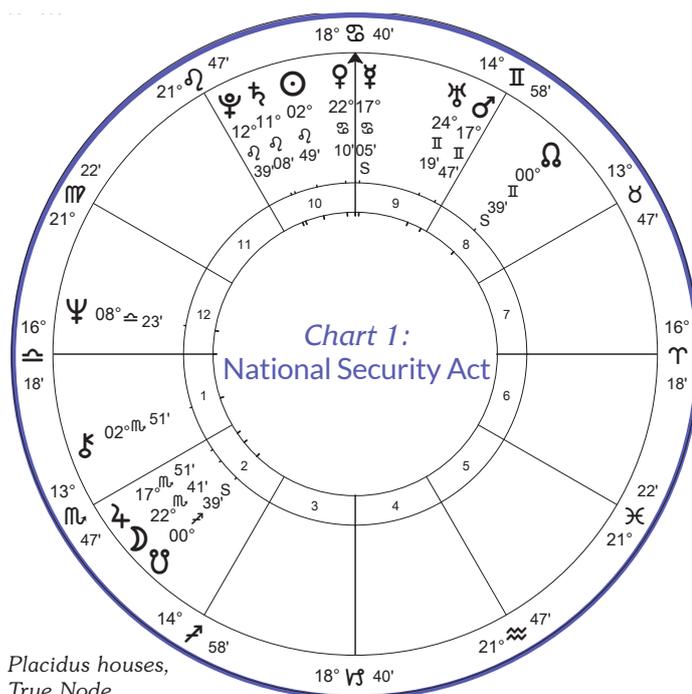
- Sun/Mercury is 24° Cancer, conjunct the U.S. Mercury;
- Mars/Uranus is 21° Gemini, conjunct the U.S. Mars.

The Security Act chart is a fascinating “moment in time” for numerous reasons. Firstly, it’s two weeks before the August

11, 1947 conjunction of Saturn and Pluto in the sky at 13° Leo. This is a mundane conjunction that often follows the demolition of a system in society — an “aftermath” aspect. It also coincides with attempts to restructure or rebuild that system with impenetrable defenses (Saturn–Pluto). Relocating this chart to Iraq and the Middle East results in this all-important Saturn–Pluto conjunction, as well as the Sun, appearing on the Descendant — the open enemy — and the Moon–Jupiter conjunction in investigative Scorpio culminating at the MC.

Both Saturn and Pluto are dark, heavy planetary energies that focus on aspects of control, survival, fear, paranoia, corruption, power, and powerlessness. The 1947 conjunction in the luminous sign of Leo could suggest governmental/systemic (Saturn) and covert (Pluto) control of the individual (Leo). Leo is a sign that can be paternalistic, authoritarian, or dictatorial, thus signalling the start of the “daddy state.”

Secondly, Uranus in the Security Act chart is at 24° Gemini — the degree it occupied when it was first discovered



in 1781. This is the second time in American history that Uranus had made a return to its discovery degree (the first time being 1863–64, during the American Civil War and the abolition of slavery).

Thirdly, the positions of the MC and Mercury are exceptionally close to the discovery degree of Pluto (17°46' Cancer), adding to the Scorpionic theme seen elsewhere: the Moon–Jupiter conjunction in Scorpio and two placements found in the Scorpio decan (10°00' – 19°59') of Cancer. The U.S. Sun/Mercury midpoint also lies at 18° Cancer. (With Moon–Jupiter in Scorpio in the 2nd, the CIA has the largest budget of all intelligence agencies — estimated at \$15 billion in 2013.)

Fast-forward 70 years, and President Trump's temporary Executive Order, "Protecting the Nation from Foreign Entry into the United States," takes effect on June 29, 2017 at 8:00 p.m. in Washington. (See **Chart 2**, previous page.) The Order is a three-month vetting system that bars citizens of six Muslim-majority countries from entering the U.S., unless they have a "bona fide relationship" with a U.S. citizen. (It's been reported that none of the Muslim countries with which Trump does business was included.)

Once again, Pluto and Cancer are highlighted in the chart. Pluto is opposite its discovery degree; it also opposes the Mercury–MC of the Security Act chart and the Sun/Mercury midpoint of the U.S. chart. Mercury and Mars in Cancer are opposite Pluto, suggesting extreme, defensive measures, and are one degree away from the Security Act's Mercury. Again, direct midpoints show stunning connections to the U.S. and Security Act charts:

- Sun/Mercury is 13° Cancer, conjunct the U.S. Sun;
- Mercury/Mars is 17° Cancer, conjunct the Security Act's Mercury–MC.

Appropriately, three planets (including Mars) in homeland, protective Cancer lie in the 7th house. The first degree of Capricorn rises, and chart ruler Saturn (borders) is retrograde and placed precariously in Sagittarius (the fear of foreigners and their belief systems) in the 12th house of hidden enemies and self-undoing. A void Moon in Virgo in the 9th (travel) rules the 7th house (the critics/opposition), and its square to Saturn is reflective of accusations of ethnic (Sagittarius) cleansing (Virgo). With Saturn at 23° Sagittarius aligning with Trump's Sun–Moon opposition, the ban occurred at an intensely pressurised period of his early presidency (a time when he is also taking initial steps in Texas to build his infamous wall — Saturn — to keep Mexicans out).

The Executive Order is temporary; it will have lapsed (void Moon) before the Supreme Court meets in October to evaluate it. But a new Order could strengthen Trump's position when Saturn starts to transit Capricorn (the Ban chart's Ascendant) from December 2017. Perhaps even more significantly for Trump, Pluto's passage to 22°–24° Capricorn (from February 2019 and particularly from December 2019) will be *the* decisive, defining time of his presidency. Not only will the planet then oppose the U.S. Mercury, but those degrees are heavily represented by Trump's natal midpoints:

- 22° Cancer: Mars/Uranus
- 23° Cancer: Mars/North Node; Uranus/Ascendant (plus natal Saturn)
- 24° Cancer: Sun/Mars; Mercury/Pluto; Venus/Saturn

Author's Note: I'm indebted to Ron Howland for his research into the data for key U.S. events. (British-born Howland has five planets in Scorpio in the 9th!) Howland's book, *A Chronology of American Charts*, Poz Publications, 1998, was updated and published by the AFA in 2014 as *American Histrology*. The source for the data above comes from Howland's book, quoting Truman's papers at his presidential library in Independence, Missouri. The Muslim Ban source comes from reports I found online, including <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2017/jun/29/trump-travel-ban-us-airports-security-concerns-unfounded>

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Frank Clifford is the author of *Getting to the Heart of Your Chart*; *Horoscope Snapshots: Essays in Modern Astrology*; and *Palmistry 4 Today*. Recently, Frank published *The Astrology Quartet* as an e-book; it contains his works on *Solar Arcs*, *Venus and Mars*, *Humour*, and *the Midheaven*. Frank's new website can be found at <http://www.frankclifford.co.uk> — with books, free articles, and an online consultation booking feature.

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