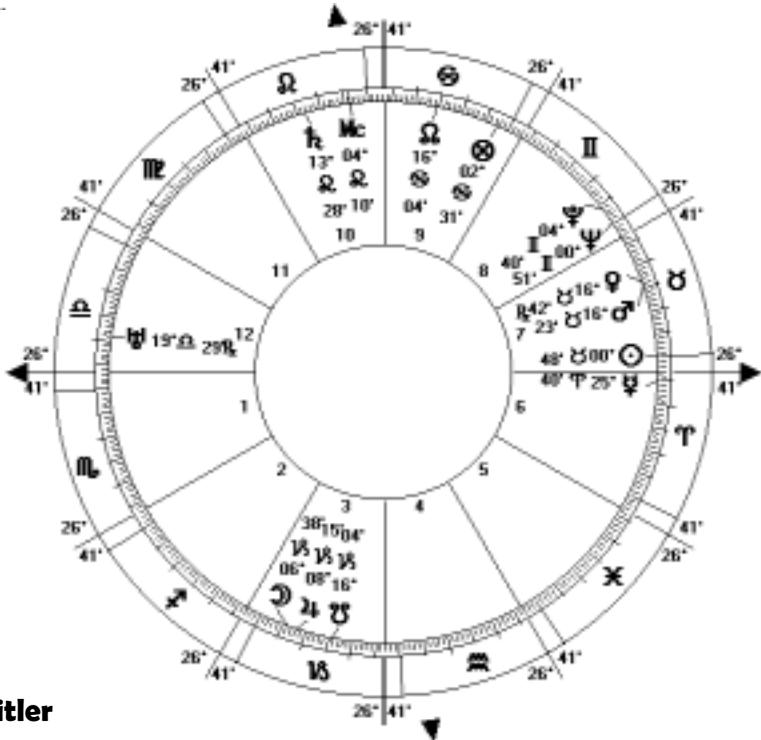


Charting the extraordinary: Hitler's horoscope

It can be a major disappointment for astrologers to come across apparent mismatches between the heavens and reality. This occurs when a well-defined category of individuals lacks a defining astrological signature, or when we find extraordinary people with 'ordinary' or inappropriate charts. It is puzzling, for example, to discover that Hitler, the greatest warmonger the world has ever known, has a strongly Venusian chart. It is just this sort of contradiction that has had modern generations of astrologers searching for new chart factors in an attempt to reconcile the horoscope and the reality. It is a contradiction that has even moved some to question the basic data. After all, the Sun has not long left Aries, the ascendant has only a few degrees to go before hitting Scorpio, and a Mars chart seems at first sight a much better fit.

The time of birth has been noted in records as 6.30pm, but it is not unreasonable to question this. In the 19th century times were often rounded to the half hour, even to the hour, and we can not rule out the possibility that Hitler's time of birth is to some degree inaccurate. It would only take an error of fifteen minutes or so to advance the ascendant to Scorpio. However, when we examine what Hitler was like, as an individual, we see that we do not have to resort to speculation, or invent new ciphers for the chart. If we study biographical accounts of the man¹ we see he does not come over as a particularly Martial person, and for this we should be grateful. Had Scorpio indeed risen at his birth, Nazi Germany might have been more difficult to defeat than it was. Hitler's procrastination, vacillation and indolence – which are common Libran failings – were legion and generally did much to hinder the Nazi war effort.

Hitler's chart is not extraordinary, but the times in which he lived were. The phenomenon that was Hitler was created by a humiliating peace treaty following World War 1 and the German social and economic chaos of the early and late 1920s. WW1 itself was the end product of hundreds of



Hitler

Born: 20 April 1889, 18.30 LMT, Braunau 48n15/13e2

years of history and the culmination of long and tortuous power struggles among European nations. Hitler's skill was in utilising these unique circumstances for his own limited and selfish ends.

As astrologers we have to take on the challenge of charts such as Hitler's, not only because it increases our understanding of astrology by so doing, but also because it demonstrates the power of the art to throw light on human nature. This, after all, is astrology's forte. An astrologer presented with the horoscope of the infant Schickelgruber would not, unless he or she was blessed with rare psychic powers, have divined his future place in world history. One's destiny, the story that many are desperate to hear from an astrologer, is not embedded in a horoscope. Rather than some magical signature indicating an evil despot, what we

find is an individual who, in a qualitative sense, reflects quite well, and for the most part very straightforwardly, the major factors in his birth chart.

Uranus conjuncts the ascendant – he was a political agitator; he shattered moulds and overthrew the established order. Uranus is a demotic planet and Hitler's appeal was to the ordinary person. In his younger days particularly he was considered a maverick and given to eccentric, erratic behaviour. All this is perfectly in keeping with the conventional astrological wisdom. Studying the chart blind, of course, we could not go so far. It is not given to many to topple regimes and form a new political order. At an 8-degree orb (either side of the ascendant) this particular conjunction occurs in the charts of about 4.5 per cent (that is, tens of millions) of the world population at any one time. The cautious astrologer might have limited him- or herself to something along the lines of: 'political activism, well-developed social consciousness, urge to improve society, egalitarian,' and at least would not have been wrong.

Sitting opposite Uranus, on the descendant, is Mercury. On an angle (and conjunct the Sun) we would judge the planet strong. Again we can look to the conventional wisdom. Hitler was a very powerful, beguiling speaker, one who electrified a nation with his words. The main part of his charisma is down to his strong Venus nature (Sun and two planets in Taurus and Libra rising). In a man or a woman, strong Venus often concurs with a charming, spell-binding quality. We are attracted to Venusians, want to dwell in the glow of their love and friendship. The origin of the word 'Venus' relates it to charm and seduction. It derives from the Latin *venerari, veneror*, 'I work a charm [upon such and such a divinity] in order to [obtain a result]'.² Charm applies to both religion – to win grace and favour from a god – and to the profane world, as a form of power to get what we want. There was little love in Hitler, but he did have in abundance the power to get what he wanted. It is not going too far to say that he seduced the German people. And before he could get himself in a position to do so, he had to seduce (or win the support of) many influential individuals.

Hitler exhibited some straightforward Venusian qualities. He was sweet-toothed, indecisive, an aesthete, somewhat lazy with (particularly as a young man) a strong resistance to earning a living from regular work. He was always energetic where his personal ambitions were concerned, however. He was undoubtedly attractive to women, and many remarked on an erotic

element to his performances on the rostrum. He related well to young people, as Taureans often do. Despite his assiduous cultivation of a masculine image, more than one observer remarked that there was something rather feminine about him. While it is not always easy to disentangle fact from fiction in material relating to Hitler's intimate life, it seems his lust was not strong (some say he sublimated his sexual energy into his public speaking). He generally related best to women who were in no way a threat, either significantly older or younger than him, or simply vacuous (like Eva Braun). The woman who meant most to him, and with whom there seemed a genuine exchange of human feeling, was his niece Geli Raubal.³ However, his peculiar sexual demands and his overbearing jealousy and possessiveness drove her to an early death, probably by suicide.

We can look to Hitler's essential Taurus nature to discover the motive force that drove him on. Taurus, like the other Fixed signs, can have an obsessive quality. What obsessed Hitler was a restoration, and this idea of restoring a lost harmony, of putting right some original sin that has thrown the world out of kilter, is part of the core meaning of both Taurus and Libra⁴ (it turns up a lot in the literary themes of the signs' writers, for example). The 'original sin' that haunted Hitler was Germany's defeat in the Great War and the crushing terms of the Versailles Treaty. Both, in Hitler's eyes, were a betrayal and a dishonour that had to be avenged. Even beyond this, his vision of a golden age was of a Germany before Bismarck and a partition that had excluded millions of Czech and Austrian Germans from the Fatherland. What restored the balance for Hitler was the defeat of France in June 1940 (as transiting Jupiter conjuncted his Sun).

He dictated peace terms in the same railway carriage (using the same seating arrangements) as had been used at Versailles 21 years earlier in what we can describe as a therapeutic ceremony (we recall the famous images of his childish victory jig.) This period probably marked Hitler at the zenith of his power, but it is at just such times in a dualistic universe that the tide turns. In a strange way his obsession to right the wrong of a 'dishonoured' Germany had grounded him. From this time onwards he grew steadily out of touch with reality and far less concerned with the welfare of the German people.

We have already covered what many commentators have singled out as Hitler's greatest strengths: his power with words and his ability to make people like him and co-operate with him. To this we can add good political skills. He was an opportunist, adept at using people and events to further his own powerful ambition, and good at manipulating subordinates in order to maintain authority. We probably have to look no further than Moon in Capricorn and Saturn strongly placed on the MC to see an adequate reflection of this. Hitler was cold, calculating, two-faced and suspicious.

He was also very sensitive to the image he was projecting. Reading of some of his efforts to project a masterful, masculine image – his penchant for uniforms, whips, and fierce dogs – we can see how pathetic and ridiculous they were. He would boast to women he could hold his arm rigid and erect in the Nazi salute for two hours at a time without tiring, and no doubt Freudians have read much into this. He hated losing his dignity, or for people to laugh at him (and the Leo placement of Saturn, and the strong Sun suggest this vanity).

The following observation of the young Hitler made by an army officer also points to the Capricorn Moon:

A man mistrustful of himself and his ambitions and, consequently, abrim with inferiority complexes toward all who had already gotten somewhere or were in a process of outdoing him.⁵

I think the Capricorn Moon also accounts for the great control he exerted over the image of him that was projected to the public. Of all the signs it is Capricorn that is the most image conscious. What contributed to Hitler's public persona was the close Jupiter conjunction with the Moon (and to an extent, the Sun, which is strongly placed on an angle). It concurred with violent mood swings and also added a fanatical element to his shrewd political skills. He was an actor with the ability to cast himself in a dramatic, larger-than-life mould, so that an essentially unheroic individual became a messiah, the saviour of the German race, a repository for their hopes of a better life.

He was a propagandist and created a mythology of Germanic superiority. Indeed it was myth. There were no ancient master races. 'Nordic' was a modern term. There was an Aryan people which conquered

India in the third millennium BC, but they were not blond haired and blue eyed. They originated from the Steppes of central Asia, ancestors of the 'eastern' peoples so despised by Hitler. Moreover, theories of racial superiority were widespread at the end of the 19th and early 20th century. All the western imperial powers were of the view that coloured skins counted less than white in the scheme of things, and while countries like Britain did not attempt to systematically exterminate races, they had no qualms about slaughter when economic or political interests were threatened.

Finally, we also see Jupiter as the agent of Hitler's downfall. It inflamed his imagination, intoxicated him with visions of a boundless Nazi empire. But he took on too many enemies, overstretched himself on two fronts and was subsequently crushed.

There is a popular image of Taurus as a sign of placidity and affection, though fearsome when riled. This is not wrong, but once we get past a two-dimensional view of the sign we find that it is as capable of embodying darkness as any sign. Perhaps more so. We are reminded that a majority of the Seven Deadly Sins can be laid at Venus' door⁶ and it is not at all difficult to find Taurus strong in the charts of evil people. Aside from Hitler, we note that Saddam Hussein and Pol Pot have Taurus Suns, as do serial killer David Carpenter, the mass Chicago murderer 'H H Holmes', Oklahoma bomber Timothy McVeigh and Scottish child killers Robert Black and Thomas Hamilton. There are also many notorious murderers with Moon or ascendant in Taurus⁷.

Venus (and both its signs) in part symbolises our moral nature, our sense of right and wrong. It is not an intellectual sense, but an organic, gut-feeling, one. Venus is that part of us that instinctively baulks at injuring another, or *feels* guilty or remorseful when we do. It functions perfectly well in the great majority of people, but sometimes it does not get a chance to develop, particularly if the early life circumstances have been loveless, or worse, brutal. Venus seems to relate to the archaic term *ruth*, a word more familiar through its opposite, ruthless. (Ruth also means remorse and regret, a sort of guilty hankering after the past, which further relates it to the Venus signs.)

We can learn more about the essential nature of Taurus from Sigmund

Freud, himself a Taurus Sun. Whether we subscribe to his ideas or not we should acknowledge that as a creative individual these ideas are going to reflect his astrology, and particularly his Sun sign. Central to Freud's psychology is the concept of libido, or psychic energy. In popular parlance it has become congruous with the sex drive, but this is only part of it. In the words of one commentator, libido is 'a fluid and malleable force of excessive and disturbing power.'⁸ Tied up with libido are desire, need and value. Desire springs from need, which can be understood (in Freud's theory) as a releasing of tension, for libido is something that needs to be discharged, either in the attainment of pleasure or the avoidance of pain. Desire must find an object, and we value someone or something in proportion to the amount of our psychic energy that is invested in it. If we value something, it has force over us and it can direct, or even drive, our behaviour.⁹ The psychology of Henry Murray (also a Taurus Sun) focuses upon this idea of needs and he talks of the 'press' of an object, meaning the power it has to affect the wellbeing of a subject.

In his topography of the psyche Freud established a fundamental duality between libido and that which restrains or represses it. It was a contrast between what he termed the id, on one hand, and the ego/superego on the other. The id is a stratum of psychic energy underlying conscious life and made up of primitive urges and emotions, unchecked by any sense of right or wrong. The ego is a function of the reality principle, which accepts there are limitations on the urge to gratification, while the superego results from an internalisation, usually through parents and other authority figures, of society's moral imperatives. It might be said that the causes and consequences of repressed desires are at the heart of Freud's psychology. Repressed desires amount to dammed up life energy and his methods are aimed first identifying and then releasing blockages.

We have, then, the idea of Taurus symbolising a powerful but primitive current of life energy. It connects with vitality in the sense of will and ability to survive, where the need is for emotional resource that is robust and uncomplicated, rather than refined and subtle. Again it was a Taurean Sun, Herbert Spencer, who coined the phrase 'survival of the fittest,' and it is one which points to this aspect of the sign. Taurus has a traditional relationship to strong, primitive emotions, like envy, lust, jealousy, possessiveness (even if this connection tends to be understated in the

conventional wisdom). Shakespeare was in all probability a Taurean Sun and at the heart of a lot of his dramas is the theme of destructiveness that comes from being chained to strong passions. The *I Ching* hexagram¹⁰ related to Taurus not only warns against traditional Taurean failings such as greed and obstinacy, but also of the destructiveness of passion, with counsel such as: 'Even a single passion still lurking in the heart has the power to obscure reason.' (And for 'passion' we can read 'obsession'.)

Hitler was a man who dealt in primitive passion. His oratory was not about argument, but about words which triggered crude emotion in his audience. More broadly, he acted as a vent for the base instincts and suppressed hatreds that lay buried under the civilised veneer of a nation. As one observer put it: Hitler acted 'as a loudspeaker proclaiming the most secret desires, the least admissible instincts ... of a whole nation.'¹¹

As we noted earlier, the refinement of the desire nature can be dependent on early life experiences, and having an environment of love to crystallise the process. Hitler's mother was loving and caring, but she and the family were dominated by a brutal, bullying father. However, at some point, at some level, the young Hitler made a choice. He decided that might was right. He feared his father, but respected him, even liked him in a strange way, because he could see that in this life it was strength and force that achieved results, and that people on the whole were motivated by fear, cupidity and desire, and not by the finer feelings his mother personified. What would have hardened him in his views was the brute existence in the Trenches during the Great War.

We perhaps see the parental dichotomy reflected in the exact Mars/Venus conjunction in the natal chart, which sits on the midpoint of Sun and Pluto (17.44 Taurus). This is a combination that throws a revealing light on an otherwise poorly integrated chart. The planet Pluto was discovered in 1930 and many astrologers have remarked on the coincidence of the discovery with the recrudescence of barbarity that was Nazism.¹² There was no end, no greater purpose, to Nazism. It was power and domination as an end in itself.

Many Germans grieved for Germany after the First World War, and a percentage of those individuals likely had savage and crackpot theories about how things could be put to rights. Many were brutalised by the war

and had no scruples about extreme violence. Hitler was able to draw these men to him as willing followers. When speaking to an audience he could tune in to what they wanted to hear and give voice to their base passions.

Why Hitler out of many thousands? There is nothing in the chart to tell us. Perhaps there was truth in what he often said and obviously believed: he had been singled out by Providence for great things. Some people are, this is a fact, and if good luck is a by-product of providential favour, then it is further evidence that Hitler was indeed chosen, for he had more than his share of luck. But the thing about luck is, it generally runs out. Hitler's did. What ever Providence intended, it was not a Nazi-dominated world. And the fact that he was its pawn is not show in his horoscope.

References

1. That by Alan Bullock, *Hitler a Study in Tyranny* (Hamlyn), written not long after the end of the war, is still considered by many to be one of the best biographies. According to Bullock, who interviewed a number of Hitler's secretaries after the war, Hitler was, contrary to popular belief, contemptuous of astrology. However, he notes that other high-ranking Nazis, including Himmler, were interested in it.
2. *Encyclopaedia of Religion*, Vol 15, p249, ed. Mircea Eliade, Macmillan
3. Born 4 June 1908, Linz. Her (noon) Moon was 14 Leo, conjunct Hitler's Saturn, and there is no doubt she experienced him as a repressively restricting individual. Her natal Mars opposed Hitler's Moon/Jupiter conjunction. Data and biographical information from *Hitler and Geli*, Ronald Hayman, Bloomsbury
4. Venus and both its signs relate to the Fall, the idea that we live in a world that is out of kilter, divorced from some innocent and perfect state because of some original 'sin'. In Christian terms, it is the expulsion from the Garden. This is often a theme manifested in the work of Libran and Taurean writers. It manifests in character traits such as nostalgia and the yearning for lost innocence. It is that part of us that always makes the past seem better than the present. The Venus signs are two of the most backward looking in the zodiac. They are perfectionists, but they seek to restore a lost perfection. See *The Literary Zodiac*, page 37.
5. Gerhard Rossbach, officer in Friekorps, cited in *The Hidden Hitler*, Lothar Machtan, The Perseus Press, 2001

6. Sloth, Avarice, Lust, Gluttony and Envy, relate in whole or part to Venus and its signs. Mars gets Anger and in part Pride (particularly Scorpio), while Sun/Leo gets the greater part of Pride

7. Thomas Hamilton, killed 16 children and their teacher at Dunblane primary school on March 13, 1996. Born: 08.50 (07.50 GMT), 10 May 1952, Glasgow. Robert Black, sexual predator, child serial killer. Born 21 April 1947, 20.35 GDW (18.35 GMT), Falkirk. Sadistic child killer Ian Brady, and mass murderer Charles Manson are both Taurus rising. Ian Huntley, who murdered two schoolgirls at Soham, has Moon conjunct Mars in Taurus. Peter Kurten, who killed and mutilated more than 60 women in Dusseldorf had Taurus rising, as does Henri Landru, one of France's most notorious killers, and William Mullin, a schizophrenic who savagely murdered 13 people in California. Psychopath Angus Sinclair, who accounted for the brutal ends of a number of women in Scotland, has Moon, Venus and ascendant in Taurus.

8. Summary of Freud's ideas taken from Martin Evan Jay, *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, Vol 19, 15th edition and Calvin Hall and Gardner Lindzey, *Theories of Personality*, John Wiley & Sons

9. The dramatist Peter Shaffer was a Taurus Sun, and his play *Equus* forms a very good illustration of this aspect of the sign.

10. Number 43, Breakthrough or Resoluteness. The time it describes is one of release after a long accumulation of tension, which is suggestive of the need-driven desire at the heart of the sign.

11. Otto Strasser, quoted in Bullock, page 313

12. The planet Pluto was assigned to Scorpio soon after its discovery, although there was not universal agreement about this. While it does seem to share something of the nature of that sign, I think like the other outer planets it can perhaps more accurately be assigned to a polarity. Charles Carter was one to observe, for example, that there is a lot about Aquarius that does fit in with Uranus, while certain of the things we assign to Uranus (such as strong individualism) fit well with Leo. Equally, when we are considering the furnace at the heart of Taurus, we can detect a Plutonian dimension
