

Aries Sub-Ages

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Preface

I have been sitting upon this research for far too long. I commenced writing about Aries sub-ages (and sub-age decans) around 2015 in preparation for the publication of my second book on the astrological ages. The focus of this second book was intended to be on the twelve sub-ages (of approximately 179 years each) that exist in each age, plus sub-age decans (approximately 60 years each). To date, the only completed section is the Aries sub-ages and sub-age decans. My original intention was to publish twelve sub-age eBooks in preparation for the final publication of a book.

My revised plan is to now publish four books based on each element. My first book will be the Fire Sub-Ages (Aries, Leo and Sagittarius) and though only the Aries section is complete, the majority of work on Leo and Sagittarius has been done, and so hopefully, this book will be available in the not too distant future. In the meantime, I have extracted from my completed work of Aries sub-ages and sub-age decans the two Aries sub-ages only, and this material is now available in the public domain for those interested in this new field of macro-astrology. Thus, for those people eagerly wanting to read more core material on the subject of macro-astrology, I will now drip feed this as the material is completed, with the understanding this material only provides information on whole sub-ages, while the printed book will delve deeper into sub-ages and report on each sub-age decan since 3000 BC.

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Introduction

Aries the Ram is a Fire sign ruled by the planet Mars—commonly known as the god of war. The themes associated with Aries can be classified into a number of major areas. One area is war, conflict, death, violence, military activity, weapons, aggression, ferocity, heroes, and great military leaders. Aries is the sign of assertiveness, courage, and valor, but also patriotism making Aries politically conservative. Aries' competitive nature can be positively orientated towards sport of all kind including sporting heroes, the Olympic Games, displays of strength, and challenges of all types. Another major theme is cultural energy because in an Aries period, while war and conflict is dominant, perversely, many cultural advances and developments will also occur because all the raw energy focused upon agricultural output or war often brings economic rewards allowing more people to spend time in non-core areas of existence. A third Aries theme involves construction and new building booms and major engineering feats.

Included within Aries is the springtime of anything, new starts and beginnings where a society collective roll up their sleeves and gets on with the work - Aries prefers physical work. A fourth theme is male youths, boys, young men, and masculinity including youthful vigor such as 'shoot first, ask questions later' impetuosity. A fifth theme involves fire and the color red such as cremation, Moses' burning bush, the Zoroastrian's fire temples and kiln-fired bricks. Red items include blood and bloodletting. Iron and anything involving iron such as magnetism are Aries archetypes. Other Aries associations include the head, and adversity such as unfavorable climatic conditions or anything else which damages a region, society, and country as Aries can be destructive.

All the major religions in the modern world were formed in the Aries era² (2916 BC–1433 AD) suggesting the arrival of a fundamentally new cultural foundation in the world as people looked past their immediate needs and reflected upon their place in the cosmos - usually through following the lead of a religious hero. Buddhism and Christianity were created in the Aries quasi age³ (1824BC – 352 AD) with a strong Pisces support while Islam commenced in the Pisces quasi-age (352 AD – 2503 AD). Though Aries is not normally aligned to religion, it is quite possible that Aries aligns to religious superheroes, such as Rama, Krishna, Abraham, Moses, Zoroaster, Buddha, Jesus, and Mohammed. The Aries association to most religions explains why they squabble with each other, often violently, and why adherents typically want to force their beliefs upon “nonbelievers”, as

² My definition of an astrological era is an age and its overflow. For example, the Pisces age (732 BC – 1433 AD) and Pisces age overflow (1433 – 3574 AD) combined produce the Pisces era (732 BC – 3574). There is no period when only one era monopolizes the action. The first half of the Pisces era overlapped the Aries era and the second half of the Pisces era overlaps the Aquarius era which is why both signs appear to exist side by side.

³ A quasi age is the middle 50% of any era. For example, the Pisces era's (732 BC – 3574) strongest manifestation of Pisces is in the Pisces quasi-age (352 AD – 2503 AD). Currently the world is in the Pisces quasi age indicating the supremacy of the sign Pisces even though the Age of Aquarius arrived in the 15th century. Quasi periods do not overlap unlike eras.

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force is the key Aries archetype. For example, the Taliban, ISIS and kindred organizations are behaving exactly like Christianity not too many centuries ago.

People under the influence of Aries prefer a religious leader who will fight for them. The Old Testament “an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth” depicts Aries’ influence in the Judeo-Christian tradition. Aries (along with Sagittarius) is associated with the Indo-Europeans (Aryans) whose original language provided the source for the majority of modern languages derived from Sanskrit, ancient Greek, and Latin, and probably numerous other Aries cultural influences which continue to reside in many modern societies. Aries promotes a patriarchal society and most major matriarchal societies fell by the wayside with the onslaught of the Aries era. Aries is strongly related to the Ancient Rome, and Mars was Rome’s ruling deity. Ptolemy assigned Aries to all of Europe, though Britain, Galatia (central Turkey), Germany, and Barsania (possibly Iran) may be even more Arian. The gun-toting USA probably inherited its Aries nature from Great Britain.

While researching Aries sub-ages I was overwhelmed by the number of wars and violence that are associated with these Aries sub-ages. I then understood another side of Aries. Aries is opposite Libra – the sign of discernment and discrimination. Aries is an active sign – it seriously wants to do something that requires effort. This can include farming, building, engineering or any positive cultural development, but equally it can include raising an army to conquer a neighbor or devising a marketing strategy to sell widgets. Aries achieves fulfillment in either a fruitful or destructive enterprise, because in both it achieves something. Aries definitely wants to achieve something – be it a new sales target or territory, or conquer the territory with an army! Aries does not discern between these types of accomplishment. In times dominated by Aries, people look up to achievers – and most of the achievers in Aries time have temporarily forged an empire by conquest – only to die by the sword, or have their descendants die by the sword.

There are various relationships between ages and their sub-periods. Possibly the most potent of these relationships is that connected with the first sub-age of each age. Each astrological age commences with a sub-age of the same sign as the following age. The first sub-age of each age therefore provides a preview of the following age. For example, the Aquarius sub-age and overflow (732-551-370 BC), at the beginning of the Pisces age (732 BC – 1433 AD), is associated with the development of proto-democracy in Ancient Greece and Rome - a preview to the current Aquarian age. The first sub-age of the current Aquarian age was the Capricorn sub-age (1433-1612 AD). This Capricorn sub-age, especially including its overflow (1612 – 1791) is a preview of the coming Capricorn age and overflow (3574-5697-7800).

This age-preview phenomenon is first encountered associated with Aries. Therefore a preview of the Aries age (2916 – 732 BC) theoretically should be discovered in the Aries sub-age and overflow (5122 – 4943 – 4764 BC), the first sub-age of the earlier Taurus age (5122-2916 BC). The Aries age commencing 2916 BC introduced limited historical references, mainly in Mesopotamia and Ancient Egypt, and so unfortunately, most dates before the Aries age are approximate and too many conclusions should not be drawn

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from these early references. Nevertheless, it is notable that a number of ‘initiatory’ developments around the world seemed to have occurred near 5000 BC - mostly affecting the production of food thus facilitating the new sedentary lifestyles, division of labor, cultural advances and population growth. There is also evidence of newly introduced and widespread farming in Mexico, China, Europe and Egypt.

The introduction of farming to Europe was the result of a great migration of farmers from the Balkans fanning out along the river systems into Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Poland and Germany. Aries is always associated with people on the move, searching for a new homeland. These colonizing European farmers built large timber buildings, utilized a number of different stone tools, and their pottery portrayed newly devised elaborate decorations. Spread out over Germany, Austria, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic are the remains of many circular ditches ranging in size from 20 to 130 meters diameter that are believed to have been in use from 4800 to 4600 BC. They may have been used as monumental temples⁴ providing a preview of the later construction of henges in the following Aries period.

In this early Aries sub-age and overflow (5122 – 4943 – 4764 BC) we see the first signs of mass violence in Europe in an otherwise mainly tranquil environment associated with the Taurus age. The Linear Pottery culture (LBK) was part of the original spread of farming into a Europe (mainly Germany, Czech, Austria, Poland) but these areas already had an existing population of hunters and gatherers. This LBK Neolithic society peaked from 5500 to 4500 BC.⁵ The LBK culture was probably associated with the Gemini quasi-age decan (5500 – 4750 BC). At almost the exact midpoint of this Gemini quasi-age decan around 5100 BC a major reduction in rainfall occurred that obviously had detrimental effects upon the new European farmers. Such stress can create distorted social situations as evidenced around the world when environmental factors reduce the agricultural output amongst a relatively large population. About 150 years after the environmental change, one region within the LBK society witnessed the massacre and cannibalism of surrounding stone-age hunter gathers who had the misfortune of living in nearby mountains. This killing spree is believed to have lasted from two to ten years with up to one thousand victims.⁶

Why did the relatively civilized LBK farmers take up murdering their less civilized neighbors? Was it due to the stress of less productive crops, to appease their gods or as retribution against the Stone Age dwellers competing for the same natural resources? No one knows but the population level of the LBK culture dropped significantly towards its latter phase suggesting some major problem. A late site dated to 4300 BC was fortified indicating a rise in violence.⁷ This errant killing spree occurred within the Aries sub-age and overflow (5122 – 4943 – 4764 BC), most likely in the powerful Aries sub-age

⁴ "Circular ditches." Wikipedia, Retrieved 30 Mar. 2012

⁵ "Linear Pottery culture." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 25 Oct. 2012. Web. 29 Oct. 2012.

⁶ "Cannibals of the Stone Age" part of the "Lost World" documentaries by The History Channel (a US-based international satellite and cable TV channel)

⁷ "Linear Pottery culture." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 25 Oct. 2012. Web. 29 Oct. 2012.

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overflow period (4943 – 4764 BC) and probably in the Aries quasi-sub age (c.5032 – 4853 BC). This is probably not the first or only example of the coming war-storm associated with the Aries era, but it was certainly a taste of things to come.

Aries era, ages and age decans (since the beginning of the Holocene epoch):

Aries age decan and overflow (11880–11,120–10360 BC)

Aries era (2916–732 BC–1433 AD)

Aries age decan and overflow (1460–732–8 BC)

Aries sub-ages (since the beginning of the Aries age 2916 BC):

(914 – 732 – 551 BC)

(1072 - 1252 – 1433 AD)

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Aries sub-age and overflow (914 - 732 - 551 BC)

Including the Aries quasi sub-age (823-642 BC)

The Beginning of History

The Aries sub-age and overflow includes the fiducial point of zero degrees Aries in 732 BC which is the fulcrum point for the whole 26,000 years of the precessional cycle. This is not just another sub-age, it is the last sub-age of the Aries age (2916-732 BC), making it a sub-age at its maximum power regardless of the fiducial point. This is Aries at its absolute peak in the 26,000 cycle of the precessional ages. Just 31 years before 732 BC a solar eclipse on June 15, 763 BC was recorded in the Near East which has enabled scholars to accurately align the chronology of the Ancient Near East and this is the start of accurate dates for historical events from this time onwards.⁸ On the other side of the Eurasian land-mass, the beginning of accurate Chinese chronology started slightly earlier in 841 BC due to a solar eclipse in 775 BC which provided the first authenticated date in Chinese history.⁹ These are highly significant historical developments, even if viewed retrospectively from modern times!

This Aries sub-age marks the arrival of Classical Antiquity - a major new historical period commencing in the 8th century BC and the beginning of the Iron Age in Central Europe, primarily associated with the growth of early Celtic culture and language.¹⁰ The midpoint of the Aries age and overflow bell curve in 732 BC is also extremely close to a major historical demarcation around 750 BC. Prior to 750 BC small city-states were the rule, but these were quickly replaced by a new age of empires. The first empire to mark this change was the Assyrian Empire.¹¹ Military exploits are always at the apex of historical events in any Aries period, and the evolution of military power to new heights of destruction and ruthlessness is definitely witnessed in this Aries sub-age (914-732 BC).

Assyria

The military marvel of this sub-age is Assyria. Assyria has long antecedents all the way back to the 23rd century BC as an Akkadian kingdom under Sargon the Great which therefore established Assyria as a nation with strong historical affinity to Aries. The fortunes of Assyria waxed and waned over the time period from Sargon in the late 3rd millennium BC to this Aries sub-age over one thousand years later. Assyria's conception and birth took place not long after the arrival of the Aries age in 2916 BC with its capital Ashur built as early as 2600 BC. Its birth near the start of the Aries age (2916 BC)

⁸ "Chronology of the Ancient Near East." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 23 Feb. 2012. Web. 24 Feb. 2012.

⁹ *The Timetables of History*, p7, 9

¹⁰ "9th century BC." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 11 Jan. 2012. Web. 27 Feb. 2012.

¹¹ *The Mainstream of Civilization*, 21

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culminated towards the end of the same age when by 911 BC Assyria became the Neo-Assyrian Empire – and accredited to being the most powerful empire in the world at the time. From its homeland on the Tigris River in northern Mesopotamia, its empire by 650 BC extended to much of the Fertile Crescent including all of Egypt, Babylon, Elam (south west Iran), Armenia, Media, Persia, Phoenicia, Canaan, Israel, Syria and Cyprus to name a few.¹² This expansionary stage of Assyria's history links it with the Aries sub-age and overflow. By 605 BC its energy was spent and it became a mere province of a number of powers up until the 7th century AD when it was dissolved upon conquest by the Arabic Islamic invasion. The Islamic empire was riding the back of the Cancer age-decan and overflow with its most powerful period around 713 AD. Cancer invokes Aries' 4th house which is the house of retreat from the public and an unfortunate house for status and recognition. Aries-associated Assyria finally succumbed to Cancer. However its collapse as a mighty power by 605 BC is not long after the end of the Aries quasi-sub-age (823-642 BC). Its empire was linked to the growing strength of Aries, but could not even handle the first demotion of Aries following the end of the Aries quasi sub-age.

The astrological highpoint of Aries at 732 BC was reflected in the rising fortunes of the Neo-Assyria Empire. 732 BC coincided with the rein of Tiglath-Pileser III (745-727 BC), who is accredited with numerous reforms which included reorganizing the army into a professional fighting force, greatly improved the civil administration and inadvertently setting the template for future military empires. It was not until his reforms that afterwards the Neo-Assyrian Empire became a vast empire. Such was the impact on the Neo-Assyrian Empire by Tiglath-Pileser III that before 745 BC the Neo-Assyrian Empire is known as the Pre-reform Assyrian Empire 911-745 BC, and after Tiglath-Pileser III death it was labeled the Sargonid dynasty (721 – 605 BC). The Aries sub-age peak at 732 BC situated between these two stages of Assyrian power is clearly seen.

Assyria had a reputation for violence and ruthlessness in its reign of terror – archetypes belonging to Aries. Assyrian kings would publicly display the flayed skins of vanquished foes on pillars and walls, walling up other foes, impaling some on stakes and amputating limbs of those that rebelled against them. Assyria adopted a policy of terror, repression, massacres, mutilation and exile to subdue its conquered people.¹³ It was even able to draw upon its conquered people soldiers for its full-time professional army that supported the local governors installed by Assyria. Nothing is as quintessentially an Aries' archetype as the battering ram, believed to have been developed by the Assyrians.¹⁴ Even Assyria's main god, Ashur, is shown as a warrior holding a bow representative of Assyria's martial spirit.¹⁵ No doves and flowers here in the sign opposite Libra.

¹² "Assyria." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 22 Nov. 2011. Web. 23 Nov. 2011.

¹³ *Chronicle of the World*, p73

¹⁴ *The Columbia history of the World*, p 145

¹⁵ "Ashur (god)." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 8 Aug. 2011. Web. 23 Nov. 2011.

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Another fairly unique characteristic of the Assyrians was their strategy to deport part of any conquered population and substitute them with other people to prevent regional revolts¹⁶ against their central and tyrannical power. In this respect, the Assyrians may have been drawing upon the energy of the new Pisces age commencing 732 BC as Pisces includes exile but Aries is always associated with the mass movement of people. In c.640 BC the Assyrian king Ashurbanipal founded a library at Ninevah, providing probably the most prolific source of information from ancient times for the modern world. Over 30,000 clay tablets have been found including the Epic of Creation, the earliest complete copy of the Epic of Gilgamesh, numerous omen texts dealing with astronomy and astrology, dictionaries and medical diagnoses.¹⁷ As an example of ancient Near Eastern literature, some consider this library to be rather dismal in comparison to the richness of Ancient Greek intellectualism. Most texts related to omens and magic and any literary texts were not of Assyrian origin. Surviving royal correspondence indicates a vigorous and down-to-earth mental attitude and the lack of any native literature supports this.¹⁸

The tyranny of Assyria inadvertently coalesced some surrounding areas into powerful states that could threaten Assyria. For example, when the Assyrians conquered Egypt they followed their normal practice of killing off the local royals, except for one family which governed on their behalf. This allowed a sole ruling entity to strengthen itself without having to worry about neighboring rulers. In Egypt's case, they gained their independence from Assyria in the 650's. By 585 BC almost near the end of the current Aries period, there were four major powers left standing in the Near East: The Lydians (where Croesus reigned), the Medes, the Babylonians and Egypt. All these kingdoms were absolute monarchies with the army directly controlled by the king but in addition, they were also able to harness the ethnic feeling of their people which is a form of patriotism.¹⁹

The fall of the Assyrian Empire to the Neo-Babylonian Empire (626 – 539 BC) in alliance with the Medes, Persians, Scythians and Cimmerians placed the final block into position at the end of the Aries sub-age and overflow ending in 551 BC. A former vassal state of Assyria, Babylon stole the center stage from Assyria in 612 BC. Harking back to its ancient Sumero-Akkadian heritage, Babylon virtually deified anything from its former period of greatness in the 3rd millennium BC - including revitalizing the old Akkadian language, and even reintroducing some of the Sumerian language, copied the ancient style of cuneiform script and preserved ancient artworks and artifacts. Babylon experienced an agricultural and cultural renaissance and gave rise to the legend of the Hanging Gardens of Babylon. It is believed that the greatest of the kings of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar II (r.605 - 562 BC) built the gardens for his homesick wife longing for the lush gardens of her distant homeland in Media. It is possible the gardens employed a sophisticated engineering device - an Archimedes screw to irrigate the terraces which

¹⁶ *The Columbia history of the World*, p 152

¹⁷ "Library." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 21 Feb. 2012. Web. 24 Feb. 2012.

¹⁸ *The Columbia history of the World*, p 153

¹⁹ *The Columbia history of the World*, p 154

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may have required 8,200 gallons of water per day.²⁰ Nebuchadnezzar is also well known for capturing Jerusalem in 597 BC and deposing King Jehoiakim, then destroying the city in 587 BC due to rebellion, and deporting many of the prominent citizens along with a sizable portion of the Jewish population of Judea to Babylon.²¹ The Neo-Babylonian Empire only survived the Aries sub-age overflow by 12 years.

Seven Wonders of the Ancient World

Six of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World were constructed during the 1st millennium BC and specifically in the Aries age-decan overflow (732 – 8 BC) – the peak time for Aries in the 26,000 year cycle of the precessional ages. Four of these Wonders of the Ancient world were located in or extremely close to either an Aries sub-age or sub-age decan periods in the Aries age-decan overflow. This is the case with the Hanging Gardens of Babylon. The Hanging Gardens of Babylon is the most nebulous of the Wonders as it is based on hearsay.

Greece

Archaic Greece (800 to 480 BC) is sandwiched between the earlier Greek Dark Ages and the later Classical Greece. Archaic Greece is therefore a period of approximately 320 years - showing a relatively close parallel to the 363 years Aries sub-age and overflow (914-551 BC). Aries is the sign of 'new beginnings' and this definitely took place in Archaic Greece. From around 750 BC Greece experienced a bountiful period following a population surge leading to an increase in wealth and an intellectual revolution - including the reintroduction of the written language. Existing towns and cities expanded and new towns were settled. This Aries period saw the rise of the polis, the first signs of classical philosophy, poetry and tragedy in theatrical productions (appropriately aligned to the arrival of the new Pisces age in 732 BC). This period also saw the first Greek colonization along the Mediterranean and Black Sea coasts in an assertive if not aggressive move for greater trade.²²

The rediscovery of the written word by the Greeks in the 8th century BC encouraged poets to document previously orally transmitted stories. Much of the intellectual heritage of this period is focused upon the ancient authors Homer and Hesiod. The exact date of Homer's life is uncertain, but it was probably close to the beginning of this Aries period. Homer is attributed as the author of the *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, two old oral Mycenaean Greek stories that Homer put to pen for the first time and considered to be the supreme literary masterpieces of Ancient Greece. Such was his fame it is believed that Alexander the Great carried a copy of the *Iliad* with him on his military campaigns. Homer influenced all the following Greek poets and playwrights, and Roman authors. Homer is considered to have had the greatest influence in the history of literature²³ – very fitting for the new

²⁰ "Hanging Gardens of Babylon." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 27 Feb. 2012. Web. 28 Feb. 2012

²¹ "Nebuchadnezzar II." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 31 May. 2014. Web. 31 May. 2014

²² "Archaic Greece." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 28 Nov. 2011. Web. 29 Nov. 2011.

²³ *The 100 – A Ranking of the Most Influential Persons in History*, pp 498-501

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thrust of energy of Aries. Homer's style provided a model in persuasive speaking and writing which was widely copied throughout the ancient and medieval Greek worlds.²⁴

Hesiod (c.750 and 650 BC), possibly a contemporary of Homer, was a Greek oral poet with the focus upon himself as the main subject matter (Aries' "I am"). Hesiod is also a major source on Greek mythology, agriculture, early economics, archaic Greek astronomy and ancient time-keeping.²⁵ Hesiod expressed a concern for justice, especially for the poor, and this relatively new social ideal places Hesiod as a key figure in the intellectual and moral history of the western world.²⁶ About a century after eclipses began to be noted in the Middle East, the Greeks first recorded a solar eclipse on the 6th April 648 BC, appropriately in the month of Aries.²⁷ A solar eclipse on 28 May 585 BC predicted by Thales, actually stopped a war between the Lydian Greeks and Medes (descendants of Indo-Europeans that settled in Iran). This eclipse also provides historians with another key dating reference.²⁸

Sparta is one of the two most recognized ancient city-states in Greece. Sparta's foundation as a formidable Greek military power took place during this Aries period. Sparta emerged following the Dorian (Indo-European) invasion or migration in the 10th century BC, and by 650 BC, Sparta was the dominant military land-power in ancient Greece. Sparta was unique in ancient Greece for its social system and constitution, which completely focused on military training and excellence. Its society was highly stratified with Spartan citizens at the top, who enjoyed full rights and Helots (state-owned serfs, enslaved non-Spartan local population) at the bottom. For such a male-orientated militarized society, curiously Spartan women enjoyed considerably more rights and equality with men compared to elsewhere in the classical world.²⁹

The main Spartan orientation in this Aries period was war. First they were fighting amongst themselves which created a reputation for the worst governed area in Greece, but eventually even they realized this was obviously stupid, and under the leader and lawgiver Lycurgus (c.800 –730 BC?) established civil order and a governing constitution based on Spartan virtues of equality (amongst Spartans only), military fitness, austerity and their superiority to other inhabitants.³⁰ The Spartans then applied their developing military might to conquering their neighbors which provided more slaves. The Spartans policy of enslavement of its conquered neighbors remained in place until close to the end of this Aries period whereupon it changed to building alliances (Aries is antithetical to

²⁴ *The World of Odysseus*. London: Penguin. p. 21. -> Finley, Moses (1991)

²⁵ "Hesiod." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 30 Nov. 2011. Web. 30 Nov. 2011.

²⁶ *The Columbia history of the World*, p 152

²⁷ "7th century BC." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 13 Jan. 2012. Web. 24 Feb. 2012

²⁸ "Cyaxares the Great." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 28 Jan. 2012. Web. 24 Feb. 2012.

²⁹ "Sparta." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 10 Nov. 2011. Web. 30 Nov. 2011.

³⁰ "Lycurgus of Sparta." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 20 Nov. 2011. Web. 30 Nov. 2011.

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Libran alliances). By the end of this Aries period Sparta had established itself as a local power in Greece and in the following centuries, Sparta's reputation as a land-fighting force was unequalled.³¹ They were extremely ruthless with their helots (slaves), and there are stories of young Spartans arbitrarily going on helot killing hunts for sport.

Another of the Wonders of the Ancient World was constructed in, or extremely close to the tail end of this Aries period - The Temple of Artemis in Ancient Greece (located in modern day Turkey) with its construction by Croesus of Lydia commencing around 550 BC. It was destroyed and rebuilt a number of times and finally destroyed in 401 BC. One commentator stated that the Temple of Artemis was far grander than the walls of Babylon, the statue of Zeus, the Hanging Gardens of Babylon and the Egyptian pyramids.³²

Alphabet

The first true alphabet consisting of symbols for both consonants and vowels was developed in Ancient Greece at the peak of the Aries sub-age and overflow around 732 BC. There were two parts to the development of the alphabet. The first part occurred in Phoenicia earlier than this Aries period before 1050 BC (most likely in the Gemini sub-age (1278 – 1096 BC), but the Phoenician alphabet did not properly allow for vowels.³³ By the 8th century BC³⁴ the Greeks had transformed the Phoenician alphabet into the first 'true' alphabet with the inclusion of vowels as well as the inherited consonants, and the first records of this new Greek alphabet appear in inscriptions dated 770-750 BC,³⁵ extremely close to the Aries cusp at 732 BC. This development further indicates the elevation of ancient Greece into the annals of history at this significant Aries period.

Jews

Hoshea (r. 732 – 723/1 BC) was the last king of the Kingdom of Israel.³⁶ In general this Aries sub-age overflow (732-551) was not beneficial for the Jews, and is probably due to the fact that Aries sits in the inimical 12th house position to Taurus – a key sign in the signature of the Jews. However, based on Assyria's ruthless reputation, the Jews seemed to have fared relatively well. A Jewish rebellion against the Assyrian Empire (one of many over the course of the Neo-Assyrian Empire) in 720 BC (near the Aries sub-age peak at 732 BC) led to the defeat of the Jews and the first Israelite Diaspora – setting a preview for the rest of the Aries-Pisces age (2916 BC – 1433 AD). The better known period of Jewish captivity in Babylon occurred after the fall of Assyria to the Babylonians when, from c. 587–538 BC, not only did the Jews rebel against their new

³¹ "History of Sparta." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 16 Nov. 2011. Web. 30 Nov. 2011.

³² "Temple of Artemis." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 23 Feb. 2012. Web. 28 Feb. 2012

³³ "Phoenician alphabet." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 10 Feb. 2012. Web. 23 Feb. 2012.

³⁴ "History of the alphabet." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 20 Feb. 2012. Web. 23 Feb. 2012

³⁵ "History of the Greek alphabet." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 11 Feb. 2012. Web. 23 Feb. 2012

³⁶ "Hoshea." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 13 Sep. 2011. Web. 1 Dec. 2011.

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Babylonian overlords but they were forcibly exiled and Solomon's Temple was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar II.³⁷ The change of fortune to the better for Israel did not occur until after the Aries sub-age and overflow when the Persian king Cyrus the Great vanquished the Babylonians in 538 BC and allowed the Jews to return home and rebuild the Temple.³⁸ While the Jews experienced a tumultuous political period under Aries, they became religiously focused – Aries is a sign of focus like a sword at your throat. The Jews were not traditionally monotheistic before this Aries period. Monotheism amongst the Jews only gained traction during the 8th century BC, and by the 7th century BC, monotheistic worship of Yahweh seems to have become official. The Assyrian god Asherah was removed from the temple in Jerusalem under Hezekiah (r. 715-686 BC). Jewish monotheism can be argued to have originated during his rule.³⁹

The arrival of the Aries sub-age overflow in 732 BC also marks the arrival of the latter prophets in the Hebrew Bible. The first of the latter prophets who is singularly known as the Jewish prophet Isaiah is now believed to be at least three people and probably more: Proto-Isaiah, the first 8th century BC prophet; Deutero-Isaiah of the 6th-century BC (near the end of the Babylonian captivity) and Trito-Isaiah shortly after return from exile. Between them they wrote the Book of Isaiah.⁴⁰ This was part of the whole documentation revolution associated with this Aries period. The ability to put pen to paper spread rapidly during this period in many parts of the world with previously oral information being progressively documented by scribes. Tangentially, another kind of documentation revolution occurred in this Aries period with the introduction of the first coins. There is some debate about where the first coins were minted, but either in Greece (possibly Lydia in Anatolia-Turkey or alternatively Argos in the 7th century BC) or otherwise India in the 5th or 6th centuries BC. Regardless of the source of the first coinage, the seafaring Greek traders quickly spread the practice through their networks around the Mediterranean Sea.⁴¹

Etruscans

In northern Italy in present day Tuscany, the pre-Roman civilization of the Etruscans are identified by 800 BC but their period of might was in parallel to this Aries sub-age and especially in its overflow (732 – 551 BC). It was assimilated into the Roman Republic in the 1st century BC making the Etruscan civilization an age-decan society. It is believed that the Etruscans nursed early Rome. The relatively modern adoption of a nude upper female figurehead on sailing ships to ward off evil is derived from the Etruscan civilization where depictions of nude embraces were employed for the same purpose. By the 7th century the Etruscans were heavily influenced by the expansionary Greeks and

³⁷ "Solomon's Temple." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 25 Nov. 2011. Web. 29 Nov. 2011.

³⁸ "Babylonian captivity." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 21 Nov. 2011. Web. 23 Nov. 2011.

³⁹ "Origins of Judaism." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 29 Nov. 2011. Web. 29 Nov. 2011.

⁴⁰ "Book of Isaiah." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 19 Feb. 2012. Web. 24 Feb. 2012.

⁴¹ "Coin." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 24 Feb. 2012. Web. 24 Feb. 2012.

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their period of might came to an end by 500 BC,⁴² not long after the close of this Aries period.

While Rome and Greece adopted the fairly standard social and political sublimation of women in society similar to some contemporary Middle Eastern countries, it appears that Etruscan women were relatively modern in this aspect. Like many modern Middle Eastern societies, the Greeks and Romans believed that Etruscan women were promiscuous as they socially mixed with the opposite sex. This suggests that the role of women in society in Classical Greece had deteriorated from Mycenaean Greece where women were able to socially interact with the menfolk. Aries is the preeminent male sign, and at the peak of the Aries period, it suggests that the pendulum between the sexes had swung to the male extreme. The role of 'liberated' Etruscan women in Etruscan society was obviously not the social norm in surrounding regions in this period. This Aries period marks an apex of male dominated societies as Aries is a male sign, and the other key male sign is Leo. The Leo age-decan overflow (1460-732 BC) combined with Aries at its maximum does not bode well for the role of women. The unwinding of this male hegemony only commenced with the arrival of the Libra age-decan in 1433 AD, and it will probably take until at least until the end of the current 3rd millennium for sexual equality to return to most of the world (the current Libra age-decan is opposite Aries and the Aquarian age is opposite Leo).

China

This Aries period saw the key demarcation point in the Zhou Dynasty (1122-256 BC) in 771 BC. The first part of the Zhou Dynasty (1122-771 BC) is known as the Western Zhou Dynasty while from 770 BC, with a change of capital, it became known as the Eastern Zhou Dynasty. The reason why the capital shifted eastwards was due to the barbarian hordes to the west who were too close to the capital. This was the end result of a lineage that became increasingly decadent while simultaneously having to contend with waves of barbarians, one of which were probably Indo-Europeans with their horse-drawn chariots. It was also during this Aries period that a concubine became the most powerful woman in China, usurping the rightful queen and heir. The concubine could only be amused with destruction and would have silk brought to the palace to be ripped apart for her pleasure. The king did what he could to amuse his demanding concubine, and even rang the alarm bells and lit the beacon fires for her amusement, but the surrounding lords did not find it at all amusing once they rushed to the king's aid but found no barbarians at the gates. When the barbarians did turn up a little later, and the king lit the beacon fires, no one came to his assistance and he was killed in battle in what may be the earliest case of "cry wolf".⁴³

The change of capital from the west to the east effectively marked the political deterioration of the Zhou Dynasty as the Chinese states within the Zhou Dynasty were basically independent with up to 148 independent city-states and the Zhou held only

⁴² "Etruscan civilization." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 19 Nov. 2011. Web. 30 Nov. 2011.

⁴³ "The History of the Ancient World", pp 328-33

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nominal central power. During the Spring and Autumn Period (771-476 BC) of the Western Zhou Dynasty not only was there conflict within states, there was also conflict between states and larger states began to swallow up smaller states. When external threats materialized, a military leader from one state with the strongest military backing was usually picked to defend China. The Spring and Autumn Period closely aligns itself to the Aries sub-age overflow (732-551 BC).⁴⁴ This Aries period did not benefit a centrally ruled China. China strongly relates to Libra, the opposite sign of Aries indicating problems in Aries' periods.

Egypt

This Aries period again finds Ancient Egypt in an intermediate period following the end of the New Kingdom around 1069 BC – over a century before this Aries period. The kings of the Twenty-Second Dynasty of Egypt were a series of Meshwesh Libyans who ruled from c. 943 BC until 720 BC, and though this period roughly coincides with the Aries sub-age proper (914 – 732 BC), it is probably better analysed from the perspective of the Taurus sub-age overflow. Interestingly, two dynasties commenced in 732 BC, the exact start of the Aries sub-age overflow (732 – 551 BC) but the Twenty-fifth Dynasty extended from 760 to 656 BC, almost coinciding with the most potent third quarter⁴⁵ (732 – 642 BC) of the Aries sub-age and overflow. This dynasty originated from the Nubian Kingdom of Kush creating the largest Egyptian empire since the fall of the New Kingdom. This kingdom was conquered by Assyria but temporarily it was a renaissance for Egypt including the first resurgence of pyramid building since the much older Middle Kingdom. Though only 89 years in length, this dynasty rekindled traditional Egyptian values, culture, art, and architecture and may have influenced Herodotus view of Egypt. Herodotus believed that the Greek gods came from Egypt.⁴⁶

Sport

The commencement of the forerunner of the modern Olympic Games around 776 to 772 BC,⁴⁷ only 40 years before the exact end of the Aries age and sub-age in 732 BC is highly notable. Sport is not limited to western culture, and appears to have a long association with China, and it is possible that over 4,000 years ago the Chinese were engaging in sport which may or may not align with the Aries sub-age decan & overflow (2309-2249-2188 BC). By the time of the Western Zhou Dynasty (1066-771 BC) sporting activities such as archery and cauldron lifting are clearly identifiable⁴⁸ and it is possible that this occurred relatively closely associated with the current Aries sub-age and overflow.

⁴⁴ "Spring and Autumn Period." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 12 Nov. 2011. Web. 1 Dec. 2011.

⁴⁵ Each period and its overflow can be divided into four, similar to the monthly lunation cycle with four phases. The third phase of each period in macro-astrology is always the most potent, while the first phase is the weakest.

⁴⁶ Twenty-fifth Dynasty of Egypt, Wikipedia, Retrieved June 17, 2015, from https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Twenty-fifth_Dynasty_of_Egypt&oldid=666546582

⁴⁷ "Olympiad." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 30 Nov. 2011. Web. 1 Dec. 2011.

⁴⁸ <http://chineseculture.about.com/library/weekly/aa032301a.htm> Downloaded 22 Nov 2012

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Miscellaneous

A number of events which were highly influential occurred in this Aries period. In the 9th century BC, Carthage in North Africa was founded in 813 BC while in the 7th century BC the Celts moved into England, evidence of the first recorded music (in Samaria), the relatively civilized Etruscans moved into Italy and the Greeks begin colonizing Spain.

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Aries sub-age and overflow (1072 - 1252 - 1433 AD)

Aries quasi sub-age (1162 – 1332 AD)

Like the previous Aries sub-age, this is not just another sub-age – it is very special. This sub-age towards the end of the Aries-Pisces age (732 BC – 1433 AD) which is the same as the Aries era is the final hurrah for Aries – the last time that an Aries sub-period can fully resonate with a more senior Aries parent period for around 6,000 years. Though Aries has passed its time of glory following the end of the Aries quasi age in 352 AD, it still has power, second only to Pisces at this point in history. This is the last major highpoint for any Aries period until the Aries age-decan (in the next Sagittarian age), which is not due until around the year 7100. The Aries highpoint in the current period is reflected in the widespread and contagious warfare of this period, though fairly common throughout history since the appearance of governments around the very beginning of the Aries age (2916 BC). The start of the European Crusades at this time typifies the sentiment. In addition, with Aries, there is also the appearance of famous military leaders, and dynamic cultural energy.

The Crusades

Only slightly more than 20 years inside this Aries sub-age the Pope called for the First Crusade against Muslims occupying Jerusalem, who had denied access to Christian pilgrims. This was perceived as a slap in the face of Christianity by those infidel Muslims! The call to war is always strong in an Aries period. The First Crusade occurred in 1096-9, less than 30 years inside of this Aries period. Underlying these so called religious wars was a desire to plunder the fabled wealth of the orient brought about by the Middle East's critical position in East-West trade. The notion of Holy War was already a reality amongst Europeans with the start of the Reconquista (Christian expulsion or ethnic cleansing of Muslims from Spain) in the 11th century. Holy War combines the archetypes of religious Pisces⁴⁹ and Aries violence.

As a result of the First Crusade, Christians captured Jerusalem in 1099. Around 50 years later, the Second Crusade (1147-9) commenced following the loss of recently captured territory and the Third Crusade (1189-92) was in response to Saladin's recapture of Jerusalem in 1187 by his Muslim forces. In the Fourth Crusade, the marauding European knights turned their attention from the Middle East and attacked and sacked Constantinople instead, whom they believed had undermined the earlier crusades, dividing the Byzantine Empire as spoils of war.⁵⁰ The Fifth Crusade (1217-21) resulted in the capture of Cyprus (by Richard the Lionheart), Acre (northern coastal city in Israel) and Egypt. The Sixth Crusade (1228-9) concluded with a negotiated settlement allowing Christians to reoccupy Jerusalem – which returned to the Muslims in 1244 anyway. The Seventh Crusade (1248-54) was against Egypt and the Eighth Crusade's (1270) purpose

⁴⁹ Pisces was on the rise since the arrival of the Pisces quasi-age in 352 AD with increased tempo following the arrival of the Pisces quasi-age decan 1072 – 1791 AD with this Aries sub-age.

⁵⁰ It was also for the benefit of Venice that wanted to get rid of its major trading competitor.

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was to capture Tunisia in North Africa. By 1291 all the territories captured by the European Christians had again been lost to the ‘infidels’. Despite the obvious stupidity of these crusades (wars), they did do something positive for Europe – they took the problematic warrior class outside of Europe to damage other regions instead of fighting amongst themselves within the borders of Europe.⁵¹

Apart from Richard the Lionheart, the only person to be part of the common modern historical knowledge of this period is Saladin (1138-1193). Saladin organized Muslim opposition to the marauding Christian infidels attacking their lands. He became the first Sultan of Egypt and Syria and his sultanate included Mesopotamia, Hejaz, Yemen, and parts of North Africa. Evidence of his strength for many centuries was left in the traces of construction works including citadels, roads and canals. Though he was the nemesis of the Crusaders, he was well respected by them due to his chivalrous nature and he often exchanged gifts with Richard the Lionheart because of their mutual respect.⁵²

Saladin, of Kurdish origin, founded the Ayyubid dynasty (1171-1341) almost perfectly mirroring the Aries quasi sub-age (1162-1332). The Ayyubid dynasty conquered and controlled Egypt, Syria, northern Mesopotamia, Hejaz, Yemen, and the North African coast up to the borders of modern-day Tunisia. As is common during Aries periods, a cultural renaissance is often witnessed, and this occurred in this dynasty which ushered in an era of economic prosperity and led to resurgence in intellectual activity in the Islamic world.^{53 54}

Byzantine Empire

The fall in strength of the Byzantine Empire (successor to the Eastern Roman Empire) with its capital at Constantinople took place during this Aries period.⁵⁵ Just before this Aries period the Macedonian dynasty (867-1056) came to an end, marking the Byzantine Empire’s last period of greatness. During this Aries period, power fell to provincial military families who naturally provided well for their military allies but unfortunately also handed too many tax concessions to their allies which strangled taxation revenue to the central government coffers. The lack of central revenue devolved real power to regional control even before the crusading Europeans arrived to conquer it. The financial situation was exacerbated when Byzantine granted a trade monopoly to Venice depriving it of its last strong revenue stream. Its sack by the Crusaders in 1204 took the last remaining wealth and removed some of their territories. Byzantine did recuperate and the Greek Paleologus dynasty (1261-1453), closely aligned with the Aries sub-age overflow (1252 – 1433), took charge but most of the damage had been done and it was now just a countdown to the end. Despite the military travails, a cultural renaissance occurred with the appearances of great cultural centers, advances in Byzantine painting techniques and

⁵¹ “The Collins Atlas of World History”, pp 94-5, 108

⁵² "Saladin." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 24 Feb. 2012. Web. 8 Mar. 2012

⁵³ "Ayyubid dynasty." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 5 Mar. 2012. Web. 8 Mar. 2012

⁵⁴ “Chambers” p 1289

⁵⁵ as previously occurred to the Western Roman Empire in the last Aries sub-age decan and overflow

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new heights in theological and philosophical speculation including the seed of the later Italian humanists.⁵⁶

Knights Templar & the Teutonic Knights

The Knights Templar (1119-1314) closely shadow the Aries quasi sub-age (1162-1332), and were amongst the most skilled soldiers in the Crusades, and their fame and reputation rose and died with the Crusades. A military charity started by French knights to protect pilgrims to the Holy Land, they were supported by a financial infrastructure that in reality was an early form of a bank. They behaved like the first multi-national corporation except they also had their own armed forces. Their allegiance was to the pope. Their successful fundraising provided them with the resources to build fortifications and churches in the Holy Lands and Europe and they acquired large tracts of land in Europe and the Middle East including farms and vineyards. They were also involved in manufacturing, import and export and they had their own navy - and at one point they even owned the entire island of Cyprus. Once the Holy Land was lost to the West, the main purpose for the Templars disappeared. King Philip IV of France severely persecuted the Knights Templar in 1307, commencing on Friday 13th October, to avoid repaying to them a large loan (to finance a war against the British), and following much adverse spin propagated against them, including the normal charges of homosexuality, heresy, secrecy and so on, they were disbanded by the pope in 1312.⁵⁷

The German-led Order of Teutonic Knights formed at the end of the 12th century in the Levant during the Crusades to also assist (protect) pilgrims to the Holy Land, specifically to operate hospices. When Jerusalem was lost, the Order became a military order in 1198 and eventually moved to Transylvania in 1211, becoming involved in military activities in Hungary, Prussia and Poland against pagan forces. Its main purpose was to repel and fight non-Christian forces initially in the Levant followed by northern Europe on behalf of the Holy Roman Empire. The Teutonic Knights therefore often ruffled local patriotic feathers because they did not feel responsible to the local rulers but held their allegiance to the Holy Roman Empire in the form of the pope. The Order achieved its greatest height in (1351–1382), and its greatest territorial extent in 1407. Once most of the pagan Europeans became Christianized the Teutonic Knights basically lost their *raison d'être* so they turned on their Christian neighbors instead. This was a big mistake and consequently they lost their military power after losing a major battle against a combined Poland-Lithuanian force in 1410 and commenced their downhill slide. Though the order continued for many more centuries, they did so increasingly as a non-military order. Their main military mode of operation is aligned closely to the current Aries sub-age and overflow. Their insignia became the model for the German Iron Cross and the Teutonic Knights are often representative of German nationalism, which the Nazi's exploited. They are also depicted as the national enemies of countries surrounding Germany.⁵⁸

⁵⁶ "The Collins Atlas of World History", pp108-9

⁵⁷ "Knights Templar." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 5 Mar. 2012. Web. 15 Mar. 2012.

⁵⁸ "Teutonic Knights." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 9 Mar. 2012. Web. 15 Mar. 2012

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The Knights Templar and the Teutonic Knights were part of the many new religious order that appeared in the 11th and 12th centuries. Other orders founded in this Aries period that followed similar rules and strictures were the Promonstratensians, founded 1120 with 614 monasteries in France and Germany by 1134, the order of St John's Hospital of Jerusalem (founded 1113 and the origin of the Order of Malta) and the Order of the Brothers of the Sword (German). The Order of Cistercians was so influential in the 1100s that the century has sometimes been called the Age of the Cistercians.⁵⁹ The Cistercians wanted to return to the purity established by Saint Benedict of Nursia (c.480–547), whose life was mainly in the former Aries sub-age decan overflow (472-532) and is another example of a diachronic relationship between periods of the same sign. St Benedict is considered to be the founder of western Christian monasticism.⁶⁰ The Rule of St Benedict that the Cistercians wished to return to was a combination individual zeal (Aries) and formulaic institutionalism (Pisces bureaucracy).⁶¹ On the practical level, the Cistercians wanted to return to a life of manual labor, especially field-work with Spartan austere lifestyle. They also became the main conduits of the diffusion of agriculture, hydraulic engineering and metallurgy in Western Europe. Their influence was maintained for over 100 years until they were overtaken by the new mendicant orders.⁶²

The conflicts of the type associated with Aries also created the new mendicant orders in reaction to both the growth of perceived heretical movements and against the perceived incongruity of the church and established monasteries accumulating so much wealth.⁶³ One such order was the Friars Minor founded by St Francis of Assisi (1181-1226). From 1210 with a brotherhood of 11, by 1219 he had 5,000 members with more clamoring to join. He was canonized in 1228 as patron saint of ecology.⁶⁴ The exponential growth of religious orders is related to Pisces, but the Aries component again is the massive dose of energy injected into the world at this time including religious heroes such as St Francis of Assisi.

The Arian energy injected in the growth of orders and monasteries is also manifested by the force the church placed in this period in ensuring that orthodox Christianity should prevail over adversaries within and without. One form of this new religious stridency was a hardening of its attitude towards Jews. Anti-Judaism developed with the First Crusade and by 1215 the Church decreed that Jews (and Muslims) must wear a distinctive piece of cloth (similar to the later Nazi persecution of the Jews) and in the early 1300s all Jews were banished from France.⁶⁵

⁵⁹ "12th century." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 15 Mar. 2012. Web. 20 Mar. 2012

⁶⁰ "Benedict of Nursia." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 12 Mar. 2012. Web. 20 Mar. 2012

⁶¹ "Rule of Saint Benedict." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 10 Feb. 2012. Web. 20 Mar. 2012

⁶² "Cistercians." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 12 Mar. 2012. Web. 20 Mar. 2012

⁶³ "The Collins Atlas of World History", p 104

⁶⁴ Chambers, p 538

⁶⁵ Scorpio sits strongly in France's astrological signature, and with Scorpio opposite Taurus, a key sign for Jews, this natural animosity is seen in the banishment of the Jews.

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Heretical movements commenced to appear around 1000 with the most important heretic, the Waldensians created in Lyons, France in the 1170's and another heresy was Catharism. In response the Church created the Dominican order who could torture suspects for confessions, some to be burnt at the stake (a favorite form of death for Aries, the prime fire sign). John Wyclif in England and Jan Hus in Bohemia were also strident adversaries of the Church.⁶⁶ John Wyclif (c.1329-1384) was a virtual Protestant before Protestantism even appeared in the Reformation. He was anti-papery, believed secular powers had authority over the Church, and turned back to a simpler form of Christianity that would become the hallmark of the later Protestants. His supporters were called the Lollards (means 'mumblers' in Dutch), and Jan Hus became one of his disciples. Forty-five years after his death many of his writings were judged as heretical and his bones were dug up and burnt - the Church having been denied the pleasure of burning him alive at the stake.⁶⁷

Jan Hus (c.1369-1415) was heavily influenced early by Wyclif's views, and the Church stated to proceed against him by 1408. He was excommunicated in 1411 for heresy and in 1413 he followed King Wenceslas' advice and found refuge amongst his supporters. He attended a general council with a safe conduct guarantee from the Emperor, but was promptly imprisoned and burnt at the stake for refusing to recant. His supporters rose up in rebellion known as the Hussite wars.⁶⁸ The Hussite Wars (1419-34) takes us to the technical end of the current Aries period in 1433. The Hussites repeatedly won numerous battles against superior Empire forces, using foot infantry against heavily armed knights, and engendered a military infantry revolution. They were also early users of hand-held canons (Aries is the sign of any projectile, especially for violent purposes). So successful were the Hussites that they were able to invade surrounding territories. They were not defeated in battle, but dissipated due to internal friction.⁶⁹

Genghis Khan

Each Aries period produces one or more mighty warriors. Genghis Khan (c.1162 – 1227) was the most successful conqueror in world history who appropriately was born at the exact beginning of the Aries quasi sub-age decan (1162-1332). Genghis Khan did not monopolize the achievements of the relatively short-lived dynasty he created. His immediate dynasty continued his conquests and achieved even greater territory, especially under his grandson Kublai Khan. Might does not equate with right, and the military exploits of Genghis Khan and his descendants was based on campaigns of terror, often accompanied by wholesale massacres of civilian populations, sometimes even after they had surrendered. By the end of his life, the Mongol Empire occupied a substantial portion of Central Asia and China including northern China in the east, and to the shores of the Black Sea and Persia in the west. One of the key aspects of Mongolian culture is that their morality was based on loyalty and respect for age. Loyalty and patriotism are

⁶⁶ "The Collins Atlas of World History", p106

⁶⁷ Chambers, p 1587

⁶⁸ "Chambers" pp 749-50

⁶⁹ "Hussite Wars." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 19 Feb. 2012. Web. 16 Mar. 2012

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strong Arian archetypes.⁷⁰ Despite the death and carnage afflicted upon their foes, within the Mongolian Empire there was peace and a cultural florescence. Genghis Khan introduced a standardized writing system, adopted religious tolerance and the size of the empire encouraged increased trade in Eurasia.^{71 72}

Once Genghis Khan died, there were disputes in the next few generations about the legitimate heir, but despite this internal turmoil, the Mongol Horde went further than Genghis Khan and conquered all of China creating the Yuan dynasty, all of central Eurasia including much of Russia and even made it to the gates of Venice in 1214. However Europe was spared conquest due to succession rivalry amongst Genghis Khans' descendant, forcing the Mongol horde to pull back from Venice and return home to fight it out. The fall of the Mongol Yuan dynasty in China in 1368, only 36 years past the end of the Aries quasi sub-age in 1332, marked the end of the Mongol Empire. The Mongol empire appeared quickly from nowhere, and after a brief but bright reign like a sky rocket, quickly returned back to Earth with a thud.⁷³

It is difficult for the modern world to appreciate the effect of the Mongolian invasions on the Eurasian landmass. The Mongols conquered more of Eurasia than any other conqueror either before or later. A greater percentage of people were killed in the Mongolian invasions of any other known conflict in the world. Between 1207 until 1472 (slightly later than the end of the Aries sub-age overflow in 1433), it is believed that around 12.3% of all humans alive in the world at the time (possibly 45 million) were killed. This is less than the average estimate of 56 million dead in the Second World War, but that 56 million was only about 2.4% of the world population. The only greater death toll than the Mongols may be the estimated average of 34.5 million killed in a medieval dispute in China accounting for 14.65% of the world population at the time.⁷⁴

Nevertheless the Mongol army foreshadowed modern warfare as they were capable of fighting simultaneously on multiple fronts over thousands of kilometers. They made knights with heavy (Cancer) armor and (Cancer) walled cities obsolete as neither could stop them. They also redrew the maps of many countries, and created new countries that exist to this day including Russia, greater China, Korea and India. The Mongol social and political system was based on individual merit, loyalty, and achievement – all archetypally sympathetic to Aries. The cities along the Silk Road were organized into the largest ancient free-trade zone. Taxes were reduced and doctors, teachers, priests, and educational institutions were given tax-free status. Many other accomplishments were associated with the Mongol invasion such as an international postal system, freedom of religion, abolition of torture and even diplomatic immunity to diplomats of his enemies.⁷⁵

⁷⁰ "The Collins Atlas of World History", pp108-9

⁷¹ "Genghis Khan." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 8 Mar. 2012. Web. 9 Mar. 2012

⁷² "The Collins Atlas of World History" pp 112-3

⁷³ "Mongol Empire." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 7 Mar. 2012. Web. 9 Mar. 2012

⁷⁴ "List of wars and anthropogenic disasters by death toll.", Wikipedia, 4 Mar. 2012. Web. 9 Mar. 2012

⁷⁵ Jack Weatherford, "Genghis Khan and the Making of the Modern World", Three Rivers Press, 2004, pp xvii-xix,

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Gunpowder

When the Mongols invaded northern China they came across the first known military use of gunpowder by the defending Chinese cities. The use of gunpowder did not stop the invading Mongols, and once they conquered China, the Mongols added gunpowder to their arsenal of weapons. When the Mongols attempted to invade Japan they took gunpowder with them and used rockets propelled by gunpowder. It is believed that the Mongols then introduced the use of gunpowder to Europe, with the first known use in Hungary in 1241 – almost at the exact peak of the Aries sub-age in 1252. The Arabs also gained knowledge of gunpowder around this time. The exact date for the invention of gunpowder is unknown, but it is likely to have been slightly before the current Aries period. However, it is during this Aries period that gunpowder appeared as a military weapon and entered military history. By 1248, cannons were in use in Spain, by 1346 gunpowder was being produced in England and firearms were utilized in India by 1366. The development of new weaponry is always a major factor of any Aries period, and the application of gunpowder for bombs and projectiles must rank as high as the invention of the spear and the bow and arrow.⁷⁶

The New Political & Religious Order

Under Aries, everyone disagrees with everyone else and allied forces can be fleeting agreements. This usually manifests in wars and major disagreements – which is certainly the case in the current Aries period. During this Aries period, a two century conflict between the emperors of the Holy Roman Empire centered in Germany and the papacy left the papacy weakened and the Empire never recovered its former glory. Very quickly after the arrival of this Aries period in 1072, a quarrel over who had the right to appoint bishops and the papacy ran from 1075 to 1122. The church demanded the sole right to appoint the clergy and the pope, up until this time appointed by the emperor, but also demanded the right to be able to depose the emperor. In other words, the church wanted absolute superiority like a boxer stating he is the greatest. This quarrel over who had the highest sovereignty carried forward to 1250. Despite the weakened states of the protagonists in this dispute, the church wrested control of the clergy and papacy from the laity.

While the Holy Roman Empire was weakened by its conflict with the papacy, in 1303, the French king's envoys seized the pope demonstrating how the struggle between secular and religious powers oscillated in this Aries period and that a fundamental power shift was taking place in Europe. By 1250, at the highpoint of this Aries period, the French king controlled the most populous kingdom in the West with strong centralized administration and Paris became recognized as a place of political power and center of learning.⁷⁷ The English appeared to respond more to Taurus than Aries in comparison to France. The Norman invasion of 1066 was six years prior to the peak of the Taurus sub-age and overflow (892-1072-1252). The organized collection of taxes, a Scorpio archetype, is however a Taurus archetype for the government who receives the taxes as

⁷⁶ "Gunpowder." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 12 Mar. 2012. Web. 12 Mar. 2012

⁷⁷ "The Collins Atlas of World History", pp 98-9, 101

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income. The English government had a very efficient taxation system under the Normans, which is why the less populated British Isles had more resources for war compared to the more populous France. England also introduced centralized government institutions earlier than France. Under King Henry II (1133-89) England reached its height of power – well before the Aries peak at 1252, again suggesting that Feudal England is aligned more to Taurus than Aries. However dissent plagued the English court as was the case elsewhere, with the royal conflict with the church resulting in the murder of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Becket (1118-70) as a pawn in the war between the respective rights and privileges of the royalty and the church carried over from the continent. The English barons revolted in 1173-4 and finally the English king had to submit to the Magna Carta in 1215 - limiting the powers of the king. The Provisions of Oxford in 1258 – the first legal document to be written in English since the Norman Invasions over 200 years previously - provided England with its first written constitution. England's aggressive nature under Aries is demonstrated by its conquest of Wales in 1277 and failed attempts to conquer Scotland.^{78 79}

The Hundred Years' War

The Hundred Years' War (1337-1453) occurred in the last 'quarter' of the Aries sub-age and overflow concluding 10 years into the following period. This was in fact a series of wars between England and France, with relatively peaceful interludes, when the border between the two proto-nations was ill-defined, but it is considered one of the most significant conflicts in the history of medieval warfare. It was the beginning of the concept of England and France as separate and distinct nationalities. Being in an Aries period, it naturally saw the introduction of new weapons and tactics replacing the old feudal armies based on heavy cavalry. This war saw the appearance of the first standing armies in Western Europe since the fall of the Western Roman Empire. The cause of the war was based on disputed claims to the French throne by various French and English claimants at a time when the distinction between France and England was blurred, especially following the successful conquest of England by William the Conqueror from his base in Normandy (France) that also followed a dispute of the English throne. The English continued their claim of the French throne up to 1800!⁸⁰

The Hundred Years War invokes multiple Aries archetypes of a significant nature. The English army evolved from a feudal system based on landholder obligations to a new arrangement based on a core of paid professional officers who took responsibility to recruit soldiers for specific campaigns. The newly introduced English longbow virtually negated the heavy mounted cavalry (knights in armor) of their French adversaries. The use of the longbow revolutionized warfare at the time and initially allowed the English success after success as the longbow acted like artillery at long range – devastating the French opponents even before they were in striking distance. In 1252 all Englishmen between the ages of 15 and 60 were required to own a bow and arrows, and by 1363 they were also required to practice their archery every Sunday. The sound of Mars' martial

⁷⁸ "The Collins Atlas of World History", p103

⁷⁹ "Provisions of Oxford." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 12 Mar. 2012. Web. 15 Mar. 2012.

⁸⁰ "The Collins Atlas of World History", pp 126-7

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drum to war is always pounding in an Aries period. The English also replaced their heavy cavalry with dragoons (light horsemen that would dismount and fight at close quarters). The French relied more upon mercenaries and the use of crossbows. While the longbow and crossbows reek of Aries, the actual appearance towards the end of this war by 1375 of the first canons and early firearms utilizing gunpowder confirms the strength of Aries at this point in history.

The rise of standing armies and professional soldiers paved the way for the evolution of the modern centralized state. The new army freed monarchs from depending upon barons and dukes for the defense of their realms, and allowed the kings to independently develop their own centralized power. The 100 Years War also helped create nationalistic sentiment in both England and France. The war commenced as an internal squabble between rival monarchies to a rivalry between the English and French people - thus the appearance of (Aries) patriotism. It also promoted the use of vernacular English in place of French at the English court.⁸¹ One example of national patriotism seeping down the classes was the appearance of the peasant girl Joan of Arc who was instrumental in saving Orleans from an English siege in 1429 and led a series of military successes against the English, though wounded twice, and became a French national heroine.⁸² The war was in reality lost by England, as by the end of the war it only controlled the city of Calais which it held for a few more centuries.

The Renaissance of the 12th Century

There are always a strong cultural elements associated with any Aries period, and this was again noticeable despite the massive military activity. Commencing around 1070 (technically two years before the start of the current Aries period), was the beginning of the Renaissance of the 12th Century align within the historical period known as the High Middle Ages. Allegorically it was as if a syringe full of energy was inserted into the veins of Europe, especially around Italy, transforming the social, political and commercial worlds, and instigating an intellectual revitalization of Western Europe. In Italy in particular, there was a rejuvenated connection to the Aries empire of Ancient Rome – particularly Latin books, Roman Law, Greek science and philosophy and the intellectual input from the Muslim world which had been scholastically far ahead of backward Europe for many centuries. Suddenly universities commenced appearing in various European cities. Despite the throwback to ancient sources, there was also a significant growth in the use of the vernacular (local language) instead of Latin in new literature, and an urban boom - including the growth of towns and cities. One reason for this new intellectual focus was due to the first translations and study of Greek and Arabic works of natural science, philosophy and mathematics. Most of the Greek works had become unavailable in Europe after the fall of the Western Roman Empire.⁸³ The return to the ‘civilized’ world by Europe was aligned to this final Aries period in the Aries age overflow (732 BC – 1433 AD). It seems entirely appropriate that at the end of the age

⁸¹ "Hundred Years' War." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 10 Mar. 2012. Web. 10 Mar. 2012.

⁸² "Joan of Arc." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 9 Mar. 2012. Web. 10 Mar. 2012

⁸³ "Renaissance of the 12th century." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 6 Mar. 2012. Web. 13 Mar. 2012.

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when Rome was the greatest empire on Earth, that the vestige of Ancient Rome reappeared like a mirage and placed Italy back again in the center of Europe, even if only temporarily.

The Renaissance of the 12th Century provided the base for the later more famous Italian Renaissance. What seemed to differ between the two renaissances is that the Renaissance of the 12th Century was a revival of Ancient Greece and Roman intellectual achievements, while the later Italian Renaissance was more self-centered with its own achievements, developing new modes of thought and expression from their Classical sources. One example of the new input from the past was Scholasticism based mainly on the works of the ancient Greek Aristotle or subsequent commentators on his works. Scholasticism introduced empiricism to Europe which initially was used to support the Roman Catholic Church through secular study, reason, and logic as opposed to depending entirely on faith.⁸⁴ The translation of Aristotle's *Ethics* in 1240 also revolutionized political and scientific ideas.⁸⁵ Ultimately it led to the modern Scientific Revolution in the coming Aquarian age.

Italian City-States & Urban Renaissance

Another outcome of Europe's economic prosperity in the 12th century was the growth in importance of a number of Italian city-states – the wealthiest in Europe at the time. These city-states generally were independent, governed by the mercantile class and they created the perfect opportunity for the Italian Renaissance. The key city states were Florence, Genoa, Pisa and Venice and they all profited from the Crusaders conquest of Byzantine in the 4th Crusade. This left these Italian city-states at the nexus of east-west European trade between the Levant and Asia and the north-south trade between the Baltic and Egypt. Florence was the richest of the city states due to its woolen textile production (sheep are ruled by Aries) with their gold florin the new currency standard for international trade.

Some of these Italian city-states were called maritime republics due to their extensive Mediterranean trade – the four main ones being Amalfi, Pisa, Genoa and Venice. The maritime republics became heavily involved with the Crusades – financially benefitting from supplying ships to transport soldiers and supplies. The sack of Constantinople in the 4th Crusade was basically for Venice's benefit as Constantinople was Venice's major trade competitor. Venice was one of the strongest states in Europe in the 13th and 14th centuries. For example, in 1104, the Venice Arsenal was founded which employed some 16,000 people for the mass production of sailing ships in large assembly lines. It was the first mass production complex using standardized and interchangeable parts and the largest in existence prior to the Industrial Revolution.⁸⁶ Some maritime republics had less favorable outcomes - Amalfi and Gaeta were conquered by the Normans in 1131 and

⁸⁴ Renaissance of the 12th century." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 6 Mar. 2012. Web. 13 Mar. 2012.

⁸⁵ Collins Atlas, p122

⁸⁶ "Venetian Arsenal." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 9 Mar. 2012. Web. 20 Mar. 2012

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1140 respectively and Pisa was incorporated into Florence in 1406.⁸⁷ Like the ancient Greek and Mesopotamian city-states, the Italian city-states were constantly fighting and intriguing against each other and with the Papacy.⁸⁸

The scale of growth and development to 1200 was not eclipsed in Western Europe until the next Fire sub-age associated with the Industrial Revolution. The growth was directly related to the expansion of agriculture and improved agricultural techniques but most of the increase was due to the growth in arable land through clearing. One example of the agricultural bonanza is the first representation of a harrow on the Bayeux Tapestry (1070s) celebrating the Norman Invasion of Briton. The agricultural renaissance was associated with a great increase in population and was the first evidence of an increase in population in villages or towns since Late Antiquity. Associated with towns came a proliferation of trades and guilds. Northern Europe became connected to southern Europe at annual trade fairs in Champagne (midway between Flanders and northern Italy) which peaked in the 1100s.⁸⁹ The infusion of new energy and dynamism saw the introduction of critical elements of modern commerce such as double-entry accounting facilitated by the introduction of Arabic numerals to Europe (which the Arabs had mainly copied from the Indians). Other key commercial innovations included joint stock companies, trans-national banking, foreign exchange market, insurance and government debt. This was the beginning of modern capitalism.

A series of calamities towards the end of the 14th century indicated that Western Europe commenced to pull back from its boom. This is over one hundred years past the peak of Aries in 1252 and past the Aries quasi sub-age (1162-1332) suggesting the clear evidence for a transfer of 'energy' from the Aries sub-age to the following Pisces sub-age. Europe commenced to climatically cool, reducing agricultural output and causing famine amongst the recently increased population. The Hundred Years War upset trade in northern Europe, and the Ottomans were disrupting trade in the East. King Edward III of England refused to pay his debts resulting in the crash of the two largest banks in Florence. Finally the Black Death commenced to devastate Europe, sharply reducing the population (associated with the Pisces sub-age). The dampened economic conditions saw a refocusing upon investing in art and culture as business was proving unprofitable. Another possible precipitation of the Italian Renaissance was the internal wars between Florence and Milan with Florence orientated towards republicanism and the Milan Empire your standard despotic monarchy. Florence almost collapsed in 1402 but they utilized republican propaganda to defend their Greek and Roman Republican ideals against the backward Milanese feudalism – setting the stage for humanism and the Renaissance.⁹⁰

⁸⁷ "Maritime republics." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 27 Feb. 2012. Web. 14 Mar. 2012.

⁸⁸ "Italian Renaissance." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 8 Mar. 2012. Web. 14 Mar. 2012.

⁸⁹ Collins Atlas, pp118-9

⁹⁰ "Italian Renaissance." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 8 Mar. 2012. Web. 14 Mar. 2012.

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Hanseatic League

The 13th century is the peak century in the current Aries period and appropriately it coincided with strong economic growth in much of Europe. One outcome of the return of economic progress to Europe was the creation of the Hanseatic League in northern Europe – the first European trading network since the 4th century in Roman times.⁹¹ The German-based Hanseatic League was an alliance of trading cities, guilds, enclaves and posts along the coast of Northern Europe from the Baltic to the North Sea and inland with posts in Hamburg, Bruges (Flanders), Bergen (Norway), Danzig (Poland) and London plus warehouses in a number of English cities - it was legally formed in 1356. Its source is found in the late 12th century with the rebuilding of the North German town of Lübeck in 1159 after a military invasion. Though the league extended into the 17th century, its zenith was in the late 14th century, placing the major association of this league to the current Aries period.

The purpose of the Hanseatic League was to protect the trading and commercial interests of its member cities across a number of countries, often placing these cities partly outside the control of their national governments, especially in relation to taxes on the free flow of goods. This league pioneered the concept of modern free trade and provided protection for traders that the weak governments of the time were unable to provide. Between 1361 and 1370, the League successfully waged war against Denmark to secure highly favorable trading rights. The League also repelled pirates, trained pilots and erected lighthouses. The League primarily traded timber, furs, resin, tar, flax, honey, wheat, and rye from the east to Flanders and England with cloth and manufactured goods going in the other direction. Sweden sent south copper, iron and herring.⁹² The Hanseatic League demonstrated that even in far off northern Europe with their bitterly cold winters, a flourishing trading culture existed during this Aries period.

Culture

The most important cultural figures of the time were authors such as the “Father of Humanism” Petrarch and Dante and the artistic Renaissance commenced with Giotto. Leading the charge in the Aries quasi sub-age (1162 – 1332) but also towards the end of the overlapping Pisces sub-age (1252 – 1433) are Dante and Giotto suggesting that this period emphasizes the fusion of Aries and Pisces and that Pisces is probably the most influential sign of the pair when it comes to cultural developments at this time. The Aries input is in the amount of energy suddenly released in Europe and at the forefront of the cultural florescence were Dante (1265-1321) from Florence, who wrote in the Italian vernacular, the Italian painter and architect Giotto (c.1266-1337) born near Florence and is considered the instigator of Renaissance art and the brilliant sculptors Giovanni and Andrea Pisano and Arnolfo do Cambio. Finally there appeared the Italian poet laureate Petrarch (1304-74) born in Tuscany near Florence, Giovanni Boccaccio (1313-75) and the English poet Chaucer (c.1345-1400) who is credited with establishing vernacular English as a literary language.⁹³

⁹¹ Italian Renaissance." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 8 Mar. 2012. Web. 14 Mar. 2012.

⁹² "Hanseatic League." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 12 Mar. 2012. Web. 13 Mar. 2012

⁹³ Chambers, p 298

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Marco Polo

The famous Italian adventurer Marco Polo (1254-1324) is appropriately found in this Aries period giving further credit to the temporary return of Italy to the center of progress in Europe. Marco Polo came from an international Venetian family of travelling traders who had previously travelled to China and also spent time residing in Constantinople. After Marco spent 24 years travelling along the Silk Road through the Gobi desert to China he became an envoy for Kublai Khan and even served as a governor in China for three years. Marco visited Japan and India and returned to Italy by sea to Persia with much wealth from his travels. While captain of a Venetian ship which was captured by the Genoese, he wrote *The Travels of Marco Polo* while imprisoned.⁹⁴ Marco was not the only European traveler to venture East, but his book promoted his journey widely to the European public including later to Christopher Columbus - inspiring him to look for a western sea route to the East in the following Pisces sub-age overflow.⁹⁵

Japan

Aries always inspires warriors, and this was also noted in Japan by the end of the 12th century. In 1192, the aristocratic regime was replaced by warriors of the Minamoto clan, with the Shogan the actual ruler and the aristocracy retained for ceremonial purposes only. Japan had to withstand two attempted invasions by the Mongols in 1274 and 1281 which, though unsuccessful, disorganized Japan resulting in internal violence and wars. Such discord does not hinder other activities under Aries, and the same thrust of religious activity seen in Europe also occurred in Japan in the 13th and 14th centuries with the appearance of numerous new Buddhist and Zen sects that heavily influenced the outlook of the warrior class. This was the time of great war epics, with *The Tale of Heike* (c.1240) an epic account of the struggle between the Taira and Minamoto clans for control of Japan in the Genpei War (1180-1185). Similar to Europe at the same time, some towns under the rule of merchant oligarchies became free of the aristocrats.^{96 97}

India

India, strongly associated with Taurus and Capricorn, did not respond well to this Aries period. Aries from the Taurus perspective invokes the 12th house of endings and from the Capricorn perspective invokes the 4th house of lack of prestige - but prestige to the opponent. The Persian Ghaznavid Empire to the north-east had previously raided India, but from 1173, at almost the beginning of the Aries quasi sub-age (1162 – 1332) they created the first Muslim state in greater India, employing warriors from Central Asia and Afghanistan. By the end of the 13th century, one-quarter of India's population were converted to Islam, taking converts from existing Buddhists and Hindus, but Hinduism survived in a better shape. The Muslim rulers of India fought off the Mongols between 1211 and 1236 but in 1398 had to experience being conquered by Tamerlane.⁹⁸

⁹⁴ Chambers, p 1178

⁹⁵ Marco Polo." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 24 Feb. 2012. Web. 13 Mar. 2012.

⁹⁶ The Collins Atlas, p 114

⁹⁷ "The Tale of the Heike." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 12 Feb. 2012. Web. 16 Mar. 2012.

⁹⁸ The Collins Atlas, pp 116-7

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Tamerlane (1336-1405), also known as Timur, a name derived from the word “iron”, a strong Aries archetype, and the Persian word “lame” from his (Arian) battle wounds, conquered West, South and Central Asia, including Persia and founded the Timurid dynasty (1370–1405) in Central Asia. He was ancestor of Babur, the founder of the Mughal Dynasty, which survived in India until 1857. Tamerlane sought to restore the Mongol Empire, but paradoxically his heaviest blow was against their direct descendants - the Islamized Tatar Golden Horde. He conducted wars using his Turkish and Mongol nomads that severely affected some Muslim states, in particular against Delhi. His campaigns in India were marked by systematic slaughter and other atrocities on a truly massive scale inflicted mainly against the Hindu population. His military campaign is believed to have caused the deaths of 17 million people. His conquest of Delhi in 1398 invokes Mars, the Arian god of war. The defending Delhi sultan prepared 120 war elephants armored with chain mail with poison on their tusks. Tamerlane responded by placing wood and hay on the backs of his camels and setting them alight, forcing them to charge, howling in pain, at the Indian elephants. The elephants panicked, turned around and stampeded back toward their own lines with devastating results. Tamerlane, as a military conqueror, is amongst the ranks of Genghis Khan and Alexander the Great, making him one of the world’s greatest conquerors. His armies were ferocious and feared throughout Asia, Africa, and Europe but in stark contrast, he was a great patron of the arts.^{99 100}

The Khmer Empire

The Khmer Empire (c.802-c.1632) is of the order of magnitude of an age-decan, and its greatest legacy is Angkor - believed the largest pre-industrial urban center in the world.¹⁰¹ The empire remained under its original dynasty until 1351, just past the end of the Aries quasi sub-age in 1332, and the city was first sacked in 1421 at the very end of the current Aries period. There are over one thousand temples in the Angkor area including the magnificent Angkor Wat, constructed in the early 1100s. Angkor Wat is believed to be the world's largest single religious monument. As with any Aries period, the Khmer Empire suffered from frequent wars and violence with their neighbors. The highpoint for the empire was the reign of Jayavarman VII (1125–1200) who was king from c.1181-1200. He commenced a massive construction program, especially 'firehouses' (travelers' hospices), many hospitals and reservoirs. He is accredited with bringing Buddhism to the empire in place of Hinduism. After his reign another Hindu ruler did attempt to stem the Buddhist tide¹⁰² like the later Catholics opposing the Protestant Reformation in Europe. Temple construction ended in 1327, almost exactly at the end of the Aries quasi sub-age (1162-1332), possibly because the king adopted a different form of Buddhism that did not extoll temples. Unfortunately other works also degenerated - including important water-

⁹⁹ "Timur." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 12 Mar. 2012. Web. 16 Mar. 2012.

¹⁰⁰ Chambers, p1430

¹⁰¹ Damian Evans; et al. (2009-04-09). "A comprehensive archaeological map of the world's largest preindustrial settlement complex at Angkor, Cambodia". *PNAS* 104 (36): 14277–82. doi:10.1073/pnas.0702525104. PMC 1964867. PMID 17717084. Retrieved 2009-11-22 Downloaded 20 Mar 2012

¹⁰² "Jayavarman VII." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 17 Mar. 2012. Web. 20 Mar. 2012

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management works which reduced the harvest, and therefore wealth of the empire. In the 1300s the Khmer were in retreat, and deserted or withdrew many people from Angkor due to military attack and possibly due to societal weakening from the Black Death.¹⁰³

The Americas

The Post-Classic Era (1000–1697) is mostly taken up by the Aries sub-age and overflow (1072-1433). Many cultures collapsed during this time, and this period is associated with increased chaos and warfare, and often cultural decline, but with advances in architecture, engineering and weaponry. The Post-Classic saw rapid movement and growth of population (a mark of Aries), especially in Central Mexico from 1200 onwards as Aries attained its peak at 1252. The Toltec dominated central Mexico in the 11th – 13th century, then collapsed and were succeeded by the Aztec culture that looked back to the Toltec as their intellectual and cultural predecessors. The Toltec had war-like gods and practiced large-scale human sacrifice which they took with them when they invaded the Yucatan, occupied by the Maya. The arrival of the Toltecs to the Yucatan brought years of war and conflict but their influence waned by the 13th century. New arrivals to the Yucatan establish the short-lived Mayapan League which collapsed in 1194 leading to a period of anarchy and fragmentation that continued until the arrival of the Spanish in the 16th century.

The Aztec empire evolved out of the Toltec in the early 15th century, and the flourishing of Aztec imperialism led to a renaissance of fine arts and science.^{104 105 106} The Aztecs were ferocious and bloodthirsty and their empire was more Spartan than Athenian – it was a military machine. The Aztecs were more interested in killing than administering an empire, and their empire has been described as an immense battleground where they constantly refought their conquests.¹⁰⁷ The lack of strength of the written word at this time and place created lack of detail for many developments in the Americas and so the same detailed analysis of life and culture in the Americas compared to Eurasia does not exist. Nevertheless, the undercurrents of Aries can be seen by the references at this time to the collapse of empires, warfare, renaissance and advances in architecture, engineering and weaponry – all being strong Aries archetypes. The short-lived Aztec empire that appeared in this period is probably better associated with the Pisces sub-age and overflow (1252-1612).

The early Inca kingdom of Cusco (1197-1438) established in Southern Peru lasted 241 years in the order of magnitude of a sub-age. If combined with the Inca Empire (1438-1533) its duration increases to 336 years almost the exact length of a sub-age and overflow of 361 years at this period. This suggests an association with the Pisces sub-age

¹⁰³ "Khmer Empire." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 14 Mar. 2012. Web. 20 Mar. 2012

¹⁰⁴ "Mesoamerican chronology." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 16 Mar. 2012. Web. 19 Mar. 2012.

¹⁰⁵ "Toltec." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 3 Mar. 2012. Web. 19 Mar. 2012

¹⁰⁶ "Yucatán." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 18 Mar. 2012. Web. 19 Mar. 2012

¹⁰⁷ Columbia, p 649

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and overflow (1252 – 1612) but 1197 is before the arrival of the Pisces sub-age in 1252. Therefore it is most likely that the primary association of the Incas is to the current Aries sub-age and overflow. The Inca Empire evolved from Cusco at the very end of the current Aries period, though Cusco remained its capital.¹⁰⁸ The lurch to empire commenced in 1440 at the Battle of Cusco, with the besieged Incas defeating the militaristic and ruthless Chanca. In 1441 the Inca commenced their campaigns of conquest leading into the Aquarian age.¹⁰⁹ The Incas combined military ingenuity along with the subtleties of diplomacy to create their empire. The Aztecs, Incas and the remains of the Maya at the time of the Spanish conquest were collectively described as warlike civilizations that were also culturally advanced.¹¹⁰

In North America, the bulk of the mound-building Mississippian culture (800-1500 AD) basically existed in parallel with the current Aries period. This culture is principally noted for the construction of large square and rectangular truncated earthwork pyramid mounds, or platform mounds with a building at the top. The Early Mississippian culture (1000-1200) experienced surplus agricultural production which led to rapid population concentrations in major centers. The highpoint of the Mississippian culture (1200-1400), the Middle Mississippian period, aligns with the peak of Aries when the great metropolis and ceremonial complex at Cahokia (in Illinois) expanded, and the political and cultural life developed more complex or evolved structures. From 1350 onwards (following the end of the Aries quasi sub-age in 1332), the population of Cahokia dispersed, mound building decreased and there was an increase in war and political turmoil leading to the Late Mississippian period commencing in 1400. Their institutionalized social hierarchy¹¹¹ is a vestige from the Taurus sub-age (892-1072)

Technical Advances

A number of technical advances were made during this Aries period. Roman numerals commenced to be replaced in Europe by the modern system based on Arabic numerals originally developed in India. Interestingly, the Indian numerals first appeared in part around 300 BC in the Aries sub-age decan and overflow (310-249-189 BC) but without a zero for around another thousand years. The Italian mathematician Fibonacci from Pisa widely promoted the new numeral system in a book published in 1202.¹¹² Arabic numerals was one of the key advances that facilitated the rapid growth in business activity during this time as they were far less cumbersome than the old Roman number system based on alphabetic letters.

Other advances demonstrating the new surge of energy invading Europe in this Aries period is the manufacture of paper in Spain around 1100, the appearance of the first windmill in Yorkshire, England (1185), the spinning wheel in the 12th century, the

¹⁰⁸ "Inca Empire." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 5 Mar. 2012. Web. 19 Mar. 2012

¹⁰⁹ Collins Atlas, p 134

¹¹⁰ Columbia, p 651

¹¹¹ Mississippian culture." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 13 Mar. 2012. Web. 21 Mar. 2012

¹¹² "Arabic numerals." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 4 Mar. 2012. Web. 12 Mar. 2012.

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magnetic compass in the late 12th century (imported into Europe from China), the invention of eyeglasses in Italy (late 1280s), the astrolabe returned to Europe and the oldest known depiction of a stern-mounted rudder in the West in 1180.¹¹³ Only the compass can be assigned archetypally to Aries, but these items are relevant in this Aries analysis due to their signifying the new surge of energy that entered Europe at the tail end of the Aries-Pisces age (732 BC – 1433 AD).

The blast furnace for producing pig iron, the metal of Aries, appeared in Europe between 1100 and 1350, with the oldest believed to be in Sweden. By the 11th century, the Song Dynasty Chinese iron industry switched resources from charcoal to bituminous coal in their furnaces, subsequently sparing thousands of acres of woodland for fuel. Blast furnace technology may have been imported into Europe from China, similar to gunpowder. The Cistercians became the leading iron producers in Champagne, France, from the mid-13th century and some believed they helped disseminate the technology around Europe.¹¹⁴

The overlap of the Taurus sub-age and overflow (892-1072-1252) with the Aries sub-age and overflow (1072-1252-1433) was in miniature, a copy of the empire of the Taurus-Aries age – Ancient Egypt and its massive construction of pyramids and temples. In the current Aries period, this was mimicked by the building splurge of mainly religious buildings with newly developed innovative construction techniques¹¹⁵ that came to be known as Gothic architecture that flourished during the high and late medieval period. Gothic churches therefore can be considered reincarnated pyramids. Gothic architecture originated in 12th century France with its characteristic features including the pointed arch, the ribbed vault and the flying buttress. The crossing of pointed arches meeting at the center lessened the weight applied to the supporting side walls, freeing them of much of their former load. The reduced load meant that walls ceased to be (Taurus) solid, and evolved into stone skeletons emphasizing verticality and light. Many of the great cathedrals, abbeys and churches, and to a lesser extent, castles, palaces, town halls, guild halls and universities of Europe are of this Gothic mold. The classic cathedral with two towers or spires framing the front entrance is Gothic architecture.^{116 117} They were in general the largest buildings for the times indicating that the Catholic Church was the real power of the period, just as in modern times commercial skyscrapers indicate the main power in the world is currently corporations.

Europe did not monopolize construction in this period. In China, after centuries of virtual neglect or indifference, the Ming dynasty began restoring the northern section of the Great Wall to keep out the marauding Manchurian and Mongolian tribes. They used stronger construction techniques utilizing brick instead of rammed earth. The Ming

¹¹³ "Renaissance of the 12th century." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 6 Mar. 2012. Web. 13 Mar. 2012.

¹¹⁴ "Blast furnace." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 19 Mar. 2012. Web. 20 Mar. 2012

¹¹⁵ Collins Atlas, p 120

¹¹⁶ "Gothic architecture." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 16 Mar. 2012. Web. 17 Mar. 2012

¹¹⁷ Collins Atlas, p 122

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dynasty also restored the Grand Canal and established the Forbidden City between 1400 and 1425.^{118 119}

¹¹⁸ "Great Wall of China." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 17 Mar. 2012. Web. 21 Mar. 2012

¹¹⁹ "Ming Dynasty." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 8 Mar. 2012. Web. 21 Mar. 2012

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Glossary

Age-pair – (see the Overflow Effect). The influence of any zodiacal sign in an age or sub-period is strongest in the following period. For example the Pisces age came to an end in 1433 CE, but in the following Aquarian age, Pisces has the strongest influence, especially in the first half of the Aquarian age. Therefore the mono-signed terms for the astrological ages and their sub-periods are inadequate, and age-pairs reflect the reality of the co-mingling of the two signs. Therefore most references to the astrological ages and their sub-periods should reflect the present and previous zodiacal signs. The Aquarian age, when expressed as an age-pair, is the Pisces-Aquarius age indicating that Pisces is the senior and Aquarius the junior partners. The previous Pisces age, when expressed as an age-pair, is the Aries-Pisces age. The first sign in any age-pair (or sub-period) is the strongest influence with the second sign the emergent influence.

Archetype A basic foundational symbol, model or idea that encapsulates something that should be recognisable by anyone from any culture, background or education. For example all people should respond to the concept of the wise old man, the naïve but energetic youth, the caring or nursing woman, the devil and so on. Some say that each of the zodiacal sign is an archetype, while many claim that a number of archetypes are associated with each sign. These archetypes have been employed since the time of Plato and were reinvigorated in the 20th century by Carl Jung. Archetypes are frequently found in myths, folklore and literature. For example Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet are archetypal star-crossed lovers.¹²⁰ There is a level of indeterminacy and nebulosity associated with archetypes.

Ascendant (Also commonly referred to as the rising sign) - The ascendant is the zodiacal sign (and degree of the sign) rising up at the eastern horizon. On average a new degree appears on the eastern horizon every four minutes, and a new zodiacal sign appears every two hours. These times vary considerably for locations further north and south of the equator. The word 'horoscope' is derived from the Greek word for 'hour' indicating that a horoscope is based on the rising sign or ascendant rather than the common sun-sign astrology that appears in newspapers and magazines.

Aspects – Refer to specific angular differences between two stellar bodies or zodiacal signs. Any two bodies close together are conjunct. Any two bodies on opposite sides of the earth are in opposition aspect. Any two bodies approximately 90 degrees from each other are square aspect. Any two bodies approximately 120 degrees from each other are trine aspect. The same principle applies to the zodiacal signs. For example Aries and Libra are in opposition aspect whereas Cancer is in square aspect to both Aries and Libra.

¹²⁰ "Archetype", *Wikipedia*, Retrieved 08:19, November 14, 2010, from <http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Archetype&oldid=396550563>

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Cusp – The point of intersection of two adjoining zodiacal signs. There is a common myth that at the borders of two adjoining zodiacal signs the influences of the two signs blur their influences - most reputable astrologers disagree. (see Overflow Effect)

Decanate (Decan) - Each of the 12 zodiacal signs comprises 30 degrees of the 360 degrees zodiac. Each zodiacal sign may be divided into three equal sized portions of 10 degrees each called decans. There are various ways of applying the zodiacal signs to decans but the most common approach is that each of the three decans of a zodiacal sign are ruled by the three signs of the same element with the first decan the same as the parent sign, and the following two decans appear in correct zodiacal order. For example the three decans of Libra are: Libra, Aquarius and Gemini. Decans were first developed in ancient Egypt for telling the time at night using 36 stars¹²¹ to represent the 36 decans in the zodiac.

Degrees – There are 360 degrees in any circle, including the ecliptic and band of zodiacal signs. Each zodiacal sign is comprised of 30 degrees, and each decan 10 degrees.

Ecliptic – An imaginary band around the earth that contains the movement of the Sun each year. This band is traditionally divided into twelve segments of the twelve zodiacal signs. The ecliptic is not the same as the projection of the equator into space.

Elements – The four elements are Earth, Air, Fire and Water. Each zodiacal sign belongs to one of the four elements. The Earth element includes Taurus, Virgo and Capricorn. The Air element includes Gemini, Libra and Aquarius. The Fire element includes Aries, Leo and Sagittarius. The Water element includes Cancer, Scorpio and Pisces.

Equinox – There are two equinoxes each year when the Sun passes over the equator and the length of night equals the length of day (equinox is derived from the Latin term “equal night”).¹²² The equinox in March is often called the spring or vernal equinox while the equinox in September is often called the autumn equinox - but these seasons only apply to the Northern Hemisphere. The equinoxes (along with the solstices) are the basis for many ancient festivals and many ancient societies commenced their year at either of the two equinoxes. The March (spring) equinox marked the beginning of the Babylonian New Year, the Egyptian Spring Festival, the Hindu spring festival of Holi and the Jewish Passover and is the astronomical basis for the Christian Easter. The September (autumn) equinox was celebrated by the Incas and the Chinese Moon festival. Many ancient festivals associated with the Equinoxes occurred on the full Moon near the equinox.

Era – The combination of an astrological age and its overflow period. For example the Pisces age and its overflow (coinciding with the true Aquarian age) is termed the Pisces era.

Heliacal rising – The first rising above the Eastern horizon just before dawn of a star or planet after a period of invisibility due to the star or planet being too close to the Sun. As a rule of thumb, the heliacal rising of a body usually occurs about one hour before dawn, but this will vary depending upon latitude. The term heliacal rising can be applied in

¹²¹ Ronald A Wells, *Astronomy before the telescope*, p. 37-8

¹²² *The Mystical Year*, p. 88

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different contexts. The “true heliacal rising” is when a star or planet rises with the Sun but because the Sun is visible the planet or star cannot be seen. The “visible heliacal rising” is when a star or planet can be seen on the eastern horizon just before the approaching sunlight obliterates the star or planet from view.¹²³ The use of the term heliacal rising in this book refers to the visible heliacal rising. In most ancient societies the heliacal rising (or setting) of a stellar object was one of the most important calibration techniques applied to a stellar object.

House – houses in astrology generally refer to a secondary twelvefold division of the ecliptic not based on the zodiacal signs or constellations but on the division of space into twelve segments. In this book the use of astrological houses is based on the zodiacal signs only and is limited to assigning as the first house any sign (i.e. age, age-decan, quasi-age etc) in question, then moving orderly around the zodiacal signs anti-clockwise to produce the second, third, fourth and so on houses. For example if examining the Aquarian age, Aquarius is the 1st house, Pisces the 2nd house, Aries the 3rd house and so on until Capricorn the 12th house. Each house has a meaning that in modern western astrology is often closely associated with the meaning of the corresponding sign. For example Aries is always the 1st sign, Taurus the 2nd sign and so on. Therefore in the Aquarian age, with Pisces ruling the 2nd house the 2nd house takes on some of the qualities of the second sign of Taurus and is therefore the house of finances. Pisces then describes how financial affairs will be experienced in the Aquarian age (i.e. problematical, boom and bust, distinct division between rich and poor, charity and lack of clarity). The main houses used in this book are: the 2nd house (finances); 4th house (homeland – corresponding to the 4th sign Cancer); 7th house (oppositions and partnerships - corresponding to the 7th sign Libra); 8th house (death, loans and taxes - corresponding to the 8th sign Scorpio); 10th house (status and position in the world - corresponding to the 10th sign Capricorn); and the 12th house (self-made problems, endings and calamities - corresponding to the 12th sign Pisces)

Overflow Effect – behaves like half a mythical cusp inasmuch the momentum of any period encountered will carry over into the following period but the effects of a new period will not occur in advance. As a consequence any astrological age is weaker at its start and strongest at its end. At the end of any age or sub-period its momentum peaks and washes over the next period. Therefore in the current Aquarian age the influence from the previous Pisces age peaked at 1433 CE and this influence washes over the Aquarian age while Aquarius is building up its own momentum. The Overflow Effect is particularly strong in the first half of the following period with its quasi-period providing a demarcation. For example, in the current Aquarian age (1433–3574 CE), the influence of Pisces from the Pisces age (732 BCE–1433 CE) will be a very dominant influence until the end of the Pisces quasi-age in 2503 CE, but Pisces will remain very strong until the end of the Pisces-Aquarian age

Parans (abbreviation of paranatellonta) – two bodies are in parans relationship if they rise above the eastern horizon together, culminate together (at the top of the sky), set at the same time, or reach their lowest point (nadir, which is opposite the culmination point)

¹²³ *Brady's Book of Fixed Stars*, p. 323

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at the same time. Parans is an ancient visual technique and supports the application to the astrological ages of the other ancient visual technique of the heliacal rising constellation.

Precession of the equinoxes – Due to the earth behaving like a wobbling top, its axis of inclination makes one long slow revolution in slightly less than 26,000 years. As a consequence earth's orientation in space changes over time resulting in the positions of the stars and constellations retrograding at one degree approximately every 72 years. The common way to measure this is to mathematically compare the position of the Sun against the background of stars at the vernal equinox. At the vernal equinox the stars and constellations are slowly moving in reverse direction of the zodiac at the rate of one sign approximately every 2140 to 2160 years. Currently the Vernal Point sits in the constellation of Pisces, but the heliacal rising constellation is the constellation of Aquarius. It is the difference of these two approaches that is at the heart of this book.

Rectification – is really reverse engineering. If stellar events, horoscopes, eclipses etc can indicate changes in a person's life or events on earth, then these events can be used to calculate what stellar events should have occurred. These hypothetical causative stellar events are then matched with actual stellar movements until a fit is found. Rectification is mainly used in horoscopic astrology when the time of birth is unknown. The same rectification techniques used in horoscopic astrology have been used in this book to determine the arrival of each astrological age and age-decan.

Retrograde – To go in the opposite direction of the normal. The Sun and Moon are never retrograde as they always travel from East to West in the sky. All the planets appear to temporarily travel 'backwards' due to their relative position to the earth and the sun, and when this occurs they are retrograde (no planet actually reverses the direction of its orbit around the sun). Due to precession of the equinoxes, the passage of the Vernal Point is always retrograde so the procession of the ages is always in reverse order through the zodiacal signs. The moons' nodes that create eclipses are always retrograde.

Sidereal zodiac – the sidereal zodiac is a zodiac of 12 equalled sized signs of 30 degrees each but unlike the western tropical zodiac, the sidereal zodiac is not orientated to the seasons via the equinoxes or solstices each year, but to the zodiacal constellations and stars. The sidereal zodiac is the zodiac of choice in India and is older than the western tropical zodiac. The sidereal zodiac was derived from the 12 irregular zodiacal constellations in Ancient Greece in the second half of the 1st millennium BCE but was basically discarded in the West when the later tropical zodiac was invented late in the 1st millennium BCE. The eastern sidereal and western tropical zodiacs only briefly align once every 26,000 years (approximately). This last occurred in the 3rd or 4th century CE. Currently the sidereal zodiac is about 24 degrees ahead of the western tropical zodiac and this difference between the two zodiacs is commonly called the 'ayanamsa'. Whereas the western tropical zodiac is exactly defined by the equinoxes and solstice points, the same does not apply to the sidereal zodiac and so there is confusion about the exact start and sign cusps of the sidereal zodiac. Different schools therefore employ different ayanamsa though most are only a few degrees apart from each other. It is the difference between the sidereal and tropical zodiacs that in essence create the astrological ages.

Solstices - There are two solstices each year when the Sun reaches its furthest point north and south of the equator. The solstice in December is often called the Winter solstice

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while the solstice in June is often called the Summer solstice - but these seasons only apply to the Northern Hemisphere. Most ancient megalithic structures in Europe were orientated to take into account the two solstices each year. For example over 5,000 years ago at Newgrange in Ireland the Neolithic inhabitants constructed a burial mound that only allowed the sun's light to penetrate a stone passage 62 feet long to the burial chamber on the few days near the winter solstice.¹²⁴ The solstices (along with the equinoxes) are the basis for many ancient festivals, and Christmas is one modern festival with clear historical connection to the northern hemisphere Winter Solstice.

Sun sign – Sun sign astrology is the common astrology found widely in newspapers, magazines and other media based on the position of the Sun in one of the 12 zodiacal signs. It is basically a short-cut approach to astrology which drastically reduces its reliability compared to astrology based on the horoscope (see ascendant).

Tropical zodiac – The tropical zodiac is the zodiac of choice by most western astrologers. Its fiducial point is the alignment of the beginning of the sign Aries with the vernal equinox around the 21st March each year. The tropical zodiac is therefore aligned to the seasons and not to the stars. The tropical zodiac was developed over 2,000 years ago by the mathematically inclined Hellenistic Greek astrologers-astronomers.

Vernal equinox – (see Equinox)

Vernal point – The Vernal Point (VP) is the position of the Sun at the vernal equinox. This is always zero degrees Aries in the tropical zodiac, but moves in a retrograde fashion at 1 degree approximately every 72 years along the sidereal zodiac. In horoscopic astrology, the VP is currently (early 21st century) at 24 degrees sidereal Pisces. The VP is the root of the conventional approach to the astrological ages since the late 2nd century BCE but is basically irrelevant in this book as the astronomy of the astrological ages should be based on the heliacal rising constellation, not the VP. The approximate difference between the VP and heliacal rising constellation methodology is approximately 15 degrees (half a zodiacal sign or 1075 years). However the VP does relatively accurately calibrate the secondary quasi-ages.

Zodiac – see Sidereal zodiac and Tropical zodiac.

¹²⁴ *The Mystical Year*, p. 9

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Further Resources from Terry MacKinnell

www.macro-astrology.com – details of purchasing the book available and access to blogs

[The Age of Aquarius for Dummies](http://ow.ly/ZXBwr) – explains the structure and sub-periods associated with the astrological ages
<http://ow.ly/ZXBwr>

[Aquarian Age Economics](https://aquarianageeconomics.wordpress.com/) – Examines the relationship between macro-astrology and financial cycles
<https://aquarianageeconomics.wordpress.com/>

[At the Cutting Edge of the Aquarian Age](https://cuttingedgeaquarianage.wordpress.com/) – Cutting edge research into the astrological ages for astrologers -
<https://cuttingedgeaquarianage.wordpress.com/>

[Generational Astrology](http://www.generationalastronomyblog.wordpress.com) – Generations defined by their birth in micro-ages www.generationalastronomyblog.wordpress.com

[FaceBook](https://www.facebook.com/ow.ly/V3oa3009Mqa) – keep up to date with what is happening
[ow.ly/V3oa3009Mqa](https://www.facebook.com/ow.ly/V3oa3009Mqa)