

America's Mars

Part Two: War and the Activation of Mars

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To say that Americans are in love with guns is an extreme understatement. It is not merely true. It is ridiculously true. And by extension, Americans love not only guns, but war.

In a country of 335 million people, we can probably find some people who believe in anything, no matter how preposterous the belief may seem to others, but I am doubtful that you'll find many Americans who see our country as gentle and peaceful. Many Americans do, in fact, express those traits, but that's not the mythology of this country. The evidence of our past and current history overwhelmingly supports an aggressive and even violent mythology. No other nation has anything even remotely close to the amount of gun violence that America has.

And from loving guns to loving war is a short trip.

War does seem to be a product of civilization. During most of our long 200,000 year gestation as homo sapiens, starting off as small tribal bands of hunter-gatherer forager-horticulturists, war was basically unknown. Nomadic bands that bumped into each other backed off and retreated rather than fighting for dominance, resources, or territory. But the onset of agriculture and city-states changed all that. Apparently, civilization is inherently violent, and America was perfectly suited to the modern epoch of all-encompassing warfare through its unique geography, ample resources, and aggressive mythology.

Below is a list of all the major wars that America has participated in since our founding, with beginning and ending dates. We didn't start them all, and we joined two of them after they'd already geared up (World War One and Vietnam), but we remained in all of them until they ended. Here's the full list:

1. Apr 1775 – Sep 178(8 yrs).....American Revolutionary War
2. Jun 1812 – Feb 1815(3 yrs).....Anglo-American War of 1812
3. Apr 1861 – Apr 1865(4 yrs).....American Civil War
4. Apr 1898 – Dec 1898(1 yr)Spanish-American War in Cuba
5. Feb 1899 – Jul 1902.....(3 yrs).....Philippine Insurrection
6. Apr 1917 – Nov 1918(2 yrs).....America in World War One
7. Dec 1941 – Sep 1945(4 yrs).....America in World War Two

- 8.** Jun 1950 – Jul 1953.....(3 yrs).....Korean War
- 9.** Jul 1965 – Mar 1973(8 yrs).....America in the Vietnam War
- 10.** Aug 1990 – Feb 1991(1 yr)Desert Storm in Kuwait/Iraq
- 11.** Oct 2001 – Aug 2021(20 yrs).....America's War in Afghanistan
- 12.** Mar 2003 – Dec 2011(8 yrs).....America's War in Iraq

Those are the 12 armed military conflicts I regard as America's major wars.

I didn't count the Cold War with the Soviet Union, since that was not an armed conflict. It might, however, be considered (and undoubtedly is by some) as America's longest war, beginning in 1946, just after the end of World War Two, and continuing through four subsequent decades until the fall and dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1989. In reality, both Korea and Vietnam were proxy wars waged primarily because of the Cold War.

I've also omitted the "Indian Wars" in America that began with European colonization in the early 17th century, peaked throughout much of the 19th century, especially in the decades following our Civil War, and didn't really end until the beginning of the 20th century. The unofficial close of armed conflict might be considered the U.S. 7th Cavalry Regiment's unprovoked massacre of 150-300 Lakota Sioux at Wounded Knee on December 29th, 1890.

All in all, of the 255 years of the American Republic, the number of years we have spent fighting in the 12 major wars I've listed adds up to 65 years. This means that America has spent 190 of our nation's years NOT actively involved in a major war. That's basically one-quarter of our entire history. Of course, the other three-quarters of our history that we might define as "peacetime" is actually a misnomer, since many lesser armed conflicts and even numerous secret American military operations in foreign countries have pockmarked our nearly two centuries spent while not officially in a major war.

Be that as it may, I've limited American Wars to the 12 listed, so that I can more easily compile the distribution of outer-planet transits to the U.S. natal Mars. From 1770 through today, the three slower-moving trans-Saturnian outer planets (Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto) have activated transits in their cycles with Mars in the U.S. chart on numerous occasions, 23 times in all.

I'm not factoring in any of the more minor transits within these three cycles, because the transits that occur at the sextiles, trines, and other smooth or minor angles tend not to correspond to dramatic or explosive expression of Mars. My exclusive concern is with the phase changes that occur at the four quarters of each cycle. Those are the major transits that are most likely to be linked provocatively to war.

Pluto-Mars

Four quarterly transits have occurred. Of the four, three happened during wartime:

- the War of 1812Pluto square Mars, 1813
- Vietnam WarPluto conjunct Mars, 1966-1968
- the Iraq InvasionPluto oppose Mars, 2004-2005

Neptune-Mars

Seven quarterly transits have occurred. Of the seven, only two happened during wartime:

- Revolutionary WarNeptune square Mars, 1773-1776
- Spanish-American WarNeptune conjunct Mars, 1897-1899

Uranus-Mars

Twelve quarterly transits have occurred. Of the twelve, six happened during wartime:

- Revolutionary WarUranus conjunct Mars, 1779-1780
- Civil WarUranus again conjunct Mars, 1862-1864
- Philippine Insurrection.....Uranus opposite Mars, 1902-1903
- Vietnam WarUranus square Mars, 1966-1967
- Afghanistan WarUranus square Mars, 2008-2009
- Iraq WarUranus square Mars, 2008-2009

Of the total of 23 quarterly outer-planet transits to the U.S. natal Mars that have occurred over our entire history as a nation (meaning conjunctions, squares, or oppositions), more than half (12) took place during one of our major wars. By contrast, only 11 happened during the almost two centuries of relative peacetime.

What to make of all this? Well, as statistical research goes, what I've done here is pretty basic, not particularly nuanced, and certainly far from conclusive. It's plain, however, that the presence of a potent outer-planet transit "trigger" that might act as a stimulus to American involvement in war is not a rare event, but is, in fact, a frequent occurrence.

I did the research and wrote this commentary not to condemn America (we have more than enough problems without any empty moralizing from me...), but instead to check out a hunch. My guess was that I'd discover that American involvement in wars has been typically accompanied by major outer-planet transits to the U.S. natal Mars, and I think that's been confirmed.

The next time a major outer-planet transit to the U.S. natal Mars will occur is when Uranus conjoins the U.S. Mars from July 2030 – May 2031.