

History Repeating itself.

Pictures this last week of the fall of Kabul as the USA withdrew their forces in what amounted to scenes of total chaos, were, despite the Pentagon's denials, in fact highly reminiscent of the fall of Saigon, 46 years ago. Indeed the similarities are manifestly obvious.



Vietnamese refugees piled into a boat in order to escape the North Vietnamese Communists. 1975



Afghani refugees piled aboard an American aeroplane, escaping the Taliban August 2021.



Kabul International Airport August 2021.

Scenes of absolute desperation to escape the incoming Taliban government can be found in such images:

But its always women and children who are the most unprotected and the greatest victims in such situations.



Vietnam 1975



Kabul 2021



Perhaps the most enduring image of the fall of Saigon 1975?

What I wonder will be the most enduring image of the American retreat from Afghanistan?

Is the Fall of Saigon, similar to that of Kabul?
I thought it might be interesting to look at the situation from a different perspective other than just the political one. After all, apologists for the

losers usually argue that since history is always written by the victors, any record is already a slanted view. Looking at three separate collapses of ruling governments following American pull-outs within the last 50 years, I think we can find some interesting similarities.

Let's start with the obvious, the collapse of the corrupt South Vietnam regime and the chaotic and humiliating retreat of the American forces from Saigon on its last day: 30th April 1975. The war in Vietnam had escalated under the presidencies of John F. Kennedy and his successor, Lyndon B. Johnson. However, on the election of Richard Nixon, (Tricky Dicky), the war turned ever more deadly and in his second term, the resolve was made to finally withdraw American troops from South Vietnam. At the threat of impeachment Nixon resigned and Vice President Gerald Ford on becoming President, continued with the determination for the American's to quit. It was he who oversaw the USA's ignominious retreat from Saigon. It was an inglorious withdrawal, amounting to an embarrassing trouncing for them. One that still smarts in their collective psyche. It should be remembered Ford was the only Vice President not to be voted in but became VP by default due to the snap resignation of Spiro Agnew on corruption charges. He was then appointed President on Nixon's sudden resignation. This meant Ford was the only man in US history to thus be appointed to both positions without actually having been voted in by the Electoral College.

Starting by taking a look at the 4 Pillars of President Gerald Ford, the basic idea, is that since the president or the leader of a nation is like the father, then the fate of the country is in part influenced by the current luck of that leader. Gerald Ford was a Weak Fire Man and was not in good luck during this period. His Four Pillar are:

14 th	July	1913
Yang Fire	Yin Earth	Yin Water
Monkey	Goat	Ox
(Yang Metal)	(Yin Earth)	(Yin Earth)

Luck Pillar from 14th April 1975: Yang Water
Rat
(Yang Water)

Being born on a Yang Fire Monkey Day but in the month of the Goat, we must deem him to be a weak fire man; there is hidden fire in the Monkey and in the Goat, but these do not help to push him into the realm of being a strong fire man, in my opinion. As such he needed wood, fire and a little water, but as we can see, with the incoming Luck

Pillar of Yang Water sitting on the Rat, which is itself Yang Water, this Water is too strong and whilst it is deemed to be his power or conquering element, and is probably what propelled him forward to the Vice Presidency and then the Presidency, it is actually too strong and thus he is *conquered* in this period.



President Gerald Ford

Looking at the final day of the 'fall of Saigon' and the last of the helicopter evacuations out of the city, we can see that it was a Yang Fire Horse Day. This was a direct clash against President Ford's incoming Luck Pillar of Yang Water Rat, thus extinguishing the President's Luck on that day and taking with it, America's prestige regarding the total collapse of the South.

4am:	30 th	April	1975
Yang Metal	Yang Fire	Yang Metal	Yin Wood
Tiger	Horse	Dragon	Rabbit
(Yang Wood)	(Yang Fire)	(Yang Earth)	(Yin Wood)

At first glance, it might seem that the addition of the Yang Fire Horse on that day would come to Ford's rescue but the hour here plays a surprising influence in my opinion. There was an instruction directed to the American Ambassador from Ford and his Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger, that he was to start the last of the helicopter evacuations by 3:45am; it no longer being possible to continue with the fixed wing airlifts from the airport, as the Vietcong forces had already occupied it. Furthermore, the Ambassador was then instructed to accept only American citizens from that time forward for uplift. (Sound familiar?) This hour, Yang Metal Tiger, was a

direct clash against the President's own Day Pillar of Yang Fire Monkey. The Yang Wood of the Tiger, went to boost the Yang Fire of the Horse Day. This double clash from Tiger against Ford's Monkey, and Yang Fire Horse Day against Ford's newly arrived Yang Water Rat Luck Pillar, saw the end of the chance to evacuate several hundreds of South Vietnamese people still waiting to be uplifted. It was these scenes of utter chaos that led the watching world to conclude the Americans were simply desperate to get out, no matter the cost to those left behind. This impression remains today. For anyone who watched this unfold, almost live on their television screens, that day, it seemed incredible that the might of America could be defeated so embarrassingly by the barefoot Vietcong, much as the once colonised watched on in disbelief when the power of the British Empire was brought to its knees in Malaya and Singapore by diminutive, bicycle riding, Japanese troops in 1941. The perceived invincibility of the American's post WWII, disintegrated that day, just as it had on 15th Feb 1941 for the British Army. It was soon to be followed by another harsh slap in the face to American Imperialism.

But back to the 30th of April, 1975. The Day Master that day was, by my calculation Fulfil. A day far better suited to the victorious and well disciplined Vietcong army. The North Vietnamese were after all, simply fulfilling, or completing the task they had set themselves to unite the two halves of North and South into one coordinated state. The American's goal that day was simply to complete their withdrawal from the conflict. However, Ford was not the only national leader involved that day. Le Duan, the Secretary General of the Vietnamese Communist Party and ultimate leader of the North Vietnamese was also a Fire element man. His four Pillars are:

7 th	April	1907
Yang Fire	Yang Wood	Yin Fire
Dog	Dragon	Goat
Yang Earth	Yang Earth	Yin Earth

Luck Pillar at that time was: 1967/60yrs
 Yin Fire
 Rooster

I deem him to be a Strong-Weak Fire man because he was born at the end of the Wood cycle, and the year stem, Yin Fire is supported by the hidden fire within the Goat. The Month Stem of Yang Wood adds a further boost to his fire. He also has another interesting factor in his Four Pillars, the presence of both the Dragon, in the Month, and the Dog, in the Day. This is a special combination

known as the Gates of Heaven and Hell.¹ People who have this combination are said to have something like a sixth sense and can instinctively know when to act and when to wait. In addition, Le Duan was in good luck at this time compared to the luck of President Ford. With the Yin Fire sitting on the Metal of the Rooster, his fire was further strengthened, acting as the Power element to the Metal, helping to propel him to the High Office of Secretary General. This was the opposite of Ford, who was by contrast, controlled by his double Power element of Yang Water on the Rat.



Le Duan – Leader of the North Vietnamese 1975

Another interesting factor with this time period, one that affected the political dynamics, was that during this period of time, in the mid 1970's was slap bang in the middle of the Period of 6 in the Flying Stars School of feng shui. This was a very tumultuous period in history, as it has been every time it occurs. Since the Period of 6 relates to the father, and indicates a time in which those such as presidents, senior males in power etc, come under attack, it is not a surprise that the Presidents of the USA, were indeed all in trouble during this period. JFK, being assassinated, Johnson his unpopular successor, and Nixon, one of the most despised presidents of all time.²

President Gerald Ford's own Ming Gua or Life Luck Number was 6, as was Prince Norodom

¹Known as the Gates of Heaven and Hell, because during the Hour of the Dragon, 7am-9am, as the sun rises, there are frequently strange sights to be seen in the skies above, and so it is said, the Gate of Heaven is open. The Dragon is considered to dwell in the skies above. By contrast the Dog, which is a ground dwelling animal lives in holes it digs in the earth. The Hour of the Dog is between 7pm and 9pm, sees the darkening of the skies and puts the focus on the ground, thus it is described as the Gate of Hell. One further strange thing about these two animals is that when they are present, it is said no Noblemen appear to save men.

² Strange but true Tales of Feng Shui: LD Thorn Chapter 8 ISBN: 978-0-473-23201-7

Sihanouk, who ultimately lost his Kingdom to the Khmer Rouge after they came to power in 1975.

Quote:

I cannot divine how it happens that the man who knows the least is the most argumentative.

Afghanistan 2021

America calls it quits – again!

Moving ahead by 46 years and to the western end of the Hindu Kush and today’s capital of Afghanistan, Kabul, yet another tragedy of unspeakable misery to the local people, is rapidly unfolding at the hands of yet more American incompetence. For incompetence and failure to deliver it most certainly is. After 20years of invasion and war, waged against opponents edgier, more aggressive and ultimately just as difficult for American military might to pin down and destroy as the Vietcong once showed themselves to be, the Taliban are back in Kabul with the American’s beating a hasty retreat once again in front of the world’s cameras. Slipping away into mountain hideouts, disappearing under the American’s noses just as the Vietcong once did, the Taliban have shown their superior knowledge of their terrain. This along with their innate religious intransigence have eventually won out over brash but ultimately impotent ‘American fire-power’. Despite the promises made to the locals by his predecessor, Trump decided to make a pact with the devil that is the Taliban, and Biden is sticking, unsurprisingly, to that deal. I do not intend to argue the politics of the withdrawal here, but to look at the outcomes from the perspective of the Four Pillars of Destiny only. However, anyone who wishes to understand the politics need only do a little research to understand the innate self-interest of the Americans, once again backsliding on a deal they had guaranteed. No wonder their European allies are mad as hell at them!



President Joe Biden, another Weak Fire man

In a strange quirk of fate, President Joe Biden too, is a Weak Fire man. His Four Pillars are:

20 th	November	1942
Yin Fire	Yin Metal	Yang Water
Ox	Pig	Horse
Yin Earth	Yin Water	Yang Fire
Current Luck Pillar:	2018/76	
	Yin Earth	
	Goat	
	Yin Earth	

As a Weak Fire man, he too needs Wood, Fire and a little Water. With his current Luck Pillar being Yin Earth sitting on the Yin Earth of the Goat, he is in a period of Clash (Goat Clashes against his Day of Ox: Clash indicates a period of disturbance to his life, but we cannot automatically say that as the President of the United States, he is in good luck. This year in particular he does not have good luck as there is no support for his fire, plus he is in Penalty with his Day of Ox in this Year of Ox, and his Day of Ox clashing against the Goat of his current Luck Pillar. However, the Yang Water in the Stem of his Year shows the presence of his Power element. It is the power element in his Four Pillars that allowed for him to rise to the position of the President of the United States, but with so much earth in his Four Pillars surrounding his Weak Fire, it indicates that even when in power, he is limited in just what he can accomplish.

The day on which it became apparent the American withdrawal from Afghanistan was turning to a complete shambles was the 15th August 2021:

15 th	August	2021
Yin Wood	Yang Fire	Yin Metal
Goat	Monkey	Ox
Yin Earth	Yang Metal	Yin Earth

The Day Master for that day was Closing. Not an auspicious day to start such important proceedings.

This day was a complex one with the Day of the Goat in Clash against the Year of the Ox. For Joe Biden, this Year of Ox is a Penalty for him. By the same token, the Day of the Goat on the 15th, was a Clash day against Biden’s own Day of Ox. This indicates he would have been under increasing pressure from competing sides.

Unfortunately, it is not possible to make a comparison of President Biden’s Four Pillars and those of any of the Taliban leaders, simply because most of these men appear to have been born in remote mountainous villages and their individual dates or birth remain unknown.

Looking ahead to the deadline of the 31st August:
 31st August 2021
 Yin Metal Yang Fire Yin Metal
 Pig Monkey Ox
 (Yin Water) (Yang Metal) (Yin Earth)
 Day Master Balance

This will be a day of Double Penalty for President Joe Biden with the Day Branch being Pig, in penalty against his Month Branch of Pig. The Year Branch of Ox, is also a further Penalty for the President against the current Year of Ox. It's easy to see he will be under continuing pressure and criticism for his handling of the situation. If the withdrawal cannot be accomplished by the 31st and continues over into the 1st September, it will not be good.

1st September 2021
 Yang Water Yang Fire Yin Metal
 Rat Monkey Ox
 (Yang Water) (Yang Metal) (Yin Earth)

Day Master Stability. With all the activity that is probably still going to be going on, this looks likely to be a very bad day. We should keep an eye on the Rat/Horse Clash against the President on this day as well and the Ox/Ox Penalty as well as the ongoing Ox/Goat Clash for him.

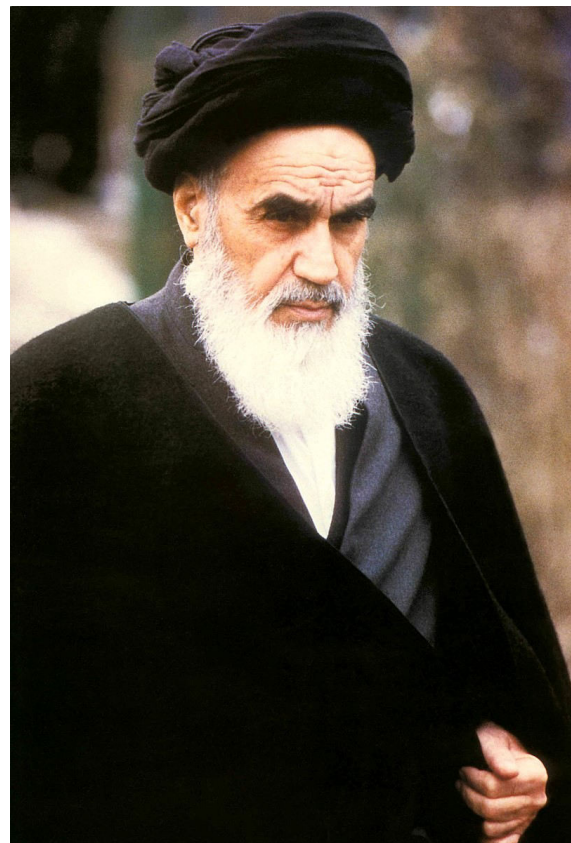
Its interesting to note that this year, 2021, is a 6 Centred Year in the Flying Stars School, and thus brings trouble to the father. We just need to look at the flight of Ashraf Ghani President of Afghanistan, the trouble that the likes of Boris Johnson, Jair Boslonaro, Xi Jinping, Rodrigo Duterte et al who all have come in for, for their mishandling of the Covid19 Pandemic.

Another situation in which America ultimately bungled a retreat from somewhere they were not welcome, also in Period 6, was from their own embassy in Tehran in Nov 1979, following its occupation by furious Iranian students after the Shah had fled the country and the Islamic Republic of Iran was set up by the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. Eventually, the Shah, who was dying of advanced cancer was permitted into the USA by a compassionate Carter, much to the fury of young Iranian students who demanded the Shah's return to stand trial for the crimes of which he stood accused. A comparison of the Ayatollah's Four Pillars with that of Jimmy Carter's, clearly shows why Carter was perceived as weak and hesitant and the Ayatollah as harsh, intransigent and a religious reactionary.

Let's look at the Ayatollah's Four Pillars.
 The Ayatollah's Four Pillars are:

24th September 1902
 Yang Metal Yin Earth Yang Water
 Dog Rooster Tiger
 (Yang Earth) (Yin Metal) (Yang Wood)
 Current Luck Pillar as the time of his ascendancy to power:
 Yin Fire
 Snake = Yin Fire

A Strong Metal man, the Ayatollah showed the typical characteristics of this type of man with his charismatic leaderships skills, but also his considerable aggressiveness and unrelenting adherence to his own goals. As such Strong Metal people can be ruthless, even brutal. This can be found in the way he often threatened to 'smash the teeth' of his opponents. Another factor that added to the impression of this ruthlessness in him was the Yang Metal sitting on the Dog in his Day Pillar. This is known as the Day's of Fai Kong. Fai Kong was a famous general in Chinese history who was renowned for his strength and determination. Also the Dog in his day pillar suggests someone with a propensity for more spiritual experiences than others. In deed it is said that if those who have the Day's of Fai Kong meet a ghost, and shout at the Ghost, it is the ghost who will run away! This is what gave him such and intimidating air!



Ayatollah Khomeini

President Jimmy Carter

President Jimmy Carter by contrast is a Weak Water Man. His Four Pillars are:

1 st	Oct	1924
Yin Water	Yin Water	Yang Wood
Ox	Rooster	Rat
(Yin Earth)	(Yin Metal)	(Yang Water)

Current Luck Pillar at time of Tehran Hostage Crisis:

Yin Earth
Rabbit
(Yin Wood)

We can see immediately that his Month Pillar is in Clash from the incoming Rabbit against his Rooster. It is said that when our sixth Luck Pillar comes in, if we live the year out then it will be alright. So this was clearly a tough time in Mr Carter's life. As a Weak water man, Mr Carter is humble, and accommodating. Since water seeks the path of least resistance, it's easy to see why those of a more fiery and adamant frame of mind around him at that time, would be frustrated by his softer approach. Both men have been deeply religious, the Ayatollah rising to the supreme Islamic religious position in his country, President Carter as a devoutly Christian man, even now at the age of 97, is still actively involved in his f. However, what it shows us is that even the President of the United States when as humble and peaceful as Carter is, cannot overcome the dogmatism of an all powerful leader who was more than prepared to shove aside the inconveniences of democratic principles to achieve his goals. Ostensibly, until the arrival of Donald Trump into the Oval Office, American Presidents had been constrained from this freedom.



Regardless, America is certain to face considerable recriminations for a long time to come over their bungling of the withdrawal from Kabul, just as it has ever since the fall of Saigon. It seems appropriate to quote Milton from Paradise lost and found: *“Who overcomes by force, hath overcome but half his foe.”*

Which makes me think the Taliban and Isis-K would now do well to heed Churchill's words: *“Those who can win a war well can rarely make a good peace, and those who could make a good peace would never have won the war.”*



Temper flare at Kabul Airport August 2021

Quote:

I cannot divine how it happens that the man who knows the least is the most argumentative.

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