



CIS-021: Seminar International Development I

“Fractal Time: The Secret of 2012 and a New World Age”
Gregg Braden

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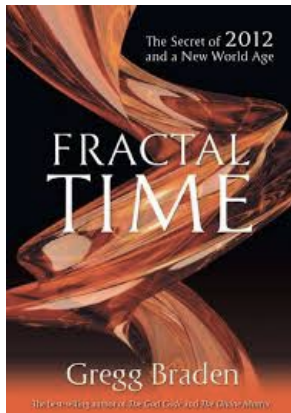
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CIS-021: Seminar International Development I

“Fractal Time: The Secret of 2012 and a New World Age” Gregg Braden



Essay Objectives

It is the intent of this piece to first provide a ***synopsis of the book***, taking into account the salient points and highlighting them for the pleasure of the interested reader who wants to have a snapshot view of the book from another person's vantage point. Any reader will customarily absorb that which is most personal to himself/herself, while perhaps only superficially taking note of ideas that are currently irrelevant. This synopsis offering almost frivolously favors the substantial.

Subsequently, liberty is taken to give a ***brief review and critique*** of the book, the presentation, the scientific credibility (or lack of it), and overall opinion of it. It is interesting to note that actually reading the book (as a course requirement) compared to listening to the audio version of it at the first encounter (while sitting in Manila traffic¹) creates very different impressions.

The book itself is organized into 21 Time Codes,² though one will get a sense while reading it, that a myriad of ideas are repeated throughout. This appears to have been a deliberate strategy of the author to aid the reader in remembering what he thinks are most important.

¹ The Philippines is the fifth country in the world with the worst **traffic conditions**, according to the online database Numbeo (<http://www.numbeo.com/traffic/>).

² A **time code** is defined as a sequence of numeric codes generated at regular intervals by a timing synchronization system.

So the next intent is to **condense the Time Codes** into five key takeaways, into a cheat sheet, an interpretation of what the author wants to convey to his readers.

Braden spent a good amount of time explaining the Time Code Calculator, applying it to both his personal life and to events in American history. The last section of this paper will present the **application of the Time Code Calculator** more broadly to include local events in recent Philippine history, starting with a seed event in 1986.³ A practical application of the calculator, and more importantly the lessons of this book, takes on more meaning if it is used on events that one has witnessed the unfolding of.

For clarity, this essay will not expound on research presented in the book unless necessary to support the objectives already stated. The book garnered mixed reviews from a broad audience, particularly in the scientific realms and the interpretation of esoteric texts and drawings of the ancient tribes mentioned in the book.⁴ This essay will not join that mix.

³ The Philippine **People Power Revolution** of 22-25 February 1986. More details on Section IV of this paper.

⁴ Based on reviews in Amazon.com: <https://goo.gl/ywU5t0>.

Synopsis of the Book

Gregg Braden's "Fractal Time: The Secret of 2012 and a New World Age" is one of his several outings on his insights about New Age⁵ thinking. The central premise of the book is to shed light on the hype about the purported date of 21 December 2012 being the end of the world. Published in 2009, the book seeks to explain, in fact, assuage the reader that 2012 is not the end of the world but rather the end of time and the birth of a new world age.

According to the Mayan⁶ calendar, our present world age which started in 3114 B.C. (1800 years before the Bible's Exodus), will end in the winter solstice⁷ of 2012, that is on 21st December. Braden explains how this date was arrived at based on the Mayan cycle of 5,125 years per cycle. 2012 is not only the end of this cycle but also the period when the solar system will have passed the imaginary line at the core of our galaxy (similar to the equator of the Earth), which only happens every 26,000 years. Studies were cited that the proximity of the Earth to the galaxy's core aligns us to its mysterious force and energy, and that we can expect a time of "*greater consciousness and enlightenment.*"

With a galactic event in the offing, Braden offers that the 2012 world-age transition is already bringing about changes in the social, environmental, and political landscape of the world. The book's view is that planetary changes affect the global climate, patterns of war and peace, as well as our spiritual relationship with God. In support of John Major Jenkins'⁸ ideas in "*Maya Cosmogogenesis 2012*", he clarified though that this transition is a process, rather than an event. According to the calculations of Belgian astronomer Jean Meeus, it started as early as 1980 and will end sometime in 2016. The end of a world age is not abrupt and necessarily overlaps with the next one.

⁵ **New Age** – generally a collection of Eastern-influenced metaphysical thought systems; a theology of "feel-goodism," "universal tolerance," and "moral relativism."

⁶ The **Maya** refer to both a modern-day people who can be found all over the world as well as their ancestors who built an ancient civilization that stretched throughout much of Central America, one that reached its peak during the first millennium A.D.

⁷ **Winter solstice** – marks the onset of winter, at the time of the shortest day.

⁸ **John Major Jenkins** is a pioneering voice in the evolving 2012 discussion with over twenty years of experience defining and debating the issues. He is Advisory Director and founding member of The Maya Conservancy, a non-profit foundation dedicated to education and preservation of ancient Maya sites.

Organized according to 21 Time Codes, Braden itemized his findings of more than 20 years of research starting from a detailed explanation of the Mayan calendar as well as ancient practices and traditions of time cycles, calendar calculations, and astronomy by the Hopi⁹, Aztec¹⁰, and Vedic¹¹ tribes. It went on to present an alternative view of time – a repetitive cycle (or fractal¹²), as places happening within cycles, and being inseparable with space (hence, spacetime¹³).

The concept of time is scrutinized as repeating patterns within bigger patterns – from personal, global, to galactic cycles. Events will repeat themselves predictably even if the patterns are not recognized, and with greater intensity at later dates. The past mirrors the future. Braden posits that the inevitability of the repetition allows us to predict when the next one will occur and so become more effective in responding to it. This is called the “*choice point*,” a phrase coined by Hugh Everett III¹⁴ in 1957 to refer to an individual or group’s decision to choose a course of action among several alternatives, hence determining the outcome of the event.

Braden clarifies that it is not the event themselves that repeat, but the conditions that bring about the event, the fractal patterns. Since time is a recurring cycle then the same conditions can be known, measured, and predicted.

He likewise asserts, based on John Wheeler’s¹⁵ research, that since time is a code, then it can be decoded and cracked. Each time code is explained in detail, complete with historical background, research studies, and potential implications. Towards the middle of the book, Braden introduced the Time Code Calculator, which is a model to estimate when the conditions of a past event will recur using the golden ratio¹⁶ in the formula.

⁹ **Hopi** – a Native America Nation who primarily live on the 1.5 million acre Hopi Reservation in northeaster Arizona.

¹⁰ **Aztec** - certain ethnic groups of central Mexico, particularly those groups who spoke the Nahuatl language and who dominated large parts of Mesoamerica from the 14th to 16th centuries.

¹¹ **Vedic** – or Vedic age (c. 1500 – c. 500 BCE) was the period in Indian history during which the Vedas, the oldest scriptures of Hinduism, were composed.

¹² **Fractal** is curve or geometric figure, each part of which has the same statistical character as the whole.

¹³ **Spacetime** in Physics is any mathematical model that combines space and time into an interwoven continuum.

¹⁴ **Hugh Everett III** is an American physicist who first proposed the many-worlds interpretation of quantum physics, which he termed his "relative state" formulation.

¹⁵ **John Wheeler** was an American theoretical physicist. He was largely responsible for reviving interest in general relativity in the United States after World War II.

¹⁶ The **golden ratio**, also known as the divine proportion, golden mean, or golden section, designated as “phi” (1/ ϕ = .618) and “Phi” (Φ = 1.618).

The book concludes with a hopeful narrative about how human beings can create several “*choice points*” and reverse the cataclysmic effects of past mistakes and decisions. The way to ease the 2012 world-age transition is to change the way we feel about the world and to do it together. One way is called the Global Coherence Initiative or GCI¹⁷ of the HeartMath Institute¹⁸. The studies of the institute were also presented with regards to the relationship of the Earth’s magnetism with the vibrations of the human heart. Collective human emotions and beliefs, both positive and negative, affect the behavior of nature and the environment.

¹⁷ **GCI** is an international effort that seeks to help activate the heart of humanity and promote peace, harmony, and a shift in global consciousness. GCI conducts groundbreaking research on the interconnection between humanity and Earth’s magnetic fields and energetic systems.

¹⁸ The **HeartMath Institute** is a non-profit organization that provides tools that connect us with the heart of “who we truly are” for living healthier, fulfilling lives, and building a brighter future.

A Brief Review and Critique

Braden was quick to put caveats about the ideas in the book. First, he stated that it is not science, though the reader will note the obvious references to scientific research. The book is replete with lessons on quantum physics. He also claimed that it is a well-researched and documented piece of literature but missing peer reviews to establish its credibility. He mentioned that the thoughts in the book crosses the *“traditional boundaries of science and spirituality.”* A saving point for the truly skeptical. Consequently, one will either continue reading or dismiss Braden as a fraud.

The organization of the book according to the 21 Time Codes was hardly a structure at all. Repetitive ideas are distributed across the time codes, specifically on the discussion of time cycles, cosmic calendars, and patterns. The repetition can be quite effective in driving this concept home. It may seem annoying at first but one will understand the logic of the author behind it. He seems to be repeating the concepts either to test recall or demonstrate cycles in the thought process of the reader (a much shorter cycle compared to the 5,125 years of each world age!). The reader can only glean the subliminal nature of this as an afterthought.

The Time Code Calculator when tested with both global and personal events produces uncanny results that cannot be easily dismissed as coincidence. Braden used the golden ratio in the formula which he called, *“nature’s most beautiful number.”* It is worth testing with one’s own personal circumstances and events.

Overall, the ideas in the book are astounding: repeating time cycles based on calculations of ancient tribes, the solar system’s cosmic alignment with the galaxy’s core, and the connection between the vibrations of the human heart and the Earth’s magnetic poles. The first reaction of the uninitiated reader in the realms of New Age thinking will be one of incredulity and cynicism.

Braden makes no apologies, however, and assumes that the reader is first curious, then interested, and hopefully believes before the book ends. A casual reader will reject ideas that do not conform with their existing belief systems. The book begs that one suspend this disbelief and proceed with an open mind.

The hopeful tone of the book can be summed up in the quotes at the beginning of Chapter 6:

“The future has already happened, it just isn’t well distributed.”

~William Gibson¹⁹

“Will you change it?”

~Coded message regarding prophecies of destruction, discovered in the ancient Torah.²⁰

¹⁹ **William Gibson** is an American and Canadian speculative fiction writer and essayist widely credited with pioneering the science fiction subgenre known as cyberpunk.

²⁰ The **Torah**, or the Pentateuch, is the central reference of the religious Judaic tradition.

The Time Codes Condensed as Key Takeaways

- A. **Key takeaway 1:** Time is a cycle that proceeds based on a fractal, cosmic, and galactic pattern. (Time Codes 1, 2, 7, and 10)

The ancient Mayan calendar calculates the end of the present world age at the winter solstice on 21st December 2012; a world age is equivalent to 5,125 years. This is not the end of the world but the end of time and the beginning of the next world age. The present world age that begun in 3114 B.C. also ends at the time of the solar system's alignment to the core of **the** Milky Way galaxy, a rare event that last occurred approximately 26,000 years ago.

In parallel, astrologers calculate astrological age based on the real motion of the Earth known as the "*precession of the equinoxes*," which causes the identity of the pole star (in this age, Polaris) to change over time. The cycle of precession lasts 25,800 years, with 12 constellations of the Zodiac, so roughly every 2,150 years, the equinox moves in front of a new Zodiac constellation. Some astrologists say the Age of Aquarius has actually begun in 2012.²¹

The Mayan and astrology time tables mysteriously coincide with the year 2012. While the birth of Jesus Christ occurred in the Age of Pisces (2,160 years ago), the Age of Aquarius has been characterized as an age of wholism and the drawing of humanity together. The significance of the beginning and end of these time cycles are discussed in the next key takeaways.

²¹ That's because they believe the star Regulus in the constellation Leo the Lion marked the ancient border between the constellations Leo and Cancer. This star moved to within 30° of the September equinox point in 2012, meaning that Regulus left the sign Leo to enter the sign Virgo in that year. Presuming equal-sized constellations in antiquity, that places the border of the constellations Pisces and Aquarius at 150° west of Regulus, or at the March equinox point. By this reckoning, the Age of Aquarius started in 2012.

B. **Key takeaway 2:** The world moves within a bigger and grander pattern of global, cosmic and galactic magnitude. (Time Codes 8, 16, 17, and 19)

“As above, so below.”

~The Emerald Tablet of Hermes Trismegistus²²

From the very first time our ancestors looked up to the skies and marvel at the big light that warms them during the day and the smaller but numerous lights that shine at them at night, up until the present day, human beings have always wandered and questioned their place under the skies. Ancient tribes and peoples measured the movement of heavenly bodies and tracked the Earth’s orbit without the aid of sophisticated instruments. Braden implored us to thank our ancestors for documenting what they found so we can prepare for what is about to come.

The thought that merely the position of the Earth within the galaxy creates powerful changes throughout the beginning and end of an age is both astounding and exhilarating. The orientation of the Earth’s magnetic poles is said to cause climate changes at a global scale, and likewise affect human emotions. With modern-day technology, scientists are able to substantiate the findings of these ancient peoples.

The events that we are witnessing today and those of the recent past, such as depletion of natural resources, growing population, global poverty, competition for the necessities in life are converging towards a *“bottleneck,”* or a culmination towards the end of the world age. The movement of the Earth is a cycle within a grander cycle.

²² The mystic figure, **Thrice-Great Hermes**, who may have represented three different teachers in the Illuminist tradition described as a very powerful ancient mage, not a god in his writings, collectively called the *Corpus Hermeticum*, Hermes describes himself as "Philosopher, Priest, and King" wrote the Emerald Tablet and taught Pythagoras, among other exploits.

- C. **Key takeaway 3:** Since time moves in repetitive cycles and patterns, the conditions to which events occur can be predicted. Therefore, repetitions are a good thing. (Time Codes 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 11, 13, and 15)

“If the future has not happened yet, why do we remember it?”

~a line from “Fringe,”²³ in defense of the existence of a parallel universe

The statement “*history repeats itself*”²⁴ is a loaded one. It can be both portentous and optimistic depending on the perspective that is taken. Nature’s cycles are everywhere, repeating within a predictable pattern. With increased awareness, human beings should be able to recognize the patterns and therefore have more control over the outcomes – no longer victims of fate.

Cognizance should be exercised about repetitions and nested cycles in time, as well as the greater intensity of the conditions when they are repeated. The conditions will be stronger and are likely to demand attention. The key to unlocking the patterns is to recognize when they begin. Time’s characteristic as a place within a cycle allows it to be measured, calculated, and predicted. Probabilities can be predicted when the conditions appear in the present and the situation is primed.

How the events play out is the result of the decisions made at that point in time. There is no greater advantage to re-script lives and futures. Braden so effectively puts it, “*There’s nothing less than the miracle of a second chance.*”

²³ “Fringe” is a Warner Bros. TV series aired in 2008-2013.

²⁴ The phrase may be attributed to **George Santayana** (Spanish philosopher and poet) when he said, “Those who cannot remember the past are doomed to repeat it.”

D. **Key takeaway 4:** The Time Code Calculator is a tool to predict the appearance of conditions for an event to occur. (Time Codes 14 and 18)

The Time Code Calculator (TCC)²⁵ enables the calculation of when the next occurrence of the events in people's lives, those that were accompanied by great joy or pain, or any emotional experience that has left an imprint. The TCC can also calculate when the repetition of the conditions of events will occur, which had a big impact at a local, national, or global level, based on a first seed event in the cycle.

When the TCC is applied, one may note that moments of both joy and pain are intricately interwoven in the same periods. Life is, well, just like that.

²⁵ An **online version** of the TCC can be found in this link: <http://www.greggbraden.com/fractal-time-calculator/>.

- E. **Key takeaway 5:** The outcomes of our lives and our world depend on the actions and decisions we choose. (Time Codes 12, 20, and 21)

The repeating cycles and patterns of time are powerful. When the cycles are recognized, the conditions presented, and the decision is made, this eventually dictates the outcome of the event. Understanding the time codes enable us to see the simplicity of the workings of the universe, amidst the abstruse calculations, cosmic alignments, and magnetic pole reversals.

Reversing the current trajectory of the world towards its own destruction is the ultimate message of the book, end of the world age or not. Braden shares his take on how humanity can accomplish this feat in nuggets of wisdom distributed throughout the book, and thus summed up, quite dramatically in this statement, *“Give love to all things.”*

With this statement, the book’s insights successfully aligns itself with other belief systems. For instance, the Sanskrit mantra, *“Lokah samastah sukhino bhavantu”*²⁶ reflects that same thought; so does the golden rule in the Bible, *“So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”*²⁷

The key to the transition not only lies on individual effort but in the collective and positive feelings about the change. Separation from other human beings and the world will not augur well with the sustainable life that everyone desires. Just as the world moves according to celestial and cosmic forces, it also moves according to the vibrations of the thoughts and feelings of human beings, a symphony of heart frequencies.

Braden warns of seemingly impending doom but also offers the expectation that these events are brief and temporary. Francis Bacon²⁸ would like us to believe in man’s *“fundamental character of goodness.”*

²⁶ The phrase means, “May all beings everywhere be happy and free, and may the thoughts, words, and actions of my own life contribute in some way to that happiness and to that freedom for all.”

²⁷ Matthew 7:12 (English Standard Version)

²⁸ Francis Bacon, English philosopher and author (1561-1626)

Application of the Time Code Calculator

The Time Code Calculator (TCC), as Braden describes it, “allows us to peer into the timeline of history in a way that in many respects mimics the version of prophets and remote viewers.” The nature of the cycles being made of space and time allow them to repeat the conditions that they carry. The TCC can only show the conditions of the past that will appear again, not the effect of consciousness or choice. It is worthy to reiterate that human choices can alter the course of events, even when the conditions that support those events are present.

The result of the illustrative TCC calculations are along the following modes:

Mode 1: When can we expect something that has happened in the past to happen again?

Mode 2: What date in the past holds the conditions we can expect for the future?

Seed event: February 25, 1986

This date marked a significant national event that has been engraved in the hearts and minds of every Filipino. The true empowerment of democracy was exhibited in EDSA by their successful efforts to oust the then dictator of 21 years, Ferdinand E. Marcos, by a peaceful demonstration without tolerance for violence and bloodshed. The Epifanio de los Santos Avenue (EDSA) stretches 54 kilometers, where the demonstration was held.²⁹

Objective: Find when can the cyclic conditions of “peaceful demonstration”, “unity as a people”, and “strong sense of national pride” are expected to repeat for the Philippines.

Step 1: Identify modern Gregorian date of seed event (S1) = 1986.2

Step 2: Convert S1 to absolute date (A1).
 $1986.2 + 3113 = 5099.2$

Step 3: Calculate lapsed portion of cycle (L1) as a ratio of A1 / total cycle length 5125.
 $5099.2 / 5125 = 0.995$

²⁹ Source: <http://www.philippine-history.org/edsa-people-power-revolution.htm>

Step 4: Calculate phi (L1phi) of L1.
 $0.618 \times 0.995 = 0.615$

Step 5: Calculate cycle balance (B1) as total cycle length (A1).
 $5125 - 5099.2 = 25.8$ years

Step 6: Apply phi ratio of lapsed cycle (L1) to the balance of the cycle (B1) to find the interval in years between the seed date and the next time it repeats (I1).
 $25.8 \times 0.615 = \mathbf{15.87}$ years

Step 7: Add the interval (I1) to the original seed date to find the next repeat (new seed date).
 $5099.2 + 15.87 = 5115.07$

Step 8: Convert back to Gregorian date.
 $5115.07 - 3113 = 2002.07$ (**January 2002**)

Exactly in January 2002, US and Filipino armies hold counter-terror exercises that took place near stronghold of Al Qaeda-linked rebel group Abu Sayyaf. In June of the same year, the Abu Sayyaf leader, Abu Sabaya was killed by the Philippine Army in an encounter in the southern city of Zamboanga.³⁰ Sabaya's gang has been linked to Osama bin Laden's Al Qaeda terror network blamed for the September 11 attacks in New York and Washington.

This event may not be considered a peaceful and bloodless demonstration, but Sabaya's death may prove to be a turning point for Muslim rebels who have instilled fear and panic in certain parts of southern Philippines. The local military has taken a lot of flak regarding their campaign against the rebels but this became a source of pride about their capabilities.

The result of the next 2 calculations proved to be more interesting.

When the seed date January 2002 was used to calculate the *second* cyclic conditions of "peaceful demonstration," "unity as a people," and "strong sense of national pride," here is the result:

³⁰ Sources: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-15581450>; <http://www.philstar.com/headlines/165517/sabaya-shot-dead>

Step 1: Identify modern Gregorian date of seed event (S1) = 2002.07

Step 2: Convert S1 to absolute date (A1).
 $2002.07 + 3113 = 5115.07$

Step 3: Calculate lapsed portion of cycle (L1) as a ratio of A1 / total cycle length 5125.
 $5115.07 / 5125 = 0.998$

Step 4: Calculate phi (L1phi) of L1.
 $0.618 \times 0.998 = 0.617$

Step 5: Calculate cycle balance (B1) as total cycle length (A1).
 $5125 - 5115.07 = 9.93$ years

Step 6: Apply phi ratio of lapsed cycle (L1) to the balance of the cycle (B1) to find the interval in years between the seed date and the next time it repeats (I1).
 $9.93 \times 0.617 = \mathbf{6.13}$ years

Step 7: Add the interval (I1) to the original seed date to find the next repeat (new seed date).
 $5115.07 + 6.13 = 5121.2$

Step 8: Convert back to Gregorian date.
 $5121.2 - 3113 = 2008.02$ (**February 2008**)

Significance of the date: With a difference of only 1 month, in March 2008, the Aquino family announced that former President Corazon C. Aquino was diagnosed with colon cancer. Former President Cory Aquino was one of the most noteworthy figures in the EDSA Revolution of February 1986.

A series of events increasingly mounted within the Philippine political landscape, starting with the assassination of Benigno “Ninoy” Aquino, Jr. in August 21, 1983. He was the husband of Cory Aquino, a former senator and led the staunch opposition against Marcos. In early February of 1986, a presidential “snap” elections was called by Marcos to appease the growing dissent of the public; 1986 was his 21st year in power. At the culmination of the EDSA Revolution, Cory was proclaimed President of the Republic, the true winner of the snap elections. There was a lot of criticism about her political inexperience; but she united the opposition, restored the faith of the people in the government, and calmed the political waters. The announcement of her terminal illness united the Filipino nation in prayer and supplication.

The *third* cyclic conditions of when “unity,” “peace,” and “national pride,” can be expected, yielded this result:

Step 1: Identify modern Gregorian date of seed event (S1) = 2008.2

Step 2: Convert S1 to absolute date (A1).
 $2008.2 + 3113 = 5121.2$

Step 3: Calculate lapsed portion of cycle (L1) as a ratio of A1 / total cycle length 5125.
 $5121.2 / 5125 = 0.999$

Step 4: Calculate phi (L1phi) of L1.
 $0.618 \times 0.999 = 0.617$

Step 5: Calculate cycle balance (B1) as total cycle length (A1).
 $5125 - 5121.2 = 3.8$ years

Step 6: Apply phi ratio of lapsed cycle (L1) to the balance of the cycle (B1) to find the interval in years between the seed date and the next time it repeats (I1).
 $3.8 \times 0.617 = \mathbf{2.34}$ years

Step 7: Add the interval (I1) to the original seed date to find the next repeat (new seed date).
 $5121.2 + 2.34 = 5123.54$

Step 8: Convert back to Gregorian date.
 $5123.54 - 3113 = 2010.54$ (**May 2010**)

Significance of the date: In May 2010, the Philippine general elections was held; also the first national computerized election in Philippine history. The following June, Benigno “Noynoy” Aquino III won as 15th President of the Republic. Noynoy is the only son of Ninoy and Cory, and the 3rd generation of a direct family line of distinguished politicians. Noynoy is not particularly brilliant, but he carries a clean legacy of good governance and a relief from his 2 predecessors who were both tried and arrested for corruption and plunder (Joseph Estrada and Gloria Arroyo).

Noynoy was pitted against a line of brilliant candidates with more political experience. Nevertheless, the collective psyche prompted the Filipinos' decision to vote for him lest another and lesser candidate should win. Voting for the other brilliant candidates would mean scattering the votes and losing the majority. It was an unwritten tactic that was passed around, united the voting population, and catapulted Noynoy to the presidency.

It is rather uncanny that another Aquino played a significant role in Philippine history. Not altogether a popular choice but the higher good prevailed. This *choice point* once more spelled the difference for the nation. In July 2016, the Social Weather Station (SWS) revealed in a study that Noynoy scored the best satisfaction rating among recent presidents, even with fluctuations.³¹

The calculations have been continued after this 3rd cycle condition. The peculiar thing is that the interval becomes shorter and shorter. *Something must be up* with the country now that a new and interesting president was recently elected (Rodrigo Duterte).

For the sake of curiosity, a backward calculation was performed from the 1st seed event of February 25, 1986. If the cycle repeats in 15.87 years, and if this number is subtracted rather than added to 1986, the resulting date is **March 1970**.

January to March 1970 was a period of leftist unrest in the Philippines, composed of heavy demonstrations, protests, and marches against the government.³² This is one of the reasons cited by Marcos when he declared Martial Law in 1972, allowing him to indefinitely stay in power without the benefit of an election.

Speaking before the 42nd anniversary of the First Quarter Storm (FQS), Satur Ocampo³³ said: "Let us debunk the view of those who regard it as mainly a topic for reminiscences and nostalgia-tripping. Instead let us proclaim the FQS as an epochal event the impact and validity of which pulsates ever more strongly in the bloodstream of the continuing national-democratic revolutionary struggle."

This event has definitely planted the earlier conditions leading all the way to the EDSA Revolution of 1986. The rest can be said, is history.

³¹ Source: <http://kickerdaily.com/posts/2016/07/sws-aquino-scores-best-final-satisfaction-rating-among-recent-presidents/>

³² This movement was called "**First Quarter Storm**."

³³ Satur Ocampo was among the 30 Most Outstanding Philippine Congressmen in 2002 and 2003. He was a former activist and forerunner of the First Quarter Storm.

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