

Atlantis - The Sunken Indo-European Capital in the Black Sea

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ABSTRACT

Until around 5500 BC the Black Sea was a (smaller) freshwater-lake. The breaking Bosphorus sill led to a flood commonly referred to as Noah's Flood (Pitman/Ryan). Although heavily attacked, just recently this theory has gained support from new studies. We propose that Atlantis was an early Neolithic settlement at the former shoreline of that lake.

With regard to the interactions between the Atlanteans and the ancestor tribes of Athens and Egypt we propose that the saga refers to a war between Europe and Asia Minor (Anatolia) where the peoples of Athens and Egypt with their equivalent goddesses Athene and Neith were located. The war was initiated over the obsidian stone (orichalcos) which was the equivalent of money at that time and which was found in the Carpathian Mountains (hinterland of Atlantis), on Milos (Kyklades) and in Anatolia.

As far as archaeology is concerned, the year 5500 BC marks the rise of the Vinca culture on the Balkans with their Old European Writing and the Neolithic Diaspora in Europe. The first settlers reached Egypt at 5500 BC, and we follow the theory of Robert Schoch that the Sphinx dates back as far as 5000 BC. Finally, we were able to locate the former ten kingdoms of Atlantis due to the meaning of the words accompanied by a stunning similarity in sound.

We suppose that the Pillars of Herakles are linked to the Bosphorus for several reasons and not to the Strait of Gibraltar. Furthermore, in our opinion the Marmara Sea equals the harbor with a narrow entrance.

GENERAL ASSUMPTIONS

We assume that the information supplied by Plato is reliable also in details except for those facts relating to the military order of Atlantis: The use of horses, iron and large ships.

The relation between Atlanteans and the peoples of Greece and Egypt plays a major role. It is important to understand that the saga explicitly refers to ancestor-tribes of these peoples in Asia Minor. In addition, the war against the peoples of Greece and Egypt was a war against Europe and Asia – not against Africa. Last but not least there is evidence that the goddesses of Athene and Neith both have their roots in Asia Minor.

Further we came to the conclusion that the culture of the Hellenistic/ancient Greek people can directly be traced back to the Atlantean culture. We assume that the Flood of Deukalion is identical with the Flood of Atlantis – although the Egyptian priest denies this. The Greek culture known today is derived from tribes of the north invading the peninsula 1950 BC coming from Europe. It is *not identical* with the Greek culture referred to in the Atlantis saga.

Since we are talking about a Stone Age culture, the *horizon* of view has to be limited. Travelling to a point at 500 kilometres of distance forth and back might have taken as much as 100 days in travelling. Also the *centre* of the view has to be shifted. For today's cultures deriving from a Christian/Roman tradition; the Mediterranean Sea represents the centre of the world. As a matter of fact, the earliest domestication and settled cultures can be found in Asia

Minor. The Black Sea represented the middle of the world even in times of Solon and Plato.



Figure 1: World Map of Herodotus ~450 BC

THE BEGINNING

Our voyage through time starts around 8000 BC. The first settlers dwelling at their homes and performing domestication of animals and plants can be found in Asia Minor. The story of Atlantis cannot have begun earlier, because a war against hunter- and gatherer tribes in earlier times fails to make sense.

Often the level of development at this Stone Age area is largely underestimated. As a matter of fact, most crafts of the Iron Age can also be found in the Stone Age. The relation of a low density of population plus rapid progress in technology plus fresh soils and favourable climatic warm and humid conditions in Asia Minor at that time made this a golden age. With respect to a very low population of the world (estimated 10 million) people were building large settlements with populations possibly exceeding 5000 inhabitants.

A major example is the city of Catal Hüyük in today's central Turkey. This city featured rectangular buildings, textiles in the style of the 1960's AD, cattle, ovens, clay seals, pottery from the very beginning, basketry and even slag from copper melting was found. The average tallness of the population indicates a very good level of nutrition.

Interestingly, this city shows aspects that can be found in Atlantis. First and foremost the whole city was held in the colours red (house frameworks), white (clay on walls) and black (paintings). People were floating timber down the rivers. There also was a strong affinity to the concept of twin-gods.

The golden age refers to a good time, a state of *paradise*. Referring to conservative Greek mythology this is the time of the goddess Gaia (earth and fertility) and the gods Uranos (sky), Tartaros (below earth) and Pontos (sea), whereas Gaia can be viewed as *prima inter pares*.

The existence of the female goddess in Catal Hüyük is more than evident. Uranos is present, too: It was the habit of these people to expose their dead to birds. Tartaros can be found in the vast use of volcanic obsidian stone (coming from below the surface of the earth). The concept of volcanoes was known to the people of this village: A picture shows the eruption of the volcano Hasan Dag in Anatolia.

Pontos is the Black Sea. The Greek term "Pontos" means "sea". Pontos alone is the Black Sea even in Hellenistic times. In the same way the Indo-European term "mare" (Latin), "meer" (German), "morje" (Russian) or "meru" (Indian) originally means the Black Sea. According to the Greek view of the world the Pontos was the middle of the world and the source of all water. In their opinion this sea fed (through rainfalls and underground flows) all rivers and springs. The water was then collected in an ocean surrounding the world and transported back to the Pontos through the Tartaros. At that time the Black Sea was a freshwater lake.

Applied to the content of the Bible this allows to locate the Paradise. According to the findings of archaeology the time of 8000 to 6000 BC marked a relatively wealthy time. The advanced Settlers were located throughout Turkey, Iraq, Syria, Jordania and Israel.

According to the Bible there was a flow coming out of Eden feeding four major rivers in the Garden of Eden. According to Greek thinking these rivers do not have to have an intersection. They are fed by the Pontos which probably equals Eden or – in Sumerian mythology – the god Ea.

Two of these rivers can easily be located since they are still known today under their names Euphrates and Tigris. The stream of Gihon has been the subject of many discussions. As a matter of fact, the Gihon is a spring at Jerusalem explicitly mentioned in the Bible. The Greek view in this context explains how the river can flow "around" the vicinity: It is a spring.

The first of the four rivers is the Pischon. A search for a river and gold in the area immediately leads to the river Menderes in Turkey and the kings Midas and Kroisos who accumulated unprecedented estates of gold on this area.

The biblical view of a garden watered by Eden perfectly matches Greek mythology and the rivers mentioned in their correct sequence from left to right describe the area where settlers lived in at that time.

THE RISE

Ice Age Migrations and Foundation

Archaeology noted that some time before 6000 BC several settlements in Asia Minor were abandoned. For Catal Hüyük it was eminent that the use of timber was reduced rapidly, which might indicate a climatic shift. Indeed, in the meantime core drillings in Greenland's ice caps revealed that there was a mini-Ice Age from 6200 to 5800 BC, which is also confirmed by the development of the glaciers in the Alps. Conditions were getting drier and colder which forced settlers to abandon their villages and cities. Catal Hüyük was abandoned some time before 6000 BC.

The change in Asia Minor gave raise to new cultures in Europe. While Greece itself had seen settlers as early as 6700 BC, new cultures blossomed at the Danube and Dnjestr regions.



Figure 2: Movement of Settlers Out of Anatolia

What archaeology did not take into account until today is the fact that most of the migrations went into the area of the northern Black Sea. Today's continental shelf in the northwest edge used to be a large plain.

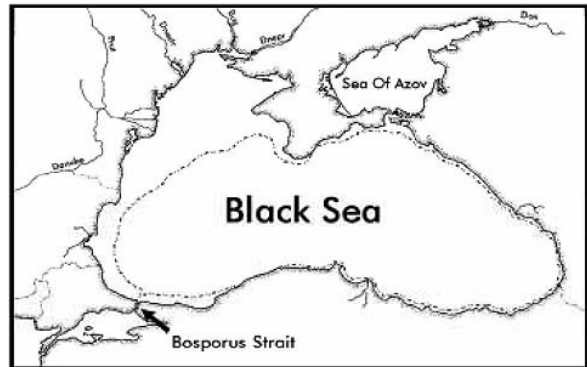


Figure 3: Black Sea Before/After the Flood (Pitman/Ryan)

The key to understanding Atlantis is that after the level of technology augmented rapidly from 8000 to 6000 BC, the time around 6000 BC marks a dramatic change in the *organizational model*. Asia Minor knew a village-by-village culture without the problems of separation and warfare.

First of all, the organization in Asia Minor was matrilineal, i.e. estate was inherited via women and the prime god was a goddess. Whereas in the first generation of gods in the golden age the goddess of fertility was clearly dominating, in the silver age the Titan Kronos was the first god. The rulers of Atlantis were kings and the first cultures to be found in Europe after the flood were ruled by men. This indicates that the change took place with the establishment of Atlantis around 6000 BC.

Interestingly, the matrilineal structure did not change in Asia Minor until around the first millennium BC. The Hellenistic Greeks – direct descendants of the Atlantean culture – still had to cope with cultures ruled by women (i.e. Sparta, Amazons). This change is also very dramatically reflected in the Bible with Eve harvesting the apple which brought sin over mankind and led people to fight each other - including having to leave paradise as confirmed by archaeology.

Since people then did not know the background of the Ice Age the female rulers obviously had failed the gods and men took the chance to change the balance of power. The important thing is, however, that this change gave the Atlantean culture a strong aggressive potential in the first place.

From Greek mythology we also learn that in the time of the Titans the land was divided between them. Atlanteans built a national culture by adhering to Iapetos. In the Bible, Iapetos is reflected by Japhet, whose sons (i.e. Javan = Greeks) can be found around the Black Sea.

Finally, Atlanteans introduced the concept of godlike kings. This concept has been copied throughout history by most successful cultures such as the Sumerian or Egyptian cultures.

The combination of a strict structure and hierarchy, plus a national identification, plus an increased aggressive potential is what allowed them to overwhelm the whole of the known world within a blink of history.

The First Empire

The plain in the northwest of the Black Sea provided people with favorable conditions allowing two crops per year, as well as intensive trade via the major European rivers and the Black Sea Lake. Irrigation was possible and conceptionally known as early as 7000 BC, as the Stone Age city of Jericho revealed. Indian Elephants lived in the plain, as they did in Syria until as late as 800 BC. Without doubt migration plus favorable conditions gave rise to a rapidly increasing population.

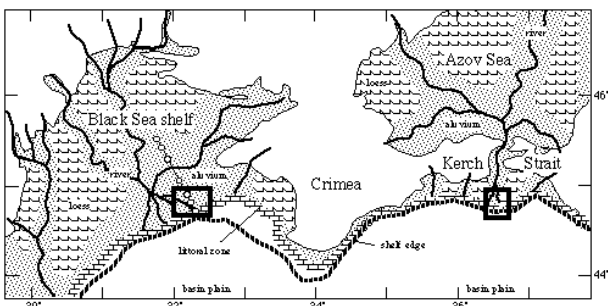


Figure 4: The Plain Before the Flood (Pitman/Ryan)

The capital was founded by Atlas, a son of the Titan Iapetos. We believe that this city is most probably to be found in the former mega-delta of the rivers Dnjestr, Bug and Dnjepr. His brother Gadeiros plays a central role, because this province still existed at times of Solon under this name. We suppose that this name refers to the ancient people of the Getae, who lived in the area of today's Bulgaria. No reference could be found to the next three kings, since their provinces in the direct vicinity of the capital

were flooded. However, the first five kings are reflected in conservative Greek mythology:

Atlantis Mythology	Greek Mythology
Poseidon (father)	Iapetos (father)
Atlas	Atlas (son)
Ampheres	Prometheus (son)
Euaimon	Epimetheus (son)
Mneseus	Menoitios (son)
Gadeiros/Eumelos	Hesperos (relative)

Table 1: First Five Kings of Atlantis

Due to increased population the territory grew along the big European river-areas. Consequently, these five kings can directly be attributed to these rivers:

King	Meaning	River
Autochthon (1)	Native	Danube
Elasippos (2)	Horse of War	Don
Mestor (3)	(Sound!) Ripe	Dnjestr
Azaes (3)	Small One	Bug
Diaprepes (3)	(Sound!) Glory	Dnjepr

- (1) Native population upwards the river Danube
- (2) Horse first domesticated in the area of the Don
- (3) Earlier in the plain the ripe one (Dnjestr) and the small one (Bug) would flow into the glorious one (Dnjepr)

Table 2: River-Kingdoms of Atlantis

According to Plato the names of the Kings had a distinct meaning. Solon translated them carefully into Greek. This fact should not be ignored. It may appear surprising that even today a meaning and stunning similarity in sound can be found and that even the sequence of naming the kings makes sense, since these names have been transferred from Atlantean to Egyptian and than to Greek language. As we will show later, the languages of Atlanteans and Hellenistic Greeks are incidentally the same and we strongly assume that also the earliest language as well as writing in Egypt can be traced back to the Atlantean culture, which at the end spread deep into Asia Minor.

The obsidian stone can be viewed as Stone Age money. It was used and valued throughout the known world in the Stone Age. It was replaced in its function as money after the flood 5500 BC by the spondylus shell throughout Europe. This stone was found in the Carpathian Mountains, on the volcano-island Milos and in

central Turkey. We assume that this plus possibly the gold findings in western Turkey eventually were reasons for the war of Atlantis on Europe (= Tyrrhenia; today's Greece) and Asia (Ancestor tribes of Athens and Egypt). A war between settlers in immediate regional contact over wealth and power perfectly makes sense as compared to a global superpower attacking hunter and gatherer tribes throughout Europe and Asia.

With respect to topography, the Black Sea is the "Atlantic Ocean". The flood of salt water into the freshwater lake led to the massive production of methane and hydrosulfide gases in the dying lake, so that the sea became unnavigable after the flood. The rectangular plain matches the sizes provided by Plato and is sloped southwards as described. The area has a steady wind coming from northwest and is sheltered by the Carpathian Mountains (= Atlas-Mountains) in the northwest. Throughout time this area delivered goods via the rivers Alt and Danube to Atlantis. The rich native villages as described have been found by archaeology in the form of Starcevo-Coeroes-Cris cultures.



Figure 5: Black Sea Before and After the Flood; Area controlled by Atlantis (Schoppe)

The whole of Atlantis can *not* have been an *island*. Since the province of Gadeiros still existed at Solon's times, simple logic commands that it cannot have been an island. Eberhard

Zangger showed that the word "island" has been a mistaken translation. The Egyptian sign means "foreign country" in the first place. With respect to geology the area is a continental shelf flooded several times in earth history. We are quite sure that the central island (= capital) is a dome pressed up like for example snake island off the coast of Romania. The "holy colors" already seen in Catal Hüyük probably were found here, which gave the table mountain an important meaning: red (copper), white (carbon) and black (petroleum) layers.

With respect to the Pillars of Herakles the following has to be noted. Stone- or even Iron-Age people had no idea of an Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean as a harbor; to the contrary: They were positively convinced that there was a circular sea around a flat world. Based on the reduced horizon and the shifted center of view (to Asia Minor) the Marmara Sea was the harbor and the Black Sea was the real sea.

The maintained misinterpretation results from the fact that Herakles went to Iberia. At late Hellenistic and at Roman times Iberia was Spain. However, this leads to inconsistencies: After putting up the Pillars (supposed to be Gibraltar) Herakles put together a fleet to go to Iberia – he was still there! And he came back via Thracia (today's Bulgaria and Romania)! As a matter of fact, in ancient times Iberia was an ethnic group in the east of the Black Sea in the vicinity of the far better known land of Colchis. Peter James brought up that Roman writer Servius remarks: "We pass through the Pillars of Herakles in the Black Sea as well as in Spain". Consequently, in this case the Pillars equal the Bosphorus.

THE DECLINE AND RELAUNCH

The Flood

At the last Ice Age the level of the World Ocean was about 120 meters under today's level. The elevation rose until about 3000 BC. At the end of the last Ice Age around 15000 BC the Black Sea was filled with water from the melting glaciers in Europe and flew into the Mediterranean. Sometime around 10000 BC the water from the glaciers was temporarily redirected into the North Sea. Consequently, the level of the Black Sea fell to around 120 meters below today's sur-

face, where a shoreline and intact dunes can still be found today. Around 5500 BC the world ocean was about 15, the Black Sea about 120 meters below today's surface. Probably due to an earthquake which is a common event in this area the land bridge between Europe and Asia broke and the saltwater from the Mediterranean flooded the freshwater Black Sea Lake.

Pitman/Ryan brought up radiocarbon dating of freshwater and saltwater shells taken from differing locations in the north in order to support their case of a catastrophic deluge around 5500 BC. An expedition led by Robert Ballard to the former shoreline in the south off the coast of Turkey confirmed the dating of Pitman/Ryan and additionally brought up obsidian stone that cannot normally be found in this non-volcanic district.

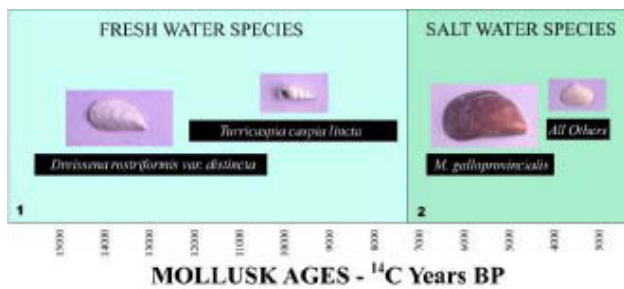


Figure 6: Black Sea Change in Fauna 5500 BC (Dimitrov)

In addition, a review of the sediments from the bottom of the sea showing a rapid change from the grey freshwater to black saltwater sediments taken 1969 by another expedition confirmed this dating as well as a project sponsored by the European Union did in 2004.

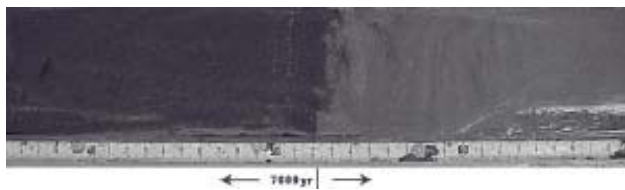


Figure 7: Change in Sedimentary Layers 5500 BC (Dimitrov)

Since the theory obviously jeopardizes the current dogma, it was heavily challenged by leading scientists throughout the world. However, the critics fail to provide empiric evidence. Nonetheless, established science tries to move the geocatastrophic event into a timeframe of

hunter and gatherer tribes in order to be able to maintain the current proposition.

As a consequence of the rupture of the land barrier at today's Bosphorus, the Black Sea rose rapidly at a rate of approximately 15 centimeters per day, thus filling the plain of Atlantis, today's continental shelf in the northwest. While the rise heavily impacted the people settling in this area, it yet (at the same time) gave them time to flee.

It has to be noted that the way of the flooding let Atlantis disappear in the Sea forever and relatively slowly. This picture is conceptionally followed by the details provided by Plato and the Bible as opposed to a tsunami like event triggered by an earthquake or meteorite. Such an event would destroy Atlantis immediately and would allow the remains to be seen again after the flood has vanished.

Post Flood Migrations

As a result of the flood a relatively dense population started to migrate. It has to be expected, that immediate refugees settled in the vicinity of the Black Sea, while their movement triggered a 2nd wave of relocations in the meaning of a very rapid further spread of settlers and farmers and knowledge in all directions.

As a matter of fact, the year 5500 marks significant changes. The first settlers to today's Egypt migrated there around 5500 BC. Little has been found about them. The first cities were probably built in the river delta of the Nile. However, since the level of the Mediterranean rose another 15 meters (!) between 5500 and 3000 BC, today the first settlements are buried deeply under sediments and water. Even the dynastic city of Sais, where the Atlantis saga came from, is covered by soil and ground water today.

In Turkey the year 5500 marks the end and the beginning of several settlements. However, as opposed to earlier and later times, no settlement survived the impact of the migrations undisturbed.

With regard to Europe it has to be noted that the mini Ice Age of 6200 to 5800 BC let settlers migrate to the vicinity of the Black Sea in the Danubian and Dnjestr regions after dwelling in Asia Minor about 2000 years. After another almost thousand years of dwelling in these areas the year 5500 marks the almost immediate con-

quering of the whole of Europe by the Band Ceramic people. The 2nd wave of settlers or colonists reached southern Germany in 5500 BC and by 5300 BC they were found all over Europe from Paris to the Ural Mountains with an impressingly standardized culture.

With regard to Indo-European language diversion it has to be noted that latest research by Gray/Atkinson indicates that this language originated in Asia Minor. As early as 6700 BC the languages spoken today split from the Anatolian origin, probably marking the first movements from Asia Minor into the Black Sea plain. These early migrations have not been confirmed by archaeological means so far since the traces are buried in the Black Sea under thick layers of sediments.

Around 6400 BC the Tocharian branch split off this language. This language was found in the Taklamakan desert in China. Due to the melting glaciers, the way into Far East was not yet deserted, so that the first migrations obviously did not stop in the northern plain but spread further into Asia. Scientific evidence shows that during the “Silver Age” the concept of lake dwellings as well as the use of domesticated pigs and millet was imported from there. On the other hand, just recently it was discovered that wheat out of Asia Minor or Europe was in use there.

While the Anatolian and Far Eastern language tree diversions ceased, the European part was incubated in Atlantis with its increase in population. About 5500 BC this part spread over Europe with the migrations triggered by the flood and broke into pieces around 5000 BC in an archaeologically evident wave of warfare and massacres.

The extreme standardization of this European culture over a certain period of time raises the question whether this culture had a center. The trade routes of spondylus shells – the money replacing the obsidian stone – indicate that this center was located close to the Black Sea. Here we find the immediate refugees from Atlantis.

One wave of refugees from the Atlantean center followed the river Danube. The first secure place in Bulgaria and Romania was already covered with settlers. Here was the area of the province of Gadeiros. Since the military power of this province was still intact the refugees had to pass and found a new home on the Balkans,

past the iron gate of the Danube River in the vicinity of the former native (autochthon) settlers.

The Vinca culture started around 5500 BC on juvenile soils without another comparable culture as a predecessor. The settlements were planned and often had terraces. With regard to the culture it can be said that it was very similar to that of Catal Hüyük with regard to crafts and architecture and with regard to religion and beliefs. The cult of bulls is evident and the colors red, white and black were omnipresent.

What makes this culture extremely interesting is the fact that it had a writing system. Atlantis had a writing system; such a system was required in order to transport the details known today over time, and finally the location of this first writing system in the world tells us where Atlantis was located.



Figure 8: Vinca Script

On a submarine expedition, Petko Dimitrov found a plate at the former shoreline in a depth of 120 meters. Not only that this plate was found to be late Neolithic; it carries the same signs that are known from the Vinca culture. This is the first direct link from the Vinca culture back to the Atlantean roots in the Black Sea.



Figure 9: Noah's Plate (Dimitrov)

A final word has to be said about the Varna culture that started around 5200 BC at the coast of the Black Sea. This culture featured stone houses, trade with spondylus shells, a hierarchically social structure and the dominance of men over women. The by far largest and oldest gold treasure of the world was found here. We suppose that at least big parts of the gold treasure were brought in by refugees from Atlantis and kept over time until the fifth Millennium BC.

With regard to Greek genealogy this time marks the beginning of the “Ebony Age”. The god Kronos is replaced by Zeus. Zeus by the way clearly is an Indo-European god coming from the area of the northern Black Sea. He punished the old rulers of the Empire after the deluge: Atlas was condemned to hold up the sky, Prometheus (=Ampheres) was chained to the Caucasus, Menoitios (=Mneseus) was thrown into Tartaros and Epimetheus (=Euaimon) received Pandora as a gift from Zeus. The surviving provinces were forgotten in the north but their names were written down in Egypt.

According to the flood of Deukalion, he himself and his wife Pyrrha - both grandchildren of the Titan Iapetos (and through their son Hellen ancestors of all Hellenic Greeks) - were the only ones to survive the flood after being warned by Prometheus. Again, here we find the colors red, white and black: Pyrrha means “the red one” standing for fertility. (D)Leucalion means “the white one”, with white standing for innocence (like Noah). After the deluge they were advised by a goddess to throw stones behind them. These stones might very well have been obsidian stones. After the flood they were leaving behind both: Death and the old order of Atlantis – the obsidian order.

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