

Group 4:

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The Lost City of Atlantis: Myth or Real



Introduction

Many of us have heard about the Ancient Lost City of Atlantis which is known to have vanished without a trace. Atlantis is said to be an advanced civilization existing around 360 B.C. Plato, the famous Greek philosopher, claims that this ancient city did exist. Though his dialogue *Timaeus* and *Critias*, Plato describes the events and characteristics of the utopian city. Since many of these descriptions such as advanced technology and exotic wildlife appear in Plato's writings, many people are skeptical of the island and its existence. The island was said to exist years ago which leads to the lack of sufficient evidence to prove that it was real. The island's existence has countlessly been argued as to the size, location, its people, and overall existence of Atlantis. We will be disproving (or proving) the existence of Atlantis and the characteristics around the story. What do you believe to be true? Do you believe that Atlantis is real? Or has it simply been real in Plato's writings?

Introductory to Atlantis Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j2jBG0c-1bs>

Atlantis is a Myth

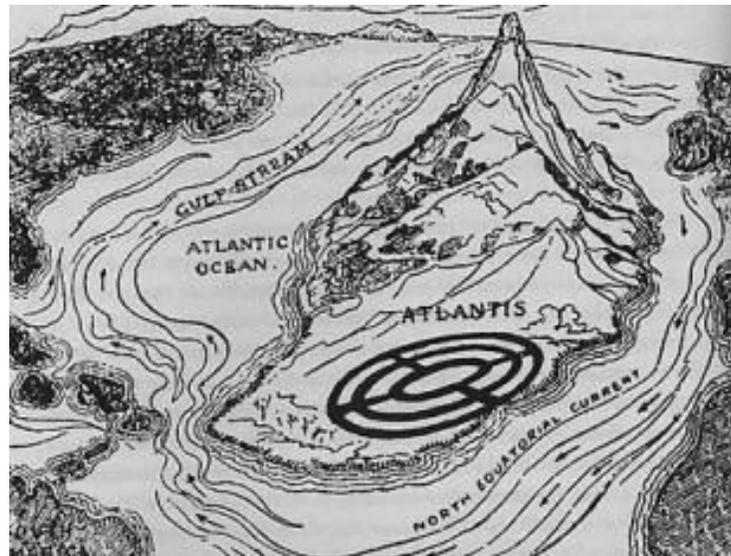
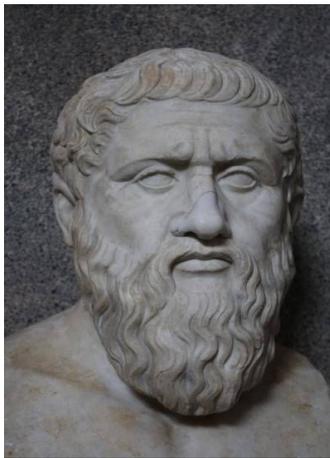
The island of Atlantis has only existed in the Plato's writings that being "Timaeus and Critias, two dialogues, are the only existing written records which specifically refer to Atlantis. The dialogues are conversations between Socrates, Hermocrates, Timaeus, and Critias. Apparently in response to a prior talk by Socrates about ideal societies, Timaeus and Critias agree to entertain Socrates with a tale that is not a fiction but a true story"- (activemind.com). Furthermore, about the two dialogues "The story is about the conflict between the ancient Athenians and the Atlantians 9000 years before Plato's time. Knowledge of the distant past apparently forgotten to the Athenians of Plato's day, the story of Atlantis was conveyed to Solon by Egyptian priests. Solon passed the tale to Dropides, the great-grandfather of Critias. Critias learned of it from his grandfather also named Critias, son of Dropides" - (activemind.com). This utopian city existed on a large size island that had advanced technology and architecture but it is merely a philosophical story written by Plato. According to the National Geographic, the story of Atlantis tells the story of people who were "half god and half human....Their home was made up of concentric islands separated by wide moats and linked by a canal that penetrated to the center. The lush islands contained gold, silver, and other precious metals and supported an abundance of rare, exotic wildlife. There was a great capital city on the central island." We believe that Plato was trying to tell us that these people were. To tell the truth Atlantis was possibly based on true events. A few scientists actually believe it exists. Ocean explorer Robert Ballard an National Geographic explorer said that " no Nobel laureates have said that what Plato wrote about Atlantis is true. Still, Ballard says, the legend of Atlantis is a "logical" one since cataclysmic floods and

volcanic explosions have happened throughout history, including one event that had some similarities to the story of the destruction of Atlantis.



About 3,600 years ago, a massive volcanic eruption devastated the island of Santorini in the Aegean Sea near Greece. At the time, a highly advanced society of Minoans lived on Santorini” - (National Geographic.com). In addition, Ballard said, “The Minoan civilization disappeared suddenly at about the same time as the volcanic eruption.” However, Ballard does not think Santorini was Atlantis, because the time of the eruption on that island does not coincide with the time period that Plato said Atlantis was destroyed. A professor at Bard College in New York, James Romm, believes Plato created the story of Atlantis to convey some of his philosophical theories. "He was dealing with a number of issues, themes that run throughout his work," he says. "His ideas about divine versus human nature, ideal societies, the gradual corruption of human society—these ideas are all found in many of his works. Atlantis was a different vehicle to get at some of his favorite themes." The legend of Atlantis is a story about a moral, spiritual people who lived in a highly advanced, utopian civilization. But they became greedy, petty, and "morally bankrupt," and the gods "became angry because the people had lost

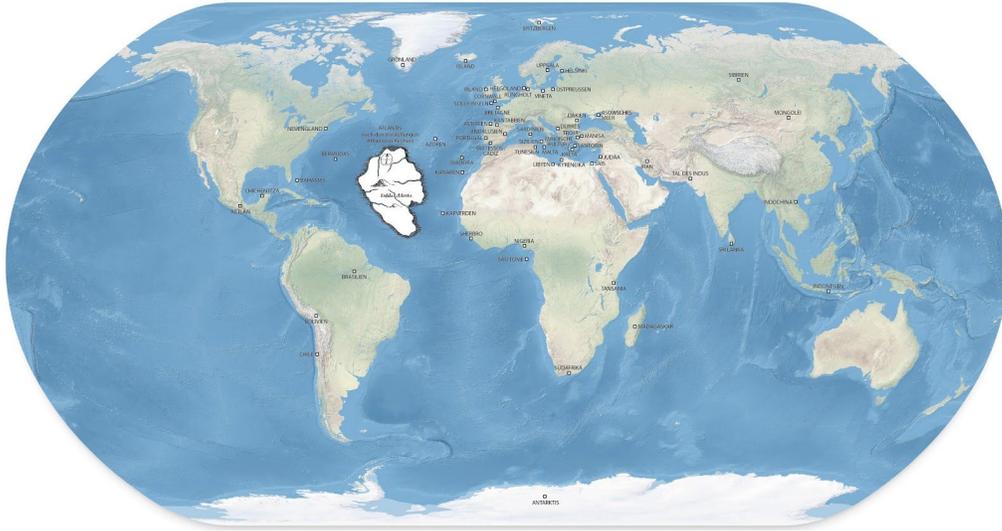
their way and turned to immoral pursuits," Orser says. As punishment, he says, the gods sent "one terrible night of fire and earthquakes" that caused Atlantis to sink into the sea" - (National Geographic. com). Furthermore the myth of Atlantis is just a myth of about an ancient civilization that never existed and was just a host for Plato to create and convey his own ideals into people minds.



Informational video on quest to find Atlantis: <https://youtu.be/Pmr2bmIpXw8>

Atlantis is Real

- Where was Atlantis?



For many centuries people have argued about Atlantis' existence and have also debated its location. Is Atlantis near Spain? In the middle of the Atlantic Ocean? West from the Straits of Gibraltar? In the documentary "Finding Atlantis" and the article "Was the Lost City of Atlantis Found in Spanish Marsh" shows possible findings of Atlantis and its possible location being underneath the marshes in Spain.. In 1922, George Bonzer and Adolf Shulton proposed that in the marshes Atlantis was underneath. Near the Guadalquivir River Delta and the Donana National Park, the land has several identifiers that can show proof of an existing island of Atlantis underneath the ground. In 2004 , Rainer Kuehne became well known for his discoveries through satellite photographer of the marshlands. In the photos, he say that there are circular patterns in the mudflats. These circular patterns fit the exact dimensions of Atlantis written in Plato's writings. Kuehne finds a rectangular pattern in the center of the circular patterns in the marshlands which could be said to be Poseidon's temple also famously written by Plato.

The head archaeologist, Dr. Richard Freund, has researched the village of Concho Roana more inland from Donana. Freund describes slate rock used to make small Atlantis city replicas.

He believes that these drawings are a “memorial” burial for the lost city of Atlantis. To support his conclusion about the area being a “memorial”, Freund has identified the rock from the site to be slate. Freund says that the slate is not from the area but rather has been transported from about “250 kilometers south of the coast.” Not only are there small replicas for Atlantis, but there are also symbols within these small buildings. Freund has found drawing on a stone that captured the three-ringed island of Atlantis next to drawings of Atlanteans. The images below show drawings that Freund had found.



The following is from “*NATIVE VILLAGE YOUTH AND EDUCATION NEWS*”: “For the next two years, Spanish archaeologists and geologists worked with the team to explore beneath the mud flats by using radar images. One radar image appeared very similar to Plato's 2,300 year old description of Atlantis.

‘We found something that no one else has ever seen before, which gives it a layer of credibility, especially for archaeology, that makes a lot more sense,’ Freund said. Other evidence comes from ancient wood dating back to 440 B.C. A core sample shows a layer of methane which indicates that many living things all died at once.

‘Finding this one layer of methane is a very telltale sign of a society that is destroyed in one fell swoop,’ he says. ‘This was in the middle of nowhere, and there was no methane layer found in the area except where we were working.’ Adding to the Spain/Atlantis evidence: over 100 ancient Spanish cities built in Atlantis's image. Freund suggests these memorial cities were built by refugees as a tribute to their lost home. The Spain/Atlantis theory was clinched by a nearby museum display of ancient standing stones taken from the area. In archaeology, ‘you follow the stones,’ Freund said. ‘Certain types of stones give you clues about where certain types of things came from.’ Carved on each museum stone is a symbol similar to Plato's drawing of Atlantis. Previous searches for Atlantis focused on the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian oceans and the



Mediterranean Sea.”

Documentary “Finding Atlantis” Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=choIyaPiMjo>

- **How did Atlantis disappear?**

According to the reading “Atlantis: Fact or Fiction?”, “Plato's tale is based ultimately on the cataclysmic eruption of the volcano on Thera, and island located to the east of Greece and north of Crete in the Aegean Sea. The volcanic caldera left behind by the Thera eruption in the 17th or 16th century BC {date is still much debated, see pp.271-4}, is twice the size of that of Krakatoa which, when it erupted in AD 1883 killed tens of thousands of people. The larger

eruption on Thera must have had an even more devastating impact and would likely have warranted mention in the historical records of places like Egypt, where the impact was indirect.”

- What do you think? Atlantis = Real? OR Atlantis = Myth?

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