



## OVERVIEW

### Atlantis and the Green Sahara Theory\*

This presentation explores a theory that the legendary civilization of Atlantis may have existed in North Africa during the period when the Sahara Desert was a lush, water-rich landscape roughly 10,000 years ago.

The argument is based on a combination of linguistic reinterpretation of Plato's texts, archaeological discoveries, geological research on ancient climates, and emerging genetic evidence.

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## 1. ORIGINS OF THE ATLANTIS STORY

The story of Atlantis originates in the writings of **Plato (around 350 BC)**, who claimed the account came from an earlier oral tradition passed to the Greek statesman **Solon by Egyptian priests**.

According to the story:

- Atlantis was a powerful civilization that existed **about 9,000 years before Solon's time** (~9600 BC).
- It was destroyed by a **catastrophic event involving earthquakes and floods**.
- After the disaster, the surrounding waters became **shallow and muddy**, making navigation impossible.

For centuries the story was largely considered mythological, though interest revived in the 19th century and continues today.

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## 2. RETHINKING THE LOCATION OF ATLANTIS

Traditional interpretations place Atlantis in the **Atlantic Ocean**, largely because translations of Plato's work describe it as lying beyond the "Atlantic Ocean."

However, recent linguistic analysis suggests this may be a **translation error**.

The original Greek text uses the term "**Atlantic Pelagos**", which refers to a **smaller sea or body of water surrounded by land**, not necessarily the open ocean.

This reinterpretation allows for the possibility that Atlantis was located in an **inland water system rather than the Atlantic Ocean**.

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### 3. THE GREEN SAHARA CONTEXT

Around **10,000 years ago**, the Sahara was dramatically different from today.

Scientific research shows that during this period:

- The region contained **large lakes, rivers, and wetlands**.
- The environment supported **dense ecosystems and human populations**.
- Extensive waterways would have required **boat travel and navigation**.

This landscape could plausibly support a complex civilization consistent with Plato's description.

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### 4. PROPOSED NORTH AFRICAN LOCATION

One interpretation places Atlantis within the **Green Sahara region of North Africa**, possibly connected to inland seas accessible from the Mediterranean.

Two specific candidate locations are highlighted:

#### 1. Tunisia / Gulf of Gabès region

- May correspond to the "Pillars of Heracles" boundary mentioned by Plato.
- Geological evidence suggests ancient waterways and lakes existed inland.

#### 2. The Richat Structure (Eye of the Sahara) in Mauritania

- A large circular geological formation that resembles the **concentric ring structure** described in Plato's account of Atlantis' central city.

Both locations sit within the broader region that may have once supported interconnected waterways.

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### 5. CATASTROPHE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

The destruction of Atlantis may correspond to a **large flood or environmental catastrophe** rather than the sudden sinking of an entire continent.

According to revised translations of Plato's text, Atlantis may have been **covered by water rather than physically sinking into the ocean**.

Over time, climatic changes transformed the once-fertile Sahara into the **modern desert**, forcing populations to migrate toward remaining water sources such as the **Nile River**.

Ancient Egyptian traditions stating that their ancestors came **from the west** may align with this migration pattern.

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## 6. POSSIBLE SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Several lines of evidence are presented as suggestive (though not conclusive):

### Archaeological discoveries

- Early sites such as Göbekli Tepe demonstrate complex societies existed far earlier than previously believed.

### Ancient navigation

- The oldest known boat, dating to about **6500 BC**, was discovered in Africa, suggesting early maritime activity.

### Genetic findings

- Ancient DNA from North African remains suggests the existence of a **population group that later disappeared from the genetic record.**

### Unusual artifacts

- Pre-dynastic Egyptian stone vases and objects show levels of craftsmanship that are difficult to explain with known tools from that period.

These artifacts are proposed as possible **relics of an earlier advanced culture.**

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## 7. FUTURE RESEARCH POSSIBILITIES

The theory remains speculative because **no confirmed archaeological remains of Atlantis have yet been found.**

However, the speaker suggests that modern technologies such as **LiDAR scanning and satellite imaging**, which recently revealed large hidden cities beneath the Amazon rainforest, could potentially uncover similar buried structures beneath the Sahara.

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## KEY TAKEAWAY

The Green Sahara theory proposes that Atlantis may not have been a lost island in the Atlantic Ocean but rather **a large civilization that existed in North Africa during a wetter climatic period.**

If correct, Atlantis would represent **a forgotten chapter of early human civilization**, later erased by environmental change and catastrophe.

