Title: Atlantis is the Sardinian geological block half-submerged in the ancient Atlantic Ocean, today called the Western Mediterranean

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**Abstract**

This paper explores the hypothesis that Sardinia and Corsica, historically known to be part of the Sardinian-Corsican geological block very well studied and known by official geology, can be identified together with their submerged continental shelves as Plato's Atlantis mentioned in the two Platonic dialogues of Timaeus and Critias. Starting from the analysis of Herodotus' statements regarding Libya and Asia, we propose that these ancient terms may actually refer to Sardinia and Corsica respectively, as reported in another paper. Furthermore, it is considered that the Pillars of Hercules mentioned by Plato may be represented by the "Faraglione Antiche Colonne" of Carloforte, as already identified by Prof. Giorgio Saba in his book *Scusi, dov'è l'Ade? (Saba, G. (2016). Excuse me, where is Hades?: Hypotheses on the ancient history of Sardinia. AmicoLibro . ISBN-10: 889968507X. ISBN-13: 978-8899685072. Paperback.)* . If these theories are verified, a strong possibility emerges that the myth of Atlantis is based on this semi-submerged geological island: Atlantis, therefore, would be an island submerged only partially and not completely: two of its plateaus would have remained out of the water, forming two apparent islands, which later took many names including Ichnussa , Sandaliotis , Cyrne , until arriving at the current denomination of Sardinia and Corsica. Through a detailed analysis of historical, geological and mythological sources, the article intends to demonstrate the veracity of this hypothesis.

**Introduction and Pillars of Hercules in Carloforte in Sardinia**

The theory presented in this paper was initially called the Atlantean Sardinian Paradigm (PSCA), and states that from this paper onwards a scientific paradigm shift will occur as theorized by Thomas Kuhn (Kuhn, TS (1962). The Structure of Scientific Revolutions. Turin: Einaudi).

Plato, in his dialogues *Timaeus* and *Critias* , describes Atlantis as a powerful and advanced civilization located beyond the Pillars of Hercules (which in this paper we believe to be the Faraglione Antiche Colonne of Carloforte, in present-day Sardinia), which disappeared in a single night under the sea: this, if confirmed, would be news to the scientific world; at the present time in fact there are no other scientific sources that tell that the Sardinian-Corsican geological block was semi-submerged in a single day and a night. For centuries, the existence of Atlantis has been the subject of debate among historians, archaeologists and scholars of various disciplines, without however reaching a definitive location.

**Herodotus, Libya and Asia: A New Point of View**

Herodotus, in his *Histories* , mentions Libya and Asia in a geographical context that has often raised debates about their actual location. Traditionally, Libya has been identified with North Africa, while Asia was considered the term for Anatolia and the eastern regions. However, the paper   
Usai, L., & Usai, L. (2024). Reassessment of Herodotus' Geographical Figures: Libya as Sardinia and Asia as Corsica. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.13626046>, shows how Herodotus intended Libya and Asia to be Sardinia and Corsica, respectively. We refer to that paper for further clarification. Here we will directly examine the implications that derive from it.

**Libya as Sardinia**

In this perspective, Herodotus' Libya could refer to Sardinia, an island that in ancient times was known for its mineral wealth and for being an important cultural and commercial crossroads in the Western Mediterranean. The description of Libya as a rich and prosperous region corresponds to the Nuragic reality of Sardinia, which possessed advanced metallurgical technologies and a complex society. Therefore, Herodotus' listing of populations such as the Garamantes and the Ammoni, would be lists of "Sardinian" peoples of that time.

**Asia as Corsica**

Similarly, Herodotus' Asia could be Corsica, an island that, although less developed than Sardinia, played a crucial role as a strategic base in the Mediterranean. Corsica, geologically part of the same Sardinian-Corsican block, therefore represents Herodotus' "Asia": Corsica would be, according to this paper, the mountainous area north of Atlantis; when the island was semi-submerged and the Sardinian-Corsican paleocoasts were totally flooded, the top of the mountains north of Atlantis remained out of the water, forming the new island of Corsica.

**The Sardinian-Corsican Geological Block as Atlantis**

If we accept that Herodotus' Libya and Asia refer to Sardinia and Corsica respectively, the idea that the Sardinian-Corsican geological block could be Atlantis becomes not only plausible, but even extremely probable. The description of Atlantis as a vast island, with abundant natural resources and an advanced civilization, corresponds perfectly to the reality of Nuragic Sardinia and, to a lesser extent, Corsica. Furthermore, the identification of the Pillars of Hercules in the Faraglione Antiche Colonne of Carloforte, as proposed by Prof. Giorgio Saba, further supports the possibility that Atlantis was located in the Western Mediterranean.

**Geographical name of the Atlantic Ocean**

If these premises are true, then it means that the stretch of sea that surrounded the island of Atlantis was not called the Western Mediterranean as it is today, nor Mare Nostrum as the Romans later designated it precisely to indicate that it no longer belonged to the Atlantean people, but rather the Atlantic Ocean or Atlantic Sea, or Atlantean Sea: it is possible that it had many other names.   
If all this is confirmed by future studies, it means that the Oceanids spoken of in ancient texts could be women who populated the Atlantic Ocean, that is, Sardinians, Corsicans, Sicilians and so on. New studies and many counter-checks will be needed to do this type of analysis and verification at a scientific level: here we limit ourselves to pointing out the need to broaden the research.

**Geology of the Sardinian-Corsican Block**

The Sardinian-Corsican block represents one of the oldest and most stable geological structures in the western Mediterranean. This land mass, which extends from the Tyrrhenian Sea to the Sardinian Sea, rose from the seabed millions of years ago, creating the current islands of Sardinia and Corsica. These islands, once united, constituted a single land mass that could correspond to Plato's description of Atlantis.

**The Submergence of Atlantis: Dating**

In Timaeus and Critias we find the story of Atlantis and the catastrophe that characterized it. Solon visits Sonchis of Sais around 590 BC, and the old priest of Sais, whom we will call Sonchis here for convenience , told him that Atlantis “sunk” 9000 years before that time, so around 9600 BC.

**Possible causes of semi-submersion**

This paper proposes three possible causes for the semi-submergence of Atlantis:

1. Island Slab Roll Back atlantean ;
2. Meltwater pulses;
3. Possible presence of a subduction zone still unknown, such as a Wadati-Banioff zone .

These possible causes should be investigated by experts in the geological world and require scientific evidence provided by sectoral domain experts.

**Neolithic**

It becomes clear the need to understand what would have happened, after the semi-submergence of the island of Atlantis, known to geologists with the name of Sardinian-Corsican geological block. It is known to geologists that it is a semi-submerged island, but geologists do not call it Atlantis. From this different use of terminology, a deep misunderstanding arises that makes communication difficult. In the Neolithic, the traffic of black obsidian stones from Sardinia to all of Europe is evident. These trades are well known to the world of science, so this paper does not need to demonstrate them: other scientists are already busy showing these Sardinian connections with the rest of Europe.

**Nuragic Civilization as Atlantis**

There is therefore a huge temporal distance between 9600 BC, the date of the potential semi-submersion of the Atlantean coasts, and the beginning of the Nuragic civilization, which flourished in Sardinia from the 2nd millennium BC, known for its monumental constructions, including the famous nuraghi. What would have happened between the partial submergence of Atlantis and the Nuragic civilization? The Nuragic mastery in metalworking and extensive trade networks suggest an advanced society, which could well represent the Atlantean civilization. The following megalithic structures are also worth highlighting: Domus De Janas, the Tombs of the Giants, Dolmen, Menhir, Sacred Wells etc., which combine to show a massive presence of archaeological artifacts that can confirm the Sardinian-Corsican Atlantean paradigm.

**Scientific evidence**

The toponymy of Sulcis in present-day Sardinia is oriented to confirm the presence of the myth of Atlantis in southern Sardinia: in Timaeus and Critias Plato states that Poseidon placed two sources in the capital of Atlantis, one of hot water and one of cold water. In Sulcis there are the toponyms of Acquacadda, the medieval village of Acquafredda which later disappeared, Grotta di Acquacadda, Castello di Acquafredda, Acqua Callentis near Carbonia, S'Acqua Callenti de susu (the hot water above in Campidanese Sulcitano) and S'Acqua Callenti de Baxiu (the hot water below, in Campidanese Sardinian); Monte Acquas near Domusnovas. All of Sardinia is full of hot and cold water sources, which the Sardinians call Nuragic “sacred wells”, or Mitza , a name that recalls the Hebrew Mikveh , which is the Jewish water source, which could have semantic links with the Nuragic Mitza : this fact will be explored in future research. In Atlantis there was an abundance of legumes: there is the toponym Nuxis, which in Sardinian means “nuts”, and it is found right next to the other toponymies that we will call “Atlantean”.

**Scientific evidence of a possible submersion**

Right in Sulcis in Sardinia there is scientific evidence of a submersion: the city of Nora, very famous and historical and archaeological center, is a semi-submerged city. The Roman-Punic port of Melqart (Capo Malfatano , near Porto Pino in Sardinia in Sulcis), has been known for many decades, I have no news on the current state of research.

Tharros shows signs of submersion, as do the Gulf of Oristano and the area of Cabras. It is therefore possible that the submersion was not a single one, but that there were many, repeated over time at a distance of millennia or centuries, causing disasters and catastrophes of different natures each time.

**Atlantis was rich in minerals to the point of being self-sufficient.**

Sulcis is very rich in mines, the oldest in Europe; some of them are still active today; until a few years ago gold was still being mined in Sardinia: one can therefore imagine what these mines might have been like 11,600 years ago and beyond.

**Discovery of a cargo of orichalcum in the seas of Gela in Sicily**

In the sea of Gela, in Sicily, a cargo of orichalcum ingots was found. This discovery has been scientifically analyzed and confirmed and is currently exhibited at the Gela Museum. Although it is not direct evidence, it could be a cargo from the Sardinian-Corsican-Atlantean block or destined for it. The presence of a Corinthian helmet should also be studied, which could be of Atlantean type; the helmets found elsewhere could be due to the migrations of Atlantean warrior populations to Europe.

**Potential location of the capital of Atlantis**

In Sulcis it is possible to recognize structures that resemble arcs of a circle, looking at satellite images of various computer systems. In this paper the hypothesis is proposed that the capital of Atlantis is located in Sulcis, in the area of Teulada, Sant'Anna Arresi, Masainas, Santadi, Narcao.

It is possible that in 9600 BC the satellite figures would have appeared completely circular and concentric, but after the semi-submersion of Atlantis these figures were damaged by causes yet to be ascertained, thus leaving visible today, after about 11,600 years, only portions of arcs of circumferences. It is also possible to notice, taking a map and a compass, that many cities, such as Pula, Sarroch, Capoterra, Siliqua and many others are arranged in a circular manner on the geographical map: for what reason would the Sardinians have built these cities in a perfectly circular position around the Sulcis mountains? This idea also requires further analysis, verification and cross-studies.

**The Atlanteans are a warrior people**

Archaeological findings confirm the presence of a warrior population, called until today with the term Nuragic. Nuragic bronzes testify to an enormous respect for warriors, boxers, archers, chieftains. The subsequent discovery of the Giants of Mont'e'Prama has further confirmed this fact: the oldest statuary in the Mediterranean is in fact composed of boxers, archers, warriors, confirming the Sardinian-Corsican-Atlantean paradigm.

**Certified Bull Worship in Sardinia**

This section will contain all the evidence that certifies the cult of the bull in Sardinia; however, it must be remembered that Sardinia is only a plateau of land emerged from Atlantis above the surface of the water, so it is an Atlantean subset; the territories of Corsica are still missing, which corresponds to the mountainous area north of the island of Atlantis, and all the vast and extensive territories of the continental platforms of both Sardinia and Corsica. This paper proposes the hypothesis that the cult of the bull was an exclusive prerogative of Atlantis, and that the Atlantean conquests and colonies brought the cult of the bull also in the territories today known as Sicily, Malta, Crete, Cyprus, Atlit Yam, El Ahwat , Basque Country, Canary Islands, Azores , which appear to be ancient Atlantean colonies (this paper will try to demonstrate this thesis).

**Tower builders**

The Atlanteans were builders of towers. In Sardinia there are over 7000 certified towers that take the name of Nuraghe.

**The largest island of all**

The island of Atlantis was the largest of all: this characteristic is also true: currently, Sicily is officially the largest island of all, and Sardinia the second. But if we consider the semi-submerged Atlantean Sardinian geological block , then this becomes the largest island of all, as narrated in Plato's Timaeus and Critias.

**The size of the plain of Atlantis is 30,000 stadia, or approximately 555 km.**

The length of the Sardinian-Corsican geological block is approximately 555 km, exactly as stated in Timaeus and Critias. The length coincides. The measurement was made with the bathymetric software Emodnet of the European Union.

https://emodnet.ec.europa.eu/geoviewer/

**Polychromatic construction techniques**

In Timaeus and Critias, Plato explains that the Atlanteans built polychromatic structures, and cites in particular white, black and red stones. This type of stone and in reality also others, have been used for the construction of all the prehistoric structures found by archaeologists in Sardinia: in particular the architraves of some nuraghes, such as Genna Maria or Nuraghe Miali di pompu , have a black basalt stone as a load-bearing architrave, of a different color from the remaining stones. It is possible to broaden the research by examining each of the over 7000 nuraghes present in Sardinia.

**Presence of the elephant species**

the elephant species was present . This is true for the Sardinian-Corsican geological block: the Mammoth species is present Lamarmorai , found at least in three locations in Gonnesa, Cabras and Alghero. A skeleton is preserved in the Museum of Carbonia, and is visible and exhibited to the public.

**Mud surrounding the island making navigation impossible**

In Timaeus and Critias, Plato points out that after the semi-submergence of Atlantis, the island was surrounded by an enormous quantity of mud that made navigation impossible. The Sardinian-Corsican Atlantean Paradigm states that this mud was caused by the marine undertow that in the thousands of years that followed moved billions of tons of paleocoasts Atlanteans , transforming the paleocoasts into what geologists today call the Sardinian-Corsica Continental Platform: this would be nothing other than the paleocoast Atlantis eroded by thousands of years of marine undertow.

**Extremely advanced technology compared to other peoples**

By examining structures such as nuraghi, Domus de Janas, dolmens, menirs and many other structures that we will now call “ Atlantean ”, we can realise the enormous building and construction skills of these people. If confirmed, the PSCA will bring about upheavals in current knowledge, as up to now science has used the names of metals to date historical periods: Bronze Age, Iron Age… but if the existence of Atlantis is true, in Timaeus and Critias we read that they were already melting metals, and had covered the walls of the capital, which would be submerged by tons of debris in the areas between Teulada, Sant'Anna Arresi, Masainas, and the Is Zuddas Caves. There is therefore a need to carry out core sampling and archaeological excavations, after having analysed with LIDAR systems to test the ground. Advanced technology can be seen in many aspects: the hundreds of ways of making bread that we still have today in Sardinia; normal loaves and barley loaves; in Atlantis there were a huge quantity of ships, war chariots: until today this information has been considered by many archaeologists, even Sardinians, as exaggerations. And the use of metals by the Atlanteans implies a very advanced level compared to the rest of the population. It is therefore possible that the use of metal swords, spears and shields was interpreted by the most backward ancient peoples as a symbol of the divinity of the Atlanteans : if a prehistoric Egyptian, for example, shot wooden arrows and an Atlantean came out unharmed, he was considered a god, because the attacker did not yet know the use of metals, which were very advanced technology.

**DNA atlantideo**

rock shelter Su Carroppu di Sirri in Carbonia it was possible to obtain the DNA of two out of three individuals; the analysis revealed that they preyed on marine resources, and that their DNA was almost completely different from that of the populations that populated Sardinia in the following millennia. This DNA from Su Carroppu di Sirri could be a sample of Atlantean DNA. (Source: Modi, A., Tassi, F., Susca, RR, Vai, S., Rizzi, E., De Bellis, G., Lugliè , C., Gonzalez Fortes, G., Lari, M., Barbujani, G., Caramelli, D., & Ghirotto, S. (2017). Complete mitochondrial sequences from Mesolithic Sardinia. \*Scientific Reports, 7\*, Article 42869. https://doi.org/10.1038/srep42869) In the   
Lanaittu cave near Nuoro, remains of a phalanx dating back to about 20,000 years ago have been found, well before the period of the partial submergence of the Atlantean island in about 9600 BC, according to the testimony of Solon and Sonchis of Sais.

**Consequences of the discovery**

Geographical consequence: it is necessary to recreate the maps, charts and cartography of prehistory and history to include this information, after their scientific verification. The geographical renaming of Sardinia and Corsica as Libya and Asia forces us to revisit all the studies and authors that deal with these geographical areas to analyze what happened in the past, and what mistakes were made and why.

Historical consequence: we are forced to review the history texts to find the errors that have been propagated for millennia due to the misinterpretation of Herodotus' Libya and Asia. This is a long job, which will probably take many years to come, but at the same time it will allow us to make many other discoveries, which at the moment are not clear due to the vastness of the topics covered. The first historical consequence is that Sonchis of Sais is probably a real figure. It is possible that Poseidon was not a God, but rather an ancient ruler, later deified according to the procedure called *euhemerism* in philosophy.

Anthropological consequence: the existence of the Atlantean people, who populated the Sardinian-Corsica paleocoasts and who had a different DNA, forces us to re-examine anthropological texts from their origins to the present day.

Sociological consequence: the existence of the Atlantean people, who populated the Sardinian-Corsica paleocoasts and had a different DNA, forces us to re-examine sociology texts from their origins to the present day.

Linguistic consequences: if the Sardinian-Corsican continental platforms were inhabited by Atlanteans, this means that they probably spoke a language, which is what we call today “Proto-Indo-European”. These statements will be discussed in another paper, to separate the texts and the scientific hypotheses for greater clarity.

**Conclusions**

The hypothesis that Herodotus' Libya and Asia refer to Sardinia and Corsica respectively opens up new interpretative possibilities regarding the myth of Atlantis. If we accept this interpretation, then the Sardinian-Corsican geological block could really be Plato's Atlantis. This thesis not only brings to light a forgotten part of our ancient history, but could also redefine our understanding of the civilizations that thrived in the prehistoric Mediterranean. Furthermore, the connection with the Pillars of Hercules, as indicated in the work of Prof. Giorgio Saba, offers further support for the identification of Atlantis in the Western Mediterranean.

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