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## A brief history of Atlantis

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As a citizen of Atlantica, you are well familiar with your country's recent history and economic structure.

### History:

King Triton is the current ruler of Atlantica. He has ruled for almost 35 years and it is generally accepted that he is a good and benevolent king despite the terrible misfortunes that have defined his rule.

His reign began in blood, when his father, King Posiden, and most of his family, were killed by Pacifican assassins. Triton took up his father's throne, and rallied the kingdom to repel the ensuing invasion. For much of King Triton's reign, Atlantica has been in open war with Pacifica. Repeated skirmishes and battles as well as maintaining constant vigilance along the border has cost Atlantica dearly both in money and in lives. Recently however, King Triton has opened negotiation talks with the Pacificans, and has even invited a delegation of Pacificans to attend this year's Neptune Ball. Many merfolk see this as a sign that this war might finally be drawing to a close.

King Triton took a wife soon after assuming the throne. Queen Athena was beautiful and gracious, even if she bore little physical resemblance to her Caribbean kin, being olive skinned and dark haired. They had 2 beautiful daughters, one of whom is gracious, poised, and committed to Atlantis. The other one was named Brandi. Brandi was always getting into trouble, and always asking about the human world above.

21 years ago, Queen Athena disappeared without a trace. Rumors flew that it was the work of the Sea Witch, Ursula, but nothing was ever proven. This loss of his wife shook Triton, and he emptied much of Atlantica's depleted coffers in a fruitless search for her.

Disturbed by her father's preoccupation, Brandi eventually went to live on the surface, and married a human prince. The whole affair was hushed up by the royal family, so little is known about how she managed it. But, since Triton dissolved the The Magician's Guild almost immediately after, rumor has it that she used magic to become human. The loss of Brandi seemed to finally break King Triton. In the years since, he has become reclusive, erratic, and whispers are surfacing that he may no longer be fit to be King.

It has been 14 years since Brandi forsook Atlantis, but she and her husband are scheduled to attend this year's ball. There is great speculation as to why.

Life goes on in Atlantis however. Things are peaceful, except along the border, trade is good, and everyone looks forward to the annual Neptune Ball. While the King's private bash is extremely exclusive, all over Atlantis, parties are thrown to celebrate the turning of the year.

### Guilds:

The economy of Atlantica centers around the guilds. As far back as anyone can remember, Atlantica has had five guilds that provided a division of tasks to help Atlantica run smoothly. They each elect 1 official for a 2 year term that make up a council that advises the King. Members of the royal family may belong to guilds but may not be elected to the council (they are not barred from holding high ranks in the Guilds, and the representative to the council is not necessarily the most powerful Guild Member). The guilds are:

- **Explorer's Guild:** Composed of explorers, cartographers, archeologists, historians, librarians etc. They handle the acquiring and storing of data (of all kinds) for Atlantica.
- **Merchant's Guild:** Composed of traders, economists etc. They claim that despite the recent lull in the war, Atlantica is still on the brink of economic collapse. Most people dismiss them as being overly pessimistic.

- **Artisan's Guild:** Composed of the craftsmen of Atlantis. They are often at odds with the Merchant's Guild over which guild has jurisdiction over the nations natural resources.
- **Guardian's Guild:** In charge of the military of Atlantica and security for all the nobles.
- **Magician's Guild:** Now formally dissolved. Used to be a voice for all magicians to ensure that magic was being employed for Atlantica's best interest