
History and Structure of European Society

The Neptune Ball presents interesting challenges for human guests, given that it is being held at King King Triton's palace in Atlantica, 20,000 leagues under the sea.

Breathing Under Water:

The humans who are in attendance at this ball have had a special spell cast on them by Sebastian, the King's most trusted advisor. Sebastian is the only magician allowed to practice most magic in Atlantica. The spell allows humans to breathe underwater while within the grounds of the palace (all of game space is within the grounds of the palace). You will be escorted back to the surface in the morning. **(You should consider game space closed - you may not leave.)**

The Royal Family:

The royal family of Europa is small. King Eric rules Europa, with his wife, Queen Ariel at his side. Ariel is from Atlantica. Much of the country was shocked to learn that communication between the nations was even possible, never mind the idea that Atlantica might be friendly, given ongoing altercations with Pacifica. Europa has not yet fully accepted Ariel as their Queen, despite her having lived among them for 14 years. On the other hand, the offspring of the royal couple, Heir Willow, is the pride and joy of the nation, adored by all.

The royal family has not always been so small. Eric's father was lost in a storm, 21 years ago. 7 years later, Eric's sister was killed during an attack from the sea on the palace, leaving even more people suspicious of Queen Ariel.

Religion:

The human kingdom of Europa practices a religion that worships the sun. The Sun God brings life to all things on the land. The summer solstice is the most sacred day of the year, and the midsummer festivals are elaborate and expensive. There is no greater omen than to be married under the noon-day sun on a clear day.

Humans fear the ocean, and it's dark depths, for they conceal the mighty kraken. The kraken is hated by all and expeditions often set out to kill the beast. Only some of them return. It is believed that the storm that killed Eric's father was summoned by the kraken itself. Only a devil storm could have bested that crew and left no survivors.

Everyday life in Europa:

Life in Europa is simple. Europa is at peace with it's neighbors, and so much of its populace is farmers. A few brave souls are fishermen, or mariners, but for the most part, the citizens of Europa prefer to stay on land and give thanks to the Sun God for his bounty.

Magic is extremely rare in Europa. There is very little magic to be found anywhere on land. Magicians are therefore regarded with some suspicion. They are not necessarily outcasts though, and a few, like Merlin, have become prominent advisors to rulers.

Polio used to be a big problem in Europa. It devastated much of the previous generation, and in some ways, Europa is still rebuilding. Through the efforts of many dedicated scientists, and a particularly useful magician, a vaccine was developed. The epidemic has been brought under control and now most of the population has been vaccinated. Polio pops up occasionally in outlying villages, but for the most part, it is a thing of the past.

Relationship with the undersea kingdoms:

- **Atlantica:** Europa has slowly been building a tenuous relationship with Atlantica. Over the past couple of years, informal discussions have begun to occur between the two nations, led by Queen Ariel. Many people are hopeful that Atlantica could become a lucrative, new trading partner.
- **Pacifica:** Europa has a much less amicable relationship with Pacifica. The merfolk of Pacifica attack European ships on sight, and the concept of trade talks is laughable. No one really knows for sure why Pacifica is so aggressive, but it may have something to do with the kraken.