

III. The Cold War and divisions (1940-2013)

From the forties all the way to the nineties, the Atlantica was split in two. The northern part was one of the worst and most oppressive communist dystopias in the world. And at the center of all of it was a single man.

The man

In 1928, Hwòh-Bawusífiuhi Bèruto (Hwyoh bah-WOO-see byeh-roo-toh) was born in Sygiun to a lower-middle-class family. In his childhood, he wasn't much out of the ordinary. His family couldn't afford schooling, so he spent most of his childhood writing stories and poems. His dream job at the time was to be the editor of his own newspaper.

In 1943, at the age of 15, Bèruto enlisted in a rebel, anti-royalist group called the Free Atlantican Army, which was the military of the Atlantican Republic, a rebel state that had existed since Sùo XIV took control. He soon achieved the rank of general.

Bèruto read about socialism in an illegal newspaper when part of the Free Atlantican Army and was extremely interested in the ideology.

"It was almost perfect for our country, it just needed a few tweaks before [Atlantica] became a heaven on earth."

-H. Bèruto, "Autobiography"

He founded the Workers' Party of Atlantica (then called the Communist Party of Atlantica) under the Atlantican Republic. Bèruto avidly supported and promoted the ideology and his party.

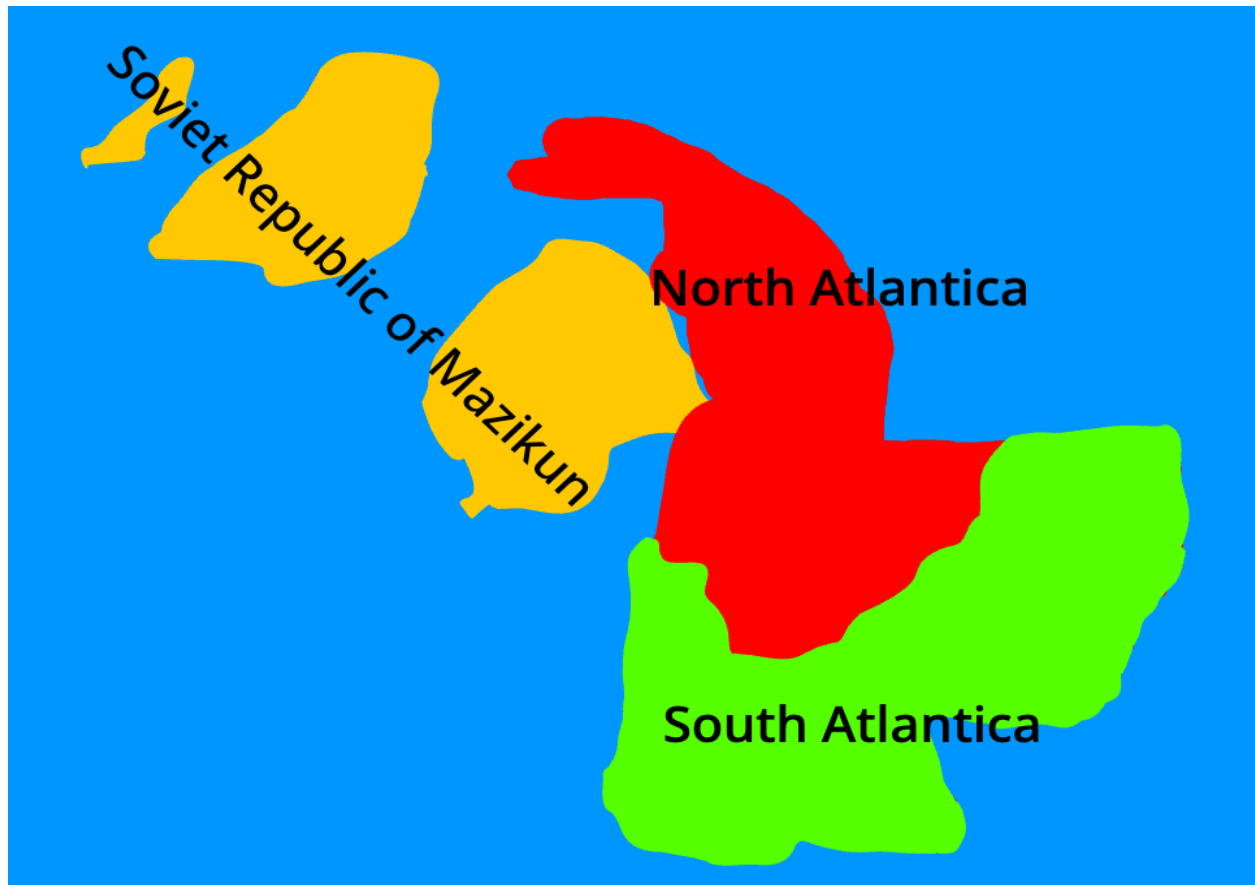


Flag of the Atlantican Republic and Free Atlantican Army. Blue represents the vast seas of the south, white represents the snow of the north. Text on flag roughly translates to “Hurrah for the republic! Kill the kingdom!”

The myth

Bèruto was an obvious choice for Stalin when seeking a leader for the country in 1952, and he quickly formed the government of the communist Atlantican Government, known as the Atlantican People’s Socialist Republic of Atlantica, shortly after the fall of the Royal Atlantican Government.

A capitalist government was established in the South as the Republic of Atlantica, which evolved from the Atlantican Republic. Mazikun and Kanderecia were made into a communist government called the Soviet Republic of Mazikun. Western Mazikun, officially the Mazikun People’s Socialist Republic of Eastern Fancaira, was also a communist government split from Fancaria.



A map of the division of the Kingdom of Atlantica.

Bèruto made some big changes, basically shoving communism down everyone's throats. For one, he changed Sygiun into Markssberg, named after the creator of socialism.



Flag of the Atlantican People's Socialist Republic of Atlantica, Yellow represents success and prosperity, red represents "the blood of the revolutionaries that fought for our country." The star in the circle is the symbol of the Workers' Party.

The legend

Bèruto was known for his love of the Russian language and his hate for English, Atlantican, mal Syg, and Spanish. Bèruto used his regime to promote the use of the Russian language. He was inspired by how Mazikun (more specifically, the Soviet Republic of Mazikun that included Kanderecia) went from speaking Spanish, mal Syg, and Atlantican to speaking just Russian through language policies.

The way Bèruto did it included actions such as requiring schools to teach Russian in all grades, fining schools and teachers if they teach Atlantican or mal Syg as a mandatory subject and/or outside of secondary schools (including organizations that aren't legally full schools). This resulted in mal Syg becoming endangered, and Atlantican becoming endangered in the north. At the same time, Kandarecian Spanish was slowly dying under the rule of the Soviet Republic of Mazikun. Additionally, Bèruto legally changed his name from Hwòh-Bawusífiuhi Bèruto to Yuri Bjeruto.

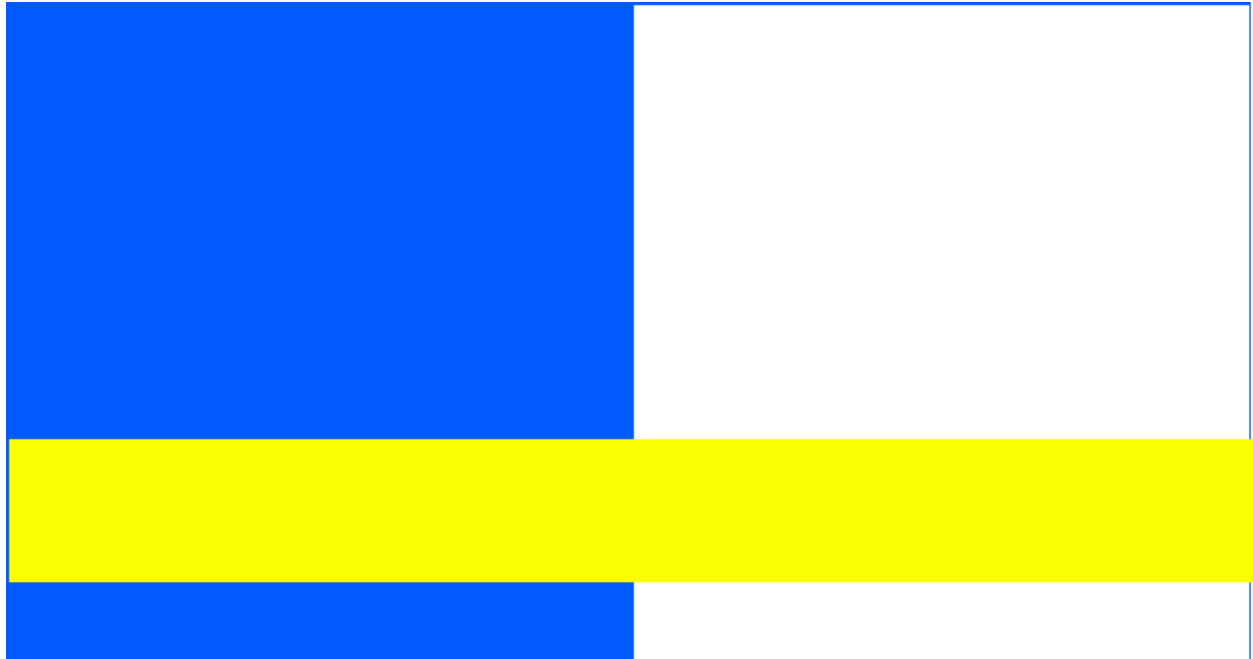
In 1953, Bèruto enacted a 5-year plan officially called "the second revolution," (despite the fact that North Atlantica wasn't founded from a rebellion, they essentially took all the credit for rebelling against the royal government from the Free Atlantican Army) meant to erase remnants of the old royal regime, which was Syg-centric. This plan included executing teachers of the mal Syg language and Syg culture, leaders of Syg tribes, deporting Syg men, women, elders, and children, and publicly encouraging Atlanticans to harass and turn in any Syg people they knew to the police. It's estimated that about 78% of the population of North Atlantica died under his rule. Bèruto died in 1992 after being beaten up by a crowd during a public protest. He was succeeded by his son, Hwòh-Fiuhísùo Bèruto, the last leader of North Atlantica.

At the same time, in the Soviet Republic of Mazikun, which had previously been more dependent and aligned with the Soviet Union, which had just recently collapsed, loosened up as it aligned with North Atlantica, which was becoming more liberal under Hwòh-Fiuhísùo Bèruto.

West Mazikun, though, wasn't doing so hot. The regime was loyal to Yuri and when his son took over and started making things more liberal, West Mazikun resisted the change and instead tried aligning itself with North Korea, but that eventually failed and West Mazikun was reabsorbed by the Republic of Fancaria under the Treaty of Telbinet.

Bèruto's strange rival

Hwòh-Fiuhísùo Zelenì (pronounced Hwyo-h-fyee-oo-hyee-syuo zeh-len-yee) was installed as the first president of the Republic of Atlantica by the U.S. He was a strict anti-communist. He did things like squeezing every last communist from the country, and by that, I mean executing whatever members of the communist parties dared to stay there.



The flag of the Republic of Atlantica, blue representing the seas of the south, a yellow strip representing the long history, and white to represent the hope for peace (but that was officially changed to represent the snow of the north after reunification in 2013)

Zelenì was kidnapped near the border and publicly executed in the middle of Markssberg. Now, before that, Zelenì was essentially a dictator, and there were no actual democratic elections in the south, so people weren't actually that sad.

“This traitor has been a puppet of the American Imperialists, who has committed crimes against our great leader’s governments, [which we will now list.] First, he has murdered the friends of our great party. Second, he has slandered our great leader Bjeruto. Third, under his false power as a puppet of the American Imperialists, he has caused widespread distress among the people. ... for these heinous atrocities, we hereby sentence you, Hwòh-FìuhíSùo Zelenì, to death.”

-Unknown Military Commander, Transcript of H. Zelenì’s public execution (translated)

After that, the Republic of Atlantica started rising from the ashes and becoming a prosperous democratic republic with a strong economy. It felt like a

completely different world from North Atlantica, not just from economic policy, but in society, linguistics, and infrastructure.

Unification

In 2013, Hwòh-Fiuhísùo Bèruto signed the Treaty of Seaville, dissolving the communist government and creating a unified, capitalist Atlantican country. A lot of bad things were undone when the southern government took full control, such as a public apology to the Syg people, and intensive efforts in the north to revitalize mal Syg and Atlantican.

At the same time, the Kandarecians has enough of being oppressed by the government of the Soviet Republic of Mazikun, so they rebelled with the support of the U.S. government, and the Treaty of Romberg in 2014 split the Soviet Republic into two new capitalist states: the Republic of Mazikun, which aligned with the U.S. and Fancaria, and the Republic of Kanderecia, which did its own thing.

While the unified government has made impressive progress in rebuilding the North in the past twelve years, the damage has still been done.

Reflection: What do you think?

Answer the following question. There is no right or wrong answer; this is just meant to get you thinking about the content of this document.

Do you think Bèruto's actions were justified? Why or why not?