

▣ Atlantinha Fact Sheet

- Population: 3,720,000
- GDP per Capita: \$14,500 (39th of 171)
 - GDP Agriculture: 6%
 - GDP Manufacturing: 26%
 - GDP Tourism: 17%
- Ethnic Composition
 - Portuguese (41%), Greek (37%), Atlantinhan (19%)
 - Minorities (.5% to 1% each): Azorean, Cape Verdean (*Portuguese Speakers*), American, British (*English Speakers*), Jewish, Macedonian (*Greek Speakers*)
- Official Languages
 - Portuguese (61%), Greek (38%), English (1%)
- Religion:
 - Atlantinhan (Greek) Orthodox: 56%, Roman Catholic 41%, Other 3%
- Major Cities:
 - São Bartolomeu (1,200,000)
 - Santa Sofia (450,000)
 - Aveiro (200,000)



Brief History of Atlantinha:

Background:

Atlantinha lies in the midst of the Sargasso Sea and far from major shipping lines. The island was discovered by Portuguese sailors in 1512, and several small colonies were established. The ethnic Atlantinhan population is descended from this group. Contact was lost with the colony in the 1570s and the island was forgotten until a Greek expedition rediscovered the island and established settlements in the 1830s. The vast majority of the remaining older inhabitants converted to Greek Orthodoxy but retained their dialect of Portuguese. Immigrants from Greece, and later Portugal, slowly moved to the island during the 19th century and up until WWII. Greece, Portugal, Spain, and Britain all claimed the island, but a democratic government was set up by the new landowning aristocracy in 1854 to challenge these claims.

The country remained prosperous but agriculture-based until the overthrow of the weak Republic by Col. Dmitrios Alkarveipolou in 1937. The new military regime kept the country neutral in WWII and officially neutral in the Cold War. Alkarveipolou tried to guide his country into light manufacturing and other competitive industries, and was moderately successful; although a number of close friends and relatives were brought into the government, other corruption was low and all three major groups benefited from the economic reforms. Atlantinha's growth lagged behind Europe and North America, but the country grew by a small amount every year and avoided most of the major global economic downturns, with positive, if minor, growth in every year from 1937 to 2007. Alkarveipolou died in 1982 and was succeeded by his nephew, Vassilios.

Several political parties were permitted but tightly controlled, with Alkarveipolou retaining approval power over all party platforms, and all officially supported the dictatorship and Alkarveipolou:

- The Popular Party (Orthodox, market liberal)
- Catholic People's Party (Catholic, market liberal)
- Atlantinhan Worker's Party (social democratic)

However, other parties were quickly shut down and the military police were used to suppress attempts at Communist and Greek and Portuguese Nationalist parties. Dozens of prominent Communist and Portuguese Nationalist politicians “disappeared,” especially in the 1940s and the 1980s. Military police were rarely used against individual citizens for criticizing the government, but only government-approved newspapers and media were allowed to publish or broadcast and censorship was fairly strict.

The Crisis

Following the drop-off in tourist traffic in 2008, combined with increasingly unsustainable debts incurred by a manufacturing sector trying to modernize, Atlantina suffered a major economic depression, with average income dropping by 10 to 15 percent and threatening most of the country's growing middle class. Riots in August 2008 were met by the army and were dispersed with only scattered violence. When a second round of riots occurred in October of 2009, however, the situation had deteriorated to the point where many army units refused to participate. Again with only a few violent incidents, the riots ended after eight days, with Vassilios Alkarveipolou fleeing to Norway on October 25.

After Alkarveipolou's flight, the three formerly official parties have governed in a “grand coalition” and have allowed other parties to organize in expectation of elections and a constitutional convention in the Spring of 2010. The country is waiting for the advice of international observers before setting the terms of the elections and of the new government.

The Ethnic Groups

For the most part, the three groups have remained culturally distinct and separate, with low levels of interaction between them. There has been steady but slow intermarriage between the two groups, most commonly between Greeks and Atlantinhanans. The two communities remain separate linguistically, although



there is a slight movement toward Portuguese usage by Greeks and minority populations. Portuguese speakers are more common in the North, but no province has an ethnic majority of greater than 60% and all groups are widely distributed. The country has no history of ethnic riots or conflict, although surveys have shown that the groups do not have high levels of trust in the others. Portuguese Catholics are particularly distrustful of Greeks, and this seems to have its roots in the Greek-led military dictatorship despite the regime's lack of overt favoritism.