

Evidence of Advanced Civilization in the Ice Age

by Charles Hughes

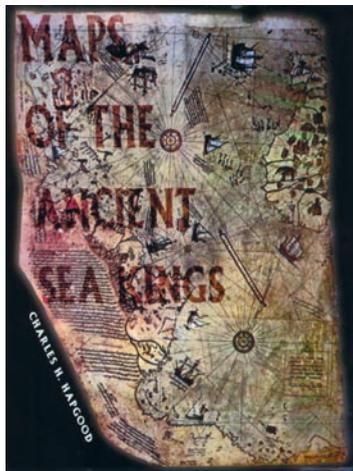
Maps of the Ancient Sea Kings: Evidence of Advanced Civilization in the Ice Age

by Charles H. Hapgood
Adventures Unlimited Press
316 pp., \$19.95
Kempton, Illinois 1996

As Lyndon LaRouche has pointed out for over thirty years, the founders of our civilization, our ancestors, were sea peoples who sailed all the oceans of the earth, invented the science of spherics by observing the heavens, knew that the earth was a sphere and accurately calculated its circumference, and made calendars and maps (some very beautiful and artistic), which have been passed down to us, copied thousands of times. They provide the material for this amazing book by the late Professor Charles Hapgood, who taught the history of science at Keene State College in Keene, New Hampshire in the 1960s.

This book, which was first published in 1965, deserves to be more widely known today, for it destroys many of the most prized axioms of the scientific establishment about early civilizations and science.

Hapgood states in the book that those who follow through on suggestions made by others often make important discoveries. The person who made the suggestion in this case was Captain Arlington Mallory, himself an investigator of ancient civilization, and the author of the book *Lost America*. Mallory believed that an old map discovered in the palace of the Turkish Sultans in Constantinople in 1929, was indeed, as was claimed, the property and work of a 16th century Turkish admiral named Peri Re'is. This map depicted parts of the world, such as South America and Antarctica, with an accuracy that should have



been totally impossible for the map's date of 1513.

The map had notes around the edge in Turkish, by Admiral Re'is, which said that there was no map in the whole world like this map, and furthermore, that the map was a composite of many maps from archives now lost, including maps from the time of Alexander the Great. Dating the ancient origin of some of the source maps, Mallory thought that the Antarctic area had been drawn before the continent had become covered with ice!

Professor Hapgood told Mallory he would carry out an investigation of the Peri Re'is map as a project with his students. During the seven years required for the investigation, Hapgood expanded his investigation to include other "impossible" maps located in libraries around the world, and even got the U.S. Air Force involved in his project. He realized that he was an amateur in this field, which we might call "paleo-cartography," although he did know something about the history of science.

The author explains that he began with a very wrong assumption, that the Peri Re'is map was unique, as the map itself said. He was later to find other maps that were far too advanced to have been drawn in the Middle Ages, Renaissance, or even in classi-

cal Greece or Rome. As we might expect, the surviving maps drawn by Claudius Ptolemy were rather incompetent examples of map work. On page 10, a map by Ptolemy is compared with one called the Dulcert Portolano, which looks almost modern, despite its alleged date of 14th century. The Ptolemy map is badly distorted. The original Dulcert was probably made by competent sea people of the Ice Age.

The first problem was to find out where the center of the Re'is map was located, what type of projection it was, and what was the length of a degree of latitude and longitude. After that was accomplished, Hapgood would locate points on the map: islands, bays, headlands, river mouths, mountains and such, and note if they were located at the correct latitude and longitude, as compared to a modern map.

Hapgood and his students found that the Peri Re'is map showed most of the Atlantic area, including northwest Africa, parts of the Americas, the West Indies, and of course, parts of Antarctica. The center of the map was found to be the intersection of the Tropic of Cancer, about 23.5 degrees north latitude, and the longitude of around 30°E, a location in Egypt, but not at any known ancient city. Although the basis for measuring longitude is arbitrary, the relative distances on the map were found to be internally consistent, and quite close to modern values. Unusually, the projection was found to be azimuthal equidistant, a projection which distorted the Americas. The West Indian area was rotated, so that Cuba was vertical. This whole area was placed on the map obliquely. More than fifty points on the Peri Re'is map were found to be accurate to within a modern degree, and in some cases, as accurate as a modern map. However, it

was obvious that the source map for the West Indies had been placed incorrectly in relation to the other land areas. The reason that this is so unusual, and shows that the map or the source maps used by Admiral Re'is could not have been contemporary, nor even from the classical world, is that the finding of exact longitude in particular, has only been possible since the invention of accurate clocks that could be used at sea, and not malfunction due to the rocking motion of the ship, an invention developed in the mid-18th century.

Proposing that the source maps came from an ancient sea people culture, such a culture would have attained accurate longitudes in two ways. Either they had invented the ice age equivalent of Harrison's chronometer of 1740, or they were expert in timing total eclipses of the moon. In the latter case, they would have needed to set up observatories all over the earth, and to maintain a master observatory that kept data for centuries. In addition, they would have had to have almanacs predicting lunar eclipses for future times, which would be carried on ships and supplied to their many observatories all over the then civilized world.

An eclipse would be noted for local time, for example at Cape St. Vincent in Spain, and then the same eclipse would be compared to its occurrence at the master observatory, for example Stonehenge in England. The difference in time between the two events would give the longitude of the unknown land. The main observatory would probably be at zero longitude in their system. There was another method, called lunar distances, which was used prior to the invention of the chronometer, which depended on accurate measurements with a sextant of the moon and a nearby star, for a given day and hour. In contrast to the



The surviving half of the Peri Re'is world map from 1513.

difficulty of measuring longitude, latitude could be found much more easily, by measuring the altitude of the North Star above the horizon, or the altitude of the sun at local noon.

After the completion of the analysis of the Peri Re'is world map, Hapgood wondered if there were more or similar maps, which showed Antarctica, or accurate placement of the landmasses of the globe. He requested that the Library of Congress let him examine such maps in their archives. He found that the most anomalous maps were of a type called "portolanos," which suddenly turned up in Europe about the time of the collapse of the Byzantine Empire in the 15th century, and were used by sailors who could depend upon their accuracy. Another class of maps, such as the maps of Ptolemy, were very poor, and were used by academics throughout the ages in Western Civilization, but shunned by seamen whose lives depended on accurate maps. It is possible that these maps were copied and recopied from sea

people originals, and restricted to the use of sailors. The two map traditions were kept separate. The academics would never mention the portolanos in their writings, but would stick to Ptolemy.

When Professor Hapgood was well into his map project, it turned out that one of the students involved in his project had been a cartographer in the Air Force. He introduced Hapgood to Colonel Harold Olemeier of the map section of the Strategic Air Command base at Westover, Massachusetts. Olemeier was very interested in the project, and agreed to have his department check Hapgood's data.

Olemeier's Technical Reconnaissance Section sent the Professor a report on their findings on July 6, 1960. The report confirmed Hapgood's findings, and is reproduced on page 243 of

the book. The Air Force examined other maps provided by Hapgood; one in particular, called the Orontius Finius world map, showed Antarctica very plainly, with rivers and mountains, and open areas of water now covered with ice. The Zeno Map of the North, of 14th Century provenance, shows Greenland as two major landmasses, before the island was covered with ice.

Hapgood's evidence shows that a civilization of sea people flourished in the Ice Age, that is 10,000-12,000 B.C., and sad to say, that all of our map technology has been "hand me downs," as a heritage from these people, until we caught up in the 18th century!

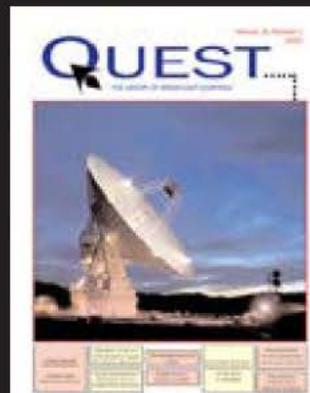
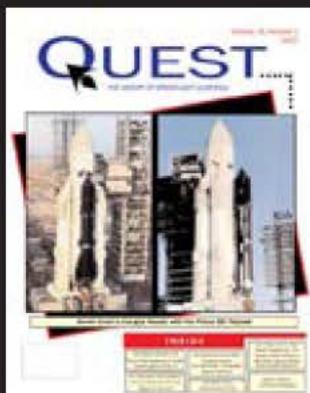
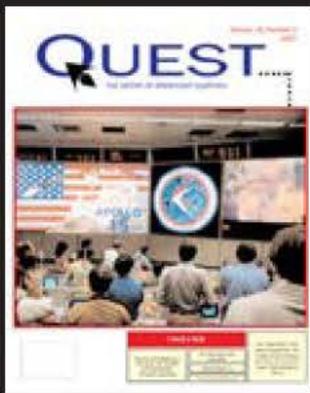
This book is well illustrated, with chapters on geometry and trigonometry, showing how maps are constructed. If the material in this book were known to most academics, I'm sure it would produce heart attacks among them, and end the nonsensical idea that oceans are barriers to the transmissions of culture.

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