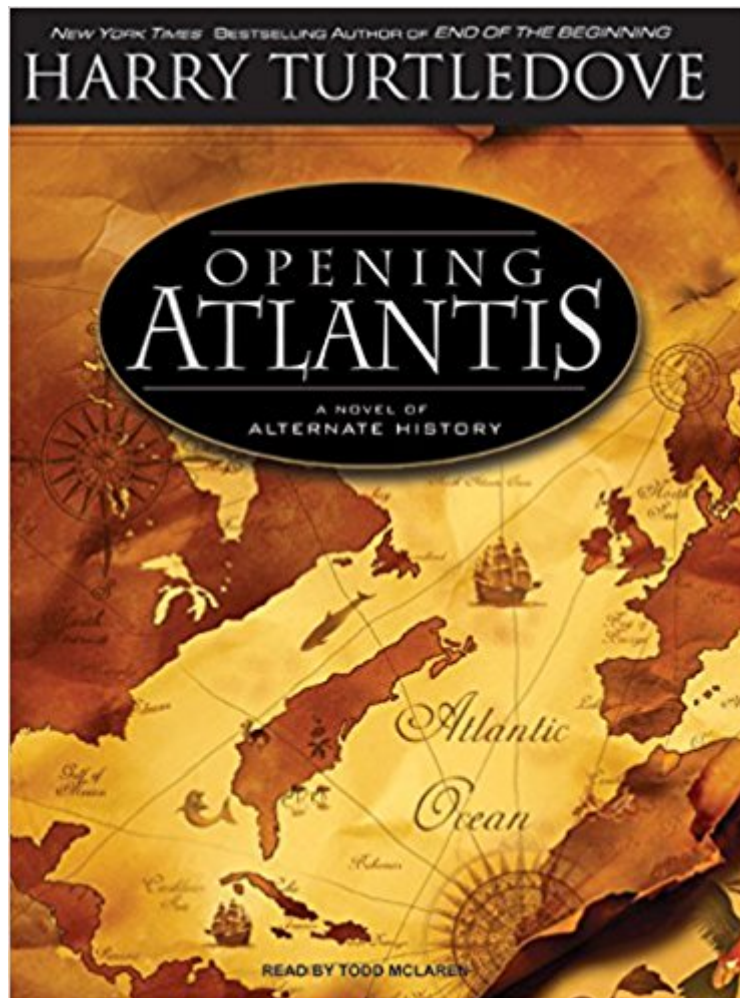




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Opening Atlantis: A Novel Of Alternate History



Synopsis

New York Times bestselling author Harry Turtledove has intrigued readers with such thought-provoking "what if..." scenarios as a conquered Elizabethan England in *Ruled Britannia* and a Japanese occupation of Hawaii in *Days of Infamy* and *End of the Beginning*. Now, in the first of a brand-new trilogy, he rewrites the history of the world with the existence of an eighth continent. Atlantis lies between Europe and the East Coast of Terranova. For many years, this land of opportunity lured dreamers from around the globe with its natural resources, offering a new beginning for those willing to brave the wonders of the unexplored land.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Even in his lesser efforts, like this start of a trilogy about the Lost Continent of Atlantis, Turtledove is still the master of alternative history. Helped by the cool understatement of Todd McLaren, who makes all the "What ifs?" of the genre fresh and believable, listeners should plunge right into this predictable but intriguing story of the discovery of an unknown island during the reign of Henry VI by a wandering English fisherman. Fed up with political repression, the fisherman, his family and a few friends head for the promised paradise-only to find themselves pitted against an exiled nobleman who wants to rule the island. McLaren makes all the voices distinct and identifiable, from lowly Brits and smarmy lords to the foreigners flocking to Atlantis. There's not much magic or even the startling hooks on which Turtledove has hung earlier books (like the sudden arrival of repeating rifles during

the American Civil War in *Guns of the South*), but *Turtledove* fans will appreciate McLaren's efforts. Simultaneous release with the *Roc* hardcover (*Reviews*, Oct. 1). Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

"Todd McLaren reads with a deep, commanding voice that keeps listeners' attention, deftly handles a variety of accents, and gives the story the broad sweep it needs." ---AudioFile

What if an unknown continent was between North America and England? What else would you call it? This is not an off-world plot, but a more realistic history novel of what might have been. I always enjoy *Turtledove's* characters; they really show how life at that time was lived in lots of detail. Settlers from a few other groups plant colonies and create their own histories in much the same way that North America was tamed. In this first of a series you get the main families and how they interacted, reminding me of John Jakes novels with lots of characters and exciting situations. You know that sons will be friends, some will be soldiers, and conflicts between colonies will happen, but it is the details that make the story. This episode takes you from first settlement through a Revolution with England. Yes, I'll read the next one; I'm hooked.

I first read this book because I recognized the author. While I did and still do enjoy this book, I do recognize that this is simply restated American history. However, this book is still worth the time and money to read because of *Turtledove's* exemplar attention to details and his showing of multiple "biographies" in the same times, from different areas and backgrounds. Everything from plot to settings are rendered with wonderfully engaging wording. The only reason it is a 4/5 is because it is priced at above five dollars.

Harry *Turtledove* has gone out to milk the alternate history cash cow once again. I can hardly blame him. It makes him money and, to a great extent, he's the best in the business at it. Which is why I was somewhat let down by this book. I went into this story with high expectations. An 8th continent in the middle of the Atlantic? Full of exotic beasts? The Brits are the first to colonize it? This could get interesting! What we get instead is an extension of the War of the Roses, a re-tread of every pirate story ever written, and the French and Indian War taking place on Atlantis. None of this is really bad, per se, but it wasn't what I'd hoped for. Also of note is the fact that for an alternate history, there's not a lot of alternate. One would think the presence of this land would change the weather patterns somewhat, but apparently not. Also, though the point of departure is in 1451, European

history seems to flow pretty normally. We still have a Charles on the throne of England in the 1600's, and someone who is obviously George III on the throne during the 1700's. One would think things in Europe would get butterflyed a bit more than that. Plus it's quite clear that Atlantis is being set up as an analogue of America. I'm sure that in the sequel we'll see some sort of revolution against England, and probably a civil war over slavery. Surprisingly, the book also doesn't include a map, which would have been very useful. I know roughly where Freetown, Hanover (Stuart), and some of the other towns are in relation to each other. Perhaps in the sequel we'll get one. Still and all, this was a good read, but not a great one. It does do a sufficient job of setting up the next book or two in the series, and I do look forward to reading those. But I can't help but think there could have been something more here.

i think I have read almost all Harry's books, particularly his various serials. This one is at the lower end of the scale. It is hackneyed, filled with known extrapolations of our own history (substitute the Bretons for the earlier Irish), and a conveniently ignored Terranova, except with minimum coverage. Let's see, the forthcoming "United States," will show the colonies and their revolt from the UK and who knows whatever other stuff he might put in. Perhaps build Terranova up some more. It's too large to be ignored completely, even if "Atlantis" is in the way. If you like a true bow (in retrospect) to Kenneth Roberts' classic settlers novel, then go for this one. Otherwise, eh.

Opening Atlantis, though not of the same caliber as the American Empire series or the Great War series is a good read. It postulates the existence of a land mass between Europe and the Americas -- initially discovered by fisherman from the continent -- and follows its settlement through the next three hundred years. It ends in what appears to be around 1800 so he has left it open to a sequel. I enjoyed reading it and will certainly purchase the sequel when/if it is released, but was a little disappointed in the book. It did not seem to have the same level of plot and character development that his previous "alternate history" books have had.

Lots of great action. Wonderful characters. The story line keeps pulled into the book. I'm looking forward to reading the next book.

In this genre there are none better. This is so real it makes you believe that it really happened. Great read.

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