

The Crown Commonwealth



Today, Queen Elizabeth II remains sovereign of sixteen Commonwealth countries and their dependencies. These are: Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Canada, Grenada, Jamaica, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The Queen is represented by a Governor General in all except the United Kingdom, where she is in permanent residence. The Queen is also represented by Governors in Australian states and by Lieutenant Governors in Canadian Provinces. She has a Deputy Governor General on Nevis.

The Queen distinguishes between her various roles by using a personal flag - initial E and crown within a chaplet of roses - for use at Commonwealth meetings where the Royal Standard would be inappropriate, or by using special Standards in her various realms. The Queen, though not being part of the machinery of government in the Commonwealth, has become a personal link and human symbol of the Commonwealth as an international organisation.

The former realm of Mauritius, in the Indian Ocean, east of Madagascar, became a republic in 1992, after several attempts to make the change were defeated by public outcry. The country's original 1968 constitution, containing the Queen and a Governor General, remained intact for a few years longer, with the republic proclaimed by an amendment added on to the constitution. This was eventually replaced by a new republican constitution. Interestingly, Fiji Islands, located northeast of Australia and south of Tuvalu, was a realm of the Queen until 1987, when a military coup against the government, due to ethnic divisions, proclaimed a republic and the country's membership in the Commonwealth lapsed. However, all royal symbols have remained in place and the Union Flag remains part of the country's national flags. The Queen's portrait even remains on Fiji Islands' currency. A move to change the country's flag in 1990 to remove the Union Flag met with so much opposition, that it was dropped. After ten years, Fiji Islands resumed membership in the Commonwealth in October 1997. The Great Council of Chiefs, which advises the Government, is considering asking the Queen to resume sovereignty over Fiji and the Prime Minister has apologised to her. If this was to happen, it would represent the first restoration of the monarchy to a Commonwealth country, but it remains to be seen if this will indeed happen, due to the continuation of frequent changes of government in Fiji Islands. The country has rewritten its constitution three times since the first coup in 1987.

Original Dominions

When she took the Coronation Oath, Elizabeth II swore *"to govern the Peoples of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the Union of South Africa, Pakistan, and Ceylon, and of [her] Possessions and the other Territories to any of them belonging or pertaining, according to their respective laws and customs"*.

Of those seven countries mentioned in the Coronation Oath, today Queen Elizabeth II remains:

- Queen of the United Kingdom Of Great Britain And Northern Ireland
- Queen of Canada
- Queen of Australia
- Queen of New Zealand

The other countries mentioned in the Coronation Oath having since become republics:

- Queen of South Africa (1952-1961)
- Queen of Pakistan (1952-1956)
- Queen of Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) (1952-1972).

South Africa and Ceylon were the first Commonwealth realms to recognise Elizabeth II as Queen of their respective countries, rather than of the United Kingdom.

Australia's external dependencies are the Australian Antarctic Territory, Christmas Island, the Cocos Islands, the Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands, Norfolk Island, the Ashmore and Cartier Islands, and the Coral Sea Islands Territory.

Associated States of New Zealand in the South Pacific include the Cook Islands and Niue. Both are completely self-governing and New Zealand is only responsible for their foreign affairs and defence. Otherwise, they act like independent states. Each country has a representative of the Queen, though it is not called a Governor General. It is simply called 'The Queen's Representative'. It is very possible that these two countries could take the final step and become fully independent new realms of the Queen. New Zealand also has the Ross Dependency, which is its territorial claim in Antarctica.

Africa

During the Queen's reign many of the former British colonies in Africa became independent countries. When independence was granted to these nations, as is the British colonial practice, they became constitutional monarchies by default, with Queen Elizabeth as Head of State. The new African leaders usually proceeded to quickly abolish the monarchy (and usually the parliamentary system, as well) and establish executive presidencies in its place. However, Zambia (formerly Northern Rhodesia) became a republic on independence in 1964, as did Botswana in 1966, formerly the British protectorate of Bechuanaland.

Queen Elizabeth II was briefly:

- Queen of Ghana (1957-1960)
- Queen of Nigeria (1960-1963)
- Queen of Sierra Leone (1961-1971)
- Queen of Tanganyika* (1961-1962)
- Queen of Uganda (1962-1963)
- Queen of Kenya (1963-1964)
- Queen of Malawi (1964-1966)
- Queen of The Gambia (1965-1970)

**Now Tanzania*

From 1965 to 1970 she was also proclaimed 'Queen of Rhodesia' by the White minority government in Southern Rhodesia, although she never accepted this office.

Caribbean

When independence was granted to the British Caribbean colonies, Queen Elizabeth II became Queen of the West Indies Federation in 1958. When the Federation broke up in 1962, she eventually became Queen of each former member state.

In the Caribbean, Queen Elizabeth II is currently:

- Queen of Jamaica (since 1962)
- Queen of Barbados (since 1966)
- Queen of The Bahamas (since 1973)
- Queen of Grenada (since 1974)
- Queen of Saint Lucia (since 1979)
- Queen of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (since 1979)
- Queen of Antigua and Barbuda (since 1981)
- Queen of Belize (since 1981)
- Queen of Saint Kitts and Nevis (since 1983)

The Queen's position as Queen of Grenada remained unaffected by the overthrow of Prime Minister Eric Gairy by the left-wing Maurice Bishop in 1979, and the Governor General remained in office. Following the United States-led Operation Urgent Fury in Grenada in October 1983, in the wake of Bishop's violent overthrow, the Governor General oversaw the holding of new elections and the restoration of parliamentary democracy.

The Queen was also previously:

- Queen of Guyana (1966-1970)
- Queen of Trinidad and Tobago (1962-1976)

Unlike other British colonies in the region, Dominica became a republic at independence in 1978 with its own elected President as head of state.

Oceania

When Papua New Guinea became independent of Australia in 1975, Queen Elizabeth II was styled "Queen of Papua New Guinea", the first time she became Queen of a nation that was never a British colony in its entirety.

(Her father, King George VI, upon becoming Emperor of the Dominion of India in 1947, had also become Emperor of many former Indian Principalities which had merged with the Indian Union in 1947 which were originally never British Colonies but had been under the suzerainty of the British Crown.)

In the Pacific, Queen Elizabeth II is currently:

- Queen of Papua New Guinea (since 1975)
- Queen of the Solomon Islands (since 1978)
- Queen of Tuvalu (since 1978)

Her role as Queen of Fiji (1970-1987) was ended by a military coup. Even after Fiji was declared a republic, the Queen's portrait remained on the country's banknotes and, unlike the United Kingdom, her official birthday remained a public holiday. When Fiji was readmitted to the Commonwealth in 1997, consideration was given to restoring her as head of state, but the idea was not pursued further. However, the Council of Chiefs continues to recognise the Queen as its "Great Chief", though she no longer has any formal constitutional power.

Other former Commonwealth realms

The Queen was also previously:

- Queen of Malta (1964-1974)
- Queen of Mauritius (1968-1992)

Titles

From 6 February 1952 until 26 March 1953, the Queen's official title was similar to her late father's title throughout the Commonwealth. It was "Elizabeth the Second, By the Grace of God, of Great Britain, Ireland and the British Dominions beyond the Seas, Queen, Defender of the Faith". With Commonwealth nations now being fully sovereign, this title was considered to be out of date, so it was changed. On 26 March 1953, the Queen's title in the United Kingdom became "Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and of Her Other Realms and Territories, Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith". The Queen's title in the United Kingdom remains the same today. The Queen's other Commonwealth realms adopted their own variations of this title to show their independent status. In Canada, Australia and New Zealand, the Queen's title was adopted as 'Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom, (the country's name) and Her other Realms and Territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith'. This title remains the same in Canada today. However, it was changed in Australia and New Zealand in the 1970's.

In the Union of South Africa and Ceylon, the Queen's title became 'Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God, Queen of (the country's name) and Her other Realms and Territories, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith'. Pakistan did not adopt a distinctive title for the Queen. These three countries are now republics.

Today, in Canada, the Queen is 'Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom, Canada and Her other Realms and Territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith'. In New Zealand, the Queen is 'Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God Queen of New Zealand and Her other Realms and Territories Queen, Defender of the Faith'. In Grenada, she is 'Elizabeth the Second, Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Grenada and Her other Realms and Territories, Head of the Commonwealth. In Australia, Jamaica, Barbados, the Bahamas, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Belize, Antigua and Barbuda, The Queen is 'Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God Queen of (the country's name) and Her other Realms and Territories, Head of the Commonwealth'. Papua New Guinea uses the same formula, but omits the reference 'by the Grace of God'.

Role in the Realms

Apart from the United Kingdom, the Queen usually visits her realms at a rate in which each realm is visited at least once every five or six years. Though her constitutional powers in each realm are virtually identical to those she holds in the United Kingdom, the Queen does not play an active role as political Head of State in these countries, nor does she commonly perform ceremonial duties, except on occasions

of significant historical or political importance. Day to day political and ceremonial duties are instead performed by a Governor General who serves as the Queen's permanent representative, and is nominally appointed by her (though in reality they are chosen by the nation's Prime Minister, or in the unique case of Papua New Guinea where they are decided upon in a Parliamentary vote).

Generally, Commonwealth Realms have all got along well, with few diplomatic problems. The concern is sometimes raised, however, that with Queen Elizabeth being head of state of so many different countries, her neutrality and dual loyalty could come into question should a conflict ever emerge between two of "her" countries.

In Operation Urgent Fury, for example, Queen Elizabeth was the Queen of Grenada while it was being invaded by many other Caribbean countries of which she was also Queen. Even more confusingly, the invasion was also opposed by several other countries in which she was Queen, notably Britain and Belize. The Queen did not make a statement on the invasion, likely because, had she done so, no statement could adequately represent all those involved countries of which she was Queen.

The Queen's personal flag for use in the United Kingdom, Crown Territories and British Overseas Territories is the Royal Standard with four quarterings of two royal banners of England and one royal banner of Scotland and one royal banner of Ireland. The Queen uses this flag when she visits foreign countries outside the Commonwealth, also.

In Scotland, the flag contains two quarterings of the royal banner of Scotland and one of England and one of Ireland. The Royal Standard was in use in all of the Queen's other realms until 1962, when it was decided to introduce separate personal flags for each realm.

From 1962 to 1968, the Queen adopted personal flags for while she is in each realm, which is usually based on that country's coat of arms stretched into a flag. It contains the Queen's personal "E" for Elizabeth surmounted by a crown, surrounded by a garland of roses in the centre of the flag.

The Queen has personal flags for Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Jamaica and Barbados. She had them for Sierra Leone, Trinidad and Tobago, Malta and Mauritius before they became republics.

The symbol in the centre of the personal flags is also used by the Queen as her flag when she is visiting all other Commonwealth countries.

Her other realms have not yet adopted personal flags for the Queen (i.e. Grenada, Belize or Tuvalu). Though not done since 1968, personal flags for these realms, based on their coats of arms, may ultimately be adopted.

ROYAL FLAGS



THE ROYAL STANDARD



THE ROYAL STANDARD (SCOTLAND)



QUEEN'S PERSONAL FLAG



QUEEN OF CANADA



QUEEN OF AUSTRALIA



QUEEN OF NEW ZEALAND



QUEEN OF JAMAICA



QUEEN OF BARBADOS



QUEEN OF SIERRA LEONE
(1961-1971)



QUEEN OF TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
(1962-1976)



QUEEN OF MALTA
(1964-1974)



QUEEN OF MAURITIUS
(1968-1992)

FLAGS OF GOVERNORS GENERAL



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA



AUSTRALIA



BAHAMAS



BARBADOS



BELIZE



CANADA



FIJI (1970-1987)



GRENADA



INDIA (1947-1950)



JAMAICA



NEW ZEALAND



PAKISTAN (1947-1956)



PAPUA NEW GUINEA



ST. KITTS AND NEVIS



ST. LUCIA



ST. VINCENT & GRENADINES



SOLOMON ISLANDS



SOUTH AFRICA (UNTIL 1961)



SRI LANKA (1948-1972)

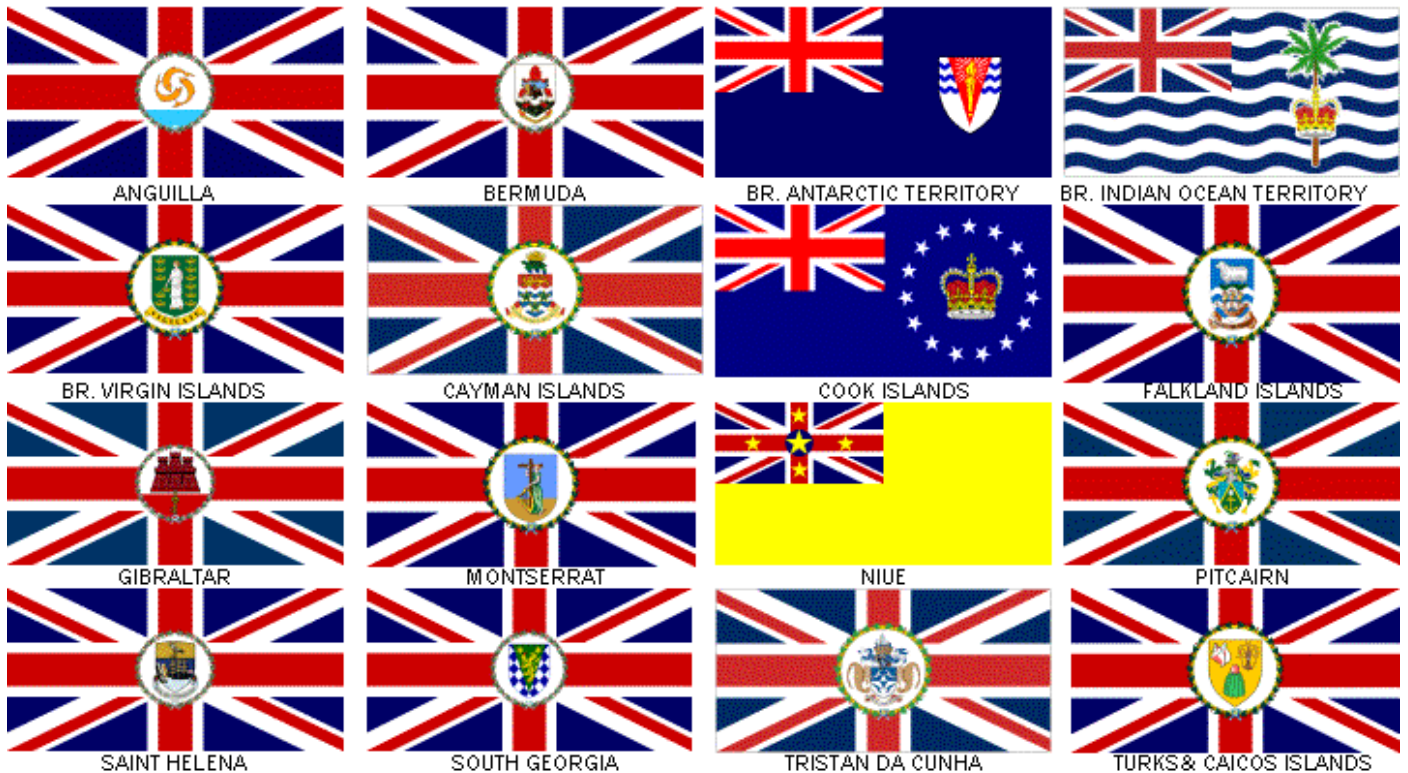


TUVALU

Until the 1930's, Governors General of Dominions, the Viceroy of India and Governors of the Crown Colonies, Protectorates and Mandates used the same design of vice-regal flags. This is the Union Flag with the country's coat of arms on a roundel in the centre surrounded by laurel leaves. This design continued to be used by Lieutenant Governors of Canadian Provinces and Governors of Australian States until the 1980's. The Lieutenant Governor of the Canadian Province of Nova Scotia continues to use this type of flag to this day. A new design based on the royal crest was adopted by Governors General of self-governing Dominions after the passage of the Statute of Westminster in 1931, though this had been planned since 1928. The vice-regal flag based on the Union Flag continued to be used by the Viceroy of India until 1947, and by colonial Governors. The Governor General of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan had his title in the centre of the Union Flag instead of a coat of arms, until 1956. Dependency Governors today still use the vice-regal flag based on the Union Flag.

Since the 1930's, with the adoption of the Statute of Westminster, Governors General in all realms use a royal blue flag containing the royal crest of a crowned lion standing on a large St. Edward's Crown in the centre. Underneath the Crown is a scroll with the country's name on it. This flag was adopted to show that the Governor General had become the personal representative of the Sovereign only and not of the British Government. The Governors General of Canada and the Union of South Africa adopted this design in 1931 and Australia and New Zealand adopted it in 1936. This design has been used by all Governors General in realms created since then and is currently used by all Governors General of the Queen's realms today.

FLAGS OF COLONIAL GOVERNORS TODAY



EVOLUTION OF THE FLAG OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF CANADA



1901-1921



1921-1931



1931-1981



1981-1998



1998-2002



2002 - PRESENT

FLAGS OF CANADIAN LIEUTENANT-GOVERNORS UNTIL 1982



ALBERTA



BRITISH COLUMBIA



MANITOBA



NEW BRUNSWICK



NEWFOUNDLAND



NOVA SCOTIA



ONTARIO
(UNTIL 1952 & AFTER 1965)



ONTARIO
(1959-1965)



PRINCE EDWARD IS.



QUEBEC
(UNTIL 1952)

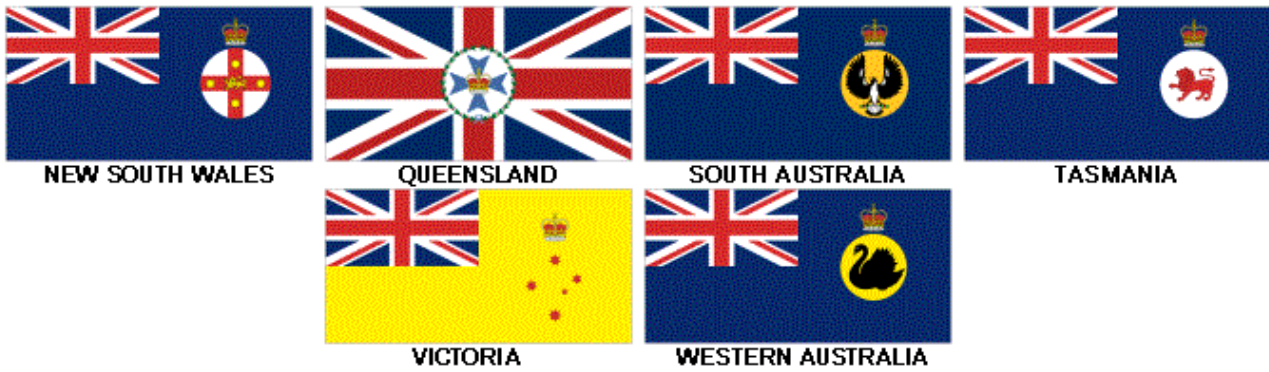


QUEBEC
(SINCE 1952)

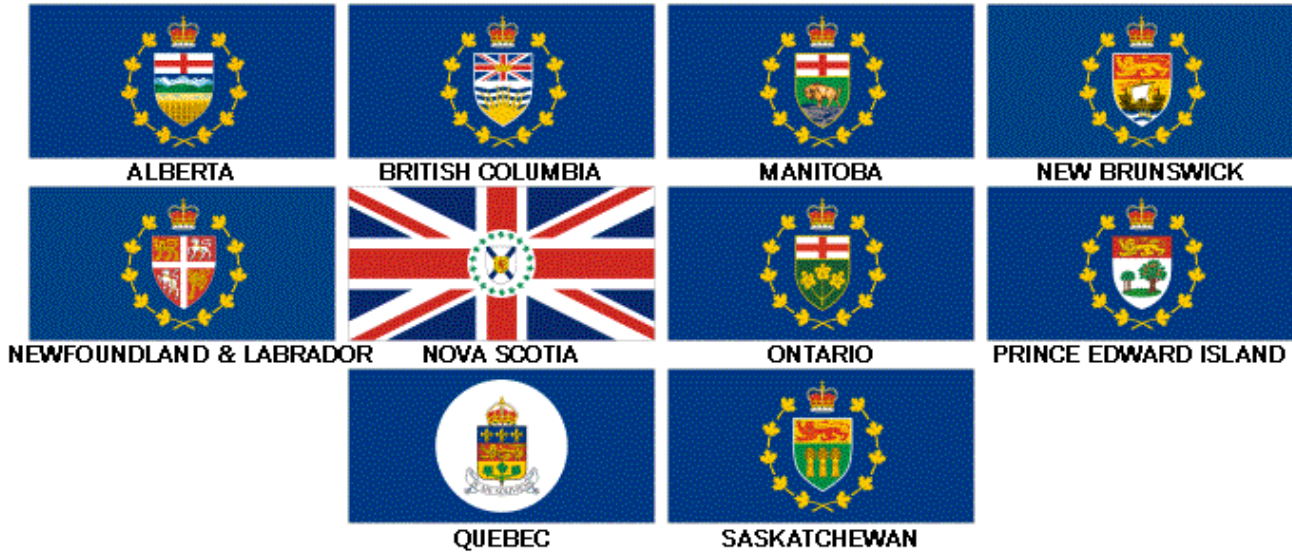


SASKATCHEWAN

FLAGS OF AUSTRALIAN GOVERNORS



FLAGS OF CANADIAN LIEUTENANT-GOVERNORS



NAVAL QUEEN'S COLOURS



1939 KING'S COLOURS OF ROYAL NAVY AND ALL DOMINION NAVIES



1953 QUEEN'S COLOURS OF ROYAL NAVY AND ALL DOMINION NAVIES UNTIL 1970'S



QUEEN'S COLOUR OF ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY SINCE 1970'S



QUEEN'S COLOUR OF ROYAL CANADIAN NAVY SINCE 1970'S



QUEEN'S COLOUR OF ROYAL NEW ZEALAND NAVY SINCE 1970'S

Some variations of the blue Governor General's flag do exist to suit more local identification. The Union of South Africa's Governor General's flag (1931-1961) had two scrolls on it, one above the crowned lion with the country's name in English and the other in the traditional place below the large crown with country's name in Afrikaans 'Unie Van Suid Afrika'. India, when it was a realm (1947-1950), Pakistan (1947-1956), and Ceylon (1948-1972) did not use the scroll, but had the countries' names shown in large letters under the Crown. Fiji, when it was a realm (1970-1987), used the traditional Governor General's flag but displayed the country's name on a tabua, a whale's tooth, which is the native symbol of authority in that country. The President of Fiji Islands still uses this design today, in anticipation of a possible restoration of the monarchy in that country. Currently, Canada, Solomon Islands and Saint Kitts and Nevis use variations of this royal blue vice-regal flag. In the 1980's, Canada changed its vice-regal flag from the traditional design to one using the crest of the Canadian coat of arms, which depicts a crowned lion holding a maple leaf in its paw, with no scroll or name under it and no large crown. Canada is identified by the red maple leaf in the lion's paw. This was modified again in 1998 to give it a 'friendlier' look. The Governor General of the day objected to how the lion's tongue and claws were shown, so they were removed. However, the previous design, adopted in 1981, was reinstated in 2002. Solomon Islands uses the traditional Governor General's flag but depicts the country's name on a native frigate bird instead of on a scroll. Saint Kitts and Nevis uses the traditional Governor General's flag, but puts the motto 'Country Before Self' in place of its name on the scroll. All other Queen's realms continue to use the traditional royal blue Governor General's flag without variations, showing the crowned lion, the large St. Edwards Crown and the scroll containing the realm's name. All current Governors General are knighted except in Canada and in Australia.

It was proposed in 1867 to refer to the new Canadian confederation as the Kingdom of Canada, but this was changed to Dominion of Canada so as not to offend Americans. Canada is the only remaining realm of the Queen which is still formally styled as a Dominion in its official title, though it is very rarely used. New Zealand and its associated states and dependencies, formerly styled as a Dominion, is now known as the Realm of New Zealand. Pakistan, Ceylon and Fiji were also styled as Dominions before they became republics. South Africa and India were styled as Unions when they were realms. Australia and The Bahamas are styled as Commonwealths. Saint Kitts and Nevis is called a Federation, Grenada is considered a State and Papua New Guinea describes itself as an Independent State in its title. All other realms just officially use their country's name without any prefix. The term 'Dominion' has fallen out of use since its was used to denote the self-governing territories of the British Empire. However, members of the Commonwealth which are the Queen's realms, along with their dependencies, are officially known in legislation as "Her Majesty's Dominions".

The Queen's portrait appears on stamps, banknotes and coins throughout her realms. Her portrait appears on British banknotes, stamps and coins. Bank of England banknotes and those of British Overseas Territories, the Isle of Man, Jersey and Guernsey, feature the Queen. The three types of Scottish banknotes and four types of Ulster banknotes do not feature the Queen, except a recent commemorative five pound note issued for the Golden Jubilee by the Royal Bank of Scotland. The 'tradition' of featuring the Queen on banknotes only began in England in the 1960's. The Queen appears on some Canadian, Australian and New Zealand banknotes and 'definitive' stamps and on all of their coins. The Queen's portrait does not appear on any Jamaican, Barbadian or Papua New Guinea banknotes or stamps, but it does appear on their coins. Other than the British Pound Sterling, all other realms of the Queen have dollars, except for Papua New Guinea, which is the only one of the Queen's other realms to use a unique name for its currency, being called a Kina. The Queen appears on some banknotes and all coins of the Solomon Islands and cameos with the royal cipher (EIIR) appear on Solomon Islands postage stamps. This same situation still currently exists in the former realm of Fiji Islands. Tuvalu does not have its own currency, but uses the Australian dollar, which has the Queen on some banknotes and on all coins. Her portrait does not appear on stamps. Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Antigua and Barbuda and St. Kitts and Nevis all use the Eastern Caribbean Dollar, which has the Queen's portrait on

al banknotes and coins. However the Queen does not appear on their postage stamps. The Eastern Caribbean Dollar is also used in Dominica. Fiji Islands and Dominica are the only two republics in the Commonwealth which have Her Majesty's portrait on their banknotes. The Queen appears on all banknotes, coins and stamps of the British Overseas Territories. The ones in the Caribbean use dollars, but the Falkland Islands, Gibraltar and St. Helena use Pounds, as in the United Kingdom. Pitcairn uses the New Zealand Dollar. The Queen does not appear on any banknotes or stamps of the New Zealand associated states of Cook Islands and Niue, but she is on all of their coins. The Queen frequently visits her realms and is often asked to open parliaments and read the speech from the throne, as she does in the United Kingdom, an event usually carried out by the Governor General, in the Queen's absence. The Queen does visit the republics in the Commonwealth as Head of the Commonwealth, but spends more time in the countries in which she is sovereign. As Her Majesty gets older, many of these visits are being undertaken by the Prince of Wales, as he prepares for his future role as King. During the Golden Jubilee Year of 2002, the Queen toured throughout all regions of the United Kingdom and visited Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Jamaica.

Controversy and the Rise of Republicanism

In recent years, there has been some controversy within various Commonwealth Realms in regards to the constitutional powers given to Queen Elizabeth II. While many view the Queen's role as Head of State as generally stable, unoffensive or unimportant, some view her as an obstacle to true "independence" from Britain. While the Queen's powers in Commonwealth Realms are limited to appointing the Governor General (and even this is done on the advice of the Prime Minister), her name and image still play a prominent role in political institutions and symbols. For example, the Queen's face usually appears on Commonwealth Realm coins and stamps, and an Oath of Allegiance to her is usually required from politicians and judges. These traditions are interpreted as impediments to nationalism by some people in some realms, and have sparked the rise of republicanism.

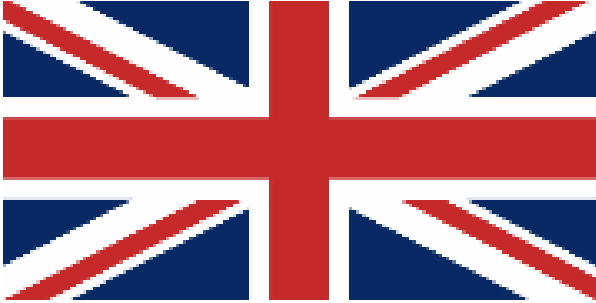
All African and Asian Commonwealth countries have dropped the Queen as Sovereign and become either republics or have their own monarchies. Additionally, some other Commonwealth Realms, including Malta, Mauritius, Trinidad and Tobago, and Fiji, decided to become republics, and created constitutional amendments removing Queen Elizabeth II as their head of state, and replacing the Governor General with an elected President.

In 1999, a referendum was held in Australia on removing the Queen as the nation's Head of State, but it was unsuccessful. Though the move failed, it was widely seen as a vision of things to come as another referendum is promised by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd. Helen Clark, the Prime Minister of New Zealand, Percival Patterson, the former Prime Minister of Jamaica, and Owen Arthur, the Prime Minister of Barbados, have all since voiced their support for republicanism. However, no action has yet been taken in these countries on this issue. The new Prime Minister of Jamaica has not addressed the issue of republicanism. A referendum is promised in Barbados, but the date for it has not been announced. Support for the Crown remains high in New Zealand. Republicanism is not an issue in Canada as the Monarchy is seen as identifying Canada's differences from the neighbouring United States of America. However, French-speaking Quebec nationalists are predominantly republican as they see the Monarchy as being English, even though the Queen does speak good French.

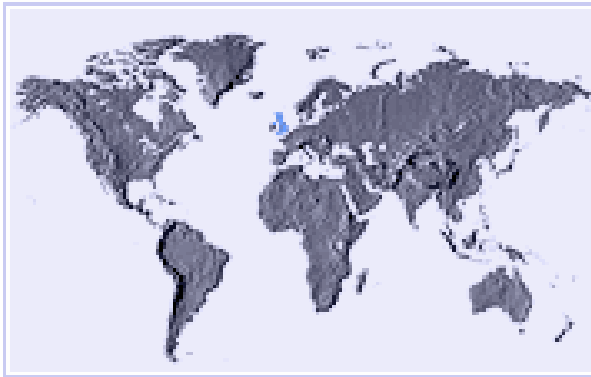
A related controversy deals with the notion that Britain itself could one day choose to become a republic. Should such an event ever happen, the British Monarch's position would remain unaltered in the Commonwealth Realms, as the Crown's position in them is affected only by their constitutions. It would certainly create a constitutional crisis. This is unlikely to happen in the foreseeable future, as support for the Crown in the United Kingdom is fairly high.

THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

The Sovereign has important ceremonial and formal roles with respect to the British Government.



THE ROYAL STANDARD



QUEEN ELIZABETH II



The Queen is Head of State in the United Kingdom. Her official title in the UK is "Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of Her other Realms and Territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith".

As a constitutional monarch, The Queen does not 'rule' the country, but fulfils important ceremonial and formal roles with respect to the Parliament of the United Kingdom, and the devolved assemblies of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The Queen is also Fount of Justice, from whom justice in the United Kingdom derives, and has important relationships with the Armed Forces and the established Churches of England and Scotland.

In addition to her role in the United Kingdom, The Queen has a special role to play in the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, which are dependent territories of the English Crown.

AUSTRALIA

In the course of more than 50 years on the throne, The Queen has developed a very personal relationship with Australia through regular visits.



QUEEN OF AUSTRALIA



GOVERNOR GENERAL OF AUSTRALIA



Australia is a constitutional monarchy with The Queen as Sovereign.

As a constitutional monarch, The Queen, by convention, is not involved in the day-to-day business of the Australian Government, but she continues to play important ceremonial and symbolic roles.

The Queen's relationship to Australia is unique. In all her duties, she speaks and acts as Queen of Australia, and not as Queen of the United Kingdom. The Queen's Royal style and title in Australia is Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God Queen of Australia and Her other Realms and Territories, Head of the Commonwealth.

In the course of more than 50 years on the throne, The Queen has developed a very personal relationship with Australia through regular visits. She has travelled throughout the different states to meet people from all cultures, walks of life and regions of this enormous and fascinating country.

CANADA

Together with The Duke of Edinburgh, The Queen has travelled through every part of Canada to meet people from all cultures, walks of life and regions.



QUEEN OF CANADA



GOVERNOR GENERAL OF CANADA



Canada is a parliamentary democracy and constitutional monarchy with The Queen as Sovereign.

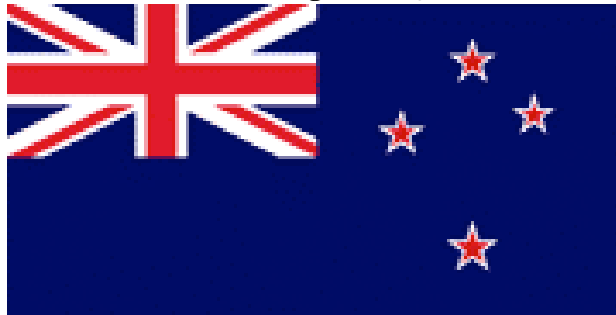
As a constitutional monarch, The Queen abides by the decisions of the Canadian Government, but she continues to play important ceremonial and symbolic roles.

In all these duties, The Queen acts as Queen of Canada, quite distinctive from her role in the United Kingdom or any of her other realms.

Over the course of more than 50 years The Queen has been a regular visitor to Canada, paying over 20 visits. Together with The Duke of Edinburgh, The Queen has travelled through every part of the different provinces to meet people from all cultures, walks of life and regions.

NEW ZEALAND

Over the course of her reign The Queen has been a regular visitor to New Zealand, paying 10 visits.



QUEEN OF NEW ZEALAND



GOVERNOR GENERAL OF NEW ZEALAND



New Zealand is a parliamentary democracy and constitutional monarchy with The Queen as Sovereign.

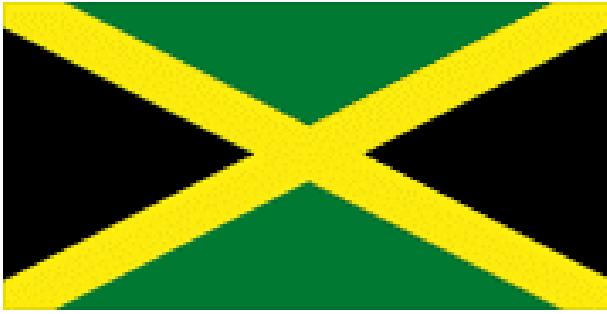
As a constitutional monarch, The Queen abides by the decisions of the New Zealand Government, but she continues to play important ceremonial and symbolic roles.

In all her duties, The Queen acts as Queen of New Zealand, quite distinctive from her role in the United Kingdom or any of her other realms.

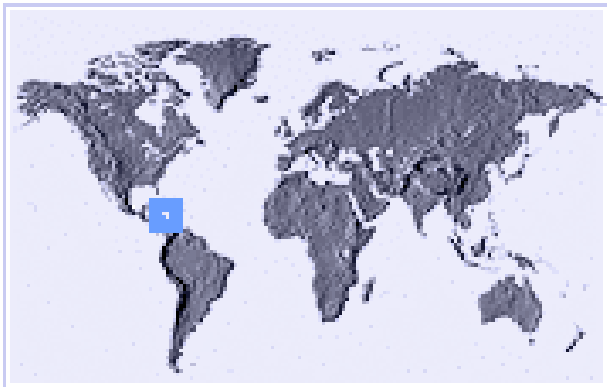
Over the course of her reign, The Queen has been a regular visitor to New Zealand, paying 10 visits. Together with The Duke of Edinburgh, The Queen has travelled through every part of the different provinces to meet people from every culture, walk of life and region.

JAMAICA

Over the course of her reign, The Queen has visited Jamaica six times to date, touring the island extensively.



QUEEN OF JAMAICA



GOVERNOR GENERAL OF JAMAICA



Jamaica is a constitutional monarchy with The Queen as Sovereign.

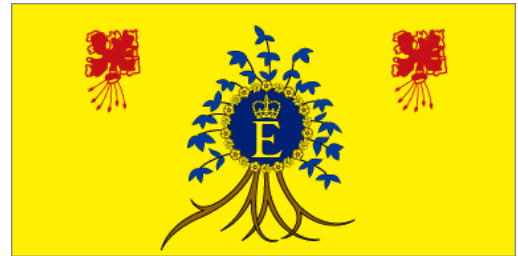
As a constitutional monarch, The Queen abides by the decisions of the Jamaican Government, but she continues to play important ceremonial and symbolic roles.

In all her duties, The Queen acts as Queen of Jamaica, quite distinctive from her role in the United Kingdom or any of her other realms.

Over the course of her reign, The Queen has visited Jamaica six times to date, touring the island extensively.

OTHER CARIBBEAN REALMS

The Queen is Sovereign of a number of nations in the Caribbean - Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Grenada, St Christopher and Nevis, St Lucia, and St Vincent and the Grenadines.



QUEEN OF BARBADOS



GOVERNOR GENERAL OF
BARBADOS



GOVERNOR GENERAL OF
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA



GOVERNOR GENERAL OF
ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES



GOVERNOR GENERAL OF
THE BAHAMAS



GOVERNOR GENERAL OF
ST. KITTS & NEVIS



GOVERNOR GENERAL OF
ST. LUCIA



GOVERNOR GENERAL OF
BELIZE



GOVERNOR GENERAL OF
GRENADA



The Queen inspects a guard of honour on the quayside at Nassau in the Bahamas

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In addition to Jamaica, The Queen is Sovereign of a number of nations in the Caribbean. These are: Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Grenada, St Christopher and Nevis, St Lucia, and St Vincent and the Grenadines. All are parliamentary democracies and constitutional monarchies.

In January 1958 the British Caribbean island colonies of Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Jamaica and the Leeward and Windward Islands were brought together to form the West Indies Federation, with its capital in Trinidad.

However, in 1962, the Federation was dissolved by mutual consent after the withdrawal of Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago to seek independence. Other islands followed suit, but most retained The Queen as Sovereign.

The Queen is represented in all these nations by Governors-General, who carry out the duties of Head of State.

She has also been a regular visitor to the Caribbean during her reign, carrying out many of the tours on the Royal Yacht Britannia while it was in service.

Antigua and Barbuda were granted independence in 1981 and secured Commonwealth membership. The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh included the island in their Caribbean tour of 1966, and in the Silver Jubilee tour of October 1977. The Queen visited again in 1985.

Consisting of 700 islands and over 1000 cays off the coast of Florida, the Commonwealth of the Bahamas an independent member of the Commonwealth in 1973.

Independence Day celebrations on the islands were attended by The Prince of Wales, acting as The Queen's special representative.

The Queen and members of the Royal Family have toured the Bahamas on several occasions.

The islands were visited by The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh in the course of their Caribbean tours of February 1966 and February 1975, and during the Silver Jubilee tour of October 1977.

There was a further visit to Nassau for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in October 1985.

Barbados became an independent sovereign State within the Commonwealth on 30 November 1966. The Queen has visited on various occasions.

At the end of the Silver Jubilee tour of 1977, Concorde made its first landing in Barbados, and The Queen experienced her first supersonic flight.

In 1989, The Queen marked the occasion of the 350th anniversary of the Barbados Parliament.

Belize is a Central American country which has been an independent member of the Commonwealth since 1981. Visits have been made by The Duke of Edinburgh during his Caribbean tour of March 1975, and by The Queen in October 1985.

Grenada, the most southerly of the Caribbean Windward Islands, achieved independent nationhood within the Commonwealth in 1974. The island was included in The Queen's Caribbean tour of 1966. In 1985 The Queen opened Parliament in St George's.

St Lucia, in the eastern Caribbean, achieved independence in 1979, when The Queen was represented by Princess Alexandra at the independence celebrations.

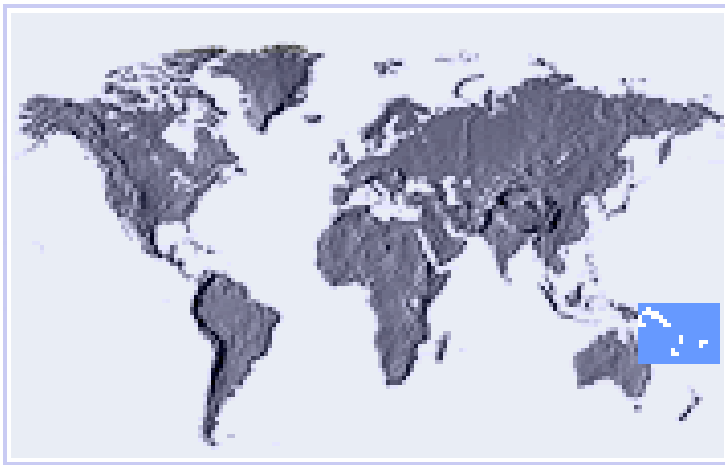
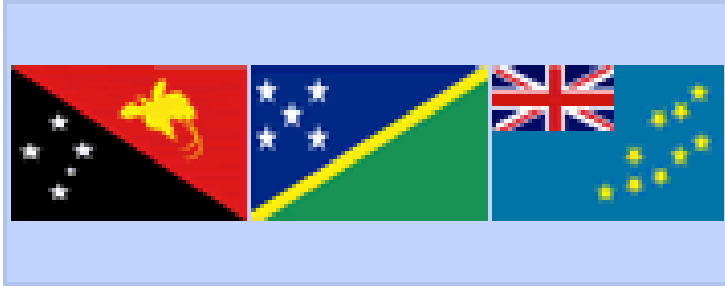
The Queen visited for the first time during her Caribbean tour of 1966, and again in 1985. The Prince of Wales attended the island's tenth anniversary of independence celebrations in 1989.

St Christopher and Nevis became a fully independent state and member of the Commonwealth in 1983. The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh visited St Christopher (known as St Kitts) and Nevis in 1966 during their Caribbean tour, and again in 1985.

St Vincent and the Grenadines were the last of the Windward Islands to gain independence, following a referendum in 1979. The Queen visited in 1966 and again in 1985.

SOUTH PACIFIC REALMS

The Queen is Sovereign of three island nations in the South Pacific - Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Tuvalu.



GOVERNOR GENERAL OF
PAPUA NEW GUINEA



GOVERNOR GENERAL OF
SOLOMON ISLANDS



GOVERNOR GENERAL OF TUVALU



The Queen visiting Tuvalu in 1982 © Camera Press

The Queen is Sovereign of three island nations in the South Pacific - Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Tuvalu. All three nations are parliamentary democracies and constitutional monarchies.

The Queen is represented in all three nations by Governors-General, who carry out the duties of Head of State.

Unlike other Commonwealth realms, the Governor-General of Papua New Guinea is nominated by the country's Parliament, rather than by its Prime Minister, as is the convention elsewhere.

Developments in transportation during her reign have allowed The Queen to make several visits to these far-flung and beautiful places.

Papua New Guinea gained independence from Australia in 1975, but retained The Queen as Sovereign. Independence celebrations were attended by The Prince of Wales, as The Queen's special representative.

The Duke of Edinburgh visited the country in the course of an extended Commonwealth tour which lasted from October 1956 until February 1957.

In Papua New Guinea The Queen is known in the pidgin language of Tok Pisin as 'Missis Kwin', and as 'Mama belong big family'.

The Queen visited for the first time in February 1974, and again in 1977 during her Silver Jubilee tour, when she toured the capital Port Moresby, Popondetta and Alotau. The Queen and Prince Philip visited again in October 1982.

The islands which form Tuvalu were formerly known as the Ellice Islands.

Together with the Gilbert Islands (now Kiribati), they were proclaimed a protectorate in 1892 and annexed to the British Crown (at the request of the local governments) as the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony in 1915.

In 1975 the Ellice Islands severed constitutional links with the Gilbert Islands and took a new name, Tuvalu, achieving independence in 1978. Tuvalu retained The Queen as Head of State.

It is now a special member of the Commonwealth, with the right to participate in all Commonwealth activities and functions, but not to attend Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings.

The Queen paid a visit to these remote and extraordinary islands in 1982.

Situated in the Pacific Ocean, east of New Guinea, the Solomon Islands became an independent state and member of the Commonwealth in 1978, retaining The Queen as Sovereign.

In 1974 The Queen and Prince Philip, with Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips, visited the Solomon Islands during a tour of the area.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh made a further visit in October 1982, after they had attended the Commonwealth Games in Australia.

BRITISH OVERSEAS TERRITORIES

Overseas territories belonging to the United Kingdom and have The Queen as Sovereign.



A British Overseas Territory is a territory belonging by settlement, conquest or annexation to the British Crown. Residents are British Overseas Citizens

There are 14 British Overseas Territories, which are: British Indian Ocean Territory, Gibraltar, Bermuda, the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, British Antarctic Territory, St Helena and its dependencies (Ascension and Tristan da Cunha), Montserrat, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Turks and Caicos Islands, Anguilla, the Pitcairn Group of Islands, and the Sovereign Base Areas on Cyprus.

Hong Kong, a former overseas territory held by Britain on a long lease, was handed back to China on 1 July 1997, in a ceremony attended by The Prince of Wales.

In British Overseas Territories, The Queen is represented by Governors, or in some cases by Commissioners, Administrators or Residents, who are responsible to the British Government for the government of the countries concerned.

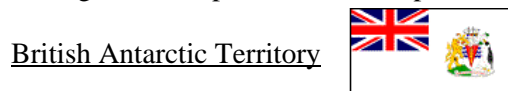
The United Kingdom is responsible for the security of the overseas territories and for their foreign affairs and defence-related matters. Most overseas territories have their own elected government.



Located in the Caribbean, tourism and banking are two of the major contributors to the island's economy. The British army intervened on the island in 1969 when there was violent opposition to being administered from St Kitts. It was formally separated in 1980.



Located in the North Atlantic, Bermuda is Britain's oldest colony, dating from 1609, and its residents are content to remain a dependent territory, as an independence referendum in 1995 showed, where independence was rejected by a 75 per cent margin. Its main trade is in insurance and investment, but fishing is also important. The independence movement continues to campaign in Bermuda.



A whaling station existed on South Shetland Island, part of what now constitutes the BAT. But now the population is about 70 scientists at the British Antarctic Survey Station, which was established in 1943. The territory has a total area of 1,709,400 square kilometres. The British Antarctic Territory is the region of Antarctica over which the United Kingdom claims sovereignty. It includes all the lands and islands in a wedge extending from the South Pole to 60° S latitude between longitudes 20° W and 80° W. It is administered by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office as an Overseas Dependent Territory. The British Antarctic Territory issues its own postage stamps. Although the United Kingdom claims sovereignty over this region, there are overlapping claims by Argentina and Chile. Under the terms of the Antarctic Treaty, all territorial claims remain frozen, allowing the whole of Antarctica to be used as a continent for peace and science. The Antarctic Peninsula was the first part of Antarctica to be sighted by explorers.

In 1820, Smith, Palmer and Bellingshausen all sighted the Antarctic Peninsula. Many expeditions in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries visited the Antarctic Peninsula and the South Shetland Islands, and the region contains many sites of historic interest. British Antarctic Territory has a great wealth of marine life, including large breeding colonies of penguins and seals, which attracted the first sailors to the region in pursuit of fur and seal-oil. British Antarctic Territory includes a wide range of landscapes, from the spectacular mountains and islands of the Antarctic Peninsula, to smooth plains of ice shelves and ice caps.



Access to these islands located in the middle of the Indian Ocean, south of India, is limited to the British and American military and civilian contractors working there to provide support for the UK and US navies.



Located in the Caribbean, discovered by Christopher Columbus in 1493. Tourism is now the most important factor in the economy.

Cayman Islands



Located in the Caribbean, having been a dependency of Britain and then Jamaica, the Caymans reverted to being under the British in 1962. It is the fifth largest banking centre in the world.

Falkland Islands



Located in the South Atlantic off the southern tip of South America, the Falkland Islanders were given full British citizenship after the conflict between Britain and Argentina in 1982. Islanders have made it clear on several occasions that they want to stay British, even though nearby Argentina claims sovereignty over the islands and refers to them as the 'Malvinas'.

Gibraltar



Located on the southern tip of Spain, having been governed by at least eight different rulers, the Spanish ceded Gibraltar to the British in 1713. The British have said they will stand by Gibraltarians' right to defend who should rule them. As EU citizens, many are also British citizens. Spain continues to claim sovereignty over Gibraltar. The Gibraltar Liberal Party wants independence for Gibraltar as a Dominion.

Montserrat



Located in the Caribbean, the population is thought to have fallen since two-thirds of the island was made uninhabitable by a volcano in 2003. It was discovered by Christopher Columbus, but was first ruled from Britain in 1632.

Pitcairn Islands



Located in the middle of the South Pacific, one of the most remote parts of what is left of the Empire, it is best known for being a home to Fletcher Christian and nine of the mutineers from the 'Bounty'. It is now Britain's last dependent territory in the Pacific. Islanders speak a mixture of English and Tahitian - 18 Tahitians accompanied Christian when he landed in 1790.

Saint Helena



Located in the South Atlantic, St Helena is the only one of Britain's dependent territories which currently receives aid. The Foreign Office estimates the aid amounts to £3.2 million, although the island's government is trying to increase inward investment and tourism. Its dependencies include Ascension Island, Gough Islands and Tristan da Cunha, thought to be the world's most remote inhabited island, which has a population of 300. Ascension Island has no indigenous population but is used as a relay station for the RAF, the USAF, Cable and Wireless and the BBC.

South Georgia



Located in the South Atlantic, east of the Falkland Islands, with just a military and a scientific base, these islands were administratively part of the Falklands until 1985 when they were converted into a separate territory. Like the Falklands they were occupied by Argentine troops in 1982. Argentina still claims them.

Turks and Caicos Islands



Located in the Caribbean, south of the Bahamas, consisting of more than 30 islands, they were a dependency of Jamaica from 1874 until 1959, but then became a separate British dependency. A great

many of the tourists who visit the Turks and Caicos Islands are Canadian. Owing to this and the islands' status as a British colony, some politicians, both in Canada and the Turks and Caicos, have suggested some form of union between the two countries.

In 1973, Canadian NDP MP Max Saltsman introduced the first failed attempt at annexing the islands. The idea was brought up again in 1986 by Canadian Conservative MP Dan McKenzie, but it was rejected by his party's caucus committee on external affairs in 1987. The committee, chaired by MP David Daubney, looked at immigration, banking, health care and tourism issues in making its decision. In 2004, Canadian Conservative MP Peter Goldring visited Turks and Caicos to explore the possibility once more. He plans to table a Private Member's bill in the Canadian House of Commons offering full Provincial status in Canada to the Turks and Caicos Islands. Joining Canada as a full province would require amending the Canadian Constitution. The last new province, Newfoundland, was brought into the country in 1949 by an act of the British Parliament. Joining as a territory would be easier, as territories can be created by an act of Canadian federal law.

Akrotiri and Dhekelia

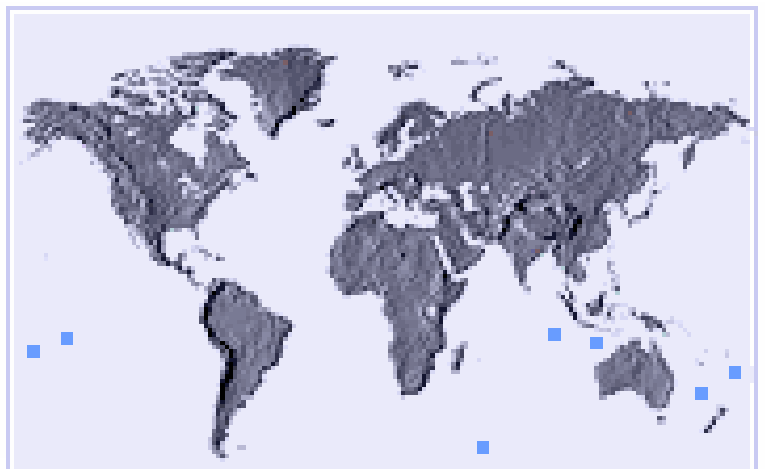


Also known as the Sovereign Base Area Cyprus, Akrotiri and Dhekelia are two British military bases located in southeast Cyprus. British troops and their families are stationed there permanently and the base areas are sovereign British territory. They were retained by the United Kingdom after Cyprus became independent in 1960.

DEPENDENCIES OF AUSTRALIA AND ASSOCIATED STATES OF NEW ZEALAND

There are seven Australian External Territories including the Coral Sea Islands and Norfolk Island in the Tasman Sea, Ashmore and Cartier Islands, Christmas Island, Cocos (Keeling) Island and Heard and McDonald Islands in the Indian Ocean and the Australian Antarctic Territory.

The Realm of New Zealand includes two associated states: the Cook Islands and Niue, which are almost completely self-governing in association with New Zealand. There are also two dependencies including Tokelau in the Pacific and the Ross Dependency in Antarctica. Tokelau rejected gaining associated status with New Zealand by a very narrow margin in a referendum.



The British Union Flag, commonly known as the Union Jack, still flies around the world today, mostly in the upper left corner of national flags, usually blue or red, of some other Commonwealth countries such as Australia, New Zealand, the Fiji Islands, Tuvalu, the Cook Islands and Bermuda. Even though it is no longer in the Canadian flag since 1965, the Canadian Provinces of Ontario and Manitoba still have it. This shows the unity of these countries in the great British family of nations around the world. Tuvalu dropped the Union Jack form its flag in 1995 and then restored it after a public outcry in 1997. Even the U.S. State of Hawaii still has it!

THE BRITISH UNION JACK AROUND THE WORLD



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