

Regional and country classification

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Lenaerts, Bert, 2020. <<https://github.com/BertLenaerts/geodata.git>>.

Introduction

1.1 Names

The first dataset converts country names written in full to the respective ISO3 codes. Please note that countries that no longer exist are included, such as Czechoslovakia (CSK), the Saudi Arabian-Iraqi neutral zone (NTZ), Yugoslavia (YUG), Serbia and Montenegro (SCG), the Netherlands Antilles (ANT) and Zaire (ZAR). Former Czechoslovakia (CSK) was split up into Czechia (CZE) and Slovakia (SVK). Former Yugoslavia (YUG) was divided into Bosnia and Herzegovina (BIH), Croatia (HRV), North Macedonia (MKD), Serbia (SRB), Montenegro (MNE), Slovenia (SVN). The former Netherlands Antilles (ANT) were split up into Aruba (ABW), Curaçao (CUW), Sint Maarten (Dutch part) (SXM) and the Caribbean Netherlands (Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba) (BES). Zaire (ZAR) changed its name to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Congo-Kinshasa; COD). Other countries that changed their ISO3 codes include: Romania's switch from ROM to ROU, Burma (BUR) being renamed to Myanmar (MMR), East Timor (TMP) being renamed to Timor-Leste (TLS) and the Byelorussian SSR (BYS) being renamed to Belarus (BLR). Kosovo (XKX) and Palestine (PSE)¹ are also included despite not having an official ISO3 code. The Channel islands Jersey (JEY) and Guernsey (GGY) are included separately but not as a whole². Lastly, some codes differ between sources. The World Bank uses the code MON for Montenegro (MNE) and the code WSH for the Western Sahara (ESH). The European Union used the ISO2 code EL for Greece (GRC, GR) and the ISO2 code UK for United Kingdom (GBR, GB). The Seychelles (SYC) share the same ISO2 code with former Serbia and Montenegro (SCG): SC.

1.2 Labels

The second dataset provides ISO2 codes, simplified and official country names, different supranational classifications, membership to different regional trade agreements, indicators of land- and sealockedness and the sovereign state above dependent territories (if relevant). Full country names are derived from

¹ Sometimes the code PAL is also used.

² Sometimes the code CHI is used for the Channel islands as a whole.

the European Union Style Guide (European Commission, 2020). See table 1 for details.

Table 1 Definition of variables.

Variable name	Definition
ISO3	Official ISO3 country code
ISO2	Official ISO2 country code
ISO2_EU	Same as ISO2 with two exceptions for Greece (EL) and the United Kingdom (UK)
SIMPLE_NAMES	Simplified country names
FULL_NAMES	Official country names
CONTINENT	Simple regional classification
CONTINENT_WB	World Bank regional classification
CONTINENT_UN	United Nations regional classification
CONTINENT_UN2	United Nations subregional classification
EU_map	Indicator of European and near-European countries that can be used for mapping purposes (that is, North Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia)
LANDLOCKED	Indicator of landlockedness
SEALOCKED	Indicator of sealockedness
DEPENDER	Sovereign state above dependent territories (if relevant)

2 Simple classification

One approach to define supranational regions is the use of a continental classification, where a continent is understood as a large landmass. Given that continents are generally identified by convention rather than any strict criteria, we provide one simple classification suggested by Allroggen et al. (2015) (Figure 1). The following abbreviations are used: Africa, AFR. Oceania, OCE. Central America, South America, and Caribbean, CSC. East Asia and Central Asia, ECA. Europe, EU. Northern America, NAX. South Asia and South-East Asia, SSEA. West Asia / Middle East, MEA. Antarctica, ANT.

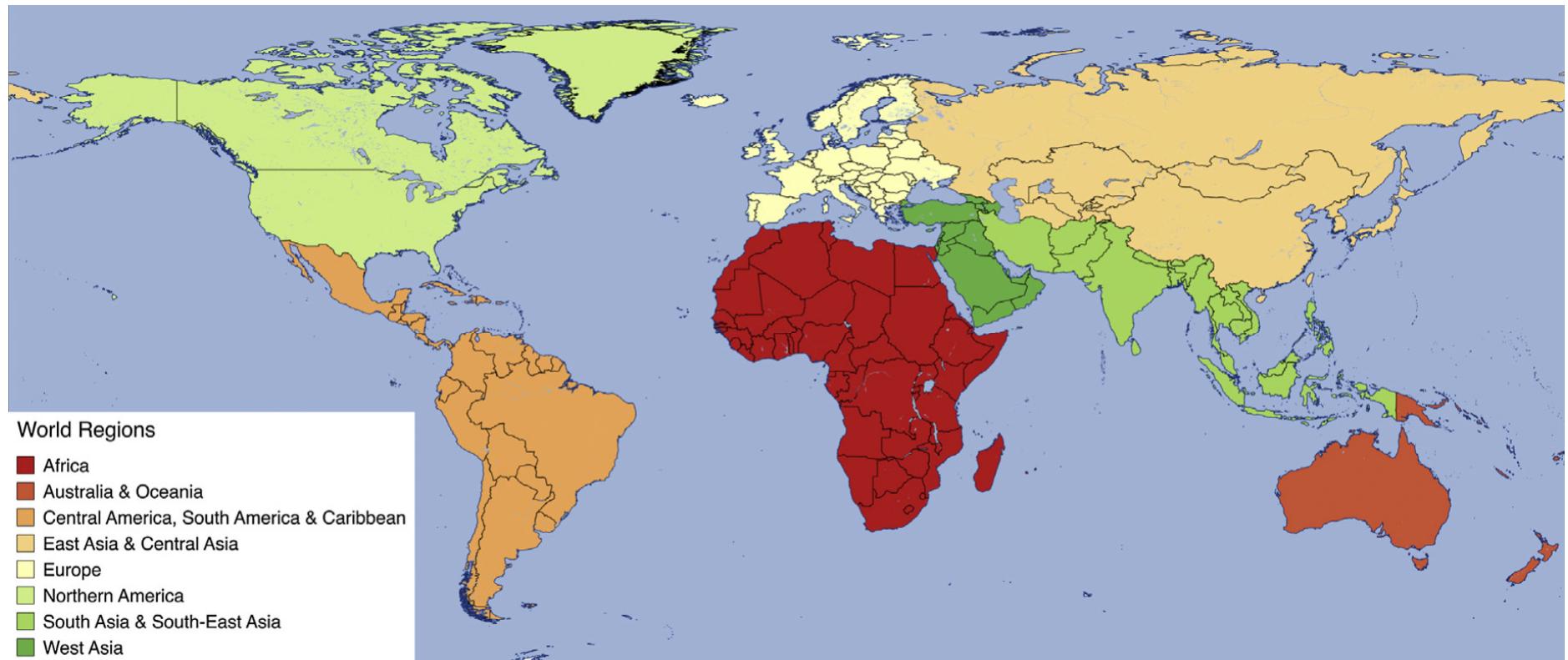


Figure 1 Simple regional classification

Source: Allroggen et al. (2015)

3 World Bank classification

One common regional classification is the one developed by the World Bank (Figure 2) with the following abbreviations: Sub-Saharan Africa, SSA. Middle East and North Africa, MNA. South Asia, SA. Latin America and Caribbean, LCR. East Asia and the Pacific, EAP. Europe and Central Asia, ECA. North America, NA. Antarctica, ANT. Given that not all ISO3 codes are assigned a class (World Bank, 2018), any remaining ISO3 entities were assigned one based on best judgement (Table 2).

Table 2 List of countries unclassified by the World Bank

ISO3 code	Country name	Classification
ESH	Western Sahara	Middle East and North Africa
SHN	Saint Helena Islands	Europe and Central Asia
ATA	Antarctica	Antarctica
ATF	French Southern Territories	Antarctica
BVT	Bouvet Island	Antarctica
HMD	Heard and McDonald Islands	Antarctica
FLK	Falkland Islands	Europe and Central Asia
MSR	Montserrat	Europe and Central Asia
SGS	South Georgia Islands	Europe and Central Asia
TWN	Taiwan	East Asia and the Pacific
ALA	Aland Islands	Europe and Central Asia
SJM	Svalbard and Jan Mayen Islands	Europe and Central Asia
VAT	Vatican	Europe and Central Asia
SPM	Saint Pierre and Miquelon	North America
UMI	US Minor Outlying Islands	North America
CCK	Cocos Islands	East Asia and the Pacific
COK	Cook Islands	East Asia and the Pacific
CXR	Christmas Island	East Asia and the Pacific
NFK	Norfolk Island	East Asia and the Pacific
NIU	Niue	East Asia and the Pacific
PCN	Pitcairn Islands	East Asia and the Pacific
TKL	Tokelau	East Asia and the Pacific
WLF	Wallis and Futuna Islands	East Asia and the Pacific
IOT	British Indian Ocean Territory	Europe and Central Asia

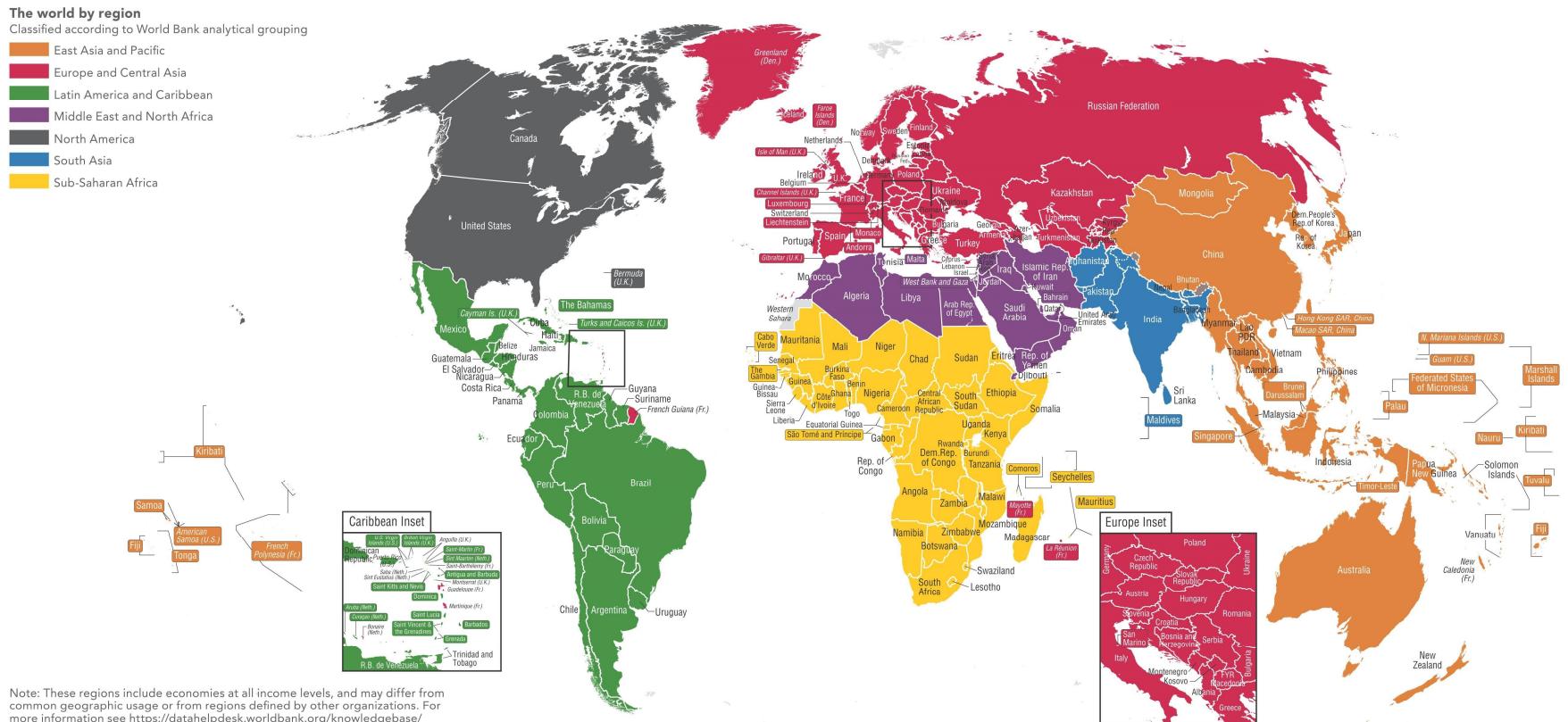


Figure 2 World Bank regional classification

Source: World Bank (2018)

4 United Nations classification

Another common regional classification is the one developed by the United Nations (Figure 3), with the abbreviations for the regions and subregion defined in Table 3. Given that not all ISO3 codes are assigned a class (UN Statistics Division, 2020), any remaining ISO3 entities were assigned one based on best judgement (Table 4).

Table 3 United Nations regional classification

Region	Abbr.	Subregion	Abbr.
Africa	AFR	Eastern Africa	EAF
		Northern Africa	NAF
		Southern Africa	SAF
		Western Africa	WAF
		Middle Africa	MAF
Asia	ASI	Western Asia	WAS
		Central Asia	CAS
		South-Eastern Asia	SEAS
		Eastern Asia	EAS
		Southern Asia	SAS
Europe	EU	Southern Europe	SEU
		Eastern Europe	EEU
		Northern Europe	NEU
		Western Europe	WEU
Latin America and the Caribbean	LCR	Caribbean	CAR
		South America	SAM
		Central America	CAM
Northern America	NAX	Northern America	NAX
Oceania	OCE	Polynesia	POL
		Melanesia	MEL
		Micronesia	MIC
		Australia/New Zealand	ANZ
Antarctica	ANT	Antarctica	ANT

Table 4 List of countries unclassified by the United Nations

ISO3 code	Country name	Classification
TWN	Taiwan	Eastern Asia
XKX	Kosovo	Southern Europe



Figure 3 United Nations regional classification

Source: Wikipedia (2020a)

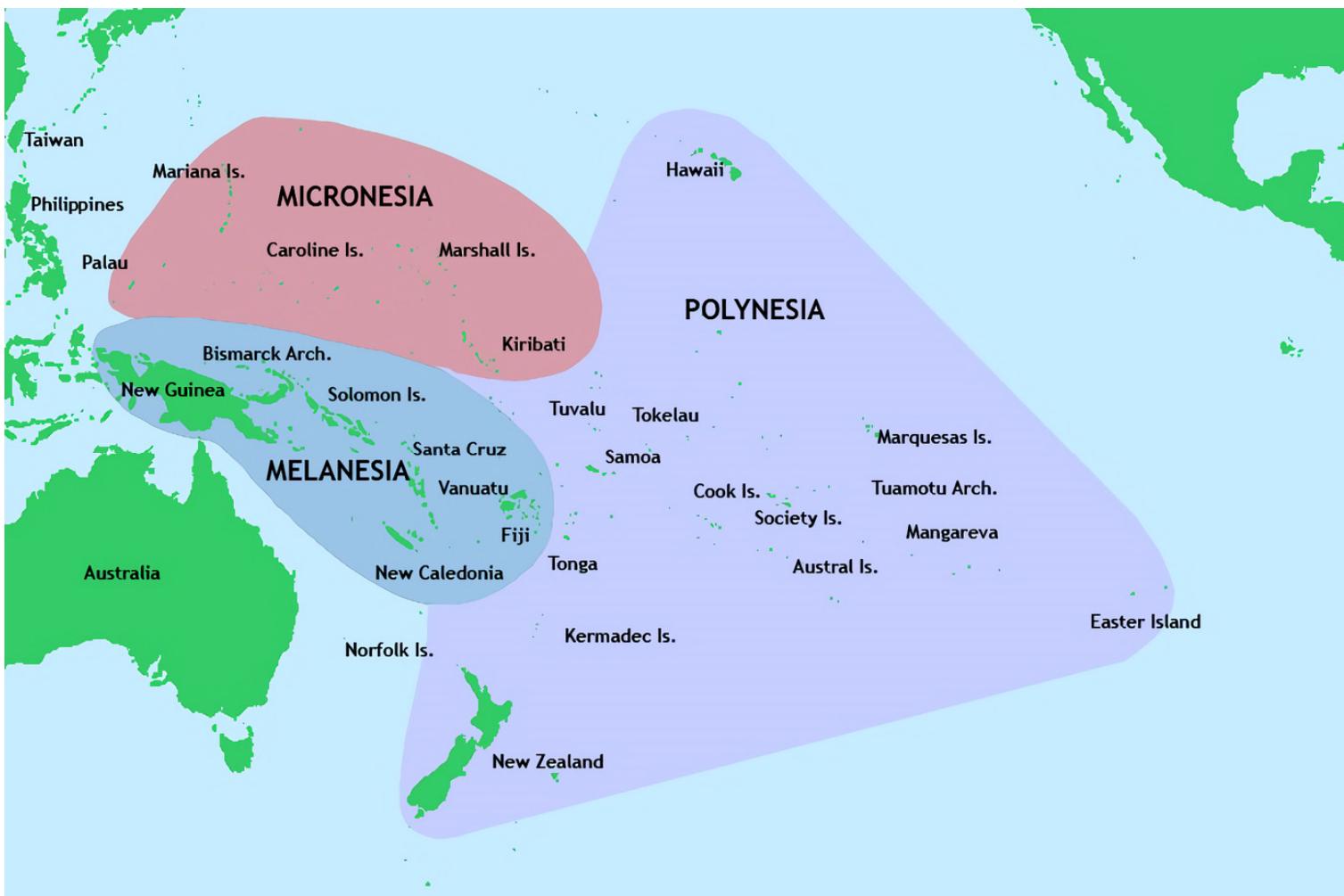


Figure 4 Pacific Culture Areas

Source: Wikipedia (2020b)

5 Land- and sealockedness

Sealocked entities consist of one or more islands or parts of islands (Wikipedia, 2020c) (Figure 5), whereas landlocked entities are not connected to an ocean (Wikipedia, 2020d) (Figure 6).

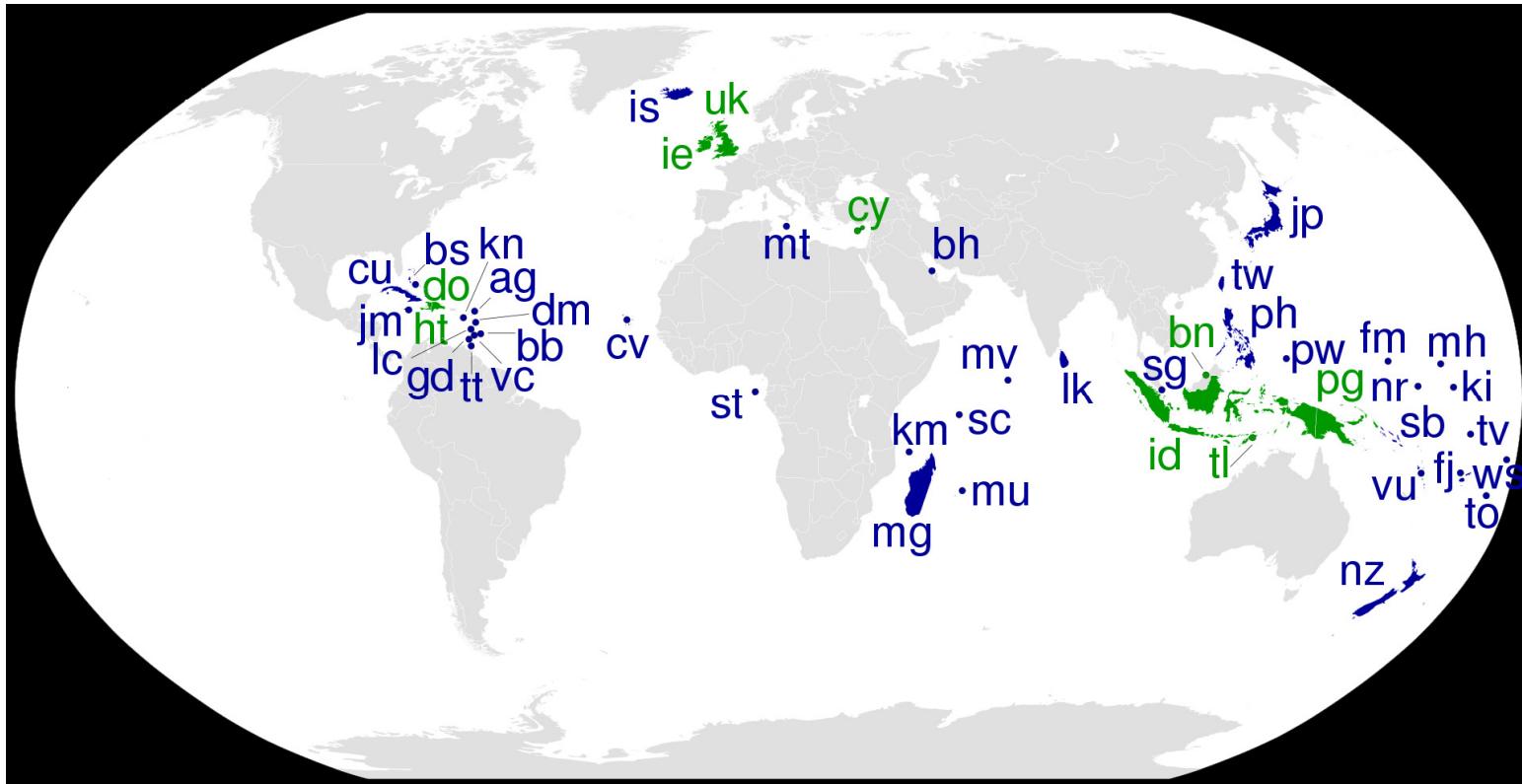


Figure 5 Sovereign states and states with limited recognition fully on islands (Australia is regarded a continent), those with land borders shaded green, and those without shaded dark blue

Source: Wikipedia (2020c)

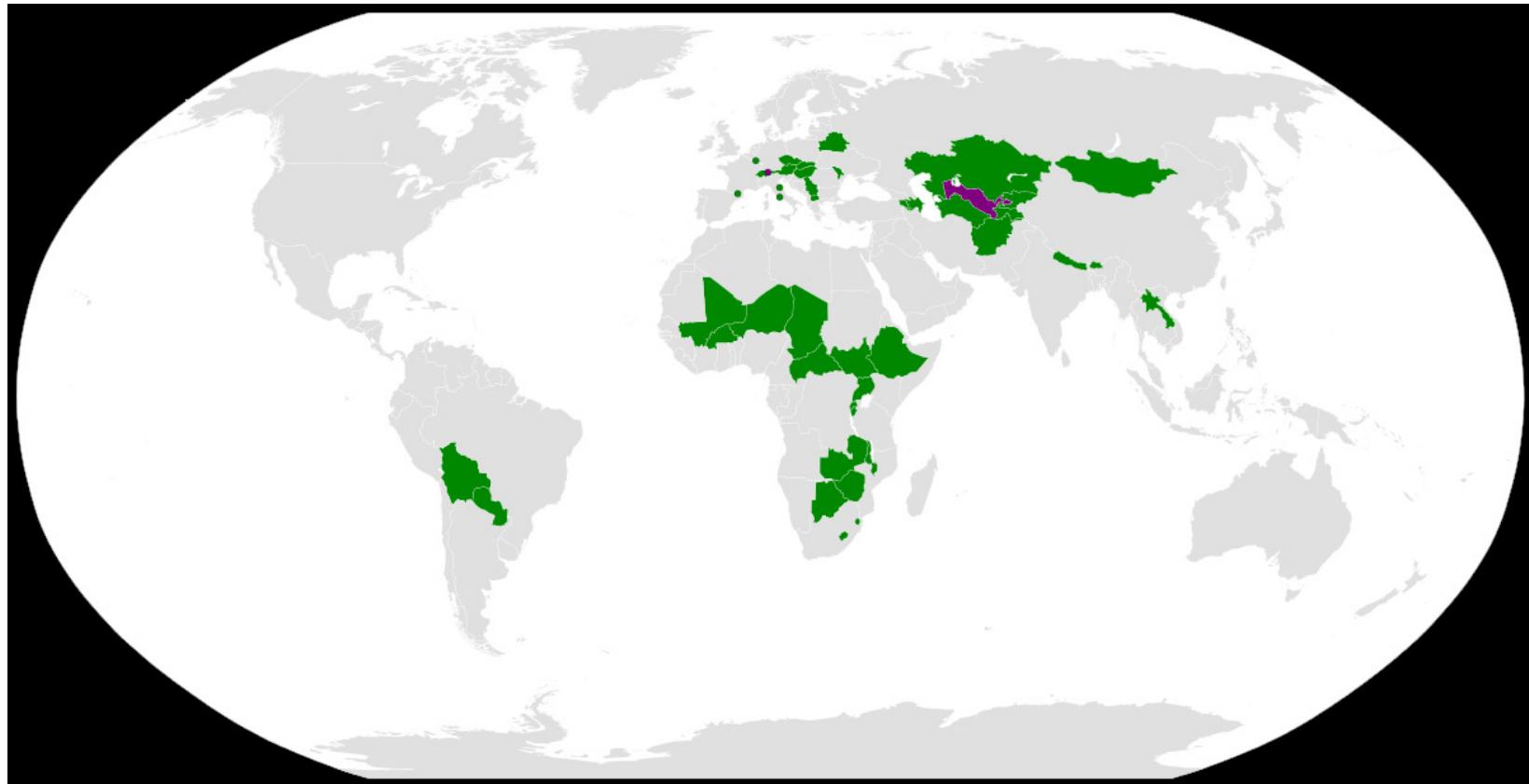


Figure 6 42 landlocked (green) and 2 doubly landlocked (purple) countries

Source: Wikipedia (2020d)

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