STAYING ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF MAPPING: DETERRING AND DEFUSING DISPUTES

Ethan Nelson - FTA

OSM Foundation Data Working Group

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DO DISPUTES OCCUR IN OSM?

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Absolutely...

NOAAPhotoLibrary/Flickr

Here's the one way abandoned railroad we surveyed.
No, actually that was a tree row; the railroad was one block to the south.
is listening
NOAAPhotoLibrary/Flickr

NOAAPhotoLibrary/Flickr

We should add alt_name="The 6" to Toronto.
Drake does.
Do they say that on the ground?
is listening
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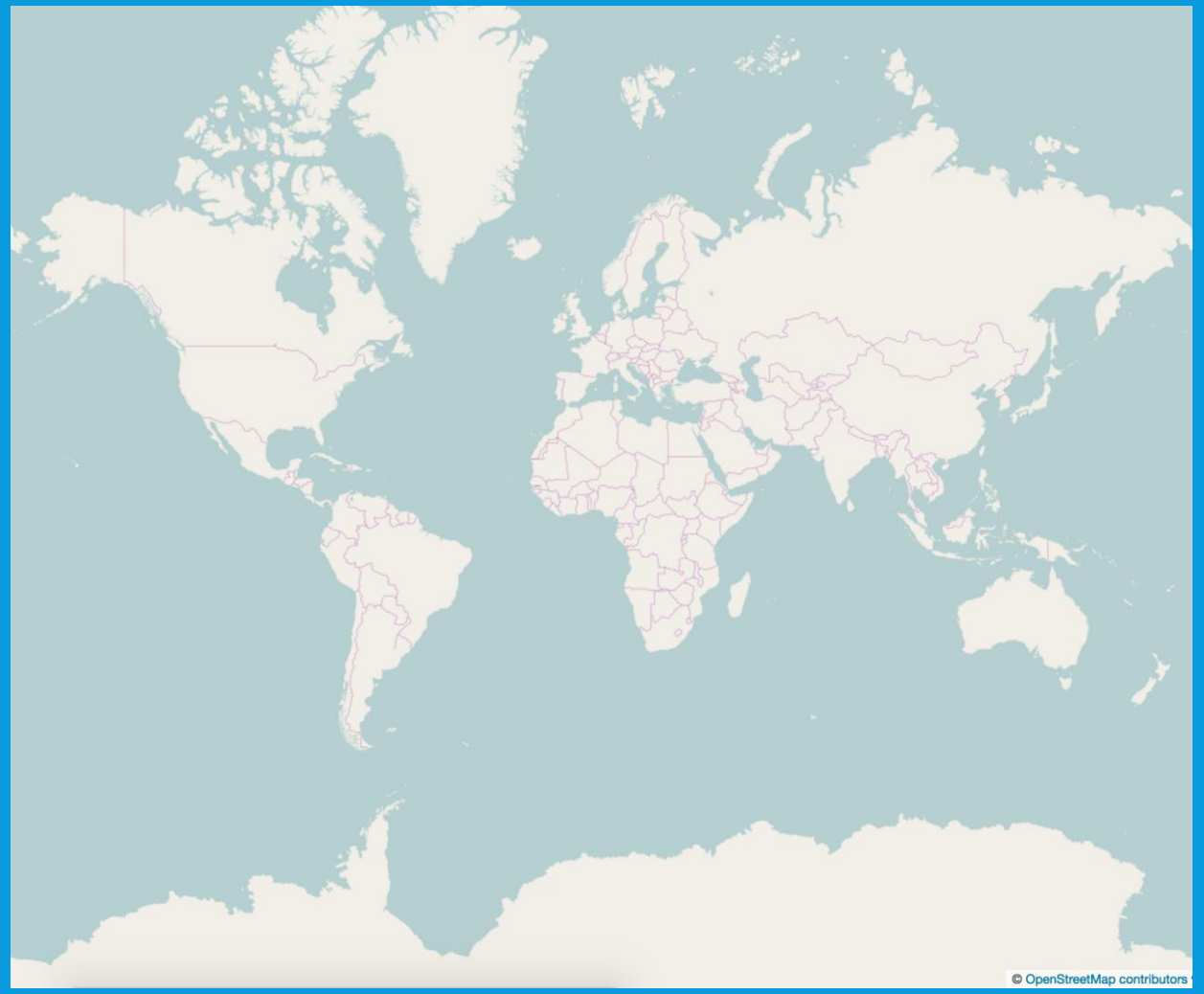
thecomeupshow/Flickr
NOAAPhotoLibrary/Flickr

WHY DO DISPUTES TO OCCUR?

- We are a global project!
- People from different countries
  and different communities
  with different world views
  and different perspectives
  and different life experiences
  and many other differences...



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4. When applicable, try to follow on-the-ground or find an amicable solution

oregonDOT/Flickr

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anders-vindegg/Flickr

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Most of all,

be civil and friendly!

THE FOUNDING OF DWG: NORTHERN CYPRUS

THE DWG ROLE AND PROCESS

- The DWG exists to deal with license issues, imports, vandalism, and serious disputes(OSM Wiki).
- We also provide technical assistance at times when a situation requires large or complex reverts.
- DWG members can issue short-term blocks, used to get the attention of mappers who are unresponsive, and redact data when necessary.
- When a user comes to us about a conflict with another mapper, we generally like to see some attempt at interaction between the two parties.

ANOTHER CASE: INTERNATIONAL BORDERS

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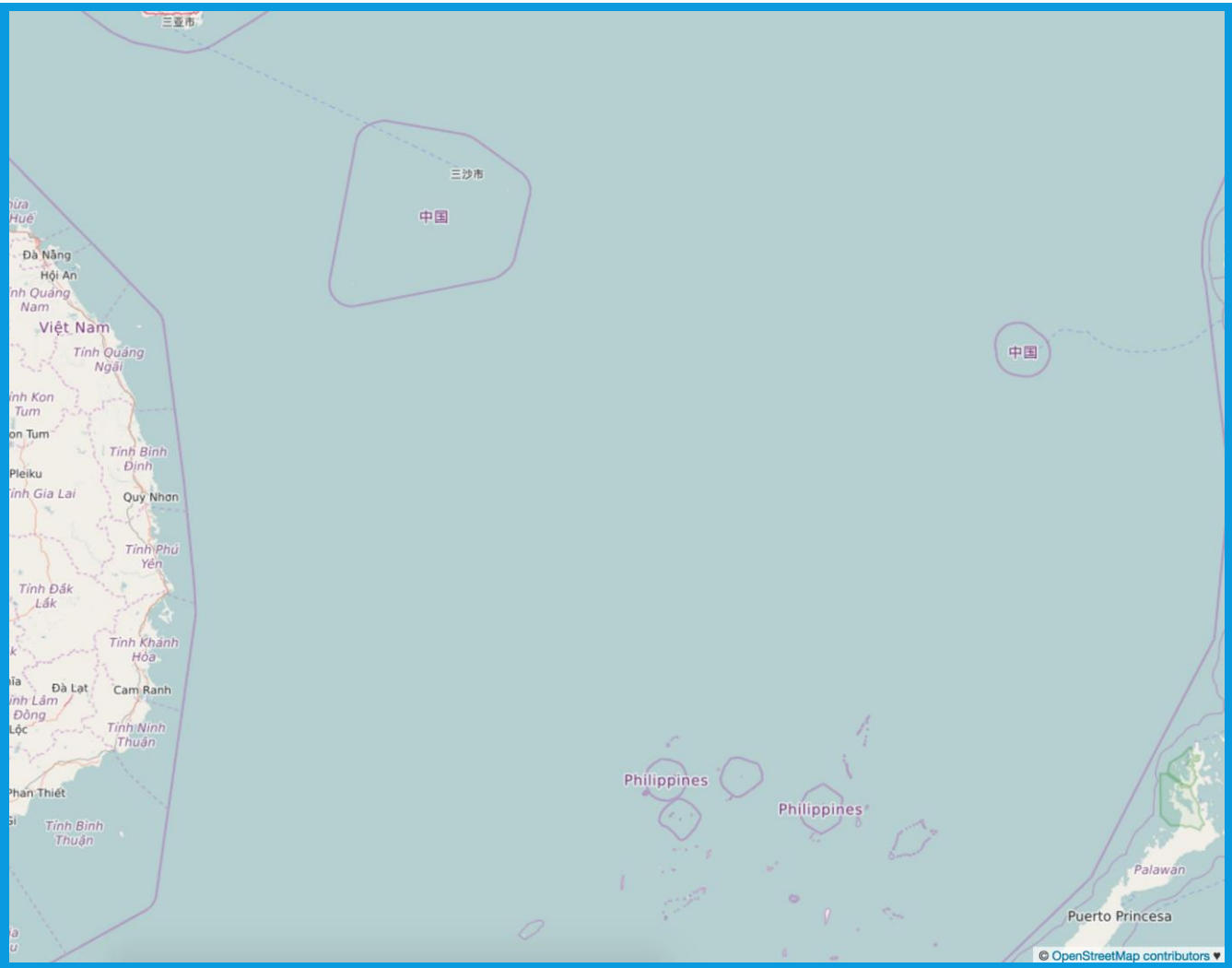

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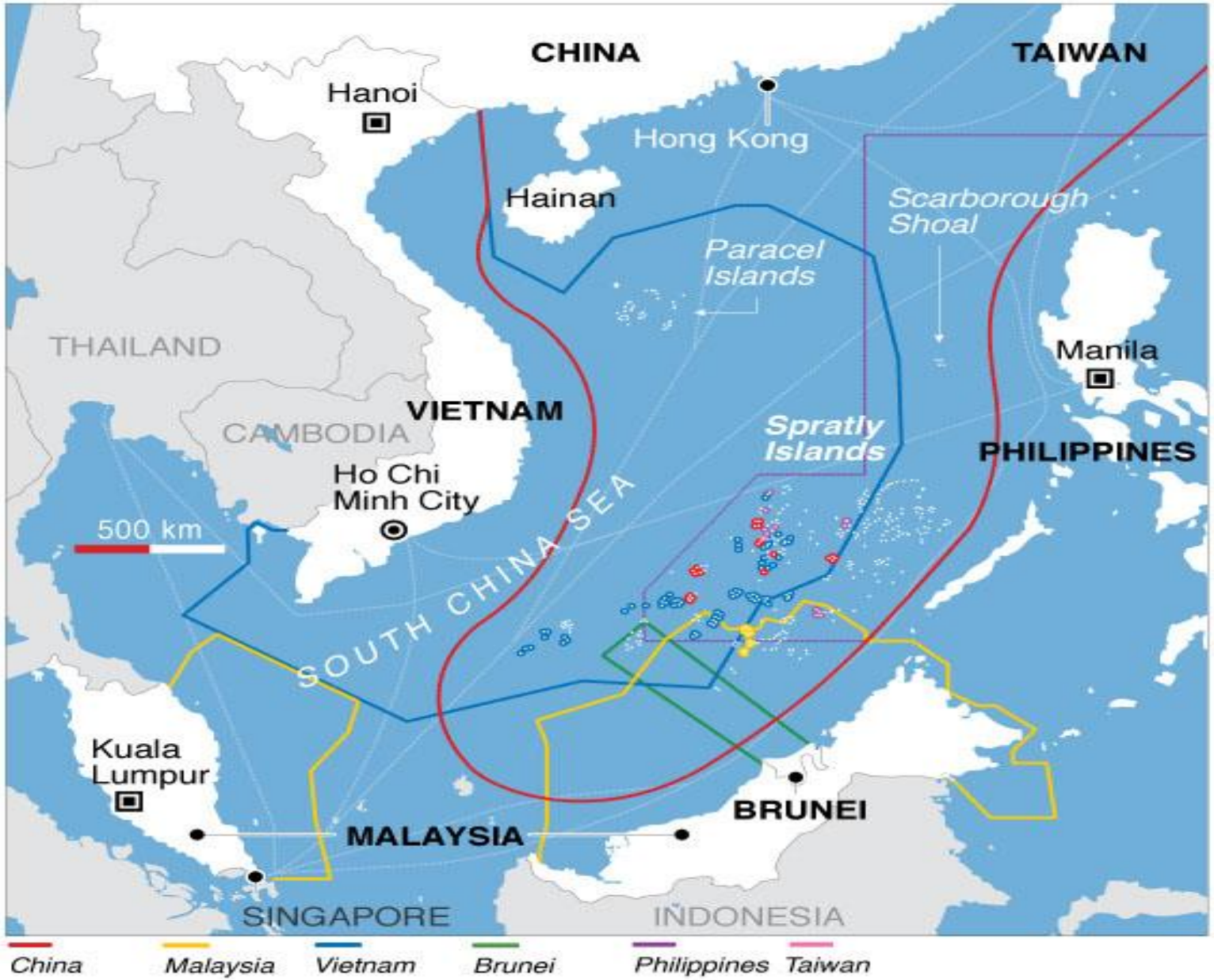

Voice of America news

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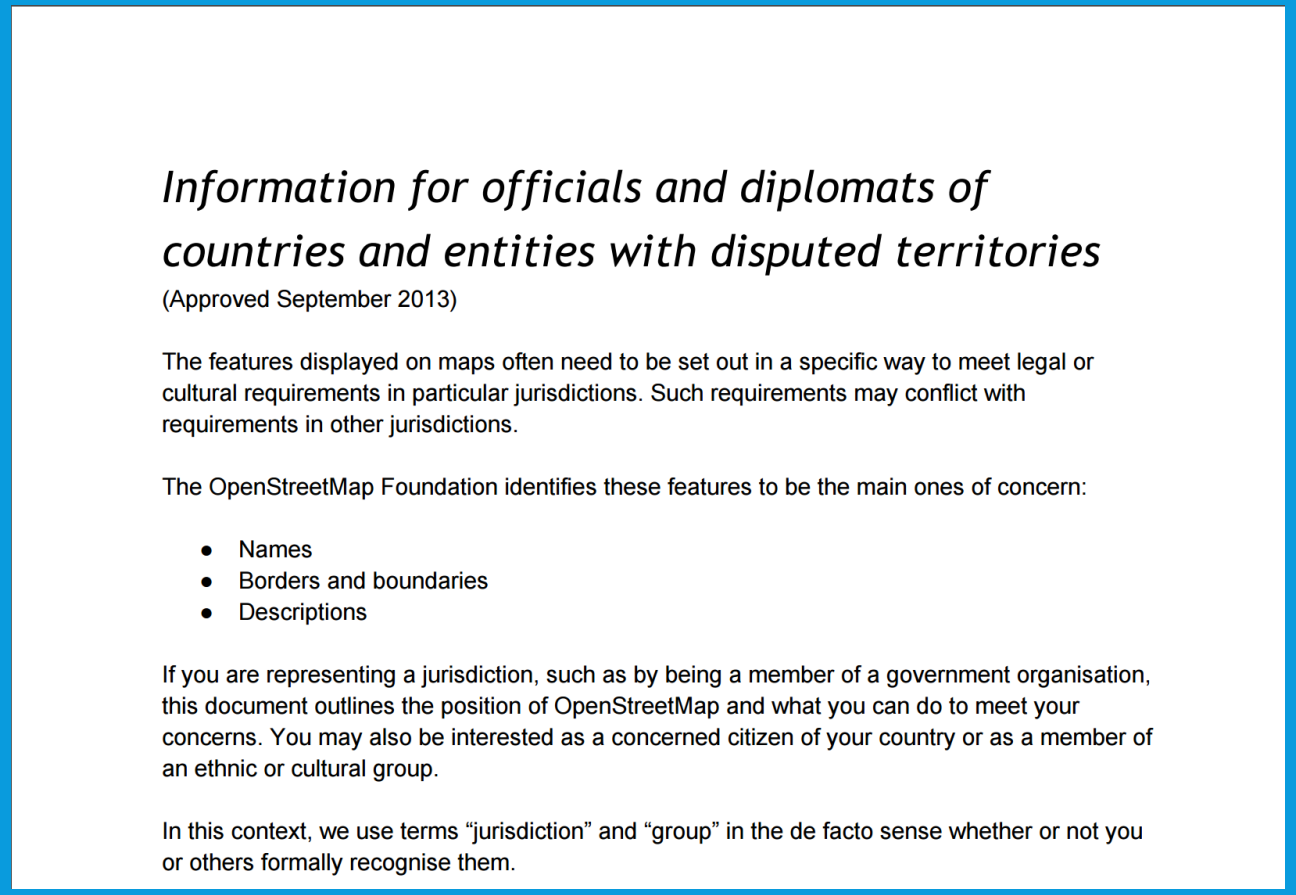

Information for officials and diplomats of countries and entities with disputed territories

(Approved September 2013)

The features displayed on maps often need to be set out in a specific way to meet legal or cultural requirements in particular jurisdictions. Such requirements may conflict with requirements in other jurisdictions.

The OpenStreetMap Foundation identifies these features to be the main ones of concern:

- Names
- Borders and boundaries
- Descriptions

If you are representing a jurisdiction, such as by being a member of a government organisation, this document outlines the position of OpenStreetMap and what you can do to meet your concerns. You may also be interested as a concerned citizen of your country or as a member of an ethnic or cultural group.

In this context, we use terms “jurisdiction” and “group” in the de facto sense whether or not you or others formally recognise them.

https://wiki.osmfoundation.org/w/images/d/d8/DisputedTerritoriesInformation.pdf

ANOTHER CASE: INTERNATIONAL BORDERS

- Even international systems don't necessary define the borders.
- What if you make new land? Or if new land is made by nature?
- It is clear differing opinions will likely always exist.
- At the same time, borders don't really follow an on-the-ground principle in most places.
- For now, we generally follow a *de facto* principle for borders.

Borders and boundaries

National borders are particularly sensitive. Currently, we record one set that, in OpenStreetMap contributor opinion, is most widely internationally recognised and best meets realities on the ground, generally meaning physical control. In areas without clearly defined borders, the line is approximate. Our database structure enables map-makers to easily ignore this set and substitute another more appropriate to your needs.

In the future, we may look at supporting alternative sets directly.

https://wiki.osmfoundation.org/w/images/d/d8/DisputedTerritoriesInformation.pdf

INTERNATIONAL BORDER IDEAS

There are a few possibilities to follow with international borders:

1. Keep the *status quo* principle of *de facto* borders...possibly merging on-the-ground information with something like a postal principle

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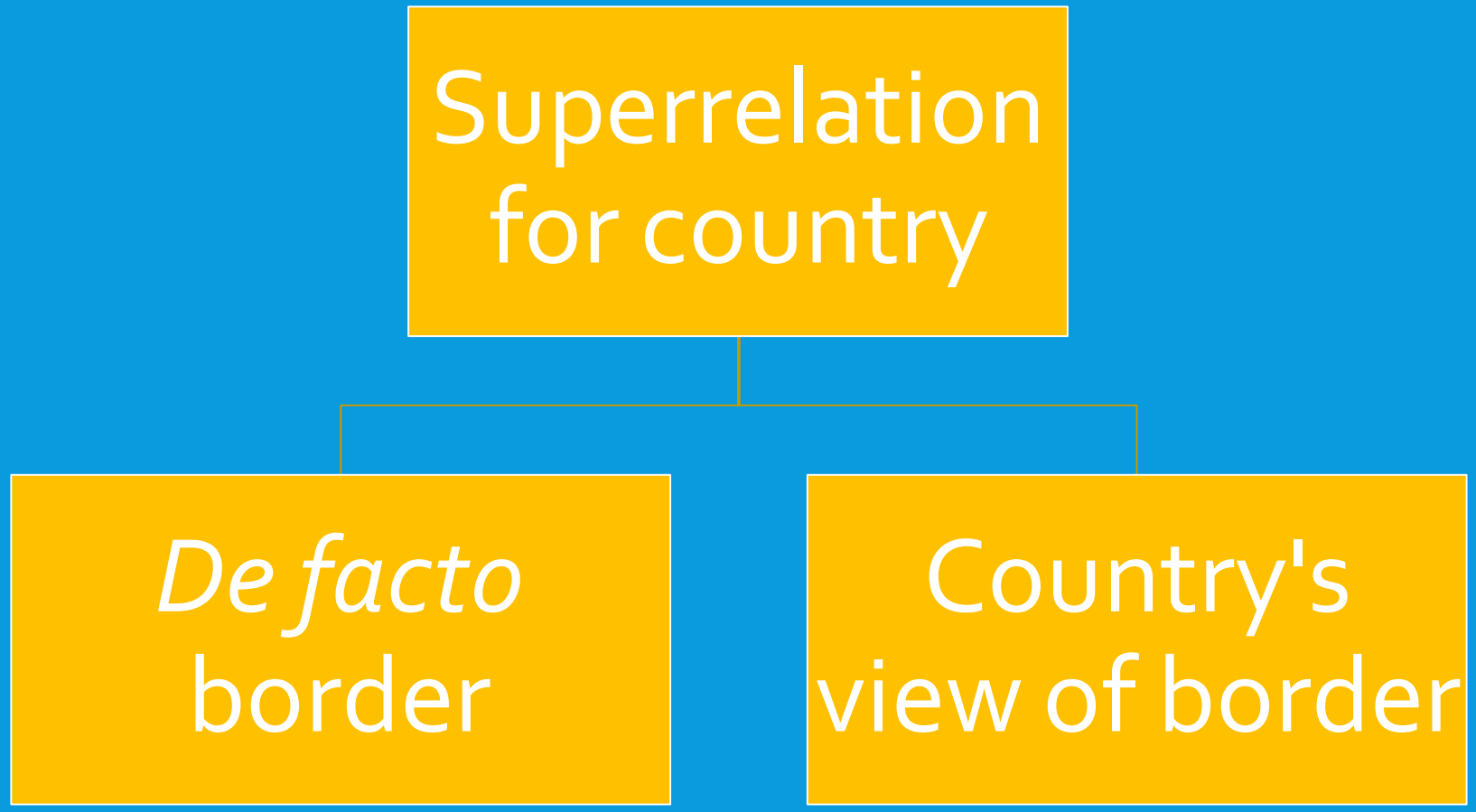

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There are a few possibilities to follow with international borders:

1. Keep the *status quo* principle of *de facto* borders...possibly merging on-the-ground information with something like a postal principle
2. Create super relations for each country to hold multiple viewpoints
3. Get rid of them altogether since they're not always on the ground

THANKS!

Follow Ups: ethan.nelson.osm@outlook.com

Reporting disputes: data@osmfoundation.org