

= Monarchies in the Americas =

There are 13 monarchies in the Americas (self @-@ governing states and territories that have a monarch as head of state) . Each is a constitutional monarchy , wherein the sovereign inherits his or her office , usually keeping it until death or abdication , and is bound by laws and customs in the exercise of their powers . Ten of these monarchies are independent states , and equally share Queen Elizabeth II , who resides primarily in the United Kingdom , as their respective sovereign , making them part of a global grouping known as the Commonwealth realms , while the remaining three are dependencies of European monarchies . As such , none of the monarchies in the Americas have a permanently resident monarch .

These crowns continue a history of monarchy in the Americas that reaches back to before European colonization . Both tribal and more complex pre @-@ Columbian societies existed under monarchical forms of government , with some expanding to form vast empires under a central king figure , while others did the same with a decentralized collection of tribal regions under a hereditary chieftain . None of the contemporary monarchies , however , are descended from those pre @-@ colonial royal systems , instead either having their historical roots in , or still being a part of , the current European monarchies that spread their reach across the Atlantic Ocean , beginning in the mid 14th century .

From that date on , through the Age of Discovery , European colonization brought extensive American territory under the control of Europe 's monarchs , though the majority of these colonies subsequently gained independence from their rulers . Some did so via armed conflict with their mother countries , as in the American Revolution and the Latin American wars of independence , usually severing all ties to the overseas monarchies in the process . Others gained full sovereignty by legislative paths , such as Canada 's patriation of its constitution from the United Kingdom . A certain number of former colonies became republics immediately upon achieving self @-@ governance . The remainder continued with endemic constitutional monarchies ? in the cases of Mexico , Brazil , and Haiti ? with their own resident monarch and , for places such as Canada and some island states in the Caribbean , sharing their monarch with their former metropole , the most recently created being that of Belize in 1981 .

= = Current monarchies = =

= = = American monarchies = = =

The Americas ' monarchs

While the one monarch of each of the American monarchies resides predominantly in Europe , each of the states are sovereign , and thus have distinct local monarchies seated in their respective capitals , with the monarch 's day @-@ to @-@ day governmental and ceremonial duties generally carried out by an appointed local viceroy .

= = = Antigua and Barbuda = = =

The monarchy of Antigua and Barbuda has its roots in the Spanish monarchy , under the authority of which the islands were first colonized in the late 15th century , and later the British monarchy , as a Crown colony . On 1 November 1981 , the country gained independence from the United Kingdom , retaining the then reigning monarch , Elizabeth II , as monarch of the newly created monarchy of Antigua and Barbuda . The monarch is represented in the country by the Governor @-@ General of Antigua and Barbuda , Sir Rodney Williams .

Elizabeth and her royal consort , Prince Philip , Duke of Edinburgh , included Antigua and Barbuda in their 1966 Caribbean tour , and again in the Queen 's Silver Jubilee tour of October 1977 . Elizabeth returned once more in 1985 . For the country 's 25th anniversary of independence , on 30 October 2006 , Prince Edward , Earl of Wessex , opened Antigua and Barbuda 's new parliament

building , reading a message from his mother , the Queen . HRH The Duke of York visited Antigua and Barbuda in January 2001 .

===== The Bahamas =====

The monarchy of The Bahamas has its roots in the Spanish monarchy , under the authority of which the islands were first colonized in the late 15th century , and later the British monarchy , as a Crown colony , after 1717 . On 10 July 1973 , the country gained independence from the United Kingdom , retaining the then reigning monarch , Elizabeth II , as monarch of the newly formed monarchy of The Bahamas . The monarch is represented in the country by the Governor @-@ General of the Bahamas , Dame Marguerite Pindling .

===== Barbados =====

The monarchy of Barbados has its roots in the English monarchy , under the authority of which the island was claimed in 1625 and first colonized in 1627 , and later the British monarchy . By the 18th century , Barbados became one of the main seats of the British Crown 's authority in the British West Indies , and then , after an attempt in 1958 at a federation with other West Indian colonies , continued as a self @-@ governing colony until , on 30 November 1966 , the country gained independence from the United Kingdom , retaining the then reigning monarch , Elizabeth II , as monarch of the newly formed monarchy of Barbados . The monarch is represented in the country by the Governor @-@ General of Barbados , Sir Elliott Belgrave .

In 1966 , Elizabeth 's cousin , Prince Edward , Duke of Kent , opened the second session of the first parliament of the newly established country , before the Queen herself , along with Prince Philip , Duke of Edinburgh , toured Barbados . Elizabeth returned for her Silver Jubilee in 1977 , and again in 1989 , to mark the 350th anniversary of the establishment of the Barbadian parliament .

Former Prime Minister Owen Arthur called for a referendum on Barbados becoming a republic to be held in 2005 , though the vote was then pushed back to " at least 2006 " in order to speed up Barbados ' integration in the CARICOM Single Market and Economy . It was announced on 26 November 2007 that the referendum would be held in 2008 , together with the general election that year . The vote was , however , postponed again to a later point , due to administrative concerns .

===== Belize =====

Belize was , until the 15th century , a part of the Mayan Empire , containing smaller states headed by a hereditary ruler known as an ajaw (later k ? uhul ajaw) . The present monarchy of Belize has its roots in the Spanish monarchy , under the authority of which the area was first colonised in the 16th century , and later the British monarchy , as a Crown colony . On 21 September 1981 , the country gained independence from the United Kingdom , retaining the then reigning monarch , Elizabeth II , as monarch of the newly formed monarchy of Belize . The monarch is represented in the country by the Governor @-@ General of Belize , Sir Colville Young .

===== Canada =====

Canada 's aboriginal peoples had systems of governance organised in a fashion similar to the Occidental concept of monarchy ; European explorers often referred to hereditary leaders of tribes as kings . The present monarchy of Canada has its roots in the French and English monarchies , under the authority of which the area was colonised in the 16th @-@ 18th centuries , and later the British monarchy . The country became a self @-@ governing confederation on 1 July 1867 , recognised as a kingdom in its own right , but did not have full legislative autonomy from the British Crown until the passage of the Statute of Westminster on 11 December 1931 , retaining the then reigning monarch , George V , as monarch of the newly formed monarchy of Canada . The monarch is represented in the country by the Governor General of Canada , David Johnston , and in each of

the provinces by a lieutenant governor .

===== Grenada =====

The monarchy of Grenada has its roots in the French monarchy , under the authority of which the islands were first colonised in the mid 17th century , and later the English and then British monarchy , as a Crown colony . On 7 February 1974 , the country gained independence from the United Kingdom , retaining the then reigning monarch , Elizabeth II , as monarch of the newly created monarchy of Grenada . The monarch is represented in the country by the Governor @-@ General of Grenada , currently Dame Cécile La Grenade .

===== Jamaica =====

The monarchy of Jamaica has its roots in the Spanish monarchy , under the authority of which the islands were first colonised in the late 16th century , and later the English and then British monarchy , as a Crown colony . On 6 August 1962 , the country gained independence from the United Kingdom , retaining the then reigning monarch , Elizabeth II , as monarch of the newly created monarchy of Jamaica . The monarch is represented in the country by the Governor @-@ General of Jamaica , Sir Patrick Allen .

Former Prime Minister of Jamaica Portia Simpson @-@ Miller has expressed an intention to oversee the process required to change Jamaica to a republic by 2012 ; she originally stated this would be complete by August of that year . In 2003 , former Prime Minister P.J. Patterson , advocated making Jamaica into a republic by 2007 .

===== Saint Kitts and Nevis =====

The monarchy of Saint Kitts and Nevis has its roots in the English and French monarchies , under the authority of which the islands were first colonised in the early 17th century , and later the British monarchy , as a Crown colony . On 10 June 1973 , the country gained independence from the United Kingdom , retaining the then reigning monarch , Elizabeth II , as monarch of the newly created monarchy of Antigua and Barbuda . The monarch is represented in the country by the Governor @-@ General of Saint Kitts and Nevis , currently Sir Tapley Seaton .

===== Saint Lucia =====

The Caribs who occupied the island of Saint Lucia in pre @-@ Columbian times had a complex society , with hereditary kings and shamans . The present monarchy has its roots in the Dutch , French , and English monarchies , under the authority of which the island was first colonised in 1605 , and later the British monarchy , as a Crown colony . On 22 February 1979 , the country gained independence from the United Kingdom , retaining the then reigning monarch , Elizabeth II , as monarch of the newly created monarchy of Saint Lucia . The monarch is represented in the country by the Governor @-@ General of Saint Lucia , currently Dame Pearlette Louisy .

===== Saint Vincent and the Grenadines =====

The present monarchy of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has its roots in the French monarchy , under the authority of which the island was first colonised in 1719 , and later the British monarchy , as a Crown colony . On 27 October 1979 , the country gained independence from the United Kingdom , retaining the then reigning monarch , Elizabeth II , as monarch of the newly created monarchy of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines . The monarch is represented in the country by the Governor @-@ General of Vincent and the Grenadines , currently Sir Frederick Ballantyne .

===== Settled monarchies =====

===== Denmark =====

Greenland is one of the three constituent countries of the Kingdom of Denmark , with Queen Margrethe II as the reigning sovereign . The territory first came under monarchical rule in 1261 , when the populace accepted the overlordship of the King of Norway ; by 1360 , Norway had entered into a personal union with the Kingdom of Denmark , which became more entrenched with the union of the kingdoms into Denmark & Norway in 1536 . After the dissolution of this arrangement in 1814 , Greenland remained as a Danish colony , and , after its role in World War II , was granted its special status within the Kingdom of Denmark in 1953 . The monarch is represented in the territory by the Rigsombudsmand (High Commissioner) , Mikaela Engell .

===== Netherlands =====

Aruba , Curaçao and Sint Maarten are constituent countries of the Kingdom of the Netherlands , and thus have King Willem @-@ Alexander as their sovereign , as well as the remaining islands forming the Caribbean Netherlands . Aruba was first settled under the authority of the Spanish Crown circa 1499 , but was acquired by the Dutch in 1634 , under whose control the island has remained , save for an interval between 1805 and 1816 , when Aruba was captured by the Royal Navy of King George III . The former Netherlands Antilles were originally discovered by explorers sent in the 1490s by the King of Spain , but were eventually conquered by the Dutch West India Company in the 17th century , whereafter the islands remained under the control of the Dutch Crown as colonial territories . The Netherlands Antilles achieved the status of an autonomous country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands in 1954 , from which Aruba was split in 1986 as a separate constituent country of the larger kingdom . The former Netherlands Antilles again split as three areas in 2010 . The monarch is represented in each region by the Governor of Aruba , Fredis Refunjol , the Governor of Curaçao , Frits Goedgedrag , and the Governor of Sint Maarten , Eugene Holiday .

===== United Kingdom =====

The British Crown possesses a number of overseas territories in the Americas , for whom Queen Elizabeth II is monarch . In North America are Anguilla , Bermuda , the British Virgin Islands , the Cayman Islands , Montserrat , and the Turks and Caicos Islands , while the Falkland Islands , and South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands are located in South America . The Caribbean islands were colonised under the authority or the direct instruction of a number of European monarchs , mostly English , Dutch , or Spanish , throughout the first half of the 17th century . By 1681 , however , when the Turks and Caicos Islands were settled by Britons , all of the above @-@ mentioned islands were under the control of Charles II of England , Scotland , France and Ireland . Colonies were merged and split through various reorganizations of the Crown 's Caribbean regions , until 19 December 1980 , the date that Anguilla became a British Crown territory in its own right . The monarch is represented in these jurisdictions by : the Governor of Anguilla , Andrew George ; the Governor of Bermuda , Richard Gozney ; the Governor of the British Virgin Islands , David Pearey ; the Governor of the Cayman Islands , Stuart Jack ; the Governor of Montserrat , Elizabeth Carriere ; and the Governor of the Turks and Caicos Islands , Peter Beckingham .

The Falkland Islands , off the south coast of Argentina , were simultaneously claimed for Louis XV of France , in 1764 , and George III of the United Kingdom , in 1765 , though the French colony was ceded to Charles III of Spain in 1767 . By 1833 , however , the islands were under full British control . The South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands were discovered by Captain James Cook for George III in January 1775 , and from 1843 were governed by the British Crown @-@ in @-@ Council through the Falkland Islands , an arrangement that stood until the South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands were incorporated as a distinct British overseas territory in 1985 . The monarch is

represented in these regions by Colin Roberts , who is both the Governor of the Falkland Islands and the Commissioner for South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands .

= = Succession laws = =

Before 28 October 2011 , the succession order in the American Commonwealth realms , as well as those American territories under the British crown , adhered to male @-@ preference cognatic primogeniture , by which succession passed first to an individual 's sons , in order of birth , and subsequently to daughters , again in order of birth . However , with the possible exception of Canada , following the legislative changes giving effect to the Perth Agreement , succession is by absolute primogeniture for those born after 28 October 2011 , whereby the eldest child inherits the throne regardless of gender . As these states share the person of their monarch with other countries , all with legislative independence , the change was implemented only once the necessary legal processes were completed in each realm . Those possessions under the Danish and Dutch crowns already adhere to absolute primogeniture .

= = Former monarchies = =

Most pre @-@ Columbian cultures of the Americas developed and flourished for centuries under monarchical systems of government . By the time Europeans arrived on the continents in the late 15th and early 16th centuries , however , many of these civilizations had ceased to function , due to various natural and artificial causes . Those that remained up to that period were eventually defeated by the agents of European monarchical powers , who , while they remained on the European continent , thereafter established new American administrations overseen by delegated viceroys . Some of these colonies were , in turn , replaced by either republican states or locally founded monarchies , ultimately overtaking the entire American holdings of some European monarchs ; those crowns that once held or claim territory in the Americas include the Spanish , Portuguese , French , Swedish , and Russian , and even Baltic Courland , Holy Roman , Prussian and Norwegian . Certain of the locally established monarchies were themselves also overthrown through revolution , leaving five current pretenders to American thrones .

= = = Endemic monarchies = = =

= = = = Araucania and Patagonia = = = =

The Kingdom of Araucania and Patagonia was a short @-@ lived attempt at establishing a constitutional monarchy , founded by French lawyer and adventurer Orelie @-@ Antoine de Tounens in 1860 . Nominally , the " kingdom " encompassed the present @-@ day Argentine part of Patagonia and a small segment of Chile , where Mapuche peoples were fighting to maintain their sovereignty against the advancing Chilean and Argentine armed forces . However , Orélie @-@ Antoine never exercised sovereignty over the claimed territory , and his de facto control was limited to nearly fourteen months and to a small territory around a town called Perquenco (at the time mainly a Mapuche tent village) , which was also the declared capital of his kingdom .

Orélie @-@ Antoine felt that the indigenous peoples would be better served in negotiations with the surrounding powers by a European leader , and was accordingly elected by a group of Mapuche loncos (chieftains) to be their king . He made efforts to gain international recognition , and attempted to involve the French government in his project , but these efforts proved unsuccessful : the French consul concluded that Tounens was insane , and Araucania and Patagonia was never recognized by any country . The Chileans primarily ignored Orélie @-@ Antoine and his kingdom , at least initially , and simply went on with the occupation of the Araucanía , a historical process which concluded in 1883 with Chile establishing control over the region . In the process , Orélie @-@ Antoine was captured in 1862 , and imprisoned in an insane asylum in Chile . After several

fruitless attempts to return to his kingdom (thwarted by Chilean and Argentine authorities) , Tounens died penniless in 1878 in Tourtoirac , France . The current pretender , Prince Antoine IV , lives in France . The previous pretender renounced his claims to the Patagonian throne , even though a few Mapuches continue to recognise the Araucanian monarchy .

===== Aztec =====

The Aztec Empire existed in the central Mexican region between c . 1325 and 1521 , and was formed by the triple alliance of the tlatoque (the Nahuatl term for " speaker " , also translated in English as " king ") of three city @-@ states : Tlacopan , Texcoco , and the capital of the empire , Tenochtitlan . While the lineage of Tenochtitlan 's kings continued after the city 's fall to the Spanish on 13 August 1521 , they reigned as puppet rulers of the King of Spain until the death of the last dynastic tlatoani , Luis de Santa María Nanacacipactzin , on 27 December 1565 .

===== Brazil =====

Brazil was created as a kingdom on 16 December 1815 , when Prince João , Prince of Brazil , who was then acting as regent for his ailing mother , Queen Maria , elevated the colony to a constituent country of the United Kingdom of Portugal , Brazil and the Algarves . While the royal court was still based in Rio de Janeiro , João ascended as king of the united kingdom the following year , and returned to Portugal in 1821 , leaving his son , Prince Pedro , Prince of Brazil , as his regent in the Kingdom of Brazil . In September of that same year , the Portuguese parliament threatened to diminish Brazil back to the status of a colony , dismantle all the royal agencies in Rio de Janeiro , and demanded Pedro return to Lisbon . The Prince , however , feared these moves would trigger separatist movements and refused to comply ; instead , at the urging of his father , he declared Brazil an independent Nation on 7 September 1822 , leading to the formation of the Empire of Brazil , a constitutional monarchy . Prince Pedro became the first Emperor of Brazil on 12 October 1822 , with the title of Pedro I (on that date , he was formally offered the Throne of the newly created Empire , accepted it , and was acclaimed as monarch) , and his coronation took place on 1 December 1822 . After Pedro abdicated the throne on 7 April 1831 , the Brazilian empire saw only one additional monarch : Pedro II , who reigned for 58 years before a coup d'état overthrew the monarchy on 15 November 1889 . There are two pretenders to the defunct Brazilian throne : Prince Luiz of Orléans @-@ Braganza , head of the Vassouras branch of the Brazilian Imperial Family , and , according to legitimist claims , de jure Emperor of Brazil ; and Prince Pedro Carlos of Orléans @-@ Braganza , head of the Petrópolis line of the Brazilian Imperial Family , and heir to the Brazilian throne according to royalists .

The Brazilian constitution of 1988 called for a general vote on the restoration of the monarchy , which was held in 1993 . The royalists went to the polls divided , with the press indicating there were actually two princes aspiring to the Brazilian throne (Dom Luiz de Orleans e Bragança and Dom João Henrique) ; this created some confusion among the voters . Voting tickets further divided the electorate by placing one box for a presidential republic on the ballot and four for a monarchy . Additional anti @-@ monarchical sentiment was generated by several aggressive television commercials claiming that a vote for monarchy would be a vote for the return of slavery for blacks and a loss of Brazil 's recent return to democracy after decades of military dictatorship . This result was a loss for the monarchists at the polls .

===== Haiti =====

The entire island of Hispaniola was first claimed on 5 December 1492 , by Christopher Columbus , for Queen Isabella , and the first Viceroy of the Americas was established along with a number of colonies throughout the Island . With the later discovery of Mexico and Peru many of the early settlers left for the main land , but some twelve cities and a hundred thousand souls remained , mainly in the Eastern part of the Island . Through the Treaty of Ryswick in 1697 , King Louis XIV

received the western third of the Island from Spain as retribution and formalized the first French pirate settlement in existence since the mid 1600s , with the colony administered by a governor @-@ general representing the French crown , an arrangement that stood until the French Revolution toppled the monarchy of France on 21 September 1792 . Though the French government retained control over the region of Saint @-@ Domingue , on 22 September 1804 , Jean @-@ Jacques Dessalines , who had served as Governor @-@ General of Saint @-@ Domingue since 30 November 1803 , declared himself as head of an independent Empire of Haiti , with his coronation as Emperor Jacques I taking place on 6 October that year . After his assassination on 17 October 1806 , the country was split in half , the northern portion eventually becoming the Kingdom of Haiti on 28 March 1811 , with Henri Christophe installed as King Henri I. When King Henri committed suicide on 8 October 1820 , and his son , Jacques @-@ Victor Henry , Prince Royal of Haiti , was murdered by revolutionaries ten days later , the kingdom was merged into the southern Republic of Haiti , of which Faustin @-@ Élie Soulouque was elected president on 2 March 1847 . Two years later , on 26 August 1849 , the Haitian national assembly declared the president as Emperor Faustin I , thereby re @-@ establishing the Empire of Haiti . But this monarchical reincarnation was to be short lived as well , as a revolution broke out in the kingdom in 1858 , resulting in Faustin abdicating the throne on 18 January 1859 .

= = = = Inca = = = =

The Inca Empire spread across the north western parts of South America between 1438 and 1533 , ruled over by a monarch addressed as the Sapa Inca , Sapa , or Apu . The Inca civilization emerged in the Kingdom of Cusco , and expanded to become the Ttahuantin @-@ suyu , or " land of the four sections " , each ruled by a governor or viceroy called Apu @-@ cuna , under the leadership of the central Sapa Inca . The Inca Empire eventually fell to the Spanish in 1533 , when the last Sapa Inca of the empire , Atahualpa , was captured and executed on 29 August . The conquerors installed other Sapa Inca beginning with Atahualpa 's brother , Túpac Huallpa . Manco Inca Yupanqui , originally also a puppet Inca Emperor installed by the Spaniards , rebelled and founded the small independent Neo @-@ Inca State in Vilcabamba , and the line continued until the death of Túpac Amaru in 1572 .

= = = = Maya = = = =

The Mayan Civilization was located on the Yucatán Peninsula and into the isthmian portion of North America , and Northern portion of Central America (Guatemala and Honduras) was formed of a number of ajawil , ajawlel , or ajawliil ? hierarchical polities headed by an hereditary ruler known as a kuhul ajaw (the Mayan term indicating a sovereign leader) . Despite constant warfare and shifts in regional power , most Maya kingdoms remained a part of the region 's landscape , even following subordination to hegemonic rulers through conquest or dynastic union . Nonetheless , the Mayan civilization began its decline in the 8th and 9th centuries , and by the time of the arrival of the Spanish , only a few kingdoms remained , such as Tayasal , Mam , Kaqchikel , and the K 'iche ' Kingdom of Q 'umarkaj . On 13 March 1697 , the last Itza Mayan king was defeated at Tayasal by the forces of King Philip IV of Spain .

= = = = Mexico = = = =

With the victory of the Mexicans over the Spanish imperial army in 1821 , the Viceroyalty of New Spain came to a conclusion . The newly independent Mexican Congress still desired that King Ferdinand VII , or another member of the House of Bourbon , agree to be installed as Emperor of Mexico , thereby forming a type of personal union with Spain . The Spanish monarchy , however , refused to recognise the new state , and decreed that it would allow no other European prince to take the throne of Mexico . Thus , the Mexican Agustín de Iturbide was crowned as Augustine I on 19 May 1822 , with an official decree of confirmation issued two days following . Only a few months

later , Augustine dissolved a factious congress , thereby prompting an enraged Antonio López de Santa Anna to mount a coup , which led to the declaration of a republic on 1 December 1822 . In order to end the unrest , Augustine abdicated on 19 March 1823 and left the country , and the Mexican monarchy was abolished . After hearing that the situation in Mexico had only grown worse since his abdication , Iturbide returned from England on 11 May 1824 , but was detained upon setting foot in Mexico and , without trial , was executed .

Benito Juárez , elected as President of Mexico on 19 January 1858 , suspended all repayments on Mexico 's foreign debts (save those owed to the United States) , leading France , the United Kingdom , and Spain to send a joint expeditionary force that took Veracruz in December 1861 . Juárez then repaid the debts , after which British and Spanish troops withdrew , but Emperor Napoleon III of France used the situation as a pretext to overthrow the republic and install a monarch friendly to the interests of France . Archduke Maximilian , brother of the Emperor of Austria , was elevated as Emperor Maximilian I of Mexico , thereby re-establishing the Mexican monarchy , but the new emperor ultimately did not bow to Napoleon 's wishes , leading the latter to withdraw the majority of his influence from Mexico . Regardless , Maximilian was still viewed as a French puppet , and an illegitimate leader of the country . As well , at the end of the American Civil War , US troops moved to the Mexico - US border as part of a planned invasion , seeing the establishment of the Second Mexican Empire as an infringement on their Monroe Doctrine . Backed by the Americans , ex-president Juárez mobilised to retake power , and defeated Maximilian at Querétaro on 15 May 1867 . The Emperor was arraigned before a military tribunal , sentenced to death , and executed at the Cerro de las Campanas on 19 June 1867 .

===== Miskito =====

The Miskito people of Central America were governed by the authority of a monarch , but one who shared his royal powers with a governor and a general . The origins of the monarchy are unknown ; however , its sovereignty was lost when King Edward I of the Miskito Nation signed the Treaty of Friendship and Alliance with King George II of the United Kingdom , putting the Miskito kingdom under the British protection and law . At the cessation of the American Revolutionary War , King George III of the United Kingdom , via the Treaty of Paris , relinquished control of the Miskito 's lands , though Britain continued an unofficial protectorate over the kingdom to protect Miskito interests against Spanish encroachments . After British interest in the region waned , Nicaragua dissolved and occupied the Miskito kingdom in 1894 , with the monarch thereafter becoming known as the Hereditary Chief . Norton Cuthbert Clarence is the current pretender to the Miskito Kingdom and Hereditary Chief of the Miskito Nation .

===== Taíno =====

The Taínos were an indigenous civilization spread across those islands today lying within the Bahamas , Greater Antilles , and the northern Lesser Antilles . These regions were divided into kingdoms (the island of Hispaniola alone was segmented into five kingdoms) , which were themselves sometimes sub-divided into provinces . Each kingdom was led by a cacique , or " chieftain " , who was advised in his exercise of royal power by a council of priests / healers known as bohiques . The line of succession , however , was matrilineal , whereby if there was no male heir to become cacique , the title would pass to the eldest child , whether son or daughter , of the deceased 's sister . After battling for centuries with the Carib , the Taíno empire finally succumbed to disease and genocide brought by the Spanish colonisers .

===== Colonial monarchies =====

===== Courland =====

After a number of failed attempts at colonising Tobago , Duke Jacob Kettler of Courland and Semigallia sent one more ship to the island , which landed there on 20 May 1654 , carrying soldiers and colonists , who named the island New Courland . At approximately the same time , Dutch colonies were established at other locations on the island , and eventually outgrew those of the Duchy of Courland in population . When the Duke was captured by Swedish forces in 1658 , Dutch settlers overtook the Courland colonies , forcing the Governor to surrender . After a return of the territory to Courland through the 1660 Treaty of Oliwa , a number of attempts were made by the next Duke of Courland (Friedrich Casimir Kettler) at re @-@ colonisation , but these met with failure , and he sold New Courland in 1689 .

= = = = France = = = =

After King Francis I commissioned Jacques Cartier to search out an eastern route to Asia , the city of Port Royal was founded on 27 July 1605 in what is today Nova Scotia . From there , the French Crown 's empire in the Americas grew to include areas of land surrounding the Great Lakes and down the Mississippi River , as well as islands in the Caribbean , and the north eastern shore of South America ; the Viceroyalty of New France was eventually made into a royal province of France in 1663 by King Louis XIV . Some regions were lost to the Spanish or British Crowns through conflict and treaties , and those that were still possessions of the French king on 21 December 1792 came under republican rule when the French monarchy was abolished on that day . Upon several restorations of the monarchy , the royal presence in the Americas ended with the collapse of the Second French Empire under Napoleon III in 1870 .

= = = = Russia = = = =

The first permanent Russian settlements in what is today the US state of Alaska were set down in the 1790s , forming Russian Alaska , after Tsar Peter I called for expeditions across the Bering Strait in 1725 , with the region administered by the head of the Russian @-@ American Company as the Emperor 's representative . Another Russian outpost , Fort Ross , was established in 1812 in what is now California . The colonies , however , were never profitable enough to maintain Russian interest in the area , with the population only ever reaching a maximum of 700 . Fort Ross was sold in 1841 , and in 1867 , a deal was brokered whereby Tsar Alexander II sold his Alaskan territory to the United States for \$ 7 @,@ 200 @,@ 000 , and the official transfer took place on 30 October that year .

= = = = Portugal = = = =

The United Kingdom of Portugal , Brazil and the Algarves came into being in the wake of Portugal 's war with Napoleonic France . The Portuguese Prince Regent , the future King John VI , with his incapacitated mother , Queen Maria I of Portugal and the Royal Court , escaped to the colony of Brazil in 1808 . With the defeat of Napoleon in 1815 , there were calls for the return of the Portuguese Monarch to Lisbon ; the Portuguese Prince Regent enjoyed life in Rio de Janeiro , where the monarchy was at the time more popular and where he enjoyed more freedom , and he was thus unwilling to return to Europe . However , those advocating the return of the Court to Lisbon argued that Brazil was only a colony and that it was not right for Portugal to be governed from a colony . On the other hand , leading Brazilian courtiers pressed for the elevation of Brazil from the rank of a colony , so that they could enjoy the full status of being nationals of the mother @-@ country . Brazilian nationalists also supported the move , because it indicated that Brazil would no longer be submissive to the interests of Portugal , but would be of equal status within a transatlantic monarchy .

= = = = Spain = = = =

Beginning in 1492 with the voyages of Christopher Columbus under the direction of Isabella I of

Castile , the Spanish Crown amassed a large American empire over three centuries , spreading first from the Caribbean to Central America , most of South America , Mexico , what is today the Southwestern United States , and the Pacific coast of North America up to Alaska . These regions formed the majority of the Viceroyalty of New Spain , the Viceroyalty of Peru , the Viceroyalty of the Río de la Plata , and the Viceroyalty of New Granada , in each of which the Spanish monarch was represented by a viceroy . By the early 19th century , however , the Spanish sovereign 's possessions in the Americas began a series of independence movements , which culminated in the Crown 's loss of all its colonies on the mainland of North and South America by 1825 . The remaining colonies of Cuba and Puerto Rico were occupied by the United States following the Spanish ? American War , ending Spanish rule in the Americas by 1899 .

= = = = Sweden = = = =

For a period of time the French ceded sovereignty of the island of Saint Barthélemy to the Swedes but it was eventually returned . Saint Barthélemy (1785 ? 1878) was operated as a porto franco (free port) . The capital city of Gustavia retains its Swedish name .

= = = Self @-@ proclaimed monarchies = = =

These entities were never recognized de jure as legitimate governments , but still sometimes exercised a certain degree of local control or influence within their respective locations until the death of their " monarch " :

= = = = James J. Strang = = = =

James Strang , a would @-@ be successor to the Mormon prophet Joseph Smith , Jr . , proclaimed himself " king " over his church in 1850 , which was then concentrated mostly on Beaver Island in Lake Michigan . On 8 July of that year , he was physically crowned in an elaborate coronation ceremony complete with crown , sceptre , throne , ermine robe and breastplate . Although he never claimed legal sovereignty over Beaver Island or any other geographical entity , Strang managed (as a member of the Michigan State Legislature) to have his " kingdom " constituted as a separate county , where his followers held all county offices , and Strang 's word was law . U.S. President Millard Fillmore ordered an investigation into Strang 's colony , which resulted in Strang 's trial in Detroit for treason , trespass , counterfeiting and other crimes , but the jury found the " king " innocent of all charges . Strang was eventually assassinated by two disgruntled followers in 1856 , and his kingdom ? together with his royal regalia ? vanished .

= = = = Joshua Norton = = = =

Joshua Abraham Norton , an Englishman who emigrated to San Francisco , California in 1849 , proclaimed himself " Emperor of These United States " in 1859 , later adding the title " Protector of Mexico " . Though never recognized by the U.S. or Mexican governments , he was accorded a certain degree of deference within San Francisco itself , including reserved balcony seats (for which he was never charged) at local theatres , and salutes by policemen who passed him on the street . Specially printed currency authorized by Norton was accepted as legal tender within several businesses in the city . When Norton died in 1880 , he was given a lavish funeral attended by over 30 @, @ 000 persons .

= = = = James Harden @-@ Hickey = = = =

James Harden @-@ Hickey was a self @-@ proclaimed Prince , who attempted to establish the so @-@ called Principality of Trinidad on Trindade and the Martim Vaz Islands in the South Atlantic Ocean during the late nineteenth century . Although initially garnering some newspaper attention ,

Hickey 's claims were ignored or ridiculed by other nations , and the islands were eventually occupied by military forces from nearby Brazil which remain there to the present day .

= = = = Matthew Dowdy Shiell = = = =

A self @-@ proclaimed monarch of the so @-@ called Kingdom of Redonda , an island in the Caribbean Sea . Whether Shiell ever actually claimed to be king of this tiny islet is open to debate ; however , other individuals later claimed the title of " King of Redonda , " without having apparently ever tried to physically establish themselves on the island itself .

= = = Other references = = =