

Country Names and Historical Names – Courtesy of Wikipedia.

Africa

Former Country Name	Today
Abyssinia	Ethiopia
Afars and Issas Territory	Djibouti
Basutoland ; formerly a British protectorate became independent in 1966 as the	Kingdom of Lesotho
Bechuanaland , formerly a British protectorate became independent in 1966 as	Republic of Botswana
Belgian Congo (1908 - 1960)	Democratic Republic of the Congo
Benadir (region; former name of Italian Somaliland)	Somalia
Biafra , Republic of (named after the Bight of Biafra) today part of	Nigeria
Bophuthatswana - nominal republic and homeland for Tswana-speaking people, 1949 reincorporated into	South Africa
Bourbon Island	Reunion Island
British Bechuanaland (region) incorporated into the Cape Colony (1895)	South Africa
British East Africa , British protectorate from 1890 until 1920	Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda
Cape Colony , 1795-1797 British colony, 1803-1806 colony of the Batavian Republic (Netherlands), since 1910 part of	South Africa
Central African Empire	Central African Republic
Ciskei (Republic of Ciskei) - homeland for Xhosa-speaking people, 1994 reincorporated into	South Africa
Dahomey ; (until 1975) Dan Ho Me was an ancient Kingdom located in the south of	Benin
French Somaliland	Djibouti
French Sudan	Mali
German Southwest Africa	Namibia
Gold Coast	Ghana
Grain Coast	Liberia

Hausaland , consisted of seven independent city-states: Biram, Daura, Gobir, Kano, Katsina, Rano, and Zaria.	Niger , Nigeria
Italian East Africa (former name for Italian possessions in eastern Africa)	Eritrea , Ethiopia , Somalia
Kaffraria , former name for Transkei	South Africa
Katanga - 1960, Belgium granted independence to the Congolese province of the	Democratic Republic of the Congo
Malagasy Republic	Madagascar
Nubia (region)	Sudan , Egypt
Nyasaland	Malawi
Portuguese East Africa	Mozambique
Rhodesia, Northern	Zambia
Rhodesia, Southern	Zimbabwe
Rio de Oro (region)	Western Sahara
Ruanda	Rwanda
Sahara Occidental , Spanish name for	Western Sahara
Sahel (region)	Burkina Faso , Chad , The Gambia , Guinea-Bissau , Mali , Mauritania , Niger , Senegal
Senegambia (region; former name of the confederation of Senegal and Gambia)	The Gambia , Senegal
Songhay (Songhai), in the 16th century a major empire of the Western Sudan, in the region of	Mali , Mauritania
South-West Africa (SWA)	Namibia
Spanish Sahara	Western Sahara
Spanish West Africa (former name for Ifni and Spanish Sahara)	Morocco , Western Sahara
Stellaland , Republic of; annexed by the Boers later British Bechuanaland, incorporated into the Cape Colony (1895)	South Africa
Tanganyika Territory , united with the island Zansibar it became	Tanzania
Togoland (British Togoland), since 1957 part of	Ghana
Transkei (former Kaffraria and one of ten "black homelands" and nominal republic, in Southeast of)	South Africa
Transvaal or ZAR - Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek;	South Africa

today the Province Limpopo of	
Ubangi-Shari (Oubangui-Chari) a former French territory in central Africa, which independence on 13 August 1960 the country became the	Central African Republic
Union of South Africa , formed on 31 May 1910 as a parliamentary union of the four self-governing British colonies: the Cape of Good Hope Province (Cape Province; previously Cape Colony), Natal Province (Natal Colony), the Orange Free State Province (Oranje Vrij Staat/Orange River Colony) and the Transvaal Province (Zuid Afrikaansche Republiek/Transvaal Colony).	South Africa
Spanish Guinea	Equatorial Guinea
United Arab Republic (UAR) (former name for a federation between Egypt and Syria)	Egypt, Syria
Upper Volta , Burkina, today	Burkina Faso
Urundi	Burundi
Zaire , changed its name in 1997 to	Democratic Republic of the Congo
Zanzibar (island) united with Tanganyika today it is	Tanzania
Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek (ZAR) or Transvaal colony; today the Limpopo province of	South Africa

[Historical Map of Africa \(1855\)](#)

[Historical Maps of Africa](#)

Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection

Asia

Former Country Name

Today

__Central Asia and Middle East

Abkhazia (Region)	Georgia
Bactria (region)	Afghanistan, Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan
Dilmun	Bahrain

East Pakistan	Bangladesh
Galilee, Galilea (region)	Israel
Judaea, Judäa (region)	Israel, West Bank
Kashmir (region)	India, Pakistan
Kirgizia	Kyrgyzstan
Mishmahig (islands)	Bahrain
Muscat and Oman, Sultanate of Muscat and Oman until 1970	Oman
Palestine (region)	Israel, West Bank & Gaza Strip
Pashtunistan (region)	Afghanistan, Pakistan
Persia, name for	Iran
Socotra (island)	Yemen (Republic of)
Soviet Union (former name of a large Eurasian empire, roughly coequal with the former Russian Empire)	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan
Transjordan	Jordan
Trucial Coast	United Arab Emirates
Turkestan	Kyrgyzstan

__ Eastern Asia

Choson	Korea
Formosa	Taiwan
Manchuria (region)	China

__ Southeast Asia

Amarapura (Land of Immortality)	Myanmar (Burma)
Annam, Anam (1883-1954) French protectorate in	Central Vietnam
Ayutthaya, Kingdom of; (Siam)	covered Thailand, half of Cambodia, most of Laos and large areas of present day Myanmar (Burma)
British North Borneo, former British protectorate and crown colony, occupies the northern tip of the island of Borneo.	Malaysia
Burma, changed its name in 1989 to	Myanmar

Cochin-China , French colony,	the southern part of Vietnam , Capital: Saigon, today Ho Chi Minh City
Celebes (island)	Sulawesi, part of Indonesia
Ceylon	Sri Lanka
Dutch East Indies (Netherlands East Indies)	Indonesia
Gorkhali (The Nepali Empire (1769) covered an area that was at least a third more than its present confines.)	Nepal
Indo-China (French Indochina) Former federation of states, comprised by	Cochin China, Tonkin, Annam, Laos , and Cambodia . Cochin China (South), Annam and Tonkin (North) were later united to form Vietnam
Java (island) today part of	Indonesia
Kampuchea	Cambodia
Khmer Republic (1970-1975)	Cambodia
Malay States (Federated Malay States) 1895-1946	Malaysia
Moluccas (Spice Islands) today part of	Indonesia
Mustang, Kingdom of hereditary dynasty within	Nepal
Netherlands East Indies	Indonesia
New Territories (mainland region)	Hong Kong
Portuguese Timor (former name for East Timor)	Timor-Leste
Serendib , former name for	Sri Lanka
Siam , the Kingdom of Siam	Thailand
Sikkim , Kingdom of; today a state of	India
Straits Settlements (British Settlements on the Malay Peninsula at the <i>Strait of Malacca</i> : Penang, Malacca, and Singapore.)	Malaysia , Singapore
Tonkin (French protectorate, later North Vietnam with the Capital Hanoi)	Vietnam

[Historical Map of Asia \(1892\)](#)

[Historical Maps of Asia](#)

Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection

Australia/Oceania

Former Country Name

Today

Ellice Islands	Tuvalu
Friendly Islands	Tonga
Gilbert Islands	Kiribati
Harvey Islands	Cook Islands
Navigator's Islands; 1899-1914, German protectorate of	Samoa (Western Samoa)
New Holland (1, see also New Holland in South America), from about 1600 until the middle of the nineteenth century the Dutch name for the	Australian continent
New Guinea (island) divided into parts of	Indonesia and Papua New Guinea
New Hebrides	Vanuatu
Northern Solomon Islands today part of	Papua New Guinea
Papua Territory	Papua New Guinea
Savage Island	Niue
Western Samoa	Independent State of Samoa

Historical Maps of Australia/Oceania

UT Library - Perry-Castañeda Library, Collection of historical maps of Australia and the Pacific Region.

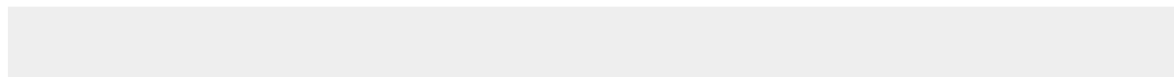
Central America and the Caribbean

Former Country Name

Today

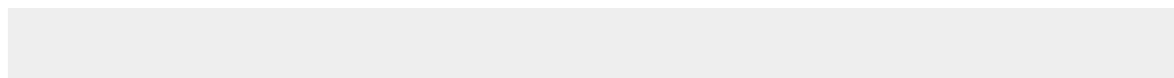
British Honduras	Belize
British West Indies - the colonies of the British in the Caribbean:	Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and

today the term refers to the British Caribbean overseas territories which are:	Tobago Anguilla , Bermuda , British Virgin Islands , Cayman Islands , Montserrat , Turks and Caicos Islands
Danish West Indies	US Virgin Islands
French West Indies , the French overseas departments	Guadeloupe and Martinique , as well as the French Caribbean <i>Départments d'Outre Mer</i> , include the Guadeloupe dependencies of the French part of the island St. Martin and the islands Saint-Barthélemy, Les Saintes, Marie-Galante and La Désirade.
Haiti , the Arawaks name for the island of Hispaniola	Dominican Republic and Haiti
New Spain (Nueva España) colonial territories of the Spanish Empire in North and Central America, including	Mexico , Guatemala , Belize , El Salvador , Honduras , Nicaragua , Costa Rica and parts of South-West USA
Somers Islands	Bermuda
United Provinces of Central America - UPCA (1823 to approximately 1840)	UPCA consisted of the states of Guatemala , El Salvador , Honduras , Nicaragua , and Costa Rica



North America

Former Country Name	Today
Newfoundland (island, with mainland area, and a province of)	Canada
New Spain (Nueva España) colonial territories of the Spanish Empire in North and Central America, including	Mexico , Guatemala , Belize , El Salvador , Honduras , Nicaragua , Costa Rica and parts of South-West USA



South America

Former Country Name**Today**

British Guiana	Guyana
Dutch Guiana (Netherlands Guiana)	Suriname
Gran Colombia (1819-1830), former republic consists of the countries:	Colombia , Ecuador , and Venezuela
Inini , an inland territory of	French Guiana
New Holland (2), Nieuw Holland , former dutch colony northeast coast of Brazil 1630 - 1654	Province of Pernambuco, Brazil

[Historical Maps of The Americas](#)

UT Library - Perry-Castañeda Library, Collection of historical maps of The Americas.

[Europe](#)**Former Country Name****Today**

Batavian Republic (Bataafse Republiek) 1795 to 1806	Netherlands
Bessarabia - historic region comprising most of current-day	Moldova and districts of Ukraine
Bohemia , prior 1918 the term "Bohemia" was traditionally used for today's	Czech Republic
Confederatio Helvetica - CH (Latin for: Swiss Confederation)	Switzerland
Czechoslovakia (Czechoslovak Republic, Czechoslovak Socialist Republic) on January 1, 1993, it split into the	Czech Republic and Slovakia
East Germany , German Democratic Republic; the formerly Soviet influenced part of the in two parts divided Germany, from 1945 - 1990.	Germany
Fortunate Islands	Canary Islands (Spain)
Helvetia - Latin name for	Switzerland
Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes 1918-1929 renamed to Yugoslavia, since	Bosnia and Herzegovina , Croatia , Macedonia , Montenegro , Serbia Slovenia

1991 the countries of	
Moldavia , created in the Middle Ages was a principality of	Romania , its easterly extension now forming the state of Moldova
Prussia, Preussen (former kingdom of the German Empire)	Germany , Poland
Ruthenia (region; former name for Carpatho-Ukraine)	Ukraine
Soviet Union - Union of Soviet Socialist Republics = USSR (since December 1991 also known as the Commonwealth of Independent States, C.I.S.) (former name of a large Eurasian empire, roughly coequal with the former Russian Empire)	Armenia , Azerbaijan , Belarus , Estonia , Georgia , Kazakhstan , Kyrgyzstan , Latvia , Lithuania , Moldova , Russian Federation (Russia) , Tajikistan , Turkmenistan , Ukraine , Uzbekistan
Scotland , the former independent kingdom is today one of four constituent nations which form the	United Kingdom
Spitzbergen	Svalbard
Transcarpathia (region; alternate name for Carpatho-Ukraine)	Ukraine
Transylvania (region)	Romania
Yugoslavia (former name for a confederation of states in the western Balkan peninsula)	Bosnia and Herzegovina , Croatia , Macedonia , Montenegro , Serbia , Slovenia

External Links

[Historical Maps of Europe](#)

Perry-Castañeda Library, Collection of historical maps of Europe.

[The Origin of African Country Names](#)

African Country Names and what they mean, page from ClickAfrique.

[Aboriginal Place Names \(Canada\)](#)

Many of the Canadian earliest place names draw on Aboriginal sources.

[Origin of Baltic country names](#)

[List of country name etymologies](#)

[Courtesy of Wikipedia](#)