

## Country Names and Historical Names – Courtesy of Wikipedia.

### Africa

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

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

|   |  |
|---|--|
| today the Province Limpopo of   |  |
| <b>Ubangi-Shari</b> (Oubangui-Chari) a former French territory in central Africa, which independence on 13 August 1960 the country became the   | <a href="#">Central African Republic</a>         |
| <b>Union of South Africa</b> , 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). | <a href="#">South Africa</a>                     |
| <b>Spanish Guinea</b>   | <a href="#">Equatorial Guinea</a>                |
| <b>United Arab Republic (UAR)</b> (former name for a federation between Egypt and Syria)  | <a href="#">Egypt, Syria</a>                     |
| <b>Upper Volta</b> , Burkina, today   | <a href="#">Burkina Faso</a>                     |
| <b>Urundi</b>   | <a href="#">Burundi</a>                          |
| <b>Zaire</b> , changed its name in 1997 to  | <a href="#">Democratic Republic of the Congo</a> |
| <b>Zanzibar</b> (island) united with Tanganyika today it is   | <a href="#">Tanzania</a>                         |
| <b>Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek (ZAR)</b> or Transvaal colony; today the Limpopo province of   | <a href="#">South Africa</a>                     |

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## Asia

### Former Country Name

### Today

#### \_\_Central Asia and Middle East

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Abkhazia</b> (Region) | <a href="#">Georgia</a>                              |
| <b>Bactria</b> (region)  | <a href="#">Afghanistan, Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan</a> |
| <b>Dilmun</b>            | <a href="#">Bahrain</a>                              |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 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   |

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

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## 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)          |
| <b>New Holland</b> (1, see also <a href="#">New Holland</a> in South America), from about 1600 until the middle of the nineteenth century the Dutch name for the | Australian continent           |
| <b>New Guinea</b> (island) divided into parts of   | Indonesia and Papua New Guinea |
| <b>New Hebrides</b>  | Vanuatu                        |
| <b>Northern Solomon Islands</b> today part of  | Papua New Guinea               |
| <b>Papua Territory</b>   | Papua New Guinea               |
| <b>Savage Island</b>   | Niue                           |
| <b>Western Samoa</b>   | Independent State of Samoa     |

## Historical Maps of Australia/Oceania

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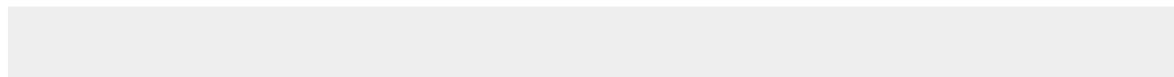
## Central America and the Caribbean

### Former Country Name

### Today

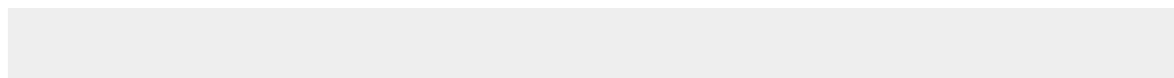
|  |  |
|--|--|
| British Honduras   | Belize   |
| <b>British West Indies</b> - the colonies of the British in the Caribbean: | Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| today the term refers to the British Caribbean overseas territories which are:                                     | <a href="#">Tobago</a><br><a href="#">Anguilla</a> , <a href="#">Bermuda</a> , <a href="#">British Virgin Islands</a> , <a href="#">Cayman Islands</a> , <a href="#">Montserrat</a> , <a href="#">Turks and Caicos Islands</a>   |
| <b>Danish West Indies</b>  | <a href="#">US Virgin Islands</a>  |
| <b>French West Indies</b> , the French overseas departments  | <a href="#">Guadeloupe</a> and <a href="#">Martinique</a> , 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. |
| <b>Haiti</b> , the Arawaks name for the island of Hispaniola   | <a href="#">Dominican Republic</a> and <a href="#">Haiti</a>   |
| <b>New Spain</b> (Nueva España) colonial territories of the Spanish Empire in North and Central America, including | <a href="#">Mexico</a> , <a href="#">Guatemala</a> , <a href="#">Belize</a> , <a href="#">El Salvador</a> , <a href="#">Honduras</a> , <a href="#">Nicaragua</a> , <a href="#">Costa Rica</a> and parts of South-West <a href="#">USA</a>  |
| <b>Somers Islands</b>  | <a href="#">Bermuda</a>  |
| <b>United Provinces of Central America - UPCA</b> (1823 to approximately 1840)                                     | UPCA consisted of the states of <a href="#">Guatemala</a> , <a href="#">El Salvador</a> , <a href="#">Honduras</a> , <a href="#">Nicaragua</a> , and <a href="#">Costa Rica</a>  |



### North America

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



### South America

| Former Country Name   | Today  |
|---|--|
| British Guiana  | <a href="#">Guyana</a>   |
| Dutch Guiana (Netherlands Guiana)   | <a href="#">Suriname</a>   |
| Gran Colombia (1819-1830), former republic consists of the countries:                     | <a href="#">Colombia</a> , <a href="#">Ecuador</a> , and <a href="#">Venezuela</a> |
| Inini, an inland territory of   | <a href="#">French Guiana</a>  |
| New Holland (2), Nieuw Holland, former dutch colony northeast coast of Brazil 1630 - 1654 | Province of Pernambuco, <a href="#">Brazil</a>                                     |

### [Historical Maps of The Americas](#)

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### [Europe](#)

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

|  |  |
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| 1991 the countries of  |  |
| <b>Moldavia</b> , created in the Middle Ages was a principality of   | <a href="#">Romania</a> , its easterly extension now forming the state of <a href="#">Moldova</a>  |
| <b>Prussia, Preussen</b> (former kingdom of the German Empire)   | <a href="#">Germany</a> , <a href="#">Poland</a>   |
| <b>Ruthenia</b> (region; former name for Carpatho-Ukraine)   | <a href="#">Ukraine</a>  |
| <b>Soviet Union</b> - 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) | <a href="#">Armenia</a> , <a href="#">Azerbaijan</a> , <a href="#">Belarus</a> , <a href="#">Estonia</a> , <a href="#">Georgia</a> , <a href="#">Kazakhstan</a> , <a href="#">Kyrgyzstan</a> , <a href="#">Latvia</a> , <a href="#">Lithuania</a> , <a href="#">Moldova</a> , <a href="#">Russian Federation (Russia)</a> , <a href="#">Tajikistan</a> , <a href="#">Turkmenistan</a> , <a href="#">Ukraine</a> , <a href="#">Uzbekistan</a> |
| <b>Scotland</b> , the former independent kingdom is today one of four constituent nations which form the   | <a href="#">United Kingdom</a>   |
| <b>Spitzbergen</b>   | <a href="#">Svalbard</a>   |
| <b>Transcarpathia</b> (region; alternate name for Carpatho-Ukraine)  | <a href="#">Ukraine</a>  |
| <b>Transylvania</b> (region)   | <a href="#">Romania</a>  |
| <b>Yugoslavia</b> (former name for a confederation of states in the western Balkan peninsula)  | <a href="#">Bosnia and Herzegovina</a> , <a href="#">Croatia</a> , <a href="#">Macedonia</a> , <a href="#">Montenegro</a> , <a href="#">Serbia</a> , <a href="#">Slovenia</a>  |

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[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](#)

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