

Territories without armies

Because of their political influence, our main focus is usually on the independent countries without armies. However, there are numerous and fairly broad territories that have been demilitarized and that are now therefore non-militarized. They are not fully independent and acquired their status through an international treaty or international recognition:

- The Åland Islands (between Finland and Sweden) were demilitarized in 1856 at the end of the first Crimean war. This status was confirmed in 1921 by the League of Nations, adding to it a status of neutralisation and of autonomy. This status is still fully valid¹.
- The Antarctic continent has been totally demilitarized since 1961².
- It is interesting to note that some cities, often much larger in population than most of the countries without armies, are in fact demilitarized³.
- The Moon and all the celestial bodies were demilitarized in 1967, a status confirmed by a second treaty in 1979⁴.
- There is a treaty forbidding any use of the ocean sea bed for nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction⁵.
- A very old territorial dispute between Peru and Ecuador over some part of the Amazonian forest led to four wars. It ended by a demilitarisation treaty on the disputed territories, one part of them being made into a natural park to avoid conflict or interference due to human interests⁶.
- The Spitsbergen (north of Norway) was demilitarized in 1920⁷.
- There are numerous islands and local territories in which no permanent military forces are present.⁸
- The Geneva Agreement regarding Israel and Palestine, a civil society document made by ex-foreign ministers and university teachers from both sides and meant to address all the problems of the region, provided for a demilitarized Palestine⁹.

¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Åland_Islands. Eriksson Susanne, Lars Ingmar Johansson & Barbro Sundback, *Islands of Peace. Åland's autonomy, demilitarization and neutralization*, Åland Islands Peace Institute, 2006. <http://www.peace.ax/index.php?lang=en>. Spiliopoulou Åkermark Sia (ed.), *The Åland Example and Its Components – Relevance for International Conflict Resolution*. Åland Islands Peace Institute, 2011. Ahlström Christer, *Demilitarised and Neutralised Territories in Europe*, Åland Islands Peace Institute, 2004.

² Preamble and art. 1. http://www.ats.aq/documents/keydocs/vol_1/vol1_2_AT_Antarctic_Treaty_e.pdf.

³ Galtung Johan, *Local Authorities as Peace Factors/ Actors/ Workers in journal of world system research*, vol VI, n° 3, 2000, <http://www.jwsr.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/jwsr-v6n3-galtung.pdf>.

⁴ <http://treaties.un.org/doc/Publication/UNTS/Volume%20610/volume-610-I-8843-English.pdf> art. 3 et mostly art. 4 paragraph 2. <http://treaties.un.org/doc/Publication/UNTS/Volume%201363/volume-1363-I-23002-English.pdf> art. 3.

⁵ <http://treaties.un.org/doc/Publication/UNTS/Volume%20955/volume-955-I-13678-English.pdf>

⁶ Beth A. Simmons, *Territorial Disputes and Their Resolution: The Case of Ecuador and Peru*, Peaceworks No. 27, United States Institute of Peace, 1999.

⁷ Treaty concerning the archipelago of Spitsbergen, signed in Paris 9th of February 1920, art. 9, http://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Spitsbergen_Treaty.

⁸ Mostly islands in the Southern hemisphere.

⁹ <http://www.geneva-accord.org/mainmenu/english>, article 5, paragraph 3.