

Peace zones

They are partly similar to, and sometimes overlap countries without armies.

Some peace zones are official, others are spontaneous and some have been declared and established by the people themselves¹.

Here is a brief overview of some of the major peace zones:

- All of the South American Presidents declared in 2002 that all of South America is to be a peace zone². They reiterated their intent, for all Latin America this time, in 2014.
- The United Nations declared the Indian Ocean and the South Atlantic to be peace zones, respectively in 1971 and in 1986³.
- There are numerous disarmament zones, the more renowned ones being the denuclearised zones (more than half of the planet is covered by such zones)⁴.
- There are various types of buffer zones, non-defended localities and demilitarized zones in humanitarian law and or in specific UN peace operation practices⁵.
- There are peace zones established by law in the Philippines⁶ and there were some formerly in Indonesia (Aceh)⁷.
- There are or were local communities established as peace zones in El Salvador⁸, in the Philippines and in Colombia⁹.
- The work of the Peace Brigades International must also be mentioned here, as their purpose is to create peace zones around human rights activists in order to help them accomplish their work safely¹⁰.
- The charter of the Tibetan government in exile (Parliament, 14th of June 1991), states that Tibet shall be a peace zone¹¹. Some statements mention a demilitarized zone as well¹².
- Regions that have been at peace for a long time can also be considered “natural” peace zones¹³.
- Some people have been giving thought to the idea of establishing war free zones¹⁴.

¹ On peace zones: cf. all articles on this topic by Ramon Lopez-Reyes. For a general theory: Lopez-Reyes Ramon, *Gandhi's legacy: from zones of peace to a culture of peace*, in *Gandhi marg*, vol 17, n° 3, 1995. Subedi Surya, *Land and maritime zones of peace in International law*, Clarendon press, Oxford 1996. Hancock Landon E., Christopher Roger Mitchell (ed.), *Zones of Peace*, Kumarian Press Inc., 2007.

² <http://www.oas.org/sap/peacefund/VirtualLibrary/DeclarationSAmericaZonePeaceCooperation/DeclarationregardingSouthAmericanPeaceZone.pdf>

³ Resolution 2832ans and A/RES/41/11. Subedi Surya, op. cit.

⁴ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuclear-Weapon-Free_Zone

⁵ As an example, article 59 and 60 of the first protocol (1977) to the Geneva conventions:

<http://www.icrc.org/ihl.nsf/WebList?ReadForm&cid=470&t=art>. The UN has established various types of zones often under specific law included in their resolution, Cyprus, Golan-Heights, ex-Yugoslavia, etc.

⁶ Avruch K. and S. R. José: *Peace zones in the Philippines*, in *Zones of peace*, Hancock and Mitchell (ed.), op. cit.

⁷ Eyer P. and Mitchell C., *The collapse of peace zones in Aceh*, in *Zones of peace*, Hancock and Mitchell (ed.), op. cit.

⁸ <http://www.eco-viva.org/about-us/history.html>

⁹ <http://colombiasupport.net/about-us/chapters/dane-county>

¹⁰ <http://www.peacebrigades.org>

¹¹ <http://www.tibetjustice.org/materials/tibet/tibet6.1.html>

¹² i. e. : <http://www.tibetjustice.org/reports/sovereignty/entitled/c/index.html>

¹³ Kacowicz Arie M., *Zones of peace in the Third world*, State University of New York Press, 1998.

¹⁴ <http://worldwithoutwar.com/World%20Without%20War.pdf> p. 6