



MAWSON'S HUTS REPLICA MUSEUM

Fact File 6

Antarctic Territory claims and The Antarctic Treaty System

MAWSON'S HUTS FOUNDATION

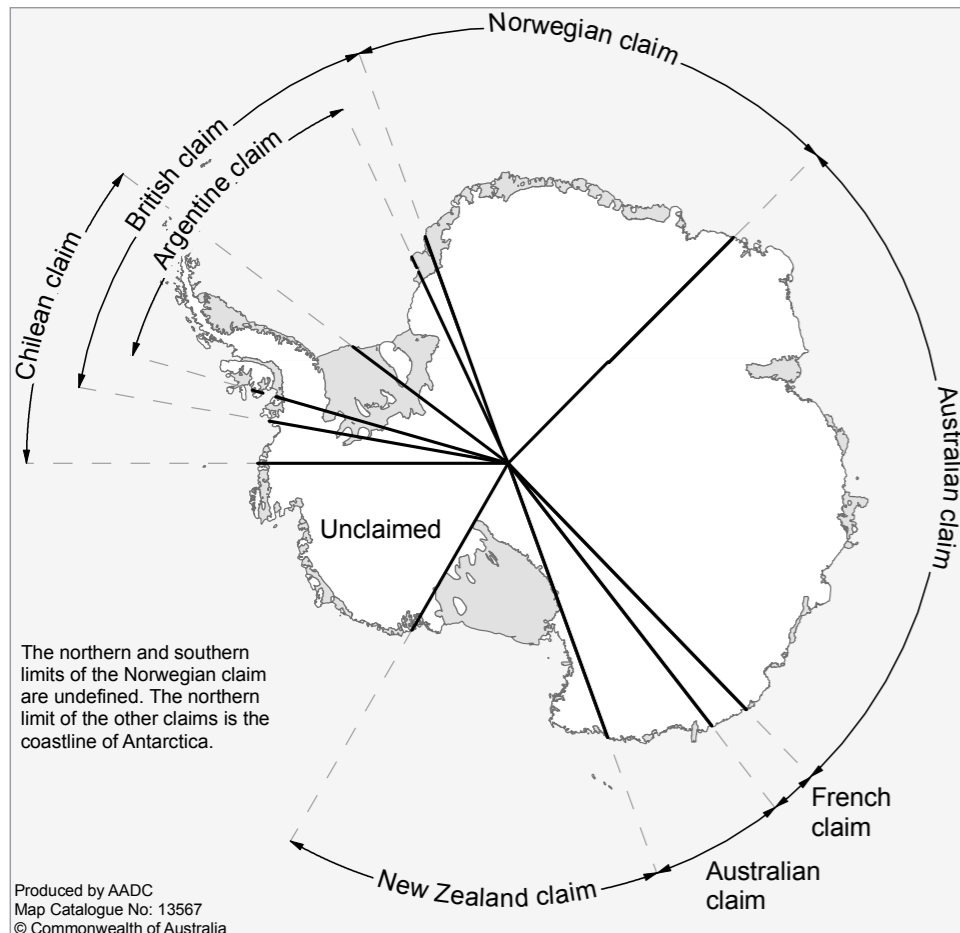


Name:

Territory claims

During the 1929-31 BANZARE expedition Douglas Mawson made landfall at various points around the Antarctic coast to fly the Union Jack and claim territory for Britain and the Commonwealth. This was formalised by the 1933 Australian Antarctic Territory Acceptance Act.

Seven other nations also made a claim to land in Antarctica: Argentina, Chile, the United Kingdom, France, Australia, New Zealand and Norway. The UK, France, Australia, New Zealand and Norway all recognise each other's claims, these are non-overlapping.



Australia has strong and longstanding interests in Antarctica which are protected by the Antarctic Treaty system. The Antarctic Treaty system maintains Antarctica's freedom from strategic or political confrontation, protects its unique environment and safeguards Australia's sovereignty over the Australian Antarctic Territory.

Activity:

- Circle the bases located in Australian Antarctic Territory that belong to other countries.
- Find and list all of the countries that have bases in Antarctica.

The Treaty

The Antarctic Treaty was established in 1961 with Australia one of the 12 founding countries. As of 2016 53 countries have joined the treaty. It maintains Antarctica as a scientific preserve, establishes freedom of scientific investigation and bans military activity on that continent. Australia held the very first Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) in Canberra in July 1961.

- Article 1 – The area is to be used for peaceful purposes only; military activity, such as weapons testing, is prohibited but military personnel and equipment may be used for scientific research or any other peaceful purpose;
- Article 2 – Freedom of scientific investigations and cooperation shall continue;
- Article 3 – Free exchange of information and personnel in cooperation with the United Nations and other international agencies;
- Article 4 – The treaty does not recognise, dispute, nor establish territorial sovereignty claims; no new claims shall be asserted while the treaty is in force;
- Article 5 – The treaty prohibits nuclear explosions or disposal of radioactive wastes;
- Article 6 – Includes under the treaty all land and ice shelves but not the surrounding waters south of 60 degrees 00 minutes south;
- Article 7 – Treaty state observers have free access, including aerial observation, to any area and may inspect all stations, installations, and equipment; advance notice of all activities and of the introduction of military personnel must be given;
- Article 8 – Allows for good jurisdiction over observers and scientists by their own states;
- Article 9 – Frequent consultative meetings take place among member nations;
- Article 10 – All treaty states will discourage activities by any country in Antarctica that are contrary to the treaty;
- Article 11 – All disputes to be settled peacefully by the parties concerned or, ultimately, by the International Court of Justice;

“ There are few places in the world where there has never been war, where the environment is fully protected, and where scientific research has priority. But there is a whole continent like this - Antarctica due to the most successful of all world treaties” - The Antarctic Treaty System

Want to know more?

- <http://www.antarctica.gov.au/law-and-treaty>
- <http://www.ats.aq/e/ats.htm>

Australian Antarctic Territory

The Australian Antarctic Territory covers nearly 5.9 million square kilometres, about 42% of Antarctica. But as you can see below many other nations have bases on Australian Antarctic Territory.



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Australian Government

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