

# ANTARCTICA: CONFLICTING CLAIMS

## Argentina, Chile, Great Britain


Many countries have sent expeditions to Antarctica and several have made territorial claims for the continent and the islands south of 60 degrees south latitude. In Western Antarctica specific territorial claims have been made by Great Britain in 1908, Chile in 1940 and Argentina in 1943 for areas on the Antarctic Peninsula and adjacent islands and lands. The three territorial claims overlap as shown in red on the maps below.



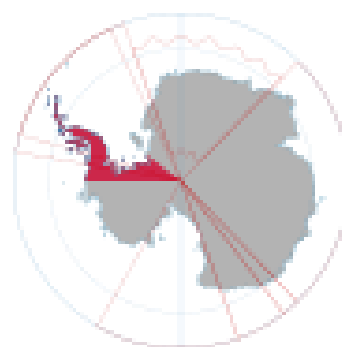
Great Britain 

20°W to 80°W



Argentina 

25°W to 74°W



Chile 

53°W to 90°W

Argentina, Chile and the United Kingdom have established post offices in and issued postage stamps to publicize and legitimize the Antarctic areas claimed. Each country has established bases with post offices for scientific research to demonstrate continuous occupation. Ironically in some cases, all three countries have bases within sight of each other!

This exhibit shows the location of the bases, the base buildings shown on stamps and the post offices and their postmarks established by Argentina, Chile and Great Britain to support their territorial claims. Early base postmarks are a challenge to acquire and the exhibit shows the established bases with the interesting and hard to find post marks all pre-1980. Scarce items are shown with a ★

Symbol of the Antarctic Treaty



Antarctica's international status is regulated by the 1959 Antarctic Treaty. The treaty was signed by twelve countries including the Soviet Union (and later Russia), Great Britain, Argentina, Chile, Australia, and the United States and ratified in 1961. It set aside Antarctica as a scientific preserve, established freedom of scientific investigation and environmental protection, and banned military activity on Antarctica.

### Exhibit plan

British Antarctica  
British Claim  
South Orkney  
South Shetland  
Antarctic Peninsula

Chilean Antarctica  
Chilean Claim  
South Shetland  
Arctic Peninsula

Argentinian Antarctica  
Argentinian Claim  
South Orkney  
South Shetland  
Antarctic Peninsula