

Commonwealth



The organization was founded in
1887 and was called
British Commonwealth of Nations

Commonwealth of Nations



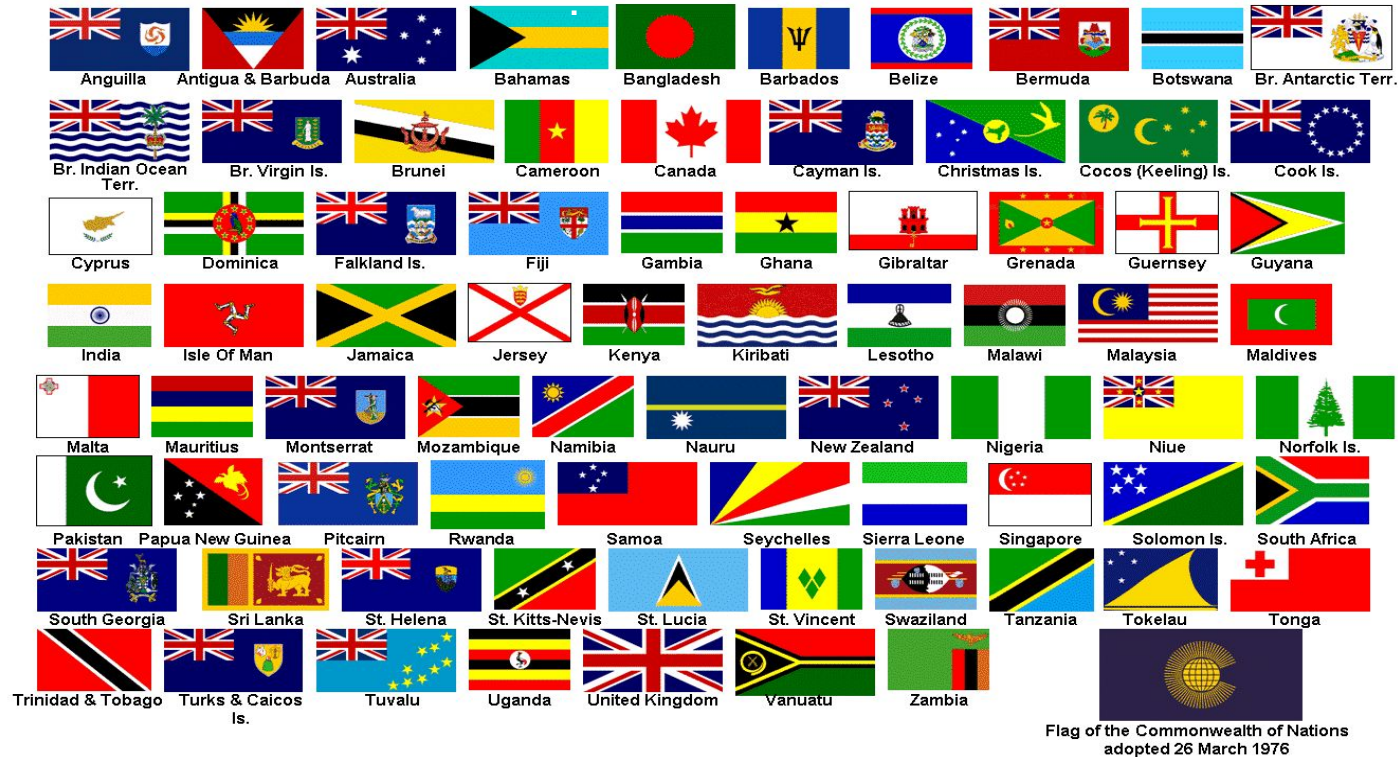
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The Commonwealth is a voluntary intergovernmental Association of 53 sovereign States , including the UK and almost all of its former dominions, colonies and protectorates.

FLAGS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF NATIONS



Members

- The Commonwealth comprises 52 countries, across all continents.
- The members have a combined population of 2.3 billion people, almost a third of the world population, of which 1.26 billion live in India and 94% live in Asia and Africa combined.
- After India, the next-largest Commonwealth countries by population are Pakistan (180 million), Nigeria (170 million), Bangladesh (156 million), the United Kingdom (63 million) and South Africa (52 million). Tuvalu is the smallest member, with about 10,000 people.



Members

- The land area of the Commonwealth nations is about 31,500,000 km² (12,200,000 sq mi), or about 21% of the total world land area. The three largest Commonwealth nations by area are Canada at 9,984,670 km² (3,855,100 sq mi), Australia at 7,617,930 km² (2,941,300 sq mi), and India at 3,287,263 km² (1,269,219 sq mi). In 2016, the Commonwealth members had a combined gross domestic product of over \$9 trillion, 78% of which is accounted for by the four largest economies: United Kingdom (\$2.629 trillion), India (\$2.256 trillion), Canada (\$1.529 trillion), and Australia (\$1.258 trillion).



Head of the Commonwealth[edit]

- Under the formula of the London Declaration, Queen Elizabeth II is the Head of the Commonwealth, a title that is by law a part of Elizabeth's royal titles in each of the Commonwealth realms, the 16 members of the Commonwealth that recognise the Queen as their monarch



Head of the Commonwealth

- However, when the monarch dies, the successor to the crown does not automatically become Head of the Commonwealth. The position is symbolic, representing the free association of independent members, the majority of which are republics, and five have monarchs of different royal houses (Brunei, Lesotho, Malaysia, Swaziland, and Tonga).

Commonwealth Secretariat

- The Commonwealth Secretariat, established in 1965, is the main intergovernmental agency of the Commonwealth, facilitating consultation and co-operation among member governments and countries).

