



Independence and Constitutional Referendums Around the World

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In *Scotland's Future: from the Referendum to Independence and a Written Constitution* published in February 2013, the Scottish Government stated: "Of new states which have become UN members since 1945, 30 became independent following a referendum on independent statehood with the average length of time between the referendum and independence day being approximately 15 months."

This note looks at independence referendums around the world and referendums on other constitutional arrangements short of full independence in the 20th and 21st centuries. The achievement of independence is taken to be membership of the United Nations. Thus, Kosovo, which has not been recognised by all UN Member States, is not considered independent even though there was a majority vote in favour of independence.

The lists are not exhaustive; they do not include all referendums in subordinate territories or many of the unofficial and consultative referendums on constitutional relationships.

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1 Referendums on independence

Country	Date of Referendum	UN member	Time gap	Independence declared	Comments
AFRICA					
Algeria	01/07/1962	8/10/1962	3.5 mths	July 1962	1850s came under French control. France voted 8 January 1961 and 8 April 1962: on self-determination (independent statehood) for Algeria
Comoros	22/12/1974: 94.6% in favour. Mayotte voted to remain French	12/11/1975	6.5 mths	06/07/1975	1912: Three islands forming Comoros were declared French colony. 1914-1947 + Mayotte administratively attached to Madagascar. 1947: the four islands became French Overseas Territory. 1961: the Territory achieved internal self-government. 1974: referendum on independent statehood 1975 Comoros declared independence.
Eritrea	23-25/04/1993	28/5/1993	1 mth	24/05/1993	Referendum was on whether to separate from Ethiopia.
South Sudan	9-15/01/2011: 98.8% voted in favour.	14/07/2011	6 mths	09/07/2011	Until 1946 South Sudan was administered separately from the North under Egyptian and British rule. 1946: British unified the regions. 1956: Sudan gained independence as single state on understanding that the southerners would participate fully in the political system. 1955-1972 and 1983-2005: two periods of conflict as a result of southerners not being able to participate fully.

Country	Date of Referendum	UN member	Time gap	Independence declared	Comments
					Southern autonomous government formed 2005. 2011: referendum on whether to separate from Republic of Sudan held under 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement, which expired soon afterwards, leaving many issues unresolved to this day, although fragile agreements have been reached on some of them e.g. oil.
Djibouti (French Somaliland)	19/03/1967: 60% voted for continued association with France rather than independence.	20/09/1977	10 yrs 6 mths	June 1977	In spite of the 1967 referendum result, France affirmed that Overseas Territory of the Afars and the Issas was destined for independence but no date was fixed.
EUROPE (East and West)					
Norway	13/08/1905	27/11/1945	40 yrs 3 mths	26/10/1905	August 1905: men only referendum on whether the Norwegian people approved of ending union with Sweden. October 1905: King Oscar of Sweden renounced Norwegian throne and union dissolved.
Iceland	20-23/05/1944	19/11/1946	2 yrs 6 mths	17/06/1944	Referendum on whether to abolish Act of Union with Denmark and adopt republican constitution.
Estonia	03/03/1991: 78.4% approved independence from USSR.	17/09/1991	6 mths	September 1991	
Latvia	03/03/1991: 75% approved independence from USSR.	17/09/1991	6 mths	6/9/1991	
Croatia*	19/05/1991 on independence from SFRY.	22/05/1992	1 year	25/06/1991 (came into effect 08/10/1991)	1918-1929, country known as Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes formed after Croats forced to join Serbia and Montenegro. 1921 Constitution established an assembly but still a gulf between Serbs and Croats. 1929 Constitution suspended by King who established royal dictatorship and renamed state Yugoslavia.

Country	Date of Referendum	UN member	Time gap	Independence declared	Comments
					After WWII Soviet-type constitution set up in Yugoslavia. June 1991 Croatia and Slovenia declared independence. October 1991 following expiration of three-month moratorium agreed at EU peace talks in June 1991, Croatia and Slovenia declared independence from the Yugoslav federation. Jan. 1992: EU recognised Croatia and Slovenia as independent states.
Slovenia*	23/12/1990	22/05/1992	1 yr 5 mths	25/06/1991	(see Croatia, above) 1990 referendum on whether to secede from Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and be independent republic (SFRY)
Malta	2-4 May 1964 on new constitution: approved by 54.5% to 45.5%.	1/12/1964	6 mths	21/9/1964	This was effectively an independence referendum as the new constitution made Malta an independent state.
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)*	08/09/1991	08/04/1993	1 yr 7 mths	20/11/1991	1918: Yugoslav Macedonia incorporated into Serbia as South Serbia, becoming a republic in the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. September 1991: Macedonia declared independence after a referendum. 20 November 1991: new Constitution adopted, which proclaimed the 'Republic of Macedonia' as sovereign and independent state. March 1992: peaceful withdrawal of Yugoslav army from its territory negotiated. Macedonia was only country to secede from Yugoslav federation peacefully.
Montenegro*	21/05/2006	28/06/2006	1 mth 1 week	03/06/2006. Recognised by Serbia 15/6/2006	1918-1929: Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes formed after Croats forced to join Serbia and Montenegro. 1921: Constitution established assembly but still a gulf between Serbs and Croats. 1929: King suspended Constitution and established royal dictatorship, renaming the state Yugoslavia. After

Country	Date of Referendum	UN member	Time gap	Independence declared	Comments
					liberation from Germany, Soviet-type constitution established in Yugoslavia. April 1992: Serbia and Montenegro created new Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. 2003: looser union of Serbia and Montenegro formed. 4 February 2006: Serbia and Montenegro gained right to vote for independence. May 2006: Referendum on independence.
Kosovo	Independence referendum 26 & 30 September 1991: 99.98% voted for independence. Serbs living in the region (around 10% of population) boycotted referendum.			February 2008: Kosovans declare Kosovo's independence	There has been a long-running political and territorial dispute between the Serbian (previously Yugoslav) government and Kosovo's largely Albanian population. After Kosovo War and 1999 NATO bombing of Yugoslavia, Kosovo came under UN Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), mostly administered by EU Rule of Law Mission (EULEX). February 2008: Kosovar representatives unilaterally declared Kosovo's independence. 8/10/2008: at Serbia's request, UN General Assembly adopted resolution asking Inter-national Court of Justice for advisory opinion on Kosovo's declaration of independence. 22/7/2010: ICJ ruled that it did not violate general international law or UN Security Council Resolution 1244. Kosovo's independence: by end 2012 recognised by 98 out of 193 UN Member States. EU-mediated talks between Kosovo and Serbia on 20/3/2013.
Bosnia-Herzegovina*	15/10/91: declaration of sovereignty. 29 Feb–1 Mar 1992: Independence from rump SFRY: 99% approved (boycotted by most Serbs).	22/05/1992	7 mths	3/3/1992	3 March 1992: Bosnia and Herzegovina becomes an independent state – but Bosnian Serbs had declared their own 'Republika Srpska' on 9 January 1992 following a referendum in November 1991, leading to war. On initial proclamation of independence in 1992 the

Country	Date of Referendum	UN member	Time gap	Independence declared	Comments
					country's official name was the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina but following the 1995 Dayton Agreement and the new Constitution the name was officially changed to Bosnia and Herzegovina. The General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina (also known as the Dayton Agreement, Dayton Accords, Paris Protocol or Dayton-Paris Agreement) was a peace agreement reached at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio, in November 1995, and formally signed in Paris on 14 December 1995. Dayton was not an independence agreement but it ended the war in Bosnia and allowed independence in practice.
* The Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was an original Member of the United Nations until its dissolution following the establishment and subsequent admission as new Members of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Slovenia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. (From United Nations website)					
Lithuania	08/02/1991	17/09/1991	7 mths 1 week	06/09/1991	1991: Independence from USSR. 93.2% approved.
Ukraine	01/12/1991	24/10/1945		26/12/1991	Ukrainian SSR was a founding member of UN, as result of Western agreement with USSR, which wanted UN seats for all its 15 republics. 16 October 1990: Ukrainian Parliament adopted declaration of sovereignty, proclaiming the supremacy of Ukrainian law over Soviet Union law. This laid the foundations for the Act of Declaration of Independence, passed by the Parliament on 24 August 1991. 1991: 90.3% approved & confirmed Act of Independence
CAUCASUS					
Armenia**	21/09/1991	02/03/1992	5 mths	21/09/1990	1990: Declaration of independence. 1991: Referendum 99.2% approved. Official Independence day 23/9/1991.
Azerbaijan**	10/12/1991	2/3/1992	2 mths	18/10/1991	29 December 1991: Independence was confirmed at a referendum on

Country	Date of Referendum	UN member	Time gap	Independence declared	Comments
					independent statehood: 99.8% approved The process of international recognition of Azerbaijan's independence from the collapsing Soviet Union lasted roughly a year. Supreme Soviet of Azerbaijan formally adopted declaration of independence. Moscow said the declaration was invalid in November 1989. Came into effect with dissolution of Soviet Union. The state joined the UN in 1992.
Georgia**	31/03/1991	31/07/1992	1 yr 4 mths	9/4/1991	The Treaty of Moscow between Soviet Russia and the Democratic Republic of Georgia in Moscow on 7 May 1920 granted Georgia de jure recognition of independence in exchange of the promise not to grant asylum on Georgian soil to the troops of powers hostile to Bolshevik Russia. This lasted until February 1921, when it was attacked by Soviet Russia. 1991: Question asked "Do you support the restoration of the independence of Georgia in accordance with the Act of Declaration of Independence of Georgia of May 26, 1918?" 99.5% approved
** Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan created a unified regional authority known as the Transcaucasian Commissariat on 14 November 1917, and a legislature, the Sejm, on 23 January 1918. On 22 April 1918, the Sejm declared the Transcaucasus an independent democratic federation. The Federation collapsed on 26 May 1918, when Georgia declared independence, followed by Armenia and Azerbaijan.					
CENTRAL ASIA					
Turkmenistan	26/10/1991: 94.1% approved independence.	02/03/1992	4 mths	August 1990: declared independence. Officially confirmed 27/10/1991.	.
Uzbekistan	29/12/1991: 98% approved independence.	02/03/1992	2 mths	31/08/1991	

Country	Date of Referendum	UN member	Time gap	Independence declared	Comments
FAR EAST & PACIFIC					
Mongolia	20/10/1945:	27/10/1961	16 yrs	<p>(i) 11/7/1921: independent communist Mongolia.</p> <p>(ii) 26/11/1924: first Mongolian Constitution.</p> <p>(iii) 6/10/1949</p> <p>(iv) 14/02/1950: China recognised Mongolia's independence.</p>	<p>When the Qing Dynasty fell, Mongolia declared independence in 1911. However, the Republic of China considered Mongolia to be part of its own territory. The area controlled by the Bogd Khaan was roughly that of the former Outer Mongolia during the Qing period. In 1919, after the October Revolution in Russia, Chinese troops led by Xu Shuzheng occupied Mongolia. White Russian adventurer Baron Ungern entered Mongolia in October 1920, defeating Chinese forces in Ulaanbaatar early February 1921. Bolshevik Russia supported a communist Mongolian government and army. This army took the Mongolian part of Kyakhta from Chinese forces on 18 March 1921. 11 July 1921 Mongolia declared independence. (But remained closely aligned with the Soviet Union until 1945.) 1945: Referendum: 100% voted for independence from China. 1946 China officially recognised Outer Mongolia's independence.</p>
Samoa	9/5/1961	15/12/1976	15 yrs 7 mths	1/1/1962	<p>In 1946 Samoa (known as Western Samoa until July 1997) was made a UN Trust Territory, with New Zealand continuing as the administering power. From 1954 measures of internal self-government were gradually introduced. This culminated in an independence constitution being adopted by a constitutional convention on 28 October 1960. This was approved by a UN-supervised referendum in May 1961 and the island became independent on 1</p>

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					January 1962. A constitutional amendment adopted in July 1997 shortened the country's name to Samoa.
Kiribati	July-Sept 1974	14/09/1999	25 yrs	12/07/1979	1892: Gilbert Islands proclaimed a British protectorate. 1916: joined with Ellice Islands and annexed, at request of native government, as the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony. October 1975: Ellice Islands severed constitutional links with Gilbert Islands and took new name Tuvalu (see below). 12 July 1979: after constitutional conference in London, Gilbert Islands became the independent Republic of Kiribati.
Tuvalu	July-Sept 1974	05/09/2000	26 yrs	October 1978	1916: former Ellice Islands joined with Gilbert Islands. 1974: a referendum produced a large majority in favour of separation from the Gilbert Islands. A constitutional referendum was held in Tuvalu on 30 April 2008: The referendum sought to abolish the monarchy of Tuvalu and establish the country as a republic. Had the referendum passed, the new president would be indirectly elected by the Parliament of Tuvalu. The electorate voted to retain the monarchy, with Elizabeth II as Head of State.
SOUTH EAST ASIA					
East Timor/Timor-Leste	30/08/1999:	27/09/2002	3 yrs 1 mth	20/05/2002	1975: former colony abandoned by Portugal when occupied by Indonesia and claimed as the province of Timor Timur. UN did not recognise Indonesian sovereignty over the territory. August 1998: Indonesia and Portugal reached agreement on autonomy plan giving Timorese the right to self-

Country	Date of Referendum	UN member	Time gap	Independence declared	Comments
					government except in foreign affairs and defence. 1999: referendum held on future of Timor-Leste. 78.5% of 99% turnout of voters opted for independence, but pro-Indonesian militias accused UN of rigging the poll. May 2002 Timor-Leste became an independent country but unrest continued.
Cambodia	3/10/1945: 100% approval	14/12/1955	8 yrs 1 mth	9/11/1953	In 1863 the king of Cambodia placed the country under French protection and it became part of French Indochina in 1887. Following Japanese occupation in World War II, it became independent within the French Union in 1949 and fully independent in 1953.
CARIBBEAN & UNITED STATES					
St Vincent and the Grenadines	25/11/2009	16/09/1980		27/10/1979	October 1969: St Vincent became an Associated State with the UK responsible for foreign policy and defence. 25 November 2009: referendum to approve new constitution which proposed becoming a republic, replacing Queen Elizabeth II as head of state with a non-executive President. Electorate voted against proposal by 55.64% to 43.13%.
Jamaica	19/09/1961	18/09/1962	1 yr	06/08/1962	1655: captured from Spanish by the English 1866: Crown Colony government introduced. 1944: Constitution introduced elected house of representatives, a legislative council and executive council. 1958: joined with Trinidad, Barbados, Leeward Islands and Windward Island to form West Indies Federation. 1959: internal self-government achieved. 1961: Referendum on continued membership of

Country	Date of Referendum	UN member	Time gap	Independence declared	Comments
					Federation of the West Indies. 54.1% voted No, resulting in the country leaving the federation and its dissolution in 1962. 1962: became independent state in British Commonwealth.

2 Referendums on constitutional arrangements short of full independence

Country	Date of Referendum	UN member	Time gap	Independence declared	Comments
Central African Republic (French Equatorial Guinea)	28/09/1958	20/09/1960	2 yrs	August 1960	1958 constitutional referendum, not an independence referendum. The Question asked: Do you approve the Constitution proposed by the Government of the Republic? 98.77% voted Yes. Approval of Constitution meant internal autonomy within the "French Community". France agreed to grant independence to any territory that rejected the proposed constitution.
Guinea	28/09/1958	12/12/1958	3 mths	2/10/1958	1958 constitutional referendum, not an independence referendum. The Question asked: Do you approve the Constitution proposed by the Government of the Republic? Guinea was the only French colony that rejected the new Constitution. France refused to recognise Guinea as an independent state and relations between the two countries were severed.
Chad (French Equatorial Guinea)	28/09/1958	20/09/1960	2 yrs	August 1960	1958 constitutional referendum, not an independence referendum. The Question asked: Do you approve the Constitution proposed by the Government of the Republic? 98.29% voted Yes
Gabon (French Equatorial Guinea)	28/09/1958	20/09/1960	2 yrs	August 1960	1958 constitutional referendum, not an independence referendum. The Question asked: Do you approve the Constitution proposed by the Government of the Republic? 92.58% voted Yes
Benin (French West Africa)	28/09/1958	20/09/1960	2 yrs	August 1960	1946 Republic of Dahomey designated a French Overseas Territory. 1958 constitutional referendum, not an independence referendum. The Question asked: Do you approve the Constitution proposed by the Government of the Republic? 97.84% voted Yes
Burkina Faso (Upper Volta became Burkina Faso on 4 August 1984.)	28/09/1958	20/09/1960	2 yrs	August 1960	1919 Upper Volta became French colony 1932 colony abolished and territory divided between Ivory Coast, French Sudan and Niger. 1947 Upper Volta reconstituted as a territory in French West Africa. 1947 designated autonomous republic within

Country	Date of Referendum	UN member	Time gap	Independence declared	Comments
					the French Community 1958 constitutional referendum, not an independence referendum. The Question asked: Do you approve the Constitution proposed by the Government of the Republic? 99.18% voted Yes.
Togo	28/10/1956 *	20/09/1960	3 yrs 11 mths	April 1960 full independence	1946 British Togoland and French Togoland became Trust territories under UN. 9 May 1956: UN-sponsored British Togoland union with Gold Coast 1956 British Togoland merged with Gold Coast to become Ghana. 1956 French Togoland granted partial self-government to become the Republic of Togo. 1956: Yes vote supported Togo becoming an autonomous region within the French Union; No vote favoured continued status as a United Nations Trusteeship. 93.35% voted Yes But United Nations General Assembly refused to accept the referendum results (as it did not include independence option) & continued UN trusteeship. Several political groups boycotted poll.
Senegal	28/09/1958	20/09/1960	2 yrs	August 1960	1958 constitutional referendum, not an independence referendum. The Question asked: Do you approve the Constitution proposed by the Government of the Republic? 97.55% voted Yes In 1959 an autonomous republic within the French Community June 1960 became independent as part of Federation of Mali with French Sudan. August 1960 Federation dissolved when Senegal seceded.
Niger	28/09/1958	20/09/1960	2 yrs	August 1960	1922 – 1958: French colony 1958 constitutional referendum, not an independence referendum. The Question asked: Do you approve the Constitution proposed by the Government of the Republic? 78.43% voted Yes 1958 became an autonomous state within the French Community.
Mali	28/09/1958	20/09/1960	2 yrs	September 1960	1904 annexed by French As French Sudan it was part of French West Africa. 1958 constitutional referendum, not an independence referendum. The Question asked: Do you approve the Constitution proposed by the Government of the Republic? 97.54% voted Yes 1958 became an autonomous state within the French Community. June 1960 became independent as part of the Federation of Mali with Senegal. August 1960 Federation dissolved when Senegal seceded.

Country	Date of Referendum	UN member	Time gap	Independence declared	Comments
Madagascar	28/09/1958	20/9/1960	2 yrs	June 1960	1896 became French colony 1958 constitutional referendum, not an independence referendum. The Question asked: Do you approve the Constitution proposed by the Government of the Republic? 77.64% voted Yes
Mauritania	28/09/1958	27/10/1961	3 yrs	28/11/1960	1958 constitutional referendum, not an independence referendum. The Question asked: Do you approve the Constitution proposed by the Government of the Republic? 94.04% voted Yes
Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)	28/09/1958	20/09/1960	2 yrs	August 1960	1889 declared a French protectorate 1958 constitutional referendum, not an independence referendum. The Question asked: Do you approve the Constitution proposed by the Government of the Republic? 99.99% voted Yes 1958 became an autonomous republic within the French Community.
Namibia	17/05/1977	23/04/1990	2 yrs 11 mths	March 1990	December 1920 League of Nations entrusted territory of former German protectorate of South West Africa. After WW2 South Africa continued to administer the territory in defiance of the UN. 1968 the UN changed the territory's name to Namibia. 1977 in a white only referendum support for plans for Black majority rule in the country was received. 52,000 out of a total white population of 99,000 voted yes on the draft constitution, with almost 95% supporting an interim government leading to independence. 1978 UN Plan for Namibian independence was adopted. But, fearful of 'communist' domination of the region, South Africa refused to implement its terms for another decade. 1988 South Africa withdrew. March 1990 Namibia became independent and joined the Commonwealth.
Faroe Islands	14/9/1946: 50.7% in favour to 49.3% against.				18/9/1946: Faroe Islands declared independence, but this was annulled by Denmark on 20/9/46. 8/11/46: Faroese Løgting dissolved. 30/3/1948: Denmark granted Faroe Islands home rule.

Country	Date of Referendum	UN member	Time gap	Independence declared	Comments
(i) Marshall Islands, (ii) Federated States of Micronesia (iii) Palau	Referendum on Compact of Free Association with United States. First question asked whether they approved of the Compact. The second asked what their preference was if Free Association was rejected. (i) Marshall Islands: 7/9/1983. 58% supported Compact. (ii) Micronesia : 1/6/1983 76.88% approved Compact. (iii) Palau: 4/9/1984. 67.1% approved Compact.	Marshall Islands + Micronesia 17/9/1991 Palau 15/12/1994	Marshall Islands + Micronesia : 8 years Palau: 10 years	(i) 21/10/86 (ii) 1986 (iii) 1994	Four political entities formerly comprised single Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands under the 1947 Trust Agreement between the United States (US) and United Nations (UN): The Federated States of Micronesia; Republic of the Marshall Islands; Republic of Palau; the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, which, unlike other three, decided not to seek independence but to forge closer links with the US (see below). Because of Trust Agreement, the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and Palau have had similar paths to independence. 1969: negotiations began on future relationship between Trust Territory of Pacific Islands and US. Although Federated States of Micronesia Constitution drafted in 1975 by delegates from all parts of the Territory (including Marshalls, Northern Marianas and Palau), it was not submitted for ratification until 1978. It was approved by referendum on 12 July 1978 in Kosrae, Ponape (later renamed Pohnpei), Yap and Truk (later renamed Chuuk), but defeated in Marshall Islands and Palau. After referendum on Federated States of Micronesia Constitutions, Marshall Islands and Palau wrote own constitutions. A referendum on the Federated States of Micronesia Constitution was rejected by the Marshall Islands and Palau, Interior Order No. 3027, 9 September 1978, provided for interim separate governments in the Trust Territory. Marshall Islands then wrote own constitution, which was approved in referendum on 1 March 1979 & came into force 1 May 1979. This was first parliamentary-style constitution in US system and officially established Government of the Marshall Islands, with the country becoming self-governing. January 1980: Compact of Free Association signed by US and Marshall Islands. October 1980: revised Text of Compact signed by US, Marshall Islands and Federated States of Micronesia; by Palau in November 1980. 30 May 1982: further revised text signed by Marshall Islands and by US and Marshall Islands on 25 June 1983. 7 September 1983: Compact approved in referendum and approved by US Congress 14 January 1986. 21 October 1986: US recognised independence of the Marshall Islands on 21 October 1986, ending status as UN Strategic Trust Territory. May 2003 and May 2004: amendments to Compact signed. 4/11/1986: Palau Compact approved by US Congress, but subject to later enactment of a joint resolution of Congress authorising its entry into force. 4/11/1992: amendment to Palau Constitution, allowing Compact, with provisions which violated the Constitution, to be approved by ordinary majority vote. 9/11/1993: Compact approved in Palau and 12 December 1993 by US Congress. 27/9/1994: President Clinton proclaims US has fulfilled its obligations to Palau under the terms of the Trusteeship Agreement as from 1 October 1994.

3 Referendums in which a majority voted against independence

Country	Date of referendum	Comment
Quebec	(i) 20/5/1980: secession from Canada defeated by 59.6% to 40.4%. (ii) 30/10/1995: secession defeated by 50.6% to 49.4%.	The 1980 referendum was called by the Parti Québécois (PQ) government, which strongly supported secession from Canada. The proposal was to negotiate an agreement with the rest of Canada that would give Quebec the exclusive power to make its laws, levy its taxes and establish relations abroad, while maintaining with Canada an economic association, including a common currency. The 1995 question, unlike the 1980 one, proposed sovereignty and an optional partnership offer to the rest of Canada. The question asked whether the electorate agreed that "Quebec should become sovereign after having made a formal offer to Canada for a new economic and political partnership within the scope of the bill respecting the future of Quebec and of the agreement signed on June 12, 1995". The Tripartite Agreement on Sovereignty, signed on 12 June 1995 was sent to every household in Quebec before the vote.
New Caledonia	13/9/1987: 98.3% voted to stay with France; 1.7% for independence.	New Caledonia is a special collectivity of France. Under the 1998 Nouméa Accord, New Caledonia is to hold a second referendum on independence between 2014 and 2018.
Guam	(i) Status referendum 30/1/1982: 49% supported a US Commonwealth, 26% statehood in the US, 10% unincorporated territory, 5% US territory, 4% Free Association with US and 4% independence. (ii) As none of the options received a majority in favour, a second status referendum was held 4/9/1982 on two options: 73% voted for a US Commonwealth, 27% for US statehood.	The US took control of the island in the 1898 Spanish-American War under Treaty of Paris (1898). It was occupied by Japan in early 1940s and recaptured by the US in 1944. The <i>Guam Organic Act</i> (1950) established Guam as an unincorporated organised territory of US.
Bermuda	16/8/1995: 73.6% voted against independence, 25.7% in favour.	Bermuda made Crown Colony in 1609; became a self-governing colony in 1620. In 1968 Bermuda gained a constitution, but UK Government decided Bermuda not ready for independence. Bermuda included on UN list of Non-Self-Governing Territories. 1981: Bermuda became British Dependent Territory
Puerto Rico	(i) 1967 plebiscite on independence, Commonwealth or statehood as part of the US: 64% supported Commonwealth, 39% statehood and 0.6% independence. (ii) 1993 plebiscite: 48.6% supported	United States acquired the islands of Puerto Rico in 1898 after Spanish-American War. Puerto Rico is an 'unincorporated territory' of the US, but not a part of the US. Four Puerto Rican status referendums have been held to determine political status of Puerto Rico in relation to the US. A further referendum in 1991 sought to amend the relationship through an amendment to Puerto Rican Constitution. All the referendums favoured retaining current status over independence and statehood alternatives. In 2006, 2009 and 2011, the UN Special Committee on Decolonization called for US to expedite the process to allow self-determination in Puerto Rico

	<p>Commonwealth, 46.3% statehood and 4.4% independence.</p> <p>(iii) 1998 plebiscite: 46.5% supported statehood, 2.5% independence, 0.3% free association (sovereign nation separate from, but legally bound to US), and 0.1 Commonwealth; 50.3% voted for none of these.</p> <p>(iv) 2012 plebiscite: 61.2% supported statehood, 33.3% free association and 5.5%</p>	
Northern Mariana Islands (see also above)	<p>17/6/1975 status referendum: becoming a US commonwealth approved by 79% of voters.</p>	<p>After defeat of Japan in WW2, the islands administered by US as part of UN Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. Four referendums were held on integration with Guam or the islands' status in 1958, 1961, 1963 and 1969. Each time a majority voted for integration with Guam, but this did not happen and Guam rejected integration in a 1969 referendum. The people of Northern Mariana Islands decided in 1970s not to seek independence, but to forge closer links with US. Negotiations for territorial status began in 1972. In 1974 negotiations between US and the Marianas Political Status Commission produced "Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas."</p> <p>1 September 1974: Marianas Legislature approved Covenant and arranged for public referendum, which approved it on 17 June 1975.</p> <p>1978: negotiations began on Northern Marianas Covenant. US President Carter approved new constitution in 1977.</p>
Montenegro	<p>1/3/1992: 96% voted to remain with Yugoslavia.</p>	<p>The question asked if there was support for Montenegro remaining a part of a united Yugoslavia, as a sovereign republic and equal to all other Yugoslav republics that wish to remain in unity.</p>

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