

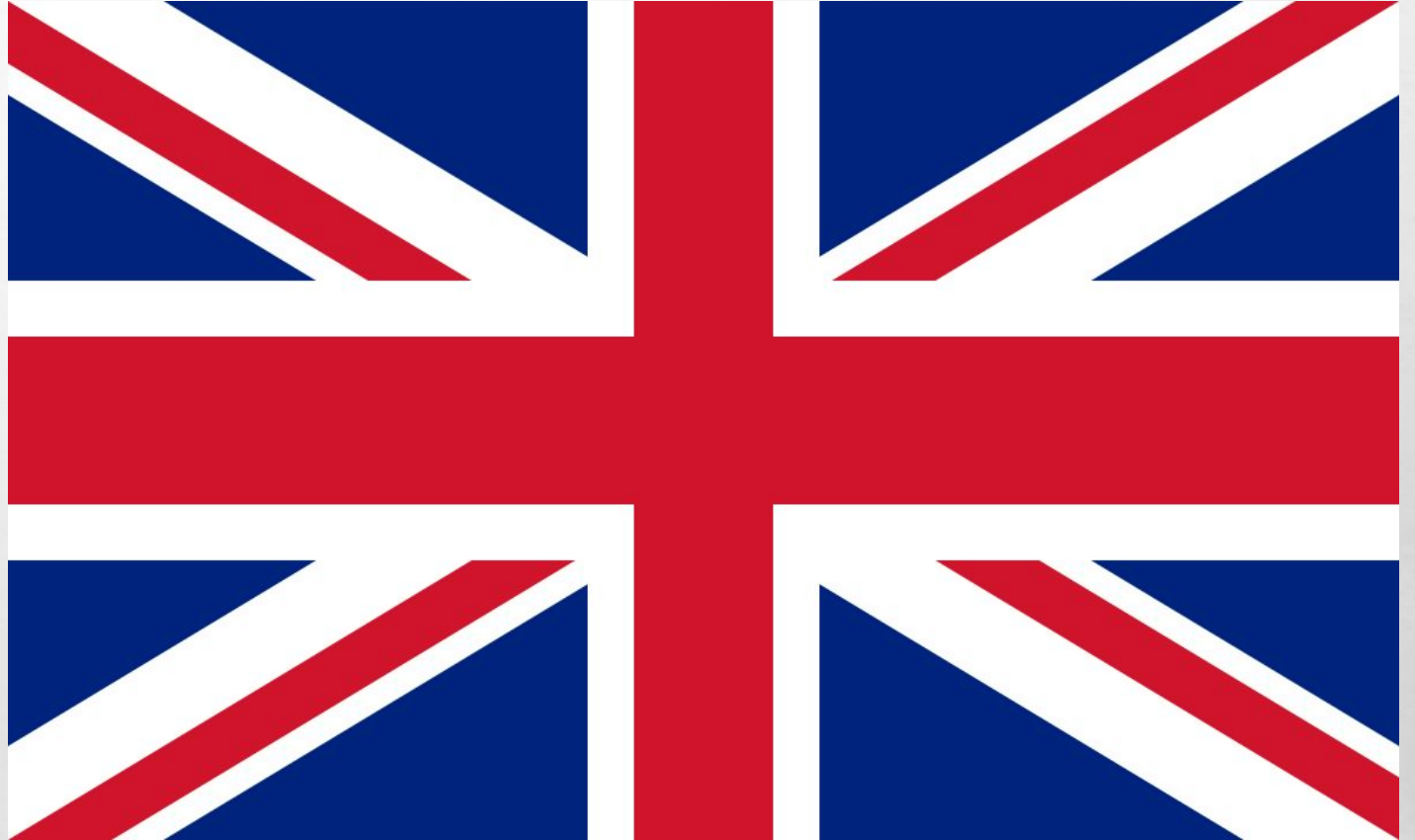
# **GREAT BRITAIN: THE HISTORY, INFORMATION & TERRITORIES**



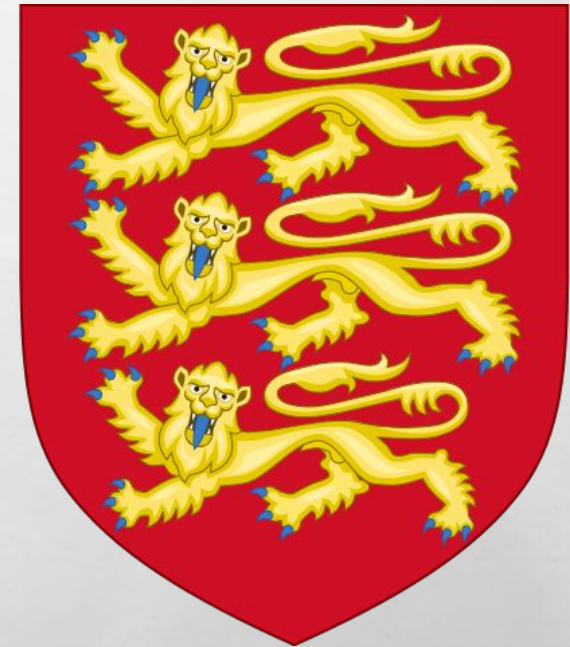
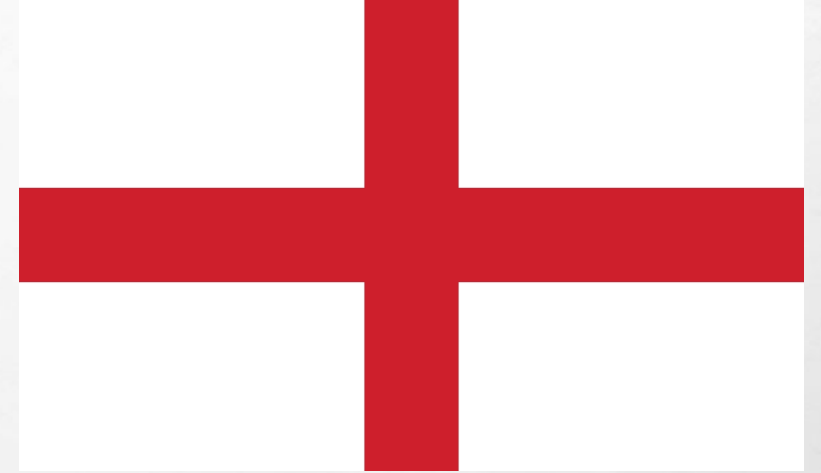
**AUTHOR: GULIEV RUSLAN**

The United Kingdom is a **developed country** and has the world's **fifth-largest economy** by nominal GDP and **ninth-largest economy** by **purchasing power parity**. It has a **high-income economy** and has a "very high" **Human Development Index**, ranking **16th in the world**.

**The United Kingdom** is a constitutional monarchy with a parliamentary democracy. The monarch is Queen Elizabeth II, who has reigned since 1952, making her the longest-serving current head of state. The United Kingdom's capital and largest city is London, a global city and financial centre with an urban area population of 10.3 million. Other major urban areas in the UK include the conurbations centred on Manchester, Birmingham, Leeds, Glasgow and Liverpool.



**England** is a **country** that is **part** of the **United Kingdom**. It shares land borders with **Scotland** to the north and **Wales** to the west. The **Irish Sea** lies northwest of England and the **Celtic Sea** lies to the southwest. England is separated from **continental Europe** by the **North Sea** to the east and the **English Channel** to the south. The country covers five-eighths of the island of **Great Britain**, which lies in the **North Atlantic**, and includes **over 100 smaller islands**, such as the **Isles of Scilly** and the **Isle of Wight**. The **Kingdom of England** – which after 1535 included **Wales** – ceased being a separate sovereign state on 1 May 1707, when the **Acts of Union** put into effect the terms agreed in the **Treaty of Union** the previous year, resulting in a political union with the **Kingdom of Scotland** to create the **Kingdom of Great Britain**. In 1801, **Great Britain** was united with the **Kingdom of Ireland** (through another **Act of Union**) to become the **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland**. In 1922 the **Irish Free State** seceded from the **United Kingdom**, leading to the latter being renamed the **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**.





**Wales** (**Welsh**: *Cymru* is a **country** that is **part** of the **United Kingdom** and the island of **Great Britain**. It is bordered by **England** to the **east**, the **Irish Sea** to the north and west, and the **Bristol Channel** to the south. It had a population in 2011 of 3,063,456 and has a total area of 20,779 km<sup>2</sup> (8,023 sq mi). Wales has over 1,680 miles (2,700 km) of coastline and is largely mountainous, with its higher peaks in the north and central areas, including **Snowdon** its highest summit. The country lies within the **north temperate zone** and has a changeable, **maritime climate**. **Welsh national identity** emerged among the **Britons** after the **Roman withdrawal from Britain** in the 5th century, and Wales is regarded as one of the modern **Celtic nations**. **Llywelyn ap Gruffudd's** death in 1282 marked the completion of **Edward I of England's** **conquest** of Wales, though **Owain Glyndŵr** briefly restored independence to Wales in the early 15th century. The whole of Wales was annexed by England and incorporated within the **English legal system** under the **Laws in Wales Acts 1535 and 1542**. Distinctive **Welsh politics** developed in the 19th century. Welsh liberalism, exemplified in the early 20th century by **Lloyd George**, was displaced by the growth of **socialism** and the **Labour Party**. Welsh national feeling grew over the century; **Plaid Cymru** was formed in 1925 and the **Welsh Language Society** in 1962. Established under the **Government of Wales Act 1998**, the **National Assembly for Wales** holds responsibility for a range of **devolved policy matters**.



**Scotland** (Scots: *Scotland*, Scottish Gaelic: *Alba*) is a country that is part of the **United Kingdom** and covers the northern third of the island of **Great Britain**. It shares a border with **England** to the south, and is otherwise surrounded by the **Atlantic Ocean**, with the **North Sea** to the east and the **North Channel** and **Irish Sea** to the south-west. In addition to the mainland, the country has more than 790 islands, including the **Northern Isles** and the **Hebrides**.

The **Kingdom of Scotland** emerged as an independent sovereign state in the **Early Middle Ages** and continued to exist until 1707. By inheritance in 1603, **James VI, King of Scots**, became **King of England** and **King of Ireland**, thus forming a **personal union of the three kingdoms**. Scotland subsequently entered into a **political union** with the **Kingdom of England** on 1 May 1707 to create the new **Kingdom of Great Britain**. The union also created a new **Parliament of Great Britain**, which succeeded both the **Parliament of Scotland** and the **Parliament of England**. In 1801, Great Britain itself entered into a political union with the **Kingdom of Ireland** to create the **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland**.





**Northern Ireland ; Ulster-Scots: Norlin Airlann)** is a **part** of the **United Kingdom** in the north-east of the island of **Ireland**, **variously described** as a country, province or region. Northern Ireland shares a **border** to the south and west with the **Republic of Ireland**. In **2011**, its population was **1,810,863**, constituting about **30%** of the island's total population and about **3%** of the **UK's population**. Established by the **Northern Ireland Act 1998** as part of the **Good Friday Agreement**, the **Northern Ireland Assembly** holds responsibility for a range of devolved policy matters, while other areas are reserved for the **British government**. Northern Ireland co-operates with the Republic of Ireland in some areas, and the Agreement granted the Republic the ability to "put forward views and proposals" with "determined efforts to resolve disagreements between the two governments".

Northern Ireland was created in 1921, when **Ireland was partitioned** between Northern Ireland and **Southern Ireland** by the **Government of Ireland Act 1920**. Unlike **Southern Ireland**, which would become the **Irish Free State** in 1922, the majority of Northern Ireland's population were **unionists**, who wanted to remain within the United Kingdom. Most of these were the **Protestant** descendants of **colonists from Great Britain**. However, a significant minority, mostly **Catholics**, were **nationalists** who wanted a **united Ireland** independent of British rule. Today, the former generally see themselves as British and the latter generally see themselves as Irish, while a distinct Northern Irish or **Ulster** identity is claimed both by a large minority of **Catholics** and **Protestants** and by many of those who are non-aligned.



**The UK's *de facto* official language is English. It is estimated that 95% of the UK's population are monolingual English speakers. 5.5% of the population are estimated to speak languages brought to the UK as a result of relatively recent immigration. South Asian languages, including Punjabi, Hindi, Bengali and Gujarati, are the largest grouping and are spoken by 2.7% of the UK population. According to the 2011 census, Polish has become the second-largest language spoken in England and has 546,000 speakers. Scots, a language descended from early northern Middle English, has limited recognition alongside its regional variant, Ulster Scots in Northern Ireland, without specific commitments to protection and promotion.**

# British Empire (1583-1997)

Kingdom of England (1583-1707)

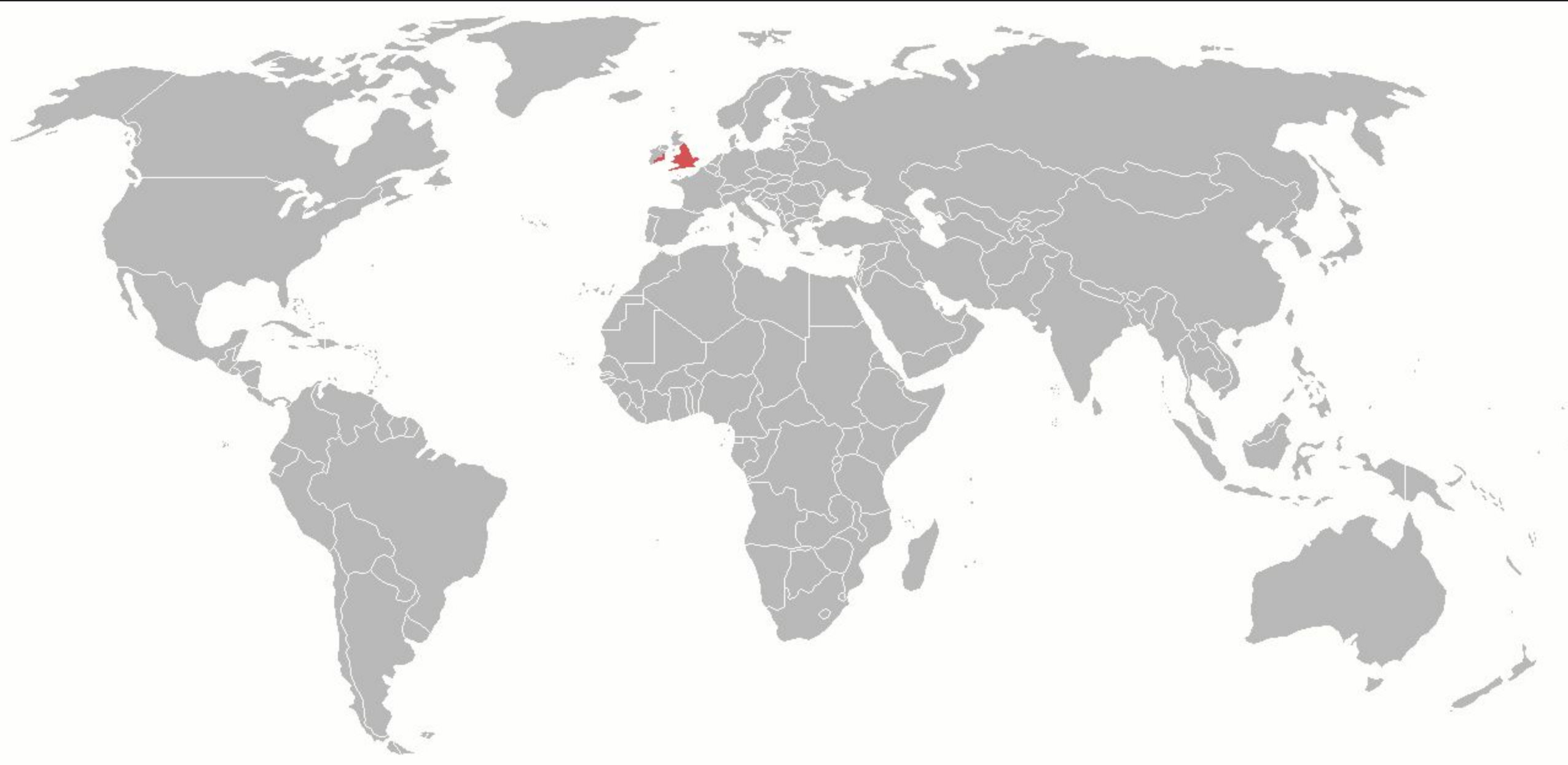
Kingdom of Great Britain (1707-1801)

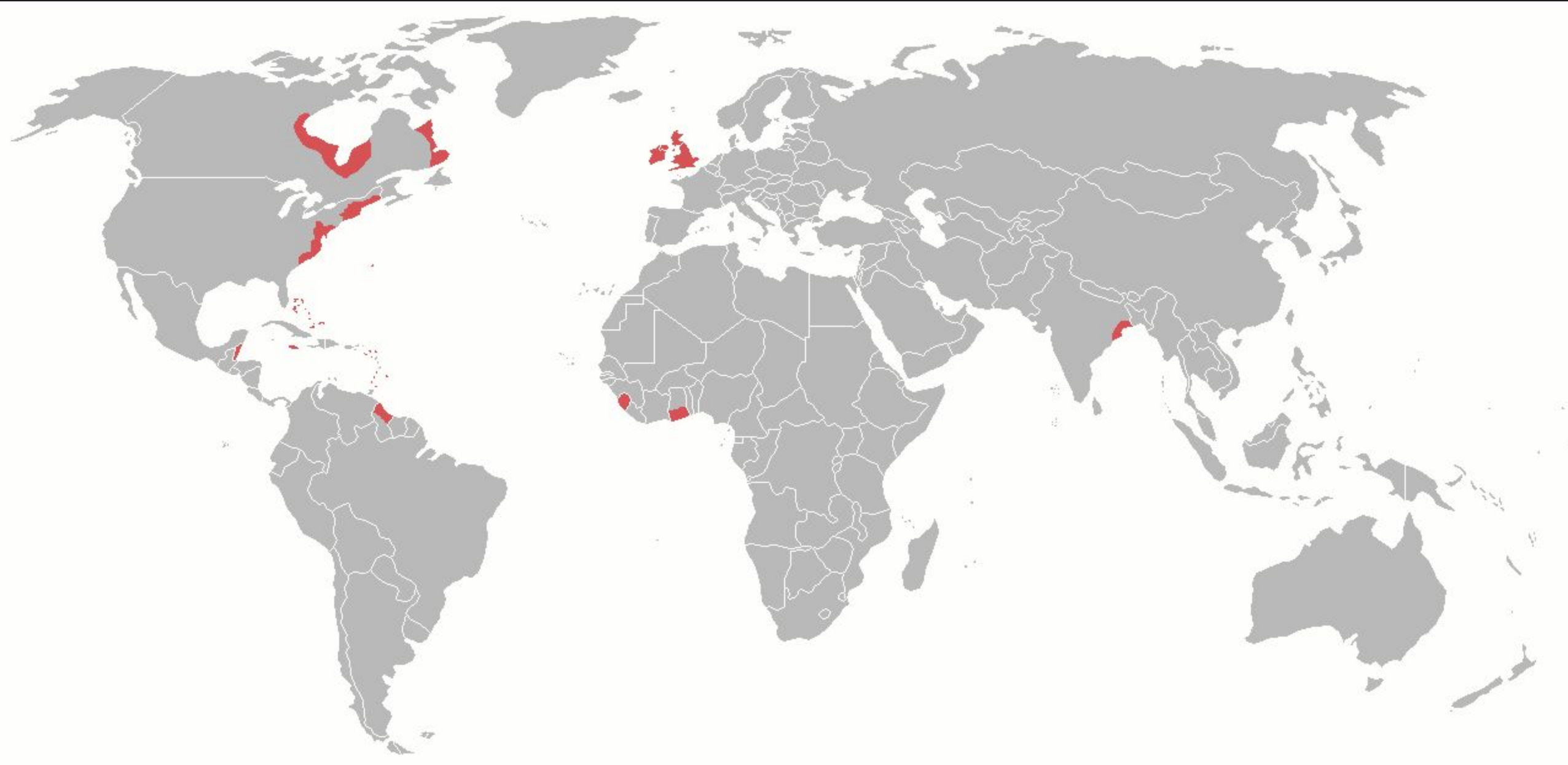
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland (1801-1922)

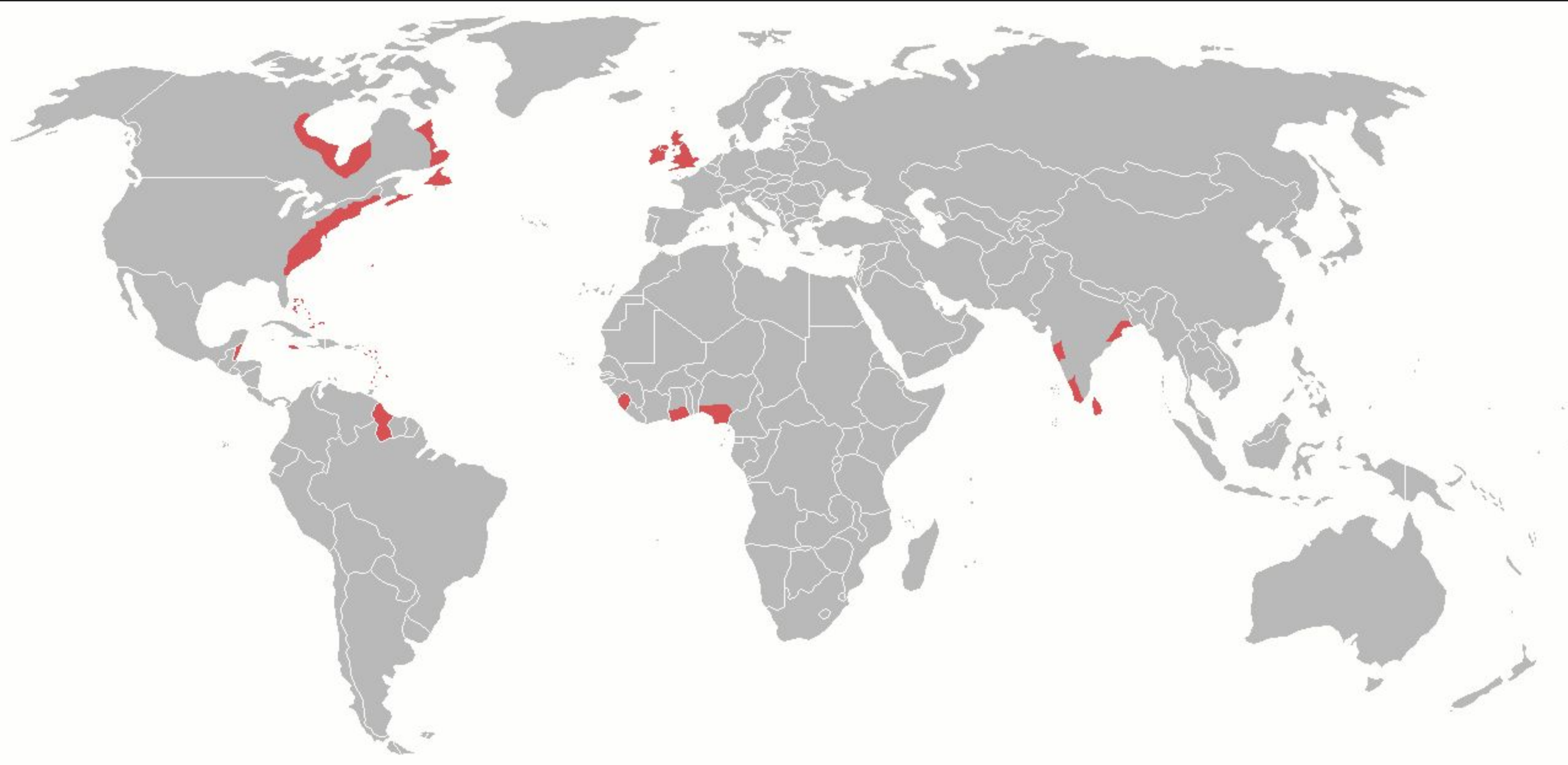
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (1922-1997)



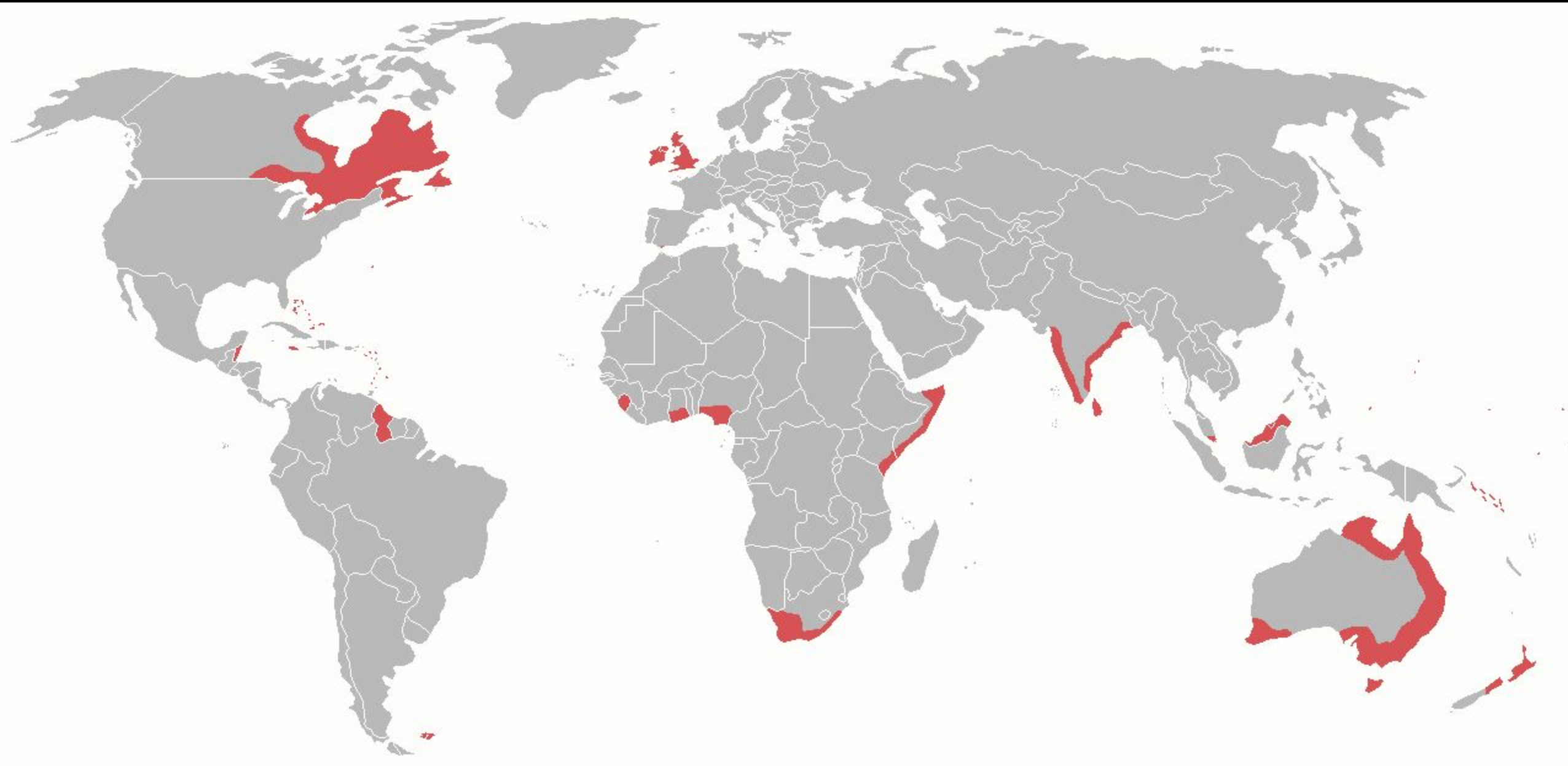


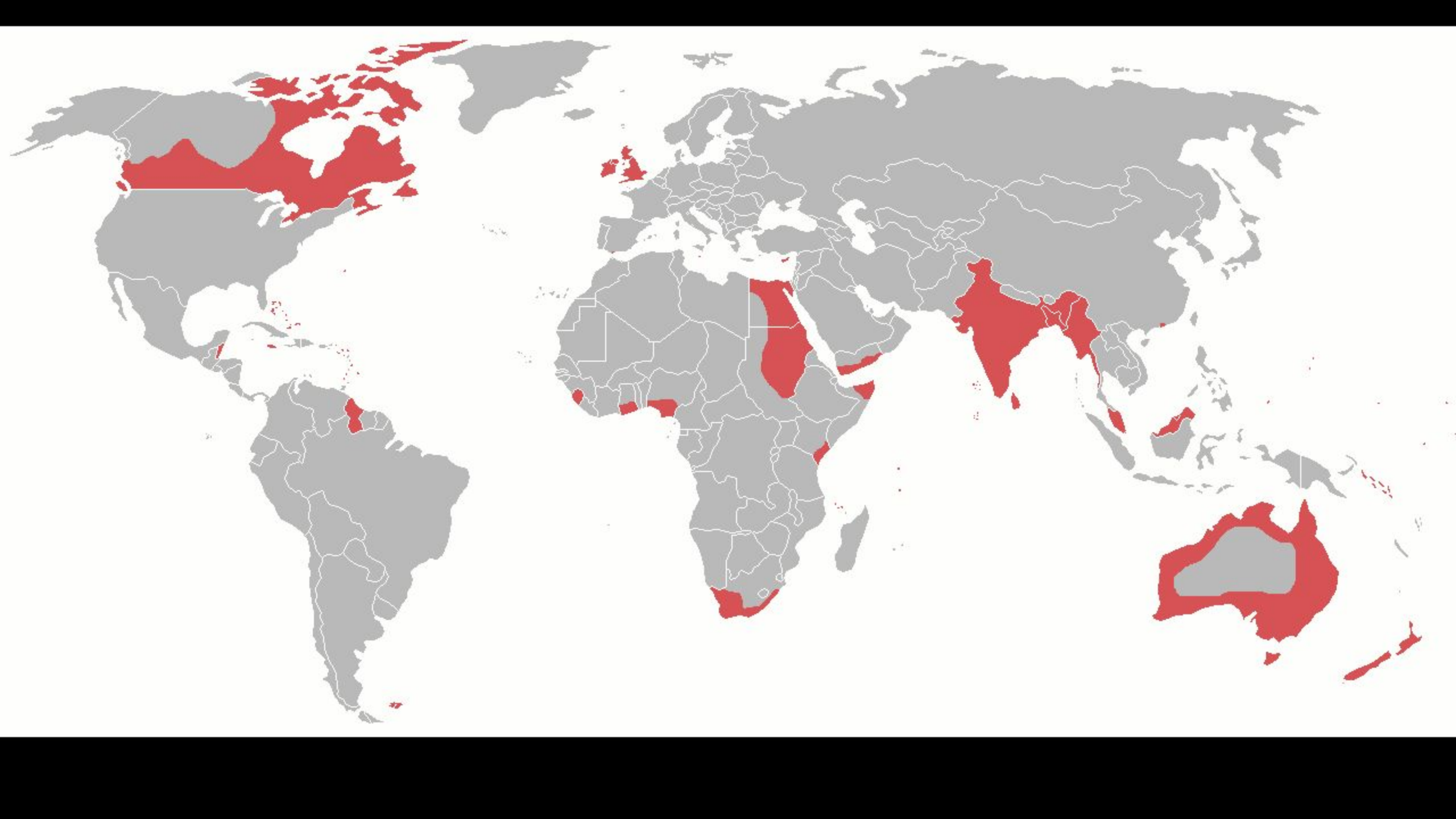


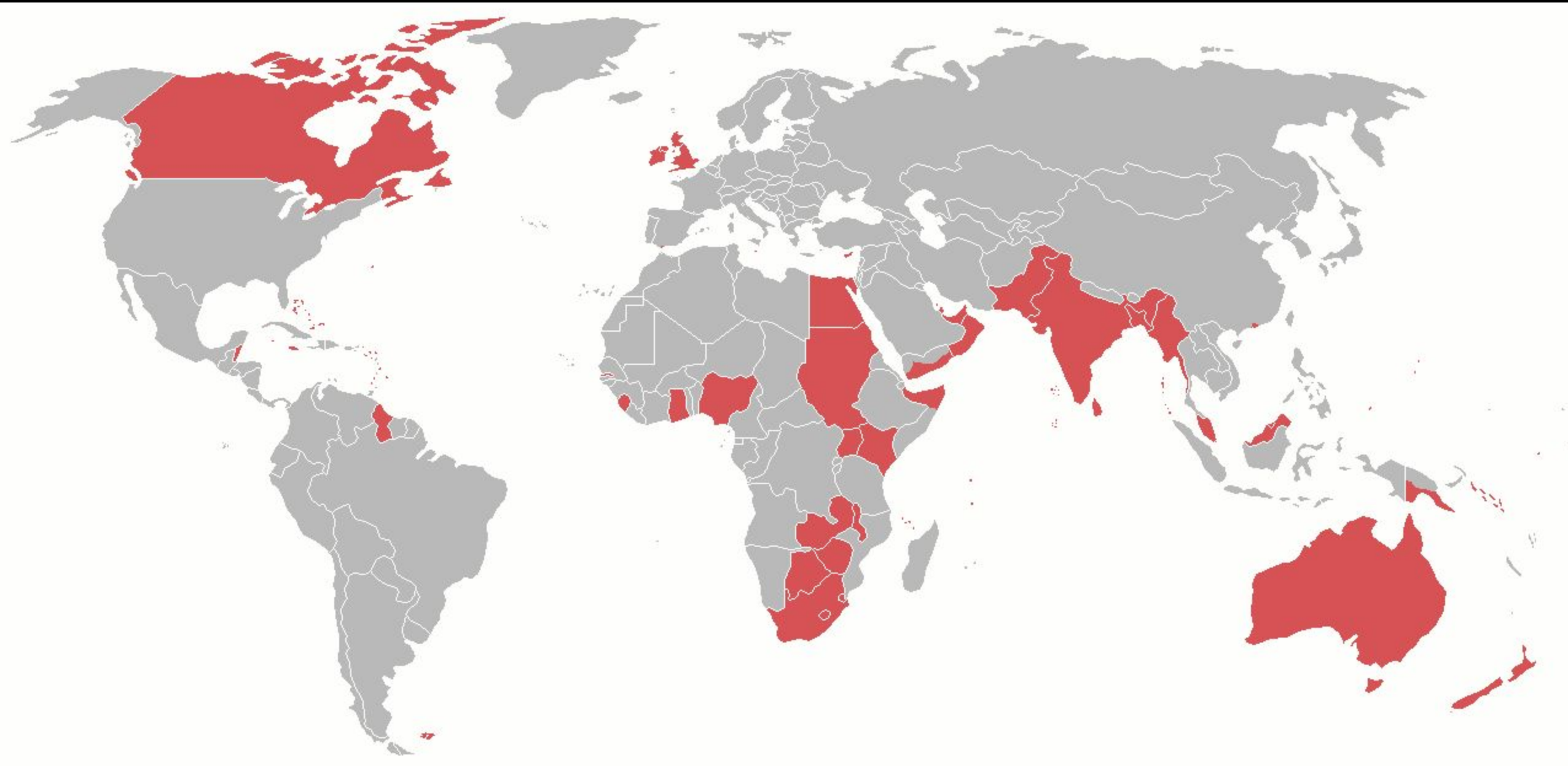




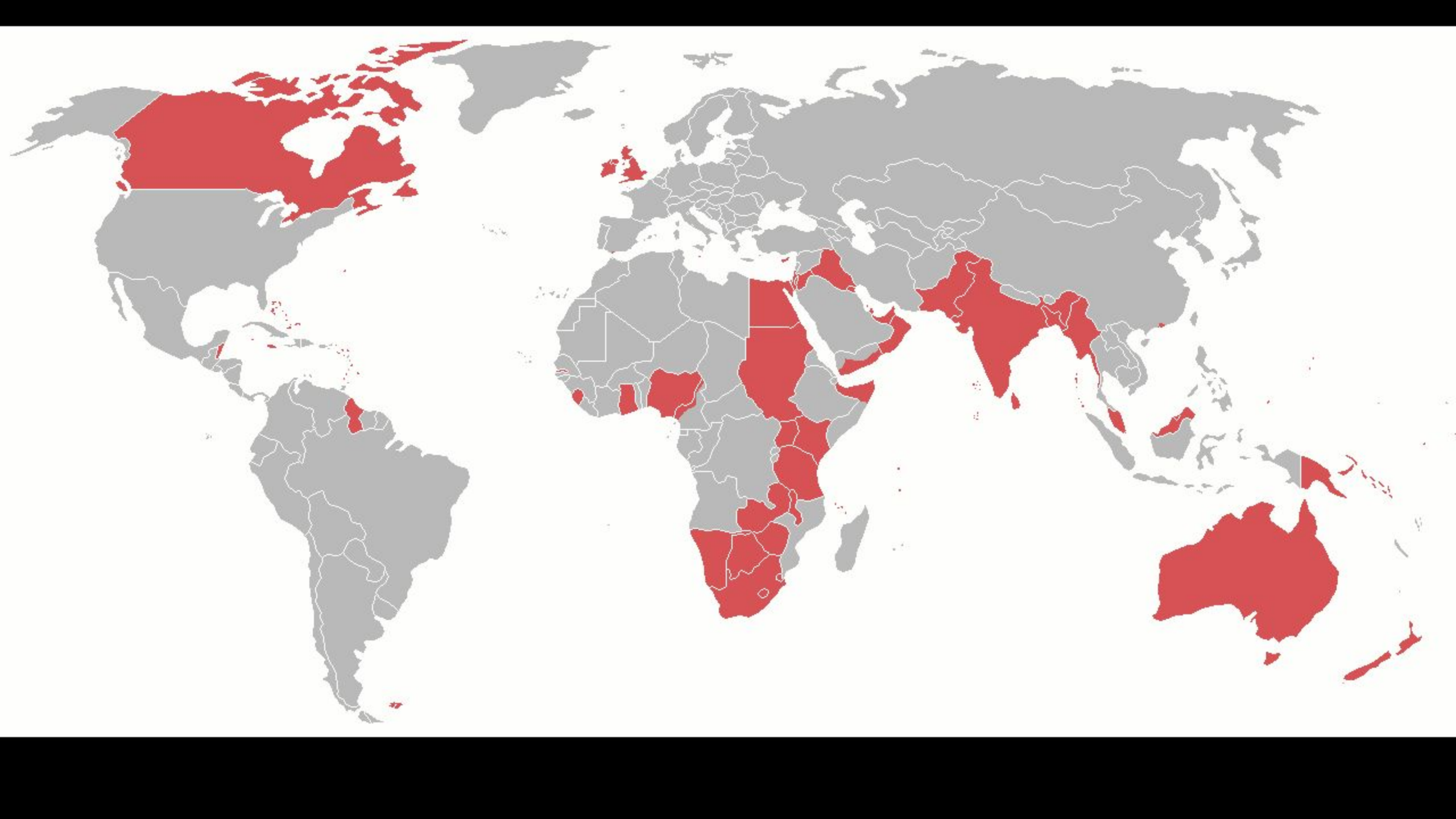


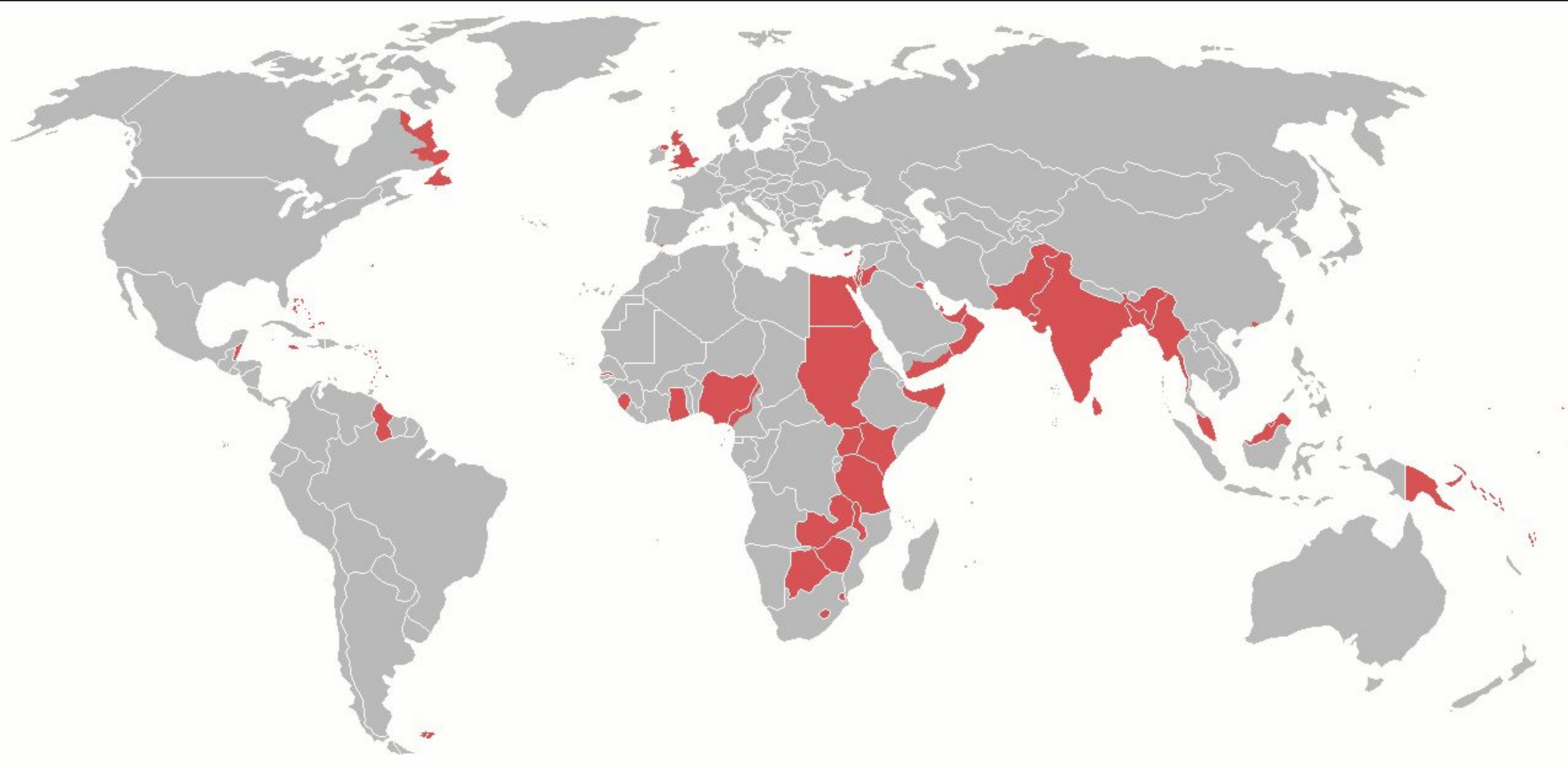






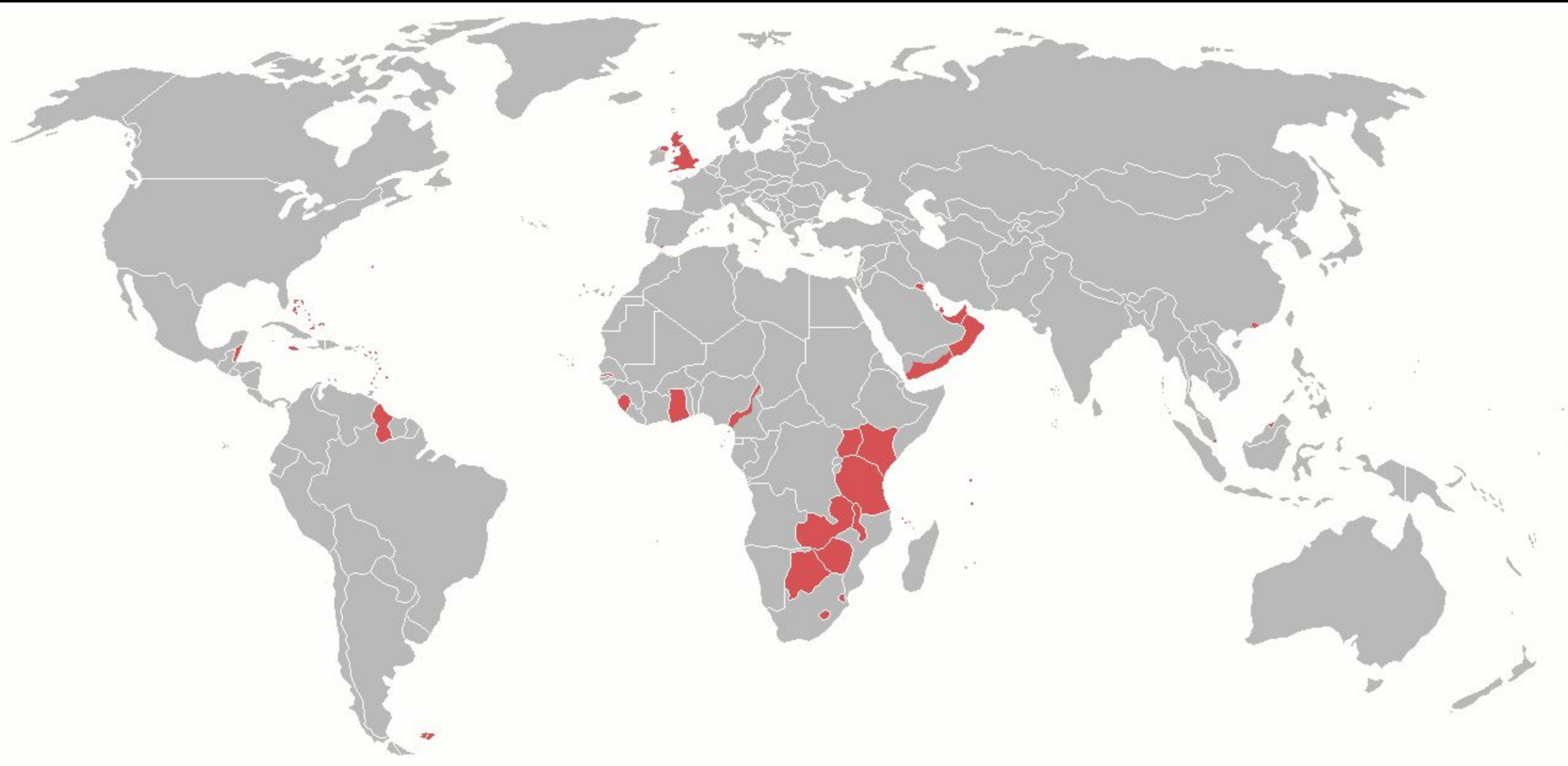


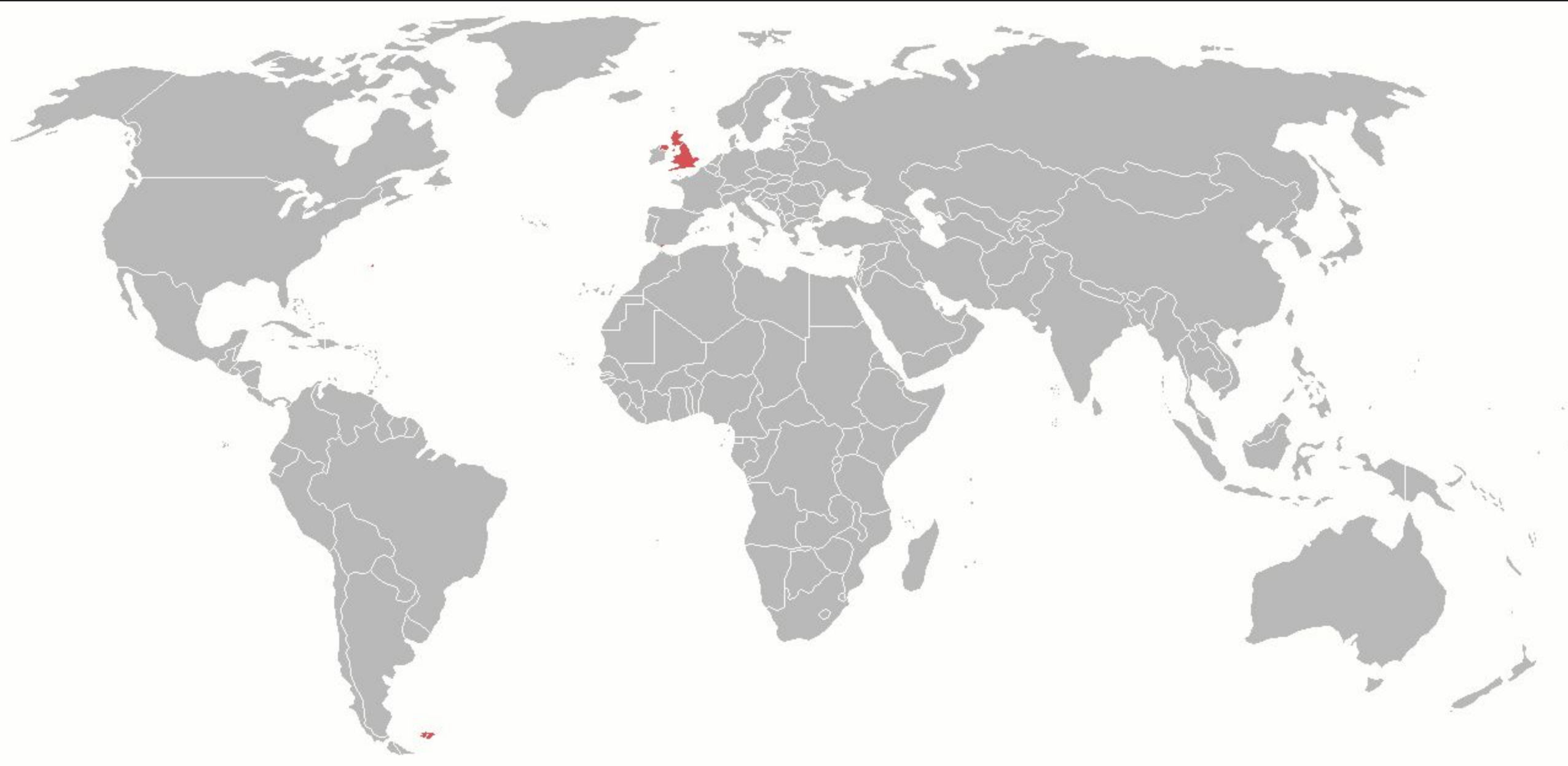












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