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# Overview. 26 countries without armies

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## Countries without an Army

26 countries in the world have no army.

As war is forbidden (UN Charter Article 2), many others could do the same.

### Identification criteria :

- 1. Constitutional provisions on the absence of an army or limiting armed forces to police forces.
- 2. Absence of heavy weapons.
- 3. Civil attachment of paramilitary forces (customs, coast guard, air guard, intelligence, homeland security, anti-riots squads and so forth) to the civil authority.

## List of countries

**Andorra**

**Cook Islands**

**Costa Rica**

**Dominica**

**Grenada**

**Haiti**

Iceland

Kiribati

[Liechtenstein](#)

Marshall Islands

Mauritius

Micronesia

Monaco

Nauru

Niue

Palau

Panama

Samoa

San Marino

Solomon Islands

St Kitts and Nevis

St Lucia

St Vincent and the Grenadines

Tuvalu

Vanuatu

Vatican

## Some comments :

## Overview. 26 countries without armies

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- One country out of 8 in the world is without an army (26 of 194, 14%) !
- Although all rather small, there are rich and poor, old and recent ones.
- 20 of these countries are islands or archipelagos, 4 have no access to the sea.
- 7 were demilitarized : 5 for serious problems due to the army, one for economic reasons, one for ballistic reasons. All others are born without an army.
- Only 7 of them have, to varying degrees, "protectors". All others manage their own security and international relations alone.
- Except 3 of them, Niue, Cook Islands and the Holy see (Vatican) they are all members of the UN.
- Except for the Vatican, they are all democratic.
- According to the Human Development Index of the United Nations, the situation of women there seems to be better.
- Budgets for education and literacy rates are also comparatively better.
- The history of the countries without army is full of lessons learned on non-military ways of solving conflicts.
- There are also "territories" without an army or demilitarized by treaty : the Moon, the Antarctica, the Alland Islands (Finland), the Spitsbergen, number of small islands, the Monn and all celestial bodies (By a world wide treaty), etc.
- The existence of countries without an army makes it possible to have non-violent institutions, including nations-states.