

# How Old is My Map or Globe?

## Statement from Cram

We hope that this listing of major, selected political changes can assist you in estimating the age of a world map or globe. This listing is intended to determine an approximate time frame for the publication of your map or globe. Unfortunately, we cannot provide more detailed (case by case) analysis to private collectors. Specific inquiries are best resolved with professional appraisers or with a visit to local public or university library. Links to possible sources of information and other suggestions are found at the end of this page.

## General Information

A globe or map publisher will sometimes include a copyright date or edition date near the legend, globe name, or publisher's information. If an edition date is not shown, you can determine the approximate date by comparing your globe to the following listing. Please note that the naming conventions or the actual date a change is made by a publisher can vary.

## Instructions

You can determine an edition date by comparing your globe or map to the listing. For example, if your globe shows the Philippines as independent (1946), but India as a British possession and not yet independent (1947), then the globe's edition date is 1946 or 1947. The Listing of Global Changes provides major, selected political changes. It begins with changes in 1898 and is current through 1997. To assist you in locating places, we have provided a Region Map. Simply find the country's index number in the listing and then refer to the Region Map to locate the country more easily. Please note that North America, Australia, and Antarctica are not included in the Region Map or in the Listing of Global Changes. Although Australia gained independence in 1901, and several U.S. states have achieved statehood since 1898, such changes are not shown.

## Region Map (with index numbers)

- (1).....Middle America
- (2).....South America
- (3).....Western Europe
- (4).....Northern Africa
- (5).....Central Africa
- (6).....Southern Africa
- (7).....Eastern Europe and Russia
- (8).....Middle East
- (9).....Central and Southern Asia
- (10).....East and Southeastern Asia



## Listing of Global Changes

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Date	Event (Region index number)
<b>1890s</b> .....	
1898	Spanish-American War U.S. acquires the territories of Philippines (10) U.S. acquires Puerto Rico (spelled Porto Rico), Cuba (1)
<b>1900s</b> .....	
1902	Cuba independence (1)
1903	Panama independence (1)
1905	Norway independence (3)
1908	Bulgaria independence (7)
<b>1910s</b> .....	
1910	Union of South Africa independence (6)
1912	Albania independence (7)
1914	Panama Canal opens (1)
1914-18	World War One
1917	Finland independence (3)
1918	Austria, Hungary, Poland, Czechoslovakia independence (7)
1919	Afghanistan independence (9)
<b>1920s</b> .....	
1920	Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia independence (7)
1921	Irish Free State semi-independence (3)
1922	Russia changes to Soviet Union (7) Egypt independence (4)
1923	Turkey independence (7)
1928	Capital city of China changes from Peiping to Peking (10)

1929 Yugoslavia name change (7)

**1930s**.....

1932 Saudi Arabia, Iraq independence (8)

1935 Persia changes to Iran (8)

1936 Italy invades Ethiopia (5)

1939 Germany annexes Austria (3) & Czechoslovakia (7)

1939-  
1945 World War Two

**1940s**.....

1946 Jordan, Syria independence (8) Philippines independence (10)

1947 India, Pakistan independence (9)

1948 Israel independence (8)  
Burma, Ceylon independence (9)

1949 Indonesia independence (10)  
East and West Germany created (3)

**1950s**.....

1951 Libya independence (4)

1953 Cease fire line divides North and South Korea (10)

1954 North and South Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia independence (10)

1956 Morocco, Tunisia, Sudan independence (4)

1957 Malaya independence (10)

1958 Guinea independence (5)

**1960s**.....

1960 Major break-up of colonial Africa: French West Africa,  
French Equatorial Africa, Belgian Congo, and other territories  
end, creating over 15 independent countries, including Niger,  
Chad, Somalia, Congo, Nigeria (4, 5)

1961 Kuwait independence (8)

	Tanganyika independence (5)
1962	Algeria independence (4) Uganda independence (5) Jamaica independence (1)
1963	Kenya independence (5) Malaysia independence (10)
1964	Zambia, Malawi independence (6) Tanzania independence (5)
1965	Singapore independence (10)
1966	Botswana, Lesotho independence (6) Guyana independence (2)
1967	French Somaliland changes to Afars & Issas (Fr.) (5)
1968	Equatorial Guinea independence (5)
	<b>1970s</b> .....
1970	Muscat and Oman changes to Oman (8)
1971	Congo changes to Zaire (5) Bangladesh independence (9)
1972	Ceylon changes to Sri Lanka (9)
1973	Bahamas independence (1)
1974	Guinea-Bissau independence (5)
1975	Angola, Mozambique independence (6) Suriname independence (2)
1976	Vietnam unifies (10) Indonesia annexes Portuguese Timor (10)
1977	Djibouti independence (5)
1978	Dominica independence (1)
1979	St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines independence (1)
	<b>1980s</b> .....
1980	Zimbabwe independence (6)

- 1981 Belize, Antigua and Barbuda independence (1)
- 1984 Upper Volta changes to Burkina Faso (5)
- 1986 Ivory Coast changes to Cote d'Ivoire (5)
- 1989 Burma changes to Myanmar (9)
- 1990s.....**
- 1990 Germany unifies (3)  
Yemen unifies (8)  
Namibia independence (6)
- 1991-1992 Soviet Union dissolves into 15 new countries, including Russia, Estonia, Belarus, Ukraine, Kazakhstan (7, 9)
- 1992 Yugoslavia dissolves into 5 new countries, including Bosnia, Croatia, Yugoslavia (7)
- 1993 Czechoslovakia divides into Czech Republic and Slovakia (7)
- 1994 Walvis Bay possession changes to Namibia (6)
- Zaire changes to Congo (5)
- 1997 Hong Kong possession changes to China (10)  
Western Samoa changed its name to Samoa [Pacific Ocean / half way between Hawaii and New Zealand]
- 1999 Nunavut Territory created from part of Northwest Territories [Canada]  
Mt. Everest elevation adjusted to 29,035 feet, in Nepal [Southern Asia]  
Macau returned by Portugal to China, next to Hong Kong [Southern China]

## Links To Other References

[Antique Maps & Antique Atlases Resources Page](#) (index of site for map enthusiasts)  
[Geography and Maps Division, Library of Congress](#) (excellent general reference)  
[Mercator's World](#) (publication that features information of antique maps and globes)  
[United States Geological Survey](#) (governmental source for many cartographers)

## Other Suggestions for Searching in Your Community

State and County Historical Societies  
 Map division of city or university libraries  
 Auction houses familiar with maps and globes and antique dealers