International boundaries - “the razor’s edge on which hangs suspended the modern issues of war and peace, of life and death to nations.”

George Curzon, 1908

Appendix A

The territories for which data has been gathered are home to at least 99.95% of the world’s population. As control over certain areas is disputed, the term ‘territory’ rather than ‘state’ or ‘country’ is used.

The territories include 191 United Nations Member States, plus nine independent, formerly independent or disputed territories, such as Taiwan, Hong Kong, Greenland, Puerto Rico and the Western Sahara.

The land of some territories is geographically dispersed. Data for France, for example, often includes the island of Reunion which is in the Indian Ocean.

This map shows all territories included in our data as roughly the same size.