



EXPLORE  
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## Declaring Their Own Kingdoms

A king without a kingdom is not without options. For centuries, wannabe rulers intent on independence, political subversion, religious freedom, or just a laugh have laid dubious claim to territories. Some call these domains “micronations.”

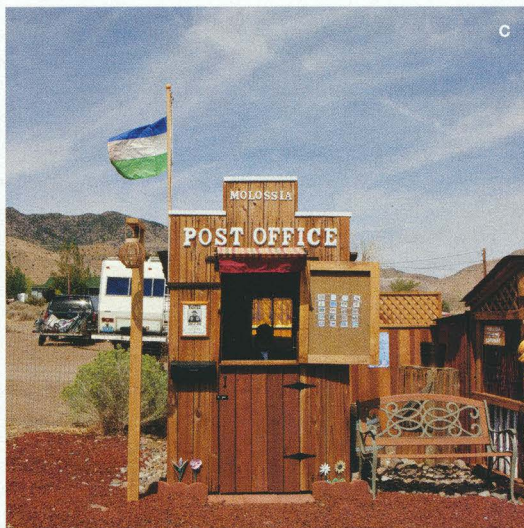
Where have self-appointed rulers planted flags? On islands: Off Denmark’s coast is the Kingdom of Elleore, which bans *Robinson Crusoe* as slander against island life. In deserts: Nevada’s Republic of Molossia sells bonds to fund its war—with East Germany. And in the ocean: The ruler of the Principality of Sealand, a WWII-era British Navy sea fort, says he once foiled a hostage-taking coup.

By international law, those aspiring to nationhood must have a government, a permanent population, defined territory, and a capacity for foreign relations; some tiny nations also have flags, constitutions, and currencies. What most don’t have is recognition. They exist, as their founders do, on the fringes. —Nina Storchlic

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#### A. ELLEORE

For one festive week a year, 271 Elleorians flock to their island kingdom. It was founded in 1944 by a group of school-teachers now known as the "Immortals."

#### B. SAUGEAIS

According to lore, this republic struck out from France in 1947 when a restaurateur jokingly asked a local official to show his entry permit before dining.

#### C. MOLOSSIA

President Kevin Baugh's War Department scrapped plans for an army and air force but does have a five-raft navy that "stands ready"—in the Nevada desert.

#### D. SEBORGIA

Residents of this medieval principality believe independence was granted in A.D. 954. Italy isn't convinced, but Seborga operates consulates in 19 countries.

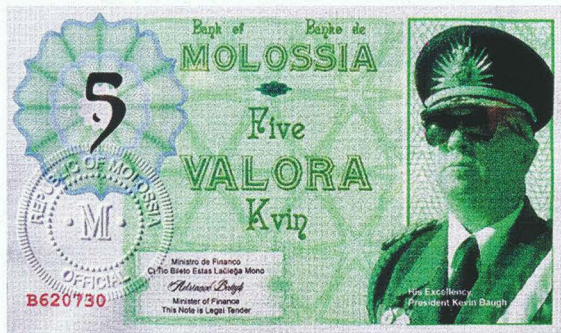
#### E. ATLANTIUM

None of its 3,000 citizens actually reside in the 200-acre Australian realm, but Emperor George II rents out the whole thing—pyramid included—on Airbnb.

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