

MAPPING

Exclaves

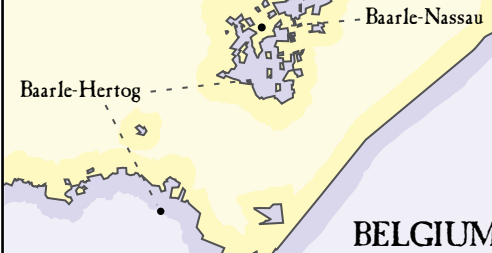
By Reif Larsen

A WISE MAN ONCE SAID THAT MOST STORIES ARE THE STORY OF SOMEONE TRYING TO make a home in a place where he or she doesn't belong. The world is filled with such places. An enclave is a piece of land not bound to the rest of its territory, orphaned by geography. Some of these exclaves are enclaves—that is, territory completely surrounded on all sides by another territory. And some of these exclaves are in turn trapped inside other exclaves. These tangled borders often lead to ongoing political upheaval or impoverished conditions for its inhabitants. Here's the story of four exclaves on four different continents.

—This is an enclave.

—This is an exclave.

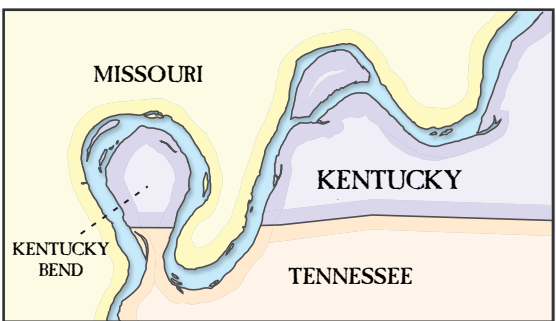
NETHERLANDS



BAARLE-HERTOG

BAARLE-HERTOG IS MADE UP OF A SERIES OF TWO dozen tiny Belgian exclaves inside the village of Baarle-Nassau in southeast Holland. Hundreds of years of complicated land swaps, treaties, and surveying disputes has created one of the more complicated borders in Europe, including six Dutch counter-enclaves within the Belgian enclaves. In the hybrid town of Baarle, the border between the countries varies from house to house and sometimes within a house. A restaurant split between the two countries may keep its Belgian half open later than its Dutch half and a home owner straddling the line may elect to move the location of his front door so as to pay the more favorable tax rate in the country of his choosing.

MISSOURI



KENTUCKY BEND

SOMETIMES REFERRED TO AS "BUBBLELAND," Kentucky Bend is an exclave of Kentucky encircled by an oxbow of the Mississippi River. It is also Kentucky's westernmost point. The bend was formed during the New Madrid earthquakes of 1811-1812 which flattened the nearby town of New Madrid, and altered the path of the Mississippi River. The Bend subsequently became a place of ongoing legal dispute between Kentucky and Tennessee, with each state claiming rightful ownership of the territory until at least 1848. In his book, *LIFE ON THE MISSISSIPPI*, Mark Twain describes how the bend was the site of a six-decade-long blood feud in the 1800s between the Watson and Darnell families that purportedly began over a horse or cow. As of the 2010 US census, Bubbleland had just 18 residents.

CONGO



CABINDA

AN EXCLAVE OF ANGOLA SINCE 1975, the province of Cabinda is responsible for producing at least 60% of Angola's crude oil and yet remains one of the country's poorest provinces. The Front for the Liberation of the Enclave of Cabinda (FLEC) has waged a sometimes bloody campaign for Cabindan independence since the early sixties. In 2010, armed members of FLEC attacked the Togo national soccer team's bus while the team was traversing Cabinda during the Africa Cup of Nations tournament, wounding eleven and killing three. FLEC later claimed they were aiming for the team's armed Angolan escort and not the Togolese players.

INDIA



INDO-BANGLADESH CHITMAHALS

ACCORDING TO FOLKLORE, THE 198 EXCLAVES ALONG THE Indo-Bangladesh border were the result two kings betting with villages during a series of chess games. Regardless of their origin, the chitmahals undoubtedly constitute the world's most complex border, including the only counter-counter enclave, Dahala Khagrabari #51, a 7000 square-meter Indian field inside a Bangladeshi village inside an Indian village inside Bangladesh. Unfortunately, the tangled border has led to extreme poverty for its residents, with nonexistent governmental support and social services as neither country will assume responsibility for the area. The dire situation led to the introduction of a 2011 bill in the Indian parliament that would erase all exclaves and allow residents to choose their nationality. The bill has yet to be passed.

