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Nº 3

## CIVIL DIVISIONS OF THE WORLD

Part V. Western Hemisphere  
April 1958

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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GEOGRAPHIC INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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## CIVIL DIVISIONS OF THE WORLD

### Part V. WESTERN HEMISPHERE

#### Introduction

Wherever possible, this report gives the generic names of first- and second-order civil divisions and the number of such units for each country. "Country" is here interpreted loosely to cover nations, colonies, possessions and other types of units. For the most part, the data reflect de facto sovereignty as of April 1958. The counting of a particular civil division under the name of a country, however, does not necessarily imply recognition of its current political status by the United States Government.

The data vary somewhat in completeness and accuracy from country to country. For some countries, the classification of towns presented problems, whereas for others, determining the rank and administrative role of extensive divisions was difficult. Resolving the various problems offered wide latitude for choice, and the compilers will quickly concede that valid interpretations different from theirs can be placed on many of the civil division patterns.

The new Federation of the West Indies is treated as a "country" with component territories (former colonies) as first-order civil divisions. But since the federation is still in a formative stage, and some readers may prefer to regard the territories as "countries," their administrative arrangements are noted through third-order -- that is, former first-order division (under the federation, second-order); former second-order division (under the federation, third-order).

Wherever appropriate, the generic names of civil divisions are followed by a translation -- the "standard" translation where one could be discerned, and the choice of the compilers in other cases. Where translations only were available, that is, where the official form in current use could not be identified with certainty, the translation is given by itself in brackets.

In the Spanish-speaking areas of the Western Hemisphere, there is much similarity from country to country in the terms used to identify civil divisions. Comparisons between countries should be made with caution, however, for identically named units in different countries may differ greatly in function.

The data given for each civil division category is that of the main source from which information was taken. Where basic data were drawn from numerous sources, the date may span several years. For the most part, geographic coordinates are taken from The Columbia Lippincott Gazetteer of the World, 1952 edition.

The references cited generally include the main sources from which data were taken. In some instances, it was necessary to note several references in order to give complete coverage for both first- and second-order units. References include maps, lists, and works useful in interpreting administrative relationships. After each citation, a brief indication of the type of data presented by the source is given.

Reference materials for which call numbers or map numbers are given in the citations can be obtained on request from the CIA Map Library, extension 2596. Maps with map numbers generally are obtainable as retention copies, whereas all items with call numbers are available only on loan. Most of the unnumbered books, reports, and documents that are cited as references are in the CIA Library (extension 8708), the Department of State Library, or the Library of Congress. A few, however, are available at the CIA Map Library.

Where reliability of the data is particularly doubtful, or where some relationship is not covered by the available sources, the discrepancies are noted under the heading "Gaps."

NORTH AMERICA

SECTION A

NORTH AMERICA

Alaska

Greenland

Canada

St. Pierre and Miquelon

Bermuda

United States

ALASKA

An incorporated territory of the United States.\*

Name and number of  
FIRST-ORDER DIVISIONS

judicial division: 4

1958

Name and number of  
SECOND-ORDER DIVISIONS

recording district: 47

1951

REMARKS

To a considerable extent the territory is administered as a single unit by the Government of the United States acting through a Governor and other officials appointed by the President of the United States, and through some 50 Federal agencies that have direct jurisdiction in Alaskan affairs. A more limited range of governmental activities is carried out by the Territorial Government for which legislators and certain other officials are elected by the voters of Alaska. The relationship between Federal authority and Territorial authority is complex, with some of the powers of the Governor being shared with locally elected or appointed officials.

The 4 judicial divisions (identified by number) and their subdivisions, the recording districts, are conventionally treated as the first- and second-order administrative entities largely because there is no other system of area breakdown that comes closer to being "administrative" and systematically divides the entire area of the territory. It should be noted, however, that the judicial divisions are not functionally comparable to the administrative units of better-developed areas, and that much governmental activity is conducted without reference to their boundaries.

The proper place of the 30 (as of 1956) incorporated towns of Alaska in the administrative scheme is open to interpretation. Although subordinate to the Territorial Government, the towns are in some respects first-order administrative units. Juneau, the capital of Alaska, is an incorporated town, but otherwise has no special status.

\*A bill admitting Alaska as the 49th State of the United States was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on 28 May 1958 and by the U.S. Senate on 30 June 1958. Actual achievement of statehood will probably be consummated in December 1958, when the President upon receiving various certifications proclaims Alaska a state. Until admission is thus formalized, the area will remain technically a territory with the civil divisions noted above. After the proclamation, Alaska will become the 49th first-order civil division of the United States with second-order units, somewhat comparable to counties, called boroughs. The number of boroughs that will exist at the time statehood is proclaimed is not now known.

ALASKA  
con't

REFERENCES

Alaska Resource Development Board. Biennial Report 1955-1957, Juneau, 1957; administrative relationships.

Financial Data Regarding the Incorporated Towns and Cities of Alaska, Alaska Resource Development Board, Juneau, 1956; administrative relationships; names of incorporated towns.

Colby, M.. A Guide to Alaska, The Macmillan Company, New York, 1954; administrative relationships.

Mid-Century Alaska, United States Department of the Interior, Office of Territories, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, 1951; administrative relationships.

Alaska; 1:3,000,000; June 1956; National Geographic Society; limits of the judicial divisions.

Alaska; 1:3,750,000; 1950; U.S. Government Printing Office; boundaries of judicial divisions and recording districts; locates settlements, incorporated ones differentiated. Call No. 91217.



## GREENLAND

A Danish possession formerly administered as a colony. A constitutional change of 1953 made Greenland an integral part of the Danish Kingdom.

Name and number of  
FIRST-ORDER DIVISIONS

landsdel: 3  
(territory)

1957

Name and number of  
SECOND-ORDER DIVISIONS

kommune: 19  
(municipality)\*

1957

REMARKS

The three territories are Vastergrønland, Nordgrønland, and Ostgrønland. Vastergrønland, wherein dwell most of the people of Greenland, is divided into 16 municipalities, each comprising several inhabited places. The "places", however, may be merely single dwellings. Nordgrønland has one municipality -- Thule; Ostgrønland has two -- Angmagssalik and Scoresbysund. Since there is no settlement in the interior, boundaries between civil divisions separate coastal sectors only. Godthåb is the capital.

REFERENCES

(a) Statistisk Årbog 1957, Denmark, Statistiske Departement, Bianco Lunos Bogtrykkeri A/S, Copenhagen, 1957; administrative relationships; names of first- and second-order units.

(b) Grønland, 1:5,000,000; Denmark, Geodetic Institute, 1947; boundaries of first- and second-order units; data are not current but with the aid of ref. (a) the present boundaries of most units can be worked out. Call No. 65804.

\*As translated in reference (a).

## CANADA

Name and number of  
FIRST-ORDER DIVISIONS

1958 province: 10  
territory: 2

Name and number of  
SECOND-ORDER DIVISIONS

1955-56 [urban municipality]: ca. 1,254\*  
[rural municipality]: ca. 1,695\*\*  
county: 114  
district: 3

REMARKS

The provinces are: Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, and Saskatchewan. The 2 territories are Yukon (no subdivisions) and the Northwest Territories (divided into the 3 districts that are counted above as second-order divisions).

The terms "rural municipality" and "urban municipality" as used above indicate similar entities known by different names in different provinces. For example:

urban municipality: city, town, village, incorporated city, incorporated town, incorporated village.

rural municipality: municipal district, incorporated rural district, township, organized township, etc.

"County" as used in Canada refers to many different types of units few of which are exactly comparable to the counties of the United States. The figure given above for counties ranking as second-order units covers only those of Ontario and Quebec. For parts of these provinces, counties function as administrative entities between province governments and organized rural areas. The cities and most towns of Ontario and Quebec are not under county administration, although many are within counties in a geographic sense.

\*Excludes some 636 villages and towns of Ontario and Quebec that are technically under counties and thus are not true second-order units; includes 17 local government "communities" of Newfoundland and 12 incorporated villages of Prince Edward Island.

\*\*Excludes some 1,543 organized rural areas of Ontario and Quebec that are technically under counties and thus are not true second-order divisions; includes a few Ontario "improvement districts", but excludes 12 similarly named districts in Saskatchewan; for Manitoba, includes 5 "suburban municipalities" but not the "local government districts"; 7 "county municipalities" of Alberta are included, but the 53 Alberta "improvement districts" are excluded.

CANADA  
con'tREMARKS  
con't

Although several provinces other than Quebec and Ontario have "counties", these either do not have governments or are conventionally classified as "rural municipalities." In Alberta, counties are being formed under a plan for the administration of municipal affairs, local schools, and hospitals by one council. Those formed to date are counted above as "rural municipalities." Nova Scotia has 18 counties, 12 of which are coextensive with rural municipalities, whereas 6 are divided into 2 rural municipalities each. As such, the counties of Nova Scotia do not represent local units of self-government. The 15 counties of New Brunswick are, excluding the areas of certain towns and cities, coextensive with the 15 rural municipalities of that province. The 3 counties of Prince Edward Island are nominal units without governments.

Throughout Canada there are numerous special purpose authorities with areas of responsibility that may take in all or part of several civil divisions. Some of these have acquired functions other than those for which they were originally formed and, in some cases, the line between multipurpose civil division and special jurisdiction cannot be sharply drawn.

Ottawa, the capital of Canada, is a self-governing municipality. The Federal Government, however, has long played an important role in its planning and development.

REFERENCES

Note: Many readily available maps correctly represent the boundaries of the provinces and territories. Numerous equally available maps show the limits of the second-order divisions, but are generally inadequate in completeness of detail and currency of data. Putting together a relatively complete and up-to-date boundary picture for the second-order units of any one province normally requires a large and heterogeneous assortment of maps -- some at quite large scales. Moreover, many of the available maps showing second-order unit boundaries also give the limits of a variety of other entities (judicial districts, census districts, election districts, ad hoc authorities, etc.) that are not true civil divisions. Thus, in determining any boundary, considerable analysis may be required to separate wheat from chaff.

Canada, Bureau of Statistics. The Canada Yearbook 1955, Edmond Cloutier, Queen's Printer, Ottawa, 1955; administrative relationships; includes 1:8,870,400 map showing province and territory boundaries.

Canadian Almanac and Directory; Copp Clark Publishing Co., Ltd., Toronto, 1957; administrative relationships; names of first- and second-order units.

The Statesman's Year-Book 1957, Macmillan and Co., Ltd., London, 1957; administrative relationships; number of units.

CANADA  
con't

REFERENCES  
con't

Brown, George W.. Canada, University of California Press, Berkeley, 1950; administrative relationships (Chapter XII, local government).

Lawrence, Bertha. Canada in the Modern World, J. M. Dent and Sons, Ltd., Toronto, 1955; administrative relationships; historical development of local government p. 395-412.

GAPS

Available map coverage for the boundaries of second-order units leaves much to be desired in completeness, currency, and clarity.

ST. PIERRE AND MIQUELON

A French overseas territory comprising 2 islands and a number of small adjacent islets off the south coast of Newfoundland near 48°50'N-56°15'W.

Name and number of  
FIRST-ORDER DIVISIONS commune: 2

Name and number of  
SECOND-ORDER DIVISIONS --

REMARKS

The population of the islands is not dense enough to require precisely delimited administrative units. As far as can be determined, the commune of St. Pierre takes in the entire island of that name and adjacent islets. Miquelon commune apparently comprises all of Grande Miquelon and Petite Miquelon (Langlade). In the past, a settlement on Petite Miquelon may have ranked as another commune.

The town of St. Pierre is the capital of the territory as a whole.

There is doubt about the sovereignty status of the easternmost island of the St. Pierre and Miquelon group -- Isle Verte, 48°52'N-56°05'W. According to reference (a) and other French sources, half the island belongs to France. Confirmation of Canadian ownership of part of the island has not yet been found in Canadian sources, although reference (a) indicates that the British (Canadians?) have erected a lighthouse on the island.

REFERENCES

(a) Bottin de Madagascar des Territoires D'Amérique et D'Océanie, Didot-Bottin, Paris, 1957; administrative relationships.

(b) Dictionnaire des Communes, Éditions Berger-Levrault, Paris, 1956; names of communes.

(c) Leitch, Adelaide. "The Poker-Faced Islands of France," Canadian Geographical Journal, Vol. XXXI, No. 3, September 1950, p. 105-119; administrative relationships.

GAPS

Data are needed on the current status of Isle Verte.

BERMUDA

United Kingdom Crown Colony in the western Atlantic; includes several islands centered near 32°15'N-64°51'W.

Name and number of  
FIRST-ORDER DIVISIONS parish: 9

1957

Name and number of  
SECOND-ORDER DIVISIONS --

REMARKS

There are two towns, St. George and Hamilton (the capital), in which municipal taxes are levied. Hamilton is governed by a corporation. Whether these two municipalities should be regarded as entities separate from the parishes in which they are located is a moot question.

REFERENCE

Bermuda: Report for the Years 1955 and 1956, Her Majesty's Stationery Office, London, 1958; administrative relationships and names of units; includes a 1:60,000 map showing parish names and boundaries.

## UNITED STATES\*

Name and number of  
FIRST-ORDER DIVISIONS state: 48  
 1958 district: 1

Name and number of  
SECOND-ORDER DIVISIONS county: 3,004  
 1956-57 parish: 64  
 independent city: 34

REMARKS

The number of states will increase to 49 when Alaska is officially proclaimed a state, probably in December 1958. For details regarding the current status of Alaska, see p. 2.

The single first-order district, the District of Columbia, is coextensive with the City of Washington, capital of the United States. The District of Columbia has no subdivisions that can be referred to as general-purpose administrative units of second-order rank.

The number of counties per state ranges from 3 (Delaware) to 254 (Texas). States and counties vary greatly in area and population, and some counties are actually larger and more populous than some states. A few counties are merely nominal units without governments, but no attempt has been made to exclude them from the total given above.

The 64 parishes, all located in the State of Louisiana, differ only in name from the counties of other states.

The figure for independent cities, drawn from reference (a), breaks down as follows: Virginia: 32; Maryland: 1 (Baltimore); Missouri: 1 (St. Louis). The cities are independent in the sense that they are not subject to county authority. Many other cities not officially recognized as "independent cities" approach this status in fact.

The administrative arrangements of New York City are anomalous in that the city takes in the total area of 5 counties. City administration is handled through 5 boroughs, each coextensive with one of the 5 counties. Three of the boroughs (Bronx, Richmond, and Queens) take the names of the counties with which they coincide; the other 2 have different names: New York County/Manhattan Borough; Kings County/Brooklyn Borough. The 5 counties of New York City have been included in the total given above; in some lists, they are not counted as regular counties.

\*Only the continental United States is considered here -- that is, the states and the District of Columbia. Data for territories, associated commonwealths, possessions, and other types of entities over which the United States exercises sovereignty are set forth elsewhere in appropriate regional sections.

UNITED STATES  
con't

REMARKS  
con't

The basic third-order divisions are municipalities (cities and towns) and townships (essentially rural divisions of counties, although they include towns in the New England States, New York, and Wisconsin). In 1952, there were 16,778 municipalities and 17,202 townships. Throughout the United States, many public services are dispensed by ad hoc authorities with areas of jurisdiction that may take in all or part of several civil divisions. Such authorities now number about 72,000, of which some 60,000 are school districts.

REFERENCES

Note: Numerous materials offer pertinent data on the civil divisions of the United States. The items noted below are merely representative of those that are readily available.

(a) U.S. Bureau of the Census. County and City Data Book 1956, A Statistical Abstract Supplement, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, 1957; names of first- and second-order civil divisions; boundaries shown on accompanying small-scale state maps.

(b) U.S. Bureau of the Census. Statistical Abstract of the United States: 1956, Seventy-seventh edition, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, 1956; administrative relationships; number of lower-order units.

(c) Webster's Geographical Dictionary, G. and C. Merriam Co., Springfield, Mass., 1957; names of first- and second-order units; boundaries shown on accompanying small-scale state maps.

(d) The World Almanac, New York World-Telegram Corporation, New York, 1958; names of first- and second-order units.



SECTION B

MIDDLE AMERICA (Mainland)

Mexico

Guatemala

British Honduras

Honduras

El Salvador

Nicaragua

Costa Rica

Panamá

Panama Canal Zone

## MEXICO

Name and number of  
FIRST-ORDER DIVISIONS

1957

estado: 29  
(state)

distrito federal: 1  
(federal district)

territorio: 2  
(territory)

Name and number of  
SECOND-ORDER DIVISIONS

1956

municipio: 2,347  
(municipality)

delegación: 24  
(delegation)

congregación autónoma: 1  
(autonomous congregation)

REMARKS

The distrito federal and the 2 territorios are divided into 24 delegaciones, 13 of which are in the distrito federal. The urban core of Mexico City falls largely within one of the 13 delegaciones.

The municipios, the basic units of local government, vary greatly in area, population, and urban-rural proportions. The municipio seat (city, town, or village) has no corporate identity apart from the municipio as a whole. Since virtually all towns of any importance (and many of no importance) are municipio seats, city government and municipio government are one and the same thing.

All localities in Mexico are assigned a "political category" designation: ciudad (city), villa (town), pueblo (settlement), ejido (communal or semicomunal farming unit), hacienda (landed estate), rancho (small land holding), etc. A typical municipio might comprise a city (the administrative seat) and 10 to 15 units of lesser status.

The number of municipios per state ranges from 4 in Baja California Norte to some 570 in Oaxaca. Municipios are so numerous in Oaxaca that their boundaries cannot be shown on maps at small or medium scales. For this reason, many Mexican maps, including references (b) and (f), give only the boundaries of some 30 former distritos for Oaxaca. Various lists, including one in reference (d), group Oaxaca municipios under the names of former distritos. It should be noted that use of the former distritos in presenting data for Oaxaca is an arrangement of convenience; the units have no current administrative significance.

The congregación autónoma is located in the state of Nuevo León. It may be a special administrative arrangement for a native (Indian) community, but particulars are not given in readily available sources.

MEXICO  
con't

REFERENCES

- (a) Compendio Estadístico, México, Secretaría de Economía, Dirección General de Estadística, Talleres Gráficos de la Nación, Mexico City, 1957; administrative relationships; number of units; names of first-order units.
- (b) Estados Unidos Mexicanos - División Municipal; ca. 1:4,000,000; México, Sección de Economía, Dirección General de Estadística, 1950; names and boundaries of first- and second-order units, except Oaxaca municipios. Call No. 78516.
- (c) Tucker, W.P.. The Mexican Government Today, University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, 1957; administrative relationships.
- (d) Anuario Estadístico de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos, México, Secretaría de Economía, Dirección General de Estadística, Mexico City, 1954; list of Oaxaca municipios grouped by former distritos, p. 91.
- (e) Integración Territorial de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos, México, Secretaría de Economía, Dirección General de Estadístico, Mexico City, 1952; names of all units in hierarchic outline. Call No. gC201.M49.
- (f) Atlas Geográfico de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos, México, Secretaría de Agricultura y Fomento, Mexico City, 1946; municipio boundaries (except for Oaxaca) shown on state maps at 1:400,000-1:2,000,000; not as current as ref. (b) but useful because of larger scales; includes list of coastal islands and states or territories to which they belong. Call No. aC201.M47 1946 (a).

GUATEMALA

Name and number of  
FIRST-ORDER DIVISIONS

1956

departamento: 22\*  
(department)

Name and number of  
SECOND-ORDER DIVISIONS

municipio: 322  
(municipality)

REMARKS

Departamentos vary greatly in area, population, and number of municipios (5 to 31).

The municipios of Guatemala are basically similar to those of numerous other Latin American countries. Each includes a seat (city, town, or village) and a surrounding area, usually rural. The settlement that serves as administrative seat has no corporate existence apart from the municipio as a whole. Since virtually all towns of any importance are municipio seats, city government is municipio government. In the towns that are also seats of departamentos, however, the line between municipio government and departamento government may not be sharply drawn.

Technically, Guatemala City, the capital, has no special status other than its position as a municipio and departamento seat.

REFERENCES

Matheu, Jorge D.V.. Guia Sociogeográfica de Guatemala, Tipografía Nacional de Guatemala, Guatemala City, 1956; administrative relationships; names of first- and second-order units.

Mapa de la República de Guatemala; 1:800,000; Dirección General de Estadística; 1952; boundaries of first- and second-order units. Call No. 50285.

[Departments of the Republic of Guatemala]; 1:200,000 through 1:800,000; Dirección General de Estadística; 1953-?; individual departamento maps showing names and boundaries of municipios; complete coverage; Call No. 93716.

Guatemala; 1:1,000,000; 1953; departamento names and boundaries. Map No. 12208.

\*Officially 23, according to some Guatemalan sources, the 23rd being Belize (Belice) British Honduras, which Guatemala claims.

BRITISH HONDURAS  
(United Kingdom Crown Colony)

Name and number of  
FIRST-ORDER DIVISIONS district: 6

1955

Name and number of  
SECOND-ORDER DIVISIONS See Remarks

REMARKS

Each district, except Belize, is under a District Commissioner whose field of duties is very wide. In the Belize District, much administration is exercised directly by the colony government from Belize Town, and the functions of the officer responsible for the district outside the town differ materially from those of a District Commissioner.

As far as can be determined, the cays and islets along the coast, some of which are inhabited, are under the administration of the coastal districts they adjoin.

The 7 towns with local government boards are in some respects the only second-order divisions. All of the towns are small except Belize, the population of which comprises about one third of the colony total.

REFERENCES

Colonial Report: British Honduras 1955, Her Majesty's Stationery Office, London, 1957; administrative relationships; names of districts and "local authority" towns; district boundaries shown on accompanying 1:950,000 map.

The Colonial Office List 1951, Her Majesty's Stationery Office, London; administrative relationships; names of districts.

HONDURAS

Name and number of  
FIRST-ORDER DIVISIONS

departamento: 18  
(department)

September 1957

Name and number of  
SECOND-ORDER DIVISIONS

municipio: 245  
(municipality)

1952-55

distrito: 36  
(district)

REMARKS

In February 1957, a new departamento (Gracias á Dios) was formed from the eastern portion of the Departamento de Colón. It comprises a jungle area that has long been in dispute between Honduras and Nicaragua.

The islands off the north coast form a single departamento: Islas de la Bahía.

The municipios of Honduras are similar to those of numerous other Latin American countries in that they include a seat (city, town, or village) and an adjacent area, usually rural.

Distritos, of which at least four types are recognized (territorial, departmental, sectional, and local) are merely the most important municipios, i.e., they comprise the largest towns. Distritos differ from normal municipios in that their governments are directed to a considerable extent by the national government. Tegucigalpa, the capital, is the seat of the Distrito Territorial de Tegucigalpa (also called Distrito Central). Whether the distritos, or some of them, might be more appropriately ranked as first-order divisions is a question available data do not answer definitively.

REFERENCES

Boletín, Honduras, Secretaría de Fomento, Dirección General de Cartografía, Tegucigalpa, September 1957, Año 1, Nr. 2, departamento names and boundaries on end paper map at ca. 1:2,000,000; includes boundary of new departamento formed in 1957.

Primer Censo Agropecuario 1952, Honduras, Dirección General de Censos y Estadística, 1954; Lud Dreikorn, San Salvador, 1954; boundaries of first- and second-order units on 1:2,700,000 map; names (distritos not differentiated) keyed to map by number.

División Político-Territorial de la República de Honduras, Honduras, Dirección General de Censos y Estadística Nacional, Talleres Tipográficos Nacionales, Tegucigalpa, 1952; names of all units in hierarchic outline (distritos differentiated by type).

Stokes, W.S.. Honduras: An Area Study in Government, University of Wisconsin Press, Madison, 1950; administrative relationships.

GAPS

The status of the distritos needs clarification.

EL SALVADOR

Name and number of  
FIRST-ORDER DIVISIONS

departamento: 14  
(department)

1955

Name and number of  
SECOND-ORDER DIVISIONS

distrito (district): 39

1955

REMARKS

It is questionable whether much administration is exercised at the distrito level and there is reason to view the municipios, of which there were some 260 in 1955, as the basic second-order divisions, their official third-order status notwithstanding.

Town government is municipio government. Each municipio comprises a seat (which may be designated ciudad/city, villa/village, etc. to indicate its relative importance) and an adjacent area, usually rural. The seat does not have a corporate identity separate from that of the municipio as a whole.

REFERENCES

Atlas Censal de El Salvador, Ministerio de Economía, Dirección General de Estadística y Censos, El Salvador, 1955; names of units first- through third-order; boundaries of departamentos and municipios shown on map at 1:1,000,000. Call No. aC308.873 1955.

Peaslee, A.J.. Constitutions of Nations, Martinus Nijhoff, The Hague, 1956; administrative relationships (El Salvador constitution, p. 815-851).

GAPS

Additional data are needed on distrito functions and boundaries.

## NICARAGUA

Including the Corn Islands some 50 miles off the east coast.

Name and number of  
FIRST-ORDER DIVISIONS

1952

departamento: 16  
(department)

distrito federal: 1  
(federal district)

comarca: 1  
(territory)

Name and number of  
SECOND-ORDER DIVISIONS

1952

municipio: 122  
(municipality)

REMARKS

The Corn Islands, although leased by the United States since 1914, are administered by Nicaragua as part of the Departamento de Zelaya.

The distrito federal apparently comprises a small part of Managua, capital of Nicaragua, but its limits are not made clear by readily available data.

Comarca del Cabo Gracias á Dios, the first-order territory, takes in northeasternmost Nicaragua and, as defined on Nicaraguan maps, also includes an area claimed by Honduras.

The municipios vary greatly in size. On the east coast, they extend over large areas, whereas in some of the more densely settled parts of the country they take in little more than a town and its immediate environs. The municipio seat (city, town, or village) has no corporate existence apart from the municipio as a whole.

Municipios are subdivided into third-order comarcas of which there were some 1,430 in 1952. "Comarca" can be translated as "territory, district, quarter, region, or tract." As used in Nicaragua in reference to third-order divisions, "district" seems to be the most appropriate translation. The 1 comarca counted above as a first-order division may not be so regarded officially.

REFERENCES

Mapa de la República de Nicaragua: División Política; 1:1,250,000; Dirección General de Estadística; corrected to 1952; names and boundaries of departamentos and municipios. Call No. 78380.

Censo General de Población de la República de Nicaragua Mayo 1950, Vol. XVII, Ministerio de Economía, Dirección General de Estadística y Censos, Managua, Aug 1954; names of all units; boundaries of first- and second-order units (except distrito federal) shown on sketchy map at 1:3,000,000. Call No. gC305.N52 v. 17.

GAPS

Clarification of the rank of the first-order comarca is needed.



COSTA RICA

Name and number of  
FIRST-ORDER DIVISIONS

provincia: 7  
(province)

1955

Name and number of  
SECOND-ORDER DIVISIONS

cantón: 64

1955

REMARKS

The city of San José, capital of Costa Rica, has no special status other than its position as center of a cantón and administrative seat of the Provincia de San José. The cantón comprises 11 distritos (districts; third-order units) 4 of which take in the urban core of San José whereas 7 are suburban.

In areas of relatively dense population, the cantón is apparently the basic unit of local government with the third-order distritos, of which there were 323 in 1955, functioning as unimportant subdivisions. Where population is sparse, however, government at the distrito level may be of considerable local importance. In such areas distritos are quite large.

Normally uninhabited Cocos Island (05°30'N-87°00'W) is attached administratively to Provincia de Puntarenas.

REFERENCES

División Territorial Administrativa de la República de Costa Rica, Costa Rica, Ministerio de Economía y Hacienda, Dirección General de Estadística y Censos, San José, 1955; administrative relationships; names of all units in hierarchic outline.

Costa Rica; 1:1,300,000; 1956; provincia names and boundaries. Map No. 25346.

[Administrative Divisions of Costa Rica]; 1:1,250,000; Dirección General de Estadística y Censos, 1950; names and boundaries of units first- through third-order. Call No. 97170.

[Costa Rica: Provinces, Cantons, and Districts]; various scales; Instituto Geográfico - Costa Rica, 1949-50; some 50 sheets, mostly maps of individual cantons and distritos; coverage may not be complete. Call No. 50970.

PANAMA\*

Name and number of  
FIRST-ORDER DIVISIONS      provincia: 9  
 (province)  
 1957

Name and number of  
SECOND-ORDER DIVISIONS      distrito: 63  
 (district)  
 1950-55  
 comarca: 1  
 (territory)

REMARKS

Nearshore islands fit into the provincia, distrito, comarca pattern.

The distritos are similar to units called municipios elsewhere in Latin America. Most distritos comprise a seat (city, town, or village) and an adjacent area, usually rural. A distrito seat has no corporate identity apart from the distrito as a whole.

The city of Panamá, located near the Pacific end of the canal, is the capital of the country and of the provincia and distrito of the same name, but otherwise has no special status. The city of Colón, the Atlantic canal terminal, is geographically within the Canal Zone, but is administered by Panamá and is the seat of both the provincia and distrito of Colón.

The Comarca de San Blas takes in a strip along the northeast coast and adjacent islands. Inhabited by the strong-minded Cuna or Tule Indians, it is administered in theory at least as a component of the Provincia de Colón.

Work on the 1950 census revealed a number of discrepancies between various laws and administrative boundaries as shown on available maps. In 1953, a committee charged with rectifying this situation was reportedly being set up by the Panamanian Ministry of Government and Justice.

REFERENCES

Rubio, Angel. Pequeño Atlas Geográfico de Panamá, Editora Istmeña S.A., Panamá, 1955; names of first- and second-order units in hierarchic outline, boundaries shown on accompanying map at 1:3,600,000. Call No. aC306.R8 1955.

Censos Nacionales de 1950, Primer Censo Agropecuario, Vol. II, Características de las Explotaciones, Contraloría General de la República, Dirección de Estadística y Censo, Panamá, 1957; names of first- and second-order units; boundaries shown on map at 1:1,750,000.

\*The United States-administered Canal Zone is discussed under Panama Canal Zone, p. 21.

## PANAMA CANAL ZONE

A strip of territory roughly 10 miles wide extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific across the Isthmus of Panama. The area is under perpetual lease to the United States from the Republic of Panama for operation and maintenance of the Panama Canal. The Canal Zone includes Gatun Lake and the reservoir district above Alhajuela (Madden Dam), but not the cities of Panamá and Colón.

Name and number of  
FIRST-ORDER DIVISIONS      --

Name and number of  
SECOND-ORDER DIVISIONS      --

REMARKS

Civil control is exercised by the Canal Zone Government established in 1951 simultaneously with the Panama Canal Company. The Governor of the Canal Zone heads the Canal Zone Government and is also chief executive of the Panama Canal Company. In its capacity as owner of the Panama Canal Company, the United States is represented by the Secretary of the Army.

No land in the Canal Zone is privately owned and the area has no counties or strictly comparable units. In the 1950 Census, towns and other entities are grouped under the two court districts. The court districts, however, are not true administrative divisions. The settlements identified as "minor geographic regions" in the 1950 census include all but about 1.5 percent of the permanent civilian population, but it does not seem appropriate to consider these "regions" as civil divisions. Thirty-six in number, they include rural areas, a leper colony, a prison, and 22 "towns," the latter ranging in population from 15 to more than 4,000.

REFERENCES

U.S. Bureau of the Census. U.S. Census of Population: 1950, Vol. I, Number of Inhabitants, Chapter 54: American Samoa, Canal Zone, Guam, and Virgin Islands of the U.S., U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, 1951; administrative relationships; includes 1:250,000 map showing location of towns.

United States Government Organization Manual 1957-58; Federal Register Division, National Archives and Record Service, General Services Administration, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington; administrative relationships.

SECTION C

MIDDLE AMERICA (Insular)

West Indies (Federation of the West Indies)

Caribbean Islands Claimed by the United States and Colombia

Serranilla Bank

Swan Island

Cuba

Bahamas

Navassa Island

Haiti

Dominican Republic

Puerto Rico

Virgin Islands of the United States

British Virgin Islands

Netherlands Antilles

Guadeloupe

Martinique

MIDDLE AMERICA (INSULAR)

THE WEST INDIES  
(Federation of the West Indies)

The Federation unites the United Kingdom island colonies of Antigua, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, and Trinidad and Tobago. Other United Kingdom dependencies in Middle America -- British Guiana, British Honduras, The Bahamas, and the British Virgin Islands -- remain outside the Federation of the West Indies.

Name and number of  
FIRST-ORDER DIVISIONS territory: 10

Name and number of  
SECOND-ORDER DIVISIONS See Remarks

REMARKS

The Interim Federal Government came into existence in January 1958 and in April 1958 the federal legislature was formally inaugurated. The capital of the Federation is Port of Spain on the Island of Trinidad.

The individual colonies that form the Federation are treated above as "territories" functioning as first-order civil divisions. But since the Federation is still in a formative stage, with little uniformity in the lower-order units of the territories, second- and third-order divisions are discussed individually for each territory in the pages that follow. For readers who prefer to treat the federated territories as "countries", these divisions become first- and second-order.

The advent of the Federation of the West Indies eliminates the "Leeward Islands" and the "Windward Islands" as political entities, although it is likely that these terms will still be used to some extent in a geographic sense.

REFERENCE

The West Indies: A Nation in the Making, Reference Division, Central Office of Information, London, December 1957; administrative relationships; constitution of the West Indies, p. 11; includes a sketchy small-scale map on which the federated territories are differentiated from other United Kingdom possessions in Middle America.

Federation of the West Indies  
ANTIGUA

The main island is centered at 17°05'N-61°47'W. Politically, Antigua includes Barbuda Island, 17°40'N-61°50'W, and Redonda Island, 16°55'N-62°19'W.

Name and number of  
SECOND-ORDER DIVISIONS parish: 6

1954

Name and number of  
THIRD-ORDER DIVISIONS --

REMARKS

Apparently, the island is now administered largely as a single unit; the degree, if any, to which the parishes function as governmental entities is not made clear by available data. The municipal affairs of St. John, the capital, until recently were directed by a group of "city commissioners," but are now handled by the Colony Government.

Barbuda Island has a population of about 900 and requires no civil divisions. A small administrative staff resides on the island.

Administrative arrangements currently applicable to Redonda Island (less than 1 square mile in area) are unknown. The phosphate deposits have been exploited from time to time but, apparently, are not worked now; the island may be uninhabited or nearly so.

REFERENCE

Colonial Reports: Leeward Islands 1953 and 1954, Her Majesty's Stationery Office, London, 1956; administrative relationships; parish names and boundaries are given on accompanying map at 1:175,000.

Federation of the West Indies  
BARBADOS

Barbados is a single island centered at 13°09'N-59°33'W.

Name and number of  
SECOND-ORDER DIVISIONS parish: 11

Name and number of  
THIRD-ORDER DIVISIONS --

REMARKS

For most purposes, the island is administered as 1 unit, but some matters such as public health, welfare, and road maintenance are handled by vestries and boards of the 11 parishes. The urban area of Bridgetown, the capital, is divided between 2 parishes but the core of the city is within St. Michael Parish.

An act passed by the legislature in 1954 provides for a radical reconstruction of administrative arrangements. Under the new ordinance the island will be divided into 1 municipal area (Bridgetown) and 2 rural areas. Bridgetown will have an elected city council and mayor, and the 2 rural areas will be governed by elected district councils. According to reference (a), however, this scheme is not yet in effect and, apparently, no implementation date has been set.

REFERENCES

(a) Fact Sheets on the U.K. Dependencies: Facts About Barbados, Reference Division, Central Office of Information, London, January 1958; administrative relationships.

(b) Colonial Reports: Barbados 1954 and 1955, Her Majesty's Stationery Office, London, 1957; administrative relationships; names and boundaries of parishes given on accompanying map at 1:250,000.

Federation of the West Indies  
DOMINICA

Dominica is a single island centered at 15°25'N-61°21'W.

Name and number of  
SECOND-ORDER DIVISIONS district: 3

1955

Name and number of  
THIRD-ORDER DIVISIONS parish: 10

1955 town: 2

REMARKS

To some extent the island is administered as a single unit. Some governmental functions, however, seem to be exercised through 3 nameless and sketchily defined districts. District limits apparently follow parish boundaries, but whether it is proper in a strict sense to regard the parishes as subdivisions of the districts is not made clear by available data. Also uncertain is the extent, if any, to which the parishes function as administrative entities. The towns, both of which have town boards, are Portsmouth and Roseau, the capital.

REFERENCE

Colonial Reports: Dominica 1953 and 1954, Her Majesty's Stationery Office, London, 1955; administrative relationships; includes 1:150,000 map showing parish names and boundaries (with map and text, approximate location of district boundaries can be worked out).



Federation of the West Indies  
GRENADA

Grenada Island is centered at 12°11'N-61°41'W. Politically, Grenada includes the island of Carriacou some 20 miles to the north and the islets of the Grenadine group lying between Carriacou and Grenada Island.

Name and number of  
SECOND-ORDER DIVISIONS parish: 6  
1954 town: 1

Name and number of  
THIRD-ORDER DIVISIONS --

REMARKS For the most part, the island is administered as a single entity. Some governmental functions, however, are carried out by 6 "district boards," one for each parish. The Island of Carriacou with a population of some 7,000 is treated as a parish, but is not called one. Its municipal affairs are managed by a "town authority," and it is therefore listed above as a town.

REFERENCE Colonial Reports: Grenada 1954, Her Majesty's Stationery Office, London, 1957; administrative relationships; includes 1:125,000 map giving parish names and boundaries.

Federation of the West Indies  
JAMAICA

A large island about 90 miles south of Cuba. Politically, Jamaica includes Pedro and Morant Cays to the south and, as dependencies, the Cayman Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands.\*

Name and number of  
SECOND-ORDER DIVISIONS county: 3

1957

Name and number of  
THIRD-ORDER DIVISIONS corporate area: 1

1957 parish: 12

REMARKS

To a considerable extent the island is administered as a single unit by a department of the central administration. The current role of the counties is obscure and it might be proper to disregard them as administrative entities.

The corporate area comprises the former parishes of Kingston, St. Andrew, and Port Royal. It includes the City of Kingston and considerable adjacent territory. The city, however, has no government apart from that of the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation.

The parishes have governments (councils), with responsibilities in the spheres of public health, public welfare, water supply, minor road maintenance, market supervision, and fire prevention. Virtually all important towns outside the corporate area are parish "capitals" and there seems to be no distinction between town government and parish government.

Recent official maps name but do not bound several districts within each parish. As far as can be determined, these are merely regions without administrative significance.

For judicial purposes, the normally uninhabited Pedro and Morant Cays are attached to the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation.

REFERENCES

Jamaica: Report for the Year 1956, Her Majesty's Stationery Office, London, 1957; administrative relationships; names of units; county boundaries shown on accompanying 1:250,000 map.

The Handbook of Jamaica for 1956, Government Printing Office, Kingston, 1956; administrative relationships.

Colonial Reports: Jamaica 1953, Her Majesty's Stationery Office, London, 1956; administrative relationships; includes 1:700,000 map showing parish and county boundaries.

GAPS

Data are needed on the status of the counties, especially on whether they can be properly regarded as administrative entities.

\*The civil divisions of the dependencies of Jamaica are discussed on p. 28.

Federation of the West Indies  
DEPENDENCIES OF JAMAICA

The dependencies of Jamaica include the Turks and Caicos Islands, which are geographically part of the Bahamas chain and lie between 21°00' and 22°00'N and between 71°00' and 72°30'W; and also the Cayman Islands, which are some 120 miles northwest of Jamaica near 20°00'N-80°00'W.

Name and number of  
SECOND-ORDER DIVISIONS

1956-57

island group: 2  
[Cayman Islands; Turks and Caicos Islands]

Name and number of  
THIRD-ORDER DIVISIONS

1956-57

district: 13  
[Cayman Islands]  
  
island with official in residence: 3  
[Turks and Caicos Islands]

REMARKS

The administration of each dependency is carried out by a commissioner responsible directly to the Governor of Jamaica. The rank of the dependencies and their divisions is open to various interpretations. If the Federation of the West Indies is regarded as a "country" with Jamaica as a first-order division, the dependencies themselves fall into place as second-order units and their subdivisions become third-order divisions as indicated above. On the other hand, if the dependencies are considered to be country-like entities in their own right, their subdivisions listed above as third-order would be first-order units.

All of the Cayman Islands "districts" may not be administrative entities in a strict sense. Seven districts are on Grand Cayman, the most populous island. Of the remaining 6 districts, 4 are on Cayman Brac and 2 on Little Cayman. Georgetown, on Grand Cayman, is the administrative seat for the Cayman Islands as a whole.

All 3 of the "islands with official in residence" are in the Turks and Caicos Islands. One is South Caicos and the post of residence is Cockburn Harbor. The District Commissioner at this post is responsible for the 4 "district board areas" of the Caicos: Middle Caicos, Bambarra and Conch Bar, Bottle Creek and Kew, and Blue Hills. Technically, if the Federation of the West Indies is viewed as a "country", the 4 district board areas are fourth-order units. Salt Cay, in the Turks Islands, also has an official in residence. The third island in this category is Grand Turk. The Grand Turk official in residence is Commissioner for the Turks and Caicos Islands as a whole.

REFERENCES

Cayman Islands: Report for the Years 1955 and 1956, Her Majesty's Stationery Office, London, 1957; administrative relationships; names of districts; boundaries of the Grand Cayman districts shown on accompanying 1:50,000 map.

Turks and Caicos Islands: Report for the Years 1955 and 1956, Her Majesty's Stationery Office, London, 1957; administrative relationships; includes 1:250,000 location map (no boundaries); with text and map, approximate limits of the administrative units can be worked out.

Federation of the West Indies  
MONTSERRAT

A single island centered at 16°45'N-62°11'W.

Name and number of  
SECOND-ORDER DIVISIONS parish: 3

1957

Name and number of  
THIRD-ORDER DIVISIONS --

REMARKS As far as can be determined, the island is administered largely as a single unit. The degree, if any, to which the 3 parishes function as governmental entities is not made clear by available data.

REFERENCE Montserrat: Report for the Years 1955 and 1956, Her Majesty's Stationery Office, London, 1958; administrative relationships; accompanying 1:175,000 map shows parish names and boundaries.

Federation of the West Indies  
ST. CHRISTOPHER-NEVIS-ANGUILLA

Includes: St. Christopher (St. Kitts), 17°20'N-62°40'W; Nevis, 17°09'N-62°35'W; Anguilla and adjacent islets, 18°15'N-63°10'W; and Sombrero Island, 18°36'N-63°29'W.

Name and number of  
SECOND-ORDER DIVISIONS parish: 13

1954

Name and number of  
THIRD-ORDER DIVISIONS --

REMARKS Eight of the 13 parishes are on St. Christopher and 5 are on Nevis. The degree, if any, to which the parishes function as administrative units cannot be determined from available data. Sparsely populated Anguilla Island is not divided into parishes, apparently. Sombrero Island is uninhabited except for a lighthouse maintenance staff.

REFERENCE Colonial Reports: Leeward Islands 1953 and 1954, Her Majesty's Stationery Office, London, 1956; administrative relationships; parish names and boundaries for St. Christopher and Nevis are given on accompanying map at 1:180,000.

Federation of the West Indies  
ST. LUCIA

An island centered at 13°52'N-61°00'W.

Name and number of  
SECOND-ORDER DIVISIONS district: 4

1954

Name and number of  
THIRD-ORDER DIVISIONS See Remarks

REMARKS

The island is governed to some extent as a single unit. In some matters, however, the 4 districts are functional administrative entities in that their chief officers serve as the line of communication between the Central Administration and "local authorities" (towns and villages). In a sense, the settlements (especially those with councils or improvement committees) are third-order civil divisions, but their number is not known.

The capital, Castries (population approximately 24,000), has a town board that apparently deals directly with the central administration on some matters, but whether the town should be regarded as equal in rank to a district is a moot question.

REFERENCE

Colonial Reports: St. Lucia 1953 and 1954, Her Majesty's Stationery Office, London, 1956; administrative relationships; district names and boundaries shown on accompanying 1:125,000 map.

Federation of the West Indies  
ST. VINCENT

The center of the main island is near 13°15'N-61°10'W. Politically, St. Vincent includes Union (the most southerly, 12°35'N-61°25'W), Mayreau, Canouan, Mustique, Bequia, and other lesser islands of the Grenadine group.

Name and number of  
SECOND-ORDER DIVISIONS town: 1

1955 town district: 5

village district: ?

Name and number of  
THIRD-ORDER DIVISIONS --

REMARKS

St. Vincent and its dependencies to the south (the Grenadines) are administered to some extent as a single unit against a background of "local authority" entities that are not clearly identified in available sources.

An ordinance of 1951 provides for the division of the colony into town and village districts, with the Governor being empowered to define such districts from time to time. The boundaries of these units are not known. Also unexplained is the relationship, if any, between the districts and the 5 parishes of St. Vincent that are shown on official maps.

Few data are available on administrative arrangements applicable to the Grenadines. Some village councils are known to exist in the islands, however, and Bequia Island has reportedly been declared a district under a council that has authority over the whole island.

Municipal affairs of the capital, Kingstown, are handled by a board ("body corporate") that is apparently somewhat superior in status to the boards of town districts. Kingstown, therefore, has been set forth separately above as a "town".

REFERENCE

Colonial Reports St. Vincent 1954 and 1955, Her Majesty's Stationery Office, London, 1956; administrative relationships; parish names and boundaries are shown on accompanying 1:150,000 map.

GAPS

Additional data are needed on all aspects of the administrative system.

Federation of the West Indies  
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Two moderately large islands and various small islets centered near 11°00'N-61°00'W.

Name and number of  
SECOND-ORDER DIVISIONS            municipality: 3  
1954                                district: 7  
                                      (For 8 counties, see Remarks)

Name and number of  
THIRD-ORDER DIVISIONS            ward: 30  
1954                                parish: 7

REMARKS

The administrative system is quite complex and the generic names of the different units are not always used consistently.

The 3 municipalities are Port-of-Spain, San Fernando, and Arima -- all on the Island of Trinidad. Available evidence indicates that they are regarded as being equal to counties or districts in rank. Municipalities apparently have no well-defined subdivisions.

Government is exercised through the 7 administrative districts.

Trinidad is also divided into 8 counties that relate to the districts as follows:

4 districts are coextensive with counties;  
subdivisions: 20 wards.

2 districts include 4 counties (2 each);  
subdivisions: 10 wards.

The Island of Tobago constitutes the 7th district.

1 district;  
subdivisions: 7 parishes.

REFERENCES

Colonial Reports: Trinidad and Tobago 1954, Her Majesty's Stationery Office, London, 1956; administrative relationships; includes 1:450,000 map giving names and boundaries of counties, wards, and parishes.

Lesser Antilles; 1:250,000; (Trinidad sheet) 1950; county names and boundaries. Series No. AMS E 541.



CARIBBEAN ISLANDS CLAIMED BY  
THE UNITED STATES AND COLOMBIA

In this category are 3 named groups of banks, rocks, islets, and cays in the Caribbean some 350 miles north of the Panama Canal. They include: Quito Sueño Bank (14°20'N-81°10'W), Serrana Bank (14°25'N-80°16'W), Roncador Cay (13°35'N-80°04'W).

Name and number of  
FIRST-ORDER DIVISIONS      --

Name and number of  
SECOND-ORDER DIVISIONS      --

REMARKS                      The islands and islets are normally uninhabited. Administration now exercised by the United States is limited to the maintenance of aids to navigation, a responsibility of the U.S. Coast Guard.

Colombia regards the disputed islands and islets as parts of an archipelago coextensive with the Intendencia de San Andrés y Providencia, a first-order civil division of Colombia.

In 1928 the United States and Colombia agreed to maintain the status quo in these islands; therefore, they are commonly designated on maps as "U.S. and Colombia."

REFERENCES

U.S. Bureau of the Census. Statistical Abstract of the United States: 1956, Seventy-seventh edition, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, 1956; list of territories and possessions of the United States, p. 7.

Arango Cano, Jesús. Geografía Física y Económica de Colombia, Editorial Minerva, Ltda., Bogotá, 1956; Colombian interpretation of administrative relationships.

West Indies, 1:3,500,000; National Geographic Society, Washington, March 1954; locational reference only.

SERRANILLA BANK

A United States island possession in the western Caribbean comprising a group of cays, rocks, and reefs centered near 15°51'N-79°46'W, about midway between Jamaica and Cabo Gracias á Dios.

Name and number of  
FIRST-ORDER DIVISIONS           --

Name and number of  
SECOND-ORDER DIVISIONS       --

REMARKS                   The cays are normally uninhabited. Administrative responsibility rests technically with the U.S. Coast Guard.

REFERENCES               U.S. Bureau of Census. Statistical Abstract of the United States: 1956 (Seventy-seventh edition), U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, 1956; list of territories and possessions of the United States, p. 7.

West Indies, 1:3,500,000; National Geographic Society, Washington, March 1954; locational reference only.

SWAN ISLANDS

Island possessions of the United States in the Caribbean comprising Great Swan Island and Little Swan Island at 17°25'N-83°56'W. The total land area is slightly more than a square mile.

Name and number of  
FIRST-ORDER DIVISIONS        --

Name and number of  
SECOND-ORDER DIVISIONS      --

REMARKS

The population of the islands, about 35 in 1950, is not large enough to require civil divisions. Technical administrative responsibility for the islands rests with the U.S. Department of State. A weather station and radio beacon are maintained on Great Swan Island.

REFERENCES

U.S. Bureau of Census. Statistical Abstract of the United States: 1956 (Seventy-seventh edition), U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, 1956; list of territories and possessions of the United States, p. 7.

West Indies, 1:3,500,000; National Geographic Society, Washington, March 1954; locational reference only.



BAHAMAS  
(United Kingdom Crown Colony)

The colony comprises an archipelago of islands, cays, and rocks lying off the coast of Florida between 20°50' and 27°25'N, and between 72°37' and 80°32'W.\*

Name and number of  
FIRST-ORDER DIVISIONS district: 21

1955

Name and number of  
SECOND-ORDER DIVISIONS --

REMARKS

The districts are headed by district commissioners. Most of them comprise a major island and a number of adjacent islands, islets, and cays. Some of the less populous units are apparently combined to form special districts for particular purposes, for example, elections. New Providence District, although not large, is the most important since it contains Nassau, the capital and chief port, and more than one-fourth of the total population of the colony.

REFERENCES

Colonial Reports: Bahamas 1954 and 1955, Her Majesty's Stationery Office, London, 1957; administrative relationships; includes 1:2,300,000 map on which the approximate limits of the districts can be worked out from the text.

Colonial Office List, Her Majesty's Stationery Office, London, 1951; administrative relationships; names of districts.

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\*The Turks and Caicos Islands, though geographically within the Bahamas, are dependencies of Jamaica and are discussed separately under the Federation of the West Indies, p. 28.

NAVASSA ISLAND

A United States island possession in the Caribbean between Jamaica and Haiti, at 18°25'N-75°02'W.

Name and number of  
FIRST-ORDER DIVISIONS      --

Name and number of  
SECOND-ORDER DIVISIONS      --

REMARKS                      The island is normally inhabited only by a lighthouse maintenance staff and thus requires no civil divisions. Administrative responsibility rests with the U.S. Coast Guard.

REFERENCES                      U.S. Bureau of the Census. Statistical Abstract of the United States: 1956 (Seventy-seventh edition), U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, 1956; list of territories and possessions of the United States, p. 7.

Platt, Raye R.. "A Note on Political Sovereignty and Administration in the Caribbean," The Geographical Review, Vol. XVI, 1926, American Geographical Society, New York; background data on United States acquisition of Navassa Island, p. 637.

West Indies, 1:3,500,000; National Geographic Society, Washington, March 1954; locational reference only.

HAITI

Name and number of  
FIRST-ORDER DIVISIONS

département: 5  
(department)

1954

Name and number of  
SECOND-ORDER DIVISIONS

arrondissement: 27

1954

REMARKS

Coastal islands are administrative components of the départements and arrondissements they adjoin. Ile de la Gonave belongs to the Arrondissement de Port-au-Prince.

Although they are used to some extent as statistical units, the départements are of little administrative importance. Arrondissements, each in charge of a prefect appointed by the president, are the principal units of local administration.

The basic third-order division is the commune, of which there are more than 100. In theory, city government is commune government. Since most important towns are the administrative seats of arrondissements, however, the line between city or town government and arrondissement government is not always sharply drawn. Port-au-Prince, the capital, is a commune and, technically, has no special status.

REFERENCES

Recensement Général de la République d'Haiti, Haiti, Département de L'Economie Nationale, Bureau de Recensement, Port-au-Prince, 1950; names of units in hierarchic outline, first- through third-order. Call No. gC423.H2.

Civil Division Base Map of the Americas: Mexico, Central America, and the West Indies; 1:5,000,000; American Geographical Society; 1944; boundaries of first- and second-order units (short one arrondissement for Département de L'Ouest, otherwise data are current).

Macdonald, Austin F.. Latin American Politics and Government, Thomas Y. Crowell Company, New York, 1954; administrative relationships.

## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Name and number of  
FIRST-ORDER DIVISIONS

1955

provincia: 22  
(province)distrito: 1  
(district)Name and number of  
SECOND-ORDER DIVISIONS

1955

común: 69  
(commune)

capital: 1

sección municipal: 56  
(municipal section)REMARKS

Provincias include from 2 to 6 comunes. The comunes are somewhat similar to the municipios of numerous other Latin American countries in that they include an administrative seat (city, town, or village) and a surrounding rural area. Some comunes have as subdivisions of third-order rank one or more distritos municipales. These units are, in effect, embryo comunes.

The Distrito de Santo Domingo, the 1 distrito of first-order status, comprises the capital, Ciudad Trujillo, and 56 secciones municipales. The latter may not be administrative entities in a strict sense, since many have only a few hundred inhabitants. All of the secciones municipales are outside the limits of Ciudad Trujillo.

REFERENCES

Población de la República Dominicana: Censada en 1950, Dominican Republic, Dirección General de Estadística, Oficina Nacional del Censo, Sesión de Publicaciones, Ciudad Trujillo, 1954; names of all units first- through third-order in hierarchic outline. Call No. gC422.D645.

Mapa de la República Dominicana con la División Política; 1:500,000; Dominican Republic, Instituto Geográfico Militar, 1955; names and boundaries of first- and second-order units, except the secciones municipales. Call No. 50007.

Distrito de Santo Domingo; 1:100,000; Dominican Republic, Instituto Geográfico Militar, 1955; names and boundaries of the secciones municipales. Call No. 50011.



## PUERTO RICO

A Commonwealth, associated with the United States, comprising the island of Puerto Rico, smallest major island of the Greater Antilles; various islets near the coast; and several larger outlying islands, including Mona, Vieques, and Culebra.

Name and number of  
FIRST-ORDER DIVISIONS

municipio: 77  
(municipality)

1954

Name and number of  
SECOND-ORDER DIVISIONS

barrio: ca. 550  
(borough or quarter)

1951

REMARKS

Executive liaison with the United States Government functions through the U.S. Department of the Interior, whereas legislative liaison is effected through the Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico in Washington. The Resident Commissioner is a member of the United States House of Representatives, but does not vote.

The municipios are basically similar to those of numerous other Latin American countries in that each is comprised of a seat (city or town) and a surrounding rural area. The municipio seat has no corporate identity apart from the municipio as a whole; thus, city government is municipio government. San Juan, the capital of Puerto Rico, forms a municipio, but otherwise has no special status.

Two of the outlying islands, Vieques and Culebra, are municipios in their own right. The third outlying island of substantial size, Mona, which is virtually uninhabited, is apparently administered directly by the Commonwealth Government.

The barrios are minor subdivisions of the municipios and are of slight administrative importance.

Puerto Rico is also divided into 7 distritos senatoriales (senatorial districts) that are sometimes treated as first-order civil divisions. Although these units are election districts and are used to some extent as statistical divisions, they are not administrative entities in a strict sense.

REFERENCES

Puerto Rico, 1:250,000, U.S. Army Map Service, August 1954; names and boundaries of municipios and distritos senatoriales. AMS E331.

Picó, Rafael. The Geographic Regions of Puerto Rico, University of Puerto Rico Press, Rio Piedras, P.R., 1950; administrative relationships; names of municipios.

Jones, C.F. and Picó, R.. Symposium on the Geography of Puerto Rico, University of Puerto Rico Press, Rio Piedras, P.R., 1955; includes small-scale maps showing municipio boundaries for Puerto Rico as a whole; barrio boundaries are portrayed for a few areas (incomplete coverage).

## VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

A group of some 50 islands and cays, centered at approximately 18°00'N-64°59'W, about 40 miles east of Puerto Rico.

Name and number of  
FIRST-ORDER DIVISIONS            municipality: 2

1951

Name and number of  
SECOND-ORDER DIVISIONS        city: 3

1951

quarter: 22

REMARKS

The Virgin Islands of the United States are comprised of three major islands: St. Croix, St. Thomas, and St. John. The latter two, along with smaller adjoining islands and cays, form the Municipality of St. Thomas and St. John. The Municipality of St. Croix includes St. Croix Island and a few small adjoining islands.

The legislative bodies of the 2 municipalities are called Municipal Councils. When the councils meet jointly, they become the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands with power to enact laws applicable to the islands as a whole. The Governor, who normally resides at Charlotte Amalie on St. Thomas, may appoint administrative assistants as his representatives on St. Croix and on St. John.

The 3 cities are Frederiksted, Christiansted, and Charlotte Amalie. Of the 22 quarters (essentially rural districts), 13 are in the Municipality of St. Thomas and St. John; and the remaining 9 are in St. Croix Municipality. Whether it is proper in a strict sense to regard the cities and quarters as governmental entities is a moot question. These units, however, are used for statistical purposes.

REFERENCES

U.S. Bureau of the Census. U.S. Census of Population 1950, Vol. 1, Number of Inhabitants, Chapter 54: "American Samoa, Canal Zone, Guam, and Virgin Islands of the U.S.", U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, 1951; administrative relationships; number of units and their names; boundaries shown on accompanying map at 1:225,000.

Murray, Stuart. The Virgin Islands, Duell, Sloan and Pearce, Inc., New York, 1951; administrative relationships.

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS  
(United Kingdom Crown Colony)

The British Virgin Islands are a group of small islands centered near 18°30'N-64°30'W, some 60 miles east of Puerto Rico.

Name and number of  
FIRST-ORDER DIVISIONS      --

Name and number of  
SECOND-ORDER DIVISIONS      --

REMARKS      Formerly a Presidency of the Leeward Islands Colony, the British Virgin Islands became a separate colony in July 1956 when the Leeward Islands Colony was defederated in preparation for the formation of the Federation of the West Indies.

As far as can be determined, the islands have no civil divisions other than the island pattern itself. Excluding rocks and reefs, the islands number 36, of which 12 are inhabited. Most of the 7,700 inhabitants of the colony live on Tortola Island. Road Town (population 1,200) on Tortola Island is the administrative seat.

REFERENCE      British Virgin Islands: Report for the Years 1955 and 1956, Her Majesty's Stationery Office, London, 1958; administrative relationships; includes a 1:250,000 location map of the islands (no boundaries).

## NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

The Netherlands Antilles comprises two groups of Caribbean islands. The northern group includes Saba, 17°38'N-63°14'W; Sint Eustatius, 17°30'N-63°00'W; and part of Saint Martin (Dutch, Sint Maarten; French, Saint-Martin)\*, 18°05'N-63°05'W. The southern group includes Aruba, 12°30'N-70°00'W; Bonaire, 12°10'N-68°17'W; and Curaçao, 12°10'N-69°00'W.

Name and number of  
FIRST-ORDER DIVISIONS [insular community]: 4

Name and number of  
SECOND-ORDER DIVISIONS --

REMARKS

Three of the "insular communities" are coextensive with the islands of Aruba, Bonaire, and Curaçao, respectively, and apparently do not have subdivisions of second-order rank. The fourth insular community comprises the three northern islands and has its administrative seat at Philipsburg, Sint Maarten. Each island of the northern group is in a sense a second-order division, but whether it is now officially recognized as such cannot be determined from readily available sources.

The government for the whole of Netherlands Antilles, seated at Willemstad, Curaçao, includes a legislature in which the northern islands are represented by only 1 member and the more populous southern islands by 21.

Apparently, no cities have special status as first- or second-order civil divisions.

REFERENCES

The Statesman's Yearbook, Macmillan and Co. Ltd., London, 1957; administrative relationships.

Netherlands Antilles; 1:250,000 and other scales; 1953; locates the islands and their administrative seats; shows the boundary between the Dutch and French portions of Saint Martin. Map No. 12212.1.

\*Only the southern part of Saint Martin belongs to the Netherlands, the northern part belongs to France.



GUADELOUPE  
con't

REFERENCES

(a) Bottin de Madagascar des Territoires D'Amérique et D'Océanie, Didot-Bottin, Paris, 1957; administrative relationships; names of all units through the commune level (text is current but accompanying map is not).

(b) Carte de la Guadeloupe et Dépendances; 1:100,000; M.R. Clairon, Librairie de L'Enseignement, Basse-Terre; 1951-?; commune names and boundaries; map is out-of-date on details but with text of Ref. (a) the current picture can be worked out. Call No. 71254.



SECTION D

SOUTH AMERICA

Colombia  
Venezuela  
British Guiana  
Surinam (Dutch Guiana)  
French Guiana  
Brazil  
Ecuador  
Peru  
Bolivia  
Paraguay  
Chile  
Argentina  
Uruguay  
South Atlantic Islands

1  
SOUTH AMERICA



## COLOMBIA

Includes San Andrés and Providencia Islands in the Caribbean, some 400 miles northwest of Cartagena. Malpelo Island, in the Pacific near 4°00'N-90°30'W, also belongs to Colombia.

Name and number of  
FIRST-ORDER DIVISIONS

1954-57

departamento: 16  
(department)

intendencia: 4  
(intendancy)

comisaría: 5  
(commissariat)

territorio nacional: 3  
(national territory)

[special capital district]: 1

Name and number of  
SECOND-ORDER DIVISIONS

1954-56

municipio: ca. 820  
(municipality)

REMARKS

The intendencias and comisarias are sparsely settled areas governed more or less directly from Bogotá. The Caribbean Islands of San Andrés and Providencia (near 13°19'N-81°23'W) form an intendencia. Colombia apparently regards this unit as including various nearby banks, cays, and islets, some of which are claimed by the United States. (See Caribbean Islands Claimed by The United States and Colombia, p. 34).

The 3 national territories (sometimes treated in Colombian sources as parts of departamentos despite their name) are: Agua de Dios, a relatively small leper colony about 50 miles southwest of Bogotá; Contratación, a leper colony about 125 miles northeast of Bogotá; and Territorio Vásquez, an inaccessible area of some 2,500 square kilometers centered near 6°00'N-74°30'W.

The "special capital district", formed in December 1954, takes in the erstwhile Bogotá Municipio and several municipios that formerly adjoined it. The subdivisions, if any, of the district are not indicated in currently available sources.

Each municipio includes a seat (city, town, or village) and an adjacent area, usually rural. The seat has no corporate identity separate from that of the municipio as a whole. Thus, city or town government is municipio government. The number of municipios is subject to constant change as units are combined or divided. The third-order unit into which some municipios are subdivided is the corregimiento (mayorality; district of a corregidor). There were some 2,016 of these units in 1954.

COLOMBIA  
con't

REFERENCES

Division Político-Administrativa de Colombia, Departamento Administrativo Nacional de Estadística, Imprenta Nacional, Bogotá, 1954; names and designations of all units; boundaries shown on individual maps of first-order divisions (mostly 1:2,000,000-1:3,000,000); not completely current, but still best reference available for municipio data. Call No. gD121-23.C66.

Colombia; 1:2,500,000; 1952 rev. 1958; names and boundaries of departamentos, comisarias, and intendencias. Map No. 11827.1.

GAPS

Readily available map coverage for municipio boundaries is not up to date; boundary and other data are needed on the capital district formed in 1954.

## VENEZUELA

Name and number of  
FIRST-ORDER DIVISIONS

1956

estado: 20  
(state)distrito federal: 1  
(federal district)territorio: 2  
(territory)dependencia federal: 1  
(federal dependency)Name and number of  
SECOND-ORDER DIVISIONS

1952-56

distrito: 158  
(district)departamento: 9  
(department)REMARKS

Caracas and a rather extensive area adjacent to it form the distrito federal which is divided into 2 departamentos: Libertador and Vargas.

The 2 sparsely populated territorios are the Orinoco Delta and a marginal section of the Amazon Basin; the former is divided into 3 departamentos, the latter into 4.

The dependencia federal includes most of the Venezuelan island possessions in the Caribbean, but excludes Margarita and Coche, which collectively form a state.

Some second-order distritos include little more than a town and its environs, whereas others cover extensive areas.

The main third-order divisions of Venezuela are the municipios (649 in 1952) and parroquias (parishes), of which there were 22 in 1952. All of the parishes are in the 2 departamentos of the distrito federal. In most instances, city government is municipio government, and the administrative seat (city, town, or village) has no corporate identity apart from the municipio as a whole.

REFERENCES

Samperio, José V. M.. La Población del Area Metropolitana de Caracas, Corporacion Venezolana de Fomento, Caracas, 1956; names of first-order units, boundaries shown on small-scale maps; includes 1:200,000 map showing civil divisions (first-through third-order) in the Caracas area. Call No. gD122.C67.

Parra, Juan J.. Atlas de Bolsillo de Venezuela, Litografia Miangolarra Hnos. S.A., Caracas, 1952; number of units first-through third-order; limits of first- and second-order divisions shown on small-scale maps. Call No. aD122.P6 1952.

BRITISH GUIANA  
(United Kingdom Crown Colony)

Name and number of  
FIRST-ORDER DIVISIONS administrative district: 9  
1956

Name and number of  
SECOND-ORDER DIVISIONS municipality: 2  
1957  
village: 46  
country district: 48

REMARKS

The 9 administrative districts are of 2 types: (a) relatively populous coastal districts administered by the Department of Local Government, and (b) the sparsely settled interior districts administered by the Department of the Interior. Of the former, there are 6; of the latter, 3. The two municipalities (Georgetown, the capital, and New Amsterdam) are in the coastal districts, as are the organized villages and country districts.

The three traditional provinces or counties (Berbice, Demerara, and Essequibo) have no current administrative significance, although they are still shown along with the contemporary first-order administrative districts on official maps dated as late as 1955. The provinces were part of a territorial arrangement that came into existence in the 18th Century and remained in effect until about 1830.

REFERENCES

British Guiana; 1:4,000,000; May 1958; names, boundaries, and capitals of first-order districts. Map No. 26554.

Report on British Guiana for the Year 1957, Her Majesty's Stationery Office, London, 1957; printed under the authority of the Government by Argoey Co., Ltd., Bel Air, East Demerara; names of first-order districts; administrative relationships; accompanying 1:2,200,000 map shows first-order district boundaries.

Colonial Report: British Guiana 1954; Her Majesty's Stationery Office, London; 1955; administrative relationships; includes a 1:2,100,000 map showing boundaries of the provinces or counties.

GAPS

No readily available maps show village and country district boundaries.

SURINAM  
(Dutch Guiana)

A Netherlands possession on the north coast of South America.

Name and number of  
FIRST-ORDER DIVISIONS district: 7  
1951

Name and number of  
SECOND-ORDER DIVISIONS --

REMARKS

The town of Paramaribo constitutes one of the 7 districten (districts). In addition to being capital of Surinam, it is the administrative seat for the large Suriname District which surrounds it.

The districten, including Paramaribo, are administered by commissioners appointed by the governor. A few organized village communities are the only entities approaching the status of "second-order" administrative divisions.

REFERENCES

Overzichtskaart van Suriname; 1:800,000; compiled by F.E. Spiritet, former head of the Survey Service of Surinam, 1951; names and boundaries of first-order units. Call No. 77930.

The Guianas; 1:2,000,000; December 1952; names and boundaries of first-order units. Map No. 122601.1.



## BRAZIL

Name and number of  
FIRST-ORDER DIVISIONS

1957

estado: 20  
(state)território: 5  
(territory)distrito federal: 1  
(federal district)Name and number of  
SECOND-ORDER DIVISIONS

1957

município: 2,418  
(municipality)circunscrição: 16  
(circumscription)REMARKS

Four of the 5 territories are relatively inaccessible frontier areas; the fifth comprises Fernando de Noronha Island (3°51'S-32°25'W).

The distrito federal includes the city of Rio de Janeiro and an adjacent area. For administrative purposes, it is subdivided into 16 circunscrições, which rank technically as second-order units.

The future capital of Brazil will be located in a distrito federal constituting an enclave within Goiás State. This area now falls within the limits of 5 or 6 municípios and will, presumably, continue in this status until all or part of the federal government establishment is transferred from Rio de Janeiro, possibly in 1960.

Municípios are the basic units of local government. Some are divided into distritos (third-order units of which there were some 5,440 in 1950), whereas others are not. A município comprises a seat and some additional territory, usually rural. The administrative center is classified as a cidade (city) regardless of population, and it does not have a corporate existence separate from that of the município as a whole.

REFERENCES

Divisão Territorial do Brasil, reprint from No. 35/36 "Revista Brasileira de Municípios," Rio de Janeiro, 1957; names of municípios, alphabetically and in hierarchic outline.

Smith, T. Lynn. Brazil: People and Institutions, Louisiana State University Press, Baton Rouge, 1954; administrative relationships.

Codepid (Map Supplement to the Epidemiological Cable Code); first edition, World Health Organization, Geneva, 1954; names and boundaries of first- and second-order units (município data are not completely current). Call No. SA000-23.W6-1954.

BRAZIL  
con't

REFERENCES  
con't

Rio de Janeiro en Pocas Horas, Touring Club do Brasil, Rio de Janeiro, 1948; administrative divisions of the federal district.

GAPS

Readily available map coverage for município boundaries leaves much to be desired in recency and detail.



## ECUADOR

Includes the Galapagos Islands (Archipiélago de Colón), approximately 1°00'S-91°00'W.

Name and number of  
FIRST-ORDER DIVISIONS

1957

provincia: 18  
(province)

territorio insular: 1  
(island territory)

Name and number of  
SECOND-ORDER DIVISIONS

1957

cantón: 95  
(canton)

REMARKS

The territorio insular comprises the Galapagos Islands of which 5 are inhabited and 15 are normally uninhabited. The 5 inhabited islands are in effect the subdivisions of the territory. Under the name Archipiélago de Colón, these islands are sometimes listed as an entity of canton rank, coextensive with the territorio insular, but are not counted officially (or above) as a canton.

The basic third-order divisions are the parroquias urbanas (urban parishes) of which there are 165 and the parroquias rurales, which number 609. These divisions are somewhat similar to the municipios of other Latin American countries, except that the larger cities include several parishes instead of one. For example, Quito has 14 parroquias urbanas, and Riobamba 4.

REFERENCES

División Política Territorial de la República del Ecuador; 1:1,000,000; Instituto Ecuatoriano de Antropología y Geografía; 1957; names of units first- through third-order in hierarchic outline keyed to map by letter and number; map includes boundaries of all units except certain urban parishes that could not be represented at the scale. Call No. 103554.

Mapa del Ecuador; 1:1,000,000; compiled by Capt. Francisco Sampedro V.; reproduced by U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, 1950; province boundaries; political data are not current but map is useful in interpreting the more recent one cited above. Call No. 71376.

PERU

Name and number of  
FIRST-ORDER DIVISIONS

1957

departamento: 23  
(department)

provincia constitucional: 1  
(constitutional province)

Name and number of  
SECOND-ORDER DIVISIONS

1957

provincia: 141  
(province)

distrito: 3  
(district)

REMARKS

Departments and provinces in the trans-Andean interior are larger than those in the coastal and mountain belts.

The provincia constitucional comprises Callao, the port of Lima, and a small surrounding area. It has had the status of a first-order civil division for over 100 years and is divided into 3 distritos that rank technically as second-order divisions.

The basic third-order division, of which there were 1,428 in 1957, is also called a distrito. Lima, the capital, comprises 5 distritos urbanos units of a type not found elsewhere. At least four other categories of settlements (ciudad/city; pueblo/town; villa/village; caserío/small village) are recognized officially, but the division of authority, between city or town government and distrito government, if such exists, is not sharply drawn.

Native (Indian) communities have special legal status and are, in general, outside the scope of the administrative arrangements applicable to the country as a whole.

REFERENCES

Asturrizaga, Juan E.. Geografía del Perú, D. Miranda, Lima, 1957; names of first- and second-order units; number of distritos.

Revista Geográfica Peru, Asociacion de Geógrafos Egresados del Instituto de Geografía de la Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, Año 1, No. 1, Lima, December 1956; names and capitals of units first- through third-order; boundaries of departments and provinces shown on 1:12,000,000 map -- names keyed to map by number; distrito data are not completely current.

Peaslee, A. J.. Constitutions of Nations, Martinus Nijhoff, The Hague, 1956; administrative relationships (constitution of Peru, Vol. III, p. 132-160).

## BOLIVIA

Name and number of  
FIRST-ORDER DIVISIONS

1956

departamento: 9  
(department)delegación: 5  
(delegation)Name and number of  
SECOND-ORDER DIVISIONS

1956

provincia: 93  
(province)REMARKS

Administrators of the sparsely populated delegaciones are appointed by the president. They are responsible for re-settlement programs and the welfare of indigenous peoples in their areas.

The delegaciones are outside the jurisdiction of departamentos, but the second-order entities that lie within them are nevertheless counted as provincias in Bolivian sources, and are included in the above total of 93. In general, the provincias are of little importance administratively, and only a few require a staff other than the part-time services of one official.

Third-order administrative entities include municipios (cities, towns, and other settlements), of which there were some 200 in 1951, and cantones (rural districts) of which there were 821 in 1951. The more important cities have municipal councils presided over by an alcalde (mayor). Since most of these communities are also the administrative seats of departamentos, however, the line between city government and departamento government is not sharply drawn. Sucre, the legal capital, and La Paz, the actual seat of the national government, have no status that is basically different from that of other cities.

Numerous Indian communities are organized in traditional clans controlled by headmen. Although these groups enjoy no official recognition as governmental entities, their influence is quite strong.

REFERENCES

Reyes, J.M.. Bosquejo de Geografía de Bolivia, Instituto Pan-Americano de Geografía e Historia, Comissão de Geografía, Publicação No. 213 (199-IV), Rio de Janeiro, 1956; number of units; names of departamentos; administrative relationships.

Osborne, Harold. Bolivia: A Divided Land, Royal Institute of International Affairs, London, 1954; administrative relationships.

Report of the United Nations Mission of Technical Assistance to Bolivia, United Nations, New York, 1951; administrative relationships.

BOLIVIA  
con't

REFERENCES  
con't

Carta Censal de la República de Bolivia, Dirección General de Estadística y Censos, ca. 1948-51; departamento and provincia names and boundaries; coverage by departamentos  
as follows:

Chuquisaca	1:500,000	Call No.	76647
Cochabamba	1:500,000	" "	76375
El Beni	1:1,000,000	" "	76362
La Paz	1:500,000	" "	76372
Oruro	1:500,000	" "	76393
Pando	1:800,000	" "	76299
Potosí	1:1,000,000	" "	76628
Santa Cruz	1:250,000	" "	76380
Tarija	1:250,000	" "	76649

PARAGUAY

Name and number of  
FIRST-ORDER DIVISIONS

1957

departamento: 16  
(department)

distrito federal: 1  
(federal district)

Name and number of  
SECOND-ORDER DIVISIONS

1951-57

distrito: 154  
(district)

parroquia: 6  
(parish)

REMARKS

The sparsely settled area west of the Río Paraguay, referred to as the Occidental, includes 3 departamentos that are under the Ministry of National Defense; whereas the 13 departamentos of the Oriental, the area east of the Río Paraguay, are administered by the Department of the Interior.

The distrito federal includes Asunción and its immediate environs. The 6 parroquias (parishes) into which it is divided rank technically as second-order units. In addition to being the national capital, Asunción is also the administrative seat for Central, the departamento immediately south of the distrito federal.

Outside Asunción, city government is distrito government, the distritos of Paraguay being basically similar to the municipios of numerous Latin American countries. Each distrito comprises a seat (city, town, or village) and a surrounding area, usually rural. The town that serves as the administrative center has no corporate existence apart from the distrito as a whole.

REFERENCES

Capurro, Adan. Geografía del Paraguay, "Alcora", Asunción, 1957; administrative relationships; names of departamentos, parroquias, and most distritos.

Mapa de la República del Paraguay; 1:1,000,000; Estado Mayor General, Sección Cartográfica, 1956; names and boundaries of first-order units. Call No. 102354.

[Districts and Colonies in the Departments of Paraguay]; various scales, mostly 1:25,000-1:200,000; Paraguay, Dirección General de Estadística y Censos; 1956; names and boundaries of distritos; ca. 150 sheets covering 145 of the distritos. Call No. 104137.

Geographic Intelligence Report, Administrative Divisions of Western Hemisphere Countries, RR-G-3, 14 November 1952; administrative relationships; names of first-order units with number of distritos indicated for each.

## CHILE\*

Name and number of  
FIRST-ORDER DIVISIONS

1956

provincia: 25  
(province)Name and number of  
SECOND-ORDER DIVISIONS

1954

departamento: 87  
(department)REMARKS

A single departamento is coextensive with Aisen province.

The Juan Fernández Islands are administrative components of Valparaiso Province, whereas the normally uninhabited islands of San Felix and San Ambrosio near 26°00'S-80°00'W belong to Atacama Province.

Each province is under the authority of an intendente and each departamento is under a governor. The intendente, however, also serves as governor of the departamento containing the provincial capital.

Departamentos are subdivided into comunas (communes, third-order divisions) and comunas into distritos (districts, fourth-order). City government is commune government and, apparently, no towns have special status as first- or second-order units. The city of Santiago, capital of Chile, falls within the Comuna de Santiago and is divided into 52 fourth-order distritos.

REFERENCES

Chile; 1:5,000,000; 1954; province names and boundaries. Map No. 12872.

Mapa Escolar de Chile; 1:3,000,000; 1954-?; provincia and departamento names and boundaries. Call No. 77949.

XII Censo General de Población, Escrutinio Preliminar, "Provincia de Santiago," Dirección General de Estadística, Secretaría General del Censo, Chile, Santiago, 1952; names and boundaries of all units first- through fourth-order for Santiago Province. Similar publications are available for all provinces.

Butland, G.J.. Chile, Royal Institute of International Affairs, London, 1953; administrative relationships.

\*Easter and Sala y Gómez islands, Chilean possessions in the eastern Pacific, are treated in Part IV, Oceania. Chilean and other Antarctic claims are not considered in this report.

## ARGENTINA\*

Name and number of  
FIRST-ORDER DIVISIONS

1957

provincia: 22  
(province)

capital federal: 1

territorio nacional: 1  
(national territory)Name and number of  
SECOND-ORDER DIVISIONS

1954-57

departamento: 352  
(department)partido: 112  
(district)barrio: 45  
(borough)sección islas: 1  
(islands section)REMARKS

Several of the current provinces did not achieve provincial status until the period 1951-55 during which numerous territorios were raised in rank.

The capital federal includes only the central core of the Buenos Aires metropolitan area. It is subdivided in a number of different ways for different purposes (police, taxation, elections, etc.). Apparently, however, the barrios are the most important of the numerous divisions.

The territorio nacional carries the official title "Territorio Nacional de Tierra del Fuego, Antártida e Islas del Atlántico Sur." It is divided into 4 departamentos, all of which fall within Tierra del Fuego and nearby islands.

The departamentos and partidos are the basic second-order divisions. There is no functional difference between them; the name partido is used in Buenos Aires Province and departamento elsewhere. Some of the departamentos and partidos are similar to the municipios (a seat -- city, town, or village -- and an adjacent area, usually rural) found elsewhere in Latin America, whereas others are larger and more populous. Most important cities and towns are the seats of departamentos or partidos and there are indications that in some cases at least city government and departamento or partido government are one and the same thing, but whether this holds true for all of Argentina is not made clear by readily available data.

The sección islas is in Buenos Aires Province. Not assigned to any partido, it comprises a group of almost uninhabited fluvial islands near the confluence of the Paraná and Uruguay rivers.

\*Argentina is here considered without regard to Antarctic claims. For the Falkland Islands and other islands claimed by the United Kingdom and Argentina, see South Atlantic Islands, p. 66.

ARGENTINA  
con'tREFERENCES

República Argentina; 1:2,500,000; Ejército Argentino, Instituto Geográfico Militar, 1957; names and boundaries of first-order units. Call No. 101478.

[Province Map Indexes], Editorial Mapa, Buenos Aires, 1957; names of departamentos.

Catamarca	Call No.	102189	(Map Supplement)
Corrientes	" "	102190	" "
Formosa	" "	102191	" "
Jujuy	" "	102192	" "
La Rioja	" "	102193	" "
Mendoza	" "	102194	" "
San Juan	" "	102195	" "
San Luis	" "	102196	" "
Santiago del Estero	" "	102197	" "
Tucumán	" "	102198	" "
Entre Ríos	" "	102350	" "

Almanaque Peuser del Mensajero, Peuser, Buenos Aires, 1956; names of departamentos and partidos. Call No. D501.A4.

Atlas de la República Argentina, Ejército Argentino, Instituto Geográfico Militar, 1954; political data are not completely current, but most departamento and partido boundaries are correctly shown on province maps at 1:1,500,000. Call No. aD501.A62.

Manual de los 45 Barrios de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires, Fiol and Menendez, Buenos Aires, 1956; names and boundaries of the divisions of Buenos Aires. Call No. aD501.9.B856 1956.





SOUTH ATLANTIC ISLANDS

In this category are the Falkland Islands (near 52°00'S-59°00'W), South Georgia Island (54°30'S-37°00'W), and the South Sandwich Islands (centered near 58°00'S-27°00'W), all of which are now administered by the United Kingdom but are also claimed by Argentina. Antarctic claims are not here considered.

Name and number of  
FIRST-ORDER DIVISIONS            See Remarks

Name and number of  
SECOND-ORDER DIVISIONS        --

REMARKS

The United Kingdom administers the Falkland Islands as a crown colony and considers South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands to be parts of the "Falkland Islands Dependencies."

The Falkland Islands, with a population of approximately 2,230, do not require civil divisions as such. About half the people living in the islands reside in Port Stanley, which has a town council and is the only "local government area."

The United Kingdom maintains an Administrative Officer on South Georgia Island, but there are no civil divisions and no settlements other than whaling stations. The population is about 250 throughout the year and 700 during the whaling season.

The South Sandwich Islands are normally uninhabited.

Argentina regards the Falklands along with South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands as parts of her "Territorio Nacional de Tierra del Fuego, Antártida e Islas del Atlántico Sur." However, no resident Argentine officials are currently exercising administrative authority on any of the islands.

REFERENCES

Colonial Reports: Falkland Islands 1952 and 1953, Her Majesty's Stationery Office, London, 1954; British interpretation of administrative relationships; includes 1:9,000,000 map of the "Falkland Islands and Dependencies" and a map of the Falklands indicating private ownership of islands and tracts.

República Argentina; 1:2,500,000; Ejército Argentino, Instituto Geográfico Militar, 1957; Argentine interpretation of administrative relationships. Call No. 101478.

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