

# Slides for the Conference

"No to Military Bases and War – Everywhere –  
International Commitment to Peace &  
Disarmament"

Kaiserslautern, Germany, 9 July 2021

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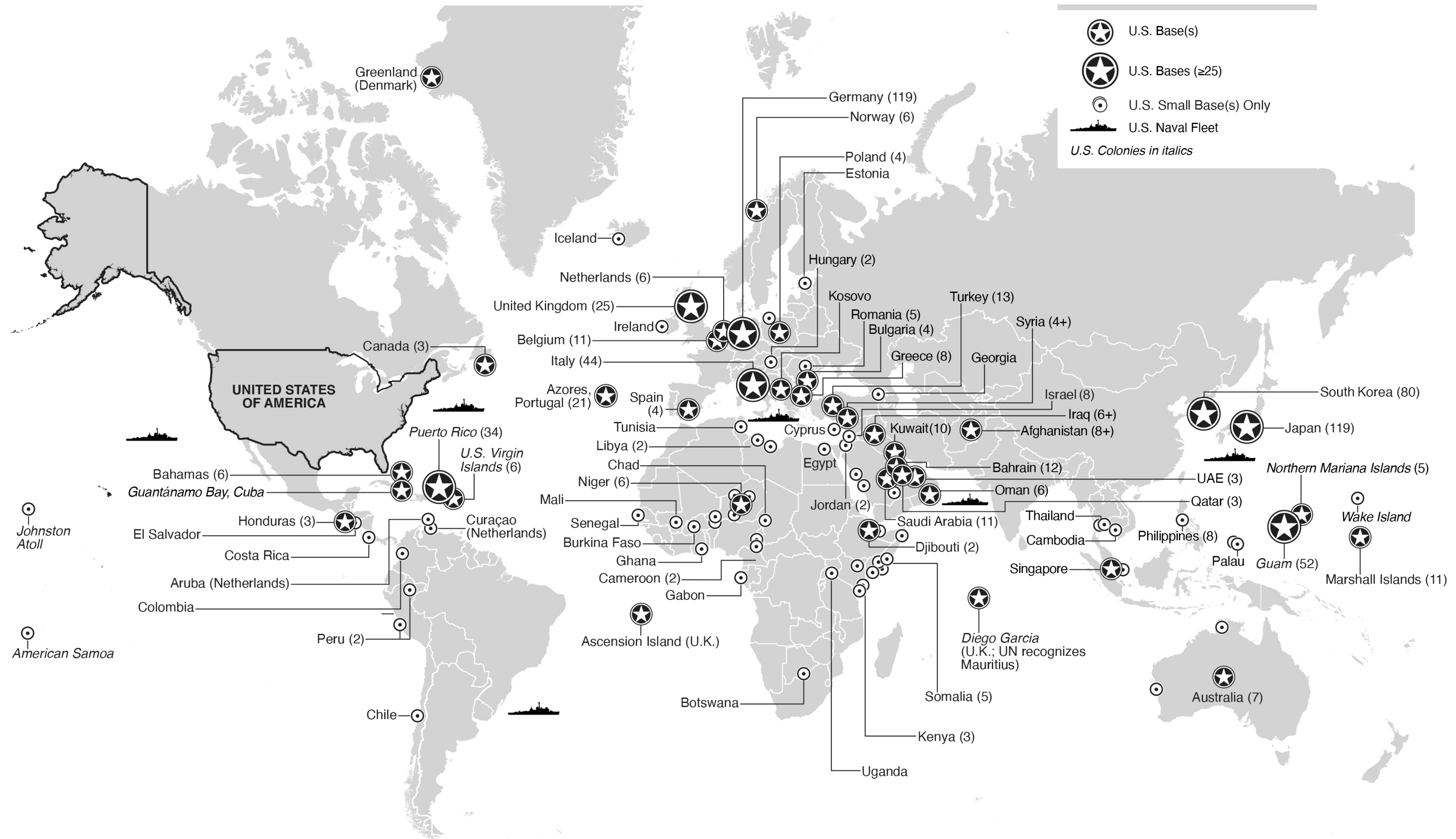
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[www.davidvine.net](http://www.davidvine.net)

[www.basenation.us](http://www.basenation.us)

# U.S. Military Bases Abroad, 2020

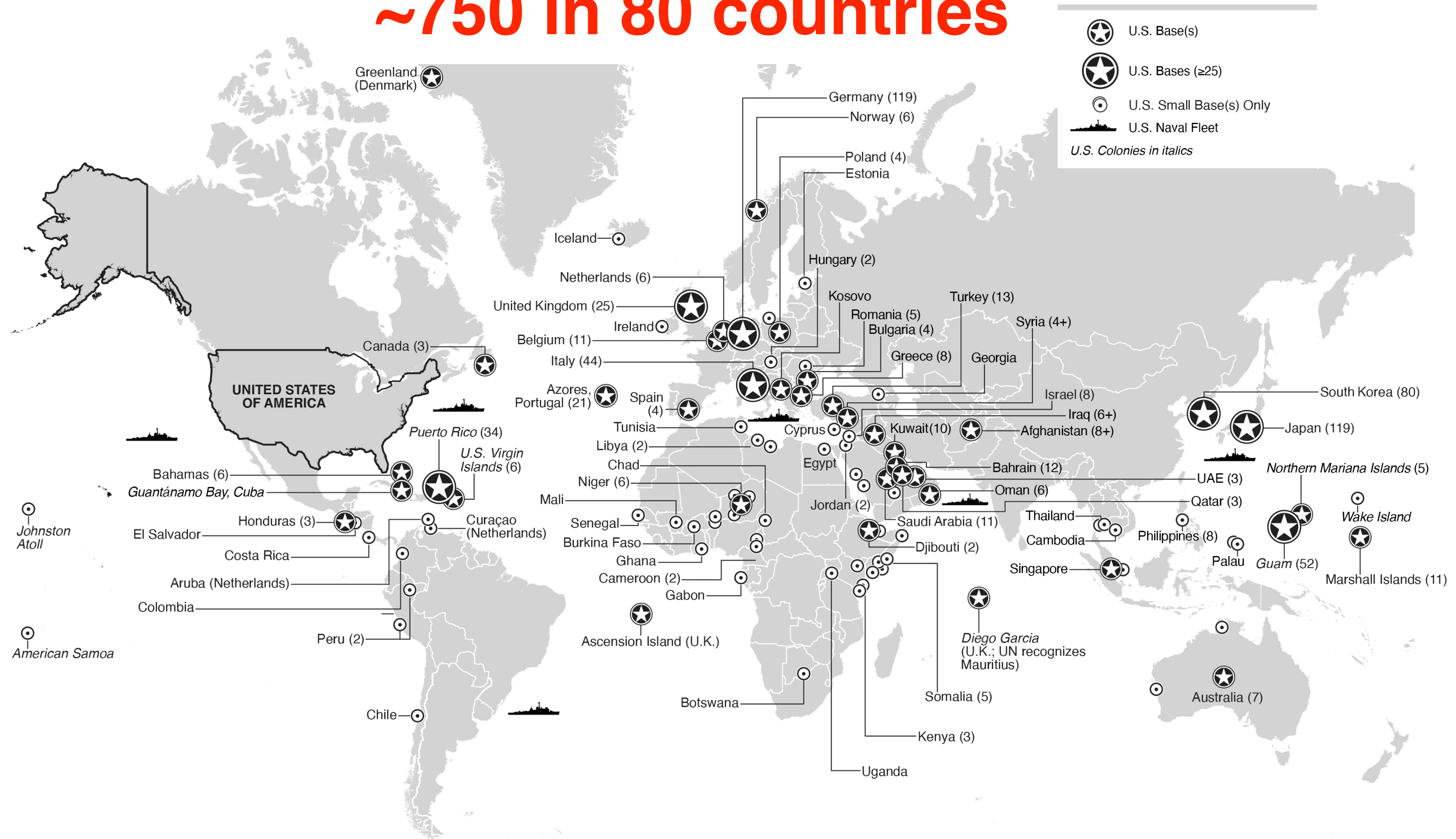
In 2020, the United States controlled around 800 bases outside the 50 U.S. states and Washington, DC. Map reflects bases' relative number and positioning given best available data. For ease of comparison we use contemporary borders and a Mercator projection.



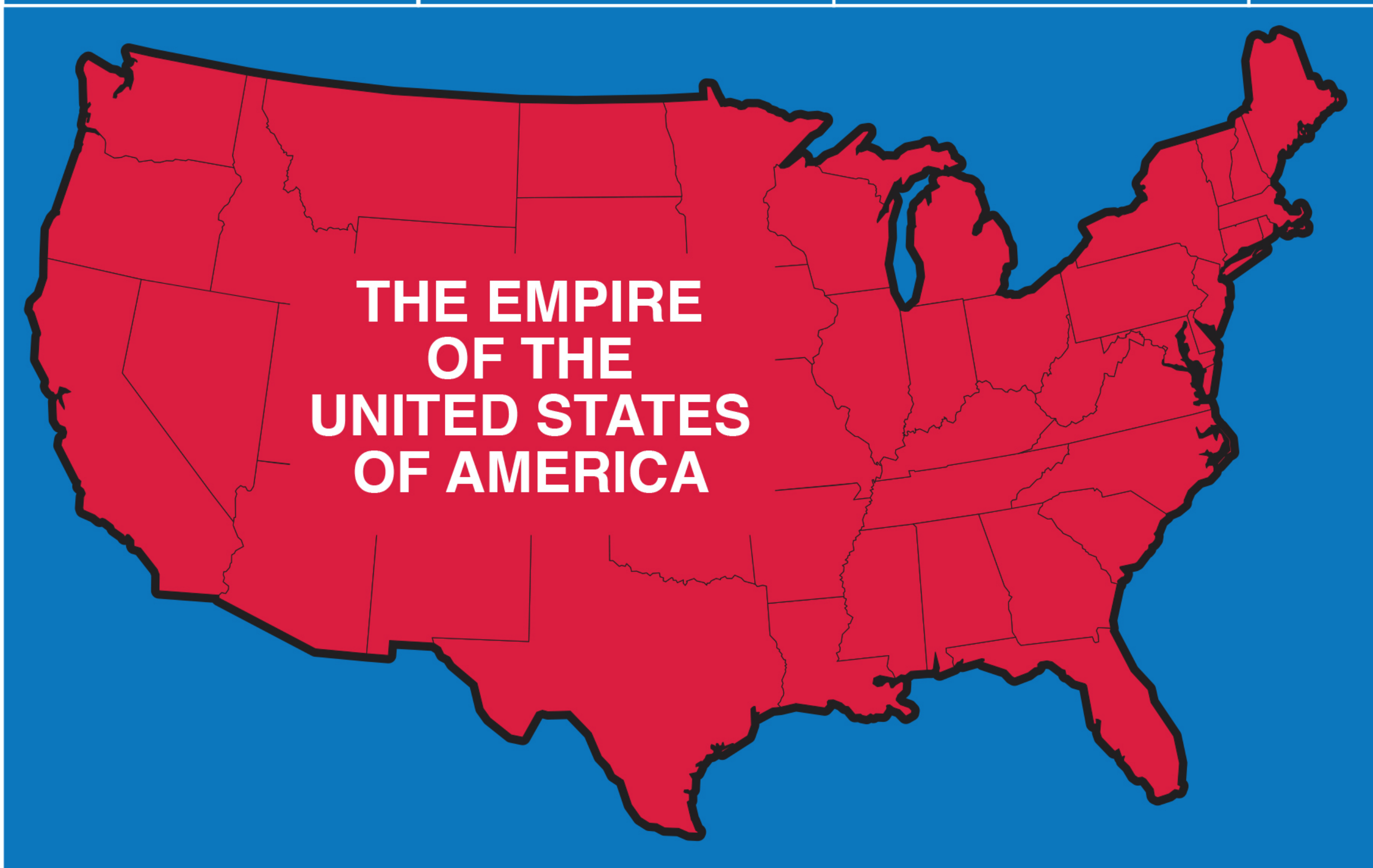
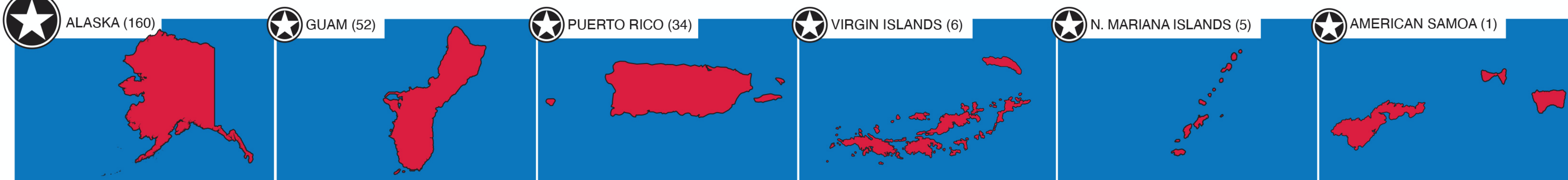
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## ~750 in 80 countries

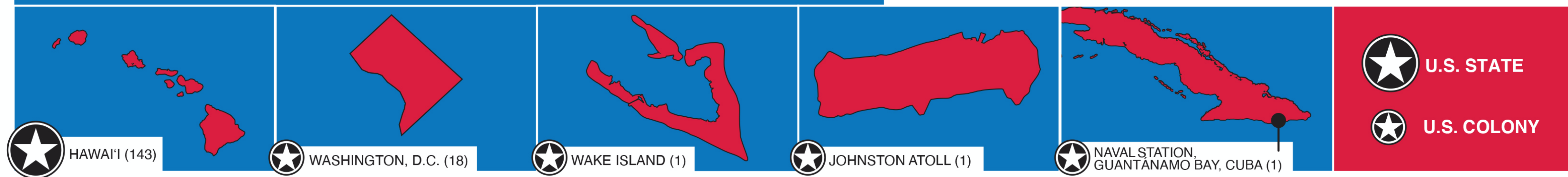






*U.S. military base sites in ( ). Base sites in continental 48 states = 3,829. Land areas not to scale.*

- Germany (119) • Japan (119) • South Korea (80) • Italy (44) •
- United Kingdom (25) • Portugal (21) • Turkey (13) • Bahrain (12) •
- Belgium (11) • Marshall Islands (11) • Saudi Arabia (11) • Kuwait (10) •
- Afghanistan (8+) • Greece (8) • Israel (8) • Philippines (8) •
- Australia (7) • Bahamas (6) • Iraq (6+) • Netherlands (6) • Norway (6) •
- Oman (6) • Niger (6) • Romania (5) • Somalia (5) • Bulgaria (4) •
- Poland (4) • Spain (4) • Syria (4+) • Canada (3) • Honduras (3) •
- Kenya (3) • Qatar (3) • United Arab Emirates (3) • Cameroon (2) •
- Djibouti (2) • Hungary (2) • Jordan (2) • Libya (2) • Palau (2) •
- Peru (2) • Singapore (2) • Thailand (2) • Aruba (Netherlands) (1) •
- Ascension Island (U.K.) (1) • Botswana (1) • Burkina Faso (1) •
- Cambodia (1) • Chad (1) • Chile (1) • Colombia (1) • Costa Rica (1) •
- Curaçao (Netherlands) (1) • Cyprus (1) • Diego Garcia (U.K.) (1) •
- Egypt (1) • El Salvador (1) • Estonia (1) • Gabon (1) • Georgia (1) •
- Ghana (1) • Greenland (Denmark) (1) • Iceland (1) • Ireland (1) •
- Kosovo (1) • Mali (1) • Senegal (1) • Tunisia (1) • Uganda (1)



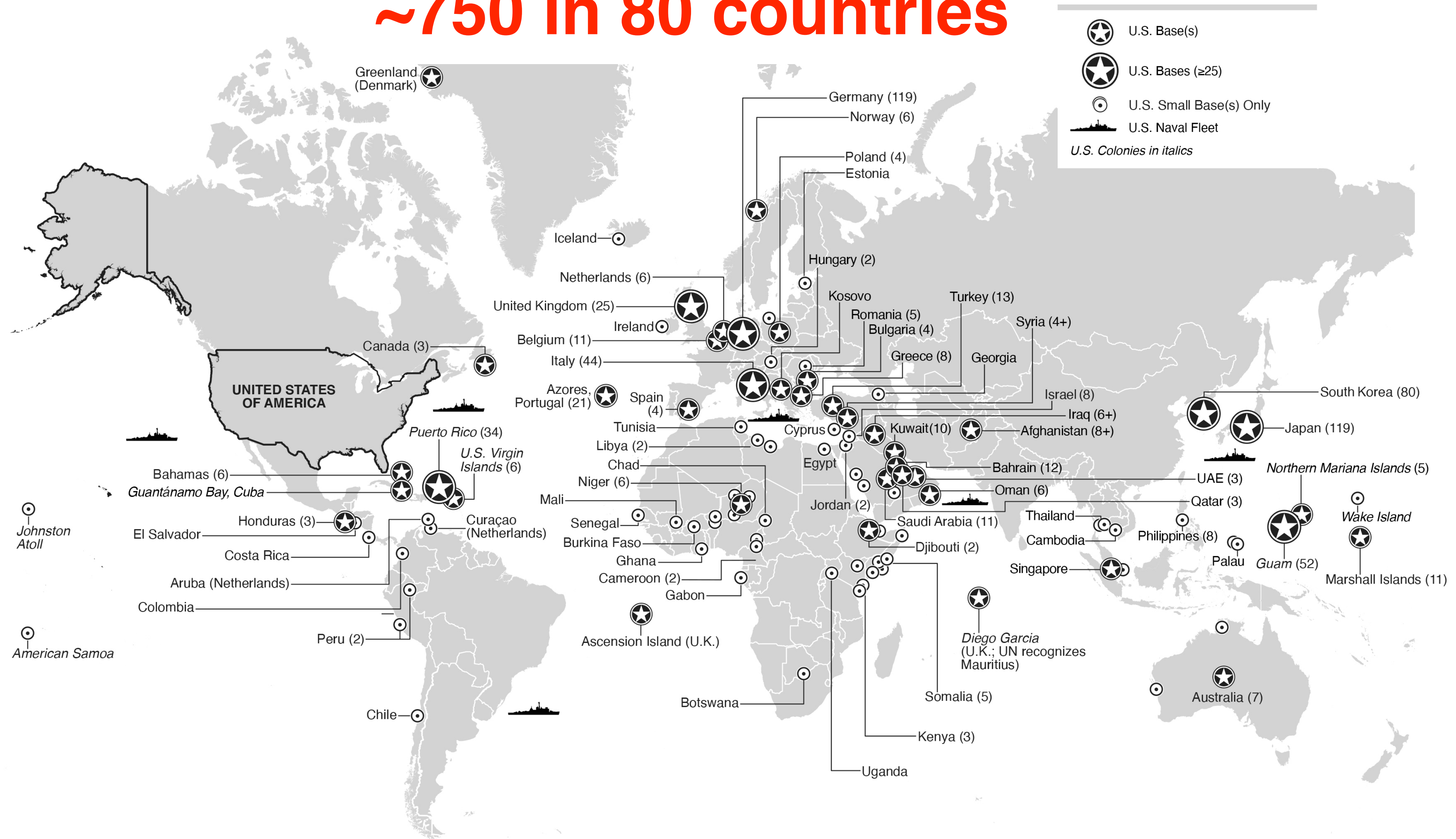
 **U.S. STATE**  
 **U.S. COLONY**



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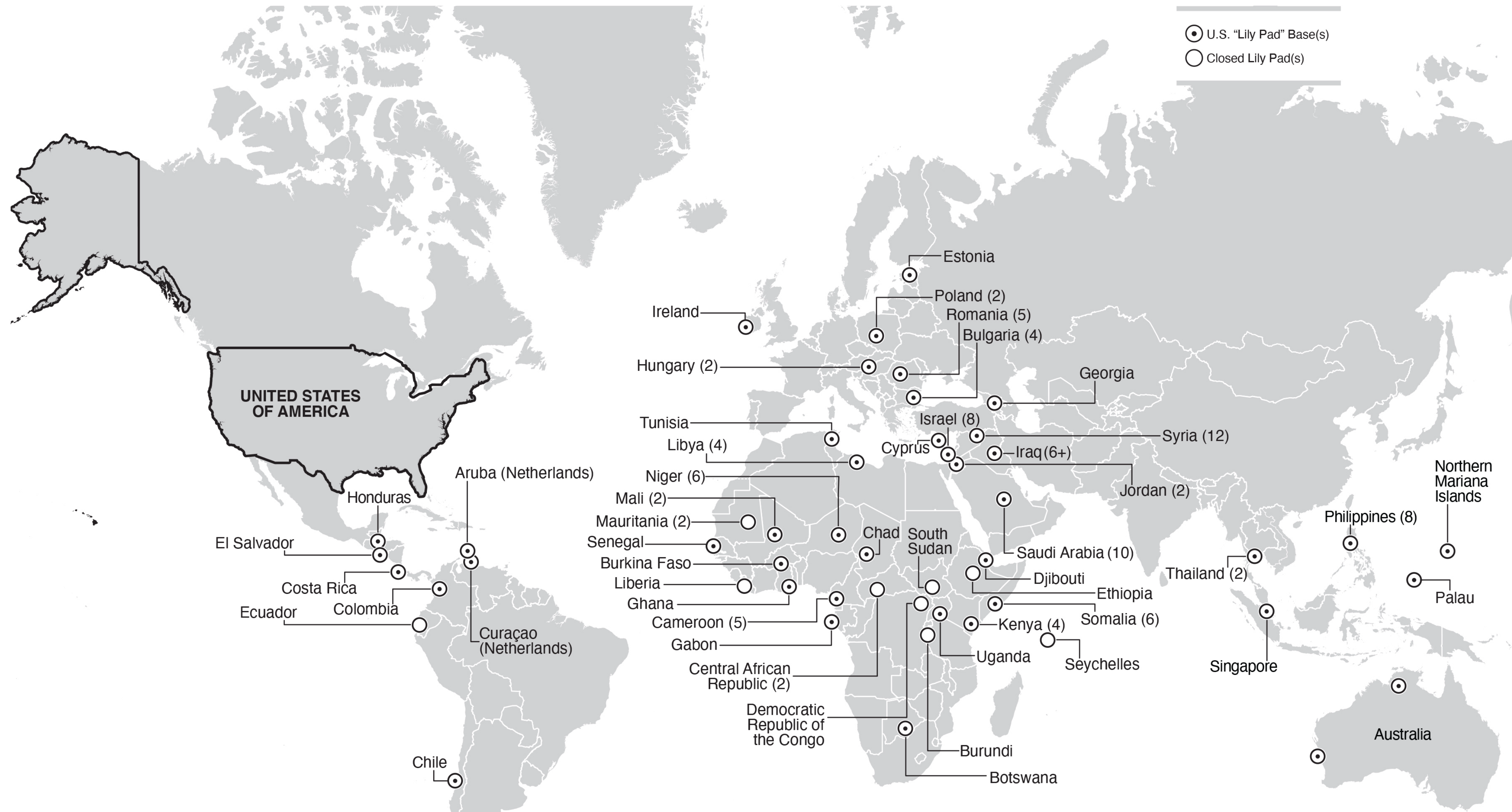
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# The Global Proliferation of “Lily-Pad” Bases

Map depicts small lily-pad bases (“cooperative security locations”) built since around 2000. Given lily pads’ secrecy, many more may exist. At closed bases, U.S. forces may retain access rights. For ease of comparison we use contemporary borders and a Mercator projection.



**“I think we have too much infrastructure overseas**

**....**

**- Joint Chiefs of Staff Chair Mark Milley**

**“I think we have too much infrastructure overseas  
.... Is every one of those [bases] absolutely  
positively necessary for the defense of the United  
States?”**

**- Joint Chiefs of Staff Chair Mark Milley**



# Overseas Base Realignment and Closure Coalition

**Transpartisan Letter to President Biden on the  
U.S. Global Posture Review and Closing Military Bases Abroad  
to Improve National and International Security**

**[www.overseasbases.net](http://www.overseasbases.net)**

# Overseas Bases...

- 1. Cost taxpayers ~\$51.5 billion annually**
- 2. Launch offensive, interventionist wars**
- 3. Are now largely obsolete thanks to technological advancements**
- 4. Increase military tension**
- 5. Support at least 40 dictatorial, repressive, undemocratic regimes**
- 6. Cause “blowback”**
- 7. Damage the environment**
- 8. Damage the U.S. international reputation + generate protest**
- 9. Are bad for families**



Greetings from... **Guantanamo Bay**

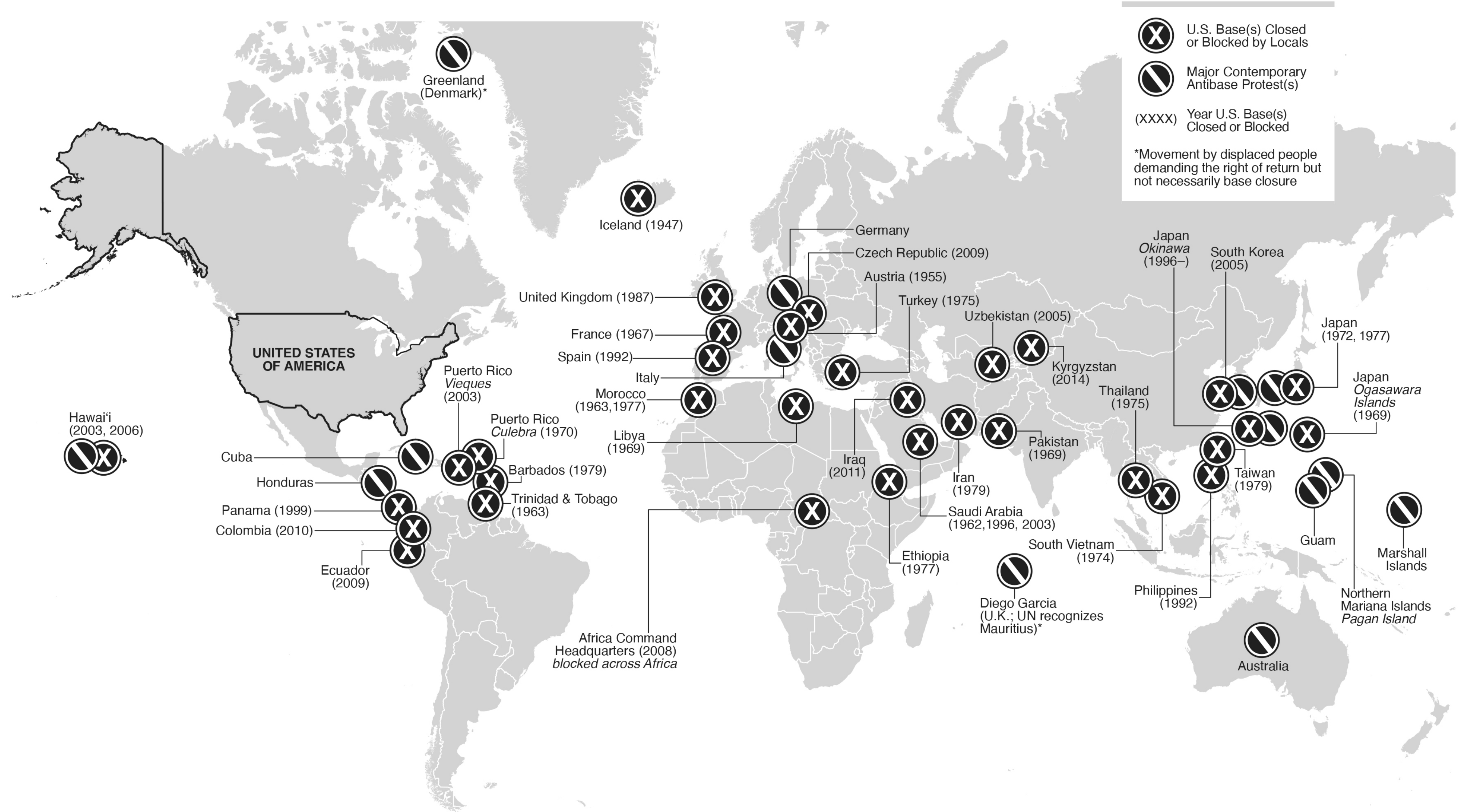


**CUBA**  
Cooper Field



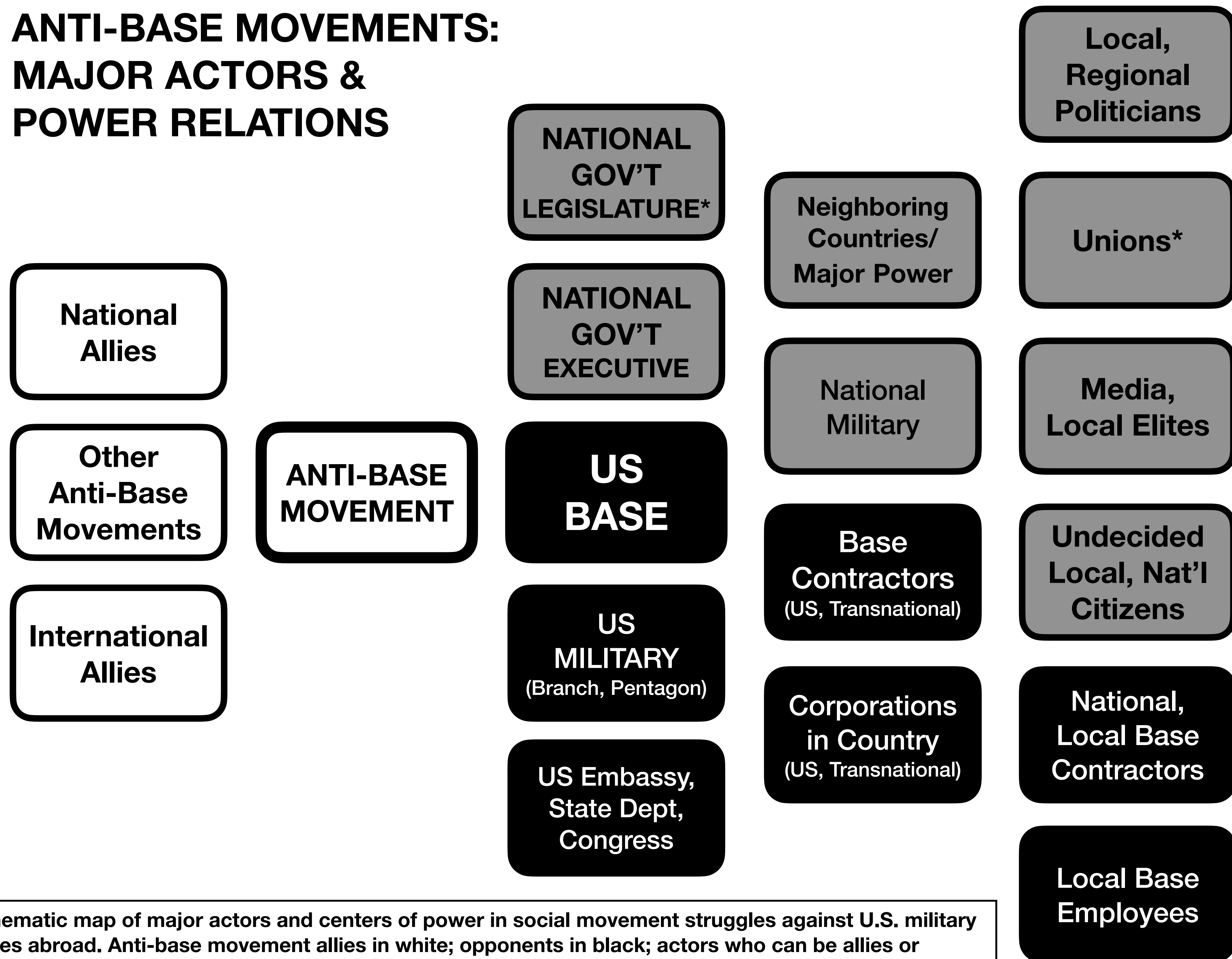
# Protests and Evictions at U.S. Bases Abroad, 1950–2020

Social movements and national governments have forced the closure or blocked the creation of bases worldwide. For ease of comparison we use contemporary borders and a Mercator projection.





# ANTI-BASE MOVEMENTS: MAJOR ACTORS & POWER RELATIONS



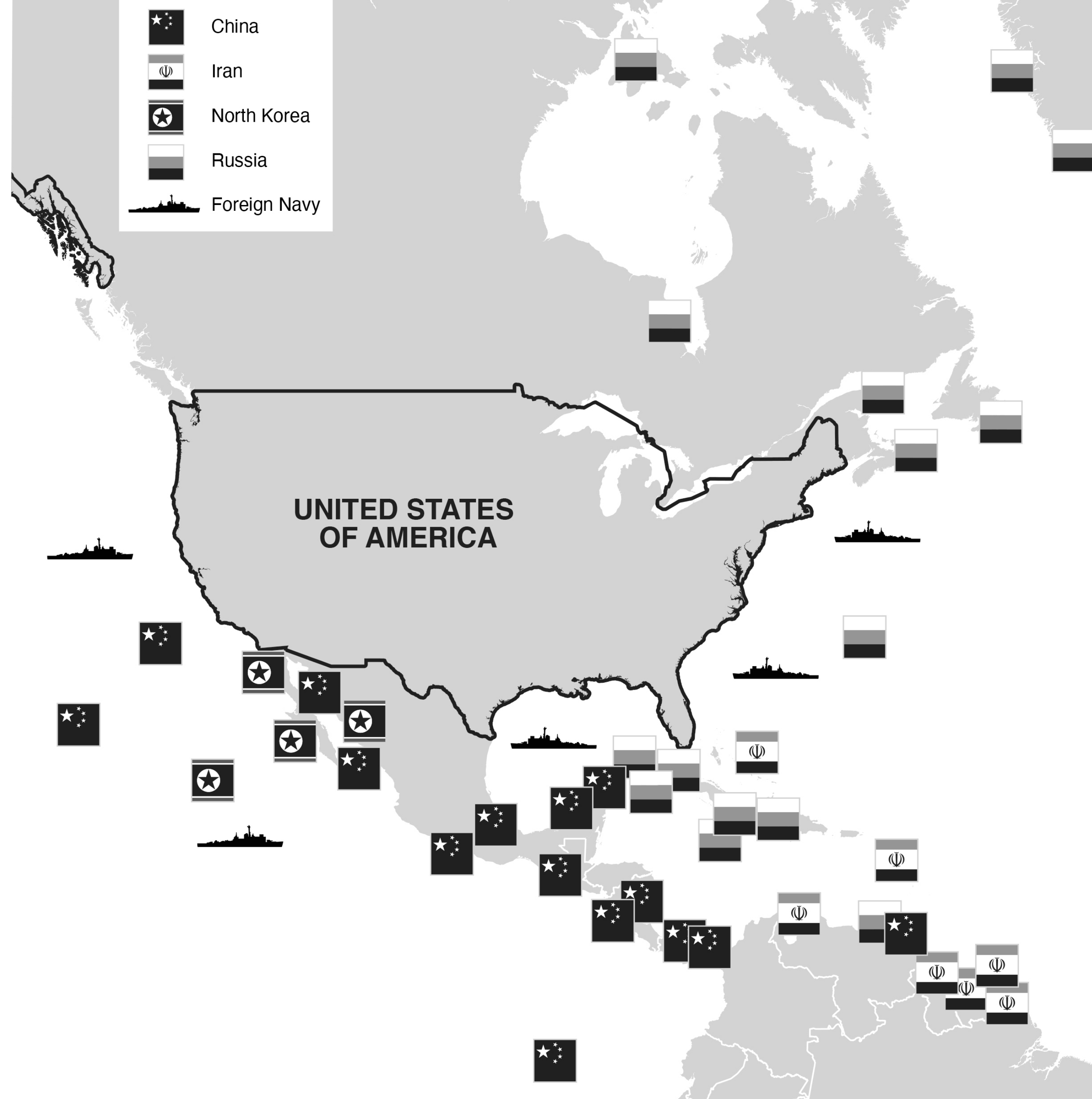
Schematic map of major actors and centers of power in social movement struggles against U.S. military bases abroad. Anti-base movement allies in white; opponents in black; actors who can be allies or opponents in grey. The most powerful actors are in ALL CAPS. \* = if applicable.

# **ANTI-BASE MOVEMENTS**

## **Crowdsourced List**

**<https://www.basenation.us/learn-more.html>**

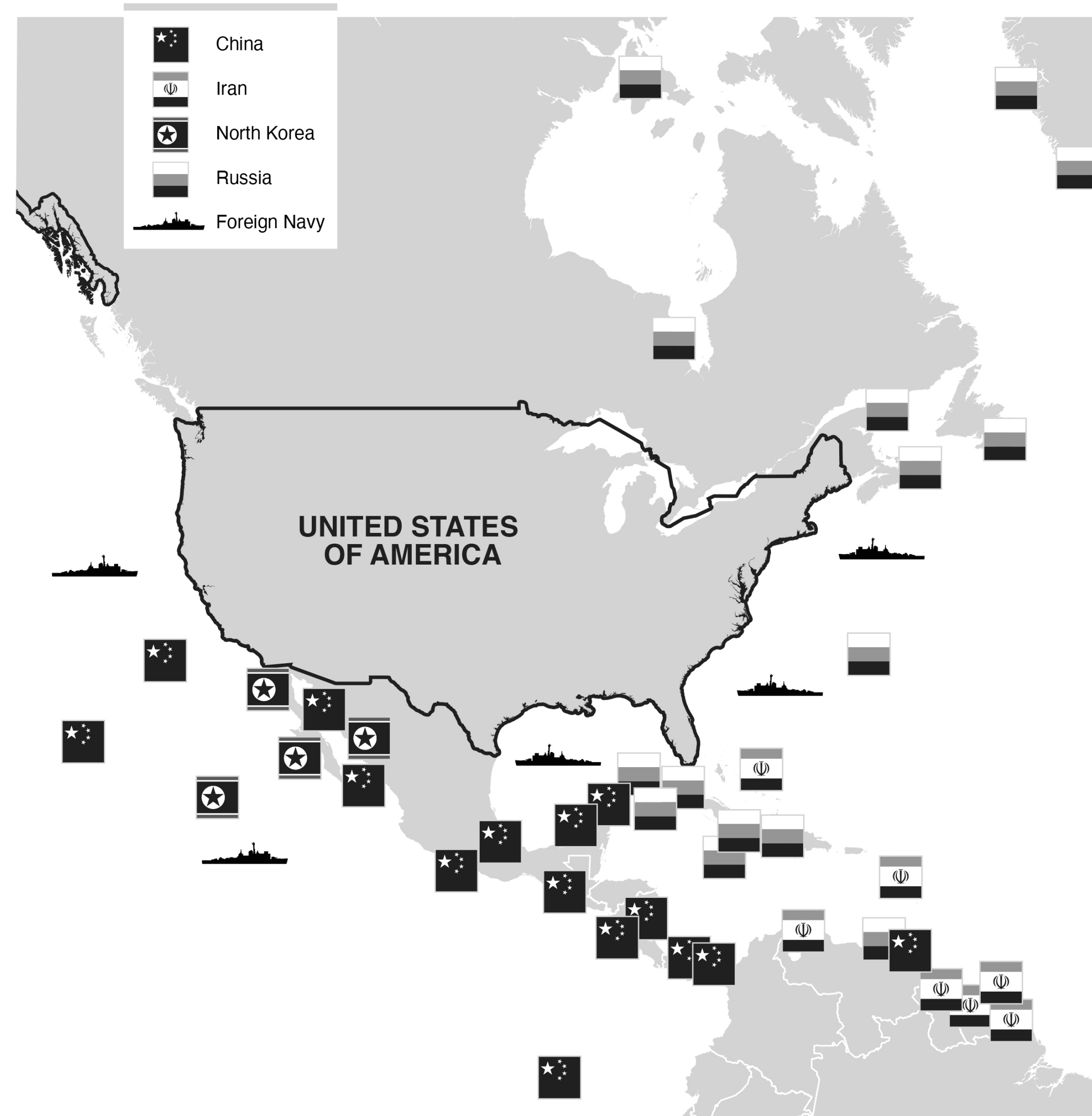




Map by Kelly Martin / kmartindesign.com for David Vine, *The United States of War: A Global History of America's Endless Conflicts, from Columbus to the Islamic State* (University of California Press, 2020).

# How Would We Feel? A Hypothetical Map

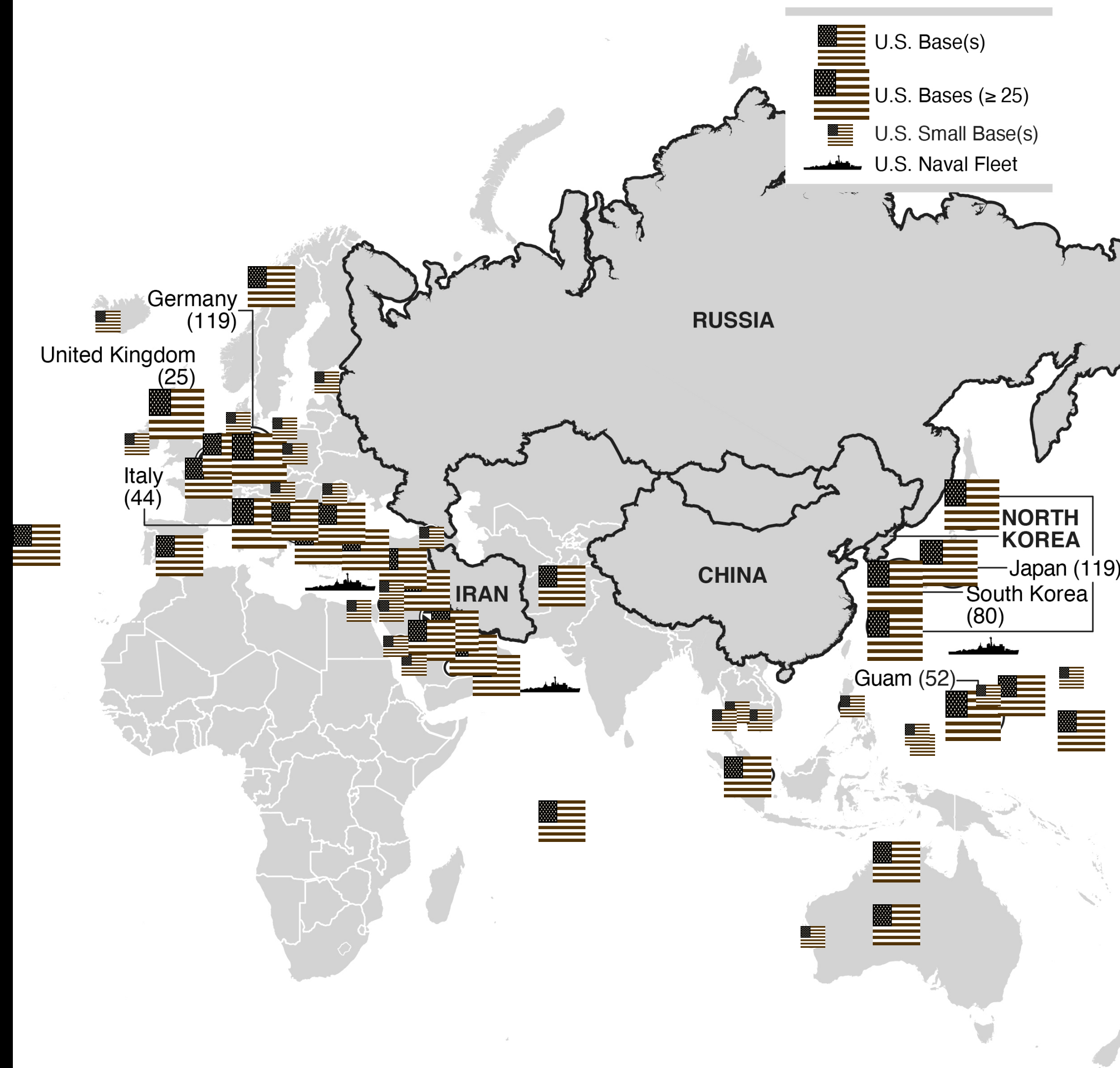
The Chinese, Iranian, North Korean, and Russian military bases shown here do not exist. This map is meant to encourage U.S. Americans in particular to consider how we would feel—and how we might react—if we were surrounded by foreign bases near our borders in the way that hundreds of U.S. bases and tens of thousands of U.S. troops actually surround China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea.





# Encircling “Enemies”

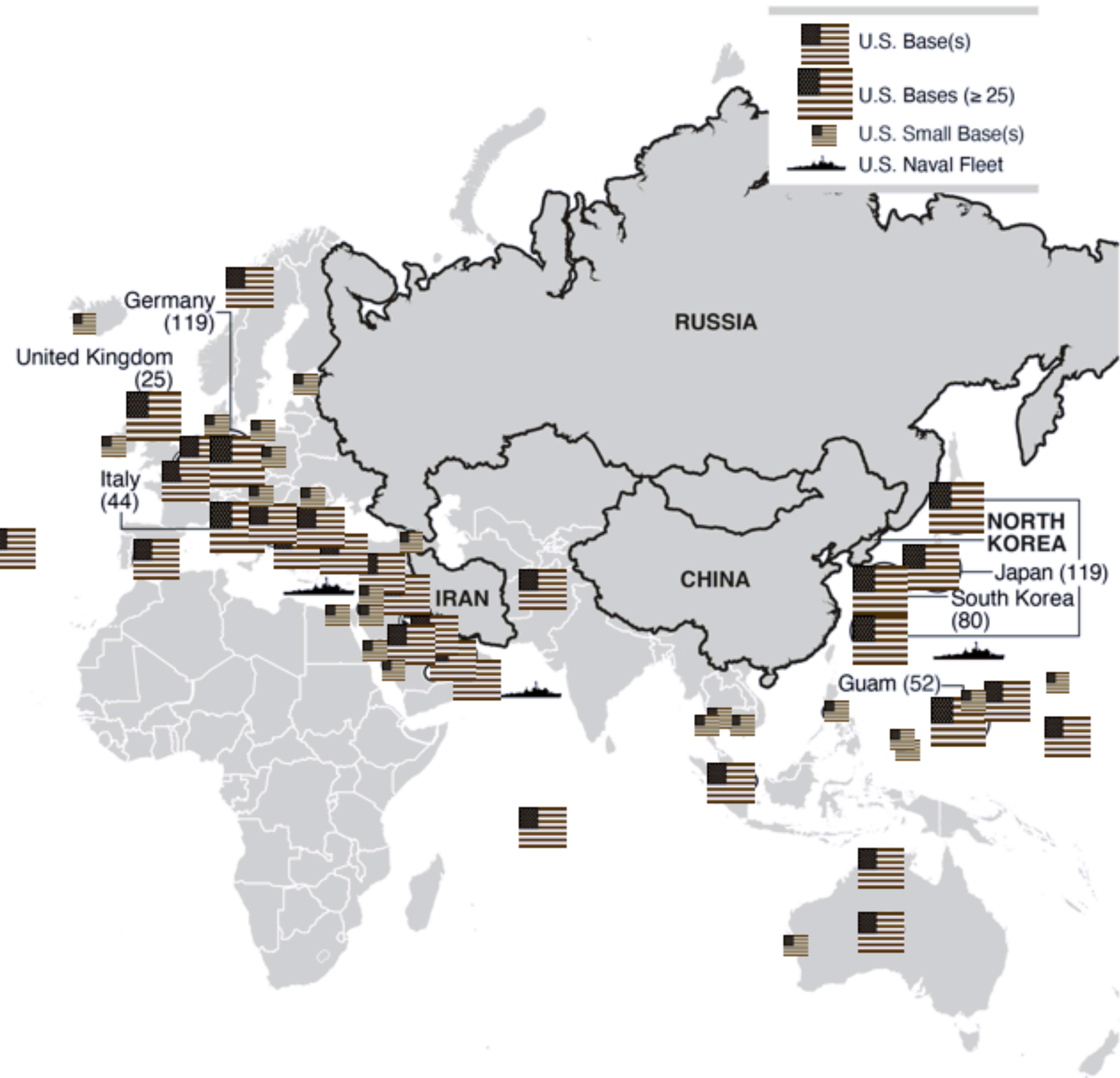
Hundreds of U.S. military bases surround China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea. Tens of thousands of U.S. troops occupy these bases, with large supplies of high-powered weaponry, including nuclear arms. Few in the U.S. consider how they would feel if surrounded by foreign bases designed to wage war against the United States.





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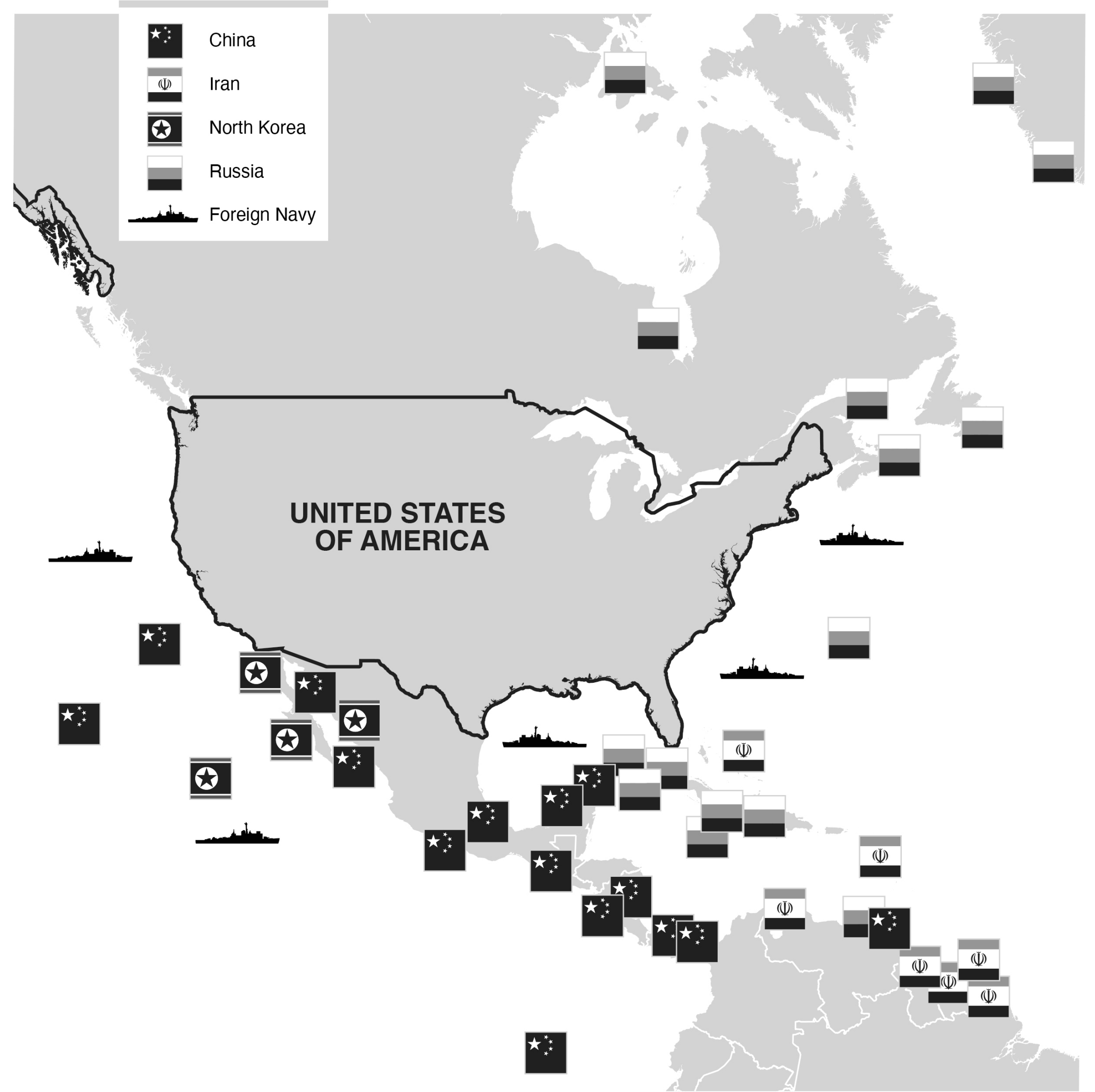
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“It implies we’re going to keep fighting.”

- former *Washington Post* reporter Walter Pincus

**Overseas Base Realignment  
and Closure Coalition**

**[www.overseasbases.net](http://www.overseasbases.net)**

[www.basenation.us/learn-more](http://www.basenation.us/learn-more)

## Learn More about Military Bases

### Base Social Movements

Coalition against U.S. Foreign Military Bases: [noforeignbases.org](http://noforeignbases.org)

Transnational Institute: [www.tni.org/archives/act/17124](http://www.tni.org/archives/act/17124) and  
[www.tni.org/primer/foreign-military-bases-and-global-campaign-close-them](http://www.tni.org/primer/foreign-military-bases-and-global-campaign-close-them)

### Africa

America's Codebook: Africa: [codebookafrica.wordpress.com](http://codebookafrica.wordpress.com)

"Camp Justice," Pivot TV (documentary about Diego Garcia and US bases abroad; also on iTunes)

Chagos Refugees Group [Diego Garcia]: [chagosrefugeesgroup.org](http://chagosrefugeesgroup.org)

*Island of Shame: The Secret History of the U.S. Military Base on Diego Garcia*

"New Atlantis Project: A Story of the People of the Chagos Islands" [Diego Garcia]: [newatlantisproject.com](http://newatlantisproject.com)

Lalit de Klas [Mauritius/Diego Garcia]: [www.lalitmauritius.org](http://www.lalitmauritius.org)

Resist Africom

UK Chagos Support Association [Diego Garcia]: [www.chagossupport.org.uk](http://www.chagossupport.org.uk)

### Asia

Australia Anti-Bases Campaign Coalition: [www.anti-bases.org](http://www.anti-bases.org)

Close the Base [Okinawa]: [closethebase.org](http://closethebase.org)

Ghosts of Jeju: [www.theghostsofjeju.net](http://www.theghostsofjeju.net)

Independent and Peaceful Australia Network: <http://www.ipan.org.au>

My Sister's Place (Durebang) [South Korea]: [durebang.org](http://durebang.org)

National Campaign for Eradication of Crimes by U.S. Troops in Korea: [www.usacrime.or.kr](http://www.usacrime.or.kr)

No Base Stories Korea: [nobasestorieskorea.blogspot.com](http://nobasestorieskorea.blogspot.com)



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