Micronations develop either from pieces of unclaimed, non-governmentally owned land or from groups based on the internet. Ones hosted on physical land are aptly labeled as the smallest countries around the world. A micronation can also be established through social media and online message forums, or even claim territory within the solar system. According to Jennifer Parker, author of “The Weird, Wild World of Micro-Nations,” the Kingdom of Slabovia is an online micronation that holds 300 acres of territory on the planet Mars. These micronations can have their own currency, governing system, and flags but they are often faced with a variety of issues. Individuals who want to create their own country, essentially, struggle with finding and claiming land, gaining legitimacy, and even with legitimacy, being recognized by other countries.

Once an individual has decided to create a micronation that will be based on a physical and obtainable land, they must discover parts of the world that are yet to be claimed. According to author Josh Lew, there are still a few pieces of land available here on Earth that are still unclaimed territory. He states in his article that these remaining areas are not all remote, wild, unexplored islands. In fact, there is an area in between Egypt and Sudan that measures to be an 800-square mile strip of desert that is unoccupied by any government body (Lew). Lew also states Antarctica is the largest unclaimed territory on Earth and many of the private islands have been bought up by wealthy individuals, such as Dietrich Mateschitz who founded Red Bull. However, after you claim your territory, without recognition from neighboring countries or international organizations, the fact you own the land will not mean much to others.

According to international Law the Montevideo Convention states that to be considered a legitimate statehood you must possess: “a permanent population, a defined territory, government, and capacity to enter into relations with other states.” According to Article 3, a state must have
“political existence of the state” and if the statehood is not recognized by others it still has the right to defend itself. The state is also able to legislate upon its own interest and to establish jurisdiction and court (*Montevideo*). In Article 4, all states are essentially considered equal and the power of each state does not assure it power of voice. One must be aware and abide by all international laws.

Moreover, even with legal legitimacy, many micronations are not recognized by other nations or governments and very few people fully understand them or take them seriously as an independent statehood (*Laymen*). According to Parker, many micronations have communicated with their home governments asking for diplomatic recognition. In 1963, citizens of a town called Seborga, Italy argued that their land was not identified in any documents used during the “unification efforts of Italy in the 1800s (*Gould*).” To this day, Senorga, one of the oldest micronations, is not recognized by Italy as being an independent state. Time will tell, whether micronations will be accepted and recognized by other nations. Perhaps they will remain null and unrecognizable.
• Republic of Molossia: Located in Dayton, Nevada, this micronation is about 6.3 square acres. It has its own postal service, a space program, and currency. Founded by “His Excellency President Kevin Baugh” in 1999, Republic of Molossia has unofficial claims of a patch of sea off the coast of Mexico and holds claim of an 50,000 square-mile parcel on the planet Neptune (Gould)

• Conch Republic: This micronation has been surviving as a tourist attraction in Key West, Florida. The Conch Republic was a part of a training exercise for US Army Reserves in 1995. The Conch Republic declared war and blasted the US Army with water from fire boats and threw stale loaves of bread. (Gould)

• North Dumpling Island: This small island off the coast off Connecticut was created by Dean Kamen, the inventor of the Segway. Kamen refers to himself as “Lord Dumpling”. The island’s main power sources are wind turbine and solar panels. George H. W. Bush even signed a “non-aggression” pact with North Dumpling. (Gould)

• Principality of Sealand: One of the most popular micronations is located on an abandoned World War II fort located in the middle of the sea off the coast of England. It has been an established nation since 1967 and has its own flag, currency, and passports. It holds the Guinness World Record for “the smallest area to lay claim to nation status.” (Gould) This micronation has a population of four and is only .0003 square miles (Hanna).

• There are three main reasons individuals may want to form their own micronation: “self-aggrandizement, creative self-expression, and/or passion for a cause.” (Parker)

• Kingdom of Slabovia: An online micronation that holds 300 acres on Mars. Their government rules are aligned with the rules of chess (Parker).

• About 400 micronations exist according to Daily Mail’s Laurie Hanna.

• The 13 original colonies that formed the United State were established based on this concept of statehood (Lyman)


