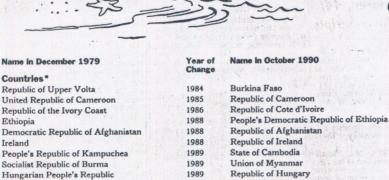
## Remember Christmas Island? It's Now Kiritimati





1989

1989

Republic of Poland

Romania

Czechoslovak Socialist Republic	1990	Czech and Slovak Federative Republ
Colonial Status		The second second
Southern Rhodesia (UK)	1980	Zimbabwe
Canton I. (US)	1981	Kanton I. (Kiribati)
Antigua (UK)	1982	Antigua and Barbuda
Greenland (Denmark)	1982	Kalaallitt Nunaat (Denmark)
British Honduras (UK)	1982	Belize
Federation of St. Kitts-Nevis (UK)	1983	Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis
Brunei (UK)	1984	Brunei Darussalam
South Georgia (Falklands)	1985	South Georgia (UK)
South-West Africa (South Africa)	1990	Republic of Namibia
State of Kuwait	1990	Kuwait (Iraq) (unrecognized)
Break-Ups and Mergers		THE PARTY OF THE P

Polish People's Republic

Moen L (US)

Socialist Republic of Romania

South-West Airica (South Airica)	1990	Republic of Ivamibia
State of Kuwait	1990	Kuwait (Iraq) (unrecognized)
Break-Ups and Mergers		
Republic of Cyprus	1983	Republic of Cyprus, Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (unrecognized)
Netherlands Antilles	1986	Netherlands Antilles [Curaçao, Bonaire]; Aruba (Neth.)
US Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands	1986	US Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands [Pala Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (US)

Federated States of Micronesia [FSM] (US)
Republic of the Marshall Islands (US)

Yemen Arab Republic; People's Democratic		
Republic of Yemen	1990	Republic of Yemen
Federal Republic of Germany [FRG]; German		
Democratic Republic [GDR]; Berlin	1990	Federal Republic of Germany [FRG]
Physical Features		
Mount McKinley (Alaska)	1980	Denali (Alaska)
Christmas I. (Kiribati)	1981	Kiritimati L (Kiribati)†
Pagulu I. (Eq. Guinea)	1981	Annobón I. (Eq. Guinea)
Formosa Strait	1984	Taiwan Strait
Ponape I. (US)	1985	Pohnpei I. (Federated States of Micronesia)†
Black, Red and White Volta rivers (Upper	1986	Mouhoun R., Nazinon R., Nakanbe R. (Burk
Volta)		Faso)
T-ul- I- (110)	1000	Chunk In (FSM)+

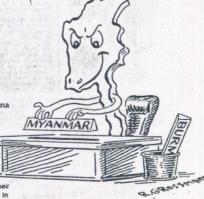
SOURCES: Geographic Notes (US State Department), Cartactual (International Cartographic Association), Political and Name Changes (Rand McNally), Atlas Annual (National Geographic), Defense Mapping Agency Names Branch, news reports

\* In 1990, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Armenia, and Georgia were among those administrative regions within the USSR changing their names from "Soviet Socialist Republic (SSR)" to simply "Republic." The Moldavian SSR changed its name to the SSR of Moldova. In Yugoslavia, Slovenia and Croatia both changed from "Socialist Republic" to "Republic." The region of Kosovo declared itself a Yugoslav "Republic" separate from Sorbia.

Wenn I. (FSM)†

† Names of many towns and physical features have been indigenized (or changed to local language and spelling); check Bureau of Geographic Names updates.





## Proportion February

## Mapping out cafe chitchat

Around the first of the year, The New York Times published a list of geographical name changes that took place over the past decade - the change in 1984, for example, that transformed the Republic of Upper Volta into Burkina Faso - and I've been studying the list ever since. I may have lost interest in the names of the Bush-administration Cabinet secretaries by now, but when it comes to geography I

like to be up to the minute.

As you must



CALVIN TRILLIN

have realized, geography is my best subject. I've often mentioned how upset I get every time some

survey-taker comes back with strong indications that many American high school students would probably identify Alabama as the capital of Chicago. If a survey-taker asked me to identify Alabama, I would not just identify it. I would name its capital. I would tell him the names of rivers that run through Alabama, plus their tributaries. If I happened to be in a showoffy mood, I would toss in major mineral re-

sources.

The list in the Times was credited to Zoltan Grossman, Mapping Specialists Ltd. of Madison, Wis. (Madison is, of course, the state capital, and had a 1980 population of 178,180.) I have no idea how the company is organized, but in my mind it exists as a man named Zoltan Grossman - a man with a cosmopolitan air and a slight Middle European accent and a feeling for geography so instinctive that the very mention of Burkina Faso causes him to mouth the word Ouagadougou (the capital) and maybe even the word manganese (the major mineral resource).

Going over the list, I sometimes carry on a sort of imaginary conversation with Zoltan Grossman. In my mind, we are sitting at a sidewalk cafe in some unnamed European city - population, we both know, 864.362. I congratulate him on catching the change of Brunei to Brunei Darussalam, a change a lot of geography hounds missed, and I somehow work into that compliment a reminder of my observation some years ago that South Yemen was not, in fact, south of Yemen - an observation that, I like to think, may have had something to do with their eventual union. Grossman smiles, and nods almost imperceptibly, and tips his cup of espresso to me in an ironic little salute.

Sometimes, in those conversations, I allow myself an occasional small complaint about how the list of name changes was presented. Although I appreciated being told that in 1986 the rivers in Burkina Faso that were formerly called the Black, Red and White

Volta Rivers became the Mouhoun, Nzinon and Nakanbe Rivers, I tell Grossman, I would have appreciated it even more if I had been told whether this was in tribute to some Burkina Faso patriots ("General Nzinon is a loyal supporter of President Mouhoun") or simply a translation of the colonial names into some other language, perhaps the language of the Mossi, Burkina Faso's largest tribe. ("If the general attacks on a mouhoun night the Nakanbe will run nzinon with blood!")

"Perhaps you're right," Grossman says. "And perhaps we should have offered the same sort of explanation concerning the change of the name of Greenland in 1982 to

Kalaallitt Nunaat."

"Touche, Monsieur Grossman," I say. Grossman, that sly devil, is obviously aware that in a column in 1987, a full five years after the official change, I referred to Kalaallitt Nunaat as Greenland an embarrassing mistake that made me feel like some kalaallitt reporter who had just nunaated his first job.

In general, though, Grossman and I do not try to catch each other in error. We sit for hours at the cafe, chewing over such questions as whether the presence of so many double letters in the Greenlandic language might mean that an appropriate place for the annual conference of the twins society would be the Kalaallitt Nunaat capital of Nuuk.

We might spend some time talking about how Cambodia changed to Campuchea and then, before some of the atlas people could catch up, back to Cambodia again.

Grossman, as I imagine him, is constantly disappointed in the United States, his adopted home, where names hardly ever change. When he gets nostalgic, he talks of how Hot Springs, N.M., changed its name to Truth or Consequences, N.M., in 1950.

"Perhaps they'll change back some day," he sometimes says, in

a reflective moment.

"I'll believe it when I see it, Herr Grossman," I say. "I was raised in the Show Me State -Missouri."

"Jefferson City," Grossman says quietly. "Zinc and lead." King Features Syndicate