

## Selected Non-Independent Jurisdictions as defined by United Nations Principles

### Non Self-Governing Territories (as listed by U.N.)

<b>Caribbean/Atlantic:</b>	<b>Asia/Pacific:</b>
Anguilla	American Samoa
Bermuda	Guam
British Virgin Islands	Kanaky (New Caledonia)
Cayman Islands	Tokelau
Montserrat	
Turks & Caicos Islands	
U.S. Virgin Islands	
St. Helena (South Atlantic)	

### Self-Governing & Other Territories (not listed by U.N.)

**Caribbean/Atlantic:**  
Aruba  
Netherlands Antilles  
Puerto Rico  
Greenland  
Faroe Islands

**Asia/Pacific:**  
Niue  
Northern Mariana Islands  
Cook Islands  
Micronesia (Federated States)  
Rapanui (Easter Island)  
Marshall Islands  
Belau (Palau)  
Te Ao Maohi (French Polynesia)  
Wallis and Futuna

### Former Territories that were Integrated (for comparison purposes only)

**Caribbean/Atlantic:**  
Guadeloupe & dependencies  
Martinique  
French Guiana

**Asia/Pacific:**  
Hawaii  
Alaska  
Hong Kong  
Macau

Source: United Nations Association of the Virgin Islands;  
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, 2005

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## Political Status Alternatives



Virgin Islands Humanities Council

WTP Project: Funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)

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## Political Status Alternatives Providing a Full Measure of Self-Government

(based on international principles adopted by the United Nations General Assembly)

### Political Integration

*Integration* with an independent country must be on the basis of complete equality between the people of the former territory and the people of the country with which it is integrating.

After *integration*, all of the people should have equal status and rights of citizenship, and equal guarantees of fundamental rights and freedoms without any distinction or discrimination.

All of the people should have equal rights and opportunities for representation and effective participation at all levels in the executive, legislative and judicial organs of government.

In the case of the US Virgin Islands, *integration* could constitute becoming a state of the United States, or a part of an existing US state. *Integration* could also mean becoming a part of another country, as long as the principles of political equality apply to the people.

### Free Association

*Free Association* with an independent state must be based on the respect for the individuality and cultural characteristics of the territory and its peoples.

This political arrangement retains for the people of the associated territory the freedom to modify their status, and the right to determine their own constitution without external interference.

The status of *free association* is essentially an agreement between equal partners under which one associated party can only legislate for the other by mutual consent.

In the case of the US Virgin Islands, *free association* could constitute developing a relationship of political equality with the United States, or with another independent country.

The terms of the negotiated association agreement would determine the distribution of political powers between the two parties.

### Independence

*Independence* entails the attainment of full sovereignty over all matters of governance. This does not preclude the entering into force of multilateral and bilateral agreements with other independent states and/or international organizations.

Independence in contemporary terms entails significant *inter-dependence* with the international community through full membership in such international bodies as the *United Nations (UN)* and regional organizations such as the *Organization of American States (OAS)*, the *Caribbean Community (CARICOM)*, and the *Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)*.

The transition from unincorporated territory status to independence could entail an interim period during which time issues such as transitional economic aid, dual citizenship, security and other matters would be addressed.

Source: United Nations Association of the Virgin Islands, 2005



## Models of Political Equality - Selected Small Island Jurisdictions

### Political Integration

**Caribbean:**  
Guadeloupe & dependencies  
(France)  
Martinique (France)  
French Guiana (France)

**Pacific and other:**  
Hawaii (US)  
Alaska (US)

### Free Association

#### **Caribbean:**

Netherlands Antilles, including:  
St. Maarten, St. Eustatius, Saba, and Curacao,  
(Netherlands)  
Aruba (Netherlands)

#### **Pacific:**

Niue (New Zealand)  
Cook Islands (New Zealand)  
Fed. Sts. of Micronesia (US)  
Marshall Islands (US)  
Belau (US)

### Independence

#### **Caribbean:**

The Bahamas  
Jamaica  
Guyana  
Trinidad and Tobago  
Antigua and Barbuda  
St. Kitts and Nevis  
St. Lucia  
St. Vincent & the Grenadines  
Grenada  
Dominica  
Belize  
Barbados  
Haiti  
Cuba  
Dominican Republic

Source: United Nations Association of the Virgin Islands, Thomas, Virgin Islands, 2005

