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Beyond the Sea-Land Divide: A World Map

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Rafi Segal and Yonatan Cohen.
Territorial Map of the World, 2013.
 Detail showing the Black Sea
 region before (top) and after
 (bottom) the Russian annexation
 of the Crimean Peninsula.

Pages 52–55:
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Territorial Map of the World, 2013.

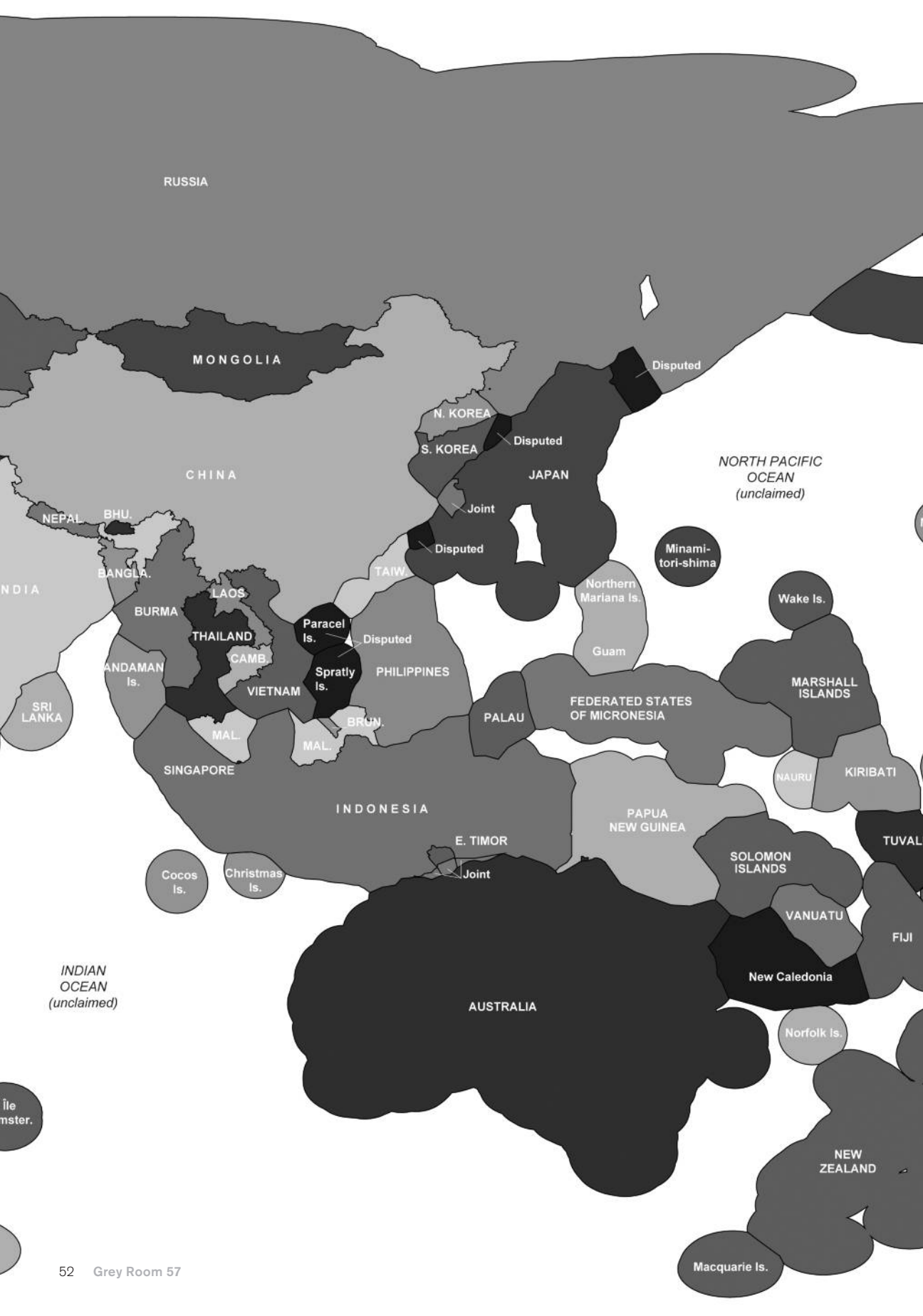
Beyond the Sea-Land Divide: A World Map

RAFI SEGAL AND YONATAN COHEN

This political map of the world depicts the extent of territories, both on land and at sea (submerged lands), that are under the control of all independent nations. The boundaries shown combine national borders with their respective Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) but exclude the world's coastlines. EEZs are areas defined by international law as maritime territories lying within 200 nautical miles perpendicular to the coast and delimited by international treaties. The marine borders used in this map are based on a geometric projection of the maritime boundaries depicted by the Flanders Marine Institute (<http://www.marineregions.org/eez.php>). This map is not to be taken as the endorsement of one claim over another.

Coastlines—linear entities dividing land from water—were historically one of the first geographical features to be represented accurately in maps, thus becoming a common datum for the development of seafaring, charting technology, and the history of exploration more generally. The twentieth century brought about profound changes in the organization and measurement of the world. The rudimentary divide of water and land became an obsolete artifact of mapping, both irrelevant to evolving political and economic concepts of space and useless in settling claims of national sovereignty over sea zones. (The recent takeover of Crimea by Russia is a case in point.) The world as it is envisioned today—and depicted in this map—is a continuous space where the movement of people and information overrides the once-constitutive barrier between land and sea, and is regulated instead by hybrid politico-legal constructs.

Augmenting the familiar shapes of nation-states, the map evokes a world that has evolved beyond the land-sea divide. The seas today are a territory of potentialities: for the production of wild and cultivated food; for the extraction of minerals and fossil fuels; and for the future harvesting of energy. By rendering the areas of control and supervision over the use of sea zones, this map reveals the new reality of the world's division of resources and outlines the present areas of environmental responsibility (in which land and sea are intrinsically tied) and the possible future places of territorial conflict. As such, the map expands our perception and comprehension of political space and offers a tool for negotiation in advance of confrontations yet to surface.



RUSSIA

MONGOLIA

CHINA

N. KOREA

S. KOREA

JAPAN

Joint

Disputed

NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN
(unclaimed)

TAIW.

Northern Mariana Is.

Minami-tori-shima

Wake Is.

NEPAL

BHU.

BANGLA.

BURMA

THAILAND

VIETNAM

Paracel Is.

Spratly Is.

PHILIPPINES

BRUN.

FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

MARSHALL ISLANDS

INDIA

SRI LANKA

ANDAMAN Is.

SINGAPORE

MAL.

MAL.

PALAU

NAURU

KIRIBATI

INDONESIA

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Cocos Is.

Christmas Is.

E. TIMOR

Joint

VANUATU

TUVALU

FIJI

New Caledonia

INDIAN OCEAN
(unclaimed)

AUSTRALIA

Norfolk Is.

ile
mster.

NEW ZEALAND

Macquarie Is.



ARCTIC OCEAN
(unclaimed)

UNITED STATES

CANADA

UNITED STATES

NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN
(unclaimed)

MEXICO

Midway Is.
Hawaiian Islands

Johnston Atoll

Palmyra Atoll

Jarvis Is.

KIRIBATI

KIRIBATI

Tokelau

Cook Is.

Amer. Samoa

Niue

TONGA

French Polynesia

Pitcairn Is.

Clipperton Is.

BELIZE
GUAT.
EL SALVADOR

GALAPAGOS Is.

Sala y Gómez
Easter Is.

San Felix

SOUTH PACIFIC OCEAN
(unclaimed)

CHILE

