

WALLED WORLD: Walls and Border Fences Separate Nations and Territories Around The World

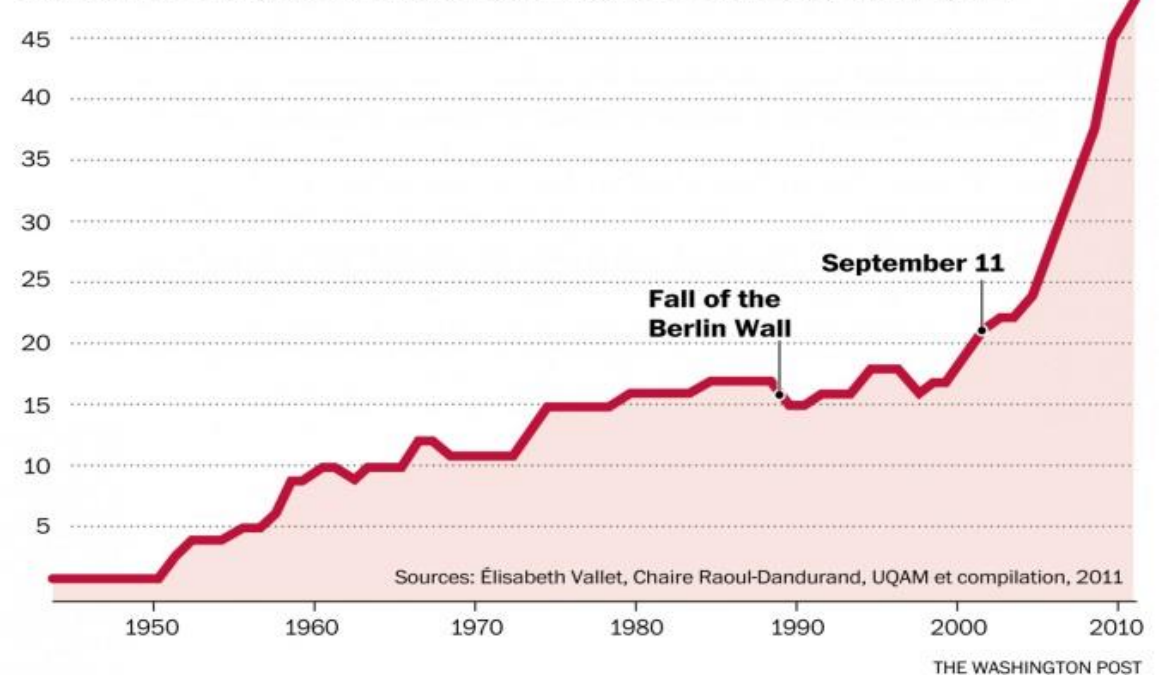
In 2016, walls continue to be built to fence people out. In our history walls such as the Great Wall of China and Hadrian's Wall were built to protect people from invasions.



The Great Wall of China

After World War I, walls continue to be built in Europe. The Maginot Line in France was built in the 1930's out of concrete with fortifications, obstacles, tunnels, weapons installations and tank traps in an attempt to protect them from an attack from Germany. Germany in response built the Siegfried Line. All of these historical lines were built to keep people out and to protect themselves from attacks. After World War II the Iron Curtain came up dividing Eastern and Western Europe along with the Berlin Wall

Number of walls and barriers built from 1945 to 2011



Berlin Wall, Germany

dividing East and West Berlin. This barrier was built by the Eastern European countries to keep people in. This was the first of many walls/fences/barriers built around the world but the number is nowhere near the number of walls that have been built since September 11, 2001. Today over one third of the countries in the world have completed or are in the planning stages of building fences/walls/barriers on their borders. This is four times the number of walls than were being used when the Berlin Wall was torn down in 1989 (16 countries). Today, governments are trying to keep migrants out of their countries for many different reasons. Sixty five countries have erected fences on their borders to try to hold back the movement of people into their countries. Reasons include the following:



China and North Korea

- | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Anti-illegal immigration | Protection Against Attacks | Anti-illegal Trade | Defense against ISIS |
| Disputes Over Territory | Conflict Zones | For Security | Customs Barrier |
| Trafficking of Weapons, Drugs, People (Slaves), etc. | Anti-terrorism | Civil Pacification | |

Globalization was supposed to tear down barriers and open trade and dialogs between people, but security fears and a widespread refusal to help migrants and refugees have fueled a new round of wall-building across the world. Most of the walls being built are located on the border of countries in the Middle East, where countries are trying to protect themselves from the risk

of terrorism especially the spread of the Islamic State (IS) movement. The other area where a lot of barriers are being built is in Europe. The European Union is trying to stop the flow of immigrants from Northern Arica and Southwest Asia. They fear the lack of strong borders allows terrorists to move freely into the EU countries, smuggling of weapons, drugs and people are also of a concern. The third concern that they have is



US and Mexico

the impact that is happening to their economy. As more and more people move into Europe the burden to house, feed and protect the refugees is large.



US and Mexico

As we look at the over 6,000 miles of fences that have been built over the last 10 to 20 years, we need to look at whether these security barriers are really a violation of international humanitarian and human rights laws. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) has ruled that some of these are violations.



North Korea and South Korea



Israel and West Bank



Spain and Morocco



Hungary and Serbia

Sources:

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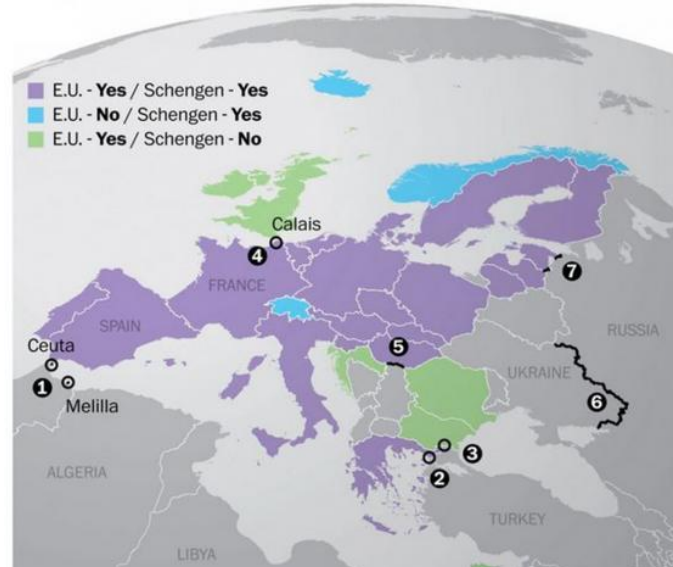
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Most Incredible Man Made Barriers: Hadrian's Wall, England; Maginot Line, France; Siegfried Line (Westwall), Germany; The Berlin Wall, Germany; The Great Wall Of China; The Indo-Bangladeshi barrier, India; and Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ)

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Fortressing Europe

A spate of construction and planned construction of fences in Europe in the last decade hints at a new normal in illegal migration and a straining of old political ties.



- 1 Ceuta and Melilla (Spanish possessions in North Africa) – Both extended fences in 2005
- 2 Greece – Completed 2012
- 3 Bulgaria – Completed 2015
- 4 Calais, France – Extended 2015

- 5 Hungary – Scheduled for completion 2015
- 6 Ukraine – Scheduled for completion 2018
- 7 Estonia – Construction scheduled to begin 2018

Sources: Schengenvisainfo.com and news reports

THE WASHINGTON POST

Sources: Élisabeth Vallet, Josselyn Guillarmou, and Zoé Barry, Raoul-Dandurand Chair, University of Quebec in Montreal; *The Economist*

■ Boundary walls and fences worldwide

National borders partially or fully fenced-off*

World

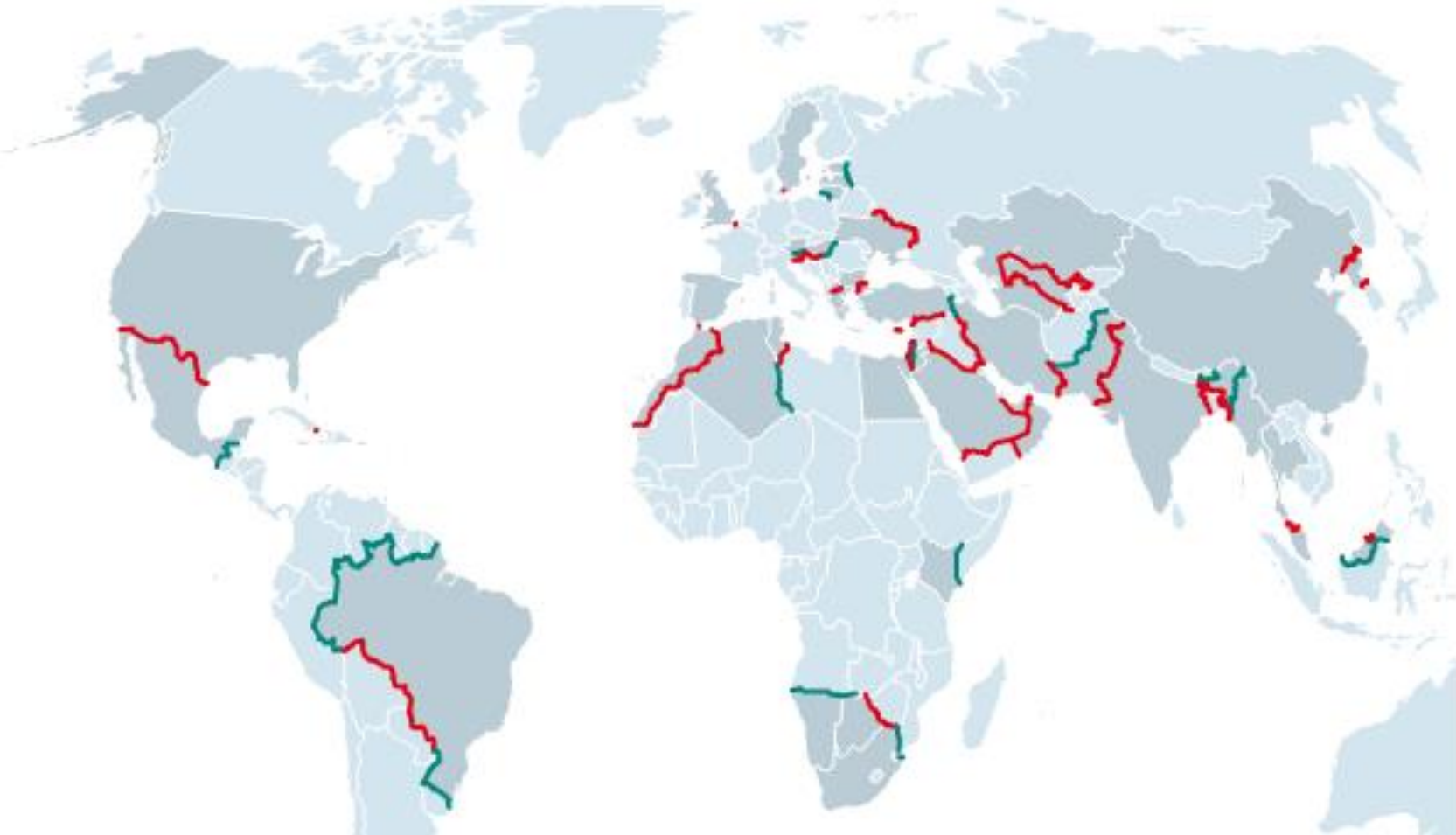
Europe

Middle East

Russian border

Country: has built barriers has not built barriers

Borders with fenced sections: / completed or under construction / planned



*Barriers in active use or development. Borders shown do not reflect precise length or location of barriers.

†The majority of Brazil's proposed barrier comprises a non-physical "virtual" wall, monitored by drones and satellites