

# UK to claim vast area of Antarctic seabed

Britain is planning to submit a claim to the UN to extend its Antarctic territory by one million square kilometres. The claim – in defiance of the spirit of the Antarctic Treaty, signed by the UK – could spark disputes with Argentina and Chile, which are likely to make overlapping claims



**BRITISH CLAIM:** Could extend over 560km off coast of **British Antarctic Territory**

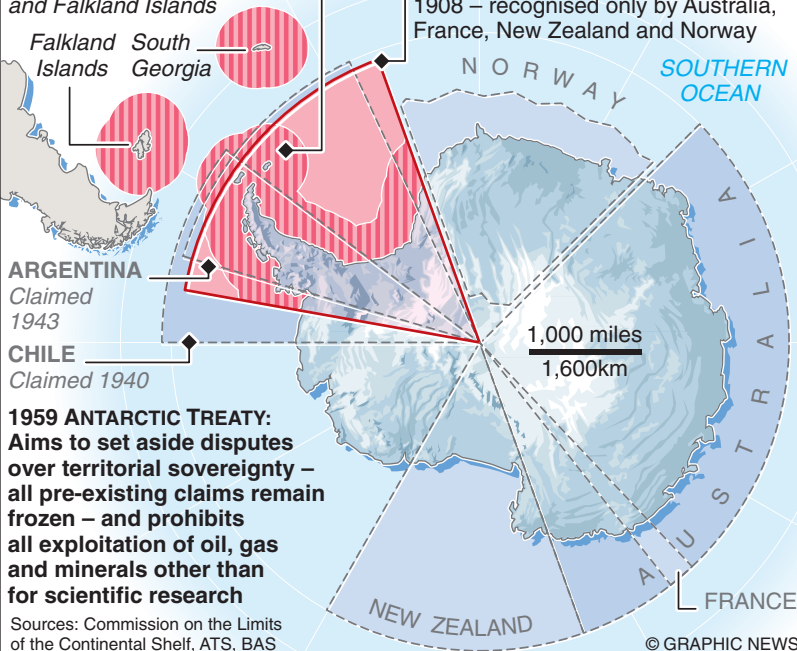


**UN DEADLINE:** Coastal countries have until May 2009 to submit sovereignty claims

*UK also planning claims around South Georgia and Falkland Islands*

*Falkland Islands South Georgia*

**British Antarctic Territory:** Claimed 1908 – recognised only by Australia, France, New Zealand and Norway



**1959 ANTARCTIC TREATY:**  
Aims to set aside disputes over territorial sovereignty – all pre-existing claims remain frozen – and prohibits all exploitation of oil, gas and minerals other than for scientific research

Sources: Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, ATS, BAS