

## 14.7 Global Connections

The map shows international organizations in the world today. The countries in these organizations work together on common issues. The most truly international organization is the United Nations (UN). Its members include almost every country in the world.

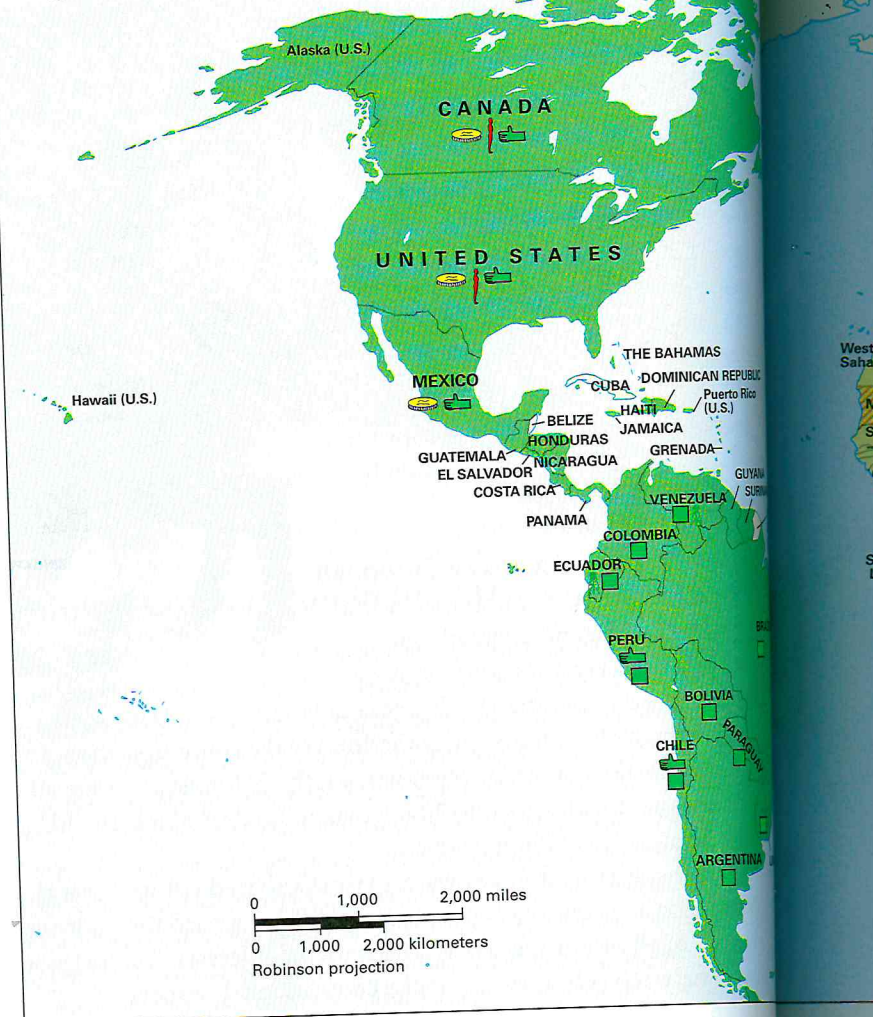
### What kinds of international organizations do countries join?

Countries form many kinds of organizations. Some organizations work to promote the economic well-being of their members. The Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) is a good example. Others bring nations together to defend themselves. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is a defense organization.

**Are all international organizations like the EU?** The EU is the best example of a true supranational organization. Other organizations have more limited goals and powers. For example, NATO commits its members to defend one another. They promise to view an attack on one member as an attack on all. But NATO countries don't give up as much control of their individual affairs as EU nations do. The goal of NATO is defense more than unity.

**What forces might work against supranational cooperation in the United Nations?** The United Nations is the world's largest international organization. Its 192 member countries range in size from a few thousand to more than a billion people. Each has its own interests. For such diverse countries to cooperate, they must agree to put the world's interests above their own. This is often difficult or impossible for UN members to do. Sometimes their national interests seem in conflict with the interests of other countries.

## Organizations of International Cooperation, 2008



### The UN Headquarters

The United Nations was founded in 1945. Its goal is to promote peace and cooperation among the countries of the world. Member countries meet at the UN headquarters in New York City to discuss world issues.