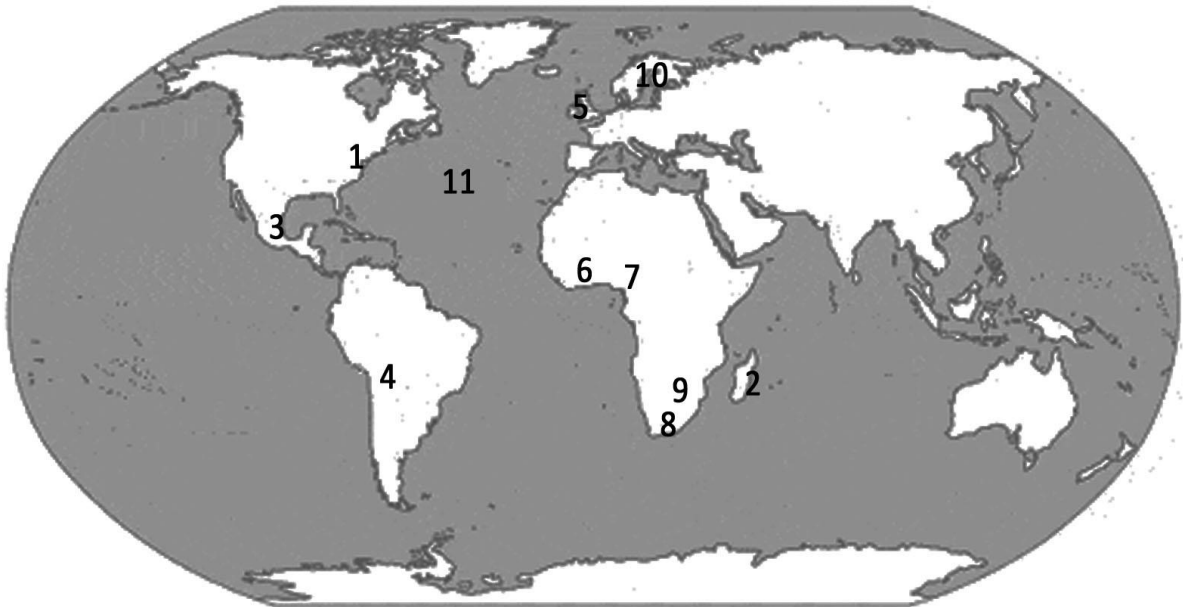


A Consensus Map and Key
Created by Autumn Brown



SOME PLACES AROUND THE WORLD WHERE PEOPLE HAVE COME TO CONSENSUS

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. THE IROQUOIS CONFEDERACY, OR LEAGUE OF SIX NATIONS | 5. THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, OR QUAKERS |
| 2. MADAGASCAR | 6-9. AFRICAN VILLAGE ASSEMBLIES |
| 3. THE ZAPATISTA MOVEMENT IN CHIAPAS | 10. NORTHERN EUROPEAN TINGS |
| 4. THE AYMARA PEOPLE OF BOLIVIA | 11. PIRATE SHIPS |

1. The Iroquois Confederacy or League of Six Nations
The Iroquois Confederacy was a union of nations, each of which remained independent in matters pertaining to its own government. The Confederacy made decisions through a Great Council of Elders, or Sachems, who were equal in rank and authority, and who made decisions by consensus. Each Nation had its own Council, which could convene the Great Council, but the Great Council could not convene itself.
2. Madagascar
Any man, woman, or child old enough to offer an intelligent opinion has a voice in community decisions.
3. The Zapatista Movement in Chiapas
The Zapatistas answer to a public power called "la consulta". This group – comprised of all men, women and children 12 and over – holds local meetings where discussion is held and all the members make the final decision.
4. The Aymara People of Bolivia

“Aruskipt’asipxañanikasakipunirakispawa” is a concept of dialogue and consensus in the Aymara culture that means “let’s talk, let’s listen, let’s analyze and let’s discuss until we reach an agreement”.

5. The Religious Society of Friends, or Quakers

Quaker practice of consensus emphasizes trustworthiness and plain speech, and centers on the idea that all individuals have some part of the truth, or ‘some part of God.’ Meetings are characterized by long periods of solemn hush and meditation, until slowly lines of thought draw together in a point of unity. The clerk frames the conclusion by expressing ‘a sense of the meeting.’

6-9. African Village Assemblies

The village assembly is a common feature of traditional African political systems. It is called *asetena kese* by the Ashanti of Ghana (6), *ama ala* by the Igbo of Nigeria (7), *pitso* by the Xhosa of South African(8), and *kgotla* by the Tswana of Botswana(9). At the village assembly, an issue is debated by the people until a consensus is reached. People express their ideas openly and freely. Once a decision is reached, it is binding on all, including the chief.

10. Northern European *tings*

The *ting* was an assembly of the free people of the country, which met at regular intervals, legislated, elected chieftains and kings, and judged according to the law. The Law was then memorized and recited by the law speaker. In Sweden, the term *ting* is still used to name the county councils.

11. Pirate Ships

Democratically elected ships captains were given full authority during chase or combat but otherwise treated like ordinary crewmen. Ultimate power rested in a general assembly.