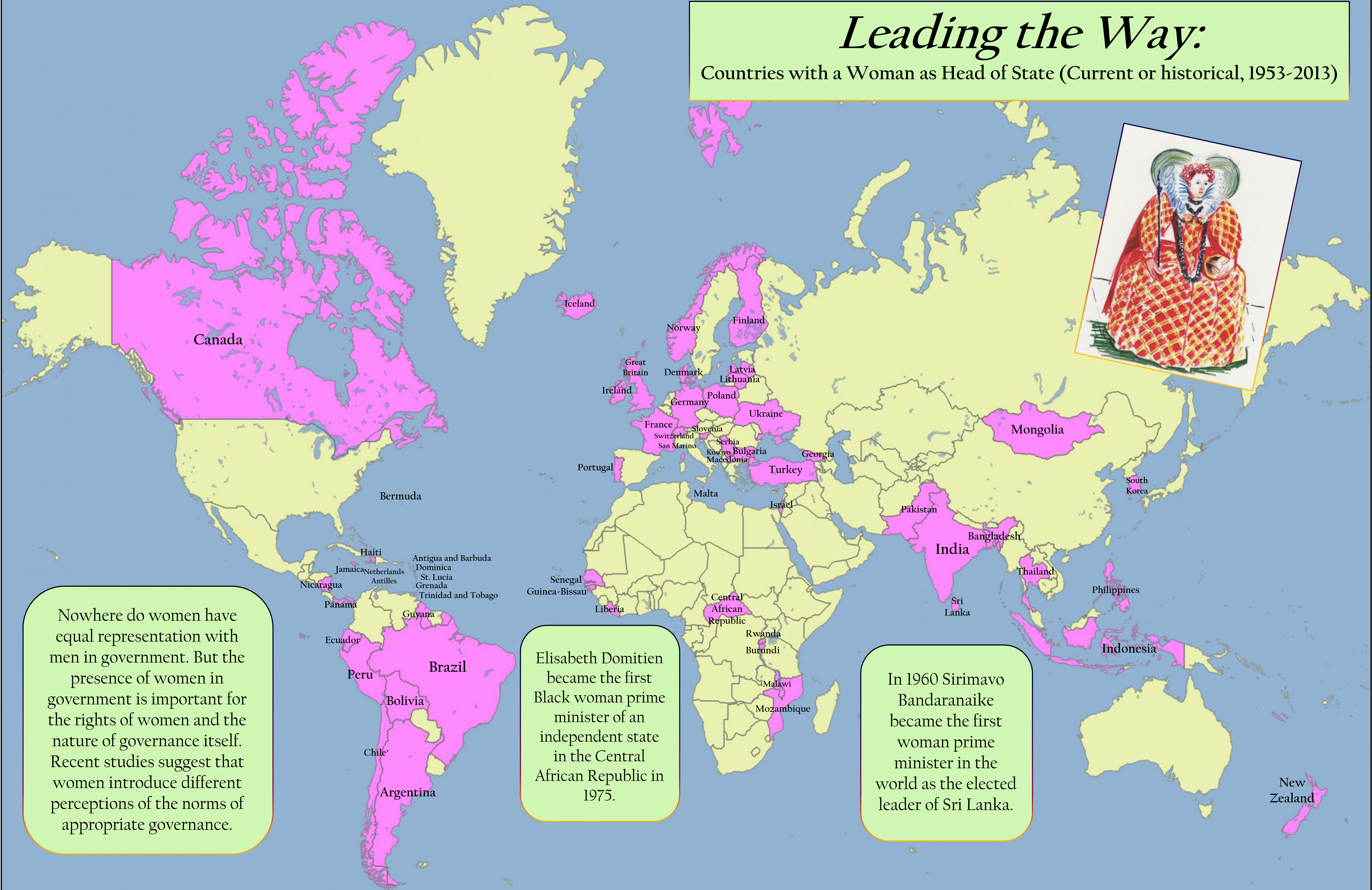


# Leading the Way:

Countries with a Woman as Head of State (Current or historical, 1953-2013)



Nowhere do women have equal representation with men in government. But the presence of women in government is important for the rights of women and the nature of governance itself. Recent studies suggest that women introduce different perceptions of the norms of appropriate governance.

Elisabeth Domitien became the first Black woman prime minister of an independent state in the Central African Republic in 1975.

In 1960 Sirimavo Bandaranaike became the first woman prime minister in the world as the elected leader of Sri Lanka.