

The Complete Guide to

FLAGS

WILLIAM CRAMPTON

Kenya

Jamhuri ya Kenya



Shield and spears of KANU

Black Liberation colours



Ma

As in the in-
domi-
Natio-
appe-
strip-
and o-
white
based
elabo-
fibre-
added
the Ke-
which
The sam-
arms, wh-
the KAN-
on a repre-
strewn with

OTHER FLAGS

President Green with the shield and spears from the national flag, and a golden cockerel in the fly.

Provincial governors The stripes from the national flag laid in the form of a triangle based on the hoist, with the red charged with a gold rampant lion.

Naval ensign White with the national flag in the canton and an upright red anchor in the fly.

DATES IN HISTORY

1885 Claimed by British East Africa Company

1920 Colony of Kenya

May 1963 Self-government

12 December 1963 Independence

1964 Republic

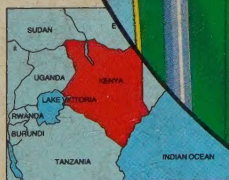
FACTS ABOUT KENYA

Capital Nairobi

Population 20,030,000

Languages Kiswahili, Kikuyu, English

National days 1 June, 20 October, 12 December



Poland

Republika Ludowa



5:8

m arms

Poles in exile place crown on eagle's head



The Polish flag is a typical livery colour flag, using the two main colours of the shield of arms. These arms (with a crowned eagle) are recorded from 1228, and in the red and white colours from 1241. They were used by the Kingdom of Poland until its extinction in 1795, and in Russian Poland after 1815. They were re-adopted by the new republic in 1918/19. In 1927 a gold border was added to the shield, and the emblems of that period continue to be used in exile. The gold border and crown were removed when the People's Republic was formed, but most Polish flags have remained unaltered otherwise. The flag of the President, (which was used by General Sikorski during the war), was a banner of the arms, including a zig-zag border, but it is not now in use.

ice

Russian invasion

in and Second

ic

ne's Republic

FACTS ABOUT POLAND

Warsaw

37,600,000

Polish

age

22 July



Identifying and Understanding the Flags of the World

The Complete Guide to
FLAGS

In *The Complete Guide to Flags* William Crampton has written a comprehensive guide to the flags of all the nations and states of the world. As well as serving as an invaluable identification guide, the book explains how geographical position, cultural influences and political and historical events have shaped the design of many flags and how this is evident in the symbolism of the colors and emblems.

An extensive, fully illustrated introduction describes the history of flags, flag etiquette, design and heraldry, and gives an account of the different uses to which flags are put. The flag guide is arranged in family groups according to common features, such as those featuring heraldic devices or colored crosses, or those related by political ideologies, such as the flags of Islam or the pan-Arab colors. Each flag is illustrated in color with an explanation of its history and main features. Maps provide quick location guides and fact panels give the key dates in the history of each state or nation.


Nan Shorey

Nan, the
world at your
fingertips!

November 1990

The Complete Guide to
FLAGS





Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2021 with funding from
Kahle/Austin Foundation

<https://archive.org/details/completeguidetof0000cram>

The Complete Guide to
FLAGS

WILLIAM CRAMPTON



GALLERY BOOKS

An Imprint of W. H. Smith Publishers Inc.

112 Madison Avenue
New York City 10016

Copyright © Grisewood & Dempsey Ltd 1989

All rights reserved under International and
Pan American Copyright Convention.

This edition published in 1989 by Gallery Books,
an imprint of W. H. Smith Publishers Inc.,
112 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10016.
Originally published in England by Kingfisher
Books, Grisewood & Dempsey Ltd, London.

Gallery Books are available for bulk purchase for sales
promotions and premium use. For details write or telephone
the Manager of Special Sales, W.H. Smith Publishers, Inc.,
112 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10016. (212) 532-6600.

No part of this publication may be reproduced,
stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted,
in any form or by any means, without prior
written permission of the publishers. Inquiries
should be addressed to Grisewood & Dempsey Ltd.

ISBN 0-8317-1605-3

FIRST AMERICAN EDITION

Printed in Italy

Senior editor: Janice Lacock
Assistant editor: Stuart Cooper
Design: Terry Woodley, Denise Gardner
Picture research: Elaine Willis
Illustrators: Tony Mould and Pan Tek Arts

Front cover: Flags of West Germany, USA and Bangladesh

Back cover: Flag of China

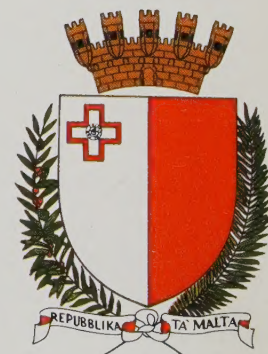
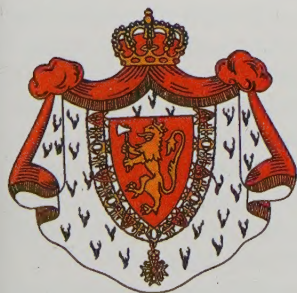
CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

Preface	6	Coloured Crosses	54
The History of Flags	7	Heraldic Flags	58
The Uses of Flags	12	Flags of the Middle East	69
How Flags are Displayed	13	Flags of Islam	71
Types of Flags	14	Pan-Arab Colours	82
Flags and Heraldry	15	Pan-African Colours	87
Flag Design	17	Political Flags of Africa	97
Flags and Politics	19	Hindu and Buddhist Asia	106
International Flags	20	Flags of the West Indies	111
How to Use This Book	21	Central American Colours	117

THE FLAG GUIDE

The Union Jack	23	The Southern Cross	124
The Stars and Stripes	30	Flags of the South Seas	128
The French <i>Tricolore</i>	40	The Maple Leaf	130
The Dutch Tricolour	44	Aspirant Nations	132
Pan-Slav Colours	46		
The Red Flag	48	GLOSSARY	133
		INDEX	134
		ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	136



Preface

This scene from the Mahabharata, a great Hindu epic, shows the rival armies of the Pandavas and Kauravas ranged against each other. Each group flies distinct flags. The illustration dates from the 1700s although the epic is much older.

Flags have been with us since the beginnings of organized society, although it is impossible to say when or where the first vexilloids (the earliest flag form) were used – perhaps in early China or ancient Egypt. Today flags are more abundant, varied, frequent, colourful and well-established in almost every field of human activity than they have ever been, and more and more people are coming into contact

with them. We now have organized bodies of flag students and full-time institutions devoted to collecting and disseminating information about them. If one guide to the popularity of a subject is the number of books and articles written about it, then flag study has definitely arrived.

This book aims to present the most up-to-date flag information, organized in accordance with the scientific principles which flag students are beginning to lay down. The days are gone when flags were thought of as the playthings of boy scouts, or technical items employed by sailors. Today they are seen to have a close connection with the theories of social and political science. This is because of the importance of symbols in all sorts of forms. The most obvious examples of their importance are the numerous disputes over flags that have caused upheavals over the centuries. These conflicts arise because for most people flags summarize effectively and speedily how they feel about things: they express ideas and emotions that are rarely expressed in any other way, and perhaps cannot be expressed in any other way.

It is because so many people take them seriously that it is necessary to state again what lies behind the varied designs of the world's flags and emblems. This has been done with the help of the accumulated knowledge and expertise of the many researchers and correspondents around the world who are in touch with the Flag Institute. They all deserve recognition for their efforts, and I take advantage of this opportunity to thank them publicly.

At the same time I should like to extend an invitation to readers who feel they have gained something from perusing this book and who would like to take their interest further, to correspond directly with the Flag Institute.

WILLIAM CRAMPTON

The Flag Institute, 10 Vicarage Road,
Chester CH2 3HX, England



The History of Flags

Flags began as *vexilloids*, solid objects carried at the top of staffs. They were made of wood, bronze or precious metal, and depicted a god or a totem object, or the attribute of a god or guardian spirit. The attribute is the object or image used to identify or symbolize an abstract deity or some characteristic of the deity. Examples of attributes are the eagle, which became associated with the sky-god, and the trident, used to represent the god of the sea.

Vexilloids are depicted on archaeological finds from the earliest periods of ancient Egyptian civilization. The Egyptians made wooden figures which represented the gods in symbolic form, such as the jackal for Anubis and the hawk for Osiris. They also produced objects representing parts of the country, with figures that stood for their names, and had distinctive vexilloids for divisions of the army.

The same practices also took place in the Mesopotamian region. The Assyrians depicted vexilloids on reliefs and seals. Some show standards being carried in chariots: a favourite emblem was the sun-god as archer – a crowned and bearded winged figure within a disc drawing a bow. Some of the earliest vexilloids still in existence have been found in Anatolia (modern Turkey), particularly at the Hittite site of Alaca Hüyük (c.2300BC). These are small bronze standards for mounting on poles, and feature stags, discs, and groups of animals. Standards like these were later found in the graves of nomadic peoples in northern China, and indeed spread all across Asia from the Black Sea to China.

The earliest flag-like object is a vexilloid actually shaped like a flag, from early in Iranian civilization. So far this is a unique and unexplained find.

Vexilloids were also used by the classical civilizations of Greece, Carthage and Italy. Our knowledge of them comes not only from archaeological finds but also from contemporary literature. The Greek and Carthaginian emblems were the first we know to have been used at sea as well as to accompany kings and armies on land. Their ships seem to have had special slots in the stern-posts (which turned inwards to face the hull) into which standards could be fitted. The standard on Carthaginian galleys was a disc and crescent. Another important emblem from the Mediterranean was the *labrys*, the emblem of the

Minoans of Crete. These standards, like huge axes with two blades, were stood upright in temples for some unknown purpose. The emblem has been revived in modern times by feminists.

Fabric flags and standards

The next stage in the development of vexilloids was the attachment of fabric. In the earliest forms ribbons were simply attached to the solid object, perhaps to draw attention to it. This was done from the earliest times in Egypt. After this came the idea of hanging a cloth from a horizontal cross-bar, again largely for decoration. The third stage was to create something like the modern flag attached laterally to the staff. The first to do this were the Chinese, who also developed many other flag-forms and vexilloids of all shapes and sizes, such as fans, parasols and windsocks.

In Europe fabric flags are first known from depictions in wall-paintings from the pre-Roman period in southern Italy (early 4th century BC) and also in rare instances from Greek vases. Perhaps if these



An early vexilloid, this bronze standard depicting the heads of ibex dates from the 4th century BC. It was found at Ein Gedi, Israel.

Ramses III with his son Amon-Hir, who is pictured carrying the ostrich feather symbol of justice (the attribute of the goddess Maat).

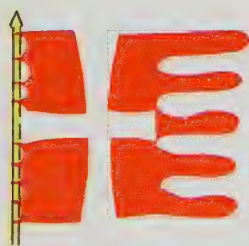
The History of Flags



Roman vexilloids included (from left to right) the signum of a small unit, the aquila of a legion, the vexillum, and the Labarum of Constantine.



The double-headed eagle was the emblem of the Holy Roman Empire.



This flag was flown by the Knights of St John during the Crusades.

people had not been conquered by the Romans, modern flags would have been invented earlier than they were.

It was the Romans who systematized the use of standards for the army. Although many historical films and books attribute the eagle standard to Rome itself, in practice it was a military emblem. The time had not yet come when standards or flags represented nations or states. In the Roman army each unit had a standard, and one of these standards was the *vexillum*, a flag attached to a horizontal cross-bar, for use by a mounted detachment from a legion. One of these has survived, and is a square of red cloth with a figure of Victory (a winged female standing on a globe) painted on it. The *vexillum* later developed into the *Labarum*, the standard of the Christian emperors, which had their images embroidered on it, and a finial (the specially-shaped object at the top of the flag staff) in the form of the Christian Chi-Rho emblem (the X and P symbols of Christ). The finial is in fact the modern version of the classical vexilloid.

Standards were popular in many cultures. The *tugh*, for example, was a form of standard carried by all the nomadic people of Central Asia, including the Mongols and the Turks, and was designed to be carried on horseback. The emblem at the top was an elaborate spearhead in the form of a flaming trident, and beneath this was a set of horse or yak tails. Mongol *tugh* had yak tails that could be coloured in various ways to denote divisions of the army. The standard of Genghis Khan himself had nine white tails carried on

a special rack, nine being a highly symbolic number for the Mongols. The flaming trident continued to be used for many centuries as a finial on more 'normal' flag staffs.

The Arabs were perhaps the first to use fabric flags in a systematic way in the West, and the Crusaders who met them in battle began to adopt the same practice about the year AD1000. Otherwise very few descriptions or depictions of flags or standards have survived from the first thousand years of modern times. There are descriptions of flags used by Vikings which do seem to have used fabric, perhaps in windsock form. There is also a very sketchy description of the *pallium* given to Charlemagne by the Pope (AD800). A pallium was a long elaborate banner of the kind later called a *gonfalon*. At this early date the cloth was merely decorated and did not have a significant design. A similar object was given to William the Conqueror (AD1066).

Medieval heraldry

Heraldry (see p.15), which began with the Crusades, made a strong impact on flags, and introduced the idea of putting a significant design on the fabric. This art flourished until well after the Renaissance, reaching its peak of design and display expertise in England at the time of the Wars of the Roses. Heraldry gave rise to several new flag forms that are still with us today. It also introduced the idea of arms being permanent and hereditary, so that Edward I used the same arms as Richard I, and the arms of the ruler became those of the place ruled. In this way the lion became the emblem of England, the eagle that of Germany, and the *fleur-de-lys* the symbol of France.

Flags at sea

Arms were not always suitable for everyday use, or for use at sea, and so simpler and more portable emblems were adopted, such as striped ensigns or flags with crosses. In England the distinction between the arms of the king (three gold lions on red) and the flag of the kingdom (a red cross on white) was already noticeable by the 13th century. In the 16th century flags of all kinds developed on land and at sea, not always with heraldic connections. The idea of a ship flying a flag to show where it came from developed, particularly in the



The banners of France and Flanders feature in this illustration from the 14th-century *Chroniques of Froissart*. It shows the Battle of Rosebecque, which took place in 1382.

Mediterranean, where the red cross of Genoa and the winged lion of Venice flourished. Military flags often included a 'national cross' as well, such as the white cross used on French flags and the red saltire on the flags of Burgundy. The word 'ensign' at this time could be applied to both military and naval flags. At sea it eventually came to mean the flag flown at the stern to indicate nationality.

The early explorers also made use of flags on their vessels. For his voyage to discover the western route to the Indies, Columbus was given a flag by King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain. It was simply a white flag with a green cross flanked by the crowned initials F and Y, also in green. Columbus also carried the royal banner of Spain, at that time the quartered emblems of Castile and León. These flags were planted on the island of San Salvador (modern Watling Island) in the Bahamas on 12 October 1492. The practice of claiming territory by planting a flag continues to this day, the flying of the American flag on the moon being a famous example.

Sometimes the flags of one nation were deliberately copied by others. In 1699 after his return from Western

Europe, the Tsar, Peter the Great, laid the foundations of a new Russian navy and equipped it with flags derived from those he had seen in the Netherlands. The basic flag was like the Dutch one, but with the stripes arranged in the order white-blue-red. To this could be added other symbols, such as the Tsar's arms (for this purpose the blue stripe was made wider than usual). The naval ensign was the *Andreëvskii* flag (the flag of St Andrew), of white with a blue saltire. This saltire was perhaps derived from the arms of Amsterdam and was also used as the medal of the Order of St Andrew. The jack was red with a white cross for St George (the patron saint of Moscow), with a white-bordered blue saltire over all. This produced a design like the British Union Jack. These flags remained in use until 1917, and the tricolour was the source of the pan-Slav colours.

The sea-going flags that caused the most fear were not national ones, but those flown by pirates.



The flag of the port of Genoa displayed the cross of St George, its patron saint, in medieval times.



The explorers of the New World had their own flags. Hernando Cortés flew a simple red banner, while Christopher Columbus's flag recalled his royal patrons – Ferdinand and Isabella.



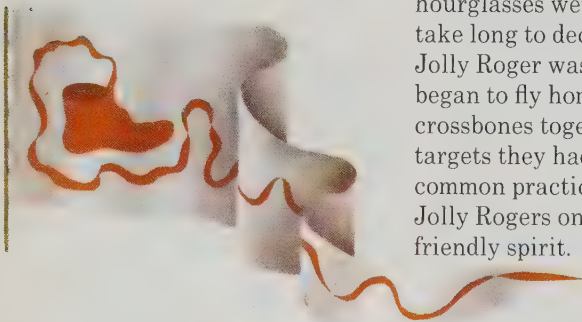
The heraldic banner used in Spain from the 13th to 16th centuries featured the quartered emblems of Castile and León.

(Left) The distinctive crescent emblem identifies the ships of the Ottoman Turks in the Battle of Lepanto, fought against the Holy League led by Don Juan of Austria in 1571.

The History of Flags



The Jolly Roger pirate flag appeared in a number of different designs.



This standard, hoisted during a German peasant revolt in the 1520s, had a clear political message.



The Virgin of Guadalupe banner was used in Mexico as part of the struggle for independence. It is still used in religious processions.

Originally pirate flags must have been red, since the term 'Jolly Roger' is said to be a corruption of the French *jolie rouge*, and indeed some of those carried by Barbary corsairs were red, with threatening images such as arms wielding sabres, skulls and hourglasses. But the classic pirates at the turn of the 18th century used black flags, which signified 'No quarter' or 'Fight to the death'. Each captain had his own design, but they nearly all included skulls or skeletons; sabres and hourglasses were also used, all images that did not take long to decipher. Two hundred years later the Jolly Roger was revived by submarine crews, who began to fly home-made black flags with skulls and crossbones together with symbols for the ships or targets they had successfully attacked. This is still a common practice. Yachtsmen also sometimes sport Jolly Rogers on their vessels, but in a much more friendly spirit.

Political flags

The next important development in the history of flags was the application of political overtones. Flags with political messages were already in use in early modern times. Examples are the banner of St Joan of Arc (see p.40) and the *Bundschuh* flag carried by revolting peasants in early 16th-century Germany. Flags as political cartoons were in widespread use in the wars of the 17th century.

But with the American and French Revolutions, political flags came to be the most important of all. The early rebels against British rule in America had already added provocative inscriptions to flags as early as 1774. The most famous of these was the rattlesnake, with the message 'Don't tread on me!' (see p.30). The American revolution popularized the idea of a star as a symbol of liberty and independence, and from 1800 onwards more and more flags included stars, previously a practically unknown emblem.

The French Revolution had an equally important impact on flag design. The heraldic colours of Paris were blue and red, and cockades of these colours were authorized for the militia who attacked the Bastille on 14 July 1789 and were then adopted by all the revolutionaries. Soon after this the King appeared

wearing one next to the white Bourbon cockade in his hat. This combination of red, white and blue was then made into the official cockade which all citizens had to wear. The colours then began to be used in flags, and the French *Tricolore* was born. Flags were of many different designs to start with, including horizontal stripes, but this does not mean the *Tricolore* was derived from the earliest tricolour, the Dutch *Prinsenvlag* (see p.44). However, it is perhaps more than a coincidence that the American colours were also red, white and blue.

Whatever the original inspiration, after the French Revolution tricolours (flags with specific combinations of three coloured stripes) immediately spread into Italy and very soon to Central and South America (see, for example, the flag of Miranda, p.120; of Mexico, p.43; and of Argentina, p.121). A tricolour was in use in Germany in 1819, and by 1849 practically every revolutionary movement in Europe had one. In modern times combinations of two or three colours are now widespread as political signs, one of the most famous today being the black, green and yellow of the African National Congress.

Two other flags emerged from the French Revolution: the Red Flag, and the red and black flag associated with the Anarchists. The colours red and black together mean 'Liberty or Death' and have been used in this way in Cuba (see p.38) and Nicaragua (p.117), and were widespread in pre-Franco Spain. A typical Anarchist flag today is red with the letter A inside a circle of black.

The original Red Flag was the one hoisted in Paris during the French Revolution to signal the declaration of martial law. Later, the mob seized the flag and brandished it themselves to indicate that the power of the people was superior to the power of the courts. The flag then became associated with the extreme radical wing and was used in this way in the Revolution of 1848. It was taken up by the Communists and used in the Commune of 1871, and in the Russian rising of 1905. Eventually the Red Flag triumphed in the Russian Revolution of 1917, since when it has spread around the world.

Another important nationalist flag emerged in Central America at the beginning of the 19th century. In 1821 the provinces of the Captaincy-General of



combined with the Young Arab flag. This was done by placing a red triangle in the hoist. At first the order of the horizontal stripes was black-green-white, and this was the form in which it arrived in Damascus with Lawrence of Arabia. In the early 1920s, however, the white was placed between the black and green, as we see it today. The four colours are said to be those of the four dynasties of caliphs, but have also been given more poetical explanations. This Arab Revolt flag has influenced many Arab national flags.

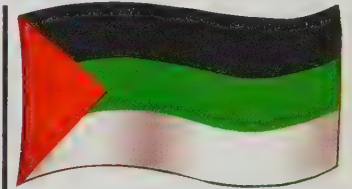
Another modern flag that has affected other designs was that adopted by Jamaican-born activist Marcus Garvey for the United Negro Improvement Association, which he established in New York in 1917. He believed the design, a tricolour of red, black and green, was that of the flag of Ethiopia, the idealized African homeland. This was to be the flag of a new republic in Africa to which Afro-Americans would emigrate. The shipping line set up for this purpose, the Black Star Line, also had a flag (green with a red saltire and a black star in the centre). By 1929 Garvey was back in Jamaica, and the next year the coronation of Haile Selassie (previously Ras Tafari) made its impact, and the real Ethiopian colours of green, yellow and red became widely known. These combined with the Garvey flag to become the Rastafarian colours we know today. The original Garvey colours were later adopted by Jomo Kenyatta of Kenya, Hastings Banda of Malawi, and several other political leaders.

A good example of how flags may come to symbolize a whole ideology is shown by the Swastika of Nazi Germany. Hitler got the idea of the swastika emblem from several earlier anti-Semitic and nationalist groups, although he is credited with designing the Swastika flag itself about 1920. The colours of the flag are those invented by Bismarck for Imperial Germany, but in a new arrangement. The red field was intended to match the Red Flag of the Communists, since Hitler believed it made a powerful impact when seen in the mass. From 1935 to 1945 all German national flags were based on the Swastika, and it also inspired the flags of many other Fascist organizations. It was the first party flag to become a national flag.

For more details of the links between flags and politics, see p.19.



This flag was unfurled in 1832 by students agitating for German unification.



The Arab Revolt Flag was hoisted in Arabia and Syria in 1918, and later spread to Jordan and Iraq.

Guatemala declared their independence, but were almost immediately annexed to the new Mexican Empire. By 1823 all but Chiapas had succeeded in breaking away, and Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua formed the United Provinces of Central America, a loose confederation based on Guatemala. Its flag, a horizontal triband of blue-white-blue with the arms in the centre, was created on 21 August 1821. The arms were a triangle depicting five volcanoes with a cap of Liberty and a rainbow above them. The triangle was contained within a circular band with the title *Provincias Unidas del Centro de America* and a small white star. The civil ensign was also a blue and white triband, with the motto *Dios-Union-Libertad* ('God, Unity, Liberty') on the white strip in silver letters. All these elements were used in the later flags of the five members of the United Provinces (see pp.117–19).

Like the flag of Central America, the flag of the Arab Revolt was the result of nationalist feeling. Before World War I there were several attempts at a pan-Arab flag by Arab nationalists in the Turkish Empire. The design arrived at in 1914 by the Young Arab Society was a horizontal tricolour of green, white and black. After the Sherif of Mecca had raised his own flag of red in 1917 as a sign of revolt against the Turks, it was suggested that his flag should be

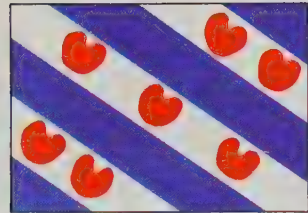


Flags commonly feature on posters. Here, the Red Flag is shown in a Bolshevik poster of 1919 entitled 'To horse, Workers!'

The Uses of Flags



1:1



2:3



1:2



1:1



2:3

Some of the functions of flags have remained unchanged throughout the centuries. However, the popularity of certain types of flags has fluctuated. Flags with images of saints or heavenly personages, for example, are no longer often seen outside religious premises. On the other hand, the emblem of Islam, the crescent and star, is more frequent than ever (see pp.71–81). Likewise, the flags and banners of guilds of merchants and craftsmen used to be common, but are not very frequent today except on certain specific occasions, such as trades unions demonstrations. But flags carrying commercial names and logos, which were almost unknown before 1800, are today the most frequent kind of flag seen by the casual observer, along with ones carrying direct advertising messages and slogans.

For practical purposes flags can be divided into the following categories:

Flags for individuals Kings, queens, presidents and other heads of state are the most obvious examples of flag-users, but many other functionaries and private citizens do so as well. It is not necessary to have a coat of arms or any official position to fly a flag.

Flags for national or local governments These flags denote nationality or the area to which a person, ship or vehicle belongs. Such flags can be official or civil, that is for use by the officials and representatives of the government, or by private individuals who are citizens of the state or government area.

Flags for military use These can be naval jacks and ensigns, military colours, unit flags, rank and appointment flags, and can be used in the army, navy, air force or national police.

Flags for institutions Departments of a government, semi-state organizations, national institutions and movements may all have their own flags.

Flags for political parties and movements Such flags can include both dissident regimes (such as RENAMO in Mozambique) and separatists (such as the Kurds in Iraq), as well as ordinary political groupings from all ideologies.

Flags for voluntary organizations This large category includes social institutions, sports and recreational clubs, youth movements, trades unions, religious organizations, professional bodies, and scientific and academic societies.

Commercial flags These flags include house-flags of commercial companies of all kinds, those flown over factories, offices and trading premises, as well as advertising and announcement banners.

Signal flags There are a number of well-established signal systems, such as the International Code of Signals, and racing-track signals, as well as systems with less official backing. Flags today signal not only traditional messages such as 'About to sail' (the Blue Peter), but also modern ones such as 'Skin-diver below' and 'Sail boards in the area'.

Flags for events Specific events, such as sports meetings and international or national conferences, as well as particular days or years marking special activities, are now often distinguished by flags. Recent examples are the flag of the 200th anniversary of the French Revolution and the flag of the Olympic Games held in Seoul in 1988.

Award flags These are given for specific achievements, such as a good record of health and safety, participation in a savings scheme, or services to tourism.

These ten categories are the main flag groupings shown in modern flag manufacturers' catalogues. However, there are others: the special occasion flags common in the USA, such as 'Happy anniversary' or 'Congratulations'; the rank flags for yacht club officers; flags for schools and colleges; table flags for exchange purposes; and flags as street decorations.

Another increasingly common use of flags today is in flag sports of all kinds: marching and countermarching, flag-twirling and throwing and flag dances. Much of this originated in the famous flag parades held at the *Palio* races in Siena, Italy. The flag-display element of these races has spread throughout Italy and around the world.

Flag-users include (from top to bottom): the president of West Germany; the local government of Friesland, the Netherlands; the Sri Lankan air force; the Italian navy; and the World Scout organization.

How Flags are Displayed

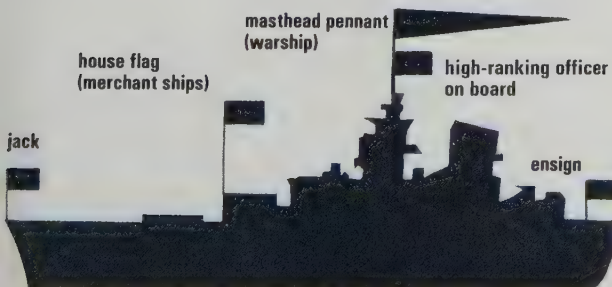
Flags can be divided into those that are designed for use at sea and those that are intended to be used on land. The different locations have a direct effect on the practicalities of flag display.

Flags for use at sea

Flags have been flown at sea since ancient times on all types of sailing vessels – military, trading and leisure. Traditionally the flag denoting nationality is flown at the stern. Today it is usually placed on a staff at the taffrail, the extreme end of the ship. On sailing ships it is often displayed from a halyard attached to the mizzen mast. Naval ships display another national flag, the *jack* (not always the national flag), at the very front of the ship. Warships also display a *commission pennant*, which is flown from the top of the main mast. The flag of a flag-officer, if any, is flown beneath this. Civil ships can fly a *house flag*, often from a halyard attached to the main mast. Yachts may also fly club flags (ensigns and burgees) and owner's flags. Where these are flown depends upon the rig of the vessel.

Flags for use on land

The number of ways flags can be displayed on land is now great, but can be sub-divided into flags for flying from masts, those for other kinds of display, and those carried by hand on staves. These distinctions affect the way the flag is manufactured: some are made with a hoist-rope or other method of hoisting, and others have a hollow sleeve that the stave passes through. The latter kind nearly always have more elaborate patterns, and fringes round the edges, so cannot be actually flown as flags. Modern military colours are of this kind.



Where flags are flown on ships

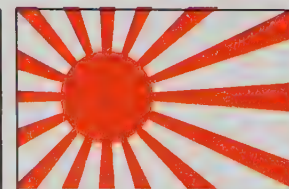


This British warship is 'dressed over all' with flags for a royal salute in 1886.

Both the Israeli civil ensign (right) and the Japanese naval ensign (bottom right) are different from the respective national flags.



2:3



2:3

Masts are necessary for outdoor use, and also come in several different forms: plain vertical, multiple vertical, gaffs, wall-mounted horizontal and vertical staffs, and portable staffs. Flag staffs can also have horizontal cross-bars for hanging vertical flags from. Some of these are also suitable for indoor use, but are usually then made of varnished wood in brass settings. Flags can be displayed indoors on staffs set on the floor, hung horizontally or at an angle from the wall. Flags for indoor or parade use usually have staves with brass finials at the top. In the USA there is a wide variety of these, and the correct finial has to go with each flag.

Types of Flags

The term 'flag' covers a wide range of different forms. Some are clearly derived from ancient heraldic flags (see pp.15–16). The nine most common flag types are described below.

National flag This term refers to the ordinary flag used to represent a recognized nation-state, but it may take several forms, depending on what function it fulfils in various circumstances. Some countries have all-purpose flags that are used in all and any circumstances, but some, particularly the older countries, have a special form for each use. In this book the table on each country's page indicates which functions the flag illustrated fulfils. A basic distinction is between the flag as used by the government and as used by private citizens. The former is known as the *state flag*, or *state ensign*, and the latter as the *civil flag* or *civil ensign*. It is a flag if used on land, and an ensign if used at sea. The distinction between the state and civil forms is often whether or not the national arms appear on the flag.

Ensign Today this means a flag used at sea to denote nationality. It may be the *civil ensign* (in Britain the Red Ensign), the *government ensign* (in Britain the Blue Ensign), or the *naval ensign* (in Britain the White Ensign). In the USA the Stars and Stripes fulfils all of these functions.

Jack This flag is used at sea to denote nationality, and is flown from the jackstaff in the bows of a ship. Britain is alone in having three kinds of jack: the Union Jack for the Royal Navy, a Blue Jack for government vessels, and a Civil Jack for other vessels. All other countries have only one jack, exclusively for naval vessels. It is often a flag of historic significance, like the Green Flag used in Ireland.

(From top to bottom) The flag of Italy's yacht club is a burgee, that of the American president is a standard, and the Swedish royal flag is an ensign. Regimental colours are here carried by French soldiers, c.1915.

Pennant Long, narrow, tapering, swallow-tailed flags, pennants are mostly used at sea as, for example, a *commission pennant* or as the rank flag of a commodore (in which case it is not so long or narrow). On land a pennant is often used to decorate an otherwise bare flag staff.

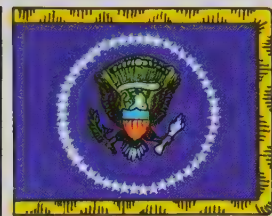
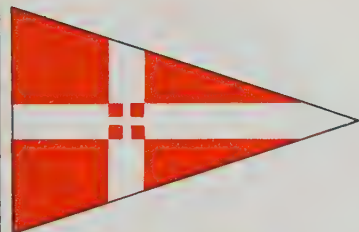
Burgee Denoting membership of a yacht or sailing club, most burgees are triangular pennants, but some are rectangular, or swallow-tailed rectangles. Some clubs have the right to use modified national ensigns.

House flag These flags denote the commercial company to which a vessel, vehicle or building belongs. They are usually rectangular. The pattern painted on the funnel of a steamship often reflects that of the house flag. But such flags are more common on land today than at sea.

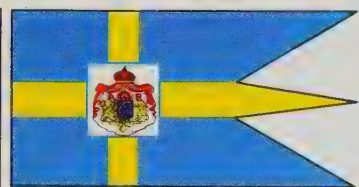
Banner Technically this is a heraldic flag (see p.15), often squarish (such as 4:5 proportions), with the whole contents of a shield as its pattern. The Royal Standard of the UK is a heraldic banner, although it is most usually displayed in oblong form, as it is also a sea flag. The term 'banner' is often used for flags hung vertically from cross-bars on flag staffs, but it is more convenient to describe these as hanging banners.

Standard This is a heraldic flag in the sense that it often has a coat of arms or some other heraldic device on it, but it is not a banner. The flag of the President of the USA is a standard, as is the flag of HM the Queen of the Netherlands. Some head of state flags are elaborate versions of the national ensign, as in Sweden and Finland. The term can also be applied to hand-held flags hung from horizontal cross-bars.

Colours The ceremonial flag of a military unit is known as the colours. In Britain each regiment of the army has a pair of colours, and colours are also given to RAF and naval units. In some countries each branch of the armed forces has a colour, as for example the US Marine Corps. Such flags were never intended to be flown from flag staffs, and their staves often have distinctive finials, like the eagles given to the French army by Napoleon.



26:33



1:2



Flags and Heraldry

In medieval Europe the use of symbolic emblems became widespread as a means of establishing identity or allegiance during battles and jousting competitions. By the middle of the 12th century a strict code of rules had been established to regulate the use of these symbols. It was known as heraldry.

Although heraldic emblems were originally applied to clothing, they were soon made into flags. The simplest form of heraldic flag is the banner (see p.14), in which the shield is translated into fabric, as in the banner of Richard I. In medieval times the size and shape of banners was regulated by heraldic laws. Today they are squarish flags, often with a border of rectangular pieces in the livery colours, and/or with a gold fringe.

The next heraldic flag to be developed was the standard. Originally a long swallow-tailed version of the banner, it eventually came to have its own form. This consisted of: a field in the livery colours (see p.16), usually arranged horizontally; a chief (the part nearest the hoist) containing either the national cross of the country of origin (such as St George, St Martin or St Andrew) or the arms as in the banner; the main heraldic badge of the arms-bearer; diagonal bands with his motto; and other badges or perhaps the crest from the arms. Around the edge was a border of the livery colours in horizontal pieces. Such flags were usually swallow-tailed or in rounded swallow-tails, and there were rules about their size and usage. The purpose of such a flag was to indicate the rallying-point or headquarters of the arms-bearer.

Another heraldic flag was the *guidon*, an abbreviated form of the standard, with a descate flying end (later divided). It bore the national cross in the hoist and one badge on the livery colours in the fly. It was used on horseback and was the precursor of the modern cavalry guidon.

Next came the *pennon*. This was a basic flag carried on a mounted warrior's lance. It could bear the arms, but more usually bore the badge, and came to be divided in the livery colours. Unlike the banner, more than one copy could exist, and it could be carried by the flag-owner's retainers.

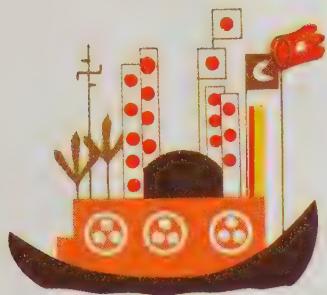
The *badge-flag* was a development of the pennon, consisting of a squarish flag divided in the livery colours and also bearing the heraldic badge. Its

purpose was to provide a distinguishing sign for the arms-bearer's retainers or private army. The flag of Wales is a flag of this kind. An important rule of heraldry (often overlooked by makers of historical dramas) is that only the arms-bearer could wear or use his own arms and fly his own banner and standard – his retainers and followers could only use his livery colours and his badge or badges on pennons and flags. That is why the word 'livery' came to be applied to the uniform worn by servants, and to the special uniforms worn by members of guilds. The word comes from French *livrée*, meaning the objects, including clothing, handed to retainers as part of their wages. The benefactor would naturally want the clothing to identify his followers as conspicuously as possible. Modern survivals of this practice are the coloured costumes worn by jockeys, and the uniforms (with badges) given to employees, and those worn by schoolchildren.

In modern times the *ensign banner* has become common, although it is totally out of tune with heraldic theory. It is a plain flag charged with the whole coat of arms (the achievement). In Britain such flags are white, or more usually pale blue. The flag of the President of Zambia is an ensign banner, made easier to recognize by its distinctive orange field.

The banners of the Knights of the Holy Ghost are displayed on the ships on which the men are embarking to take part in the Crusades. Note the typically medieval shape of the banners, and the 'pavisades' (large, inverted shields with heraldic emblems).





2:3

Flags bearing the traditional sun disc emblem appear on a 17th-century Japanese warship (top). Beneath is the imperial flag, containing a *mon* composed of a stylized chrysanthemum flower on a red field.

Apart from flags which obviously fall into one or more of the above categories, some other modern flags are derived from heraldic originals. Examples include: the flag of Sweden, which is a livery flag; some tricolours which are also in livery colours; and the colours carried by military units (like badge-flags).

Heraldry outside of Europe

Heraldry as described here was originally a purely European form of personal symbolism, but has been exported to the rest of the world. One lesson of this process is that to be effective it needs professional guidelines and supervision, and countries which have heraldry but not heralds often allow the system to degenerate into a form of naive art, the USA being the outstanding example.

The only other system to rival European heraldry is the *mon* system of Japan. Up to very recent times all Japanese flags were part of this system and it still plays an important role there.

Japanese heraldry consists of the development of stylized emblems known as *mon*. These are simplified versions of everyday objects, depicted in symmetrical and regular forms. The *mon* of the Tokugawa dynasty, who were Shoguns of Japan before the Meiji Restoration, is a good example. The badge is three hollyhock leaves arranged in symmetrical form within

a circle. *Mon* were used principally as the hereditary family badges. It is only in recent times that they have come to represent places, such as cities, provinces, or the nation itself.

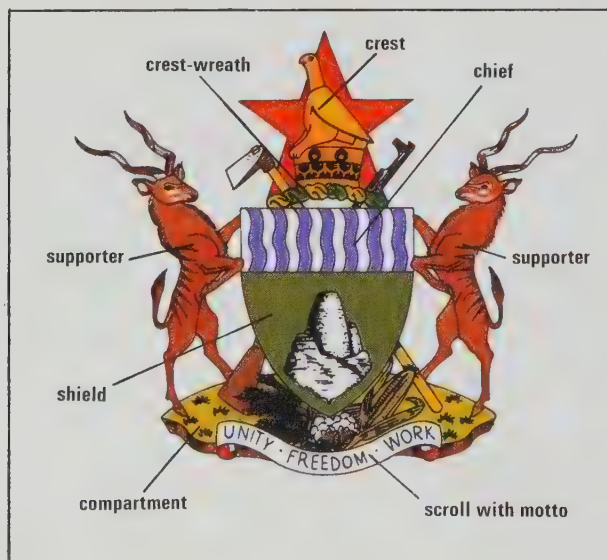
The coat of arms

The main part of a traditional coat of arms is the shield. A coat of arms may consist of a shield only, as in the case of Finland, but it cannot consist of anything less. The top of a shield is known as the *chief* and is the more honourable part. On a flag the corresponding area is the canton. But on a banner the arms are depicted upright as they are on the shield.

From the charge on the shield are derived the *livery colours*, which are normally the main *colour* and the main *metal* of the charge. *Colours* are what we normally think of as colours, and *metals* mean either gold or silver (yellow or white in flag terms). If the arms contains a crest, then there is also a crest-wreath (a band of twisted cloth) and mantling (folded cloth hanging down from the wreath); both are in the livery colours. However, livery colours can come from other sources and may have no connection with the coat of arms at all (like the white and green of the Tudor dynasty).

It is important to remember that the word 'crest' is not a synonym for coat of arms: it is merely the device standing on the crest-wreath. This in turn normally stands on a helmet, and may involve a coronet as well. On either side of the shield stand the *supporters*, which can be animals, humans, trees, buildings, or even ships. A third or single supporter (such as the German spread eagle) can stand behind the shield. Beneath the shield there is often a *compartment*, useful for placing badges and other devices, and somewhere there should be a scroll with the motto (not necessarily at the bottom of the compartment). Badges and extra devices can be added to the supporters or the mantling.

One badly understood heraldic idea is the notion of *dexter* and *sinister*. *Dexter* means 'right-hand', but the hand referred to is that of the arms-bearer, who naturally stands behind his shield, and so his dexter is the observer's left. On the obverse of a flag, dexter corresponds to the hoist side, and so just as a beast must normally face the dexter on a shield, so it must face the hoist on a flag.



The design of Zimbabwe's coat of arms contains many traditional heraldic elements.

Flag Design

Despite the huge number of flags in the world, most of them are variations on a few basic patterns, as in heraldry (see pp.15–16).

Basic patterns

There is only one national flag consisting of a single colour with no emblems (Libya), but the Red Flag of the Soviet Union is somewhat similar in that the red field is the main feature. Plain fields with coats of arms or shields are also common in other flags.

In *bicolour* flags the field is divided into two colours, most commonly horizontally, but occasionally vertically or, more rarely, diagonally. Flags in heraldic livery colours, such as those of Poland and San Marino, are of this type. Badges or emblems can be added either ‘over all’ or in one field.

Flags divided into three parts may be *tribands* or *tricolours*. In the former, there are only two colours, as in the flags of Peru and Austria. As in heraldry, the central division is nearly always white or yellow. In a tricolour flag each of the three divisions is a different colour and, once again, horizontal divisions are more common than vertical ones. A further variation on this is the *fimbriated tricolour*, in which the central stripe has a narrow band of another colour separating it from the other two stripes, as in the flag of Gambia.

Some flags are *multistripes*, having four or more stripes of at least two different colours.

The field can be divided into *quarters* by a combination of horizontal and vertical lines, or by a cross. Likewise, *triangles* are created by diagonal lines or a saltire cross.

Other divisions

More complex flags are created by adding other features to any of these basic divisions. The most common are cantons, triangles, crosses and borders.

The *canton* (see p.18) usually occupies the whole first quarter. The Stars and Stripes is an example of a multistripe flag with a canton.

The *triangle* is usually based on the hoist (an exception is the flag of American Samoa). The apex of the triangle can reach any point in the horizontal dimension, such as a quarter, third, half, or whole length. The flag of Mozambique is a fimbriated tricolour with a triangle based on the hoist. Triangles

based on the top and bottom edges are also possible, and the flag of Guyana has a triangle on a triangle.

There are three basic *crosses*: the plain cross of equal arms; the Scandinavian cross, where the fly-end arm is longer than the one on the hoist; and the saltire, where the arms are diagonal. A cross is ‘couped’ if it does not extend across the whole field (as in the flag of Switzerland); otherwise it is described as ‘throughout’.

Borders can be placed around the whole flag (as in the flag of West Virginia) or around part of a field, around a canton, triangle or cross. They can be single, double, triple or multiple. The latter need not all be the same width. Narrow borders of no particular width are known as *fimbriations*.

As in heraldry, dividing lines need not be plain and straight: they can be serrated (flag of Bahrain), wavy (Kiribati) or invected (Estonia SSR).

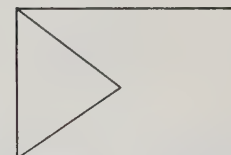
There are one or two flags that lie outside the general system of patterns, such as those of Zambia and Newfoundland. These reflect the contribution made to flag design by graphic artists, whose work is also apparent in the many promotional and advertising flags common today.

Emblems

Some traditional heraldic charges are still used on flags: rampant lions, *fleurs-de-lys*, spread eagles, as well as shields or whole coats of arms. But flag designers have developed a much wider variety of objects for use as emblems.

One of the most frequent emblems is the star. Most have five points and are ‘upright’. They may appear

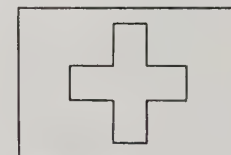
Most of the world's flags adopt one or other of these basic designs.



Triangle



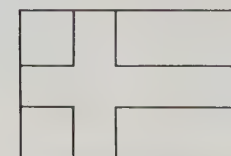
Cross



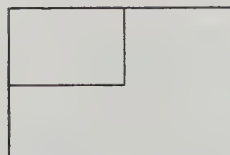
Couped cross



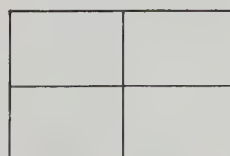
Saltire



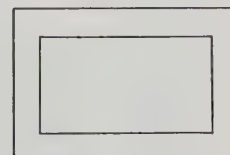
Scandinavian cross



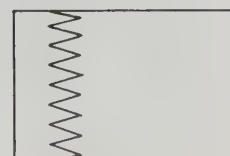
Canton



Quarterly



Border



Serration



The badge on Mongolia's flag combines the star of Communism with the traditional soyonbo emblem.

singly or multiply, or in combination with a crescent moon. The star can be bordered, as on the flag of the Soviet Union.

Another astral body, the sun, is shown in two forms: the rising sun, as on the flags of Malawi and Antigua; and the sun disc with rays (and sometimes a face). The plain red disc on the flags of Japan and Bangladesh is also the sun.

The moon is nearly always shown as a crescent moon. Technically the moon on flags like that of Turkey is a decrescent or waning moon. For this reason such flags are sometimes shown in the reverse position. A full moon appears on the flags of both Laos and Palau.

The Communist emblem of the hammer and sickle represents the tools of the industrial and the agricultural worker – the 'workers' and 'peasants' of Communist ideology. These first appeared on Soviet flags, but have since spread to many others. In many cases the actual tools reflect local circumstances: they may be hoes, mattocks, machetes or dividers.

Weapons are another common emblem. Swords appear on the flags of Saudi Arabia and Sri Lanka and on many armed forces flags, but modern weapons such as Kalashnikov rifles are also employed. Spears appear on several African flags.

Many countries strive to find some object that is unique to them to use as an emblem on the national flag. Examples are the maple leaf of Canada, the parrot of Dominica, the bird-of-paradise of Papua New Guinea and the cedar of Lebanon.

Flag technicalities

When presented diagrammatically, a flag is always shown with the flag staff on the observer's left. This view is known as the *obverse*. The other side is the *reverse* and is assumed to have the same pattern unless otherwise mentioned. The reverse can be visually identical with the obverse, as in the case of a horizontal tricolour with no emblems, or it can be a mirror-image, like the French *Tricolore*. This is the most common form, and it means that any object shown facing the hoist on the obverse also does so on the reverse.

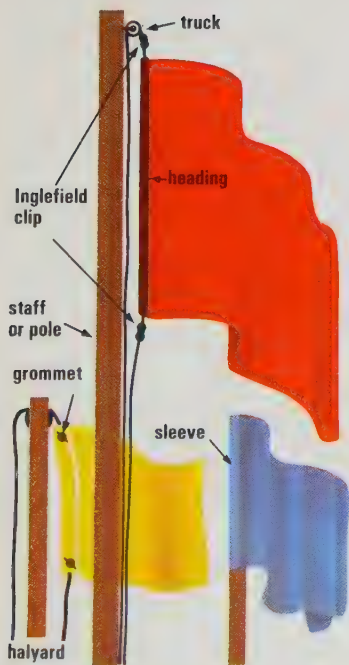
The surface of a flag is divided vertically into two notional halves, called the *hoist* and the *fly* or *flying end*. It is further divided into quarters called *cantons*. The upper hoist canton is usually called *the canton* and is always the canton referred to unless specifically defined otherwise.

At the hoist end of the flag is a strip of double-thickness extra-strong material, called the *heading* or *sleeve*. In the case of a hand-held flag it is left hollow for a stave to pass through. For a flag for flying it has a hoist-rope sewn in, or eyelets (grommets) sewn in at top and bottom. The heading is not part of the flag pattern and is usually omitted in illustrations.

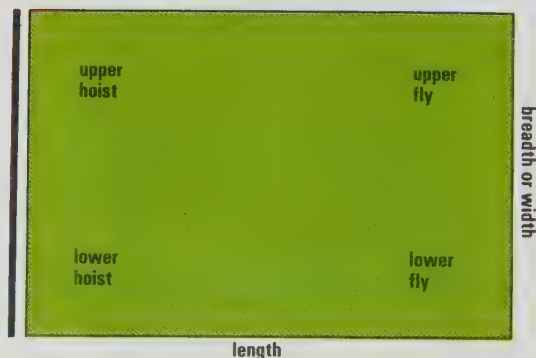
The vertical dimension of a flag is the width and the horizontal one is the length. The ratio of width to length (always expressed in that order) is the flag's proportions.

Flags can be in any proportion of width to length. The most common is 2:3, but the national flags of the world range from 1:1 (i.e. square) as in Switzerland to 11:28 (Qatar). Today flags whose width is greater than their length are becoming common again, i.e. flags in 3:1 proportions. Manufacturers call this the portrait style as opposed to the landscape-style, oblong flag.

Flags can be in any shape. Although the oblong is still the favourite, triangular flags are common. Swallow-tailed flags are used almost exclusively at sea, as are the ones with tongues, common in Scandinavia. Flags with rounded or descate ends were once normal, but now exist only as cavalry guidons. Three-dimensional flags in windsock form are also increasingly popular today, as are various forms of hanging banners.



The parts of a flag



Flags and Politics

Politics have a direct influence on national and governmental flags. The most frequent example in modern times is the effect of political events, such as the achievement of independence by a previous dependent territory. No less than 90 of the countries referred to in this book have become independent since 1945 and all in one way or another have had to develop national flags.

Flags are also changed as a result of other kinds of power struggles between nations, such as annexations and takeovers, whether peaceful or not. Examples of this are the absorption of South Vietnam into the northern state, the amalgamation of British and Italian Somaliland, and of Tanganyika and Zanzibar.

Thirdly, changes in political control whereby a party with a radically different policy takes over a country can lead to the national flag, previously associated with the defeated policy, also being changed. This has happened several times in Afghanistan, where at one time the 'flag' party was defeated by the 'people' party, and also in Syria, where the issue has been whether to achieve or avoid union with Egypt and Iraq.

Party flags may also influence the choice of a country's flag. In many cases new national flags have reflected the colours and/or pattern of the party flag, as in the cases of India, Pakistan, Burma, Kenya and many other places.

Flags may also be used to express political rivalry, most often where a country is divided into political (and possibly also linguistic or religious) groups, each favouring a different kind of flag. In these cases it is always difficult to establish an agreed national flag and to have it used properly when it is adopted.

Modern flag conflicts

This type of flag conflict has occurred in Germany, South Africa, Canada, Australia, Northern Ireland, and Belgium during this century. After World War I, Germany was divided into partisans of the republican colours (black-red-gold) and the imperial colours (black-white-red). In 1926 the government was brought down for interfering in the way the national flag was employed. Hitler forced a solution to this problem in 1933 by declaring that the flag should revert to the black, white and red colours. Two years later he

changed the flag to the Swastika (see p.11). The Swastika design is still used by some Fascist organizations today.

In the 1920s the South African nation was divided over the form of the proposed new national flag. After much argument, a compromise was agreed whereby a flag with Afrikaner overtones was flown alongside the Union Jack. This practice has since been abandoned.

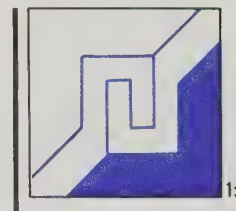
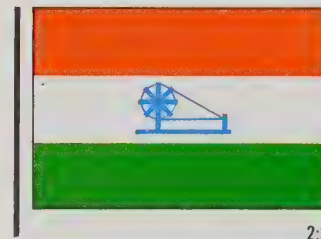
Like South Africa, Canada delayed the selection of a distinctive national flag because of disagreements about the design. Eventually in 1965, Premier Lester Pearson decided on the maple leaf design, prompting the longest debate ever to take place in the Canadian parliament. (The maple leaf pattern was chosen because it drew on neither British nor French symbolism.) Even though the issue was apparently settled in 1965, conflict over the continued use of the Union Jack still rumbles on at provincial level.

A similar dilemma is currently facing the Australians, for the country is divided into those who want a distinctive national flag (not based on the Union Jack) and those who want to keep the present one. This reflects the debate over whether or not Australia should become a republic.

In Northern Ireland, display of the Irish Tricolour was for many years considered a provocative action and was a legal offence. Today displays of almost any flag are likely to lead to tension and incidents, but both sectarian populations frequently make deliberate parades of their respective emblems.

Tension is also created in Belgium where the two major linguistic groups have their own flags: the black lion of Flanders and the red cockerel of the Walloons. Since it is impossible to draw the cultural boundary absolutely exactly through the country, quarrels still arise over the correct use of the two flags and of the national flag, and the government finds it hard to satisfy all the conflicting claims, even though flag display is supposedly regulated by law.

Unfortunately flag conflicts are often played out at the Olympic Games, where rival flags are displayed together. Incidents of this kind have arisen over the Hungarian flag, the flags of the rival German states, and the display of the flag of Taiwan (objectionable to China). Sometimes special 'neutral' flags have to be designed to avoid this kind of conflict.



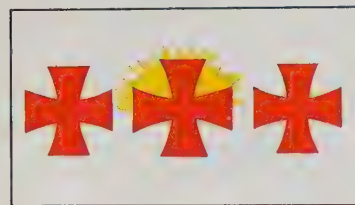
The flag of the Indian Congress Party (top) was the basis for India's national flag. Similarly, the Italian Liberal Party's flag (bottom) displays the initials of the party over the national tricolour. However, the flag used by the Country Party of Finland (centre) rearranges the national colours in an original design.

International Flags



United Nations

2:3



Flag of the Race (Hispanic nations)

5:9



Organization of
American States

2:3



Organization of
African Unity

2:3



League of Arab States

1:2

A number of international organizations have flags that show their world-wide interests. Some reflect the organization's peaceful intentions, while others denote regional groupings of countries.

Flags of peace

The United Nations organization first developed an emblem, a polar view of a map of the world within a wreath of olive leaves, in 1945–6. The flag appeared in October 1947, with a distinctive blue field and the emblem in white. Both the blue field and the olive branches are recognized symbols of peace. Several UN agencies have distinctive flags, all with white emblems on fields of UN blue.

An international conference at Geneva in 1863 agreed that, in wartime, people caring for the wounded would be regarded as neutral by both sides. The flags used to mark hospitals and medical vehicles had a white field to signify peace and neutrality. The first of the flags, adopted in 1863, was the Red Cross, followed in 1876 by the Red Crescent for Islamic countries. There are some other variants, not recognized by the Geneva Conventions.

Another flag with a white field representing peace is that of the Olympic Games. Its five rings symbolize the five continents, but each ring does *not* represent a specific continent. The colours of these and of the field are derived from those of the flags of the world at the time it was designed (1914). The flag was first flown at the Games of 1920.

Regional and religious groupings

Many flags identify political, economic or cultural links between countries or peoples.

The flag of the Council of Europe and of the EEC is blue with a ring of 12 gold stars, and dates in this form from 1955. It was taken over by the EEC in 1986. Organizations affiliated to the Council of Europe may place their own emblem in the centre.

The Flag of the Race represents the people of Hispanic origin in the Old and New Worlds. The three crosses of distinctive Spanish form represent the ships of Christopher Columbus, and the sun stands for the Americas. It is especially flown on the 'Day of the Race', 12 October, in Spanish-speaking countries.

The League of Arab States flies the green flag of the



At the Munich Games in 1972 the Olympic flag and the national flags were flown at half-mast as a mark of respect for the Israeli team, who were killed by terrorists.

Prophet with the seal in the centre consisting of an upturned crescent and a gold chain all within a wreath. In the centre is the name of the organization.

Like many international flags that of the Organization of African Unity depicts a map indicating the area covered by the organization. The colours were chosen to avoid those of any national flag. This flag dates from 1970 and was the winning entry in a design competition.

Designed in Ceylon in 1885, the International Buddhist Flag symbolizes the five colours of the 'aura' of the Buddha, which merge to make a sixth colour, represented by the horizontal bars in the fly. Some variations occur in the layout of the colours.

How to Use This Book

Flags are very derivative even, or especially, at national flag level, and it is frequently a matter of surprise how often a well-known flag can be shown to contain elements from earlier designs. The flags in this book are arranged in families according to their relationship with each other in terms of common design elements or common background. This relationship may relate to pattern or colours, or both. The flag of Ireland, for example, is like that of France in pattern only, whilst that of Costa Rica shares the same colours, and that of China is like that of the Soviet Union in terms of both colour and pattern.

The 20 flag families used in this book are identified by different coloured rectangles at the side of the page. However, this system of categorizing flag designs is only one of many. One category that could be adopted, for example, is to group together the flags derived from design competitions, whether at local or national level. Another category could be flags derived from political party flags in all parts of the world, not just in Africa. Between them, these two groups would cover a large number of the world's flags.

Flag families

The Union Jack The flags of Britain and other countries that use the Union Jack as a design element, except for the Southern Cross flags, which are covered separately.

The Stars and Stripes Flags of the USA; flags with cantons containing stars; flags with cantons and stripes; flags with stars and stripes in some other form; flags in the US colours.

The French Tricolore Vertical tricolours of any colour combination; flags that began life in this form. Note the progression from French *Tricolore* to first flag of Haiti, to second flag of Haiti, to original flag of Dominican Republic.

The Dutch Tricolour Flags derived from the *Prinsenvlag* of blue, white and orange; flags including the Dutch colours and other Dutch elements. The Dutch Tricolour led to the flag of Imperial Russia, which in turn inspired the pan-Slav colours.

The pan-Slav colours Flags that were originally all variations of the Imperial Russian flag, including the Bulgarian flag, and the modern design of the Czechoslovakian flag.

The Red Flag The flags of the Soviet Union; flags derived from the Red Flag after the Russian Revolution spread to other countries with Communist governments.

Coloured crosses Mainly Scandinavian flags, originating in the cross of Denmark, which spread to all the countries around the Baltic and to the North Atlantic.

Heraldic flags Flags derived from coats of arms, many based on livery colours. Some heraldic flags are also tricolours, such as the flags of Hungary and Romania.

Flags of the Middle East Countries which find themselves in an area of international tension, but whose flags are designed to express their peaceful objectives.

Flags of Islam Flags inspired by the crescent and star flag of Turkey, which tried to promote itself as the patron of all Islamic countries in the same way as the Russians did for Slav countries. Flags with crescents and stars have now spread from Mauritania to Malaysia.

Pan-Arab colours First used just before World War I, but gained wide popularity after the Arab Revolt in which the former Arab lands of the Turkish Empire were taken over. At first confined to the Hashemite states set up in those territories, the four-colour combination is now widely used in Arab lands. This family includes a second generation: the red, white and black combination used in the Egyptian revolution of 1952.

Pan-African colours Another two-generation family: the black-red-green of Marcus Garvey, which in Jamaica in the 1930s combined with the green-yellow-red of Ethiopia to give rise to the Rastafarian colours and to the flag of Ghana and all its offspring. This combination can also be called the Afro-American colours since it is also used in the Caribbean.

Political flags of Africa Here, more than in any other continent, the colours and patterns of flags are determined by the prevailing political situation, and in many cases are derived from the flags of the dominant political parties.

Hindu and Buddhist Asia Asian national flags featuring religious symbols.

Flags of the West Indies Flags that emerged in ex-colonial situations, and where local talent and ideas



The Union Jack



The Stars and Stripes



The French Tricolore



The Dutch Tricolour



Pan-Slav colours



The Red Flag



Coloured crosses



Heraldic flags



Flags of the Middle East



Flags of Islam



Pan-Arab colours



Pan-African colours



Political flags of Africa



Hindu and Buddhist Asia



Flags of the West Indies



Central American colours



Flags of the Liberators



The Southern Cross



Flags of the South Seas



The Maple Leaf

How to Use This Book

Key to uses chart

- 1 used by head of state
- 2 used by government on land – state flag
- 3 used by government at sea – state ensign
- 4 used by private citizens on land – civil flag
- 5 used by private citizens at sea – civil ensign
- 6 used by military at sea – naval ensign

- flag used as illustrated
- national arms or similar emblem added
- flag used without national arms or emblem
- ▲ flag used with different shape or proportions
- * proportions not official
- () alternative forms possible

1	2	3	4	5	6	1:2
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

prevailed in creating the designs. Some have also used the Afro-American colours.

Central American colours Flags derived from the original flag of the United Provinces of Central America of 1823 (blue and white). The members of the former federation still use these colours and some of them (Nicaragua and El Salvador) consciously imitate the old flag.

Flags of the Liberators Flags adopted by the famous nationalists who helped to free South America from Spanish rule: Miranda, Bolívar, San Martín, Artigas, Belgrano and others. They also used tricolours, although the plain blue and white combination was predominant on the River Plate. Some say this is the origin of the flag of Central America as well.

The Southern Cross Flags derived from the famous constellation, including many in Australasia and the Pacific (it is also the emblem of Brazil).

Flags of the South Seas Like the flags of the West Indies, except that in the case of Tonga a flag in the

traditional Polynesian colours of red and white is still in use. The other flags all emerged from the independence process.

The Maple Leaf The flag of Canada is unique and has successfully resisted being placed in any other category. For political reasons it was a flag which *had* to be unique with no connections.

Page presentation

The flags of each nation in the world are presented individually, usually as half-page entries. Each has a similar design and the same ingredients – an annotated colour illustration of the flag and coats of arms, or seal; a uses chart; a description of the flag's development and its symbolic meaning, if any; a facts panel; and a map.

Where applicable, other flags, such as the head of state's personal flag, are described in the facts panel according to the space available. Obviously it is not always possible to condense the whole of a country's history into one short panel, so the dates in history section concentrates on the events that have had a particular effect on the development of the flag and coat of arms. Likewise, the languages given for each country are those most widely spoken only. The national day (or days) is the date on which the country's flags are most commonly flown.

The chart accompanying each flag indicates the functions it fulfills. It may, for example, be used by the head of state, the government, private citizens or the military, on land or at sea, or it may be used for several of these functions. Symbols indicate where the flag differs from the illustrated form when used for a particular function. The final rectangle shows the proportions of the flag.

Extra attention is paid to flags that have played a particularly important role in the history of flag design, such as the French *Tricolore*. Flags of dependencies and internal territories, states and provinces follow the entry for the mother country.


Colour codes identify the family to which the national flag belongs. Use the codes to help find different groups as you flick through the book.

Colour illustrations of the national flag appear next to the coat of arms or seal (if any).


A functions chart shows the purposes for which the flag is used and its proportions.

A facts panel provides details of other flags in use in the country, key dates in its history, and facts about the country.

Guinea
République de Guinée



Pan-African colours
Design based on French Tricolore



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23

OTHER FLAGS
National emblem
1958
1959
1960
1961
1962
1963
1964
1965
1966
1967
1968
1969
1970
1971
1972
1973
1974
1975
1976
1977
1978
1979
1980
1981
1982
1983
1984
1985
1986
1987
1988
1989
1990
1991
1992
1993
1994
1995
1996
1997
1998
1999
2000
2001
2002
2003
2004
2005
2006
2007
2008
2009
2010
2011
2012
2013
2014
2015
2016
2017
2018
2019
2020
2021
2022
2023
2024
2025
2026
2027
2028
2029
2030
2031
2032
2033
2034
2035
2036
2037
2038
2039
2040
2041
2042
2043
2044
2045
2046
2047
2048
2049
2050
2051
2052
2053
2054
2055
2056
2057
2058
2059
2060
2061
2062
2063
2064
2065
2066
2067
2068
2069
2070
2071
2072
2073
2074
2075
2076
2077
2078
2079
2080
2081
2082
2083
2084
2085
2086
2087
2088
2089
2090
2091
2092
2093
2094
2095
2096
2097
2098
2099
2100

FACTS ABOUT GUINEA
Capital
Population
Languages
National day

The local name, or names, of the nation are given where applicable.

Labels pick out interesting features to help identification.

A text summarizes the history of the flag's development and the symbolism of its design.

A map shows the geographical position of the country.

Colour codes identify the family to which the national flag belongs. Use the codes to help find different groups as you flick through the book.

Colour illustrations of the national flag appear next to the coat of arms or seal (if any).

A functions chart shows the purposes for which the flag is used and its proportions.

A facts panel provides details of other flags in use in the country, key dates in its history, and facts about the country.

22

The United Kingdom



3 crosses represent
3 components of the UK

Royal arms also used as
state arms



1	2	3	4	5	6	1:2*
---	---	---	---	---	---	------

OTHER FLAGS

Civil ensign Red with the Union Jack in the first quarter (the 'Red Ensign')

Government ensign As civil ensign but with a blue field (the 'Blue Ensign')

Naval ensign The cross of St George with the Union Jack in the canton (the 'White Ensign')

RAF ensign Light blue with the Union Jack in the canton and the RAF roundel in the fly

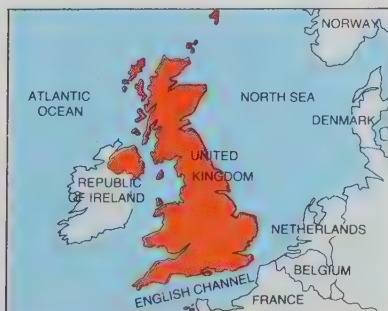
DATES IN HISTORY

- 827 Egbert becomes first King of all England
- 1066 England conquered by Normans
- 1274 Dynastic union of England and Wales
- 1535 Legal union of England and Wales
- 1541 Henry VIII declared King of Ireland
- 1603 Dynastic union of England and Scotland
- 1649 England declared a Commonwealth
- 1654 England and Scotland reunited
- 1660 Monarchy restored
- 1707 Parliamentary union of England and Scotland
- 1801 Parliamentary union of Britain and Ireland
- 1921 Union with Ireland dissolved

FACTS ABOUT THE UNITED KINGDOM

Capital London
Population 56,648,000
Languages English, Welsh, Gaelic
National days 23 April (England), 30 November (Scotland), 1 March (Wales)

As well as being the national flag the Union Jack is also the jack used by ships of the Royal Navy, and some people think it should only be called the 'Union Jack' when used in this context. However, the practice of calling it the Union Jack in almost all circumstances is so widespread as to make it the flag's unofficial name. Officially, the government and the military still call it the 'Union Flag'.



The first Union Jack was created on 12 April 1606 by combining the crosses of St George and St Andrew, the national flags of England and Scotland. This followed the accession of King James VI of Scotland as James I of England and Scotland. From 1625 onwards the use of the flag at sea has been reserved for ships of the Royal Navy. When the Commonwealth was set up in 1649, the second Union Jack was formed by adding the Irish harp on a blue field to the fly of the cross of St George. Following the new union with Scotland a third Union Jack was introduced in 1658. It was the same as that of 1606 but had the Irish harp in the centre. This was removed in 1660. The original Union Jack was confirmed in 1707 and lasted until the union with Ireland in 1800. The new flag then chosen was an ingenious combination of the two crosses with the saltire of St Patrick.

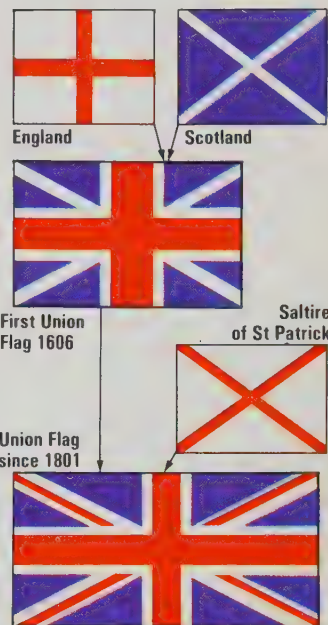
Royal Standard

The flag of the head of state has always been the armorial banner of the monarch's 'arms of dominion'. Originally these represented only England, as in the banner of Richard I (1189–1199), which used the famous three gold lions on red. During the reign of Edward III (1327–1377), the arms of France were added (the lilies were later reduced to three), and likewise on the accession of James I the arms of Scotland and Ireland. Wales has

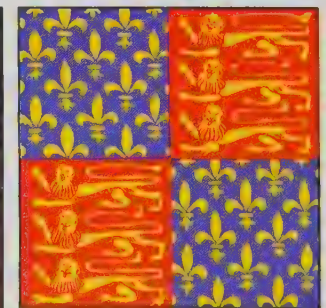
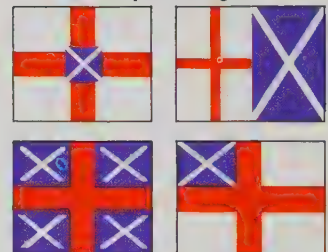


The banner of
King Richard I

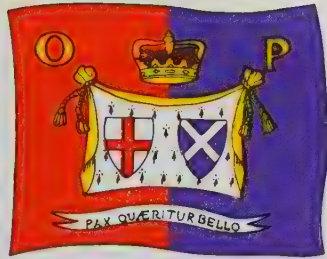
The making of the Union Jack



Some rejected designs



The banner of King Edward III



The banner of Oliver Cromwell



Personal standard



United Kingdom, royal standard

never been represented in the royal arms. During the Commonwealth, Oliver Cromwell used a standard combining the emblems of England and Scotland, and there was also a banner of the arms of the Commonwealth used by the commander of the navy. The Hanoverian monarchs added the arms of their German possessions to the banner, first as a quarter, then as an inescutcheon. In 1800 the arms of France were dropped. The banner assumed its present form on the accession of Queen Victoria when the arms of the German territories disappeared.

Other members of the royal family also have similar standards, and the Queen has another flag for use in

countries of the Commonwealth which are not 'Queen's Realms'. It contains her crowned initial within a chaplet of golden roses.

Ensigns

The Red Ensign is the form of the national flag that is used at sea. Originally authorized in 1625, it had the cross of either St George or St Andrew in the canton, but these were superseded in 1707 by the Union Jack (the original form, in turn replaced by the present one in 1801).

The Blue Ensign was reserved for government vessels in 1864, and often carries a badge of office in the fly. With the local arms or emblem it forms the government flag of British dependencies. Some of these also place their arms of badge on the Red Ensign.

The White Ensign was reserved for the Royal navy in 1864.



British merchant flag (Red Ensign) 1:2



British navy ensign (White Ensign) 1:2



British air force ensign 1:2

England

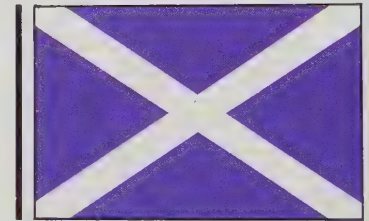
The traditional flag of England is the cross of St George, which has been popular since the 13th century. It is thought to derive from participation in the Crusades, when all the Christians wore crosses of various styles and colours. The flag became widely used on English ships and continued as the jack for civil vessels until 1824. At sea it is now the distinguishing flag of an admiral. When used on land it is not, as many people think, the flag of the Church of England, and it is now often seen representing England at international sporting events.



2:3

Scotland

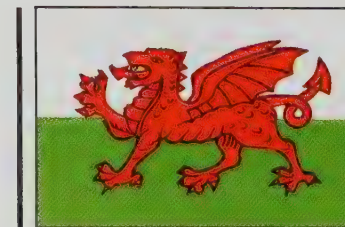
The flag of Scotland is known as the Saltire, and is perhaps more widely used and known than the cross of St George. It has its origin in medieval legend, and is no more directly connected with St Andrew than the English cross is with St George. Whilst the flag can be used at sea, many Scots adopt the Red Ensign. On land it is often, although illegally, replaced and overwhelmed by displays of the Scottish Red Lion, which also forms the second quarter of the Royal Standard.



2:3

Wales

The flag of Wales is derived from a badge-flag of the Tudor period. It is in the Tudor livery colours of green and white (also symbolized by the leek), with the traditional Red Dragon over all. It was given official status by a government statement of 23 February 1958 after an abortive attempt to replace it with a flag bearing the royal badge for Wales.



2:3

Northern Ireland

The flag of Northern Ireland, which was a banner of the arms of the government of Northern Ireland, existed from 1953 to 1972. Since the imposition of direct rule by Britain in 1972 it has been used only as a loyalist emblem. The official flag for Northern Ireland is now the Union Jack.



1:2

THE OFF-SHORE ISLANDS

Jersey

The largest of the Channel Islands, Jersey is a separate administration from Guernsey. The island was at one time part of the lands of the Duke of Normandy, but in 1204 it became a separate crown dependency. Like the other Channel Islands, it was occupied by German troops during World War II.

The saltire of St Patrick was inadvertently adopted by Jersey in the last century. In 1981 the arms of Jersey (identical to those of England) were added above the centre of the cross. The Lieutenant-Governor flies the Union Flag with the arms of Jersey displayed in the centre.



65:107

Guernsey

The island of Guernsey is situated in the English Channel. It belongs to the Crown but has its own parliament.

For many years the local flag of Guernsey (for use on land) was the cross of St George, but in 1985 a cross like that seen on the gonfalon of William the Conqueror was added over the red one. At sea, the flag is now the Red Ensign with the yellow cross in the fly. The flag of Guernsey's Lieutenant-Governor has the island's arms in the centre of the Union Flag.

The smaller islands of Alderney, Sark and Herm are dependencies of Guernsey. Each has its own local flag.



3:5

Alderney

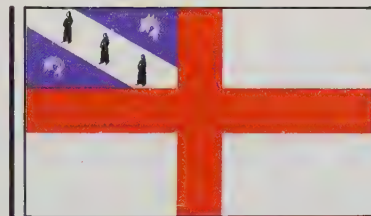
In Alderney's flag, the island badge is placed in the centre of the cross. The circular badge is green with a gold border and depicts a crowned rampant lion holding a leafy twig.



1:2

Herm

The arms of Herm depict three cowed monks and two silver dolphins. They appear in the first quarter of the cross of St George in the island's flag.



3:5

Sark

Also based on the flag of England, Sark's flag has the arms of Normandy in the canton. These depict two golden lions on a red background.



1:2

Isle of Man

Once part of the Norse Kingdom of the Isles, the Isle of Man was sold to Scotland in 1266 and subsequently ceded to England. It is now a self-governing crown dependency. The Manx name for the island is *Ellan Vannin*. The government is known as the Tynwald. Tynwald Day (5 July) is the annual day for reading the laws, and the national flag is flown on Tynwald Hill.

The emblem of the Isle of Man, the 'Legs of Man' or *trinacria*, is a very



Isle of Man

1:2

ancient one and has been used on the flag for at least 300 years. The design was revised in 1968 and the flag was given a wider official status. In 1971 the civil ensign was reintroduced with the emblem in the fly.



Union Jacks are frequently customized, as here to celebrate a royal wedding in 1986.

BRITISH DEPENDENCIES

The standard flags for a British dependency are: the flag of the Governor, which is the Union Jack with a badge in the centre, within a laurel wreath; a Blue Ensign with the badge in the fly, used by government vessels; and a Red Ensign, which may have the

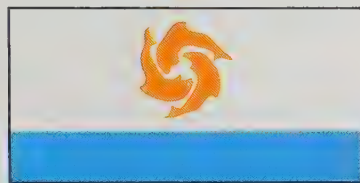
badge in the fly. Some territories also have a local flag for use on land only.

The British Indian Ocean Territory and the South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands colony have no flags or badges.

Anguilla

Situated in the West Indies, Anguilla includes Sombbrero and other small islands. Its name is the Spanish word for 'eel' and was suggested by the shape of the islands. Anguilla was first settled in 1650. From 1825 to 1967 it was linked with St Kitts-Nevis, and in 1980 was established as a separate colony.

Anguilla has no badge, but there is a local flag and coat of arms. The flag dates from October 1967 and bears three interlocking dolphins, representing strength and endurance.



1:2



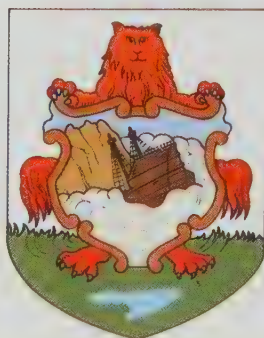
Bermuda

Bermuda used to be known as Somers' Island and is an isolated island in the Atlantic Ocean. It was discovered in 1503 by Juan Bermudez, and in 1684 it became a crown colony.

The Red Ensign is used on land as well as at sea by Bermudans. The badge is the shield from the colony's arms, which symbolize the wreck of Sir George Somers' *Sea Venture* in 1609. The survivors of this were the island's first colonists.



1:2



British Antarctic Territory

The Territory has no permanent inhabitants and was formed from part of the Falkland Islands Dependencies in 1962.

The badge is the shield from the arms, formerly those of the Falkland Islands Dependencies, granted in 1952. It symbolizes research in icy waters, and is used only on the Blue Ensigns of ships of the National Environmental Research Council.



1:2



British Virgin Islands

This group of islands in the West Indies consists of 40 islands, 25 of which are uninhabited. The capital, Road Town, is on Tortola. The group was discovered by Christopher Columbus in 1493, and the first British settlements were established in 1666. In 1774 it became a crown colony.

The arms appear on the Blue Ensign, and symbolize the 'wise virgin' after whom the islands are named. The arms date from 1960.



1:2



Cayman Islands

The three Cayman Islands – Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac and Little Cayman – lie in the Caribbean. They were discovered by Columbus in 1503, and were ceded to Britain as part of Jamaica in 1670. They became a crown colony as part of Jamaica in 1959, and in 1962 became a separate colony.

The arms date from 1958 and are placed in a white disc on the Blue Ensign. The stars on the shields represent the islands.



1:2



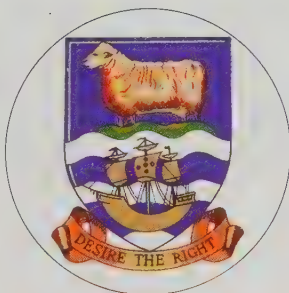
Falkland Islands

The Falklands lie east of Argentina in the South Atlantic Ocean. In 1770 the British, who had made a second settlement five years earlier, were expelled from the islands by the Spanish, but they were reclaimed as a crown colony in 1832. The Argentines claim the islands, which they call the *Islas Malvinas*. This prompted them to attempt an invasion, which was unsuccessful, in 1982.

The arms date from 1948 and are placed on a white disc on the Blue Ensign. The ship depicted in the arms is the *Desire*, whose crew discovered the islands in 1592. The ram represents sheep farming, the main economic activity of the Falklands.



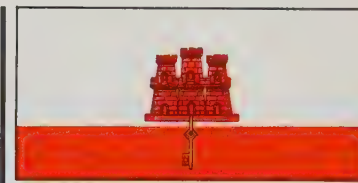
1:2



Gibraltar

This peninsula lies on the tip of southern Spain. Its name is derived from the Arabic name *Jebel Tarik*, but its classical name was Mount Calpe, one of the 'Pillars of Hercules'. In 1464 Gibraltar was taken from Granada by the Spaniards. It was captured by the British in 1704, and then ceded nine years later.

Gibraltar's flag for use at sea has the arms on the Blue Ensign. The flag illustrated is for use on land. The arms were granted by the Spanish monarchs Ferdinand and Isabella in 1502, and symbolize the 'key' position of the Rock, as the promontory is commonly known. The banner of the arms is the flag for local use on land.



1:2



Hong Kong

Five and a half million people live in this colony in the South China Sea, more than in all other British dependencies. Its name means 'fragrant waters'. Hong Kong island was ceded to Britain in 1842, and in 1898 Kowloon (part of the mainland) was leased to Britain for 99 years. In 1997 the territories will therefore return to Chinese rule.

Hong Kong's arms, which appear on a white disc on the Blue Ensign, were granted in 1959. On land the flag of China may also be flown, and a competition is under way to find a flag for use after 1997.



1:2



BRITISH DEPENDENCIES

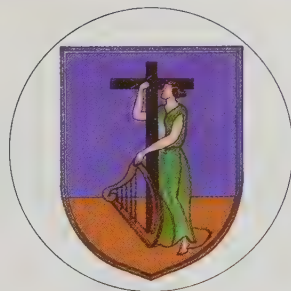
Montserrat

The Caribbean island of Montserrat was another of Columbus' discoveries in 1493. It was colonized by Irish settlers in 1632, and in 1871 became part of the Leeward Islands colony.

The shield of arms was brought back into use in 1962 after the dissolution of the Federation of the West Indies. The design, which is of unknown origin, appears on the Blue Ensign.



1:2



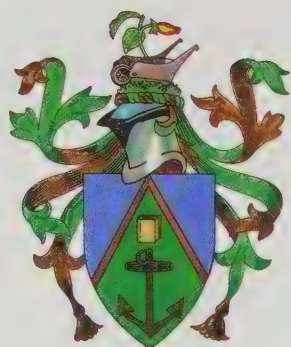
Pitcairn Islands

These islands lie in the Pacific, half way between South America and Australia. The group includes two uninhabited islands, and in 1986 the total population was only 57. Pitcairn was discovered by Carteret in 1767, but the first settlers on the main island were the crew of HMS *Bounty* after the notorious mutiny in 1790. It has been a British colony since 1898.

Pitcairn's coat of arms, granted in 1969, commemorates the mutiny, and the crest is the *Bounty's* bible. Since 1984, the arms have been used on the fly of the Blue Ensign.



1:2



St Helena and Dependencies

The island of St Helena lies west of Africa in the Atlantic Ocean. It was taken over by the East India Company (an English trading company) in 1659, and became a crown colony in 1834. Its dependencies are Ascension Island and the Tristan de Cunha Islands.

St Helena's badge was turned into a coat of arms in 1984, and the shield from this appears on the fly of the Blue Ensign. The upper part depicts the local wirebird, and the lower part an East India Company ship off the island's rocky shore.



1:2



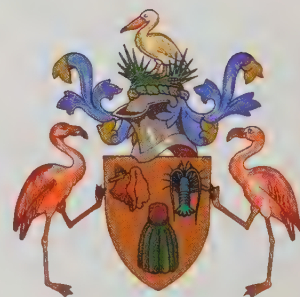
Turks and Caicos Islands

Only six of the 30 or so islands in this group in the West Indies are inhabited. The group came under British rule in 1766, but only became a separate colony in 1973 following the independence of the Bahamas.

Only the shield from the coat of arms appears on the Blue Ensign. The arms were granted in 1965, following the islands' separation from Jamaica. They depict three typical items from the local flora and fauna – a conch, a crayfish and a cactus. The Blue Ensign with the badge has been in use since 1968.

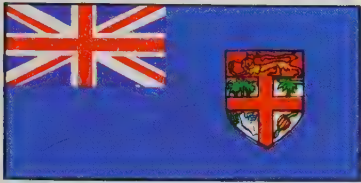


1:2



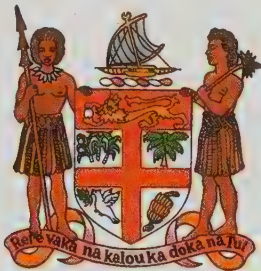
Fiji

Republic of Fiji



Union Jack symbolizes Fiji's attachment to the Commonwealth

Flag likely to change when new constitution adopted



1	2	3	4	5	6	1:2
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

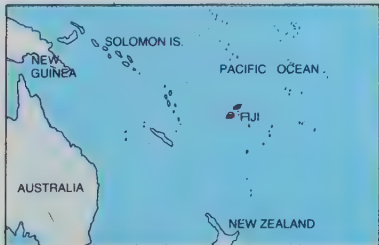
- Civil ensign** As national flag with a red field
- Government ensign** The same with a dark blue field
- Naval ensign** The same with a white field
- Governor-General** (Prior to September 1987) blue with the royal crest above the name 'Fiji' on a yellow whale's tooth

DATES IN HISTORY

- 1643** Islands discovered by Tasman
- 1774** Visited by Captain Cook
- 1865** Formation of Fiji Confederacy (-1867); creation of Kingdom of Bau
- 1871** Creation of Kingdom of Fiji
- 1874** Fiji ceded to Britain
- 1970** Fiji again independent
- 1987** Fiji leaves Commonwealth

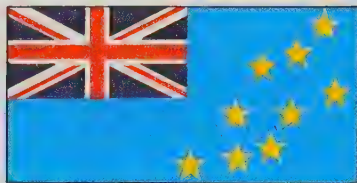
FACTS ABOUT FIJI

- Capital** Suva, on the island of Viti Levu
- Population** 714,000
- Languages** English, Fijian, Hindustani
- National day** 10 October



Tuvalu

Tuvalu (formerly Ellice Islands)



Union Jack symbolizes membership of the Commonwealth

One star for each island



Motto means 'With Tuvalu for God'

1	2	3	4	5	6	1:2
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

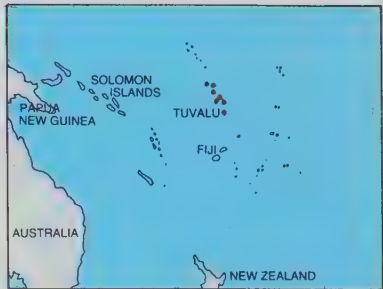
OTHER FLAGS

- Governor-General** Royal blue with the royal crest above a scroll bearing the name 'Tuvalu'
- DATES IN HISTORY**
- 1892** British protectorate over islands
- 1915** British colony of Gilbert and Ellice Islands
- 1975** Separate colony of Tuvalu
- 1978** Independence

FACTS ABOUT TUVALU

- Capital** Funafuti
- Population** 8,299, of which 1,500 are abroad
- Languages** Polynesian, English
- National day** 1 October

The Ellice Islands, inhabited by Polynesians, were taken over by Britain in 1892 and administered jointly with the Gilbert Islands (now Kiribati) until October 1975, when the Ellice Islands became the separate colony of Tuvalu ('The Nine Islands'). It was granted its own arms on 3 December 1976, which portray a Polynesian meeting house, or *maneapa*, within a border of banana leaves and sea-shells, one of each for each inhabited island. This was used as a flag-badge until independence. The flag adopted on independence in October 1978 shows nine stars representing the nine islands, and laid out in the same geographical pattern. Like the flag of Fiji, this design emerged from a local competition.



United States of America



One star for each state

Design changed 26 times since 1777

13 stars, feathers, arrows, clouds etc. for the original 13 states



1	2	3	4	5	6	10:19
---	---	---	---	---	---	-------

OTHER FLAGS

President Blue with the presidential arms within a ring of 50 stars (introduced in this form in 1945)

Vice-President White with a simplified form of the arms and a blue star in each corner

Secretary of State Blue with the national arms on a white disc in the centre and a white star in each corner

Naval jack The canton, or 'Union', from the Stars and Stripes

Yacht ensign The Stars and Stripes with a canton containing a white anchor within a ring of 13 stars

DATES IN HISTORY

April 1775 Outbreak of the War of Independence

4 July 1776 Declaration of Independence

1782 Independence recognized by Britain

1803 Louisiana purchased from France

1846 Annexation of Oregon Territory

1848 Annexation of California and New Mexico

February 1861 Secession of southern states, leading to Civil War

April 1865 End of Civil War and Confederacy

1867 Purchase of Alaska

1898 Annexation of Hawaii

FACTS ABOUT THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Capital Washington

Population 226 545 800

Languages English, Spanish

National day 4 July

Created in 1777, the Stars and Stripes flag has had considerable influence on flag design, not only for existing flags but also for others in the course of the last 200 years. It was the first flag to popularize the star as a flag emblem, and the idea of a star and/or a stripe for each member state. It also instituted the combination of red, white and blue as the colours of a free republican nation.



Development of the Stars and Stripes

The first all-American flags were raised by the troops fighting the War of Independence against the British from April 1775 onwards. The Bedford Flag is said to have been brought out at Concord on 9 April 1775. In September of that year, flags with the New England emblem of the pine tree were used on gunboats in Massachusetts Bay. The pine tree symbolized local government and was often the Liberty Tree under which town meetings were held. A red flag with a pine tree in the canton is said to have been used at the battle of Bunker Hill in 1775. A third element in the development of the Stars and Stripes is the Liberty Flag, with nine red and white stripes, used in Boston as early as 1767.

On 1 January 1776 Washington hoisted the Continental Colours at Prospect Hill outside Boston. The flag had 13 red and white stripes and the Union Jack in the canton, and was intended as the flag of the Continental army. It was also used on the ships of the American navy as early as December



The Bedford Flag, flown on the first day of the revolution, 1775



The pine tree flag



The Continental Colours



A revolutionary flag

1775. The designer or introducer of the flag is not now known, but most contemporary evidence states that the 13 stripes represented the 13 colonies.

Another flag popular at the time of the Revolution was one showing a rattlesnake, associated with the motto 'Don't tread on me'. A flag with 13 stripes and the rattlesnake over all is said to have been used as the jack of the infant navy.

All the colonies had their own colours for their regiments and flags for their navies (11 of the 13 had their own navies), and it was some time before any uniformity of practice was established. However, a truly national flag was established on 14 June 1777, just a year after the Declaration of Independence. This was defined by Congress as having 13 red and white stripes and 13 white stars in a blue canton, and was for use on land as well as at sea. The shape and layout of the stars was not specified, and versions in all kinds of patterns are known.

The flag remained in this form until 1 May 1795, when two new stars and stripes were added to stand for two new states. In 1818, when five more states were due for admission, it was agreed that in future there would be only 13 stripes in the field and as many stars as



The first Stars and Stripes

there are states in the canton, and that the stars would be added on 4 July following a state's admission. This has been the system ever since, and there have been 23 new star patterns since then, the latest being introduced on 4 July 1960 following the admission of Hawaii.

Some flags in other colours owe their inspiration to the Stars and Stripes, for example, those of Greece and Uruguay. Immediate offspring of the Stars and Stripes are the flags of several US states, those of the Confederate States of America, as well as the flags of Chile, Cuba, Liberia, Panama and the Philippines.

Confederate States of America

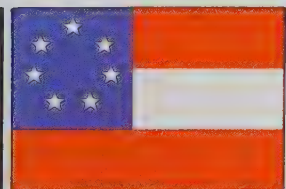
In 1861, following the inauguration of Abraham Lincoln as President and his declared intention to abolish slavery, 11 southern states broke away from the Union and called themselves the Confederate States of America. The civil war which then ensued lasted until



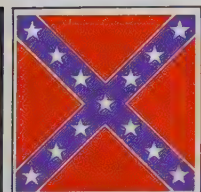
The Stars and Stripes features on this patriotic wall illustration produced during World War II.

1865 when the confederate states surrendered.

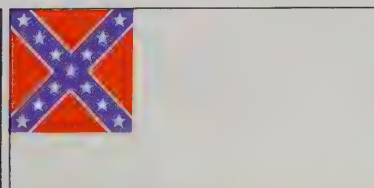
The first flag of the Confederacy was the Stars and Bars: three horizontal stripes of red and white with a blue canton containing a ring of seven (later 13) stars. Just as the Continental Colours was a variation of the British Red Ensign, the Stars and Bars was intended to reflect the Stars and Stripes. The Confederate Battle Flag was created in 1861 for use in the field, and was normally square with a white border, unlike the form popular today, which is oblong and without the white border. This flag has become known as the Southern Cross, or Flag of the South. In 1863 it was placed in the canton of a white flag to make a new version of the national flag (the Stainless Banner). A vertical red strip was added to this in 1865. Several state flags adopted later used one or other of these flags as their basis.



The Stars and Bars



The Confederate Battle Flag



The Stainless Banner

FLAGS OF THE STATES

The flags of the component states fall into five distinct categories: those using emblems dating from the War of Independence; those based on the flags of the Confederacy; those used before joining the Union or based on those of the countries to which they once belonged; those derived from militia colours; and those emerging from design competitions or local circumstances. The state flags are therefore arranged in this order on the following pages. The date after each state's name is the date it entered the Union (or ratified the Constitution in the case of the original 13).

STATE FLAGS DATING FROM WAR OF INDEPENDENCE

Before independence each colony had a seal and perhaps also a coat of arms, but none of them had a flag. However, with the call to arms, flags for militia units were developed, local badges were invented, and uniforms designed. In many cases these influenced the flags later adopted as the state flags.

Connecticut 1788

The arms date back to colonial times and show three vines. The motto means 'He who brought us over will sustain us'. The flag was used in this form in the Civil War and officially adopted on 3 June 1897.



26:33

Delaware 1787

Blue and buff were the colours of the state militia. The flag was originally plain blue, but the buff diamond containing the state coat of arms was

added in 1913. Delaware was the first state to ratify the Constitution, and so bears this date on its flag.



3:4

Massachusetts 1788

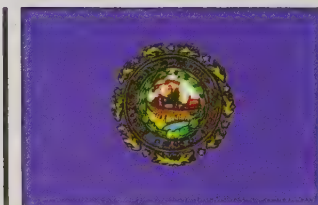
The flag of Massachusetts was double-sided from 1908 to 1971. The reverse showed a pine tree, one of the oldest colonial emblems. The obverse, showing the coat of arms, has remained unchanged. The motto on the scroll means 'Searching with a sword for peace and liberty'.



3:5

New Hampshire 1788

The emblem, showing an American frigate under construction, is the state seal and dates from 1775. The flag was adopted in 1909 and revised in 1932, and like those above was originally for military purposes.



2:3

FLAGS OF THE STATES

New Jersey 1787

The arms date from 1777, and the buff field represents the colour worn by the state regiments during the War of Independence. The shield of the state arms shows three ploughs, symbolizing agriculture. The flag in this form became the state flag in 1938.



2:3

New York 1788

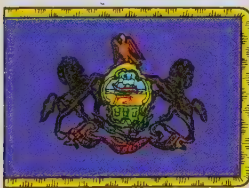
The shield on New York's state arms depicts two sailing ships on the Hudson River. It is supported by the figures of Liberty and Justice. The arms originally appeared on a buff coloured flag. This model was adopted in 1901.



10:19

Pennsylvania 1787

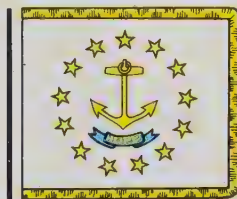
Like many states, Pennsylvania adopted a new coat of arms in 1777. These were sanctioned for use on a flag in 1907 and feature a shield showing a ship, plough and wheatsheaves.



27:37

Rhode Island 1790

The emblem of hope, the anchor, dates back to colonial times and was used on flags during the War of Independence. The state flag was adopted in 1877 and revised in 1882 and 1897.



29:33

South Carolina 1788

Several proposals were made for a flag immediately after secession of South Carolina, but the present form was adopted in January 1861. The white crescent and palm tree emblems date back to the revolutionary war.



2:3

Virginia 1790

The seal was adopted in 1776 to replace the colonial arms. It shows an armed allegorical figure, Virtue, defeating a tyrant ruler. The obverse side was placed on a flag in 1861 to mark Virginia's secession from the Union.



2:3

STATE FLAGS BASED ON THOSE OF THE CONFEDERACY

After their defeat in the Civil War the former members of the Confederacy continued the fight by other means, including recalling its flags in their own state flags.

Alabama 1819

The state flag, showing a red cross on a white field, was adopted in 1895 and is intended to recall the Battle Flag of the Confederacy. For this reason the flag is usually square.



1:1

Arkansas 1836

The top blue star represents the Confederacy and the others stand for France, Spain and the USA, the three countries that have ruled Arkansas. The blue lozenge with stars recalls the Battle Flag of the Confederacy. The flag was adopted in 1913.

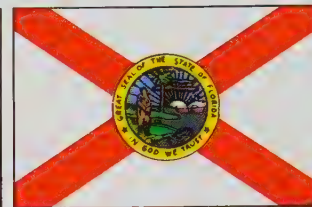


2:3

Florida 1845

Florida adopted a plain white flag bearing its seal in yellow in 1868. The seal depicts a landscape with an Indian

woman scattering flowers. A red saltire like that of Alabama was added to the flag in 1900.



2:3

Georgia 1788

In 1879 Georgia adopted a modified version of the Stars and Bars as its flag. In 1905 the state seal was added to the blue strip in the hoist, and in 1956 the fly was altered to reproduce the Battle Flag of the Confederacy.



2:3

Mississippi 1817

The flag, adopted in 1894, combines the Battle Flag with the Stars and Bars, although the top strip is blue rather than red. The flag has an official finial (ornamental top to the flag staff) in the form of a halbard.



2:3

North Carolina 1789

The first flag was adopted immediately after secession, but the blue was horizontal and the red vertical. The present design dates from 1885. The upper date in the hoist refers to the declaration of independence it is claimed was made then, and the lower one to the later resolution to seek independence.



3:4

Tennessee 1796

The flag was adopted in 1905 and in general reflects the features of the Confederate flag. The three stars are said to indicate that Tennessee was the third state to join the Union after the original 13.



3:5

FLAGS OF FORMER INDEPENDENT STATES

These states had a separate existence, however brief, before being absorbed into the USA. All except Vermont had their own flags, and these continued in use after joining the USA.

California 1850

The independent republic existed for three weeks in 1846 when California broke away from Mexico. It used the 'California Republic' flag made at Sonoma. A revised version of this was adopted in 1911.



2:3

Hawaii 1959

As an independent kingdom, Hawaii adopted a flag in 1845 which has remained in use ever since. The eight stripes stand for the eight main islands while the Union Jack commemorates one given to the then King by a British explorer, George Vancouver, in 1793.



1:2

Texas 1845

The first 'Lone Star Flag' dates from 1819, and was like the US one with only one star. Various other designs were tried in the first three years of independence until the present flag was

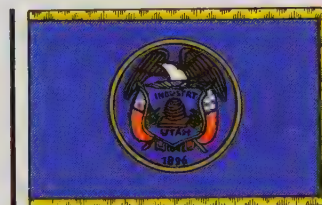
adopted in 1839. It has been in use ever since, becoming the state flag when Texas joined the Union.



2:3

Utah 1896

The Mormon state of Deseret had a flag, which was revised when it became the US Territory of Utah in 1850. A completely new flag was adopted in 1903, using the state seal. The beehive in the seal is a Mormon emblem. The gold ring around the seal was added by the first manufacturer.



2:3

Vermont 1791

It is not known what flag, if any, was used by Vermont as an independent republic, although its emblem has always been the pine tree, the central feature of its coat of arms. The present flag was adopted in 1923.



2:3

STATE FLAGS DERIVED FROM THOSE OF FORMER RULERS

Arizona 1912

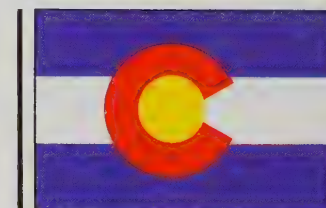
The red and yellow colours signify the era of Spanish rule in Arizona, and the 13 rays stand for the original 13 states of the Union. The copper star represents the state's mineral wealth. The flag was adopted in 1917.



2:3

Colorado 1876

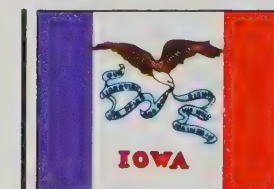
As in Arizona's flag, the red and yellow of the 'C' recall the Spanish period, and the white and blue are from the state flower, the columbine. The flag was designed in 1911 and revised in 1929.



2:3

Iowa 1846

Iowa's flag deliberately imitates that of France, from whom the Louisiana Territory was purchased in 1803. The eagle is taken from the state seal. The present design dates from 1921.

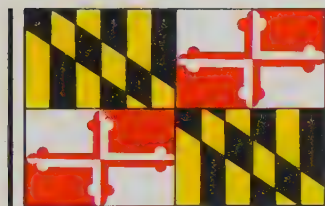


3:4

FLAGS OF THE STATES

Maryland 1788

The flag is a banner of the arms of the Baltimore family, former Lords Proprietor of Maryland, and was revived as the state flag in 1904. The quarters represent the Calverts (Lord Baltimore's paternal family) and the Crosslands (his mother's family).



2:3

Missouri 1821

Like that of Iowa, Missouri's flag displays the red, white and blue of France commemorating the Louisiana Purchase. The ring of 24 stars indicates that Missouri was the 24th state to join the Union. The flag dates from 1913.



7:12

New Mexico 1912

Here again the red and yellow colours refer to the period of Spanish rule. The sun is a Zia Pueblo Indian emblem and is intended to represent racial harmony. The flag was adopted in 1925.



2:3

STATE FLAGS WITH MILITARY ORIGINS

Most flags in this category are blue ('Union' blue) with the arms or seals in the centre, and were originally for the use of the states' militias. At the time of the Civil War the US army was organized into regiments on state lines, and the normal regimental 'color' – carried alongside the Stars and Stripes – had the state arms on it on a dark blue field. Several state flags continue to be in the regulation proportions laid down for 'colors'.

Idaho 1890

The device in the centre is the state seal, dating from 1891. It depicts a woman and a miner supporting a shield with a mountain landscape. The crest on the shield is a moose's head. The flag was adopted in 1927 and revised in 1957.



26:33

Kentucky 1792

This flag is taken directly from the militia flags of the Civil War. In the centre is the state seal depicting two men shaking hands. The additional decorations include a wreath of goldenrod, the state flower. The flag was adopted in 1918 and revised in 1962.



10:19

Maine 1820

The flag of Maine was created in 1909 by adopting one of the colours of the state militia, although there was a previous flag bearing a pine tree (the state plant-badge). The motto means 'I direct', referring to the North Star and the fact that Maine was once the most northerly state.



26:33

Michigan 1837

The flag bears the state coat of arms, adopted in 1835. The flag dates from 1911. The mottoes mean 'I shall defend' (*Tuebor*), and 'If you seek a pleasant peninsula, look around you'.



2:3

Minnesota 1858

In the centre of the blue flag is the state seal, with the motto *L'Etoile du Nord* (the North Star). This refers to the fact that the state was once the northernmost of the Union. The flag was introduced in 1893 and revised in 1957.



3:5

Montana 1889

Montana's flag is an adaptation of the militia colours of 1898, and was adopted in 1905. The state's name was added in 1981. The Spanish motto *Oro y Plata*, meaning 'Gold and Silver', recalls the prospecting era and also Spanish suzerainty.



3:5

Nebraska 1867

Unofficial flags using Nebraska's state seal were employed during World War I, and in 1925 a state flag of the same pattern was officially adopted. It was revised in 1963. The seal dates from 1867 and depicts a blacksmith, a steamboat and a train.



3:5

North Dakota 1889

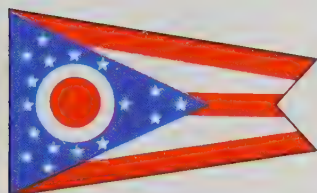
The flag is based on the colours of the Dakota Territorial Guard, and was adopted in 1911 as the state flag. The flag is therefore an almost exact replica of a militia colour used during the 1890–1904 period.



3:3

Ohio 1803

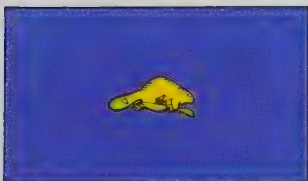
Ohio's flag seems to be based on the US Army cavalry guidon of the 1862–85 period, with a big 'O' for Ohio, all in the national colours. The 17 stars indicate that Ohio was the 17th state to be admitted to the Union. The flag was adopted in 1902.



8:13

Oregon 1859

Oregon's flag was originally the 'regimental' flag, but was adopted for state use in 1925 by adding the state's name and the date 1859. In 1971 the reverse of the flag was altered to show a gold beaver, making this the only two-sided state flag in use today.



500:833

Wisconsin 1848

The flag and militia colours were at one time almost identical, with the arms on a blue field, and little alteration was made when the flag was officially adopted in 1913. In 1980 the name and the date 1848 were added.



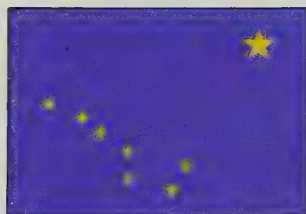
2:3

STATE FLAGS EMERGING FROM COMPETITIONS OR LOCAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Many state flags were adopted under pressure from the patriotic women's organization known as the Daughters of the American Revolution, sometimes in conjunction with other circumstances. It should be noted that not all Americans wanted their state to have a flag. A public competition was a useful way of testing this and of developing design ideas.

Alaska 1959

This state flag was the winning entry from a 13-year-old Indian boy, and was adopted in 1927. It shows the Great Bear constellation and the Pole Star. Both of these emblems refer to Alaska's geographical position.



125:177

Illinois 1818

The Daughters of the American Revolution ran a competition for a state flag in 1915. The winning design, showing an eagle perched on a rock, was adopted the same year. The emblem is from the state seal, and the name was added below in 1970.



3:5

Indiana 1816

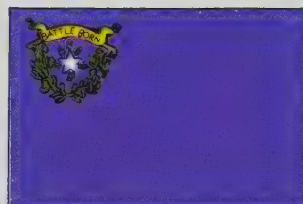
A competition held in 1916 by the Daughters of the American Revolution led to this flag, which was adopted in 1917. The 19 stars indicate the order of admission to the Union, and the torch symbolizes liberty and enlightenment.



26:33

Nevada 1864

The present flag is the third used by the state and dates from a competition held in 1926. The design was adopted in 1929, and the motto 'Battle born' refers to Nevada's admission to the Union during the Civil War.



2:3

Oklahoma 1907

Oklahoma's first flag had a red field, which proved unacceptable after the Russian Revolution, so a competition for a new one was held in 1924 resulting in the present design. The shield and peace pipe commemorate Oklahoma's Indian past.



2:3

Wyoming 1890

As in Oklahoma, the Daughters of the American Revolution organized a competition for Wyoming's state flag, and the winning design was adopted in 1917. The buffalo bears the state seal, which dates from 1890. Early versions of the flag had the buffalo facing the fly.



7:10

Kansas 1861

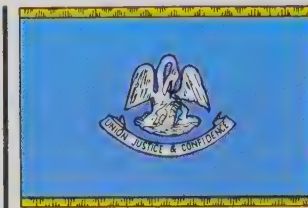
Kansas was later than other states in adopting a flag, and when it did so in 1925 it merely placed the state seal on a blue field, with the addition of the state flower, the sunflower, above it. In 1963 the name was added beneath.



3:5

Louisiana 1812

The flag of Louisiana emerged from the Civil War. A flag with a pelican was used at the time of secession, but the present 'heraldic' pelican is more modern. The current state flag was adopted in 1912, and the pelican is now the state bird.



2:3

FLAGS OF THE STATES

South Dakota 1889

The flag adopted in 1909 commemorated the state's nickname, 'The Sunshine State', but like many others had the state seal added, originally on the reverse only. In 1963 the seal was added to the obverse as well.



3:5

Washington 1889

The only state flag with a green field, symbolizing its nickname, 'The Evergreen State', this design was introduced by the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1915 and adopted in 1923. The seal dates from 1889 and portrays George Washington, after whom the state is named.



2:3

West Virginia 1863

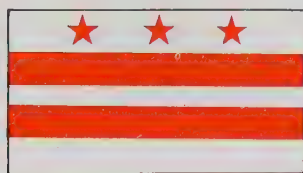
The Latin motto in the state coat of arms, 'Mountain men are always free', refers to the partition of Virginia during the Civil War. The arms were placed on a flag in 1904. The present flag was adopted in 1929. The wreath is of rhododendron, the state flower.



10:19

OTHER REGIONAL FLAGS District of Columbia

The District of Columbia is not a state, but a federal district comprising the US capital, Washington. Its flag is the banner of arms of George Washington and was officially chosen in 1938. The arms date back to at least 1592 when they were used by the Washington family in Northamptonshire, England.



5:9

City of New York

The flag of New York City is derived from that of the Netherlands, which had a colony there from 1625 to 1664. It was adopted in 1915 and bears the seal. The Mayor's flag has an arc of five blue stars over the seal. Each borough also has a flag.



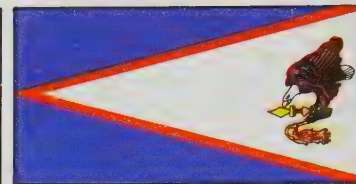
2:3

DEPENDENCIES OF THE USA

American Samoa

An Unincorporated Territory

The most southerly of all land under American sovereignty, American Samoa consists of six Polynesian islands in the Pacific. The USA has ruled the eastern part of Samoa since 1900, although the islands have had internal self-government since 1960 when the flag was introduced. The device is an American eagle grasping a fly-whisk and a war-club, Samoan symbols of authority. The colours are those of the Stars and Stripes.



1:2

Guam *An Unincorporated Territory*

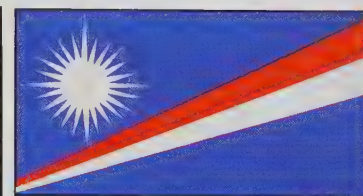
A Pacific island, Guam was captured from Spain in 1898. A flag for local use was adopted in 1917, designed by the wife of a naval officer. The beach scene in the centre is part of the territorial seal, and portrays a spot known as 'Lovers' Leap'.



21:40

Marshall Islands *A Republic in Free Association with the USA*

The Marshall Islands form an archipelago in the Pacific Ocean. The government was formed in 1979 and became independent in 1986, although remaining in association with the USA. The flag was introduced in May 1979 and has a star of 24 points to represent the 24 municipalities. It was designed by the President's wife.



10:19

Micronesia *A Federated State in Free Association with the USA*

This federated state extends across the Caroline Island archipelago in the Pacific Ocean. The present flag, dating from 1979, is an adaptation of the one adopted for Micronesia in 1962, when the federation had six members. There are now four states only, represented by the four stars on a field of UN blue. Each state (Kosrae, Pohnpei, Truk and Yap) has its own flag.



10:19

North Marianas

A Commonwealth in Association with the USA

The North Marianas group of islands lie east of the Philippines in the Pacific. Previously a District of Micronesia, the state was formed in 1976. Its flag dates from 1972 and depicts a grey *latte* stone, representing the ancient Chamorro culture. The star signifies Commonwealth status, and the blue field the Pacific Ocean.

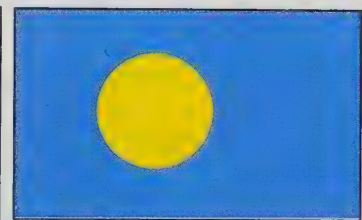


2:3

Palau

A Republic in Free Association with the USA

This group of islands in the Pacific Ocean became a republic on 1 January 1981, with a flag adopted the previous October. It depicts a golden moon on a sky-blue field, symbolic of national unity and the passing of foreign domination. It was the winning design in a competition.



3:5

Puerto Rico

A Commonwealth of the USA

Taken from Spain in 1898, the Caribbean island of Puerto Rico became a commonwealth in 1952 with full internal self-government. It has its own flag and arms. The flag was designed in 1885 and officially adopted in 1952. The party that first used it was linked with the Cuban nationalists looking for aid from the USA, hence the adoption of the colours of the Stars and Stripes.



2:3

Virgin Islands

An Unincorporated Territory of the USA

Situated between the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean, the eastern Virgin Islands were purchased from Denmark in 1917. The flag is for use on land only, and was designed by a sailor working for the Governor. Its design is a simplified version of the Great Seal of the USA, with the initials 'VI' for 'Virgin Islands'. It was adopted in 1921.



2:3

Chile

República de Chile



2:3

Blue for Andean skies

White for snows of the Andes

Red for blood shed for freedom



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

President The national flag with the arms over all in the centre
Minister of Defence Blue with the arms in the centre

DATES IN HISTORY

1810 First declaration of independence
1814 Spanish rule restored
1817 Nationalist victory at Chacabuco
1818 Second declaration of independence
1829–30 Civil war
1879–82 War with Bolivia and Peru
1940 Claim to Antarctic Territory

FACTS ABOUT CHILE

Capital Santiago
Population 12,070,000
Languages Spanish, Araucanian
National day 18 September

Chile began its struggle for freedom in 1810, but it took eight years to achieve it. Its first tricolour flag, of 1812, was blue, white and yellow. In 1817 a new one of blue, white and red was introduced. Later that year the colours were placed in their present order, and used at the declaration of independence. The star was placed on the flag at this time, but until 1854 a form without a star was reserved for civil vessels and private use. Its design is attributed to two different officers of the nationalist army, Antonio Arcos and Charles Wood, and must have been influenced by the Stars and Stripes. The arms were designed and adopted in 1834 using the basic flag design. The motto is based on that of 1812 and means 'By right or by might'.



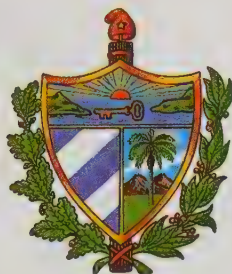
Cuba

República de Cuba



5 stripes for original provinces

The Estrella Solitaria ('The Lone Star')



1	2	3	4	5	6	1:2
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

President A blue square with the arms in the centre within 6 white stars

Jack White over blue with a white star in a red canton (the flag of Céspedes)

Minister of Defence Blue with a white anchor within a white frame

26 July Movement Red over black with 26 de Julio in white over all

DATES IN HISTORY

- 1497** Cuba discovered by Columbus
- 1850** Invasion of Narciso López
- 1868** Invasion of Céspedes
- 1898** Cuba ceded to USA
- 1902** Independent republic
- 1959** Success of Castro revolution (26 July Movement)

FACTS ABOUT CUBA

- Capital** Havana
- Population** 10,190,000
- Language** Spanish
- National days** 1 January, 26 July, 10 October

There were several attempts to free Cuba from Spanish rule in the 19th century. In 1849 the Venezuelan general Narciso López, in exile in New York, planned an invasion with a view to securing the annexation of Cuba to the USA, and the flag he designed reflected this. The red triangle also symbolized the masonic idea of equality, and the 'Lone Star' was to be another one to add to the Stars and Stripes. The flag was finally hoisted in Cuba after the Spaniards ceded the island to the USA in 1898, and it was set up as an independent republic (20 May 1902). The coat of arms was also designed by López. The chief shows Cuba as the key to the Gulf of Mexico; also shown are the stripes from the flag and a depiction of the pleasant landscape. The star appears on a Cap of Liberty on a Roman fasces (a symbol of authority).

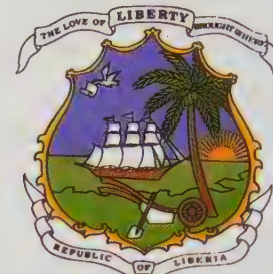


Liberia

Republic of Liberia



11 stripes for signatories of declaration of independence



1	2	3	4	5	6	1:2
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

President A blue square with a shield in the centre, and 4 white stars in the corners

Jack A blue square with a white star in the centre

DATES IN HISTORY

- 1821** First settlement at Cape Mesurado
- 1824** First use of name 'Liberia'
- 1833** Foundation of Maryland
- 1839** Commonwealth of Liberia
- 1847** Declaration of independence
- 1857** Amalgamation with Maryland

FACTS ABOUT LIBERIA

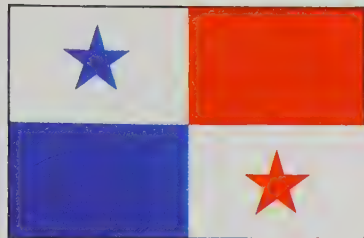
- Capital** Monrovia
- Population** 2,500,000
- Languages** English, tribal dialects
- National day** 26 July

Liberia (the 'Land of the Free') was established by the American Colonization Society to provide a home for freed slaves from the USA, starting with a settlement in 1821. A parallel state of Maryland was created in 1833 at Cape Palmas. The republic of Liberia was proclaimed in 1847 and amalgamated with Maryland in 1857. The first flag was adopted in 1827, and was like the Stars and Stripes but with a white cross in place of the stars. On independence the present version was adopted, designed and produced by a 'Committee of Ladies' in Monrovia. This has 11 stripes for the 11 men who signed the declaration of independence, and a single star, described as a 'shining light in the Dark Continent' (cf. the black star in the flag of Ghana, p.88).



Panama

República de Panamá



Blue star for purity and honesty

Red star for authority and legality

Colours symbolize 2 main parties

1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----



OTHER FLAGS

None

DATES IN HISTORY

- 1501** Discovered by Spaniards
- 1513** Pacific reached by Balboa
- 1519** Foundation of Panama City
- 1819** Independence of Colombia
- 1841, 1853** Panamanian attempts to secede
- 1903** Declaration of independence
- 1914** Panama Canal completed

FACTS ABOUT PANAMA

- Capital** Panama City
- Population** 2,280,000
- Languages** Spanish, English
- National day** 3 November

Panama was originally a province of Colombia, which became independent in 1819. In 1903 an American-backed separatist movement succeeded in creating an independent republic in which the Panama Canal was to be built. The projected flag was to have seven horizontal stripes and a blue canton with two linked golden suns, but it was the present design which was hoisted once independence was achieved. Its colours are those of the USA, but were said to be those of the two main parties of the time, the Liberals, and the Conservatives or *Colorados* (reds), with white for peace. This is the only flag of Panama, but it is one which flies on a large fraction of the world's shipping. From 1960 the flag has flown in the Canal Zone, since 1979 as the only one.



Philippines

Republika ng Pilipinas



Sun stands for 8 provinces that fought for freedom

Stars represent Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao

Triangle is the emblem of equality

1	2	3	4	5	6	1:2
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----



OTHER FLAGS

President Blue with a gold sun and triangle within a ring of 50 white stars

Vice-President The same with blue stars on a white field

Jack Blue with the sun and stars in yellow

National flag In time of war the Philippine flag is flown with the red uppermost

DATES IN HISTORY

- 1521** Islands discovered by Spaniards
- 1565** First Spanish settlement
- 1892** Formation of Katipunan movement
- 1896** Outbreak of revolution
- 1898** Declaration of independence
- 1899** US occupation
- 1941-5** Japanese occupation
- 1946** Independence

FACTS ABOUT THE PHILIPPINES

- Capital** Manila
- Population** 57,360,000
- Languages** Pilipino, Spanish, English
- National day** 12 June

The present flag of the Philippines evolved from several previous designs, mostly of red and white. The sun emblem dates from 1896, and the equilateral triangle represents the Katipunan nationalist movement. The present flag was designed in Hong Kong in 1898 and first hoisted in the Philippines in 1898. Like the Cubans, the Philippine nationalists looked to the USA as a source of support. The islands were taken over by the USA, and the flag was used there until 1907, then again from 1920 to 1941. It was hoisted as the national flag when independence was achieved in 1946. The arms were originally the sun and stars in a triangle, but new ones were in use during the American occupation. The present design dates from 1946 although there have been changes in the inscription on the scroll.

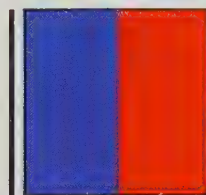


France

République de France



Stripes said to stand for Liberty, Equality and Fraternity



Paris 1:1

1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

President A square *Tricolore* with a combined oak and olive tree in gold in the centre

Flag for use at sea The *Tricolore* with the stripes in the proportions 30:33:37

Administrators of overseas territories A blue square with the *Tricolore* in the canton

City of Paris Vertically blue and red; may have the *nef* (ship-badger) of Paris in white in the centre

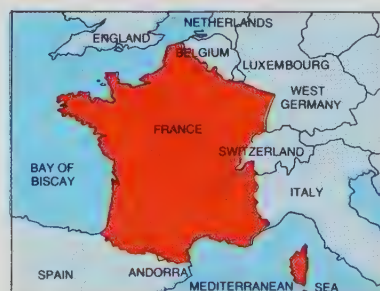
DATES IN HISTORY

- 1779–83 French involvement in American Revolution
- 1789 Outbreak of French Revolution
- 1792 Outbreak of war and creation of republic
- 1793 Execution of Louis XVI
- 1799 Napoleon in power
- 1814 First defeat and exile of Napoleon, monarchy restored
- 1815 Final defeat and exile of Napoleon
- 1830 July Revolution; *Tricolore* restored
- 1848 Second Republic
- 1852 Second Empire
- 1870–71 Defeat by Prussia; Third Republic
- 1940 Fall and occupation of France
- 1946 Fourth Republic
- 1958 Fifth Republic

FACTS ABOUT FRANCE

Capital Paris
Population 55,620,000
Language French
National day 14 July

The *Tricolore* is the national flag, merchant and naval ensign and jack and, since France has no coat of arms, is also the national emblem. After the Revolution of 1789 it came to be regarded as a symbol of liberty and so became the inspiration for the design of many other national flags. The *Tricolore* is also the basis of the various departmental and rank flags of the republic. By long-standing tradition the President also uses the flag with a personally devised emblem in the centre. Since 1946 France has had no official coat of arms, only a seal.

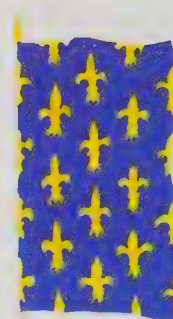


Pre-revolutionary France

Although they only came together in the Revolution, the three traditional colours of France have always been blue, red and white. Blue is associated with St Martin, and his white cross on blue was the pre-revolutionary merchant flag. Red is the colour of St Denis, and his flag of red decorated with gold was known as the *oriflamme* ('golden flames'). White is the colour of the banner of Joan of Arc, as described and illustrated below.

The traditional emblem of France was the *fleur-de-lys*, or lily, which first appeared on arms in the 12th century. The original arms and banner were blue with several gold *fleurs-de-lys* scattered over the field, but from 1364 onwards the shield bore only three lilies, as also used on the arms of England.

The general design of the white standard carried by St Joan in the Hundred Years War between England, France and Burgundy is well known although there are no contemporary illustrations. In the hoist was the image of God with two angels, and in the fly three golden *fleurs-de-lys* and the names



The golden fleurs-de-lys on a blue banner became France's emblem during the Middle Ages.

JHESUS MARIA; on the reverse was the arms of France. The banner was carried at the coronation of Charles VII and was inspirational to the French in their long struggle to maintain their national independence. Joan of Arc Day is still a national holiday in France.

From the 15th century onwards flags bore white crosses – the device assigned to France during the Crusades. The oriflamme of King Francis I (1515–1547), for example, had red, yellow and blue horizontal stripes with a white



Joan of Arc's white standard became a rallying point for the French during the Hundred Years' War.



The shape of Francis I's ornate flag was descended from the Oriflamme of Charlemagne.



The heraldic banner of France gave way to the revolutionary tricolour after the fall of the Bastille (the royal fortress). At first used as a cockade and for decorations, the three colours eventually became the French Tricolore we know today.

cross. The flag for civil vessels in the 17th and 18th centuries was a white cross on a blue field and had the royal arms in the centre. Military flags also had white crosses with cantons of various colours (as in the Bastille flag). The royal standard was white, covered with golden *fleurs-de-lys* with the royal arms superimposed in the centre. White was the colour of the Bourbon dynasty, which ruled France after 1589.

The Revolution

The Parisians who stormed the Bastille on 14 July 1789 wore cockades of red and blue, the heraldic colours of the city of Paris. On 17 July the King publicly put on one of these cockades next to the Bourbon white one on his hat, after which it was proposed that the national cockade should be red, blue and white. Over the next year popular and military flags were adopted in these colours, and in October 1790 they were also used for naval flags. The naval ensign (formerly plain white) had vertical stripes of red, white and blue added to the canton. In 1794 the white field was abolished, and the order of the stripes altered to the present design of the *Tricolore*. This remained the flag of France until 1814 (although it was used

again by Napoleon in 1815). The *Tricolore* was restored in 1830 and has remained in use ever since, despite several attempts to abolish or alter it. The revolutions of 1789, 1830 and 1848 inspired the use of tricolours all over the world.

Modern France

During World War II the supporters of Charles de Gaulle used his cross of Lorraine on the national flag, and this is still a popular emblem today.

France has several overseas dependencies, and some of these are developing flags for local use. The first one to do so was French Polynesia, which adopted a flag in 1984. Its colours are the traditional ones of Polynesia and were used in Tahiti and other native states. It is expected that New Caledonia will have its own flag in the near future.

France is a unitary state, but the old heraldic flags of the provinces are still widely used. Corsica, for example, still flies a white flag featuring a black Saracen's head.

Ireland

Poblachta na hEireann



Orange for Protestants
Green for Ireland
White for peace



1	2	3	4	5	6	1:2
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

President	Blue with the harp as in the arms
Jack	Green with the harp in yellow
Commodore of navy	A green swallow-tail with a yellow star
Provinces	The 4 provinces of Connacht, Leinster, Munster and Ulster have flags that are banners of their arms

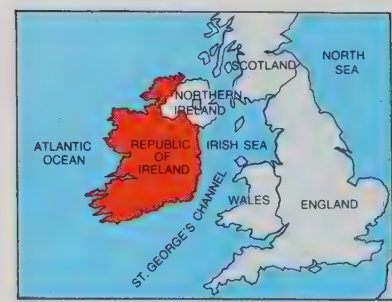
DATES IN HISTORY

1541	Dynastic union of England and Ireland
1689	Battle of the Boyne (Orange victory)
1798	The 'Year of Liberty' (nationalist rising)
1801	Parliamentary union of Ireland and Britain
1916	Easter Rising
1919	First <i>Dáil Éireann</i>
1921	Treaty granting Irish independence
1937	Ireland a republic
1949	Ireland leaves Commonwealth

FACTS ABOUT IRELAND

Capital	Dublin
Population	3,540,000
Languages	English, Irish
National day	17 March (St Patrick's Day)

The traditional flag of Ireland was the Green Flag with a golden harp, used in the rising of 1798, although orange was adopted by the loyalists to commemorate King William of Orange. The idea of combining the colours arose when nationalists were present at the French Revolution in 1848, but the flag did not become universally popular until after the 1916 Easter Rising, when it was one of several flags hoisted in Dublin. It was adopted by the *Dáil Éireann* (the Irish Parliament) in January 1919 and again in the Constitution of 1937. It became the flag for Irish civil and naval vessels in 1939. In 1947 the Green Flag was revived for use as the naval jack. During the 'Free State' period (1922-37) there were no official arms, but in 1945 the harp on a blue ground was adopted.



Haiti

République d'Haiti



Blue and red were originally vertical



1	2	3	4	5	6	3:5*
---	---	---	---	---	---	------

OTHER FLAGS	
Official flag	With arms
Civil ensign	Without arms
Jack	7 horizontal stripes of blue and red
DATES IN HISTORY	
1492	Discovered by Columbus
1697	Ceded to France
1799	Conflict with France
1804	Declaration of independence
1806	Rival regimes in north and south
1820	Country re-united
1844	Secession of Santo Domingo
1915-34	American occupation
1986	End of Duvalier dictatorship

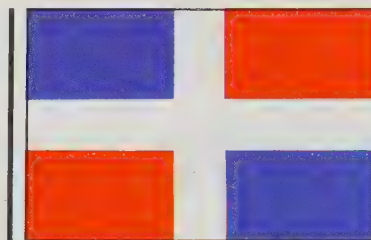
FACTS ABOUT HAITI

Capital	Port-au-Prince
Population	5,272,000
Languages	French, Créole
National day	1 January



Dominican Republic

República Dominicana



Motto was password of the Trinitarians – 'God, Country, Liberty'



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS	
President	White with the national flag in the canton and an upright yellow anchor in the fly
Jack	Blue with the arms on a white disc, within a ring of 17 white stars
Secretary of navy	As jack, but with only 4 stars in cantons

DATES IN HISTORY

1492	Discovered by Columbus
1496	Foundation of Santo Domingo
1795	Ceded to France
1808	French expelled
1821	First declaration of independence
1822	Conquered by Haiti
1844	Freedom from Haiti
1861-5	Spanish occupation
1916-24	American occupation

FACTS ABOUT DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Capital	Santo Domingo
Population	6,600,000
Language	Spanish
National day	27 February

Santo Domingo, a city on the island of Hispaniola, began its struggle for independence in 1808 with a victory over the French. In 1821 it declared its independence of Spain, but in 1822 was conquered by Haiti. A secret society known as the Trinitarians began to work for freedom from Haiti, and in 1844 the Dominican Republic was formed. The flag they used was like that of Haiti, with a white cross and ten white stars. On independence the blue and red quarters were counterchanged, the cross enlarged and the stars omitted. The arms, including the emblems of the *La Trinitaria*, were also adopted in 1844, but revised after final independence from Spain in 1865.



Italy

Repubblica Italiana



Like Mexican national flag, but without emblem in centre



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
	●	●	●	■	■	

OTHER FLAGS

President A blue square with the national arms in gold

Civil ensign As national but with quartered shield in the centre

Naval ensign As civil, but with naval crown above the shield

Jack A square version of the shield from the naval ensign

DATES IN HISTORY

Before 1861 Italy consisted of several separate states, including the Papal States

1796 Invasion of Napoleon and pro-French risings

1805 Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy

1814–15 Defeat of Napoleon

1848 Nationalist risings

1861 Kingdom of Italy under House of Savoy

1929 Formation of Vatican City State

1946 Formation of republic

FACTS ABOUT ITALY

Capital Rome

Population 57,300,000

Language Italian

National day First Sunday in June

The Italian tricolour emerged from the flags used in the new republics set up by the French in north Italy from 1796 onwards. Green is said to have been Napoleon's favourite colour, or it might have been inspired by the local militia uniforms. The first vertical arrangement was used in 1798 in the Cisalpine Republic. After the fall of Napoleon the tricolour went underground until 1848 (the 'Year of Revolutions') when it was temporarily adopted in several Italian states, but permanently in Savoy-Sardinia, whose ruler became King of a united Italy in 1861. The flag then had the shield of Savoy in the centre, and lasted in this form until 1946 when the republic was formed and the shield was removed. A new republican emblem was placed on the naval and civil ensigns.



Mexico

Estados Unidos Mexicanos



Emblem always appears in centre of flag

Emblem depicts Aztec legend of founding of Mexico



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
●	●	●	●	●	●	

OTHER FLAGS

Jack Diagonals of white, green and red with a white anchor in the centre and 3 gold stars

Secretary for National Defence As national, with 4 white stars on the green strip

Secretary of the navy As above, but with white anchor in place of stars

Army of Three Guarantees (1821) Diagonally white, green and red with a gold star on each colour

DATES IN HISTORY

1519–21 Spanish Conquest

1810 Start of independence movement

1821 Declaration of independence; Empire of Iturbide

1864–7 Empire of Maximilian

1910–21 Social revolution

FACTS ABOUT MEXICO

Capital Mexico City

Population 76,000,000

Languages Spanish. Indian languages

National day 16 September

The Mexican struggle for independence from Spain lasted from 1810 to 1821, during which time many different flags were used. The Aztec emblem of Mexico first appeared on a flag in 1812, with the blue and white colours associated with Montezuma. In 1815 a tricolour of white, blue and red was introduced. The green, white and red tricolour began to be used in 1821 (by then the Italian tricolour had been suppressed) and was used at the declaration of independence. The Aztec symbol referred to the legend that they should found their city where they saw an eagle, perched on a cactus, eating a snake. The emblem has changed its forms many times since 1812. From 1821 to 1968 the civil ensign was plain, thus leading to possible confusion with the flag of Italy (see left), but it now has the same form as the national flag.



The Netherlands

Koninkrijk der Nederlanden



The original tricolour

Red was originally orange

Arms are a combination of those of Dutch Republic and those of the House of Orange



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

Royal standard An orange square with a blue cross throughout and a horn in each canton; in the centre the royal shield and crown

Jack 12 alternating triangles of blue, white and red

Amsterdam A horizontal triband of red, black and red with three white saltires on the black

Provinces Each province and municipality has its own arms and flag

DATES IN HISTORY

1568 Revolt against Spain

1579 Union of Utrecht

1581 Declaration of independence and formation of republic

1648 Independence recognized

1795 Conquered by France as Batavian Republic

1806–14 Napoleonic Kingdom

1815 Formation of Kingdom of Netherlands

1830 Secession of Belgium

1940–5 German occupation

FACTS ABOUT THE NETHERLANDS

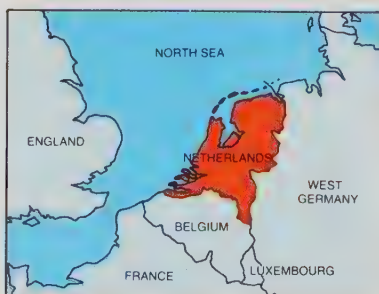
Capital (seat of government) The Hague

Population 14 620 000

Language Dutch

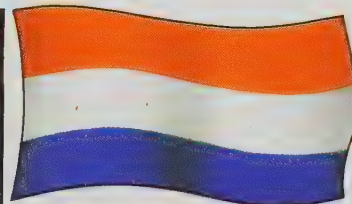
National days 31 January, 5 May

The House of Orange began its association with the Netherlands in the 16th century and led the struggle for independence from Spain. Their livery colours were adopted as a flag by the freedom fighters, especially at sea. These colours were orange, white and blue. After the creation of the republic the orange began to give place to red, although orange remains an important subsidiary colour to this day, and was exported via William III to Ireland (see p.41). The basic arms of the republic were red with a yellow lion holding a bunch of arrows (one for each province), and the motto *Eendragt maakt Magt* ('Unity is Strength'). The Dutch Tricolour was the inspiration of Peter the Great of Russia, and became the 'pan-Slav' colours under Russian leadership.



The Prinsenvlag

The Dutch nationalists who took to the sea to fight against their Spanish overlords in the 1570s, and who had the support of Louis of Nassau and William of Orange, called themselves the Sea Beggars. They carried a flag in William's livery colours of orange, white and blue, and Dutch soldiers wore orange, white and blue armbands in the fighting on land. The flag came to be known as the *Prinsenvlag*, and the orange is now the dynastic colour of the ruling house. The *Prinsenvlag* went on to become the modern Dutch Tricolour (with a red stripe from about 1630) and to inspire many other flags.



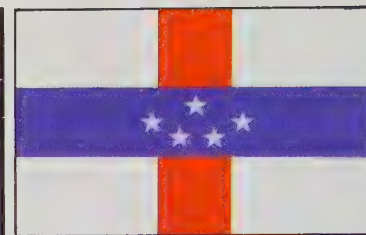
The revolutionary Dutch flag

JOINT KINGDOMS WITH THE NETHERLANDS

The Netherlands is a joint kingdom of the Netherlands, the Antilles and Aruba. Until 1975 it also included Surinam, which is now an independent country (see p.116).

Netherlands Antilles

The Netherlands Antilles is situated in the Caribbean Sea near the South American coast. It is formed of two basic groups: the Windward Islands, consisting of Saba, Sint Maartin and Sint Eustatius; and the Leeward Islands of Bonaire and Curaçao. The islands were discovered by Spaniards between 1493 and 1499, and acquired by the Netherlands between 1632 and 1648. They did not achieve internal self-government until 1954. The capital is Willemstad on Curaçao. Aruba was a member of the Netherlands Antilles

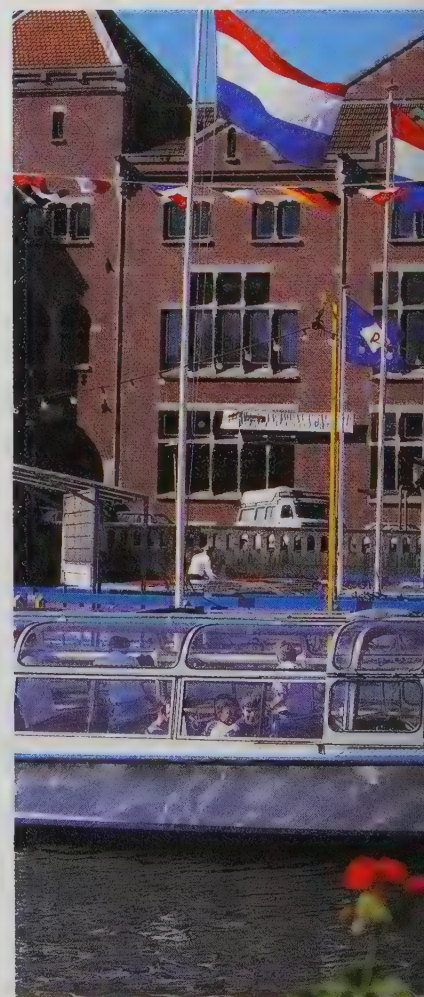


Netherlands Antilles

2:3

until 1986 when it became a separate administration.

The local flag of the Netherlands



Antilles was adopted in 1959 although it then had six stars, one for each island group. There is also a flag for the Governor, and each member except Sint Eustatius has its own arms and flag.

Aruba

The flag of Aruba was adopted in 1976 when the island was administratively part of the Netherlands Antilles. It is now flown jointly with the Dutch flag on land only. To date there is no special flag for the Governor.



Aruba

2:3

Flags adorn the banks of a canal in Amsterdam.



South Africa

Republiek van Suid-Afrika



Original Dutch colours

3 small flags for original parts of the country

Motto 'Unity is strength' derived from arms of Netherlands



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

President Orange over blue with a white triangle based on the hoist charged with the arms

Naval ensign White with a green Scandinavian cross and the national flag in the canton

Orange Free State 5 horizontal stripes of white and orange with the Dutch flag in the canton

Transvaal The Dutch flag with a vertical green strip in the hoist

Bantustans All the Bantustans have their own arms and flags

DATES IN HISTORY

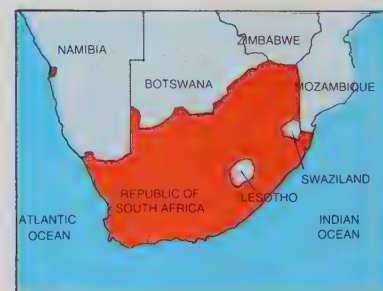
1652 Dutch colony at Cape
1814 Cape ceded to Britain
1844 Annexation of Natal
1852 Formation of Transvaal
1854 Independence of Orange Free State

1899–1902 Boer War
1910 Union of South Africa
1961 Republic outside Commonwealth

FACTS ABOUT SOUTH AFRICA

Capital Pretoria
Population 23,390,000
Languages English, Afrikaans, Nguni, Tsonga, Sotho and Venda language groups
National day 31 May

South Africa was settled by the Dutch in the early 17th century, and they eventually moved inland to form independent republics ('The Great Trek'). The British took over the Cape in 1795 and Natal in 1844, and annexed the Dutch republics in 1900. In 1910 the Union of South Africa was formed. Although it had a coat of arms it did not acquire a national flag until 1928, due to Anglo-Dutch dissensions, and the placing of the Union Jack and the flags of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State on the white strip was intended to reconcile these differences. However, the flag is plainly derived from the *Prinsenvlag* (the flag used by the 16th-century Dutch freedom fighters). Until 1957 it was flown jointly with the Union Jack. There has been no change in the arms since South Africa became a republic. (See also Namibia, p.132.)



Czechoslovakia

Československá Socialistická Republika



Red and white for Czech lands

Red, white and blue for Slovakia



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

President A white square with the arms in the centre, and a wreath of gold linden leaves; all round is a border of red, white and blue pieces

Local flags Numerous in Czechoslovakia, especially in the Czech lands, but there are no other national flags

DATES IN HISTORY

- 1918** Formation of Czechoslovakia
- 1938** Sudetenland ceded to Germany
- 1939** Partition of Czechoslovakia
- 1945** Liberation of Czechoslovakia
- 1948** Communist government
- 1969** Formation of federal republic

FACTS ABOUT CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Capital Prague
Population 15,500,000
Languages Czech, Slovak
National day 9 May

The pan-Slav colours of red, white and blue (at that time used by Imperial Russia) were adopted in Slovakia in 1848. However, it was not until the formation of the Czechoslovak republic in 1918 that the state was able to choose a flag for itself. Several designs were tried until the present one was established in 1920. It gives equal areas to the red and white of Bohemia-Moravia (the Czech lands) and the colours of Slovakia. The flag was suppressed during the German occupation but restored in 1945 and has remained in use since then. The arms date from 1960 and show the lion of Bohemia on a red *pavéza* (an archer's shield). On its shoulder is a shield with an outline of Mount Kriván and four flames. The motto 'Truth shall prevail' was also used on the pre-war arms.



Bulgaria

Narodna Republika Bulgaria



Green replaced blue of pan-Slav colours

Flag without arms for civil use

Rampant lion has remained in arms since 1878



1	2	3	4	5	6	3:5
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

Naval ensign White with a large red star in the hoist and stripes of green and red along the bottom

Chairman of the Council of Ministers Like the naval ensign but with the arms in place of the star

Chairman of Council of State The civil ensign with the previous flag in the canton

Jack Red with an outline white star (like Albania)

DATES IN HISTORY

- 681** Foundation of Bulgaria
- 1396** Absorbed into Ottoman Empire
- 1878** Independent principality
- 1908** Kingdom of Bulgaria
- 1946** Formation of People's Republic
- 1971** People's Socialist Republic

FACTS ABOUT BULGARIA

Capital Sofia
Population 8,950,000
Languages Bulgar, Turkish
National day 9 September

Green, the colour of hope, was substituted for blue in the adapted form of the Russian flag taken over by Bulgaria in 1878 when it became an independent principality. The arms of a gold rampant lion on red also date from this time, but have gone through several changes since then. The Communist regime which took over in 1946 did not alter the basic flag, but placed a new version of the arms in the canton, in which the lion has a light blue background and a red star above. The latest version of the emblem was adopted in 1971, when Bulgaria became a People's Socialist Republic. The dates refer to the foundation of Bulgaria as a nation (681) and to the formation of the Fatherland Front government (1944). The cog-wheel symbolizes industrialization and the red star stands for communism.



Yugoslavia

Socijalistička Federativna Republika Jugoslavija



Colours used by all Yugoslav states

Star is the 'Partisan Star'

Flames represent union of 6 states



1	2	3	4	5	6	1:2
	●	▲	●	▲		

OTHER FLAGS

- President** Square with the national colours and the arms over all in the centre; a border of red, white and blue pieces
- Ensign** Red with the national flag in the canton with a white border, and a wreath around the star
- Jack** Red with the national arms

DATES IN HISTORY

- 1804** Start of struggle for independence in Serbia
- 1830** Home rule achieved
- 1878** Independence of Serbia
- 1918** Formation of Yugoslavia
- 1941-5** German occupation
- 1946** Yugoslav Federal Republic

FACTS ABOUT YUGOSLAVIA

- Capital** Belgrade
- Population** 23,271,000
- Languages** Serbo-Croat, Albanian, Hungarian
- National day** 29 November

Yugoslavia was formed in 1918 by combining the other South Slav states (Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Montenegro) with Serbia. All of them made use of the pan-Slav colours, so it was natural that the flag of the new state would be in these colours. During the monarchy the flags bore the state or royal arms, but these disappeared during the German occupation. Marshall Tito's partisans added a red star to the flag, and in 1946 this was enlarged and given a yellow border. It now appears on the flags of all the constituent republics. The arms also date from 1946. The date is that of the formation of the provisional government at Jajce. Ethnic minorities can use the flags of their 'home' countries, and that of Albania is widely used in Kosovo.



The arms of Croatia and of the city make an unusual roof decoration on St Mark's Church, Zagreb, Yugoslavia.



National flags are mingled with red flags in the traditional May Day parade in Prague, Czechoslovakia.

The Soviet Union (USSR)

Soyuz Sovetskikh Sotsialisticheskikh Respublik



Hammer and sickle of the
'workers' and 'peasants'
Red star of communism



1	2	3	4	5	6	1:2
	●	●	●	●		

OTHER FLAGS

Naval ensign White with a large red star and hammer and sickle, and a blue stripe along the bottom edge

Jack Red with a white star containing a red star, charged with a white hammer and sickle

Army flag Red with a yellow outline star

Minister of Defence White with 2 bands of light blue across the bottom and arms over all

DATES IN HISTORY

1613 Accession of Romanov dynasty

1904 Outbreak of war with Japan (ending 1905)

1905 General strike and Revolution

March 1917 Abdication of Tsar

November 1917 Bolshevik revolution

1918 Soviet Republic of Russia

1922 Formation of USSR

FACTS ABOUT THE SOVIET UNION

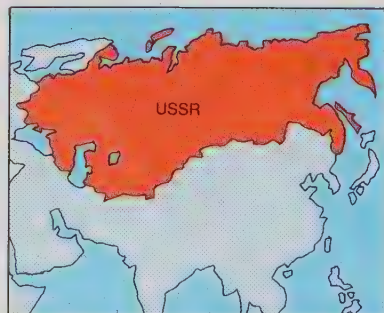
Capital Moscow

Population 284,500,000

Languages Russian and languages of the republics

National days 9 May, 7 October, 7 November

The Red Flag originated in the French Revolution (see p.10) and became the flag of 'people power', especially in the Paris Commune (1871). It appeared in Russia in the rising of 1905 and again in 1917, being particularly used by the left-wing parties. The red star also dates from this period, being used on the flag of the Red Army. The first Soviet Republic, Russia, adopted the Red Flag in July 1918, with its initials in gold in the canton. When the Soviet Union was formed in 1922 the hammer and sickle emblem, first used in Russia, was added to the new flag. The other republics also had red flags, mostly with gold initials or inscriptions. The number of republics has increased to 15 today, and in the last two decades they have acquired more distinctive flags.



Pre-revolutionary Russia

Imperial Russia used the red, white and blue tricolour created by Peter the Great in 1697, a design he borrowed from the Netherlands. The tricolour was the basic national flag and civil ensign, and was the origin of the pan-Slav colours, which were adopted in Serbia, Slovakia, Croatia, Bosnia and many other provinces inhabited by Slavic people under alien rule. The naval ensign was white with a blue saltire, and commemorated St Andrew, the patron saint of Russia. The jack was like the British Union Jack – a combination of the crosses of St George (the patron saint of Moscow) and St Andrew. The Imperial Standard was yellow with the royal arms in the

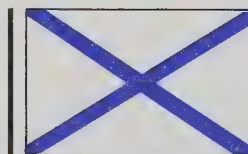


After the Russian Revolution of 1917 red flags with gold inscriptions replaced the flags of the tsarist regime. This one was the national flag from 1918 to 1920.



Red Army

3:5



Peter the Great designed several flags for his ships about 1700.



Before 1914 Russia had alternative civil flags.

centre. These had two forms – one for use on land and one at sea. Both featured the imperial double-headed eagle inherited from the Byzantine empire, bearing the shields of the Tsar's domains. The royal emblems and flags were removed after the abdication of the Tsar in March 1917.

March 1917

The white, blue and red tricolour continued in use until the overthrow of Kerensky's regime in November, as did the double-eagle – but without its crown. Following the Bolshevik take-over, civil war broke out and several rival regimes were established. At the same time, several provinces broke away to form independent states. Finland, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia were able to remain independent, but others, such as the Ukraine and Armenia, were eventually incorporated into the new Soviet state, as were the Baltic republics in 1940.

FLAGS OF THE REPUBLICS

The USSR consists of 15 union republics, known as Soviet Socialist Republics (SSRs). Each has its own arms and flag. Some of the republics are administratively divided into Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republics (ASSRs), and their flags are variations of those of the republics. These variations are noted with each republic flag. The dates following the name refer to the year of joining the USSR as a Soviet Socialist Republic.

RSFSR 1922

The Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic is the largest of the republics. Its capital is Moscow. The flag of 1920 was replaced by the present design in 1954. The vertical blue strip is one-eighth of the length of the flag. The flags of the 16 autonomous republics have their names or initials under the hammer and sickle in their official languages.



1:2

Armenian SSR 1936

The flag dates from 1952. The blue strip is one-quarter of the width of the flag. The pre-Soviet tricolour of red, blue and orange was revived in 1988.



1:2



The Red Flag dominates this parade celebrating the October Revolution.

FLAGS OF THE REPUBLICS

Azerbaijan SSR 1936

The flag was adopted in 1953. The Nakhichevan ASSR adds its name beneath the hammer and sickle. Before incorporation into the USSR the independent republic had a horizontal tricolour of blue, red and green, with a white crescent and star in the centre.



Byelorussian SSR 1922

Byelorussia is a member of the United Nations in its own right. The vertical strip on its flag is described as the 'national ornament' and represents woven cloth. Red and white were the colours of pre-Soviet Byelorussia. This flag was introduced in 1951.



Estonian SSR 1940

The inverted blue and white stripes represent the sea and reflect Estonia's position on the Baltic. This flag was adopted in 1953. In 1988 Estonia regained the right to use its pre-Soviet flag, a horizontal tricolour of blue, black and white.



Georgian SSR 1936

This design was adopted in 1951. The Abkhaz and Adjar ASSRs add their initials under the canton in their own alphabets. When it was an independent republic, Georgia had a flag of cherry red with a canton divided into black over white.



Kazakh SSR 1936

The flag of Kazakh was adopted in 1953, and has a blue stripe of two-ninths of the flag's width.



Kirghiz SSR 1936

The central bands of this flag are one-third of the width, and this design was adopted in 1952.



Latvian SSR 1940

The wavy blue bands on this flag also represent the sea and occupy one-third of the width. The flag was adopted in 1953. In 1988 Latvia regained the right

to use its pre-Soviet flag – dark red with a narrow horizontal stripe of white.



Lithuanian SSR 1940

The flag dates from 1953. The stripe is one-quarter of the width and the fimbriation one-twelfth. In 1988 the pre-Soviet tricolour of yellow, green and red was restored.



Moldavian SSR 1940

The flag was introduced in 1953, with a green stripe equal to one-quarter of the total width.



Tadzhik SSR 1929

The wide white strip is one-fifth of the width and the green one one-tenth. The flag dates from 1953.



Turkmen SSR 1925

The flag is very similar to the Kirghiz one, except for the absence of the central white strip. It dates from 1953.



Ukraine SSR 1922

Like Byelorussia, the Ukraine is a separate member of the United Nations organization. Its distinctive flag was the first of its kind, being adopted in 1949. The pre-Soviet flag was a horizontal bicolour of blue and yellow.



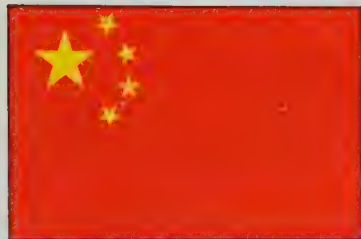
Uzbek SSR 1925

This flag dates from 1952 and has a fimbriated stripe one-fifth of the width. The Karakalpak ASSR flag is similar with the name in Russian and Karakalpak next to the hammer and sickle emblem.



China

Zhonghua Renmin Gonghe Guo



Gold star for communism

Arms depict the Gate of Heavenly Peace



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

Customs ensign As national, with gold key and staff of Mercury in the lower fly

Young Pioneers Red with a gold star and flaming torch in canton

Tibet (in exile) A gold sun rising behind a white mountain on which are 2 lions flanking the sacred jewels; behind the sun are 12 rays of blue and red, and on 3 sides of the flag is a yellow border

Special Economic Region of Hong Kong A flag is under discussion for use after 1997 when the region will return to Chinese rule

DATES IN HISTORY

1840-42 Opium Wars, leading to cession of Hong Kong

1850-64 Taiping Rising

1858 Occupation of Beijing

1900 Boxer Rising

1911 Revolution; secession of Mongolia and Tibet

1921 Formation of Chinese Communist Party

1937-45 Sino-Japanese War

1949 Communist victory

FACTS ABOUT CHINA

Capital Beijing

Population 1,072,200,000

Languages Chinese and at least 8 minority languages

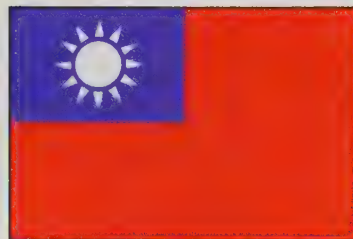
National day 1 October

The Red Flag of communism was first used in China in the 1920s when Soviet Republics were set up in various places. These used flags like that of the Soviet Union. The Red Army was formed in 1928 with another red flag, which bore characters for one and eight (representing 1 August) alongside the gold star (not a hollow star as in the flag of the Soviet Union). This is still the flag of the People's Liberation Army. By 1949 the Communists had come to control all China except for Taiwan, and the People's Republic was inaugurated with a new flag and arms. The four small stars on the flag represent the workers, peasants, bourgeoisie and 'patriotic capitalists'. The central emblem on the arms is the Gate of Heavenly Peace in Beijing.



Taiwan

Republic of China/Ta Chung-hua Min-kuo



'White Sun in Blue Sky over Red Land'

White sun emblem of the Kuo Min Tang



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

President Red with the white sun on a blue disc in the centre, a yellow border all round

Minister of Defence White with 2 crossed anchors beneath 3 stars, all red

Jack Blue with the white sun
Olympic team White with the white sun on a blue disc above the Olympic rings, contained within a curved pentagram of red, white and blue

DATES IN HISTORY

1895 Ceded to Japan

1945 Restored to Nationalist China

1949 Nationalist government transferred to Taiwan

1975 Death of Chiang Kai-shek

1979 US withdrawal of diplomatic recognition

FACTS ABOUT TAIWAN

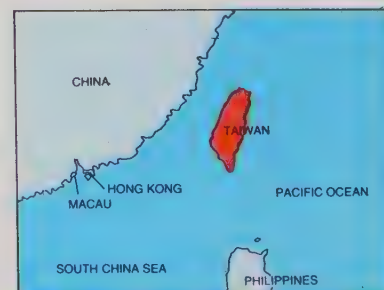
Capital Taipei

Population 19,500,000

Language Chinese

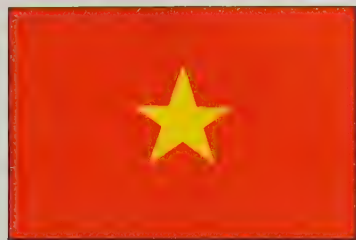
National day 10 October

The red in the flag of Nationalist China represents the land of China itself, or the Han Chinese as opposed to the other races of China. The white sun on the blue field was the flag of the Kuo Min Tang, the nationalist party founded in 1891 by Sun Yat-sen. Chiang Kai-shek, who took over from Sun Yat-sen, formed a government in 1928 which adopted the KMT flag in a red field. From the 1930s onwards this government was at war with both the Communists and the Japanese, but in 1949 was driven to the island of Taiwan, where it still exists, although it is not recognized by any major nation. The flags of 1928 are still in use there. The white sun is said to symbolize the spirit of progress as the 12 points represent the 12 hours of the day.



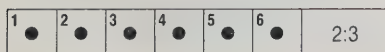
Vietnam

Cộng Hòa Xã Hội Chủ Nghĩa Việt Nam



Red flag of the people with gold star of communism

Flag and arms derived from those of China



OTHER FLAGS

Communist Party of Vietnam Red with a gold hammer and sickle in the canton

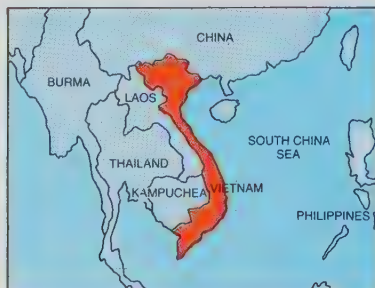
DATES IN HISTORY

- 1858** First French invasion of Annam
- 1862-7** Annexation of Cochinchina
- 1883** French protectorate of Annam
- 1887** Formation of French Indo-China
- 1930** Foundation of Worker's Party of Vietnam (now Communist Party)
- 1940-45** Japanese occupation
- 1945-54** Vietnam war with France
- 1957-75** Second war (with USA from 1964)
- 1975** Viet Cong victory
- 1976** Amalgamation of North and South as one socialist republic

FACTS ABOUT VIETNAM

Capital Hanoi
Population 61 950 000
Languages Vietnamese, French, English
National day 2 September

The red flag was first used in Vietnam by the followers of Ho Chi Minh, who succeeded in establishing a republic in Hanoi in 1945. The flag then had a large yellow star of obtuse design. With a more usual form of star, it was adopted for the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (North Vietnam) in 1955. South Vietnam had a flag dating from 1948, of yellow with three horizontal red stripes. After 1960 this regime was challenged by the National Liberation Front, whose flag was red over blue with a yellow star in the centre. South Vietnam collapsed in 1975, and a year later was amalgamated with the North in a single socialist republic. The flag and arms of the North became those of the whole country (with an amended title on the arms). All the symbolism is inspired by that of China.



Kampuchea (Cambodia)

Ravax Samaki Songkruos Cheat Kampuchea



Temple of Angkor Wat

Arms derived from those of Vietnam



OTHER FLAGS

Democratic Kampuchea Red with a small version of the temple with only 3 towers; this is the flag recognized by the United Nations

DATES IN HISTORY

- 1863** Formation of French protectorate
- 1887** Formation of French Indo-China Union
- 1953** Independent kingdom
- 1970** Khmer Republic
- 1975** Khmer Rouge regime under Pol Pot
- 1979** Vietnamese invasion, formation of people's republic

FACTS ABOUT KAMPUCHEA

Capital Phnom Penh
Population 7 350 000
Languages Khmer, French
National day None known

There are two rival regimes contesting the government of Kampuchea (Cambodia), but both use similar flags, with versions of the temple of Angkor Wat in silhouette. The government in control of Phnom Penh uses the emblem with all five towers visible, but the rival regime displays only three. The temple was first used on a flag in the 19th century. In 1948 the flag was red with wide blue borders at the top and bottom, and the temple, shown in great detail, was white. This lasted until 1970, when the flag became blue with the temple on a red canton and three white stars in the upper fly. This gave way in turn to the three-tower temple flag in 1976. The arms have also changed with the various regimes: the present one is directly copied from that of Vietnam. A new flag 'of unity' was introduced in May 1989.



Laos

Sathamalid Pasathu'pait Pasasim Lao



Red for blood shed for freedom

Blue for modern prosperity

White disc for the bright future

Only example of use of hammer and sickle on arms outside USSR



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

Lao People's Revolutionary Party Red with a hammer and sickle in the canton

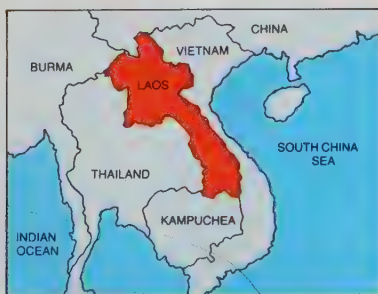
DATES IN HISTORY

1893	Formation of French protectorate
1941-5	Japanese occupation
1945-6	Lao Issara government
1947	Unification of 3 parts of Laos
1949	Independence within French Union
1954	Complete independence
1953-73	Civil war
1975	Formation of people's republic

FACTS ABOUT LAOS

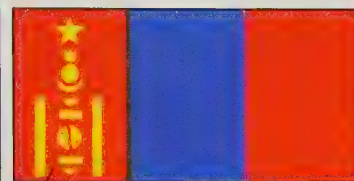
Capital	Vientiane
Population	3,670,000
Languages	Lao, French
National day	2 December

The flag of the Kingdom of Laos was red, with a triple-headed white elephant under a parasol. This signified the ancient name of the country, 'Land of a Million Elephants', and dated from the last century. But from 1953 onwards the royal government was at war with the Pathet Lao, whose flag was blue with a white disc and red borders at top and bottom, dating from about 1956. From 1973 to 1975 the Pathet Lao formed part of the government coalition, but in 1975 it assumed power directly and the King abdicated. Their flag then became the national flag. The arms are like those of Soviet republics (see pp.49-50) and symbolize the main elements in the economy (rice, forestry, industry, hydro-electricity etc.) under the hammer and sickle of communism. The name of the state appears on the red scroll.



Mongolia

Bügd Nayramdakh Mongol Ard Uls



Flag was originally all red

Blue is the Mongol colour

Soyonbo emblem



1	2	3	4	5	6	1:2
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

None

DATES IN HISTORY

13th century	Mongol empire under Genghis Khan
1294	Break up of Mongol empire on death of Kublai Khan
1691	Annexation by China
1911	Independence
1919	Re-annexation by China and civil war
1921	Provisional People's Government
1924	Abolition of monarchy and formation of people's republic

FACTS ABOUT MONGOLIA

Capital	Ulan Bator
Population	1,970,000
Languages	Chalcha Mongol, Turki
National day	11 July

Mongolia was the first country outside the Soviet Union to adopt a Communist form of government, and which is still in power. This was in 1924, and its flag was naturally a red one. In its centre was placed the *soyonbo*, the traditional emblem of Mongolia, in blue, the colour of the Mongol race (symbolizing the sky). The *soyonbo* is a compendium of emblems, including the yin-yang (see p.110). At that time the *soyonbo* included a stylized lotus at the bottom, but when the present flag was introduced in 1940 this was omitted and a gold star was added at the top. The national emblem includes the *soyonbo* in the red star at the top. The main feature is a Mongol riding across the steppes. The initials of the republic in the Cyrillic alphabet are on a ribbon of the national colours.



Denmark

Kongeriget Danmark



Flag known as the
Dannebrog, the Danish Cloth

One of the world's oldest
flags

Fly end can be swallow-
tailed



1	2	3	4	5	6	28:37
▲	■	■	■	●	▲	

OTHER FLAGS

Naval ensign The *splitflag* version of the national flag, with fly end arm of cross cut off square

Royal standard The *splitflag* with the royal arms on a white square in the centre of the cross

House pennant A long narrow swallow-tailed form of the national flag; used to decorate the flagstaff when no flag is flying

DATES IN HISTORY

c.940 Denmark united by Gorm the Old

c.980 Conversion to Christianity
1018–35 Reign of King Knud of Denmark, Norway and England

1375–1523 Scandinavian Union

1807–14 Napoleonic Wars

1814 Norway ceded to Sweden

1849 Liberal constitution

1864 Loss of Schleswig-Holstein to Prussia

1920 North Schleswig restored to Denmark

1940–45 German occupation

FACTS ABOUT DENMARK

Capital Copenhagen

Population 5,120,000

Language Danish

National days 16 April, 5 June

The original form of the Danish cross was a square flag with an equal-armed cross. This was first depicted in the royal arms of King Valdemar IV Atterdag (1340–75), although according to folk legend it dates from the Battle of Lyndanisse in 1219, when it is supposed to have fallen from heaven to the Danes. Over the years the arm of the cross on the flying end became extended into the form known today as a Scandinavian Cross. Also in Denmark, the use of a swallow-tailed flag, known as a *splitflag*, became standard practice. Flags in this form are now only for royal or official use. Denmark once dominated Scandinavia and was united at one time or another with the other states, so it is likely that flag practices spread to them from Denmark. However, the actual construction of the Scandinavian cross and the swallow-tailed forms is different in each country.



SCANDINAVIAN DEPENDENCIES

Faroe Islands

The Faroe Islands, situated in the North Atlantic, are a Danish dependency. The home rule movement began in the 1900s, although the *Lagting* (local parliament) had already been restored in 1852. In 1919 some Faroese students in Denmark designed the present flag, inspired by the example of Iceland (see p.56). The cross form and the three colours express solidarity with the rest of Scandinavia. By 1931 the flag was semi-official, and in 1940 became official for use at sea. In 1948 it was made official for land and sea. In 1959 the blue was altered to the present shade.



8:11

Greenland

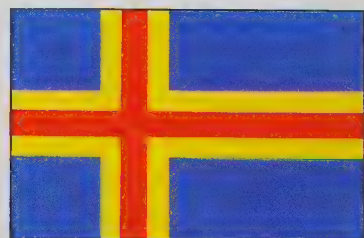
Another Danish dependency, Greenland is a large island mainly within the Arctic Circle. It did not achieve home rule until 1979, and Eskimo parties have since then dominated the local parliament, the *Landsting*. There was then a competition to find a local flag, but agreement was not reached until 1985. The design is intended to represent the sun rising over the polar ice. The flag is used on land and at sea.



5:9

Aland Islands

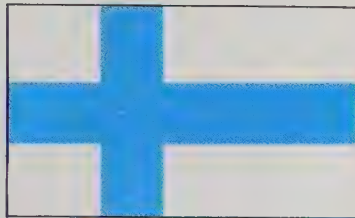
The Aland Islands are an autonomous Finnish group in the Baltic Sea. As part of Finland, the islands were ceded to Russia in 1809, but are largely inhabited by Swedes. They were granted self-government in 1921. The flag was created at this time, but remained unofficial until 1954. It is only for use on land.



17:26

Finland

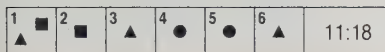
Suomen Tasavalta/Republiken Finland



Shade of blue has changed over the years

Scandinavian cross

Flag can have swallow-tail and tongue



OTHER FLAGS

State flag As national, with shield of arms at centre of cross

Naval ensign As above, swallow-tailed with tongue

President As naval ensign, with cross of Order of Freedom in canton

DATES IN HISTORY

- 1157 Conquered by Sweden
- 1284 Duchy under Swedish rule
- 1809 Finland ceded to Russia
- 1905 National Strike
- 1917 Declaration of independence
- 1919 Formation of republic
- 1939-40 War with Soviet Union
- 1941-4

FACTS ABOUT FINLAND

Capital Helsinki
Population 4,930,000
Languages Finnish, Swedish
National day 6 December

The heraldic colours of Finland are red and yellow, and in the course of the independence movement several flags were designed in these colours.

However, popular opinion favoured the blue and white combination first used in 1862 and presented as a Scandinavian cross the next year. The colours were said to represent the blue lakes and white snowfields of the country. During the civil war (1917-18) a banner of the arms was in use, but on 29 May 1918 the present flag was adopted. The arms were given to the Duchy of Finland in 1581 and originally had a ducal crown over the shield. This was omitted after 1920. The device represents Finland's victory over eastern enemies. The nine roses are for the ancient provinces.



Sweden

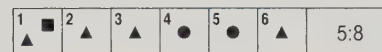
Konungariket Sverige



Scandinavian cross

Colours derived from national arms

Can be used in swallow-tail and tongue form



OTHER FLAGS

Naval ensign Like the national flag, but with a swallow-tail and pointed tongue

Royal standard The naval ensign with the royal arms on a white square in the centre of the cross

Scania Like the national flag, but with a red field; used in the southern province seeking home rule

County and commune flags Square banners of the arms of the councils

DATES IN HISTORY

- c.1000 Conversion to Christianity
- c.1140 Amalgamation of Swedes and Goths
- 1248-66 Birger Jarl, first of the Folkung dynasty
- 1397 Dynastic union with Denmark and Norway
- 1523 Accession of Gustavus I Vasa
- 1809 Finland lost to Russia
- 1814 Union with Norway
- 1905 Secession of Norway

FACTS ABOUT SWEDEN

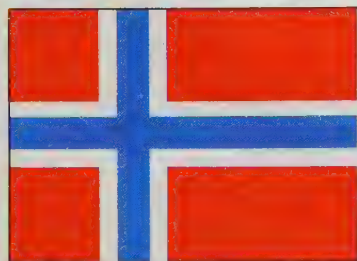
Capital Stockholm
Population 8,400,000
Language Swedish
National days 6 June, 30 May

The basic arms of Sweden are three gold crowns on blue, and these gave rise to the colours of the flag, which dates from the accession of King Gustavus I Vasa. The form is based on that of Sweden although the construction is somewhat different. As in Denmark, there is a swallow-tail version for official use, but this has a pointed tongue (an extension of the cross). It was reserved for state purposes in 1663. The cross is used to divide the quarters of the royal shield. The Swedish royal arms also contain the device of the Folkung dynasty (gold lion on blue and white) and the arms of Vasa and of Bernadotte, Napoleon's marshal who became King of Sweden in 1818. Swedish Flag Day is celebrated on 6 June, the anniversary of the accession of King Gustav. From 1844 to 1906 the canton of the flag contained the Swedish-Norwegian union mark.



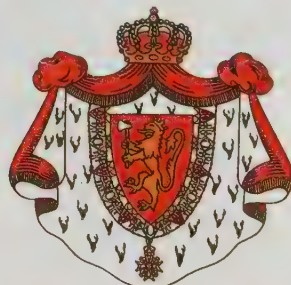
Norway

Kongeriket Norge



Norse colours

Basis is flag of Denmark



1	2	3	4	5	6	8:11
	▲	▲	●	●	▲	

OTHER FLAGS

Royal standard	Red with the lion and axe in gold
Naval ensign	National flag, swallow-tailed with tongue
Jack	Square version of national flag
City of Oslo	4 horizontal stripes of blue and white

DATES IN HISTORY

872	Harold Fairhair King of all Norway
995	Conversion to Christianity under Olaf Trygvesson
1380	United with Denmark
1397	Dynastic union of Norway, Denmark and Sweden
1523	Separation from Sweden
1814	Ceded to Sweden
1905	End of union with Sweden and creation of independent kingdom
1940-45	German occupation

FACTS ABOUT NORWAY

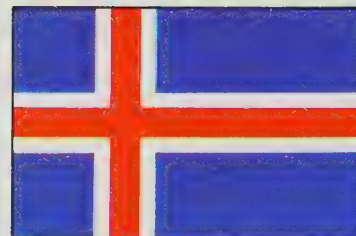
Capital	Oslo
Population	4,200,000
Languages	Bokmal Nynorsk (written and spoken Norwegian)
National day	17 May

Norway tried to achieve independence in 1814 under a flag like that of Denmark but with the Norwegian lion and axe in the canton. However, the country was ceded to Sweden, and had to use the Swedish flag with a distinctive canton. The parliament adopted a distinct Norwegian flag in 1821 in which the Danish cross was overlaid by a blue cross, a combination inspired by the French *Tricolore*. During the 19th century this was used with a 'union mark' in the canton, consisting of the combined crosses of Sweden and Norway. In 1905 Norway became independent under its own king and flag. The lion and axe was adopted as the royal standard and national arms. The Norwegian flag in turn inspired those of Iceland and the Faroe Islands, and the red, white and blue became known as the 'Norse colours'.



Iceland

Lýðveldio Ísland



Norse colours

Figures from medieval Icelandic legend



1	2	3	4	5	6	18:25
▲	▲	▲	●	●	▲	

OTHER FLAGS

Naval ensign	As national in <i>splitflag</i> form
President	As above with arms on a white square in centre of cross
Reykjavik	White with the shield of arms in the centre

DATES IN HISTORY

874	First settled by Vikings
c.1000	Conversion to Christianity
1263	Under Norwegian rule
1380	Transferred to Denmark
1918	Separate realm of Danish crown
1944	Republic

FACTS ABOUT ICELAND

Capital	Reykjavik
Population	244,009
Language	Icelandic
National day	17 June

The flag of Iceland is the reverse (in colours) of that of Norway, from which it is clearly derived. It was introduced in 1913 when the island was still ruled by Denmark and was seeking home rule. It was made official in 1915 but at first it could only be used in home waters. In 1918 it was made legal for all purposes. The coat of arms was introduced in 1919, replacing the previous one of a crowned silver falcon on blue (still the national decoration). In 1944 the crown was removed from the arms, which are now supported by four figures from the medieval history *The Lives of the Kings*, standing on a representation of the island. The flag can be used in *splitflag* form, like that of Denmark.



Switzerland

Schweiz/Suisse/Svizzera



Only square national flag
Cross symbolized 'crusade'
for freedom



1	2	3	4	5	6	1:1
	●	●	●	▲		

Civil ensign

OTHER FLAGS

As national, in proportions 2:3

Army flag

As national, with gold fringe and cravat in the national colours

Schwyz

Red with a couped cross in the canton

DATES IN HISTORY

- 1291** 3 cantons of Schwyz, Uri and Unterwalden unite against Holy Roman Empire
- 1513** Confederation of the 13 cantons
- 1648** Independence recognized
- 1798** Formation of Helvetic Republic
- 1848** Federal government formed

FACTS ABOUT SWITZERLAND

- Capital** Bern
- Population** 6,500,000
- Languages** German, French, Italian, Romansch
- National day** 1 August

The flag of Switzerland is probably the archetypal European flag, and many states in medieval Europe made use of a plain cross on red, as for example Denmark. In Switzerland it was first used in Schwyz, one of the three cantons which formed the original league in 1291, and was adopted as the common badge at the battle of Laupen in 1339, and as the flag of the confederation in 1480. Its use was very restricted until 1848 when it was officially defined and regulated. Each canton has its own arms, and in banner form these are used as local flags, as are those of every commune.



Greece

Elliniki Dimokratia



Canton was original flag
9 stripes for syllables of
national motto

Shade of blue has altered
over the years



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
	●	●	●	●	●	

President

OTHER FLAGS

A blue square with the national arms in the centre

Greek

Yellow with a 2-headed black eagle (also for Mount Athos)

Royal

standard (until 1973)

DATES IN HISTORY

- 1814** First nationalist secret societies
- 1821–29** War of Liberation with Turkey
- 1832–62** Reign of Otto I
- 1863** House of Denmark on throne
- 1924–35** First republic
- 1935** Monarchy restored
- 1941–4** German occupation
- 1946–9** Civil war
- 1973** Second republic

FACTS ABOUT GREECE

- Capital** Athens
- Population** 9,970,000
- Language** Greek (katharevousa and demotiki)
- National day** 25 March

The motto of those who fought for independence in the early 19th century was *Eleutheria i Thanatos* ('Liberty or Death'), and the nine stripes of the flag are said to represent these syllables, although it is more likely that the design is inspired by the Stars and Stripes. Blue and white and the cross flag also date from this period. Until 1970 it was usual for the plain cross flag to be used inland, and the striped flag at sea and for official purposes, so that Greece in effect had two national flags. In 1970 the plain cross version was abolished. In 1974 the original situation was restored, but the following year the plain cross was made the only national flag. The present coat of arms also dates from that time. In 1978 the striped flag was restored as the only national flag. These changes reflect the shifts in the political situation in modern Greece.



Albania

Republika Popullore Socialiste e Shqipërisë



Colour of field has changed from dark to bright red

A true heraldic banner – reproduces the original shield

2 heads signify rule over East and West in Roman times



1	2	3	4	5	6	
	●	●	●			5:7

Civil ensign

OTHER FLAGS

Horizontal triband of red-black-red with yellow-edged red star in centre

Naval ensign

White with black eagle, yellow-edged red star, and red stripe along lower edge

Jack

Red with a large white-edged red star

Albanian Labour Party

Red with large white initials PPSH

DATES IN HISTORY

1444–66	Campaign of Skanderbeg
1478	Annexed to Turkish Empire
1912	Successful revolt against Turks; declaration of independence 28 November
1914	Reign of William of Wied
1914–21	Allied occupation
1920	Republic formed
1925	Kingdom under Ahmed Zogu (King Zog)
1939	Italian invasion
1944	Liberation

FACTS ABOUT ALBANIA

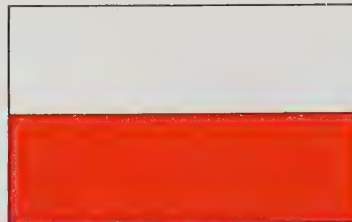
Capital	Tirana
Population	3,080,000
Language	Albanian <i>Tosk</i> dialect
National day	28 November

The double-headed eagle was the emblem of the Byzantine Empire, to which Albania belonged for several centuries. In the 15th century it was used by the national hero George Castriota, or Skanderbeg, in the campaign to stave off the Ottoman Turks. However, Albania belonged to their empire until 1912 when independence was declared under the flag of Skanderbeg. During the brief reign of William of Wied, the eagle had a white star over its head and lightning flashes in its claws, but after this only the black eagle was used on a dark red field. From 1939 to 1942 the eagle was surrounded by Italian and fascist emblems, but in 1945 the yellow-edged, red star of communism was placed over it. The new version of the arms and the flag were confirmed on 14 March 1946. The date is that of the National Anti-Fascist Congress at Permët.



Poland

Polska Rzeczpospolita Ludowa



Red and white from arms

Poles in exile place crown on eagle's head



1	2	3	4	5	6	
	●	▲	■	●	■	▲
						5:8

Civil ensign

As national, with the shield in centre of white strip

Naval ensign

As above, but swallow-tailed and with 1:2 proportions

Jack

Square, white over red, a counterchanged cross pattée over all; in centre of this, a red disc with an arm and hand holding a sabre

Solidarity Movement

As national, with stylized name *Solidarność* in red on white strip

DATES IN HISTORY

966	Conversion of Mieszko I
1018	Peace of Bautzen
1241	Mongol invasion
1386	Union with Lithuania
1772, 1793, 1795	Partitions of Poland
1807–14	Grand Duchy of Warsaw
1918	Declaration of independence
1939	German/Russian invasion
1944	Liberation and second republic
1947	People's republic

FACTS ABOUT POLAND

Capital	Warsaw
Population	37,600,000
Language	Polish
National day	22 July

The Polish flag is a typical livery colour flag, using the two main colours of the shield of arms. These arms (with a crowned eagle) are recorded from 1228, and appeared in the red and white colours from 1241. They were used by the Kingdom of Poland until its extinction in 1795, and in Russian Poland after 1815. They were re-adopted by the new republic in 1918/19. In 1927 a gold border was added to the shield, and the emblems of that period continue to be used in exile. The gold border and crown were removed when the People's Republic was formed, but most Polish flags have remained unaltered otherwise. The flag of the President (which was used by General Sikorski during the war) was a banner of the arms, including a zig-zag border, but it is not now in use.



Austria

Republik Österreich



A banner of the ancient arms

Black eagle of the Holy Roman Empire



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
■	■	■	●	●		

OTHER FLAGS

State flag As national, but with arms over all in centre

Military ensign As national, with arms in white shield near hoist

Members of government As national, but square, with arms on white shield and border of red and white triangles

City of Vienna Red with a white cross throughout

DATES IN HISTORY

976–1276 Rule of the House of Babenberg

1276–1918 House of Hapsburg

1519–56 Reign of Charles V, followed by division of Hapsburg realms

1740–80 Reign of Maria Theresa

1804 Formation of Austrian Empire

1867 Dual monarchy with Hungary

1918 First Republic of Austria

1938 Annexation by Germany

1945 Liberation and Second Republic

FACTS ABOUT AUSTRIA

Capital Vienna

Population 7,570,000

Language German

National day 26 October

The arms of Austria can be traced back to Duke Frederick II in 1230, and are a good example of 'arms of dominion'. They were used almost entirely in heraldic form until 1786 when the red-white-red stripes were used as the basis for the new naval ensign, with a further crowned shield over all. In 1867 they were combined with the red-white-green of Hungary to make the joint civil ensign. With the dissolution of the Empire in 1918, the Austrian colours alone were retained. The black eagle of the Holy Roman Empire, previously used by the Emperor, was retained in simplified form, with the hammer and sickle replacing the orb and sceptre. When the republic was restored in 1945 the flag and arms were revived, with broken shackles attached to the eagle's legs.



Belgium

Royaume de Belgique/Koninkrijk België



3 main colours of arms

Tricolour form derived from France



Arms originally those of Brabant

1	2	3	4	5	6	13:15
■	■	■	●	▲		

OTHER FLAGS

Civil ensign As national, but in 2:3

State ensign As civil, but with crown and black lion in centre

Royal standard Maroon with crowned shield in centre and royal cypher in each corner

Walloon community Yellow with a large red cockerel

Flemish community Yellow with a black rampant lion

DATES IN HISTORY

1363 Part of Duchy of Burgundy

1477 Part of Hapsburg dominions

1579 Divided from Netherlands by Union of Utrecht

1713 Ceded to Austria

1787 Rising against Austrians

1792 Conquered by France

1815 United with Netherlands

1830 Independence

1914–18, 1940–45 German occupations

FACTS ABOUT BELGIUM

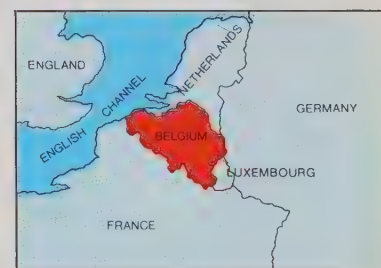
Capital Brussels

Population 9,860,000

Languages French, Flemish, German

National day 21 July

The Belgian colours were first used in that country in the rising against their Austrian overlords, who were expelled in 1789. From 1792 until 1814 the country was part of France, and from then until 1830 united with the Netherlands. The Belgian colours were used by those wishing to free themselves from this forcible union, and they claimed they were derived from the arms of Brabant. At first they were horizontal, but after independence the government decreed that they should be vertical, like the French *Tricolore*. When the Duke of Saxe-Coburg became King he added the shield of Saxony to the arms, but this is not now used. The motto of Belgium, which can be in French or Flemish, is the same as that of the United Netherlands (see p.44). The flag for use on land has very unusual proportions of 13:15, laid down in 1831.



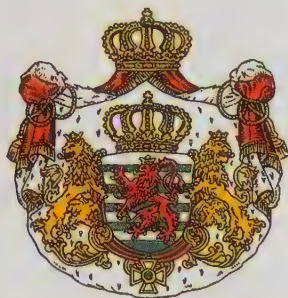
Luxembourg

Grand-Duché de Luxembourg/Großherzogtum Luxemburg/
Groussherzogdem Letzebuerg



Colours derived from arms

Arms date from at least 1288



1	2	3	4	5	6	3:5
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

Civil ensign An armorial banner, i.e. 10 stripes of white and blue with the red lion over all

Ducal standard A blue square with shield of Luxembourg with crown and collar in the centre, surrounded by 7 gold rectangles; reverse in national colours

DATES IN HISTORY

- 963 County of Luxembourg
- 1354 Made a Duchy
- 1795 Conquered by France
- 1815 A realm of the Dutch royal house
- 1839 Walloon area ceded to Belgium
- 1890 End of union with Dutch crown
- 1922 Economic union with Belgium
- 1914–18, 1940–44 German occupations

FACTS ABOUT LUXEMBOURG

Capital Luxembourg
Population 369,500
Languages Letzeburgesch, German, French
National day 23 June



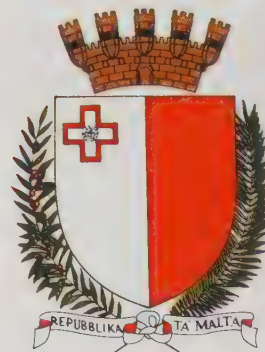
Malta

Repubblika Ta' Malta



Medal of the George Cross

Colours of the Knights of Malta



Malta has both a logo and a coat of arms

1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

Civil ensign Red with the Maltese cross in white, and a white border all round

Sovereign Order of St John (Now based in Rome) red with a white cross throughout

DATES IN HISTORY

- 1090 Occupation by Normans (Kingdom of Sicily)
- 1530 Malta given to Knights of St John
- 1798 Conquest by Napoleon
- 1800 Rising and British occupation
- 1814 Ceded to Britain
- 1947 Self-government
- 1964 Independence
- 1974 Republic

FACTS ABOUT MALTA

Capital Valletta
Population 343,334
Languages Maltese, English
National day 31 March

From 1530 to 1798 Malta was ruled by the Knights of the Order of St John of Jerusalem, whose badge was a white cross (a 'Maltese' cross) on red. Flags with this badge were very widely used. Plain red and white were the livery colours, and after Malta was ceded to Britain the colours alone were used, although some early flag-badges also employed the Maltese cross. In 1943 the George Cross (the medal given to the Maltese people for their heroism during World War II) was added on a blue canton, and in 1947 a flag of these arms was created. When the country became independent the only change made to the flag was to remove the blue background to the medal. The arms also date from 1964, but in 1975 they were superseded by the logo, which depicts a traditional fishing boat and a beach. Since 1987 the arms have begun to be used again.



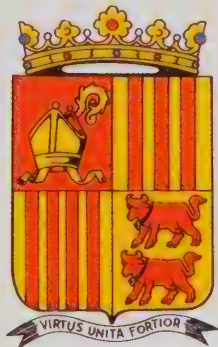
Andorra

Principat d'Andorra/Principado de Andorra/Principauté de Andorra



Red and yellow from arms of Foix

Tricolour form as in flag of France



Many variant forms of arms

1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

None

DATES IN HISTORY

- 1278** Joint sovereignty granted to Count of Foix and Bishop of Urgel
- 1589** Henry IV of France inherits rights from Foix
- 1793** France renounces rights to Andorra
- 1806** Andorrans petition France; Napoleon I agrees to joint sovereignty

FACTS ABOUT ANDORRA

Capital Andorra la Vella
Population 56,000
Languages Catalan, Spanish, French
National day 8 September (Day of the Virgin of Meritxell)

The arms of Andorra combine those of the authorities to which it has been subject over the centuries: Foix, yellow with three vertical red stripes; Catalonia, the same with four stripes; Béarn, yellow with two red cows; and the Bishopric of Urgel, represented by a mitre and crozier, usually gold on red. The arms are displayed in many variant forms. Red and yellow were the original flag colours, but blue was added in the 19th century, probably to symbolize the sovereign rights of France, which Henry IV inherited from Foix and Béarn and which are now vested in the President. The other sovereign is the Bishop of Urgel. The motto is 'United strength is greater', and the shield usually bears a coronet. During the Spanish Republic (1931–9) the stripes were horizontal with the coronet in the centre.



Romania

Republica Socialistă România



Colours of Moldavia and Walachia

Communist arms since 1948



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

- President** A square version of tricolour with arms over all in centre, and border of white and red
- Minister of National Defence** In 1:2, with tricolour in hoist with arms over all, and a white fly with a red border, containing a large red star
- Jack** A square version of the national flag with 2 crossed white anchors on the blue strip

DATES IN HISTORY

- 1350** Creation of principalities of Walachia and Moldavia
- 1396** Walachia tributary to Turkey
- 1512–29** Moldavia tributary to Turkey
- 1829–34** Russian occupation, followed by autonomy
- 1848** Nationalist rising
- 1861** United as Romania
- 1867** Accession of Prince Charles of Hohenzollern
- 1877** Independence
- 1918** Acquisition of Transylvania and other provinces
- 1947** People's republic

FACTS ABOUT ROMANIA

Capital Bucharest
Population 22,700,000
Languages Romanian, Hungarian, German
National days 9 May, 23 August

Romania originally consisted of two principalities, Moldavia and Walachia, which freed themselves from Turkish rule in the early 19th century. They each had their own arms and flags from 1834. The arms gave rise to the colours, which were united in the flag of 1848, in a style inspired by the French *Tricolore*. However, this did not become official until 1867. Since then the arms in various forms have appeared in the centre. During the kingdom, these represented the various parts of Romania and were supported on the breast of a black eagle. In 1948 the emblem of the People's Republic was substituted, which depicts the forests and mountains, with an oil-derrick and the rising sun. There have been alterations since, and the latest form dates from 1965. The red star was added to the arms in 1952.



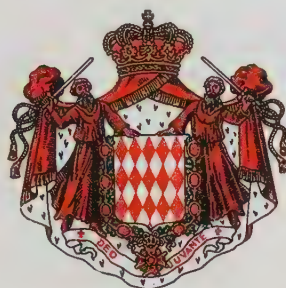
Monaco

Principauté de Monaco/Principato di Monaco



Heraldic colours of the Grimaldis

Flag is similar to that of Indonesia



Motto is 'With God's help'

1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3*
	●	●	●	●		

OTHER FLAGS

Princely and state flag	White with the whole arms in the centre
Prince's personal flag	White square with the princely cypher in gold
Monaco-Ville	White with crowned shield in centre (containing an armed monk holding a Grimaldi shield)

DATES IN HISTORY

1297	To Grimaldi
1489	Independence
1793-1814	French occupation
1815	Under protection of Savoy-Sardinia
1861	Under French protection
1951	Monetary and economic union with France

FACTS ABOUT MONACO

Capital	Monaco-Ville
Population	27,063
Languages	French, Monegasco
National day	19 November

Monaco has been an independent principality since 1297 when it was acquired by the House of Grimaldi, and until 1860 (when France took over the hinterland) was reckoned as part of Italy. The Grimaldi arms are lozenges of white and red and have given rise to the flag colours. The shield is surrounded by the collar of the order of St Charles, supported by two armed monks and placed on a pavilion with a princely crown. The monks refer to the legend that the Grimaldi seized the fortress disguised as monks. Earlier flags often had the crowned shield on a white field, but the present design was laid down by Prince Charles III in 1881. The flag is in practice made up in the proportions 2:3, thus making it identical with that of Indonesia (see p.106).



Liechtenstein

Fürstentum Liechtenstein



Coronet distinguishes flag from that of Haiti

Flag can be displayed vertically (with blue on left and coronet upright)



1	2	3	4	5	6	3:5
	■		●			

OTHER FLAGS

Prince's standard	Blue over red with a yellow border; the arms over all in the centre
State flag	As above, without yellow border
Commune of Vaduz	Horizontally red, white and red in 1:1:2
Commune of Schellenberg	4 horizontal stripes of black and yellow

DATES IN HISTORY

1342	Creation of County of Vaduz
1434	United with Schellenberg
1699	Schellenberg sold to Prince of Liechtenstein
1712	Vaduz sold
1719	Creation of principality
1806	Effective independence
1924	Monetary and economic union with Switzerland

FACTS ABOUT LIECHTENSTEIN

Capital	Vaduz
Population	27,400
Language	German
National day	16 August

The arms of the principality are those of the princely house of Liechtenstein, which acquired the two counties of Schellenberg and Vaduz in 1699 and 1712. They display quarters for their former possessions in Silesia, Saxony, Troppau, Friesland and Jägerndorf, with their own arms of yellow over red in the centre. The principality was created in 1719 and achieved effective independence in 1806. Liechtenstein has two sets of colours: those of the Prince (yellow and red) and those of the country (blue and red). The latter became the national flag in 1921, but in 1937 had the princely coronet added to make the flag distinct from that of Haiti (after the problem had arisen at the 1936 Olympic Games). The flags were all regularized in legislation of 1982.



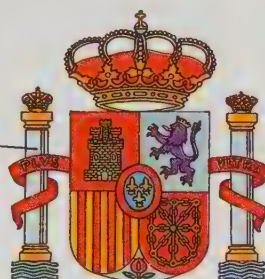
Spain

Reino de España



Heraldic colours of Castile and Aragon

Arms display quarters for the traditional kingdoms of Spain



Pillars of Hercules

1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

State flag As national, with arms on yellow strip

Jack A square flag with the heraldic quarters of Castile, León, Aragon and Navarre

Royal standard Purple, with the royal arms in the centre

OTHER FLAGS

DATES IN HISTORY

711 Moorish invasion

1035 Beginnings of Christian reconquest

1469 Union of Castile and Aragon (Kingdom of Spain)

1492 Conquest of Granada

1873 First republic

1931 Second republic

1936-9 Civil war leading to Franco regime

1975 Accession of Juan Carlos I

FACTS ABOUT SPAIN

Capital Madrid

Population 38,900,000

Languages Castilian, Catalan, Basque, Galician

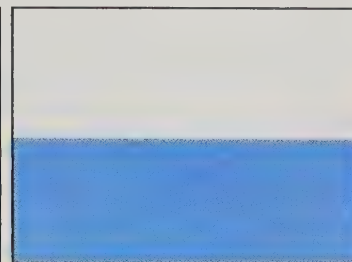
National days 24 June, 12 October (The Day of the Hispanic Race)

The arms of Spain have always displayed quarters representing the 'arms of dominion' of its sovereigns, starting with the castle of Castile, the lion of León and the red stripes of Aragon. The colours of the flag are taken from the dominant ones in these arms, and the modern flag was created out of them in 1785, originally with the arms of Castile and León on the yellow strip. The republic of 1931 abolished this flag, but it was restored by Franco, who also created a new form of the arms (placed on the state flag). These arms were modified in 1977 and replaced by the present ones in 1981. The motto refers to the idea that there is a further Spain beyond the Pillars of Hercules: before Columbus the motto was *Ne plus ultra* (literally meaning 'There is nothing beyond').



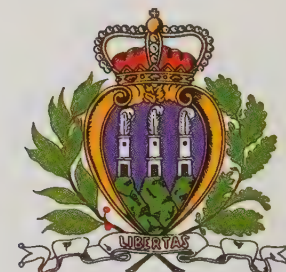
San Marino

Serenissima Repubblica di San Marino



Principal colours of the arms

Wreath of oak and laurel



1	2	3	4	5	6	3:4
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

Flag-wavers Like several other Italian cities, San Marino is a centre for flag-waving displays. The flags feature the arms of the *Castellini* or those of the Federation of Crossbowmen

Christian Democrats of San Marino As national, with figure of St Marinus in black outline on white disc

OTHER FLAGS

DATES IN HISTORY

855 Sovereignty recognized by Bishop of Rimini

1462 Recognized by Pope

1799 Recognized by Napoleon

1862 Treaty with Italy

FACTS ABOUT SAN MARINO

Capital San Marino

Population 23,000

Language Italian

National day 3 September

The country of San Marino lies on the slopes of Mount Titano. The traditional arms of San Marino depict the three citadels on Mount Titano - Guaita, Cesta and Montale - and which at one time had ostrich feather vanes. The motto is that of the 4th-century founder of the republic, St Marinus, who intended it to be a refuge for those fleeing from persecution. The flag is first known from 1797, and Napoleon recognized it as that of an independent state in 1799. The flag and arms were regularized when San Marino made a treaty with the new Kingdom of Italy in 1862. The ordinary flag is plain, but for official purposes the arms are placed over all in the centre.



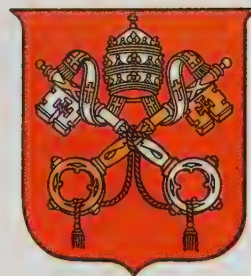
Vatican City

Stato della Città del Vaticano



Colours of the gold and silver keys

Keys of St Peter



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3*
---	---	---	---	---	---	------

OTHER FLAGS

Pope John Paul II As City flag, with his own arms in the white panel

DATES IN HISTORY

- 1798-9 First Republic of Rome
- 1849-50 Second Republic
- 1870 Rome incorporated in Italian Kingdom
- 1929 Lateran pacts and creation of City State
- 1978 Accession of John Paul II

FACTS ABOUT VATICAN CITY

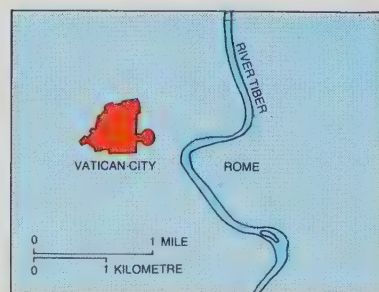
Territory City consists of 44 hectares (109 acres) in central Rome and 12 buildings in or near Rome

Population 1,000

Languages Italian, Latin

National days Christmas, Easter

The Keys of St Peter are the traditional emblem of the Papacy, derived from the words of Christ to the apostle: 'I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven'. But for many centuries the flags of the Papal States were white or red, and the traditional cockade was red and yellow. This was changed by Pius VII in 1808 during the French occupation, and the colours then appeared on flags. The current Vatican flag was authorized as the merchant flag of the Papal States in 1825 and remained so until the extinction of the states in 1870. It was revived in 1929 following the creation of the Vatican City State. Yellow and white are now the recognized papal colours, and are often used as plain flags on Roman Catholic occasions. Each Pope has his own coat of arms but the present Pope is the first one in modern times to have his own personal flag.



Hungary

Magyar Népköztársaság



Traditional colours of arms

Tricolour form inspired by France



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

Military ensign Red with the national emblem near the hoist and a border of red, white and green triangles

Budapest City 3 horizontal stripes of red, yellow and green with the city arms in the centre

DATES IN HISTORY

- 1001 Independent Christian kingdom
- 1370-1526 Union with Poland
- 1526 Defeat by Ottoman Turks
- 1664 Recovered from Turks
- 1849 Kossuth Free State
- 1867 Dual monarchy with Austria
- 1918 Separated from Austria under regent
- 1945 Republic
- 1949 People's republic
- 1956 Anti-communist rising

FACTS ABOUT HUNGARY

Capital Budapest

Population 10 620 000

Language Magyar

National day 4 April

The traditional arms of Hungary, which were revived in 1989, are divided vertically, with bars of white and red on one side, and a white patriarchal cross standing on a green mound on a red field on the other. The plain shield is known as the 'Kossuth' arms, after the national hero who created the Free State in 1849, when the tricolour was also popularized, under the influence of the French *Tricolore*. During the monarchy and regency the arms also included the crown of St Stephen (with its characteristic bent cross), and this was used on the joint civil ensign of Austria-Hungary (1867-1918), and on the flag of Hungary until 1945. In 1949 a new Soviet-style emblem was introduced which lasted until 1956. After the rising of that year the present emblem was introduced, but it is not used on the national flag.



German Federal Republic

Bundesrepublik Deutschland



Tricolour form derived from France

Colours originated in war against French



Arms derived from those of the Holy Roman Empire

1	2	3	4	5	6	3:5
	■	▲	●	●	▲	

OTHER FLAGS

President	A yellow square with a red border, containing the black spread eagle
State ensign	As national, with shield over all in centre
Naval ensign and jack	As above, but swallow-tailed
Post office	As national, but with the red stripe wider than normal, charged with a gold bugle

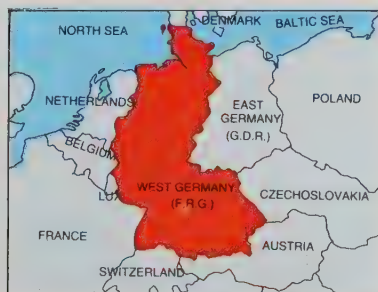
DATES IN HISTORY

800	Coronation of Charlemagne as Emperor
962	Coronation of Otto I as Holy Roman Emperor
1273	First Hapsburg Emperor
1806	Empire abolished by Napoleon
1813-14	War of Liberation
1848-50	All-German government at Frankfurt
1867	Formation of North German Confederation
1871	Foundation of Second Empire
1919	First Republic
1933	Hitler regime
1945	Allied occupation
1949	Establishment of Federal Republic

FACTS ABOUT GERMAN FEDERAL REPUBLIC

Capital	Bonn
Population	61,066,000
Language	German
National day	17 June

During the war against Napoleon, red and black uniforms with gold decorations were used, and these inspired the all-German flag later used at rallies in the early 19th century. The tricolour flag was used by the all-German parliament of 1848-50, but in 1867 the Bismarck tricolour of black, white and red superseded it. This remained the German flag until 1918 and was also used during the first republic, although the official colours were black-red-gold. Hitler's flags were all black, white and red. When the Federal Republic was created after World War II, it was decided to revert to the black-red-gold arms and flag of the first republic, and these were adopted in 1949. Although described as 'gold', the lower stripe is in practice chrome yellow.



German Democratic Republic

Deutsche Demokratische Republik



Flag always has state emblem in centre

Symbols of industrial and scientific workers, and agriculture



1	2	3	4	5	6	3:5
	●	●	●	●		

OTHER FLAGS

Chairman of Council of State	Red square with a corded border of the national colours and the state emblem in the centre
People's Army	As national, but with arms within a wreath on a large red disc in the centre
Naval ensign	Red with a band of the national colours across the centre, and a disc with arms as in the Army flag
Sorb community	A horizontal tricolour of blue-red-white (the pan-Slav colours)

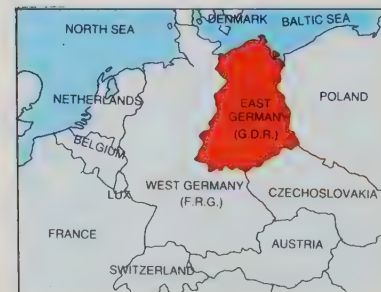
DATES IN HISTORY

1945	Occupation by Soviet troops
1948	Formation of People's Council
1949	Creation of German Democratic Republic
1954	Independence recognized by Soviet Union
1972	Mutual recognition with Federal Republic

FACTS ABOUT GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Capital	Berlin
Population	16,669,877
Language	German
National day	7 October

The black-red-gold tricolour was re-introduced in East Germany simultaneously with its restoration in the West when the two Germanies were coming into rival existence. However, the traditional black eagle was rejected in the East in favour of an emblem on orthodox Communist lines. As any prospect of reunification faded the Democratic Republic developed more of its own symbolism, and the emblem has been used in the centre of the flag since 1959. The hammer represents heavy industry, the dividers scientific progress and the wheat-ears agriculture. Since 1952 the flags of the former states and provinces have also become obsolete, although they are still displayed in the West. East Berlin is now an integral part of the state.

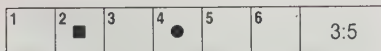


Berlin



West Berlin

3:5



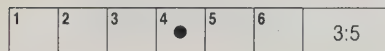
Flag usage more developed in West



East Berlin

3:5

Bear originated at least as early as 1260



Official flag

OTHER FLAGS

As city flag, but with bear in crowned shield

Governing

Mayor and

Senate

members

DATES IN HISTORY

- 1871–1945** Capital of German Reich
- 1945** Occupation by 4 allied powers and joint administration
- 1948** Establishment of 2 rival city administrations one in the Soviet sector and one in the West

- 1961** Building of Berlin Wall

FACTS ABOUT BERLIN

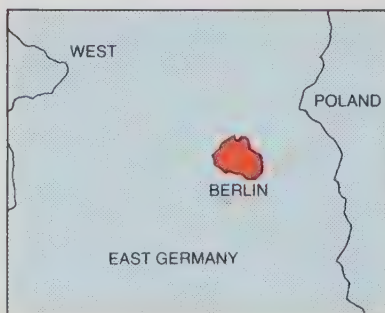
Population West – 1,879,225;

East – 1,223,300

Language German

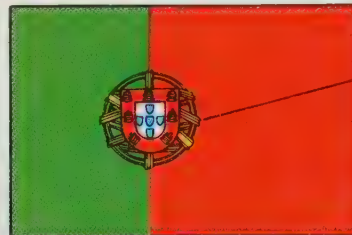
The first flag of Berlin was a horizontal tricolour of black, red and white, adopted in 1861, using colours derived from the traditional arms. In 1913 a flag of red-white-red horizontal stripes with the bear in the centre was created, but after the war the joint administration made arrangements for a new flag. These were never followed up because of the division of the city. In 1952 the new West Berlin administration ran a competition for a new flag, from which the present design emerged in 1954.

In the East, regulations for arms and a flag were introduced in 1956, but have only recently been brought into effect. The arms are a revival of the design produced in 1934 and the form of crown and the shape and posture of the bear vary from those now used in the West. The flag has narrow bars of red at top and bottom, and shows the whole arms.



Portugal

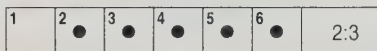
República Portuguesa



Armillary sphere of Henry the Navigator

Ancient shield of Portugal

Red for revolution



OTHER FLAGS

President Green with the shield and sphere in the centre

Jack Red square with a green border, and shield and sphere in the centre

Governor of Macau White with 2 vertical green bars and cross of the Order of Christ over all, charged with the shield and sphere

DATES IN HISTORY

1140–43 Creation of Kingdom of Portugal

1394–1460 Henry the Navigator

1580–1640 Union with Spain

1815 Union of Portugal, Brazil and Algarve

1822 Secession of Brazil

1910 Overthrow of monarchy

FACTS ABOUT PORTUGAL

Capital Lisbon

Population 10,290,000

Language Portuguese

National day 10 June

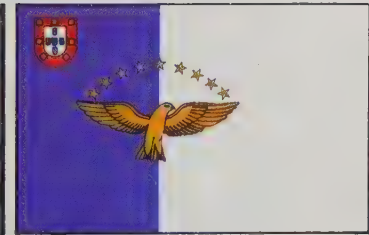
The central part of the Portuguese arms is the oldest, and depicts five blue shields, each with five white discs. These gave rise to the traditional colours of blue and white, which were used on flags from 1830 until 1910. The armillary sphere dates from the reign of Manoel I (1495–1521) and represents the navigational achievements of the Age of Discovery. Green dates from the time of Henry the Navigator, when green and white flags were common. These emblems were all brought together in the flag adopted after the revolution of 1910, which also brought in the red flag. The construction of the flag, with its unequal divisions, is like the former naval ensign. Brazil, formerly dynastically linked to Portugal, also uses some of these emblems.



AUTONOMOUS REGIONS WITHIN THE PORTUGUESE REPUBLIC

Azores

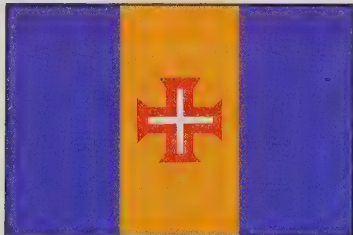
These Atlantic islands were discovered by Portuguese navigators in 1427. They were proclaimed an autonomous region in 1976. The capital is Ponta Delgado. The flag of the region is based on one used by separatists after the Portuguese revolution of 1974, which had a much larger hawk and stars laid out as the islands lie in the sea. The blue and white background commemorates the fact that the flag of 1830 was designed by the government in exile on the island of Terceira, and the stars represent the islands. The Azores also has a coat of arms.



2:3

Madeira

The islands of Madeira lie off the north-west coast of Africa and were discovered by Genoans in the mid 14th century. As in the Azores, the official regional flag is based on that used by a separatist movement, in this case the Political Association of the Madeira Archipelago. Its flag was similar to the official one with the five blue and white shields of Portugal in the centre. The cross of the Order of Christ in the regional flag commemorates the role played by the Order in colonizing Madeira. The arms are a shield in the same design as the flag.



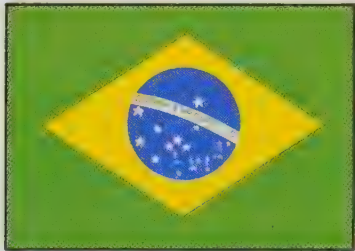
2:3

Brazilian football fans sport the colours of their national flag.



Brazil

República Federativa do Brasil



Blue disc is the night sky over Rio de Janeiro

One star for each state

Motto is 'Order and Progress'



1	2	3	4	5	6	7:10
	●	●	●	●	●	

OTHER FLAGS

President	Green with the arms in the centre
Jack	Blue with 21 stars arranged in a cross
Federal District (Brasilia)	White with a green rectangle charged with the logo in yellow

DATES IN HISTORY

1500	Discovery of Brazil
1763	Vice-kingdom of the Portuguese crown
1815	United Kingdom of Portugal, Brazil and Algarve
1822	Declaration of independence
1828-34	War of succession with Portugal
1889	Overthrow of Empire and creation of republic

FACTS ABOUT BRAZIL

Capital	Brasilia
Population	141,300,000
Language	Portuguese
National day	9 September

After the Napoleonic upheavals there were several attempts to detach Brazil from Portugal. In 1822 the Portuguese Prince Dom Pedro declared Brazil an independent kingdom (later Empire). A new flag of green with a yellow lozenge was designed, with the royal (later imperial) arms in the centre. The imperial government was overthrown in 1889, and after attempts to establish other flags the present design was adopted. The lozenge contains a representation of the night sky over Rio de Janeiro as it was on 15 November 1889. The stars are taken to represent the federal states. The Southern Cross constellation was made the central feature of the coat of arms, and is used on many Brazilian flags.



Mauritius

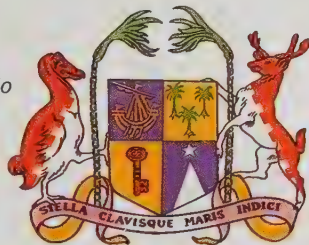
Ile Maurice



Colours from coat of arms

'The Star and the Key of the Indian Ocean'

Extinct dodo



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

Governor-General Blue with the royal crest above a scroll with name 'Mauritius'

Civil ensign Red with national flag in canton, and arms on white disc in fly

State ensign Blue with national flag in canton, and arms in fly

DATES IN HISTORY

1507-12 Discovered by Portuguese

1598 First settlements, by Dutch

1715 Taken over by France

1810 Occupied by Britain

1814 Ceded to Britain

12 March 1968 Independence

FACTS ABOUT MAURITIUS

Capital Port Louis

Population 1,041,000

Languages English, French

National day 12 March

The coat of arms of Mauritius was granted in 1906 when it was a British colony. The quarters represent its discovery (the ship), its tropical nature (the palm trees), and its strategic position (the key and peak with star). The supporters are the dodo and the local deer. They hold sugar canes, representing Mauritius' main product. The arms were not altered on independence and, in fact, the new national flag was created by simply using the colours from the arms but giving them new meanings: the struggle for freedom (red), the Indian Ocean (blue), golden sunlight of freedom (yellow) and fruitful vegetation (green). The state and civil ensigns were created at the same time.



Kiribati



Flag is a banner of the arms

Motto is 'Health, Peace, Prosperity'



1	2	3	4	5	6	16:27
---	---	---	---	---	---	-------

OTHER FLAGS

Ocean Islanders Blue with a white disc with a yellow silhouette of Ocean Island and a flying black frigate bird over all

DATES IN HISTORY

c.1870-92 Kingdom of Abemama

1892 Formation of Gilbert and Ellice Island protectorate

1916 Colony

1942-4 Japanese occupation

1975 Separation of colonies

12 July 1979 Independence

FACTS ABOUT KIRIBATI

Capital Tarawa

Population 66,250

Languages Gilbertese, English

National day 12 July

The flag of Kiribati is one of the very few which are armorial banners, or versions of the arms in flag form. The arms date back to 1937 when they were granted to the then Gilbert and Ellice Islands. At that time they had a different motto ('Fear God and honour the King') in the Gilbert and Ellice languages. The shield only was used as a flag-badge on British ensigns. The islands developed separate administrations in 1975 (for Ellice Islands see Tuvalu, p.29), and the Gilbert Islands went on to become independent under their native name in 1979. The armorial flag was chosen after a competition, and differs from the arms, for example in the space occupied by the blue and white wavy bars and the size of the frigate bird which symbolizes command of the sea.



Israel

Medinat Israel



Emblem of David – the Magen David

Colours of the Jewish prayer shawl



Emblem is the menorah, with name 'Israel'

1	2	3	4	5	6	8:11
---	---	---	---	---	---	------

OTHER FLAGS

President (land) Blue with a white border all round and the national emblem in the centre

Naval ensign Blue with a white triangle on the hoist containing the Magen David

Civil ensign Blue with a white oval near the hoist containing the Magen David

Prime Minister Blue with the national flag in the canton and the shield of arms in gold in the fly

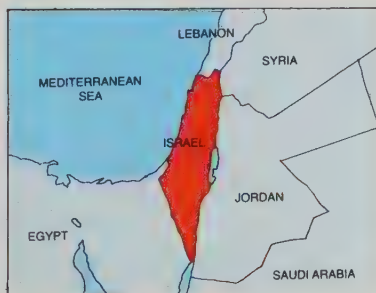
DATES IN HISTORY

635	Islamic conquest
1104–1244	Kingdom of Jerusalem
1517	Palestine conquered by Ottoman Turks
1917	Occupied by Britain
1920	British Palestine mandate recognized
14 May 1948	Independence of Israel
1956, 1967, 1973	Wars with Arab states

FACTS ABOUT ISRAEL

Capital	Jerusalem
Population	4,330,000
Languages	Hebrew, Arabic, Yiddish
National day	15 May

The central device in the flag of Israel is the *Magen David*, or Shield (often called Star) of David, which has been a recognized Jewish symbol for several centuries. As a flag device it came to the fore in the early days of Zionism, as did the blue and white colours. There were many variant forms, often with inscriptions. The blue and white bands are taken from the blue stripes around the edge of the *tallith* or prayer shawl. The flag was hoisted when the state of Israel was proclaimed in May 1948 but its use was not regularized until October of that year. Since then many subsidiary flags have been adopted, as well as the national emblem, the *menorah* (the seven-branched candlestick used in Jewish worship).



Lebanon

al-Jumhuriya al-Lubaniya



Famous cedar of Lebanon



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

Jack As national, with vertical white strips at hoist and fly, each with a red anchor

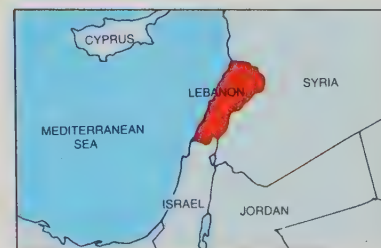
DATES IN HISTORY

1918	Defeat of Turks; Lebanon part of Greater Syria
1920	French mandate from League of Nations; Greater Lebanon state
1927	Constitution of the Lebanon
1941	Proclamation of independence
1943	Creation of Lebanese government
1 January 1944	Effective independence
1975	Outbreak of civil war

FACTS ABOUT LEBANON

Capital	Beirut
Population	3,500,000
Languages	Arabic, French
National day	22 November

Lebanon is a country with several religious groups, and so the flag has to be a neutral one. The emblem of the cedar of Lebanon meets this need. It first appeared on a flag in 1861, and was revived when a local government was set up under French mandate. The flag at that time was the *Tricolore* with the cedar in the centre, but in 1943 the present flag was created, using colours said to represent the dominant local clans, and was to be the flag of the independent state set up on 1 January 1944. The national emblem is also the cedar tree. The various factions struggling for control of the country all have their own different flags, but some also use the cedar tree emblem.



Cyprus

Kypriaki Dimokratia



Map of the island

White ground and olive branches for peace



1	2	3	4	5	6	3:5
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

United Nations Used by UN troops patrolling the 'Green Line'

UK sovereign base areas The Union Jack and the RAF Ensign are displayed

DATES IN HISTORY

1193 Kingdom of Cyprus founded

1489 Ruled by Venice

1571 Part of Ottoman Empire

1878 Ceded to Britain

1925 British Crown Colony

16 August 1960 Independence

1974 Turkish invasion

FACTS ABOUT CYPRUS

Capital Nicosia

Population 673,100

Languages Greek, Turkish

National day 1 October

After a very complicated history Cyprus was ceded to Britain in 1878 and achieved independence in 1960 under the leader of the Greek orthodox community, Archbishop Makarios. The flag chosen for the new state was deliberately intended to be neutral and peaceful, and so depicts the island with an olive wreath on a white field. The emblem is a dove holding an olive branch, the symbol of peace and reconciliation arising from the biblical story of Noah. The dove is also the symbol of Aphrodite, the Greek goddess who originated in Cyprus. The map is supposed to be copper coloured, to express the name of the island (the Isle of Copper), but it is usually shown as yellow. Since 1974 the flag has only been used for official purposes in the Greek part of Cyprus and abroad. Inland the Greek flag (see p.57) is widely displayed.



Northern Cyprus

Kuzey Kıbrıs Türk Cumhuriyeti



Crescent and star as in flag of Turkey

White field as in flag of Cyprus



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

None

DATES IN HISTORY

1963 Turks withdraw from Cypriot government

1967 Turkish State of North Cyprus

1974 Turkish invasion

1975 Turkish Federated State

15 November Declaration of independence

1983

FACTS ABOUT NORTHERN CYPRUS

Capital Nicosia

Population 163,000

Language Turkish

National day 15 November

As a consequence of the breakdown in relations between the Turkish and Greek inhabitants of the island, a separate government was set up in the north in 1967. It was called the Turkish Federated State in the hope that a federal system would come about. It used the flag of Turkey, but was not recognized by any other state. In 1975 Turkey sponsored the new Turkish Cypriot republic, which declared itself independent in 1983 and chose a flag for itself. The design emerged from a competition of 225 entries, and was officially adopted in 1984. The arms are exactly the same as those of Cyprus, except for the crescent and star, and the date. Only Turkey recognizes the existence of this state.

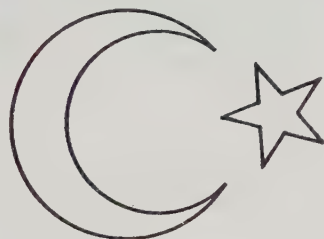


Turkey

Türkiye Cumhuriyeti



Crescent and star of Islam
Red flag of the Ottoman Turks
No official national emblem



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

- President** A red square with the crescent and star; in the canton a gold sun within a ring of 16 gold stars
- Police** Red with a large white-rayed star containing a red oval, with the crescent and star in white

DATES IN HISTORY

- 1299** Foundation of Ottoman Empire
- 1453** Conquest of Constantinople
- 1918** Defeat in World War I
- 1919–22** War of independence
- 1923** Formation of republic

FACTS ABOUT TURKEY

- Capital** Ankara
- Population** 50,670,000
- Language** Turkish
- National day** 29 October

The crescent and star is a comparatively recent device, although the crescent on its own dates back to the Middle Ages, and the legendary dream of Osman (the founder of the Turkish state). The moon and star first appeared on the Turkish flag in 1793, but only in modern times has the star come to have five points. Red has been associated with the Osmanli Turks since the time of their conquest of the Byzantine Empire and their assumption of the Caliphate (the spiritual leadership of Islam), which was also symbolized by the red fez. The crescent and star became the emblem of the pan-Islamic movement sponsored by Turkey in the late 19th century and has spread to most Muslim countries. After the creation of the Turkish Republic, the red flag with the crescent and star was re-adopted and regularized.



Tunisia

al-Jumhuriya at-Tunisiyah



Crescent and star from flag of Turkey



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

- President** A square version of national flag with a silver fringe

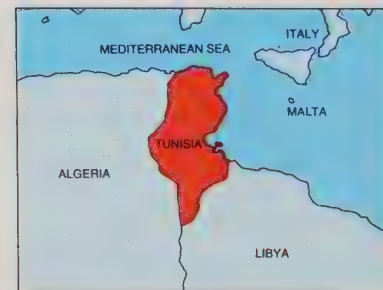
DATES IN HISTORY

- 1574** Tributary to Ottoman Empire
- 1881** Treaty of Bardo, leading to French protectorate
- 1955** Self-government
- 20 March 1956** Independence
- 1957** Republic

FACTS ABOUT TUNISIA

- Capital** Tunis
- Population** 7,320,000
- Languages** Arabic, French
- National day** 1 June

In the days when Tunisia was part of the notorious Barbary Coast many different flags were in use, predominantly of red, green and white. The Turkish flag of red with a crescent and multi-pointed star was the official flag from about 1800. The Bey Husein II, although nominally subject to the Turkish Sultan, introduced his own version of the flag for his own troops in 1835, and it has been in use ever since (on land only during the French protectorate 1883–1956). The Bey also had a personal standard of multiple stripes covered with crescents and stars and the sword of Ali in the centre. A new coat of arms was adopted when the country became independent in 1956. This was amended after the formation of the republic in 1957. On the scroll is the Tunisian national motto: 'Liberty, Order, Justice'.



Algeria

al-Jumhuriya al-Jazairiya ad-Dimokratiya ash-Shabiya



Crescent and star of Islam
Large crescent signifies happiness



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

Naval ensign As national, with 2 crossed anchors in the upper hoist

DATES IN HISTORY

1520 Subject to Ottoman Empire

1710 Independent

1830 Occupation by France

1832-47 Campaign of Abd-Al-Kadr

1954 Military campaign launched by *Front de Liberation Nationale*

3 July 1962 Independence

FACTS ABOUT ALGERIA

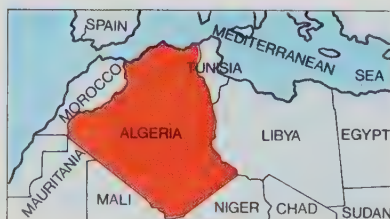
Capital Algiers

Population 22,600,000

Languages Arabic, French, Berber

National days 3 July, 1 November

Like Tunisia, Algeria had many flags in the days of the Barbary corsairs, in stripes of various colours. Green and white were associated with Abd-Al-Kadr, the national hero who resisted the French in the 1840s. His flags also used the 'Hand of Fatima', which now appears on the national emblem. The present flag is said to have been designed in 1928 by Massali Haj, the leader of the campaign against the French. It was later taken up by the *Front de Liberation Nationale*, which eventually secured the independence of the country in 1962, and became the national flag. The original national emblem was based on the crescent and star together with the Hand of Fatima, but was replaced in 1976 by one bearing more industrial and agricultural elements.



Mauritania

al-Jumhuriya al-Muslimiya al-Mauritaniya/République Islamique de Mauritanie



Crescent and star of Islam



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

None

DATES IN HISTORY

1903 French protectorate

1920 Colony

1958 Autonomous republic

28 November 1960 Independence

1960

1976-9 Occupation of part of Western Sahara

FACTS ABOUT MAURITANIA

Capital Nouakchott

Population 2,010,000

Languages Arabic, French

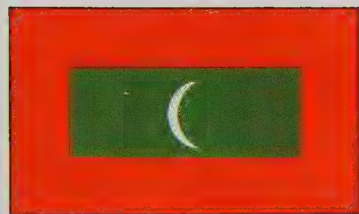
National day 28 November

Mauritania was originally a province of French West Africa, but was for many years claimed by Morocco. The flag was introduced when the country achieved self-government within the French Community and was retained on independence in 1960. Like France itself and many ex-French territories, Mauritania uses a seal rather than a coat of arms. It displays the Islamic crescent and star behind a date palm and millet and rice plants. The seal has no official colours.



The Maldives

Dihevi Jumhuriya



Crescent of Islam

Red field derived from flag of Persian Gulf

Inscription is 'State of the Thousand Islands'



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

President As national, but with star as well as crescent

Prime Minister Green, blue, red and green quarters with white star in canton

Members of Parliament A green pennant with a white crescent and star

DATES IN HISTORY

1581 Discovered by Portuguese

1645 Dutch colony

1887 British protectorate

1953-4 Republic

26 July 1965 Independent sultanate

1968 Second republic

FACTS ABOUT THE MALDIVES

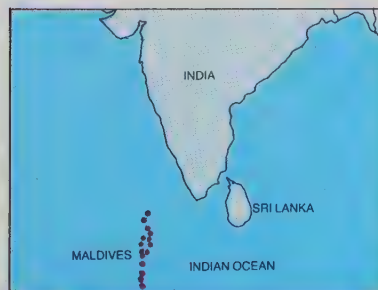
Capital Malé

Population 189,000

Language Dihevi

National day 26 July

The Dihevi name for the Maldives means 'Thousand Islands' - in fact there are nearer 1,200, of which 202 are inhabited. In earlier years the islands were dominated by Arab traders from the Persian Gulf. They used a plain red flag, which continued after the British protectorate was set up. It later acquired a white crescent facing the hoist. The flags were redesigned after the independence of Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) of which the islands had been a dependency, with the crescent being placed on a green panel and facing the fly. These earlier flags also had a border of black and white pieces in the hoist. This border was dropped when the country became independent in 1965. Since the formation of the republic the previous royal flag has been adopted by the President.



Comoros

République fédérale islamique des Comores/Jamhouriya al-Kamar al-Itihadiat al-Islamiyat



Star for each island

Crescent of Islam



1	2	3	4	5	6	3:5
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

Sultan of Anjouan (until 1891) Red with an upturned crescent, and Hand of Fatima, all white
MOLINACO (Comoros Liberation Movement) Horizontal tricolour of black, green, and blue with 4 white stars in canton

DATES IN HISTORY

1841 French protectorate over islands

1891 Annexation of Anjouan

1912 Islands a French colony

1961 Internal self-government

6 July 1975 Unilateral declaration of independence

1978 Federal republic

FACTS ABOUT COMOROS

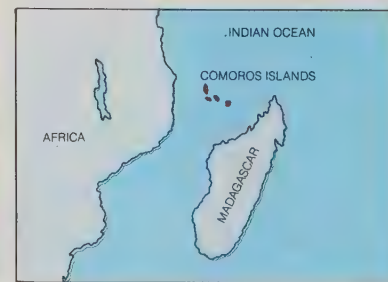
Capital Moroni

Population 422,500

Languages Arabic, French, Comoran

National day 12 November

Like the Maldives, the Comoro group of islands was at one time dominated by Arabs from the Persian Gulf and their red flags. There was no common flag until 1963 when one of green with a crescent and four white stars (not quite the same as the present one) was adopted. The four stars represented the four main islands. When they became independent in 1975 the crescent and stars were placed in the corner of the flag, and a red strip added along the bottom. One of the islands, Mayotte, opted out of independence and is still ruled by France, but its star was not removed from the flag. In 1978, following a coup, the flag was changed to the present design. The arms, or rather seal, depict the crescent and four stars, the name in both Arabic and French, and the national motto, 'Unity, Justice, Progress'.



Pakistan

Islami Jamhuriya-e-Pakistan



Crescent and star of Islam
Green field from flag of
Muslim League



White strip for minorities

1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

President As national, but with national arms in gold in place of the crescent and star

Civil ensign Red with the national flag in the canton

Azad Kashmir Lower half has 9 stripes of green and white; upper half has orange panel in hoist, and green panel with white crescent and star at fly

DATES IN HISTORY

- 1947 Independent dominion
- 1947-9 Kashmir dispute
- 1956 Islamic Republic
- 1965 War with India
- 1971 Secession of Bangladesh
- 1972 Departure from Commonwealth

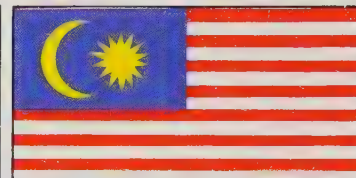
FACTS ABOUT PAKISTAN

Capital Islamabad
Population 102,200,000
Languages Urdu, Punjabi, provincial languages, English
National days 23 March, 14 August



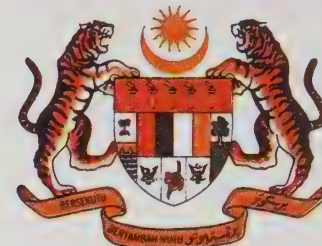
Malaysia

Persekutuan Tanah Malaysia



Crescent and star of Islam
14 stripes for component
states

Shield represents members
of federation



1	2	3	4	5	6	1:2
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

Royal standard Yellow with the arms in the centre within a golden wreath

Civil ensign Red with the national flag in the canton, with a blue fimbriation

Naval ensign White with the national flag in the canton and the naval emblem in blue in the fly

United Malay National Organization Red over white with a green Malay sword on a yellow-edged, white disc in the centre

DATES IN HISTORY

- 1895 Formation of Federated Malay States
- 1941-5 Japanese occupation
- 1946-8 Malayan Union
- 1950 Federation of Malaya
- 31 August 1957 Independence
- 16 September 1963 Federation of Malaysia
- 1965 Secession of Singapore

FACTS ABOUT MALAYSIA

Capital Kuala Lumpur
Population 16,500,000
Languages Malay, Chinese, English
National day 31 August

The flag of Malaysia is a combination of the traditional Islamic symbols and the Stars and Stripes. The 14 stripes and the 14 points of the star represent the member-states, and the crescent and star their dominant religion. The blue canton stands for affiliation to the Commonwealth. Originally the flag had only 11 stripes and the star 11 points but the number was increased when Malaysia was formed in 1963. Since then Singapore has left the federation, so the 14th stripe and point as well as the hibiscus flower in the arms are now said to stand for the federal territories. The arms are based on those of the first federation and contain sections for the old Federated Malay States, the five others, and the four other Malayan countries which have since joined. The motto is 'Unity is strength' in roman and Jawi script.



Singapore

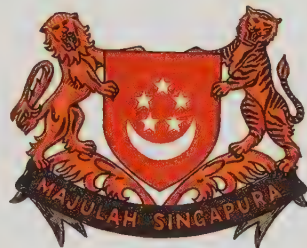
Republik Singapura/Xinjiapo Gonghegno



Crescent of Islam

Red and white of Malaya and Indonesia

Motto is 'Let Singapore flourish'



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

President Red with the crescent and 5 stars from the national flag

Civil ensign Red with the crescent and stars upturned in centre, within a white ring

Air force ensign Light blue with red canton; crescent and stars and air force emblem in fly

DATES IN HISTORY

1819 Acquired for East India Company

1826 Combined with Penang and Malacca as Straits Settlements

1867 Became a separate crown colony

1942-5 Japanese occupation

1946 Singapore a colony

1959 Self-government

1963 Joined with Malaya, Sarawak and Sabah as Federation of Malaysia

9 August 1965 Independence

FACTS ABOUT SINGAPORE

Capital Singapore

Population 2,590,000

Languages Chinese, Malay, Tamil, English

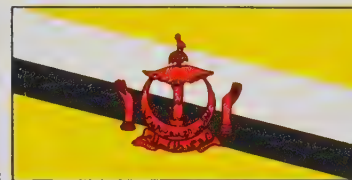
National day 9 August

The flag of Singapore is identical to that of Indonesia except for the crescent and stars, and the red and white are also the Malay colours. The flag dates from the time when Singapore was a British colony and achieved self-government. The coat of arms also dates from this time, and preserves the lion from which the city of Singapore takes its name. The tiger was to stand for Malaya. Both arms and flag were preserved when Singapore entered the Federation of Malaysia in 1963 and when it left to become independent two years later. When first adopted, the colours were said to represent the brotherhood of man (red), purity and virtue (white), whilst the crescent signifies a young country and the five stars the ideals of democracy, peace, progress, justice and equality. The motto is from the national anthem.



Brunei

Negara Brunei Darussalam



Yellow field for royalty

1	2	3	4	5	6	1:2
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

Sultan and Yang di-Pertuan Yellow with the royal arms in red in the centre

Armed forces flag Yellow with diagonal stripes of white over red over black; army badge in centre

Naval ensign White with a red cross throughout and the armed forces flag in the canton

Government vessels As national, but with yellow sections replaced by blue

DATES IN HISTORY

15th century Foundation of sultanate

1521 Arrival of Portuguese under Magellan

1580 Invasion by Spaniards

1841 Cession of Sarawak to Rajah Brooke

1846 Cession of Labuan to North Borneo Company

1888 British protectorate

1984 Independence

FACTS ABOUT BRUNEI

Capital Bandar Seri Begawan

Population 221,900

Languages Malay, Chinese

National days 1 January, 23 February, 15 June

Inscription on crescent is 'Always render service with God's guidance'

Inscription on scroll is 'Brunei, city of peace'



The yellow field of the flag of Brunei represents the Sultan, and the white and black diagonals the two senior officials of the state at the time it was designed, 1906. The national emblem was placed in the centre in 1959. It depicts a winged mast topped with an umbrella and flag, and surrounded by the horns of a crescent moon, with the state motto in Jawi script. The two hands, which symbolize the government's benevolence, were added in 1959. Before 1906 Brunei had many different flags, one for each official, but nothing that could be described as a national flag. Brunei did not join the Federation of Malaysia, and resumed its independence on 1 January 1984.



Iran

Jomhori-e-Islami-e-Irân



Inscription is Allah Akbar
(‘God is great’)

Traditional colours of Iran

National emblem signifies
religious values



1	2	3	4	5	6	3:5
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

National emblem Represents simultaneously Allah, the Koran, the growing strength of Islam and its 5 principles; the emblem is green when not used on the flag

DATES IN HISTORY

636	Conquest by Moslem Arabs
1037–1231	Turkish dynasties
1231	Conquest by Mongols
1499	Ismail, first Shah of Persia
1925	Accession of Reza Shah Pahlavi
1979	Flight of Shah, return of Ayatollah Khomeini and proclamation of Islamic Republic

1980–88 War with Iraq

FACTS ABOUT IRAN

Capital	Tehran
Population	49,860,000
Languages	Farsi, Turkic
National days	11 February, 1 April

Red, white and green flags have been used in Iran since the 18th century, although there is no agreed explanation of the colours. In the 19th century the flags were decorated with the Lion and Sun emblem – a lion holding the sword of Ali, standing in front of a rising sun. Ali, the son-in-law of the Prophet, is venerated by the Shi’a sect of Islam which is predominant in Iran. With the flight of the Shah in 1979, the Lion and Sun were removed from the flags, and a year later the present design was adopted. The inscription *Allah Akbar* is repeated 22 times to signify the date 22 *Bahman* 1357 (11 February 1979) when the Ayatollah Khomeini arrived back in Iran. Iran has no other flags, although several designs existed under the Shah.



Afghanistan

Jamhuri Afghanistan



Traditional colours of
Afghanistan



Pulpit and niche from mosque

1	2	3	4	5	6	1:2
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

People's Democratic Party Red, with the emblem of a cogwheel surmounted by an ear of wheat, all in yellow near the hoist

DATES IN HISTORY

1747	Foundation of Afghanistan
1838–42, 1878–80	Wars with Britain
1919	Independence recognized by Britain
1973	Formation of Republic
1978	Democratic Republic
1979	Incursion of Soviet troops
1987	Republic of Afghanistan
1989	Soviet troops leave

FACTS ABOUT AFGHANISTAN

Capital	Kabul
Population	16,592,000
Languages	Pushtu, Farsi, Turkic
National day	27 April

The Islamic element in the current flag of Afghanistan is the combined pulpit and niche which symbolize the mosque (the niche indicates the direction of Mecca). Originally, c.1900, a whole mosque was represented, but in 1974 the present combined emblem was introduced. The rising sun and wheat-ears first appeared on a flag in 1928, and have been part of the flag ever since in one form or another. Since 1928 there have been six new designs, but all except one (1978–80) have been in the colours black, red and green. From 1980–87 the emblem also had a book (the Koran) and a red star. Previous emblems also had the name of the country and the date of the current constitution, but since 1980 the scroll in the national colours has been without any inscription.



Oman

Saltanat 'Oman



Red field common to Persian Gulf flags

Green for the Djebel Akhdar ('The Green Mountains')



Traditional emblem of ruling dynasty

1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

- Sultan** Red with a white-bordered green panel in the centre, with the national emblem beneath a crown
- Naval ensign** Blue with the national flag in the canton; an upright white anchor in the fly
- Army flag** Red with the national flag in the canton and the army badge in the fly
- Royal Omani Police** Vertically divided into green, red, white and blue and charged with Police badge in white

DATES IN HISTORY

- 1508-1648** Portuguese occupation
- 1741** Sultanate of Muscat and Oman founded by Ahmed ibn Sa'id
- 1854** Cession of Kuria Muria Islands to Britain
- 1939** Treaty of Friendship with Britain
- 1954** Attempted coup by Imam of Oman
- 1958** Cession of Gwadar to Pakistan
- 1967** Kuria Muria Islands returned to Oman
- 1970** Accession of present Sultan; name changed to Oman

FACTS ABOUT OMAN

- Capital** Muscat
- Population** 1,200,000
- Language** Arabic
- National day** 18 November

A red flag, the colour of the Kharidjite sect of Islam, was common to the states on the Arabian shores of the Persian Gulf and their colonies in the Indian Ocean from the early 19th century to modern times, but they have all since modified it in one way or another. It was plain red in Oman until 1970 when the present Sultan introduced a complete new set of national flags. These make use of the traditional emblem of the Sa'idi dynasty, which is a belt with a dagger superimposed on two crossed swords. This was placed in the canton, and panels of white and green were added to the fly. The white part is supposed to represent the Imam of Oman, who raised a white flag in 1954 when he tried to set up a separate state in the interior. The design of the state emblem was slightly modified in 1987.



Morocco

al-Mamlaka al-Maghrebia



Red flag of the Hassani dynasty

Seal of Solomon

Inscription, from the Koran, is 'If you stand by God he will stand by you'



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

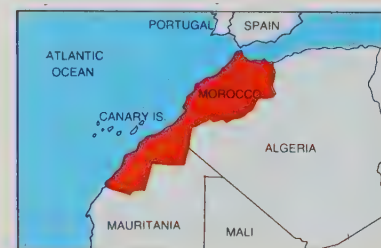
- Naval ensign** As national, with royal crown in canton
- Jack** As above, with yellow border all round
- DATES IN HISTORY**
- 1649** Accession of Mohammed XIV, first of Hassani dynasty
- 1904** French and Spanish plan to partition Morocco
- 1912** French and Spanish protectorates established
- 1920-26** Revolt of Abd-el-Krim
- 1923** Formation of international zone of Tangier
- 1956** Independence restored
- 1957** Establishment of kingdom, with King as Commander of the Faithful (Emir-el-Muminin)
- 1969** Ifni restored to Morocco

FACTS ABOUT MOROCCO

- Capital** Rabat
- Population** 23,000,000
- Languages** Arabic, Berber
- National days** 3 March, 14 August

The flag of Morocco was originally plain red, but the Seal of Solomon device was added in 1915 at a time when the army was being modernized by the French. Morocco has been ruled by the Hassani dynasty since 1649 but has not had a national flag until modern times. From 1912 to 1956 the country was divided into French and Spanish protectorates and the international city of Tangier. All of these had their own flags for internal and external use. The plain flag with the green pentacle was for use inland only, but it became the national flag when independence was restored in 1956. The following year Morocco became a kingdom, and in 1958 adopted a coat of arms, which shows the sun rising over the Atlas Mountains, the green pentacle and the royal crown.

Since 1979 Morocco has claimed Western Sahara, but its control of the territory is disputed by the Sahara Arab Republic (see p.132).

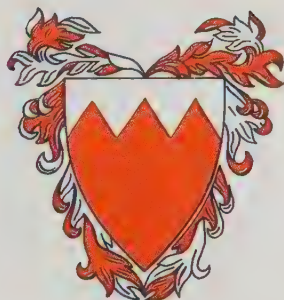


Bahrain

Daulat al-Bahrayn



Form of white stripe has varied over the years



1	2	3	4	5	6	3:5
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

Sheikh As national, with bands of white along top and bottom edges

DATES IN HISTORY

1782 Accession of Khalifa dynasty

1820 General Treaty with Britain

1882, 1892 Treaties of Friendship with Britain

1968 Became member of Federation of Arab Emirates

15 August 1971 Effective independence

FACTS ABOUT BAHRAIN

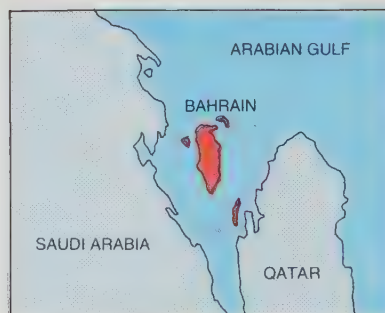
Capital Manama

Population 416,275

Language Arabic

National day 16 December

As in Oman and other Gulf states, the original flag was the red banner of the Kharidjite sect. By the General Treaty of 1820 the British stipulated that Arab flags must have some white in them if they were not to be taken as pirate flags. The various states of the 'Pirate Coast' then developed flags with differing white patterns on them. In Bahrain it was originally a plain vertical strip, but in 1932 the dividing line was serrated, possibly to distinguish the flag from those of its neighbours. A flag for the Sheikh was also introduced and the state emblem was designed by Sir Charles Belgrave, the Sheikh's political adviser. Until 1971, when the country resumed complete independence, there was an oriental crown above the shield.



Qatar

Daulat al-Qatar



Inscription is name of state



1	2	3	4	5	6	11:28
---	---	---	---	---	---	-------

OTHER FLAGS

Qatar Emiri Navy Blue with the navy emblem in colour in the centre

Qatar Army White with the armed forces badge in colour in the centre

DATES IN HISTORY

1872-1915 Tributary to Ottoman Empire

1916 Treaty of Protection with Britain

1968 Became member of Federation of Arab Emirates

3 September 1971 Effective independence

FACTS ABOUT QATAR

Capital Doha

Population 371,863

Language Arabic

National day 3 September

Like the flag of Bahrain, to which Qatar was once subject, Qatar's flag was originally plain red. It was adapted and now has unique proportions and an unusual colour shade, which is said to derive from the way the red pigment, made from local vegetable dyes, was modified by the fierce sun of the Persian Gulf. The shape and shade are now official. At one time the name of the state also appeared on the flag in white lettering, and red diamonds were placed on the white strip, but the plain flag has been in use since 1949. The emblem now depicts a local sailing boat and coastal scene, flanked by two crossed swords. Qatar has recently developed a set of flags for its armed forces.



Bangladesh

Ghana Praja Tantri Bangladesh



Green flag for the fruitful land

Red sun of freedom

Lotus of the Ganges



1	2	3	4	5	6	3:5
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

Civil ensign Red with the national flag in the canton

Air force ensign Light blue with the national flag in the canton and the air force roundel in the fly (a red disc with a green border)

DATES IN HISTORY

1757 Battle of Plassey and establishment of British domination

1905–12 Partition of Bengal into East Bengal and West Bengal

1947 Accession of East Bengal to Pakistan

1971 Civil war and secession from Pakistan

FACTS ABOUT BANGLADESH

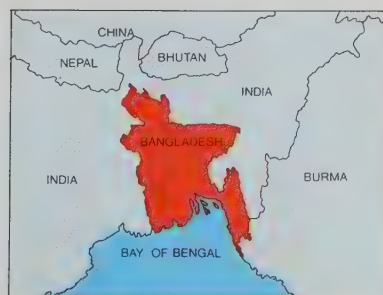
Capital Dhaka

Population 104 100 000

Language Bangla

National days 21 February, 26 March, 16 December

Formerly the Eastern Province of Pakistan, Bangladesh was formed as a separate republic in 1971. The flag under which the independence struggle took place was like the present one but had a yellow outline map of the country on the red disc. This was intended to symbolize the idea of 'Golden Bengal' referred to in the national anthem and now portrayed in the state emblem. For the sake of ease of manufacture, however, the map was omitted from the flag officially adopted in 1972. The emblem is a stylized waterlily on waves, representing the rivers Ganges and Bramaputra, within the wreath of rice and jute. The four stars which flank a sprig of tea represent nationalism, socialism, democracy and secularism.



Libya

al-Jamahiriya al-Arabiya al-Libiya al-Shabiya al-Ischtirakiya al-Uzma



World's only flag of one plain colour

Green for the 'Green Revolution'



Inscription is name of country

1	2	3	4	5	6	1:2
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

National emblem A hawk, first used on the flag of the Federation in 1972, and borrowed from Syria; originally all gold, and the scroll bore the title of the Federation; since 1977 the whole emblem has changed to green

DATES IN HISTORY

1551 Part of Ottoman Empire

1711 Nominal independence

1835 Restoration of Turkish rule

1911 Italian occupation

1942–3 Allied occupation

24 December Independent kingdom

1951

1969 Republic

1972–7 Formed Federation of Arab Republics with Egypt and Syria

FACTS ABOUT LIBYA

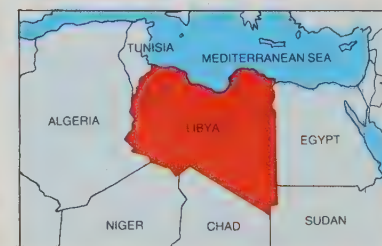
Capital Tripoli

Population 3 960 000

Language Arabic

National day 1 September

Libya has undergone a number of flag changes since it became independent in 1951. At first a monarchy, its flag was based on the black flag of Idris Es-Senussi. It had a crescent and star in the centre and borders of red and green. The flag was changed to the red, white and black colours of the Arab Liberation Movement after the revolution of 1969 and then to the flag of the Federation of Arab Republics in 1972 (similar to that of Egypt today). However, after Egypt's peace initiative towards Israel in 1977, Libya left the Federation and hoisted the present plain green flag. This is said to symbolize the idea of *Jamahiriya*, or mass-participation, and also the 'Green Revolution' led by Colonel Ghaddafi.



Djibouti

Jumhuriya Djibouti



Blue for the Somalis
Green for the Afars
Red star of independence



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

Sultan of Tadjourah (1862-96)

Plain red

DATES IN HISTORY

1862 French protectorate over 3 coastal sultanates

1896 Colony of French Somaliland

1967 First referendum on independence; renamed Territory of the Afars and Issas; start of nationalist movements

1972 Formation of People's African Independence League (*Ligue Populaire Africaine pour l'Indépendance*)

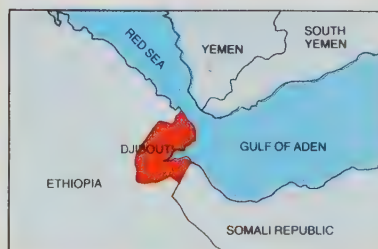
1975 Second referendum on independence

27 June 1977 Independent republic

FACTS ABOUT DJIBOUTI

Capital Djibouti
Population 470,000
Languages Arabic, Somali
National day 27 June

Djibouti was formerly known as the Territory of the Afars and Issas, and before that as French Somaliland. Forty-seven per cent of the population are Somalis, or Issas, related to those in Somalia. The flag adopted on independence on 27 June 1977 was based on those used by Somali-led nationalist groups. Green and white were the colours of the rival Afar group (related to Ethiopians). The two groups joined forces in 1972 in the People's African Independence League under a flag like the present one, thus combining the two sets of colours. The colours are now explained officially as representing the sea (blue), the earth (green), peace (white) and unity (red). The state emblem consists of traditional weapons symbolizing the defence of the country, under the red star of unity.



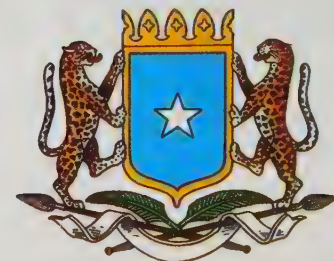
Somalia

Jamhuriyadda Dimuqradiga Somaliya



Blue field from United Nations flag

Leopards from old colonial arms



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

President Blue with whole arms in centre, wide white border and gold fringe

West Somali Liberation Front Red over green with a white star in centre

DATES IN HISTORY

1884 British Somaliland protectorate

1889 Formation of Italian Somaliland

1943-50 British occupation of Italian sector

1950 Italian trusteeship

1 July 1960 Unification and independence

1969 Democratic republic

FACTS ABOUT SOMALIA

Capital Mogadishu
Population 6,110,000
Languages Somali, Arabic
National day 21 October

The flag of Somalia is derived from that of the United Nations (see p.20) because when it was adopted in the former Italian Somaliland, the country was being administered as a UN Trusteeship Territory. The white star represents the Somali race, divided into five parts: Italian Somaliland, British Somaliland, Ethiopia, French Somaliland (now Djibouti) and northern Kenya. The first two were reunited in 1960 when Somalia became independent. Somalis in Ogaden (Ethiopia) still maintain a separatist movement. The arms were adopted in 1956 and were retained on independence.



Saudi Arabia

al-Mamlaka al-Arabiya as-Sa'udiya



Only national flag with an inscription – 'There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is the Prophet of Allah'

Green flag of the Prophet



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
■	●	●	●	●	●	

OTHER FLAGS

Royal standard As national with state emblem in lower canton near hilt of sword

Naval ensign National with green vertical strip, frimbriated in white, in hoist, charged with naval badge

Jack Green with a yellow astrolabe set towards hoist

DATES IN HISTORY

1750 Rise of the Pure Islam movement and of Saudi family

1891 Defeat and exile of the Saudis

1902 Capture of Riyadh by Saudis

1920 Annexation of Shammar, formation of Sultanate of Nejd

1925-56 Conquest of Hejaz, formation of Kingdom of Hejaz and Nejd (1927)

1932 Name changed to Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

FACTS ABOUT SAUDI ARABIA

Capital Riyadh

Population 11,520,000

Language Arabic

National day 23 September

In the 1750s the Pure Islam movement adopted the supposed green flag of the Prophet as their banner, and it was taken up by the Saudi family, who went on to become masters of most of Arabia. In 1901 they added the *shahada*, the Muslim Statement of Faith, to the flag in white letters, and later the sword of Abdul Aziz, who conquered the Nejd in 1906 and subsequently other parts of Arabia. The sword was a symbolic one given to him by his father, and has appeared in many forms over the years, sometimes as two crossed swords. Early Saudi flags also had a white vertical strip in the hoist, which has now disappeared. The latest form of the sword was specified in 1981. The inscription on the flag must read correctly (from right to left) on both sides.



Many countries still preserve ceremonies for hoisting and lowering flags, as here in Morocco.

Jordan

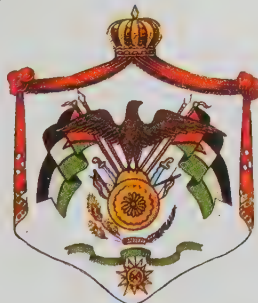
al-Mamlaka al-Urduniya al-Hashemiya



Flag of the Arab Revolt

Star for the 7 articles of Islamic belief

Red for the Hashemite dynasty



1	2	3	4	5	6	1:2
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

Royal standard Rays in Arab colours, with a white oval in the centre containing the national flag, which has a crown in place of the star

Army flag Red with the national flag in the canton and 2 crossed swords and crown in green in the fly

Naval ensign White with the national flag in the canton and the navy badge in black in the fly

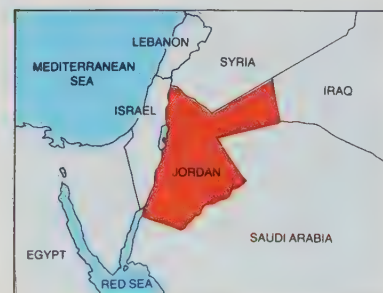
DATES IN HISTORY

- 1921 Abdullah became Amir of Transjordan
- 1946 Effective independence as a kingdom
- 1949 Renamed Jordan, incorporating West Bank
- 1967 Loss of West Bank to Israel

February–July 1958 Arab Union with Iraq

FACTS ABOUT JORDAN

Capital Amman
Population 2,850,000
Language Arabic
National day 25 May



Kuwait

Daulat al-Kuwait



Pan-Arab colours with modern interpretations

Inscription is name of state



Falcon is ancient emblem of Kuwait

1	2	3	4	5	6	1:2
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

Amir As national, with gold crown in centre of green stripe

Army flag As national, with army badge in gold in canton

Air force ensign Light blue with roundel in upper hoist and air force badge in fly

DATES IN HISTORY

- 1756 Foundation of present dynasty by Sheikh Sabah
- 1899 Treaty of Protection with Britain
- 1914 British Protected State, and end of Ottoman suzerainty
- 19 June 1961 Effective independence

FACTS ABOUT KUWAIT

Capital Kuwait
Population 1,770,000
Language Arabic
National day 25 February

Kuwait was subject, like other Arab lands, to the Ottoman Empire until 1899 when it transferred its allegiance to Britain. Its original flag, like those of other Persian Gulf states, was red, later with a white strip in the hoist and the name Kuwait in white Arabic script. When independence was declared in 1961 it was decided to create a new flag in the pan-Arab colours, although they are not now interpreted as such. The green is for the green fields, the white for purity, the red for bloodshed, and black for the defeat of the state's enemies. The design of the flag is very similar to that of Iraq before 1958. The arms show a Kuwaiti dhow (ship) within the wings of a hawk, the emblem of the Amir, which also appeared on earlier versions of the arms.



United Arab Emirates

al-Imarat al-Arabiya al-Muttahida



Pan-Arab colours

Arms based on those of Abu Dhabi



Inscription is name of state

1	2	3	4	5	6	1:2
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

Abu Dhabi	Red with a white canton
Ajman and Dubai	Red with a vertical white strip in hoist
Fujairah	Plain red, sometimes with name in white
Sharjah and Ras al Khaimah	Red with a white border all round
Umm al-Qaiwain	Red with a vertical white strip, and crescent and star on red panel
Police	Blue with national flag in the canton and police badge in the fly

DATES IN HISTORY

1820	General Treaty
1853	Perpetual Maritime Truce
1892	Exclusive Agreement
2 December 1971	Effective independence

FACTS ABOUT UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Capital	Abu Dhabi
Population	1,770,000
Language	Arabic
National day	2 December

The seven emirates that now form this federation signed the original General Treaty with Britain in 1820, whereby they agreed to fly flags of red and white rather than plain red, and for this reason their territory became known as the Trucial Coast, or Trucial Oman. In fact one of the states, Fujairah, did not sign, and has kept a flag of plain red to this day. The states first formed a federation in 1968, with a flag of white with red bands at the top and bottom and a green seven-pointed star in the centre. But when the federation became independent under its new name, the present flag was adopted in the traditional Arab colours. The red in the hoist refers to the fact that this is the basic colour of the flags of the member-states. The arms are a falcon bearing a dhow (ship) on a red disc within a chain of eight links.



The flag of Dubai, one of the seven regions making up the United Arab Emirates, flutters next to a minaret.

Egypt

al-Jumhuriya Misr al-Arabiya

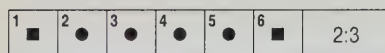


Arab Liberation colours

Eagle of Saladin



Inscription is name of state



OTHER FLAGS

President As national, with an extra gold eagle in the canton; shield in national colours

Army flag As national, with 2 crossed white sabres in the canton; shield in national colours

Naval ensign As above, but with 2 crossed white anchors; shield in national colours

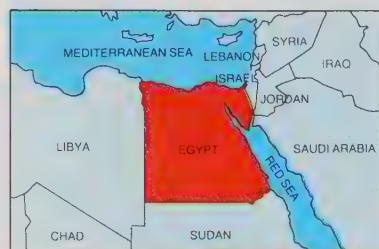
DATES IN HISTORY

- 1882 British occupation
- 1914 British protectorate
- 1919 Revolt against British
- 1922 Independent kingdom
- 1952 Revolt, and formation of republic
- 1958 United Arab Republic (union with Syria)
- 1961 Secession of Syria
- 1972 Federation of Arab Republics (union with Syria and Libya)
- 1977 Secession of Syria and Libya

FACTS ABOUT EGYPT

Capital Cairo
Population 49 280 000
Language Arabic
National days 23 July, 6 October

The Arab Liberation colours are similar to those of the revolt of 1917, but give less prominence to the green. The flag of Egypt was originally green, and after 1952 the new tricolour began to be used alongside it, until the formation of the United Arab Republic (with Syria) in 1958, when the tricolour gained two green stars. This flag was used by Egypt until 1972 when the flag of the Federation of Arab Republics was adopted. This had a golden hawk, from the arms of Syria, in the centre. Egypt used this flag until 1984 when the emblem was replaced by the Eagle of Saladin. The eagle was originally the badge of the Arab Socialist Union and became the arms of the United Arab Republic in 1958. From there it was adopted in several other Arab states. On the flag the eagle is all in gold, but as arms the central shield is coloured.



Syria

al-Jumhuriya al-Arabiya as-Souriya



Former flag of United Arab Republic

2 stars stood for Egypt and Syria

Emblem is the Hawk of the Quraish



OTHER FLAGS

Arab Renaissance Party The Arab Revolt flag (see p.11); see also Arab Palestine (p.132)

National emblem The arms have remained much the same since 1944, but with varying inscriptions on the scroll, which now reads 'Arab Republic of Syria'; the hawk was the emblem of the Quraish tribe, to which Muhammad belonged

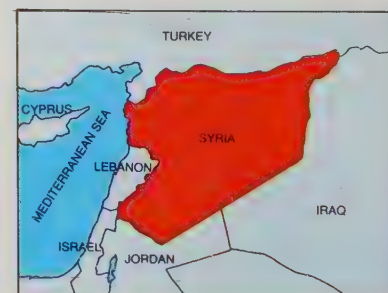
DATES IN HISTORY

- 1918 Occupation by Hashemite troops
- March 1920 Formation of Arab Kingdom of Greater Syria
- July 1920 French occupation
- 1930 Republic under French mandate
- 12 April 1946 Effective independence
- 1958-61 United Arab Republic
- 1971-7 Federation of Arab Republics (union with Egypt and Libya)

FACTS ABOUT SYRIA

Capital Damascus
Population 10 960 000
Language Arabic
National day 17 April

Syria has had a very complicated flag-history, reflecting its political one. It came into existence as a state only in 1918 under the Arab Revolt flag, then was re-formed by the French in 1922 and had a flag of green and white with the French *Tricolore* in the canton. A flag for the Republic of Syria was adopted in 1932, of green, white and black with three red stars. This remained in use until Syria joined the United Arab Republic but was resumed when it left in 1961. In 1963 Syria reverted to the Arab Liberation colours, but with three green stars (see also Iraq, right), and then with the golden hawk of the Federation of Arab Republics in 1972. From March 1980 Syria has flown the 1958 flag, although the two stars are now said to stand for Syria and Iraq.



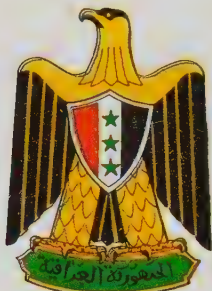
Iraq

al-Jumhuriya al-Iraqia



Arab Liberation colours
Stars for Iraq, Syria and
Egypt

Eagle of Saladin



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

Kurdistan See Aspirant Nations, p.132
National emblem As in Egypt and Yemen, the eagle is said to be the badge of the Saracen king, Saladin; the inscription is in the decorative Kufi script

DATES IN HISTORY

1916	British occupation
1921	Hashemite Kingdom under Faisal
1932	Effective independence
February-July 1958	Arab Union with Jordan
14 July 1958	Overthrow of monarchy
1968	Ba'ath Arab Socialist Party in power
1980-88	War with Iran

FACTS ABOUT IRAQ

Capital	Baghdad
Population	17,090,000
Languages	Arabic, Kurdish
National days	14 July, 17 July

During the period of the Hashemite kingdom (1921-58), Iraq's flag was similar to that of Jordan, but had a trapezium in the hoist instead of a triangle, and two stars rather than one. The flags of the Hashemite states (Jordan, Iraq, Hejaz and Syria) were therefore as closely related as their rulers were. The revolution of 1958 altered this pattern, and a flag of vertical strips of black, white and green, with a large eight-pointed star was adopted. This was a simplified form of the new national arms, which were based on the emblem of the Babylonian sun-god Shamash. The present flag was adopted in 1963 in anticipation of a union with Syria and Egypt that never materialized, although Syria did use the same flag until 1972. The Eagle of Saladin was also adopted at that time. The scroll bears the title of the republic.



Sudan

Jamuriyat as-Sudan



Arab Liberation colours
Black for the Mahdi

Bird is a secretary bird



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

President As national, with arms in centre of white strip
Air force ensign Light blue with national in canton and air force roundel in fly
Sudan People's Liberation Army Horizontally black, red and green, with the red limbered white, and a light blue triangle on hoist charged with a red star

DATES IN HISTORY

1823	Egyptian occupation; foundation of Khartoum
1882	Mahdi uprising
1885	Fall of Khartoum; death of General Gordon
1898	British victory at Omdurman
1899	Anglo-Egyptian condominium
1 January 1956	Independence
1969-1985	Nemery regime

FACTS ABOUT SUDAN

Capital	Khartoum
Population	25,550,000
Languages	Arabic, Darfurian, Nilotic languages
National day	1 January

The Arab Liberation colours were officially adopted in the Sudan in 1970, although they had already been current there for some years before that. The plain tricolour was favoured by the partisans of a union with Egypt, and all four colours by the nationalist *Umma* Party. Their flag was of black, green and red with a crescent and spearhead in white (the finial from the Mahdi's tomb). At the time of independence from Anglo-Egyptian rule a tricolour of blue, yellow and green had been adopted, but this was replaced by the present flag after the military coup of 1969. The flag was the result of a design competition. The arms consist of a secretary bird with a shield of traditional shape. The scrolls bear the title of the state and the motto *Al-nasr nila* ('Victory is ours'). Modern interpretations have been given to the flag colours.



North Yemen (Yemen Arab Republic)

al-Jumhuriya al-Arabiya al-Yamaniya



Arab Liberation colours

Star for unity

Shield from earlier arms



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

National emblem The eagle is for the link with other 'liberated' Arab states; the scroll bears the title of the state, and the shield is the traditional one portraying the Marib dam; above this is a sprig of coffee, a beverage which originated in Yemen.

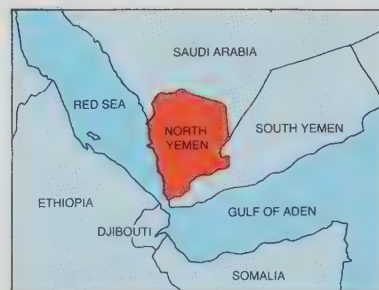
DATES IN HISTORY

- 1538** Tributary to Ottoman Empire
- 1733** Foundation of Imamate (ruled by head of Zaidi sect of Shi'a Moslems)
- 1872** Turkish reconquest
- 30 October 1918** Independence
- 1934** Boundaries fixed by Treaty of Taif
- 1962** Revolution, followed by civil war

FACTS ABOUT NORTH YEMEN

Capital San'a
Population 6,530,000
Language Arabic
National day 26 September

The creation of a republican regime in Yemen was assisted by Egyptian troops, and officers drawing their inspiration from the Arab Liberation movement of Gamal Abdul Nasser. The Imam was deposed in 1962, but royalists held part of the Yemen until 1970, so there were two rival regimes, one under the old flag and one under the new. The old flag was red with a white sword and five white stars. The red field was characteristic of the Shi'a sect of Islam and the five stars represented the relatives of the Prophet venerated by the Shi'ites (or perhaps the five duties of the Muhammadan) and the sword the authority of the state. The new flag was copied closely from that of the United Arab Republic (see Egypt and Syria). From 1958 to 1961 Yemen had been part of a loose 'Union of Arab States' with the United Arab Republic.



South Yemen (People's Democratic Republic of Yemen)

Jumhuriya al-Yemen al-Dimukratiyah al-Sha'abiyah



Arab Liberation colours

Emblem almost identical with Iraq and Egypt



Red star of socialism

1	2	3	4	5	6	1:2
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

President As national, with arms in red strip near hoist
Revolutionary Yemeni Youth Red with a red star on a light blue disc in centre

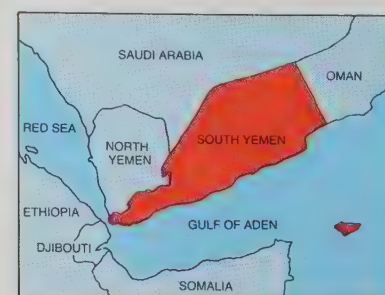
DATES IN HISTORY

- 1839** British seize Aden
- 1882-1914** Treaties extending protectorate over eastern states
- 1915-18** Turkish occupation of part of Western protectorate
- 1937** Formation of Aden Colony
- 1959** Federation of Arab Emirates of the South
- 1962** Federation of South Arabia
- 30 November 1967** Independent republic

FACTS ABOUT SOUTH YEMEN

Capital Aden
Population 2,300,000
Language Arabic
National days 14 October, 30 November

The People's Democratic Republic of Yemen is the former Federation of South Arabia, including Aden. This federation was formed by the British in 1962 with a view to uniting the score or more of Arab states in the Aden hinterland, and followed from a previous Federation of Arab Emirates of the South. From 1963 to 1967 the rule of Britain and the traditional leaders was under challenge from the nationalist groups, who forced a British withdrawal in 1967 and overthrew the traditional rulers, forming the People's Republic of South Yemen. The present name was adopted in 1970. The flag and arms are clearly modelled on those of Egypt, and the red star is said to symbolize the National Liberation Front, which became dominant at the time of independence.



Malawi

Mfuko la Malawi



Black Liberation colours

Rising sun from arms

Arms based on those of Nyasaland



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

President Red with the lion from the arms above a scroll with the name Malawi, all yellow

Army flag Red with a yellow rampant lion above the sun and wavy lines as in the crest

DATES IN HISTORY

1889 Claimed by British Central Africa Company

1891 Became a British protectorate

1953 Protectorate became part of Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland

1963 Self-government

6 July 1964 Independence

1966 Republic

FACTS ABOUT MALAWI

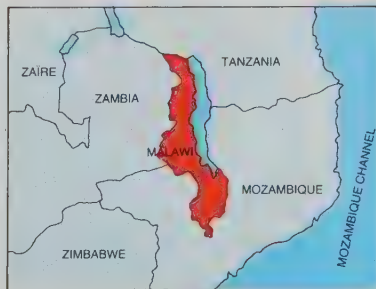
Capital Lilongwe

Population 7,100,000

Languages Chichewa, English

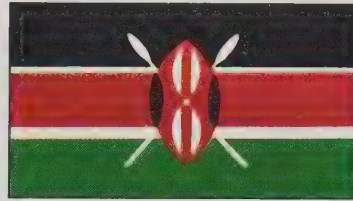
National day 6 July

The colours of the Black Liberation Movement begun by Marcus Garvey are in their simplest African form in the flag of the Malawi Congress Party, under which Malawi achieved independence. The red rising sun is a stylized form of the one that appeared on the shield of Nyasaland and which also features in the arms of Malawi. This is characteristic of the way in which the flag of a dominant party is altered to make it into a national flag, as happened in India, Pakistan and many African countries. After the event, the colours and emblems are given different interpretations, as with Malawi, where the red is for blood shed in the struggle for freedom, black for Africa and green for forests and fields, and the sun is the dawn (*kwacha*, also the name of the currency). The leopard in the arms also appeared in the previous colonial shield.



Kenya

Jamhuri ya Kenya



Black Liberation colours

Motto means 'Pull together'



Shield and spears of KANU

1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

President Green with the shield and spears from the national flag, and a golden cockerel in the fly

Provincial governors The stripes from the national flag laid in the form of a triangle based on the hoist, with the red charged with a gold rampant lion

Naval ensign White with the national flag in the canton and an upright red anchor in the fly

DATES IN HISTORY

1885 Claimed by British East Africa Company

1920 Colony of Kenya

May 1963 Self-government

12 December 1963 Independence

1964 Republic

FACTS ABOUT KENYA

Capital Nairobi

Population 20,030,000

Languages Kiswahili, Kikuyu, English

National days 1 June, 20 October, 12 December

As in Malawi, the Garvey colours were the inspiration of those used by the dominant party, the Kenya African National Union. The party flag had three stripes (black, red, green) with a shield and crossed spears in the centre in white. The national flag of 1963 was based directly on this, but had a more elaborate form of shield and also white fimbriation to the red stripe. This was added to represent the other main party, the Kenya African Democratic Union, which has since merged with KANU. The same pattern is repeated in the arms, where the cockerel with an axe is the KANU party badge. The shield rests on a representation of Mount Kenya strewn with agricultural products. The founding father of Kenya, Jomo Kenyatta, was closely connected with the Afro-Americans who agitated for pan-African freedom.



Ethiopia

Ya-Ityopia Hizewawi Democraciawi Republik



The original pan-African colours

Proportions have changed from 2:3 to 1:2



Face is what remains of the Lion of Judah

1	2	3	4	5	6	1:2
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

Workers' Party of Ethiopia Red with a yellow star in the canton bearing a red hammer and sickle

Eritrea See aspirant nations. p.132

Eritrea (1952-62) Light blue with 3 green olive branches in the centre (also used by Eritrean Liberation Front)

DATES IN HISTORY

1855-68 Reign of Emperor Theodore

1889 Italian occupation of Eritrea

1896 Italian invasion of Ethiopia defeated

1936-41 Italian conquest of Ethiopia

1952 Eritrea federated to Ethiopia

1962 Eritrea annexed to Ethiopia

12 September Overthrow of Emperor

1974

FACTS ABOUT ETHIOPIA

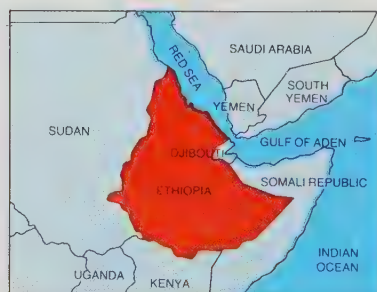
Capital Addis Ababa

Population 46 000 000

Languages Amharic, Tigre, Galla, Arabic

National day 12 September

The basic flag of Ethiopia, which dates from the last decade of the 19th century, is the one which inspired the Ras Tafari and Ethiopian Church movements in the West Indies. Ras Tafari was the former name of the Emperor Haile Selassie, who was crowned in 1930 and afterwards twice driven into exile. As Emperor his title was Conquering Lion of Judah, and this beast appeared on the state flag, crowned and carrying a cross. Immediately after the overthrow of the Emperor, the lion on the flag lost his crown and cross (a spear was substituted). As before, the flag for everyday use has no emblem. In 1984 a new Socialist emblem was introduced, revised in the Constitution of 1987. This now portrays the Aksum column (an ancient monolith) behind a large cogwheel. The wreath is of palm and olive branches.



Ghana



Pan-African colours

'The Lode-star of African Freedom'



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

Civil ensign Red with the national flag in the canton

Civil air ensign Light blue with the national flag in the canton and a black star in the fly

Black Star Line 5 stripes of green, red, yellow, red and green, with the yellow of double width and having a black star in the centre

DATES IN HISTORY

1470 First Portuguese station

1820 British in control of coastal strip

1874 Colony of the Gold Coast

1900 Occupation of kingdom of Ashanti by British after 4 wars

6 March 1957 Independence

1960 Republic

1969-72 Second republic

FACTS ABOUT GHANA

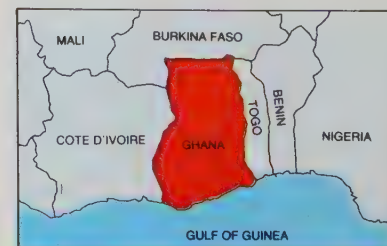
Capital Accra

Population 12 210 000

Languages Akan, Ewe, Ga, English

National days 6 March, 2 July

The flag of Ghana was the first to use the original Ethiopian colours together with black, taken from the Marcus Garvey colours (see p.11). The flag also uses the black star emblem invented by Garvey, which also appears as the crest in the arms, and is the name of the parade ground in Accra. The flag was produced by the first leader of Ghana, Kwame Nkrumah, but it was not in the colours of his own party. In 1964 the yellow in the flag was changed to white to coincide with the party colours. After Nkrumah's fall in 1966 the colours were changed back again. The flag of Ghana, the first new African state since Liberia, was in turn the inspiration of many others. The arms granted just before independence are of typical British design, with quarters representing the republic's main products and a lion for the British connection, although the crest and supporters are of Ghanaian origin.



Guinea

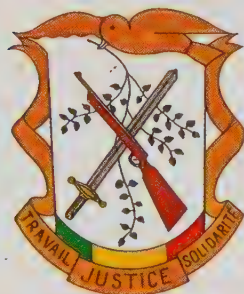
République de Guinée



Pan-African colours

Design based on French Tricolore

Dove of peace



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

National emblem A shield divided vertically red and green with a crossed rifle and sword; above this, a flying dove with an olive branch forming part of the shield contents; the motto is 'Work, Justice, Solidarity' on a ribbon

DATES IN HISTORY

- 1849** Northern region became a French protectorate
- 1895** French Guinea became part of French West Africa
- 1947** Beginning of independence movement under Sekou Touré

2 October 1958 Independence

FACTS ABOUT GUINEA

Capital Conakry
Population 6,340,000
Languages Fulani, Malinké, French
National day 2 October



Mali

République de Mali



Pan-African colours

State has seal only, no real coat of arms



Flag formerly had black emblem

1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

National emblem Like several ex-French territories, Mali has a seal only; it portrays a town gate with a flying dove, and 2 bows and arrows over a rising sun; on the rim is the name of the state and the motto 'One people, one goal, one faith'; the seal is sometimes depicted in colour

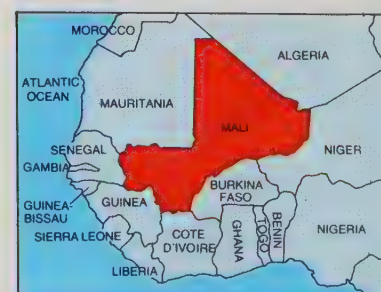
DATES IN HISTORY

- 1895** Colony of French Sudan
- 1926** A province of French West Africa
- 1958** Self-government within French Community
- 1959** Federation of Mali, including Senegal
- 20 June 1960** Independence
- 22 August 1960** Dissolution of Federation

FACTS ABOUT MALI

Capital Bamako
Population 8,730,000
Languages Bambara, Fulani, French
National day 22 September

When it became independent, Mali was linked to Senegal in the Federation of Mali. The flag it adopted in 1959 was like the present one, but had a black outline figure of a man, called the *kanaga*, in the centre. The Federation became independent on 20 June 1960, but two months later the two members agreed to part. Mali retained the name and the flag, but dropped the *kanaga* from it in 1961. The Federation flag was thus the second one after Ghana's to use the full red-yellow-green-black combination. The *kanaga* represented the idea of black consciousness, or *négritude*, and the Ethiopian colours the idea of unity with other African states. Although this was proposed with Ghana and Guinea after the dissolution of the link with Senegal in 1960, it was never realized, although a draft flag for the union was promoted at the time.

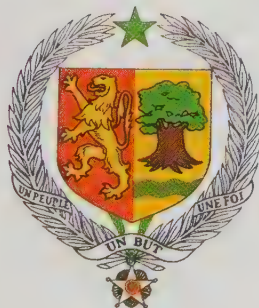


Senegal

République du Sénégal



Pan-African colours
Star for independence



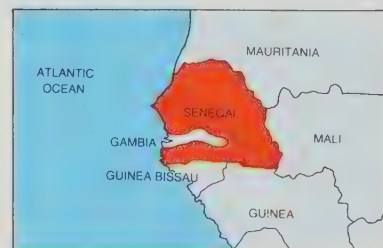
1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

President	As national, with initials AD beside the star; flag has a white cravat
Chief of armed forces	White with the national flag in the canton and 2 crossed swords and a star in the fly, all in green
Governors of provinces	Divided diagonally, lower half green, upper half as the national flag
DATES IN HISTORY	
1659	French fort established at Saint-Louis
1854-65	French extend control into the interior
1902	Senegal a province of French West Africa
1958	Autonomous state within French Community
1959	Federation of Mali
20 June 1960	Independence
22 August 1960	Secession
1982	Confederation of Senegambia with Gambia

FACTS ABOUT SENEGAL

Capital	Dakar
Population	6 700 000
Languages	French, tribal languages
National day	4 April



Cameroon

République du Cameroun



Pan-African colours
Single star for united state



Motto is 'Peace, Work, Fatherland'

1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

None

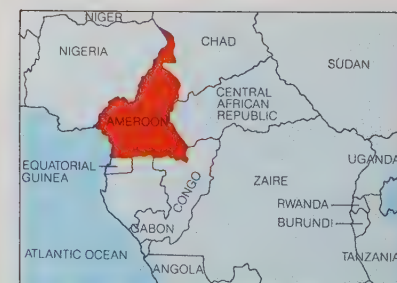
DATES IN HISTORY

1868	First German settlement in Kamerun
1884	German protectorate
1911	Part of French Equatorial Africa ceded to Kamerun
1916	Occupied by French and British
1919	French and British mandates
1957	Autonomy of French sector
1 January 1960	Independence of French Cameroon
1 October 1960	(British) South Cameroons joins independent state (northern part joins Nigeria)
1972	Formation of unitary republic

FACTS ABOUT CAMEROON

Capital	Yaoundé
Population	9 880 000
Languages	French, English, Fulani, Bantu languages
National day	20 May

Cameroon was the first country after Ghana to adopt the pan-African colours, in October 1957. At that time it was an autonomous state under French trusteeship and did not include that part of the British territory which later federated with it. As in other French-speaking areas the design of the French *Tricolore* was used as a model. At first the flag was plain, and was used when the French part became independent. The southern part of the British area joined as a unit of a federal state in 1961 and two yellow stars were then placed in the green strip. In 1975 these were replaced by a single star in the centre of the flag to signify that the state was now a unitary one. The arms were altered in 1984 and now have only one star, of yellow, on the green part.



Rwanda

Republika y'u Rwanda



Pan-African colours
R for Rwanda
No official size or shape for the R



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

National Revolutionary Movement	OTHER FLAGS
	As national, but with colours arranged diagonally and the yellow of double width, with the dove, shield and ribbon from the arms
	DATES IN HISTORY
	Before 1959 Rwanda was part of a Tutsi-dominated monarchy linked to Burundi (see p.99), independent until c.1890
1889-99	Ruanda-Urundi incorporated into German East Africa
1918	Occupied by Allies
1919	Belgian mandate
January 1962	Autonomous republic
1 July 1962	Independence
FACTS ABOUT RWANDA	Capital
	Kigali
	Population
	6,320,000
	Languages
National day	Kinyarwanda, French
	1 July

When Rwanda was declared a republic on 28 January 1961 by the dominant Hutu party, a flag of green, yellow and red was adopted, very similar to that of Mali (see p.89). It became identical with it on 1 March when Mali dropped the *kanaga* from its flag. In September therefore the present design was substituted, with the colours reversed and the black R added. This was the flag used when the country became independent. The arms date from the day of independence, and include a dove and an olive branch for peace, a bow and arrow for defence, and a hoe and mattock for agriculture. The shield also includes the name of the country in French and the national motto. Originally 'Liberty, Cooperation, Progress', this is now 'Unity, Peace, Development'.



São Tomé and Príncipe

República Democrática de São Tomé e Príncipe



Pan-African colours
Star for each island

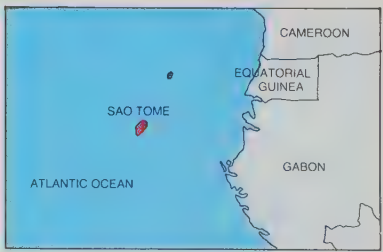
Motto is 'Unity, Discipline, Work'



1	2	3	4	5	6	1:2
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

	OTHER FLAGS
	None
	DATES IN HISTORY
	1471 Discovered by Portuguese explorers
1522	Portuguese colony
1951	Overseas province of Portugal
1974	Agreement on independence
12 July 1975	Independence
FACTS ABOUT SAO TOME AND PRINCEPE	Capital
	São Tomé
	Population
	113,000
	Languages
National day	Portuguese, Fang
	12 July

The flag of the republic, although in the pan-African colours, is derived from that of the Liberation Movement, whose flag was adopted in 1972. The only difference is that the Liberation Movement flag has equal horizontal stripes. The red triangle symbolizes the struggle for independence, as in the flags of Ghana and Togo. Under Portuguese rule the islands had a coat of arms, but the one adopted on independence is quite different. The main charge is an oil palm on a shield shaped like a cocoa pod, symbolizing the republic's main products. The supporters are pigeons (one for each island) and the name of the state appears on a yellow ribbon above the shield while the national motto is on one below.



Guinea-Bissau

República de Guiné-Bissau



Pan-African colours
Black star for African freedom

Motto is 'Unity, Struggle, Progress'



1	2	3	4	5	6	1:2
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

None

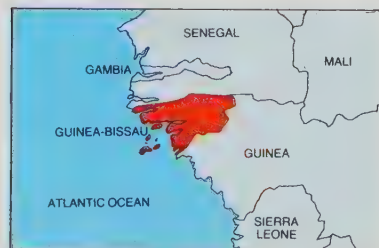
DATES IN HISTORY

1446	Explored by Portuguese
1484	Colony, dependency of Cape Verde Islands
1879	Separate colony
1951	Overseas province of Portugal
1973	Declaration of independence
10 September 1974	Effective independence

FACTS ABOUT GUINEA BISSAU

Capital	Bissau
Population	935,000
Languages	Portuguese, Crioulo
National day	24 September

Portuguese Guinea and the Cape Verde Islands both had the same liberation movement, the *Partido Africano da Independência da Guiné e Cabo Verde* (PAIGC). Its flag was like the present flag of Guinea-Bissau, but with its initials in black underneath the star. The PAIGC declared the independence of Guinea-Bissau on 24 September 1973, and hoisted their flag (without the initials). The Portuguese recognized its independence on 10 September of the following year. The arms consist of the black star from the flag with the national motto. The first two words of this were the PAIGC motto. Their emblem also included the clam-shell and the palm branches.



Cape Verde

República de Cabo Verde



Pan-African colours

Motto is 'Unity, Work, Progress'



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

None

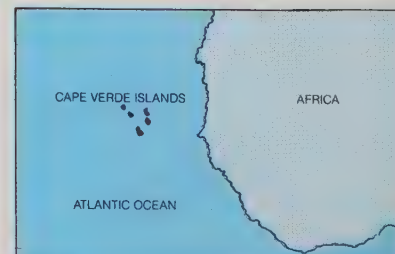
DATES IN HISTORY

1460	Discovered by Portuguese
1462	Settled by Portuguese
1587	United colony including Guinea
1951	Overseas province of Portugal
1974	Transitional government
5 July 1975	Independence

FACTS ABOUT CAPE VERDE

Capital	Praia
Population	350,000
Languages	Portuguese, Crioulo
National day	5 July

The flag of Cape Verde is distinguished from that of Guinea-Bissau not only by the different proportions but also by the wreath of maize around the star and the clam-shell beneath it. In the original PAIGC (see left) badge the clam stood for the islands, but now it represents the important sea-fishing industry. The PAIGC flag was in use until the achievement of independence in 1975 when the Cape Verde version was adopted. The arms are also very similar to those of Guinea-Bissau. Extra elements are the book (representing education and progress), the cogwheel (industry) and the maize-plants (the people's food), whilst the upright pickaxe represents the word 'work' in the national motto.



Togo

République Togolaise



Pan-African colours
Stripe for each region
Star of hope



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

Rassemblement du Peuple Togolais
Light green with party badge: hand holding torch of red flames with yellow halo, within dark green wreath

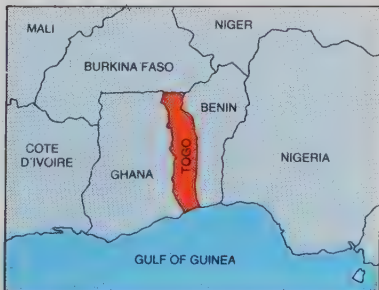
DATES IN HISTORY

- 1884** Part of German colony of Togoland
- 1914** British and French occupation
- 1922** Partitioned between British and French mandates
- 1957** Autonomous republic within French Community; British sector joined to Ghana
- 27 April 1960** Independence

FACTS ABOUT TOGO

Capital Lomé
Population 3,160,000
Languages French, Ewe, Kabra
National day 27 April

Togo had a flag when it was a French Trusteeship Territory, of green with two yellow stars and the French *Tricolore* in the canton. When it became independent, however, it did not follow the usual course of adopting a vertical tricolour, but rather a flag in five stripes intended to represent the regions or ethnic groups. The star represents hope, and the red field the struggle for independence, as in Ghana. The arms have been revised slightly since independence (as in other places, the motto is changed to reflect changes in the political orientation of the leadership). On a golden sun are the initials RT (for the title of the republic) flanked by two national flags and two red lions with bows and arrows. The motto is now 'Union, Peace, Solidarity'.



Burkina Faso



Pan-African colours

Motto is 'Our country or death – we will conquer'



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

None

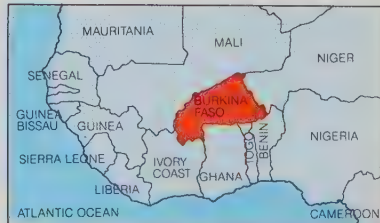
DATES IN HISTORY

- 1894–6** Penetration by French
- 1919** Formed as colony out of Upper Senegal and Niger
- 1933** Integrated with Côte d'Ivoire
- 1947** Separate province of French West Africa
- 1958** Autonomous republic within French Community
- 5 August 1960** Independence
- 1982** Coup by Council for the National Revolution

FACTS ABOUT BURKINA FASO

Capital Ouagadougou
Population 8,330,000
Languages French, Mossi, Fulani
National day 4 August

Under its previous name of Upper Volta, the country hoisted its first flag in 1959. This had horizontal stripes of black, white and red, which stood for the three branches of the Volta River running through the country. This became the national flag when independence was achieved in 1960. A new name, emblem and flag were adopted after the coup of 1983, and were introduced on 4 August 1984. The new flag is in the pan-African colours to symbolize the country's solidarity with other ex-colonial states, whilst the star stands for the revolutionary guidelines. The new arms include emblems for defence, agriculture, industry and education, with the book containing the name and the national motto. The red star represents revolution.



Benin

République Populaire du Bénin



Red star of socialism
Green for national economy

Initials of state



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

People's Revolutionary Party of Benin Red with a green star in the canton

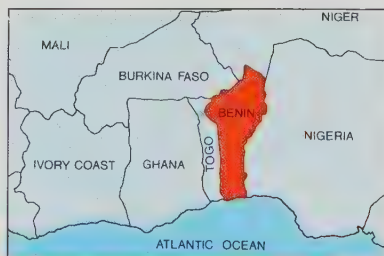
DATES IN HISTORY

1788	Portuguese fort at Ouidah
1851	French in possession of rest of Ouidah (annexed 1892)
1883	French in possession of whole coast of Dahomey
1886	Formation of French Benin (<i>Etablissements Français de Golfe de Bénin</i>)
1894	Dahomey a colony
1899	Merger of Benin and Dahomey
1958	Autonomous republic within French Community
1 August 1960	Independent Republic of Dahomey
30 November 1975	People's Republic of Benin

FACTS ABOUT BENIN

Capital	Porto Novo
Population	4,150,000
Languages	French, Fon, local dialects
National day	30 November

Like the Congo (see p.95), Benin (formerly Dahomey) also had an original flag in the pan-African colours of yellow over red with a green vertical strip in the hoist. This had been adopted in 1959 when it was an autonomous state within the French Community, and was retained for the independent republic of Dahomey in 1960. It also had a seal and a coat of arms. In 1975, following the establishment of a Marxist regime in 1972, the name of the country and all the national symbols were changed. The flag is now green to indicate that 90 per cent of the population subsist by agriculture, and the red star is for revolution and national unity. The same elements appear in the emblem, which also includes a cogwheel, ears of maize and a bundle of rods like a Roman fasces. There is now no national motto.



Zaire

République du Zaïre



Pan-African colours
Emblem of the MPR

Motto is 'Justice, Peace, Work'



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

President Amaranth with a leopard in natural colours *passant* facing the hoist

Kinshasa Blue with a white wavy stripe surmounted by the letter K and 2 stars, all yellow

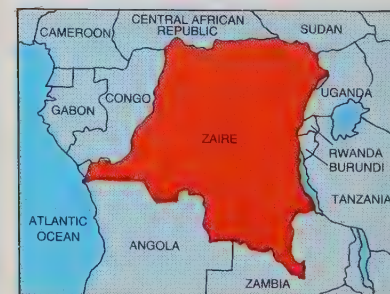
DATES IN HISTORY

1879-84	Belgian penetration of Congo Basin
1884	Recognition of Congo Free State
1908	Formation of Belgian Congo
30 June 1960	Independent as Congo-Léopoldville (later Kinshasa); secession of Katanga and Kasai; outbreak of civil war
1967	End of civil war
1971	Congo renamed Zaire

FACTS ABOUT ZAIRE

Capital	Kinshasa
Population	31,780,000
Languages	French, Kiswahili, Tshiluba, Kikongo, Lingala
National day	24 November

Zaire has had several flags since it became independent in 1960. Before that it had the flag designed by the explorer Stanley for the Congo Free State: blue with a gold star. On independence six other stars were added in the hoist, but this was changed in 1963 to a blue flag with a red diagonal edged in yellow and a single yellow star in the canton. The flag adopted in 1971 is basically that of the *Mouvement Populaire de la Révolution* (MPR). The torch represents the struggle for freedom, and the green ground hope for the future. On the MPR flag the arm and torch appear directly on the green field. The arms date from 1964 and the leopard's head and spears represent determination to defend the country's liberty. During the civil wars of the 1960s several different flags were used by secessionist regimes.



Congo

République Populaire du Congo



Red flag with pan-African colours

Motto is 'Work, Democracy, Peace'



Emblems of the workers

1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

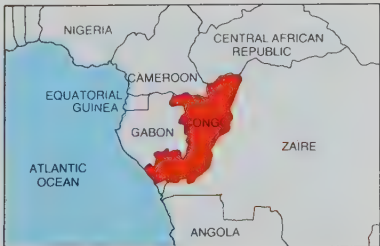
None

DATES IN HISTORY

1880	Foundation of Brazzaville
1888	French colony of Gabon-Congo, also including Ubangui-Shari and Chad
1904	Separate colony of Middle Congo
1910	Province of French Equatorial Africa
1911-20	Part of territory ceded to Kamerun
1958	Autonomous republic within French Community
15 August 1960	Independence as Congo-Brazzaville
3 January 1970	People's Republic of Congo

FACTS ABOUT CONGO

Capital	Brazzaville
Population	2,180,000
Languages	French, Monokutuba, Lingala
National day	15 August



Zimbabwe



Pan-African colours

White for peace

1	2	3	4	5	6	1:2
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

President Green with the arms in the centre and triangle etc. as in the national flag based on the hoist; in the fly, 2 panels of the national colours

DATES IN HISTORY

1893	Occupation of Bulawayo
1898	Formation of Rhodesia
1923	Colony of Southern Rhodesia
1953-63	Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland
11 October 1965	Unilateral Declaration of Independence
1970	Republic of Rhodesia
1979	Zimbabwe-Rhodesia
18 April 1980	Republic of Zimbabwe

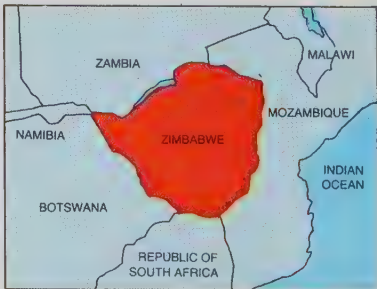
FACTS ABOUT ZIMBABWE

Capital	Harare (formerly Salisbury)
Population	8,640,000
Languages	English, Shona, Sindebele
National day	18 April



Zimbabwe bird

Zimbabwe has been through many transformations since it was taken over by the British in the 1890s under the name of Rhodesia. As a colony, it used the normal British flags, after 1924 including the shield from the arms. Separate arms were used for the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland (1953-63) but then Rhodesia resumed its own arms. These were placed on the fly of a light blue flag with the Union Jack in the canton, and this was used after UDI until 1968 when a flag of green and white with the whole arms in the centre was adopted. This was replaced in 1979 by the flag of Zimbabwe-Rhodesia. The flag adopted on independence is based on the colours of the Patriotic Front. The bird of Zimbabwe (the crest from the arms) and the towers depicted on the shield recall the ancient African city after which the country is named.



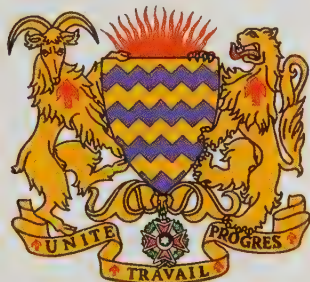
Chad

République du Tchad/Djournhouriyat Tachâd



Combination of pan-African and French colours

Motto is 'Unity, Work, Progress'



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

Forces Armées du Nord Red over blue with a white triangle based on the hoist, charged with a green crescent and star

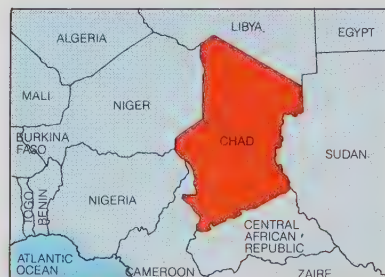
DATES IN HISTORY

1900	French protectorate
1908	Chad part of French Ubangui-Shari
1920	Separate colony
1946	Province of French Equatorial Africa
1958	Autonomous republic within French Community
11 August 1960	Effective independence
1965–present	Intermittent civil war

FACTS ABOUT CHAD

Capital	N'djaména
Population	5,240,000
Languages	French, Arabic, many dialects
National day	7 July

The flag of Chad is very similar to the French *Tricolore* with yellow substituted for white, or alternatively it may be seen as being like the flag of Mali with blue instead of green. This is the result of an attempt to combine the colours of France with pan-African ones. It was introduced when Chad was an autonomous republic within the French Community. A seal was adopted on independence, depicting an African maiden, with the title and motto around the rim, but in 1970 the European-style arms were adopted, in which the colours are composed of the zig-zag stripes and the red rising sun. The supporters – a mountain goat and a lion – represent the north and south of the country respectively. Beneath is the cross of the national Order. On the supporters and the scroll are red symbols for salt, the main mineral product of the country.



Central African Republic

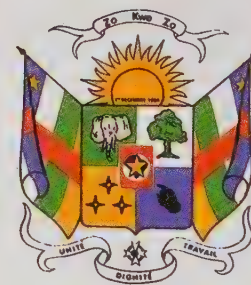
République Centrafricaine



French and pan-African colours

Star of African unity

1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----



OTHER FLAGS

Imperial Standard (1976–9) A green square with a spread eagle superimposed on a sun, all yellow, with a gold fringe on 3 sides

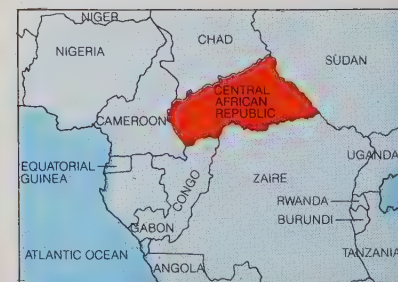
DATES IN HISTORY

1897	Upper Ubangui claimed by France
1898	Occupation of Shari area
1904	Colony of Ubangui-Shari, including Chad
1920	Chad detached to become a separate colony
1946	French Overseas Territory
1958	Autonomous republic within French Community
13 August 1960	Independence
4 December 1976	Central African Empire under Bokassa I
21 September 1979	Republic restored

FACTS ABOUT CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Capital	Bangui
Population	2,780,000
Languages	French, Songho
National day	1 December

The flag of this state is a combination of those of France and of Africa, and was intended to express the idea of unified African states linked to a French Commonwealth, an idea which has not materialized. The title was also intended to imply that other states might join up with the former Ubangui-Shari. The arms were introduced in 1963, but no official interpretation of the emblems has been issued. The black pointing hand in the fourth quarter is the emblem of MESAN, the party in power at the time. On the scroll is the motto *Zo Kwé Zo* ('A man is a man'). The state motto, 'Unity, Dignity, Work', appears on the scroll beneath. The cross is that of the Central African National Service Order. No change was made to the arms or flag during the reign of the Emperor Bokasso (1976–79).



Angola

República Popular de Angola



Same colours as party flag

Emblems of industry and agriculture

Star from party flag



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

UNITA
(National Union for the Total Independence of Angola)
A horizontal triband of red, green, red; in the centre a black cockerel and a red rising sun

DATES IN HISTORY

1491 First European settlers
1575 Portuguese colony; foundation of Luanda
1641-8 Dutch occupation
1920 Cabinda incorporated into Angola
1935 Integrated into Portugal
1951 Overseas province of Portugal
1961-75 Liberation war
11 November 1975 Independence; continued civil war against UNITA

FACTS ABOUT ANGOLA

Capital Luanda
Population 8,960,000
Languages Portuguese, Umbundu, Kimbundu, Lunda, Kikongo
National days 4 February, 11 November, 10 December

The flag of Angola is one of several in Africa that are derived from the flag of the party dominant at the time of independence, in this case the *Movimento Popular de Libertação de Angola*. Its flag is red over black with a large yellow star in the centre. The red and black colours are closely connected with those used by the 26 July Movement in Cuba and the Sandinistas in Nicaragua and are expressive of 'Liberty or death'. The modern official interpretation is that red is for the blood shed in the struggle for liberty, black is for the African continent, and the gold star is for the country's natural riches. The arms are on general socialist lines, with a rising sun, implements of agriculture, a cogwheel for industry, a book for education, and maize, coffee and cotton for the country's main products.



Mozambique

República Popular de Moçambique



Basis is party flag

Star for socialism

Emblems of defence and agriculture



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

President Red with the arms on a yellow disc in the centre
FRELIMO Red with a crossed hammer and hoe beneath a star in the upper hoist, all yellow

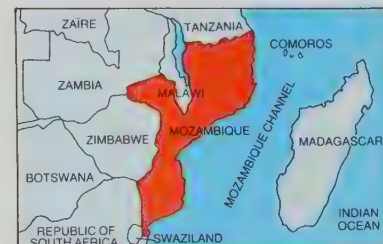
DATES IN HISTORY

1498 Mozambique visited by Vasco da Gama, a Portuguese explorer
1506 First Portuguese settlements
1752 Colony of Mozambique
1951 Overseas province of Portugal
1964 Outbreak of Liberation war
1974 Transitional government
25 June 1975 Independence; continued civil war

FACTS ABOUT MOZAMBIQUE

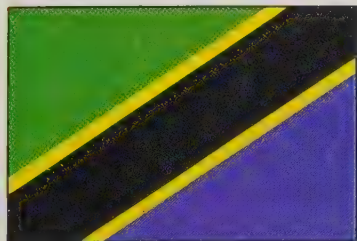
Capital Maputo (formerly Laurenço Marques)
Population 14,540,000
Languages Portuguese, Swahili
National day 25 June

The party which led Mozambique to independence was FRELIMO (*Frente de Libertação de Moçambique*). At that time its party flag was like the present national flag, but with no emblems in the red triangle. On independence a flag in the same colours but with a very different layout was introduced (the stripes were in the form of rays starting in the upper hoist). A simplified form of the arms was placed over all in the hoist. This was changed in 1983 when the party adopted a new flag, and the national flag was changed back to the original party flag design, with the star, hoe and Kalashnikov rifle from the arms on the red triangle. The national arms have many of the same items as those of Angola (see left), with a sun rising over the map of Mozambique, all contained within a wreath of maize and sugar cane.



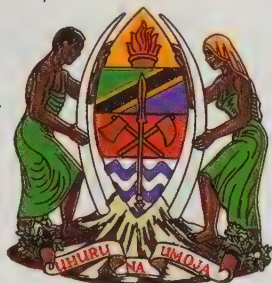
Tanzania

Jamhuri ya Muungano wa Tanzania



Colours of party flags

Shield of traditional African shape



Motto is 'Freedom and Unity'

1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

President Blue with a green border all round and shield and scroll from arms in centre

Chama cha Mapinduzi (National Revolutionary Party) Green with crossed hammer and hoe in yellow in canton

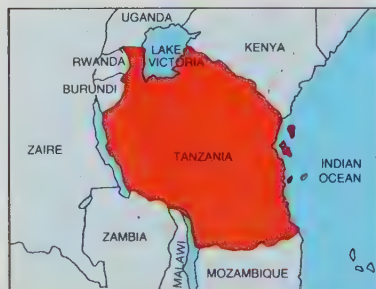
DATES IN HISTORY

- 1830** Omani Sultanate set up in Zanzibar
- 1884** German colonists in East Africa under Carl Peters
- 1890** British protectorate over Zanzibar
- 1891** German protectorate
- 1916-18** Occupied by Britain, Belgium and Portugal
- 1920** British mandate over Tanganyika (Rwanda and Burundi to Belgium)
- 9 December 1961** Independence of Tanganyika
- 9 December 1963** Independence of Zanzibar
- 27 April 1964** Union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar

FACTS ABOUT TANZANIA

Capital Dodoma
Population 23,200,000
Languages Kiswahili, English
National day 27 April

The flag of Tanzania combines the colours of two political parties. Originally the flag was horizontally green-black-green with yellow fimbriations. The green and black were the colours of TANU (Tanganyika African National Union), which led the country to independence in 1961. In 1964 the Afro-Shirazi Party took over in Zanzibar and deposed the Sultan. Their flag was horizontally blue-black-green with a yellow hoe in the centre. When Zanzibar merged with Tanganyika later in the year, the blue from their flag was added to the existing green, black and yellow of Tanganyika's flag. The colours were arranged diagonally to give them all equal status. The arms were originally designed for Tanganyika by the College of Arms, and show an African shield resting on Mount Kilimanjaro.



Uganda



Colours of Uganda People's Congress

Emblem from former badge

Drum for the former kingdoms



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

President Red with the stripes from the national flag along the bottom, and the whole arms in the centre

DATES IN HISTORY

- 1862** Speke and Grant reach Uganda in search of source of Nile
- 1877** First British missionaries in Uganda
- 1894** British protectorate over African kingdoms
- 1902** Eastern sector transferred to British East Africa (Kenya)
- 1953-5** Deposition of Kabaka of Buganda (largest African kingdom)
- 9 October 1962** Independence of Uganda
- 9 October 1963** Republic
- 1966** Suppression of African kingdoms
- 1979** Invasion by Tanzania and continued civil war
- 1985** End of civil war

FACTS ABOUT UGANDA

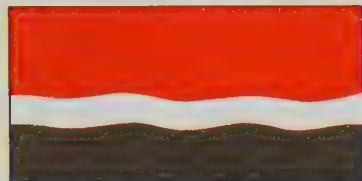
Capital Kampala
Population 16,790,000
Languages English, Bantu and Nilotic languages
National day 9 October

Despite its violent recent history, the national symbols of Uganda have not changed since independence in 1962. At that time the Uganda People's Congress had just won control. The flag designed for independence was in fact in the colours of the rival Democratic Party, but it was altered to the present design just before the appointed day. The emblem in the centre, also one of the supporters of the arms, was the former colonial badge, the Crested Crane, used on British ensigns. The African kingdoms into which Uganda was once divided did have flags and arms of their own, and the most frequent symbol was the drum, as in Rwanda and Burundi; this is now represented by one of the charges on the shield, which is also of African shape, as in Tanzania and Kenya. The waters below the shield represent the source of the Nile.



Seychelles

Republik Sesel



Colours of dominant party

Motto is 'The end crowns the work'

Arms adopted on independence



1	2	3	4	5	6	1:2
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

President As national with yellow border all round and arms on a white disc in centre

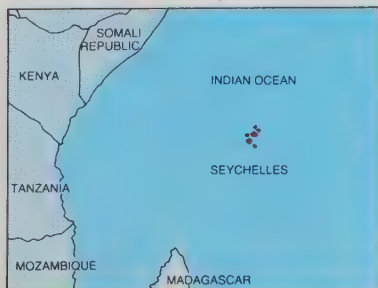
DATES IN HISTORY

- 1756** Islands colonized by French
- 1794** Captured by Britain
- 1814** Dependency of Mauritius
- 1903** Separate colony
- 29 June 1976** Independent republic
- 1977** Coup by SPUP

FACTS ABOUT SEYCHELLES

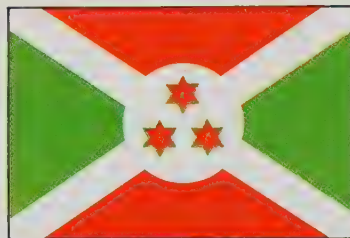
Capital Victoria (Mahé)
Population 67 000
Languages English, French, Creole
National day 29 June

The Seychelles flag is an example of one changed after independence to reflect a change in political control. The original flag was in the colours of the former Democratic party (blue and white) combined with red and white from those of the Seychelles People's United Party (SPUP, now the People's Progressive Front), and was in the form of a white saltire dividing triangles of red and blue. However, in 1977 the SPUP took over complete control of the government and instituted a new flag based entirely on their own party flag, which is like the present national flag but with a yellow rising sun. The arms have not been changed and depict an island scene with a giant tortoise as on the previous colonial badge. The supporters are sailfish, and the crest is a paille-en-queue, a bird native to the islands.



Burundi

Republika y'Uburundi/République de Burundi



Central emblem has altered with political changes

3 spears for the 3 ethnic groups

Motto is 'Unity, Work, Progress'



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

UPRONA (Parti de l'Unité et du Progrès National du Burundi) Diagonally white over red

DATES IN HISTORY

- From the 16th century until 1966 Burundi was a kingdom ruled by the minority Tutsi tribe
- 1890** Occupied by Germany
- 1916** Captured by Belgium
- 1919** Belgian mandate
- 1 July 1962** Independent Kingdom of Burundi
- 1966** Mwami deposed by Crown Prince, in turn deposed by Prime Minister
- 1972** Death of Mwami in attempted coup; Hutu-Tutsi conflict

FACTS ABOUT BURUNDI

Capital Bujumbura
Population 4,920,000
Languages French, Kirundi
National day 1 July

Changes in the political orientation of Burundi have been reflected in the central emblem of its flag. When the flag was first designed Burundi was a kingdom, and so the flag featured a drum (*karyenda*), the traditional symbol of the monarchy. A sorghum plant, the country's main foodstuff, appeared in front of the drum. In November 1966 the Mwami (king) was deposed and the royal drum confiscated. The drum symbol was therefore removed from the arms and flag. The present design was adopted on 28 June 1967, with three stars, said to represent the words of the national motto. After 1966 the previous royal motto, *Ganza Sabwa* ('To reign and to rule'), was removed from the arms, and four spears (symbolizing the four royal dynasties) reduced to three, for the Tutsi, the Hutu and the Twa ethnic groups.



Zambia



Colours of ruling party
Eagle from coat of arms
Copper for main mineral resource



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

President Orange, with the whole arms in the centre

UNIP Green with 3 vertical strips of red, black and orange in the fly; in the centre a hoe and the word 'Unity'

Paramount Chief of Barotseland Red with a white elephant

DATES IN HISTORY

1890 Part of British Central Africa

1895 Barotseland transferred to South Africa Company

1911 Separate protectorate

1923 Colony and protectorate

1953-63 Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland

24 October 1964 Independent republic

1972 Second republic

FACTS ABOUT ZAMBIA

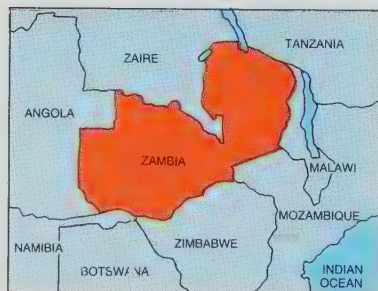
Capital Lusaka

Population 7,120,000

Languages English, Bemba, Tonga, Malawi, Lozi

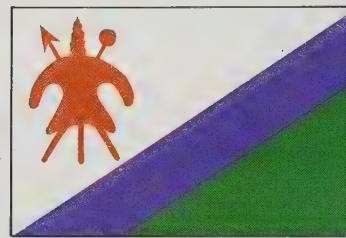
National day 24 October

The flag of Zambia reflects the colours of the ruling United National Independence Party which has been in power since 1964, although the party flag has changed its design since then. The orange-brown strip in the lower fly is an unusual colour, but as in the flag of Cyprus it represents copper, the country's main mineral wealth. The soaring eagle is taken from the former arms of Northern Rhodesia and now stands for freedom. The tools in the arms refer to industry and agriculture, whilst the shield depicts in heraldic form the famous Victoria Falls. On the compartment beneath is a landscape with a mine, a zebra and a maize cob. The supporters are a Zambian man and woman.



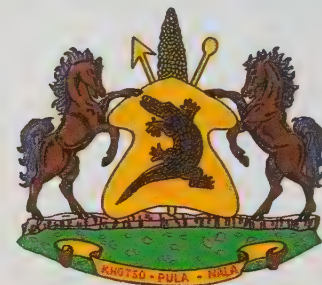
Lesotho

Muso oa Lesotho



3 colours for national motto – 'Peace, Rain, Plenty'

Simplified form of arms



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

Royal standard As national, but with the whole arms in colour in the canton

National (1966-87) Blue with vertical strips of green and red in the hoist, and a white Basuto hat in the centre of the blue panel

DATES IN HISTORY

1824 Foundation of kingdom by Moshoeshe I

1868 British protectorate

1871-84 Part of Cape Colony

4 October 1966 Independence

FACTS ABOUT LESOTHO

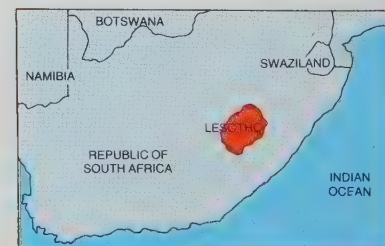
Capital Maseru

Population 1,630,000

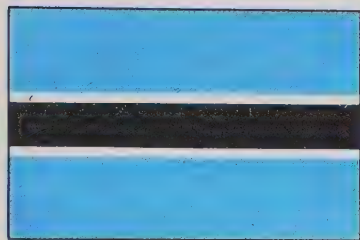
Languages Sesotho, English

National day 4 October

The original flag of Lesotho, adopted when the country regained its independence in 1966, was in the colours of the then dominant Lesotho National Party – blue, white, red and green. However, the party lost control in a coup in 1986, and it was decided to make the national flag more politically neutral in appearance. The diagonal stripes now represent the words of the national motto, i.e. white for peace, blue for rain, and green for plenty. The simplified, brown silhouette of the arms symbolizes a willingness to defend the country. The arms, dating from independence, have not been altered. Their main charge is a crocodile, the totem animal of King Moshoeshe I, who founded the country. The shield is of African design, and stands on a representation of Thaba Bosiu, the Mountain of Night. Behind the shield are its spine and a spear and knobkerrie (a stick used as a club by tribesmen).



Botswana



Blue for the sky and water

Black and white for racial harmony

Pula – life-giving water



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

President Blue (as national flag) with the arms on a black-edged, white disc in the centre

Botswana Democratic Party Horizontally white, red and black

DATES IN HISTORY

1885 Claimed for Britain; creation of Colony of British Bechuanaland (now to some extent represented by modern 'Bantustan' of Bophuthatswana in South Africa)

1890 Remainder of Bechuanaland a British protectorate

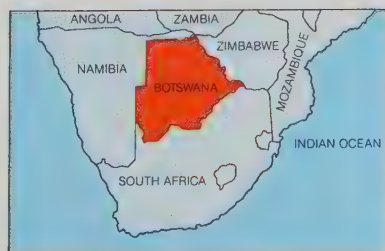
1895 British Bechuanaland annexed to Cape Colony, but local chiefs prevent cession of protectorate to British South Africa Company (Rhodesia)

30 September 1966 Independent republic

FACTS ABOUT BOTSWANA

Capital Gaborone
Population 1,130,000
Languages English, Setswana
National day 30 September

The flag of Botswana signifies two ideas simultaneously: dependence on water and the life it brings to the land; and the co-existence of black and white people in the African continent. The blue colour and the notion of *Pula* (life-giving rain) are shared with Lesotho (see left), in whose flag and arms they also appear. The arms of Botswana were introduced at the same time as the flag and have blue, wavy lines for water on a shield of African shape. The cogwheels represent industry and the bullock's head signifies the importance of cattle to the economy. The supporters are zebras, one holding an elephant tusk and the other a sorghum plant. These symbolize the wildlife and agriculture of the country.

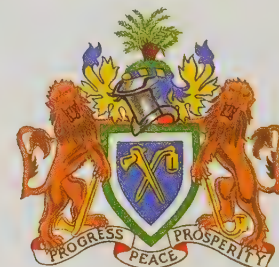


The Gambia



Non-political colours

Blue band for the Gambia River



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

President Blue with the whole arms in the centre in colour

DATES IN HISTORY

1816 Foundation of Bathurst (now Banjul)

1843 Colony of the Gambia

1866–88 Part of West African Settlements

1963 Self-government

18 February 1965 Independence

24 April 1970 Republic

1 February 1982 Confederation of Senegambia with Senegal

FACTS ABOUT THE GAMBIA

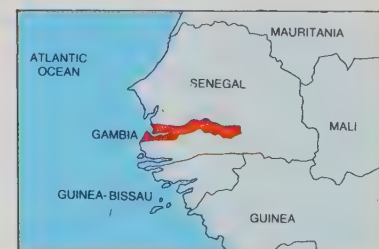
Capital Banjul

Population 698,817

Languages English, Mandingo, Fulani, Woloff

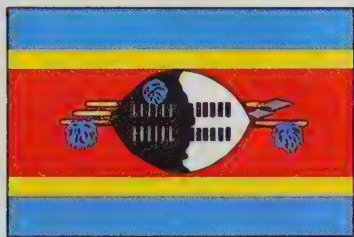
National day 18 February

Not all African flags have political overtones, and that of the Gambia is purely neutral in its connotations, whilst its coat of arms is a piece of traditional heraldry. Both were designed by the English College of Arms, who employed their favourite design for the flag: a horizontal tricolour with the central stripe fimbriated. The original idea for the flag came from a Gambian, Mr L. Thomasi, who interpreted the blue as a symbol of the Gambia River, the red as the sun shining upon it, and the green as the fertile land. In the arms, which only partly reflect the flag colours, two African agricultural implements are portrayed, and are also held by the supporting lions. The crest is an oil palm.



Swaziland

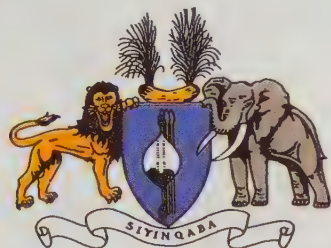
Umboso we Swatini



Military shield

Feather tassels of the lourie and the widowbird

Royal ornaments



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

Royal standard As national, but with gold lion *passant* facing the fly in the centre of the top stripe

Bishop of Swaziland As national, but with shield design vertical and with name Swaziland on a scroll beneath; all round a border of black and white pieces and an outer border decorated with the shield and spears

DATES IN HISTORY

Mid 18th century Swazi nations became established on Swaziland's present territory; it has been ruled by the same dynasty ever since

1881-4 Independence guaranteed by Britain

1890-94 Tri-partite suzerainty

1894 Protectorate of South African Republic (Transvaal)

1902 British High Commissioner's Territory

6 September 1968 Independence regained

FACTS ABOUT SWAZILAND

Capital Mbabane

Population 676,049

Languages English, Si-Swati

National day 6 September

Although similar to the flag of the Gambia, the flag of Swaziland was not designed by the College of Arms, although they did modify it before submitting it to the King for approval. It was originally the flag of the Emosotsha Regiment of the Swazi Pioneer Corps, and was a proper flag, not a ceremonial colour. The shield has the distinctive pattern of the regiment, with a tassel of *ligwalagwala* (lourie) and *lisakabuli* (widowbird) feathers. Behind it are two spears and a staff, which also has feather tassels (*tinjobo*). The shield, spear and staff also appear on the arms, supported by a lion and elephant, symbolic of the King and the Queen Mother. The motto is *Siyinqaba*, meaning 'We are the fortress'. The crest is the otterskin headband of the Emasotsha Regiment, decorated with *lisakabuli* feathers.



Madagascar

Repoblika Demokratika Malagasy



White and red of the Hovas

Green for the coastal people

Motto is 'Fatherland, Revolution, Freedom'



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

Chief of General Staff White with national flag in canton and 3 blue stars in a row

DATES IN HISTORY

1797 Island united under Imérina monarchy

1885 Diego Suarez ceded to France; French protectorate declared over whole island

1895 French occupation

1896-7 Formation of colony: Queen deposed

1942 British occupation

1958 *République Malgache* autonomous within French Community

26 June 1960 Independence

30 December 1975 Democratic republic

FACTS ABOUT MADAGASCAR

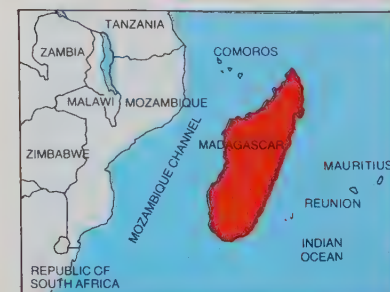
Capital Antananarivo

Population 10,570,000

Languages French, Malagasy

National day 26 June

The Imérina monarchy, which ruled the country until 1896, used red and white flags. The flag of Queen Ranavalona, for example, was white with a red square panel and the crowned initials RM, and this seems to have been the inspiration for the national flag created in 1958, with the addition of a green panel for the minority groups. Red and white were also colours of the flag of the nationalist movement of 1947. The arms – really a seal – have been changed to reflect the orientation of the Democratic Republic. The previous emblems were a buffalo's head and palm tree, while the present ones include a red star, a spade, a rifle, a pen, and the cogwheel and rising sun found on other socialist emblems. The wreath is of coffee, rice and wheat. The motto was also changed to 'Fatherland, Revolution, Freedom'.



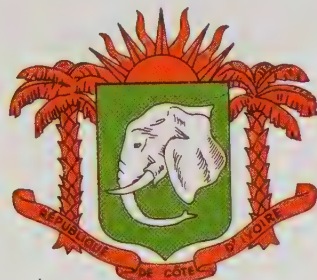
Cote d'Ivoire

République de la Côte d'Ivoire



Modelled on French Tricolore
White and green of dominant party

Emblem of dominant party



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

None

DATES IN HISTORY

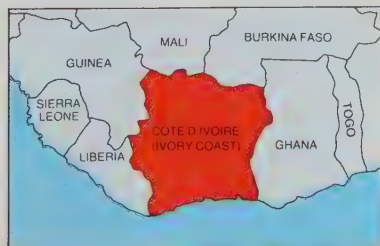
- 1878–1900** Creation of French settlements on coast
- 1893** Formation of French colony
- 1904** Foundation of Abidjan
- 1933** Merger with Upper Volta
- 1947** Separation of Upper Volta
- 1958** Autonomous republic within French community

7 August 1960 Independence

FACTS ABOUT CÔTE D'IVOIRE

- Capital** Abidjan
- Population** 10,600,000
- Languages** French and several African languages
- National day** 7 December

Since 1986 only the French name for the Ivory Coast has been official. Its name derives from the trade in ivory once carried on there, so it is not surprising that the national emblem is an elephant. Elephant is also the nickname of the country's leader and the emblem of the dominant *Parti Démocratique de la Côte d'Ivoire*, which led the country to independence. Because it was hostile to the idea of integration with other African states without a link with France, it deliberately avoided the pan-African colours. Here the tricolour is said to represent the north and south of the country, with the orange colour for the savannah and green for the coastal region.

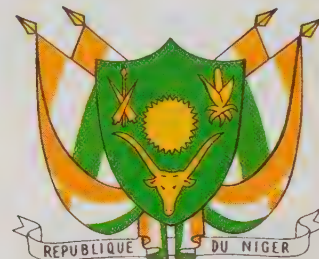


Niger

République du Niger



Orange disc for sun
distinguishes flag from that
of India



1	2	3	4	5	6	(2:3)
---	---	---	---	---	---	-------

OTHER FLAGS

None

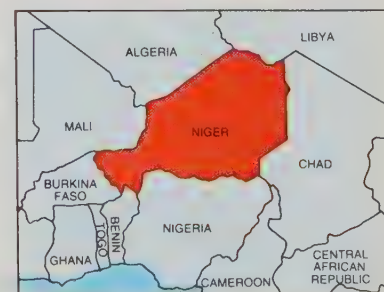
DATES IN HISTORY

- 1900** French protectorate
- 1904** Province of French West Africa as part of French Sudan (now Mali)
- 1922** Separate colony
- 1958** Autonomous republic within French Community
- 1959–60** Sahel-Benin Union with Côte d'Ivoire, Dahomey and Upper Volta
- 3 August 1960** Independence

FACTS ABOUT NIGER

- Capital** Niamey
- Population** 6,600,000
- Languages** French, Hausa
- National day** 18 December

The colours of the flag of Niger are of the same origin as those of Côte d'Ivoire, with which the country was once linked in the Sahel-Benin Union dedicated to retaining links with France. Dahomey (now Benin, see p.94) and Upper Volta (now Burkina Faso, see p.93), which were the other two members, have since abandoned their original flags. Niger's flag was adopted at the same time as that of Côte d'Ivoire and is explained in the same way, i.e. that the orange is for the savannah and the green for the arable area. The white represents the pastureland and the orange disc symbolizes the sun, which also appears in the arms. Also on the shield are weapons, a cob of maize and the head of a buffalo. The arms were introduced in 1962.



Gabon

République Gabonaise



Unique proportions of 3:4
Unique colour combination



1	2	3	4	5	6	3:4
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

President As national, with white disc in centre containing arms

Gabon Democratic Party White with the party badge in the centre

DATES IN HISTORY

1862 Foundation of Libreville as home for freed slaves

1886 French colony

1888–1904 Part of French Congo

1910 Province of Equatorial Africa

1911–19 Part of Gabon ceded to Kamerun

1913 Albert Schweitzer opened his hospital at Lambaréné

1958 Autonomous republic within French Community

17 August 1960 Independence

FACTS ABOUT GABON

Capital Libreville

Population 1,220,000

Languages French, Fang, Eshira, Adouma

National days 12 March, 17 August

Like Côte d'Ivoire and Niger, Gabon favoured securing independence from France before making any local ties and therefore rejected the pan-African colours. The original flag, chosen in 1959, was like the present one but with the yellow stripe of half its present width and with the French *Tricolore* in the canton. The present flag was adopted on independence. The coat of arms was designed by a heraldry expert, on the basis of the colours of the flag in 1963. The shield is supported by an *okoumé* tree, symbolic of Gabon's immense forests. Beneath its branches is a scroll with the motto *Uniti Progreдемur* ('Let us go forward together in unity'). Beneath the shield is the national motto 'Union, Work, Justice'. On either side are panthers. The gold discs represent mineral wealth and the ship stands for progress.



Equatorial Guinea

República de Guiné Ecuatorial



Emblem is a tree-god

6 stars for 6 parts of country



Motto is 'Unity, Peace, Justice'

1	2	3	4	5	6	5:8
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

Bubi Separatist Movement As Ghana (see p.88), but stripes are blue, white and green

DATES IN HISTORY

1472 Fernando Páo discovered by Portuguese

1778 Taken over by Spain, with Annobón and other islands

1885 Spanish protectorate over Rio Muni

1909 Islands attached to Rio Muni as Spanish Guinea

1959 Islands form separate colony

1963 Autonomous equatorial region

12 October 1968 Independent republic

FACTS ABOUT EQUATORIAL GUINEA

Capital Malabo

Population 384,000

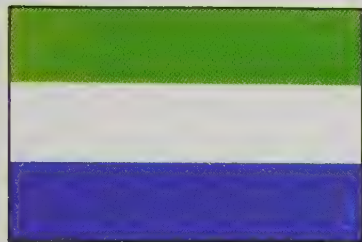
Languages Spanish, Fang, Bubi

National day 12 October (The Day of the Hispanic race)

Equatorial Guinea consists of an enclave of land on the mainland, formerly known as Rio Muni, and six islands off the coast, the largest of which is Bioko, formerly Fernando Páo. Its flag was adopted on the day of independence. The blue triangle represents the sea, the green stripe the country's natural resources, the red stripe the struggle for independence, and the white stripe symbolizes peace. The arms appear on the flag used for official purposes, and portray a god-tree, derived from the arms of Bata. The six stars represent the mainland and the islands of Bioko, Annobón, Corisco, Elobey Grande and Elobey Chico. From 1976 to 1979 the arms were altered to reflect the emblems of the then ruling party, *Partido Unido de Trabajadores*, and from 1978 to 1979 they appeared on the state flag in this form.

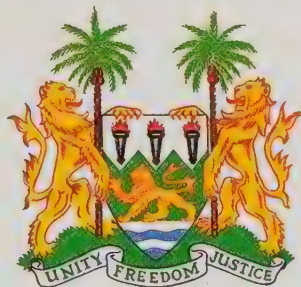


Sierra Leone



Neutral colours

Arms preceded flag



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

Queen's personal flag (1961–71) A banner of the arms, with the royal initial on a blue disc within a chaplet of roses, all yellow

DATES IN HISTORY

- 1787** Creation of colony for ex-slaves and refugees
- 1792** Foundation of Freetown
- 1808** British Crown Colony
- 1896** Protectorate over hinterland

- 27 April 1961** Independence
- 19 April 1971** Republic

FACTS ABOUT SIERRA LEONE

- Capital** Freetown
- Population** 3,670,000
- Languages** English, Mende, Temne
- National day** 19 April

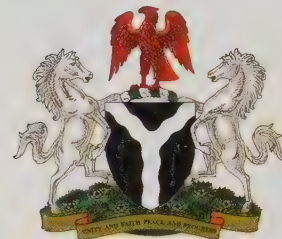
The arms of Sierra Leone were designed by the College of Arms prior to independence, and the flag, a simple tricolour of the main colours of the shield, was designed afterwards. The arms portray a lion on a field with an indented chief, intended to symbolize the idea of the Lion Mountains, after which the country is named. The three torches stand for education and progress, and the oil palms, which also appeared on the previous colonial badge, represent the importance of this product. The blue wavy lines are for the sea. The colours of the flag are said to symbolize the agricultural economy (green), peace and justice (white), and the sea (blue).



Nigeria



Green for the land of Nigeria
White for peace and unity



1	2	3	4	5	6	1:2
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

State flag As national, with arms over all in centre

Naval ensign White with the national flag in the canton and the Naval badge in the fly in red

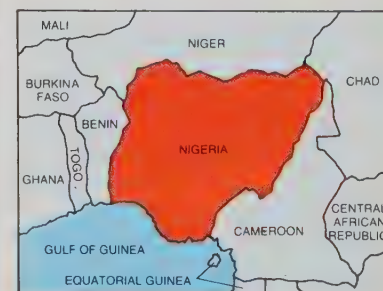
DATES IN HISTORY

- 1861** Cession of Lagos
- 1886** Colony and protectorate of Lagos; formation of Royal Niger Company
- 1893** Niger Coast protectorate
- 1900** Protectorates of Southern and Northern Nigeria
- 1914** Colony and protectorate of Nigeria
- 1954** Federation of Nigeria
- 1 October 1960** Independence
- 1 October 1963** Republic
- 1967–70** Biafra war

FACTS ABOUT NIGERIA

- Capital** Lagos
- Population** 105,000,000
- Languages** English, Hausa, Yoruba, Ibo
- National day** 1 October

The flag of Nigeria resulted from a competition, a method of finding a design which is now much more common and has been applied to several national flags since 1960. The original design had a red sun on the white strip, but that was omitted by the judges. Somewhat later a coat of arms was designed by the College of Arms with a black shield (black for Nigeria) with a *pall wavy* symbolizing the Niger and Benue Rivers. Since then the words 'Peace and Progress' have been added to the motto. The original states all had arms and two of them had flags, but the modern states have arms only. The Eastern Region became the separate republic of Biafra in 1967 with arms and a flag – a horizontal tricolour of red, black, green with a rising sun in the centre. This lasted until the end of the civil war in 1970.



Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka Prajatantrika Samajawadi Jamarajaya/
Ilangai Jananayage Socialisak Kudiarasu



Green and orange for minorities

Lion from the flag of Kandy

Bo leaves



1	2	3	4	5	6	1:2
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

President Red with a stylized lotus flower; a border of white and green decorated with gold rice leaves; in each corner *bo* leaves

Naval ensign White with the national flag in the canton

Tamils Red with a rising sun of 9 rays in yellow

DATES IN HISTORY

1505 First Portuguese settlements
1568 Dutch occupation
1796 Annexed by Britain to Madras
1815 Annexation of Kandy and formation of colony of Ceylon

4 February 1948 Independent dominion

22 May 1972 Republic; name changed to Sri Lanka

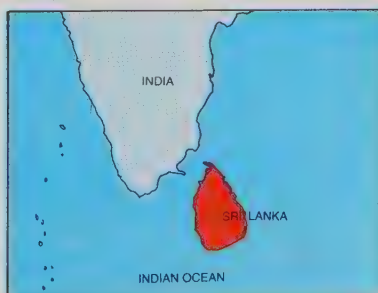
1978 Democratic republic

1983–present Civil war between Tamils and Sinhalese

FACTS ABOUT SRI LANKA

Capital Colombo
Population 15,800,000
Languages Sinhala, English, Tamil
National day 14 February

The main part of the flag of Sri Lanka is derived from the flag of Kandy, the last state on the island to be taken over by the British. It was revived for the new state of Ceylon in 1948. At that time the objects in the corners were ancient Ceylonese pinnacles, but they have since been replaced by *bo* leaves. The *bo*, or *pipul*, tree is closely associated with Buddha. The majority of Sri Lankan inhabitants are Buddhists, but to cater for the Hindu and Muslim minorities, orange and green panels were added to the flag in 1951. The flag of 1978 has *bo* leaves of slightly different shape and a darker shade of red than before. The arms were adopted in 1972 when the country became a republic. The crest is the Buddhist *Dharma Charka*, or Wheel of Law (see p.106).



Nepal

Sri Nepala Sarkar

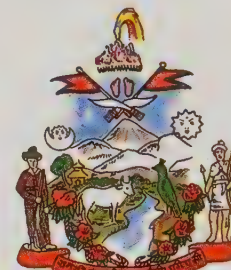


Only national flag that is not rectangular or square

Emblems of sun and moon

1	2	3	4	5	6	4:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

Motto is 'The homeland is dearer than heaven'



OTHER FLAGS

Royal standard Red with a rampant lion holding a flag, flanked by the sun and moon emblems, all white

HM The Queen Red with an 8-pointed star with a human face, surrounded by a ring of 5 *kukhris*

Chief of Army Staff Red with national flag in canton; in the fly, the army badge surmounted by the moon and the sun, all in white

DATES IN HISTORY

1769 Gurkhalı suzerainty over Nepal
1846 Effective power seized by Rānā family
1951 Fall of the Rānās
1961 Suppression of feudal chieftaincies
1962 Nepal becomes a 'Constitutional Monarchical Hindu State'

FACTS ABOUT NEPAL

Capital Kathmandu
Population 16,630,000
Languages Nepali, Bihari
National day 12 December

The origins of the flag of Nepal are lost in the mists of time, although it is known to have started out, like that of Ethiopia, as separate triangular pennants flown one above the other, and formerly the sun and moon had human faces on them. These were omitted by the regulations issued in 1962. The emblems originally represented the royal family (moon) and the hereditary prime ministerial family, the Rānās (sun). Nepal has had several coats of arms. The latest one depicts an allegorical scene containing all the national symbols: Himalayas, cow, pheasant, rhododendron, Gurkhas in antique and modern dress, and the sun and moon as in the flag. Above are two *kukhris* (Gurkha knives), two flags, the footprints of Gorakhnath (the guardian deity of the Gurkhas), topped by the royal headdress.



Bhutan

Druk-Yul



Background colours have changed over the years

1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
	●		●			

Dragon is symbol of Bhutan, 'Land of the Thunder Dragon'

Central emblem is the Wheel of Law



OTHER FLAGS

None

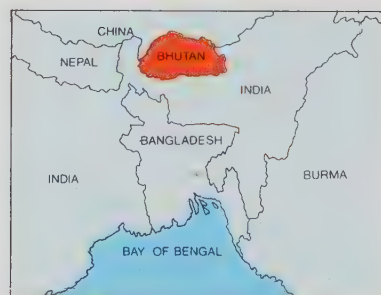
DATES IN HISTORY

- 1774 Treaty with East India Company
- 1865 Treaty of Protection with British Government
- 1907 Foundation of monarchy
- 1949 Treaty with Government of India
- 1969 Constitutional monarchy
- 1971 Admitted to United Nations

FACTS ABOUT BHUTAN

Capital Thimphu
Population 1,300,000
Languages Dzongkha, Nepali, English
National day 17 December

In Bhutan, thunder is thought to be the voices of dragons. About the year 1200, a monastery was set up by Tsangha Gyarey Yeshey Dorji, who named it the *Druk* (the Thunder Dragon), and his sect was named after it, the Drukpas. The name and the emblem of the dragon have been associated with Bhutan ever since. The orange part of the flag still represents the Drukpa monasteries, and the yellow field represents the royal dynasty of the Wangchuks. The national emblem was redesigned in 1980 to include the *khoro*, or Buddhist Wheel of Law, also symbolic of the monarchy. The Wheel is protected by two dragons, representing secular and spiritual authority, and at the base is a lotus flower, another Buddhist emblem. At the top is the Jewel Umbrella. The corners represent the four parts of Bhutan.



Thailand

Prathes Thai/Muang Thai



Colours of Allies in World War I

The garuda, mythical man-bird from Hindu legend



Emblem of the royal house

1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
	■	■	●	●	■	

OTHER FLAGS

Royal standard Yellow with the garuda in the centre (see the arms of Indonesia. p.106)

Naval ensign As national, with caparisoned elephant on a red disc in the centre

National religious flag Saffron, with a *khoro* (as used in Sri Lanka, p.107, and Bhutan, left) in red in the centre

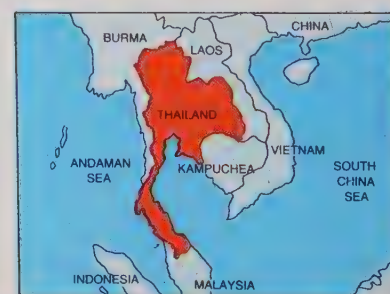
DATES IN HISTORY

- 1782 Accession of Chakri dynasty (badge is the Chakra)
- 1893 Laos ceded to France
- 1932 Constitutional monarchy
- 1939 Name changed to Thailand (except 1945-49)
- 1941-5 Ally of Japan

FACTS ABOUT THAILAND

Capital Bangkok
Population 52,500,000
Language Thai
National day 5 December

According to legend, Thailand (formerly Siam) is the Land of the White Elephant, and indeed a white elephant appeared on its flag from 1817 onwards. From 1855 the flag was plain red with a white elephant in the centre. From 1891 onwards it was shown in caparisoned form (with harness and ornaments) and standing on a pedestal, on the flag for government use. A simplified civil ensign was introduced in 1916 of red with two white stripes, but a year later the central stripe was altered to blue to express solidarity with Thailand's allies in World War I. This is now known as the *Trairanga*, or Tricolour Flag. The arms are the emblem of the royal dynasty. Another Thai emblem is the *chakra*, a wheel with flame-like blades emerging from its rim. It is related to the *Dharma Chakra* on the flag of India (see p.106).



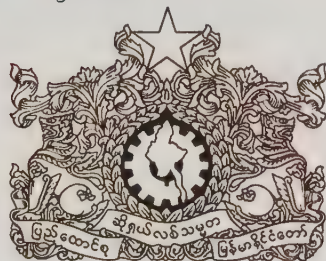
Burma (Union of Myanmar)

Pyidaungsu Socialist Thammada Myanma Naingandaw



Star for each region

Emblems of industry and agriculture



Inscription is title of state

1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

Police flag A triband of red and blue with the blue of double width and containing a concentric star of blue-white-blue-white

Burmese Socialist Programme Party Red with 2 overlapping white stars in the canton

Kawthoolei (See Aspirant Nations p.132)

DATES IN HISTORY

1765-9 Creation of kingdom of Ava (Upper Burma)

1824-7 First Burmese War; annexation of Arakan and Tenasserim

1852 Second war, annexation of Pegu

1885-6 Third war, annexation of whole country to India

1937 Separate colony

1942-5 Japanese occupation and puppet state

1 January 1948 Independent republic

1974 Socialist republic

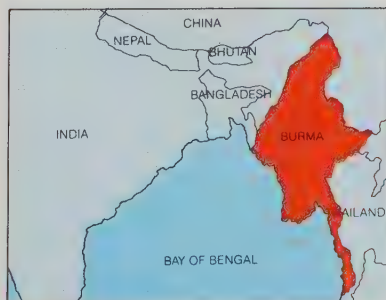
FACTS ABOUT BURMA

Capital Rangoon

Population 37,850,000

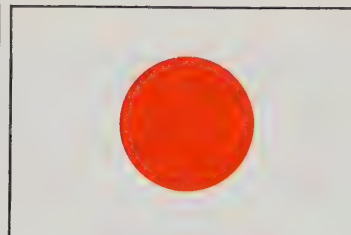
Languages Burman, English, local languages

National days 4 January, 12 February



Japan

Nippon/Nihon Koku



Name of flag is Hinomaru

Emblem is the imperial mon



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

Emperor Red with the chrysanthemum mon in yellow

Empress The same, but swallow-tailed

Naval ensign White with the red sun set towards the hoist surrounded by 16 rays

Prime Minister Orange with a ring of 5 red and white cherry blossom mon

Army flag White with the sun disc surrounded by 8 red rays; a gold border all round

Air force Light blue with the air force emblem in gold

DATES IN HISTORY

1186 Start of rule by Shoguns

1853 Forcible opening of trade with foreigners

1867 Meiji Restoration (Emperor resumes powers from Shogun)

1905 Successful war against Russia

1910 Annexation of Korea

1931 Occupation of Manchuria

1937 War with China

1941-5 World War I

1947 Constitutional monarchy

FACTS ABOUT JAPAN

Capital Tokyo

Population 121,670,000

Language Japanese

National days 3 May, 23 December

The Japanese flag represents the sun disc (*Hin-no-maru*), which has been an imperial badge since the 14th century. The Emperors claim descent from the sun goddess, Amaterasu Omikami, and Japan's name means 'Land of the Rising Sun'. The sun disc came into use as a national flag only in 1854 when the Shogun allocated it for use by merchant ships. Since 1870 it has been the general flag for civil use on land and sea. Its white ground is said to represent purity and integrity, and the red sincerity, brightness and warmth. The state emblem of Japan is also that of the Emperor, although he does have his own personal *mon* (see p.16) as well. The imperial *mon* is a stylized chrysanthemum flower, and came into use as a state emblem after the restoration of the Emperor's powers in 1867.



South Korea (Republic of Korea)

Taeahan Minkuk



Yin-yang symbol

4 trigrams from the I Ching



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

President Blue with a hibiscus mon flanked by two 'Wonder Birds', all in gold

Naval ensign Blue with white canton with *t'aeguk* (yin-yang symbol) superimposed on 2 black anchors

Che-Ju Island Diagonally white over blue; in canton the *mon* in red

DATES IN HISTORY

1392 Founding of Yi dynasty, which lasted to 1910; country called Choson

1630s Chinese conquer Korea and establish suzerainty

1880s Trade relations with USA, Britain and Germany

1895 Chinese recognize Korea's independence

1910 Annexed to Japan

1945 Soviets occupy northern Korea, Americans occupy southern Korea

15 August 1948 Formation of Republic of Korea (South Korea)

30 December 1948 Formation of Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea)

1950-53 Korean War

FACTS ABOUT SOUTH KOREA

Capital Seoul

Population 41,800,000

Language Korean

National day 15 August

South Korea has kept the flag of the former Kingdom of Korea, although it has been modified. The shape of the yin-yang has been stylized in the form of a Japanese *mon* (see p.16), and the trigrams (*kwa*) reduced from eight to four. The yin-yang is a well-known symbol for the union or balance of opposites also widely used in Japan and China. One form of it appears in the *soyonbo* of Mongolia (see p.53). The four trigrams are the basic ones from the *I Ching*, a divination system also widespread in the East. These four represent heaven (upper hoist), water (upper fly), fire (lower hoist) and earth (lower fly). The layout of the flag was slightly revised in 1984. The yin-yang also appears in the arms, in the centre of a Rose of Sharon *mon* (*Hibiscus syriacus*) with the name of the state on a scroll beneath.

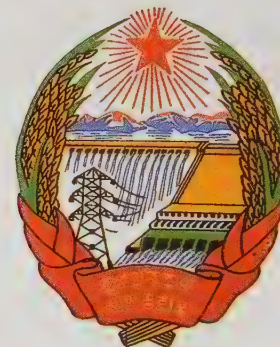


North Korea (Democratic People's Republic of Korea)

Chosun Minchu-chui Inmin Konghwa-guk



Red, white and blue as in South Communist mon



1	2	3	4	5	6	1:2
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

Korean Worker's Party Red with the emblem of a crossed hammer, hoe and pen in yellow in the canton

DATES IN HISTORY

1392 Founding of Yi dynasty, which lasted to 1910; country called Choson

1630s Chinese conquer Korea and establish suzerainty

1880s Trade relations with USA, Britain and Germany

1895 Chinese recognize Korea's independence

1910 Annexed to Japan

1945 Soviets occupy northern Korea and Americans occupy southern Korea

15 August 1948 Formation of Republic of Korea (South Korea)

30 December 1948 Formation of Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea)

1950-53 Korean War

FACTS ABOUT NORTH KOREA

Capital Pyongyang

Population 20,550,000

Language Korean

National day 8 September

The flag and arms of the northern state were laid down in the constitution of 1948. It has been suggested that the white disc with a red star is the Communist version of the *t'aeguk* emblem (yin-yang) found on the flag of the South and that the flag has deliberately retained the red, white and blue of the old Korean flag, although with more prominence given to the red than to the white. Here the red is for revolution, the white for simplicity and purity, and the blue for peace and progress, whilst the red star is for the leadership given by the party. The flag proportions are those of Soviet flags, and the arms are also Soviet in style, with the star of Communism shining over a hydro-electric power station within a wreath of rice-ears. The power station is said to be the one on the Amnok River, which at the time was an important national project.



Antigua and Barbuda



Rising sun as in arms
V for victory



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

None

DATES IN HISTORY

1493	Discovered by Columbus
1632	First English settlements
1871	Part of Leeward Islands colony
1956	Separate colony
1958-62	Member of Federation of the West Indies
27 February 1967	Became an associated state
1 November 1981	Independence

FACTS ABOUT ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Capital	St John's
Population	81,500
Language	English
National day	1 November

When it was part of the Leeward Islands colony, Antigua had a shield of arms in the Victorian landscape style, almost a picture-postcard of the island. This in turn formed part of the arms of the Leeward Islands, being one of six small shields placed on its larger one. When Antigua and Barbuda became an associated state (a self-governing dependency with the right to opt for independence), it adopted a flag and coat of arms of its own. The arms, designed by Christopher Gordon, depict a sugar-mill and a rising sun on a black chief. The latter was used by Reginald Samuel as the basis for the flag, which shows the sun rising above a blue and white section like the wavy bars on the arms (the sea). Overlaying this is the red V for victory. Both flag and arms were retained on independence.

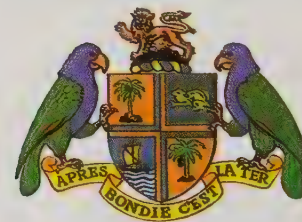


Dominica



Only flag featuring a parrot

Motto is in the Creole language



1	2	3	4	5	6	1:2
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

President Green with the whole arms in the centre

DATES IN HISTORY

1493	Discovered by Columbus
1761	Captured by British from French
1778-83	Returned to French control
1871-1940	Incorporated into Leeward Islands colony
1958-62	Member of Federation of the West Indies
1 March 1967	Became an associated state
3 November 1978	Independent republic

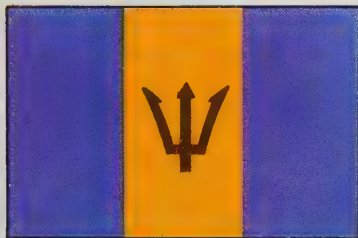
FACTS ABOUT DOMINICA

Capital	Roseau
Population	94,191,000
Languages	English, Creole
National day	3 November

When it was part of the Leeward Islands colony, Dominica had a picture-postcard type of arms, showing a sailing ship adjacent to a jetty. This lasted until 1961 when it acquired a proper coat of arms. From 1965 to 1978 it was used on the fly of the British Blue Ensign. The shield bears a counter-changed cross of blue and gold, with typical local features in each quarter. The supporters are parrots of the *Amazona imperialis* species, which are unique to the island, and the motto in Creole means 'After God we love the soil'. The flag, designed in 1978 for a competition, drew on the cross and the parrots from the arms. The triple cross on the flag represents the Trinity. The order of its three colours was altered in 1981. The ten stars (originally lime green) stand for the ten parishes, and the red disc represents socialism.



Barbados



Blue seas and golden sands

Trident from the colonial badge



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

HM Queen of Barbados

A banner of the arms, with the crowned royal initial within a chaplet of roses

Prime Minister

Diagonally orange (upper fly) over blue with arms on a white disc in the centre; diagonal line and disc edged with black and white rope

DATES IN HISTORY

1519	Discovered by Spaniards
1605	First English settlements
1627	English colony
1958-62	Member of Federation of the West Indies
1962	Internal self-government
30 November 1966	Independence

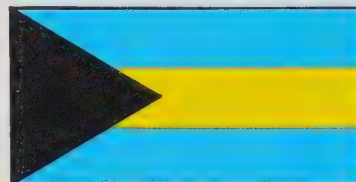
FACTS ABOUT BARBADOS

Capital	Bridgetown
Population	253,055
Language	English
National day	30 November

The colonial badge of Barbados depicted Britannia drawn by a pair of sea-horses and holding her trident (symbolic of rule over the sea). The national flag shows the trident, but with the shaft omitted, to represent not only a break with the colonial past but also Barbados's continued relationship with the sea. This is further symbolized by the blue and gold representing the sea, sky and sands of the islands. The flag was the winning entry in a competition held in 1966. The arms were granted by the College of Arms the year before, and depict the bearded fig-tree after which the island is named, together with two pride of Barbados flowers. The crest is an arm and hand holding two sticks of sugar cane. The supporters are a dolphin and a pelican, and the motto punningly refers to the flowers on the shield.



The Bahamas



Same blue as seas around the islands

Golden beaches



Emblem is the Santa Maria

1	2	3	4	5	6	1:2
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

Civil ensign

Red with a white cross throughout and the national flag in the canton

Government ensign

White with a blue cross throughout and the national flag in the canton

Prime Minister

As national, with blue and gold mace vertically in fly superimposed on gold sun in lower fly

DATES IN HISTORY

1492	Discovery by Columbus
1629-41, 1666-1703	British settlements, disputed by Spain
1783	Annexed by Britain
1964	Internal self-government
10 July 1973	Independence

FACTS ABOUT THE BAHAMAS

Capital	Nassau (New Providence)
Population	235,000
Language	English
National day	10 July

It is surprising that until 1973 no Bahamian symbol made any reference to the fact that the first European landfall in the New World had taken place there. The old colonial badge showed a ship putting two pirate vessels to flight. This was later turned into a coat of arms. However, in 1973 the islands acquired a new coat of arms with the *Santa Maria* (Christopher Columbus' ship) as the main emblem. The golden sun on blue represents the main tourist attraction of the islands, whilst the crest and supporters show local flora and fauna. The flag was designed in 1973 and its basic elements emerged from a design competition. Black represents the people of the Bahamas, and aquamarine and gold stand for the sands and waters of the islands. The blue must be the exact blue of those waters.



Saint Lucia



Volcanic peak of the Pitons
Yellow for prevailing sunshine



1	2	3	4	5	6	1:2
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

None

DATES IN HISTORY

1502	Discovered by Columbus
1605–1803	Possession disputed between France and Britain; island changed hands 16 times
1814	Ceded to Britain
1958–62	Member of Federation of the West Indies
1 March 1967	Became an associated state
22 February 1979	Independence under name of Saint Lucia

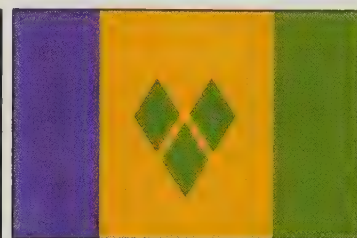
FACTS ABOUT SAINT LUCIA

Capital	Castries
Population	143,600
Languages	English, Creole
National day	22 February

The volcanic peaks of the Pitons appeared on the old colonial badge of Saint Lucia, a view of Soufrière with a Latin motto. The island later had a shield of arms, like the present one, but black with the emblems in gold. The cross of sugar cane represents what was once the island's main product, and the Tudor rose and *fleurs-de-lys* recalled the struggle for possession of the island between England and France. The arms were changed to the present form in 1967, with an African stool added in the centre, and supporters of 'Jacquots' (Saint Lucia parrots). The torch represents the Light referred to in the island's name. The flag was designed by a local artist, and also depicts the Pitons rising from the sea. On independence the size of the flag's central emblem was increased and the proportions were changed to 1:2.



St Vincent and the Grenadines



Diamonds represent the
'gems of the Antilles'

Allegorical figures of Peace
and Justice



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

None

DATES IN HISTORY

1498	Discovered by Columbus
1763	Ceded to Britain
1779–96	Possession disputed with France
1958–62	Member of Federation of the West Indies
27 October 1969	Became an associated state
27 October 1979	Independence, with new title

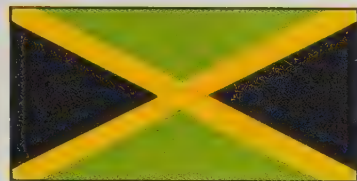
FACTS ABOUT ST VINCENT

Capital	Kingstown
Population	138,000
Language	English
National day	27 October

St Vincent has used a classical scene on its flags and arms for about a hundred years. It appeared in circular form on British flags, and was made into a regular coat of arms in 1912. The figures are Peace and Justice sacrificing at an altar. The crest of the arms is a sprig of cotton, once an important crop. A flag of green, yellow and blue horizontal stripes, with a sprig of breadfruit on a white, blue-edged diamond, was designed by the College of Arms in 1967, but was never brought into use. The flag adopted in 1979 had the colours arranged vertically, with the arms on a large breadfruit leaf in the centre, and the yellow strip edged in white. The breadfruit recalled the bringing of this useful plant to the West Indies from the South Seas. In 1985 the present simpler design was adopted.



Jamaica



Green for hope and agriculture

Black for hardships to be faced

Yellow for natural resources and sunlight



1	2	3	4	5	6	1:2
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

HM The Queen

OTHER FLAGS

A banner of the arms with the crowned royal initial on a blue disc within a chaplet of roses, all gold

Prime Minister

Blue with a white disc containing a form of the arms and flanked by letters PM; a narrow white frame all round

Federation of West Indies (1958-62)

Blue with 4 wavy white stripes and over all in the centre an orange disc

DATES IN HISTORY

- 1494 Discovered by Columbus
- 1509 Spanish colony
- 1655 Captured by England
- 1944 Self-government

1958-62 Member of Federation of the West Indies

6 August 1962

Independence

FACTS ABOUT JAMAICA

- Capital Kingston
- Population 2,300,000
- Language English
- National day First Monday in August

The committee preparing for Jamaica's independence in 1962 inadvertently produced a flag design identical with that of Tanganyika. Here the colours are without any obvious political significance, nor do they correspond with the coat of arms, although the saltire cross is thought to derive from the arms of Kingston. The saltire pattern was the one chosen for hoisting at the moment of independence. The arms of Jamaica date from 1661, and were used on a white disc on British flags up to independence. The original motto, *Indus uterque serviet uni* ('Both Indies shall serve as one') was amended to the present one at independence. Otherwise the depiction is as on the Royal Warrant of 1957, which made some slight alterations to the original arms (the oldest still in use granted to any British colony).



Trinidad and Tobago



Black for unity of purpose

Red for warmth and vitality

White for sea and equality



1	2	3	4	5	6	3:5
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

President

OTHER FLAGS

Blue with the arms within a wreath of gold leaves

Prime Minister

White with the national flag in the canton and the arms within a gold wreath in the fly

Coast guard ensign

White with a red cross throughout and the national flag in the canton, fimbriated in white

DATES IN HISTORY

- 1498 Discovered by Columbus
- 1797 Occupied by Britain
- 1802 Ceded to Britain
- 1814 Tobago ceded to Britain
- 1889 Colony of Trinidad and Tobago

1958-62 Member of Federation of the West Indies

31 August 1962

Independence

1 August 1976

Republic

FACTS ABOUT TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

- Capital Port-of-Spain
- Population 1,220,000
- Language English
- National day 31 August

The arms and flag of Trinidad and Tobago were designed simultaneously. The red part of the shield depicts the ships of Christopher Columbus, and the black area two hummingbirds. The dexter supporter is a scarlet ibis and the sinister is a cocrico. They represent Trinidad and Tobago, as do the two islands in the compartment. The three hills on the Trinidad island also appeared in the previous colonial badge. The flag was the work of a government committee, which also chose the arms and motto. The colours of the flag are also said to stand for the basic elements of earth, fire and water 'which encompass all our past, present and future; and inspire us as one united, vital, free and dedicated people'. The flag has different proportions for use on land and at sea.



St Christopher-Nevis



Afro-Caribbean colours
Stars for hope and liberty

Motto changed on independence



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
	●	●	●	●		

OTHER FLAGS

Nevis Yellow with the national flag in the canton; in the fly, a green triangle with a blue base and a small white triangle within its apex

DATES IN HISTORY

1493	Discovered by Columbus
1624-8	First English settlements
1713	French part of St Kitts ceded to Britain
1871	Part of Leeward Islands colony, with Anguilla
1958-62	Member of Federation of the West Indies
27 February 1967	Became an associated state; secession of Anguilla
19 September 1983	Independence

FACTS ABOUT

ST KITTS-NEVIS

Capital	Basseterre
Population	47,000
Languages	English, Creole
National day	19 September

Commonly known as St Kitts-Nevis, this island group originally included Anguilla, and its arms and flag represented these three divisions. The flag, adopted when it became an associate state, had three vertical stripes of green, yellow and blue (see also St Vincent, p.113) and a palm tree with three branches. On independence the present design was substituted, in colours with more definite Afro-Caribbean associations. The two stars do *not* stand for the two islands remaining after the secession of Anguilla. The flag was the winning entry in a competition. The arms were originally granted in 1967 with the motto 'Unity and Trinity'. In the chief is a Carib's head between a rose and a lily, representing the three races that have lived in the islands. Three coloured arms hold a torch in the crest.



Grenada



Stars for the 7 districts
Afro-Caribbean colours

Nutmeg for the 'isle of spices'



1	2	3	4	5	6	3:5
	●	●	●	▲		

OTHER FLAGS

None

DATES IN HISTORY

1498	Discovered by Columbus
1650	First French settlements
1762	Captured by British
1783	Ceded to Britain
1871-1956	Part of Windward Islands colony
1958-62	Member of Federation of the West Indies
3 March 1967	Became an associated state
7 February 1974	Independence
1983-4	American occupation

FACTS ABOUT GRENADA

Capital	St George's
Population	88,000
Languages	English, Creole
National day	7 February

Like St Vincent and St Kitts-Nevis, Grenada had a flag designed by the College of Arms. It had horizontal stripes of blue, yellow and green with a nutmeg on a white oval in the centre, and was adopted when it became an associated state. This was replaced by the present flag on independence. The nutmeg recalls the importance of this crop to the island's economy. The new flag is red for courage and vitality, gold for wisdom and the warmth of the sun, and green for the lush vegetation. It has different proportions for use on land and at sea. The arms have a small *Santa Maria* (Columbus' ship) in the centre. The lion represents nationhood, and the crescent and lily symbolize the Virgin Mary. Grand Etang Lake is depicted in the compartment; the supporters are an armadillo and a dove.



Guyana



Afro-American colours

Yellow triangle is the 'Golden Arrow'



1	2	3	4	5	6	3:5
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

President A banner of the arms, with a green shield in the centre bearing the Indian crown

Civil air ensign Light blue with a dark blue cross fimbriated in white, and the national flag in the canton

People's National Congress Horizontally red, black, green (Garvey colours, see p.11) with a white disc containing a green palm tree

DATES IN HISTORY

1620	First settled by Dutch
1796	Captured by Britain
1814	Ceded to Britain as British Guiana
1953	Suspension of constitution
1957	Self-government
26 May 1966	Independence
23 February 1970	Co-operative republic

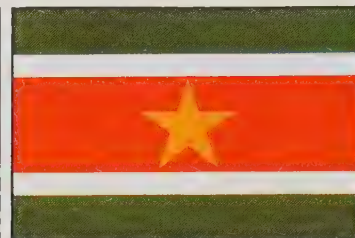
FACTS ABOUT GUYANA

Capital	Georgetown
Population	812,000
Language	English
National day	23 February



Surinam

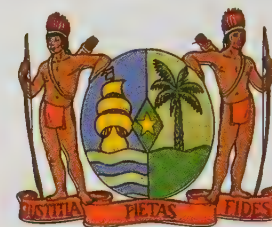
Republiek van Suriname



Colours combine those of political parties

Star for unity

Motto is 'Justice, Piety, Faith'



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

President As national, with white panel in centre bearing the arms

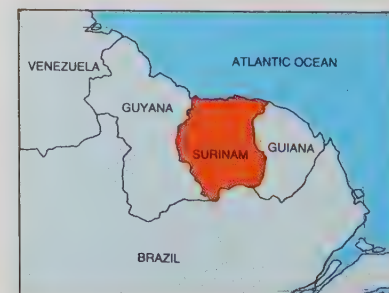
DATES IN HISTORY

1667	To Netherlands in exchange with England for New York
1799-1802, 1804-16	British occupations
1954	Internal self-government
25 November 1975	Independence

FACTS ABOUT SURINAM

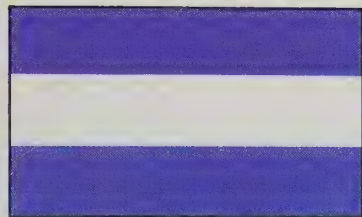
Capital	Paramaribo
Population	370,000
Languages	Dutch, Hindi, Surinamese, English
National day	25 November

Before it became independent, Surinam had a very unusual flag, which was designed to express its multi-racial character. On a white field for peace was an oval line linking five stars, each of a different colour (white, black, brown, yellow and red). The new national flag was intended to represent the different political groups, with green for the National Party, red for the Hindu *Vatan Hitkari*, and white for the People's Party, although officially the colours were given less controversial interpretations. The star seems to have been taken from the arms. The actual design was a compendium of ideas sent in by members of the public. The arms remained much as before, having been granted in 1959. On independence the Indians who support the shield were given darker hair.



Nicaragua

República de Nicaragua



Central American colours

Arms most like those of Central America



'America Central' for the former confederation

1	2	3	4	5	6	3:5
	■	■	●	●		

OTHER FLAGS

- Sandinistas** Red over black with the initials FSLN (*Frente Sandinista de Liberación Nacional*) in white over all
- Mosquito Coast (until 1895)** 10 horizontal stripes of blue and white, with the flag of Nicaragua in the canton

DATES IN HISTORY

- 1523** First Spanish settlements
- 15 September 1821** Independence of Spanish Guatemala
- 1822–3** Union with Mexico
- 1823** Formation of United Provinces of Central America
- 30 April 1838** Secession of Nicaragua
- 17 July 1979** Inauguration of Sandinista regime

FACTS ABOUT NICARAGUA

- Capital** Managua
- Population** 3,500,000
- Language** Spanish
- National days** 19 July, 15 September

The United Provinces of Central America was created on 1 July 1823 and unified all but one of the six former provinces of Spanish Guatemala that had declared independence in 1821 (see pp.10–11). Its flag was like that of Nicaragua, and the official form had the arms in the centre, also like those of Nicaragua. They consisted of a triangle with five volcanoes (the five states), a rainbow (peace) and a cap of Liberty. Around this was a gold band with the title, *Provincias Unidas del Centro de America*, represented on the modern flag of Nicaragua by the name of the state and the words *America Central*. The confederation lasted until 1839. Nicaragua reverted to these flags and arms in 1908, although they were revised slightly by the new regulations of 1971.



El Salvador

República de El Salvador



Central American colours

Arms based on those of Central America



'God, Union, Liberty' – motto of Central America

1	2	3	4	5	6	3:5
	■	■	●	●		

OTHER FLAGS

- Jack** Blue with a white lozenge throughout
- Bloque Popular Revolucionario** Red with a white triangle based on the hoist containing a red star
- Department of La Libertad** White with a blue cross throughout

DATES IN HISTORY

- 1524** First Spanish settlements
- 15 September 1821** Declaration of independence
- 1823** Formation of United Provinces of Central America
- 30 January 1841** Independence

FACTS ABOUT EL SALVADOR

- Capital** San Salvador
- Population** 5,480,000
- Language** Spanish
- National day** 15 September

El Salvador reverted to the use of the flag of Central America in 1912, after a period of using a flag like the Stars and Stripes. Several elements from the arms of the United Provinces of Central America can be seen on the arms: the triangle with volcanoes; the Liberty cap and rainbow; and the motto that was used on the civil ensign of the United Provinces. It is now used on the civil ensign of El Salvador in gold letters. The date is that of the original declaration of independence in Guatemala City. The five flags were added to the original composition in 1916 together with the two laurel branches. Since 1972 a flag without either arms or motto has been permitted, although it is not clear for what purpose. The arms were also revised again at that time.



Honduras

República de Honduras



Central American colours
5 stars for the 5 members



1	2	3	4	5	6	1:2
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

City of Tegucigalpa Horizontally yellow over blue, with the arms in the centre, flanked by two white stars

DATES IN HISTORY

1502 Visited by Columbus
15 September 1821 Declaration of independence
1823 Formation of United Provinces of Central America
5 November 1838 Independence

FACTS ABOUT HONDURAS

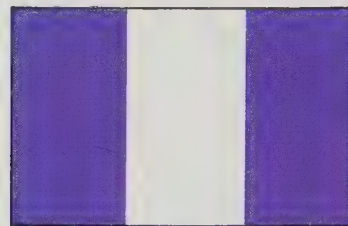
Capital Tegucigalpa
Population 4,300,000
Languages Spanish, aboriginal dialects
National day 15 September

Honduras uses the flag of the United Provinces (see pp.10–11), but now in the proportions 1:2. The five stars, one for each member of the United Provinces, were added in 1866 to the civil flag. The state flag bears the arms, with the stars in an arc beneath. The arms are the most complicated of any of the five states, with a triangle, like that of the original arms, containing a sun and a rainbow; in front is a small volcano flanked by two towers, standing on a representation of the isthmus of Central America. All this is within an oval containing the name of the state ('Free, Sovereign and Independent Republic of Honduras') and the date '15 September 1821', topped with an Indian crown and flanked by two cornucopias. Beneath is an allegorical landscape with tools, mines, forests and mountains.



Guatemala

República de Guatemala



Central American colours

Quetzal bird – also the name of local currency

Date of declaration of independence



1	2	3	4	5	6	5:8
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

Air force ensign Quarterly blue and white with the air force badge and name in centre

Republic of Los Altos (1848) Vertically red, white and light blue, with arms in centre (as used today by city of Quetzaltenango)

DATES IN HISTORY

1523 Conquered by Spaniards
15 September 1821 Declaration of independence
1822–3 Union with Mexico
1823 Formation of United Provinces of Central America
13 April 1839 Effective independence

FACTS ABOUT GUATEMALA

Capital Guatemala City
Population 8,990,000
Languages Spanish, Indian dialects
National day 15 September

Guatemala was originally a Spanish captaincy-general containing six provinces, and it was in the capital, Guatemala City, that the independence of the whole of Central America was declared on 15 September 1821. This is the date that appears on the arms of modern Guatemala and of several other Central American countries. After a period of domination by Mexico, five of the provinces formed the United Provinces of Central America under a flag of blue and white (see pp.10–11). Guatemala used this flag until 1851 when red and yellow stripes were added. However, in 1871 the old colours were restored, although arranged vertically to distinguish them from those of the other states. The arms were re-drawn in 1968, and do not appear on the civil ensign. The quetzal is the national bird of Guatemala.



Costa Rica

República de Costa Rica



Blue and white of Central America

Red added from French Tricolore



1	2	3	4	5	6	3:5
	●	●	□	□		

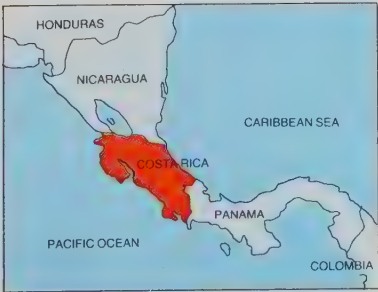
OTHER FLAGS

National Liberation Party	Horizontal triband of green, white and green
'Pueblo Unido' coalition	Horizontally red over blue
DATES IN HISTORY	
1502	Discovered by Columbus
1540	Under control of Vice-Royalty of New Spain
15 September	Declaration of independence
1821	Declaration of independence
1823	Formation of United Provinces of Central America
1825	Guanacaste acquired from Nicaragua
14 November 1838	Independence

FACTS ABOUT COSTA RICA

Capital	San José
Population	2,660,000
Language	Spanish
National day	15 September

Costa Rica continued to use the colours of the United Provinces of Central America (see pp.10–11) for two years after the confederation had broken up in 1840, but with the colours transposed and the arms of Costa Rica in the centre. In 1842 it reverted to the original design, also with its own emblems. In 1848 the arms and flags were re-designed, to include the red stripe inspired by the French Revolution of that year. Originally the arms were placed over all in the centre, but now they are in a small oval within the red stripe. They show three volcanoes only, between the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean, surmounted by seven stars representing the provinces. The reference to Central America is now confined to a blue ribbon at the top. The arms, revised in 1964, are omitted from the civil ensign.



Belize



Colours combine those of 2 main parties

Motto is 'I flourish beneath the shade'



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
	●	●	●	●		

OTHER FLAGS

United Democratic Party	Red over blue with a black triangle based on the hoist
People's United Party	Blue and white horizontally
DATES IN HISTORY	
1638	First British settlers
1786	First British government
1862	British Honduras a colony dependent on Jamaica
1884	Separate colony
1964	Self-government
1973	Name changed to Belize
21 September 1981	Independence

FACTS ABOUT BELIZE

Capital	Belmopan
Population	171,000
Languages	English, Spanish, Creole
National days	10 September, 21 September

The arms of Belize (formerly called British Honduras) were originally granted in 1907 when it was a British colony but have been modified since then. In the first place, when used on the flag instituted by the People's United Party (like the present one but without the red bands), the Union Jack was omitted from the canton of the shield. A wreath of 50 leaves was added in 1950 to mark the start of the struggle for independence. When independence was achieved the mahogany tree supporter was enlarged and the ethnic character of the human supporters was altered. The flag chosen on independence placed the arms on a white disc within the wreath of leaves, with red bands at the top and bottom of the flag. These are taken from the flag of the United Democratic Party.



Venezuela

República de Venezuela



Colours of Miranda
Stars of the rebellious
provinces

Title of state and significant
dates



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
	●	●	□	□	●	

OTHER FLAGS

President Square version of tricolour, with arms over all in the centre, flanked by 4 tilted white stars

Minister of Defence Blue with a stylized anchor within 4 stars, all white, and the arms in the canton

State of Sucre Diagonally white over blue, with the arms in the canton and 10 white stars in the fly

DATES IN HISTORY

1498 Discovered by Columbus

1550 First Spanish settlements

1806 Liberation attempt by Francisco de Miranda

5 July 1811 Declaration of independence

1821–30 To Greater Colombia (previously New Granada)

22 September 1830 Independence

FACTS ABOUT VENEZUELA

Capital Caracas

Population 17,320,000

Language Spanish

National days 19 April, 24 June, 5 July, 24 July, 12 October



Colombia

República de Colombia



Colours of Miranda

Motto is 'Liberty and Order'



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
■	●	●	●	■		

OTHER FLAGS

President As national, with arms on white disc within red circular band over all in centre

Civil ensign As national, with 8-pointed white star on red-bordered blue oval in centre (the 8 points for the 8 original states)

Department of Atlántico Concentric panels of green, yellow, red with white star on inner green panel

DATES IN HISTORY

1525–50 Conquered by Spain

20 July 1810 Declaration of independence

17 December 1819 Independence of Greater Colombia

1830 Secession of Venezuela and Ecuador from New Granada

1886 Unitary constitution

FACTS ABOUT COLOMBIA

Capital Bogotá

Population 29,500,000

Language Spanish

National day 20 July

Colombia has a shared history with Venezuela until 1830 and was also part of New Granada. When the independent state of Greater Colombia was formed in 1819, the yellow of the Miranda flag was doubled in width to accommodate a large canton with an allegorical picture representing the new state. This was changed to three blue stars in 1822. When Venezuela and Ecuador seceded from New Granada in 1830, Colombia continued to use this flag, but without the stars. However, in the next three decades there were many changes to the layout until the 1819 plain tricolour was adopted in 1861. The arms depict a cap of Liberty; a pomegranate (symbolic of the name Granada) between two cornucopias; and the isthmus of Panama (now no longer part of Colombia). The crest is a condor holding a laurel wreath.



Ecuador

R p blica del Ecuador



Colours of Miranda

Different proportions from flag of Colombia

Condor as in the arms of Colombia



1	2	3	4	5	6	1:2
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

Communal Flag As civil ensign, but with ring of 19 stars in centre of blue strip; represents the unity of the nation

Jack Blue with a condor and fowl anchor, all white

Province of Guayas 5 horizontal stripes of blue and white, with 3 white stars on central stripe (the flag of the Patriots of Guayaquil)

DATES IN HISTORY

1532 Conquest by Pizarro

1809 First rising against Spaniards

1820 Rising at Guayaquil

1822 Liberation and union with Colombia

18 August 1830 Independent republic

1942 Frontier war with Peru

FACTS ABOUT ECUADOR

Capital Quito

Population 9,640,000

Languages Spanish, Quechua

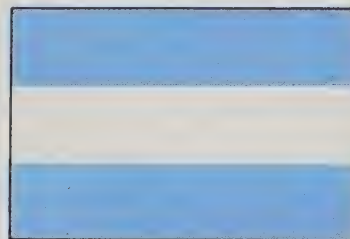
National day 18 August

The flag of Greater Colombia (like that of modern Colombia) was hoisted in Quito in May 1822 at the time when Ecuador was struggling to free itself from Spanish rule. Ecuador remained part of Greater Colombia until 1830 and used its flag until 1845. It then reverted to the blue and white used by earlier freedom fighters (the Patriots of Guayaquil). However, the flag of Greater Colombia was restored in 1860, with arms as from 1900 to distinguish it from the flag of modern Colombia. The arms depict Mount Chimborazo, a river mouth and a ship at sea. The sun is in the centre of signs of the Zodiac for the critical months March to June (1845). Beneath the shield is an axe and fasces, symbolic of republican government. The condor represents valour, liberty and sovereignty, and the four flags the need to respect national history and dignity.



Argentina

Rep blica Argentina



Colours of the River Plate provinces

2 sets of proportions

1	2	3	4	5	6	(2:3)
---	---	---	---	---	---	-------

Sun of May



OTHER FLAGS

President Blue with the arms in the centre and a white star in each corner

Jack White square with a blue border and the Sun of May in the centre

Province of La Rioja White over blue with a red diagonal and a laurel wreath over all in the centre

DATES IN HISTORY

1515 Discovered by Spaniards

1536 Foundation of Buenos Aires

25 May 1810 Viceroy deposed

9 July 1816 Declaration of independence

1817-22 Campaign of the Army of the Andes

1828 Secession of Uruguay

1982 Invasion of Falkland Islands leading to war with United Kingdom

FACTS ABOUT ARGENTINA

Capital Buenos Aires

Population 31,060,000

Language Spanish

National days 25 May, 9 July

Rio de la Plata (the Silver or Argentine River) was the name of the Spanish Vice-Royalty to which modern Argentina belonged. It also included Uruguay and Paraguay. The first rising against Spanish rule took place on 25 May 1810 and the people put on blue and white cockades after the Viceroy was deposed. The triband flag was first used in 1812 by General Belgrano, and adopted as the civil ensign when independence was declared in 1816. The state flag was adopted in 1818 by placing the sun, known as the Sun of May, in the centre of the flag. This can now also be used for civil purposes. The Sun of May, was first used as part of the arms in 1813 and later on the flag of the Army of the Andes led by Jos  de San Mart n. The arms also portray a cap of Liberty.



Uruguay

República Oriental del Uruguay



Colours of the River Plate

Sun of May

Influenced by the Stars and Stripes



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

President	White with the arms in the centre
Minister of Defence	White with a fowl anchor between 2 stars, all blue
Armed forces	Square triband of blue-white-blue with a red diagonal stripe over all

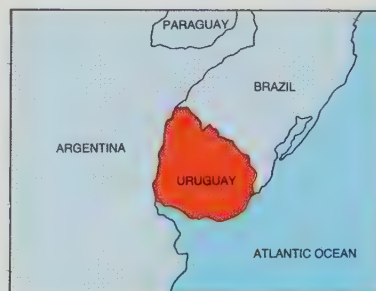
DATES IN HISTORY

1515	Discovered by Spaniards
1624	Settled by Spanish and Portuguese
1820	Occupied by Brazil
25 August 1825	Declaration of independence
27 August 1828	Effective independence

FACTS ABOUT URUGUAY

Capital	Montevideo
Population	2,950,000
Language	Spanish
National day	25 August

As a province of the Vice-Royalty of the River Plate (see p.121), Uruguay shared with the Argentine provinces their attempts to free themselves from Spanish rule. The first separatist flag was that of José Artigas, raised in 1815, which now forms the military flag. After this a tricolour of blue, white and red was used in various forms. The '33' who tried to free the country in 1825 used this with the motto *Libertad o Muerte* ('Liberty or Death') in black in the centre. This is also still used as a national flag. When independence was achieved it was decided to make the national flag different from that of Argentina, and the Stars and Stripes was chosen as the model. The nine (originally 19) stripes were to stand for the nine departments of Uruguay. The arms date from 1829, but were revised in 1908.



Paraguay

República del Paraguay



French-inspired tricolour



Star of May

Flag has different emblem on each side



1	2	3	4	5	6	27:50*
---	---	---	---	---	---	--------

OTHER FLAGS

President	Blue with arms in centre and a yellow star in each corner
Jack	White square with red diagonal crossing blue diagonal; a white disc with yellow star in the centre

DATES IN HISTORY

1535	Spanish colony
1617-1767	Jesuit state
14 May 1811	Declaration of independence
1864-70	War with Brazil and Argentina
1870	Brazilian occupation
1932-5	Gran Chaco War with Bolivia

FACTS ABOUT PARAGUAY

Capital	Asunción
Population	3,790,000
Languages	Spanish, Guaraní
National day	14 May

Paraguay achieved effective independence earlier than the other provinces of the River Plate. The star on its flag is called the Star of May to commemorate the date of the declaration of independence, 14 May 1811. Tricolours of various colour combinations were employed from the start of the movement for self-determination, but the red, white and blue became established on 15 August 1812. The emblems placed in the centre also varied, and at one time included the arms of Spain and of the capital Asunción. The present form of the arms emerged in 1821, but only appear on the obverse side of the flag. The emblem on the reverse is a rival form, known as the Treasury Seal, with the motto *Paz y Justicia* ('Peace and Justice'). This arrangement was sanctioned by Congress in 1842. No proportions were specified but 27:50 became standard.



Peru

República del Perú



Colours proposed by San Martín

2 forms of arms

Sun of May used on certain flags



1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
■	■	■	●	●	■	

OTHER FLAGS

President White with the presidential arms in the centre and 4 suns with rays and faces in gold

Jack White square with wide red border and national arms in centre

DATES IN HISTORY

1532 Arrival of Spaniards

1572 End of the Inca empire

1811 First rising against Spaniards

1820 Arrival of San Martín

28 July 1821 Declaration of independence

1824 Effective independence

1837–8 Federation with Bolivia

1879–83 War of the Pacific against Chile

FACTS ABOUT PERU

Capital Lima

Population 20,200,000

Languages Spanish, Quechua

National day 28 July

José de San Martín, leader of the Army of the Andes and Liberator of Peru, presented a flag to the Peruvian Legion in 1820. It was red and white divided diagonally with a badge showing a sun rising over the mountains. When the independence of Peru was declared on 28 July 1821, this was the flag that was adopted. The following year it was changed to a horizontal triband of red and white, but on 25 February 1825, Simón Bolívar arranged the stripes vertically. The flags and arms have remained more or less unchanged since then. The state flag has the national arms in the centre (with two wreaths); the other form, as on the President's flag, has one wreath as a crest and four flags as supporters. The shield depicts a vicuña (a llama-like animal), a quinine tree and a cornucopia, representing animal, vegetable and mineral wealth.



Bolivia

República de Bolivia



No relationship with pan-African colours

Condor as in Ecuador and Colombia



9 stars for departments

1	2	3	4	5	6	2:3
■	■	■	●	●	■	

OTHER FLAGS

Naval ensign Blue with the national flag in the canton surrounded by 9 yellow stars, and a large star in the fly, which stands for the lost department of Arica

Department of Potosi Quarterly white and red; in centre, light blue oval featuring Mount Potosi with white border

DATES IN HISTORY

1538 Conquered by Pizarro

6 August 1825 Secession from Peru

1837–8 Federation with Peru

1879–83 Pacific War against Chile; loss of Arica

1932–5 Gran Chaco War with Paraguay

FACTS ABOUT BOLIVIA

Capital Sucre

Population 6,250,000

Languages Spanish, Aymará, Quechua

National day 6 August

Upper Peru (the south-eastern part of Peru) seceded from the rest of the country in 1825 and named itself the Bolívar Republic (the Liberator, Simón Bolívar, was its first President), later Bolivia. Its first flag was green, with red bands at top and bottom and five gold stars within wreaths. The civil ensign had only one star and wreath. The following year the top band was changed to yellow, and in 1851 the stripes were made horizontal and placed in their present order. The arms appear only on the state flag, used for all official purposes. The central landscape depicts the silver mountain of Potosí, an alpaca (kind of llama), a wheatsheaf and a palm tree, with the same symbolism as in Peru (see left). The nine stars are for the departments, and the condor represents freedom and independence. Also in the arms are crossed rifles, a cannon, a cap of Liberty and a laurel wreath.



Australia



Commonwealth star

Southern Cross constellation

One quarter for each state



1	2	3	4	5	6	1:2
	●	●	●	●	●	

OTHER FLAGS

HM Queen of Australia	A banner of the arms with the Commonwealth star in the centre in gold; on this, the crowned royal initial on a blue disc within a chaplet of roses, all gold
Governor-General	Blue with the royal crest above a scroll with the title
Naval ensign	As national, but with blue and white reversed
Civil ensign	As national, but with red field; national flag can also be used by civil vessels

DATES IN HISTORY

1642	Discovery of Tasmania by Abel Janszoon Tasman
1770	Captain Cook landed at Botany Bay and claimed New South Wales for Britain
1778	First British settlement at Port Jackson
1791	Western Australia claimed for Britain
1825	Colony of Tasmania
1829	Swan River Colony (Western Australia)
1836	Colony of South Australia
1851	Colony of Victoria
1859	Colony of Queensland
1868	End of transportation of British convicts to Australia
1 January 1901	Federation and effective independence
1911	Foundation of Canberra
12 December 1932	Formal dominion status

FACTS ABOUT AUSTRALIA

Capital	Canberra
Population	15,970,000
Language	English, aboriginal languages
National day	26 January

The Southern Cross has been used as an emblem of the Southern Continent since the earliest days of European settlement. In 1831 a flag known as the Australian Ensign was in use, consisting of a blue cross on a white field, with the Union Jack in the canton and five white stars on the cross. In 1854 the Eureka Stockade flag was hoisted, which had a white cross with five white stars. In 1870 the Southern Cross became the flag-badge of Victoria.



When Australia became a united dominion in 1901, there was a strong movement for a distinctive flag, and semi-official competitions were held to find a suitable design. The winning entry focused on the idea of the Union Jack for the British connection, the Southern Cross of Australia itself, and a large star with six points to represent the six members of the federation. In 1909 it was amended by giving the large star seven points, the seventh one to stand for the federal territories. It became the official national flag on 15 April 1954.

The Southern Cross

The constellation consists of five stars of different magnitudes. On Australian flags the degree of brightness may be indicated by the number of points on the stars. On the Australian flag the smallest star (Epsilon Crucis) has five points and the others seven. On the flag of the Northern Territory and the flag-badge of Victoria the lower star (Alpha Crucis) has eight points and the right-hand one (Delta Crucis) has six. In the flags of Papua New Guinea and Western Samoa the stars all have five points, but they vary in size. In other badges and arms the stars are more stylized. Only four stars are used on the flag of New Zealand, all with the same number of points, making it easy to distinguish the flag from that of Australia.

National arms

The arms date from 1912, replacing an earlier version. The six quarters are the arms or badges of the six states – New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania – bound together within an ermine border. The crest is the Commonwealth star from the flag, on a wreath of blue and yellow. The supporters are a kangaroo and an emu. All round are sprays of wattle. Although alterations have been made to the arms of South Australia and Western Australia, these have not been reflected in the national arms.

AUSTRALIAN STATES AND DEPENDENCIES

New South Wales

The flag-badge is the cross of St George with a gold lion in the centre and four gold stars on the arms of the cross. It dates from 11 July 1876. The arms date from 1906.



1:2

Queensland

The flag-badge depicts a Maltese cross with a crown in the centre and dates from November 1876. It was added to the coat of arms in 1893.



1:2

South Australia

South Australia's flag-badge dates from January 1904. It was only used on the flag until 1984 when the coat of arms was altered to the same design.



1:2

Tasmania

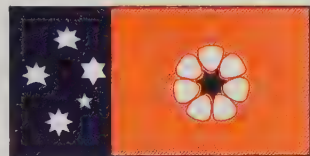
The lion badge was introduced in 1876, and was added to the arms as the crest in 1917.



1:2

Northern Territory

This modern flag dates from 1978 and was designed by two graphic artists. The stars on the black hoist are like those of Victoria, and the fly features a stylized Sturt's desert rose on a field of ochre.



1:2

Victoria

The original flag-badge of 1870 was without the royal crown, added in 1877, and therefore very similar to the modern national flag. The crowned stars became the state arms in 1910.



1:2

Western Australia

The black swan was the badge of the Swan River Colony and became the flag-badge in 1875. In 1953 the swan was turned to face the hoist.



1:2

Captain Cook takes possession of New South Wales in 1770, displaying the Union Jack and the naval White Ensign.

Norfolk Island

This dependency lies to the east of Australia in the Pacific Ocean. Its flag was adopted on 11 January 1980 and depicts a Norfolk Island pine, first used on a seal in 1856. The island also has a coat of arms.



1:2

Christmas Island

Situated south of Java in the Indian Ocean, Christmas Island is an Australian dependency. Its flag is only unofficial and for internal use. The stars are as in the Australian flag. In the centre is a map of the island, and a frigate bird appears in the upper fly.



2:3

Aboriginals of Australia

Adopted about 1972 as part of the Land Rights Campaign, the Aborigine flag has symbolic colours. Black represents the people, red is for the land and the blood shed by Aborigines in defence of their land, and the yellow disc is the sun, the giver of life.



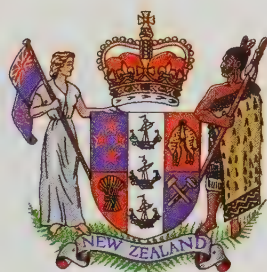
2:3



New Zealand



4 stars of the Southern Cross
3 different sizes of star



1	2	3	4	5	6	1:2
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

HM Queen of New Zealand A banner of the arms with the crowned royal initial on a blue disc within a chaplet of gold roses

Civil ensign As national, but red with white stars

Naval ensign As civil, but white with red stars

DATES IN HISTORY

1642	Discovered by Tasman
1840	Treaty of Waitangi
1845–8, 1860–70	Maori wars
1856	Internal self-government
26 September 1907	Effective independence
11 December 1931	Dominion status

FACTS ABOUT NEW ZEALAND

Capital	Wellington
Population	3,300,000
Languages	English, Maori
National days	6 February, 25 April

The Blue Ensign with the stars of the Southern Cross was adopted in New Zealand in 1869, a year earlier than in Victoria. New Zealand's first flag, however, was the one adopted at Waitangi on 20 March 1834 for the pre-colony. It consisted of a St George's cross with another cross in the canton also containing four stars on a blue field. This was flown until the formation of the colony in 1840 when British ensigns began to be used. From 1867 to 1869 the badge was simply the letters NZ in red with white borders. The present flag with four white-bordered, red stars was adopted as the government ensign on 23 October 1869, and became the national flag on 12 June 1902. The Red Ensign originally had the stars in red on a white disc, but in 1903 the stars in white were placed on the red field. Inland this flag can be used on Maori occasions, since the Maoris prefer the red and white combination.

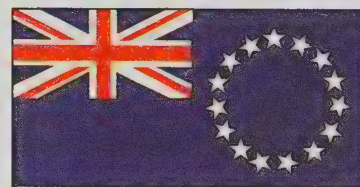


DEPENDENCIES OF NEW ZEALAND

Cook Islands

The 15 Pacific Ocean islands that make up this group became self-governing in 1965, but still rely on New Zealand for foreign affairs and defence. The Cook Islands have had many flags, the latest having been adopted on 4 August 1979. It continues to use the ring of 15 stars (one for each island) used on the previous flag, which was otherwise plain green. The change was made when the Cook Island Party lost power to the Democratic Party, whose colours are blue and white. The previous flag had been adopted on 11 January 1973, following the achievement of internal self-government.

The Prime Minister of the Cook Islands flies a blue flag with the Islands' logo (combined C and I) in white in the centre.



1:2

Niue

Niue was at one time annexed to the Cook Islands, but is now self-governing as a dependency of New Zealand. It adopted a flag at the same time as achieving self-government in October 1974. The four stars represent the link with New Zealand, and the Union Jack recalls the period of the British protectorate. The large star on the blue disc is for Niue itself, 'alone within the deep blue sea'. The Union Jack does not occupy a full quarter of the flag.



1:2

These attractive Cook Island stamps display past and present flags of the area.



Western Samoa

Malo Sa'oloto Tuto'atasi o Samoa i Sisifo



Stars of the Southern Cross –
Alpha is largest, Beta and
Gamma equal in size, Delta
slightly smaller

Red from pre-colonial flag

Arms based on the United
Nations emblem



1	2	3	4	5	6	1:2
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

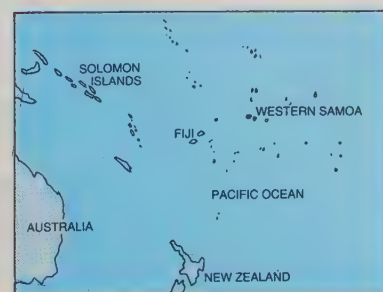
**Tupua
Tamasese
(1887–9)** White with a black cross
and white star on a red
canton; later like the flag of
Maliotua but with a black
cross superimposed on the
white one

DATES IN HISTORY

- 1861** First German agent in islands
- 1887–9** Maliotua–Tamasese conflict
- 1889** Tripartite protectorate
- 1898–1900** Renewed civil war
- 1900** Partition between Germany and USA
- 1914** German part occupied by New Zealand
- 1920–62** New Zealand mandate and trusteeship
- 1959** Internal self-government
- 1 January 1962** Independence

FACTS ABOUT WESTERN SAMOA

Capital Apia
Population 163,000
Languages Samoan, English
National day 1 January



Papua New Guinea

Papua-Niugini



Stars of the Southern Cross

Bird of Paradise



1	2	3	4	5	6	3:4
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

Naval ensign White with the national flag
in the canton

**North
Solomons** Blue with a serrated circle
of blue and white
containing an *upe* hat
of red and white on a
black field

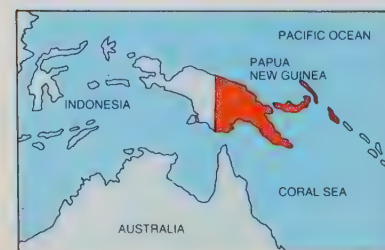
DATES IN HISTORY

- 1883** Papua annexed by Queensland
- 1884** New Guinea and Bismarck Archipelago annexed by Germany
- 1888** British protectorate
- 1905** British territory transferred to Australia
- 1914** German territories occupied
- 1921–75** Australian mandate and trusteeship of New Guinea
- 1942–5** Japanese occupation
- 1946** Papua combined with New Guinea
- 1972** Name changed to Papua New Guinea
- 16 September 1975** Independence

FACTS ABOUT PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Capital Port Moresby
Population 3,480,000
Languages English, Pidgin, 700 native dialects
National day 16 September

Papua New Guinea was formerly divided into Australian and German areas, but the Australians took over the German colony in 1921. The Germans introduced the bird of paradise as a badge for their colony, and this was revived in modern times, first on a flag used in 1962. In 1970 an official flag of blue, yellow and green was introduced, with a bird of paradise on the green part and the Southern Cross on the blue. In 1971 the Papuan government sponsored a competition for a new flag and decided on the one entered by art teacher Susan Marike. In this the stars all have five points but are of slightly different sizes, as in Western Samoa (see left). The colours are those popular in native art (unlike the previous combination). The flag has the unusual proportions of 3:4. The national emblem was adopted at the same time and shows a bird of paradise displayed above a *kundu* drum with native weapons.



Vanuatu

Ripablik blang Vanuatu



Boar's tusk and fern leaves

Colours of dominant party

'We stand together with God'
— only national motto in
Pidgin English



1	2	3	4	5	6	3:5
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

Efate Natatok Alliance party Blue with a horizontal stripe of black, edged in red, and a white star in each canton

Vanuaaku Party Horizontal triband of red and black; vertical green strip in hoist with yellow native implements

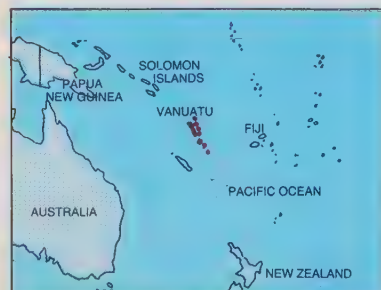
DATES IN HISTORY

- 1606** Discovered by Portuguese explorer
- 1887** Anglo-French commission
- 1906** Anglo-French condominium
- 1974** Internal self-government
- 1977** Provisional government proclaimed by Vanuaaku Party

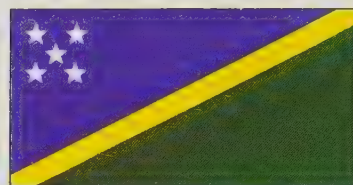
30 July 1980 Independence

FACTS ABOUT VANUATU

Capital Vila
Population 141,000
Languages Bislama, English, French
National day 30 July



The Solomon Islands



Stars are not those of
Southern Cross

Stars and arms represent the
5 areas

Stylized frigate bird



1	2	3	4	5	6	1:2
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

Governor-General Blue with the royal crest and the name Solomon Islands written on a stylized frigate bird, as in the arms

Civil ensign Red with the national flag in the canton

DATES IN HISTORY

- 1568** Discovered by Alvaro de Mandana
- 1885** Northern islands annexed by Germany (now part of Papua New Guinea)
- 1893** Southern islands a British protectorate
- 1900** Santa Isabel ceded by Germany
- 1942-4** Japanese occupation
- 1976** Internal self-government
- 7 July 1978** Independence

FACTS ABOUT THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

Capital Honiara
Population 270,000
Languages English, Pidgin, 87 vernacular languages
National day 7 July

The flag of the Solomon Islands is the outcome of a long debate over the design together with a semi-official competition. The five stars were chosen to represent the five districts in the blue seas; the green symbolizes the land and vegetation; and the yellow is for the sunshine. The districts are also represented by the objects in the national arms: two turtles for the Western District; the native weapons for the Central District; the eagle in chief for Malaita; and the two frigate birds for the Eastern District. Beneath the shield is a depiction of a frigate bird, and the supporters are the unique combination of a shark and an alligator. The crest is a canoe and a shining sun. Before independence the Islands had a flag-badge, used on British ensigns, which contained the same objects as on the present arms.



Nauru

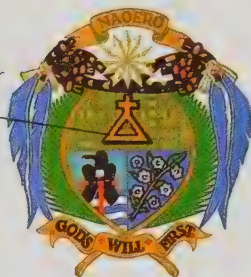
Naoero



Gold line for the Equator

Single star for Nauru

Alchemist's symbol for phosphorous



1	2	3	4	5	6	1:2
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

Nauru Pacific Shipping Line Blue with the 12-pointed star in the centre containing an upright yellow anchor

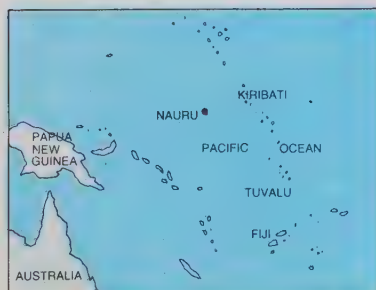
DATES IN HISTORY

- 1798** Discovered by Captain Fearn
- 1888** Annexed by Germany
- 1914** Occupied by Australians
- 1920-47** British mandate
- 1 November 1947** Tripartite trusteeship of Britain, Australia, New Zealand
- 31 January 1968** Independence

FACTS ABOUT NAURU

Capital Yaren
Population 8,042
Languages English, Polynesian
National day 1 February

The flag of Nauru was chosen in a local design competition and is not based on any previous ideas or emblems. It is intended to symbolize the geographical position of Nauru, a single island lying just south of the equator and inhabited by 12 tribes (the 12 points of the star). The arms are also of local design, and include the symbol for phosphorus to indicate the rich stock of phosphate, which is the island's main export. Beneath it are a frigate bird and a sprig of tomano. Above the shield is the 12-pointed star, and around it are palm branches and ritual objects made of sharks' teeth and frigate bird feathers. The oval shape of the shield suggests the plan of the island.



Tonga

Pule'anga Tonga



Red and white colours of Polynesia

Arms designed by royal prince



Motto is 'God and Tonga are mine inheritance'

1	2	3	4	5	6	1:2
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

- Royal standard** The shield from the arms in the form of a flag
- Naval ensign** White with a red cotised (bordered) Scandinavian cross and the red couped cross in the canton
- Armed forces ensign** White with an outline crowned shield containing 3 swords, as in the arms, all red

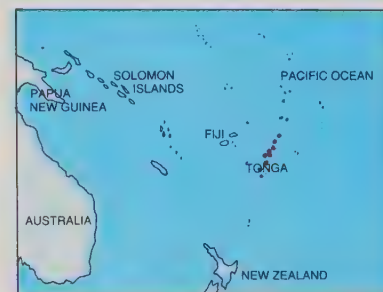
DATES IN HISTORY

- 1645** Discovered by Tasman
- 1773, 1777** Visited by Cook and named 'Friendly Islands'
- 1820-45** Unification of Tonga under George Tupou I (converted to Christianity 1831)
- 1862** First code of laws
- 1875** First national constitution
- 18 May 1900** British protectorate
- 4 June 1970** Independence resumed

FACTS ABOUT TONGA

Capital Nuku'alofa
Population 94,535
Languages English, Tonga
National day 4 July

According to the wishes of King George Tupou I of Tonga, who instituted the national flag in 1862, it has remained unchanged and is enshrined in the national constitution. The design emerged from a previous flag of white with four couped crosses, two of blue and two of red, and the initials AM. In 1862 the present flag was created, and employs only the red and white common to other Polynesian states of that time. The cross expresses the monarch's devotion to Christianity. The arms also date from the 1860s and have a red cross. The three white stars represent the three main groups of islands; the three swords symbolize the three royal dynasties of Tonga; the crown stands for the reigning King, and the dove represents peace (see also Fiji, p.29). The six-pointed star in the centre is for national unity.





Stylized maple leaf
Heraldic colours

Motto is 'From sea to sea'



1	2	3	4	5	6	1:2
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

OTHER FLAGS

Governor-General	Blue with the crest from the arms
HM Queen of Canada	Banner of arms, with the crowned royal initial on a blue disc within a chaplet of gold roses
Armed forces ensign	White with the national flag in the canton and the armed forces emblem in the fly

DATES IN HISTORY

c.1000	Newfoundland visited by Vikings
1497	Newfoundland found anew by John Cabot
1583	Newfoundland claimed for England
1598	French colony of Acadia (Nova Scotia)
1608	French settle in Québec
1713	Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island ceded to Britain
1763	'New France' ceded to Britain
1791	New France divided into Upper and Lower Canada
1 July 1867	Formation of Canada
12 December 1931	Constitutional independence

FACTS ABOUT CANADA

Capital	Ottawa
Population	25,400,000
Languages	English, French
National day	1 July



Although, or perhaps because, it was the earliest British territory to achieve effective independence within the British empire, Canada was the slowest to adopt a distinctive national flag. From 1892 to 1965 the official flag for use at sea (and on land from 1945) was the Red Ensign with the shield of arms, the same pattern of flag as in the humblest dependencies. One of the reasons for this was the strong body of opinion in favour of the Union Jack, and another was the exact opposite: the desire for a flag with no overt British connections. The issue came to a head in 1963-5. Lester Pearson, the then Premier, introduced a flag of white with two vertical blue bars at either end and a triple red maple leaf in the centre. This was debated for many months, and

eventually a majority vote was found for the present design, which is neither British nor French, but wholly Canadian in character.

Coat of arms

Canada's first coat of arms was granted in 1868 and consisted of the arms of the then four provinces quartered together. As more provinces joined the federation these became obsolete, so new arms were adopted in 1921, and re-drawn in 1957 when the maple leaves were changed from green to red.

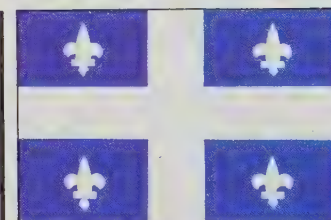
The present shield contains quarters for England, Scotland, Ireland and France to denote the countries from which Canada was colonized. The supporters bear flags of Britain and France, and the crest lion carries a red maple leaf to recall the Canadian soldiers who fell in World War I. The crest-wreath and mantling gave Canada its national heraldic colours of red and white.

CANADIAN PROVINCES

The ten provinces of Canada and the two territories have their own flags. They appear here in the order in which they were formed.

Quebec

The symbolism of Quebec's flag is derived from that of pre-revolutionary France, whose civil ensign was blue with a white cross and whose emblem was the *fleur-de-lys*. The flag evolved from earlier models, and was officially adopted on 21 January 1948. It is known as the *Fleurdelysé* flag.



2:3



The Maple Leaf flies over Alberta's Legislative Building in Edmonton with Alberta flags in the foreground.

Nova Scotia

The colony received a coat of arms in 1625, but this was overlooked at the time of federation and had to be re-introduced in 1929. Since then a banner of the arms has been used as a flag.



3:4

New Brunswick

The province only received arms in 1868, and these were revised in 1984. The banner of the arms, depicting a ship and a lion, was adopted as the provincial flag on 24 February 1965.



5:8

Ontario

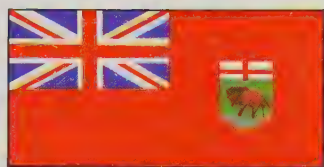
Ontario, formerly Upper Canada, received its arms in 1868, and since 21 May 1965 the shield has been placed on the British Red Ensign to make the provincial flag. It was the first shield to use the maple leaf as a Canadian emblem.



1:2

Manitoba

Formerly the Red River Settlement, the territory became the province of Manitoba in 1870. Its arms were adopted in 1905, and the shield was placed on the British Red Ensign to form the provincial flag on 12 May 1966.



1:2

British Columbia

Vancouver Island and British Columbia became a colony in 1866 and joined the federation in 1871. Its coat of arms dates from 31 March 1906, and a banner of the arms has been used as a flag since 1960.



3:5

Prince Edward Island

The colony of Prince Edward Island (part of Nova Scotia until 1769) did not enter the federation until 1873. Its arms were granted on 30 May 1905, and the banner of the arms was adopted as the provincial flag on 24 March 1964. Its

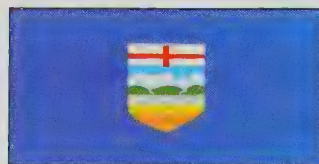


2:3

design reflects the island's geographical (and political) situation.

Alberta

Originally part of Rupert's Land and then of the North-West Territories, the District of Alberta joined with Athabasca to form a province in 1905. Its arms were granted in 1907, and the provincial flag, with the shield only, was adopted on 1 June 1968.



1:2

Saskatchewan

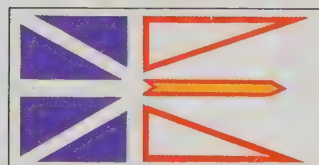
This district was part of the North-West Territories acquired in 1869, and became a province in 1905. It obtained a coat of arms in 1906 and a flag on 2 September 1969. It was the winning entry in a design competition, and portrays the shield of arms and the western red lily, the provincial plant-badge.



1:2

Newfoundland and Labrador

Originally a separate dominion, the territory reverted to direct rule in 1934,



1:2

and became a province of Canada in 1949. Its coat of arms dates from 1637, but had no bearing on the flag-badge used on British ensigns or on the flag designed by a local artist in 1980.

North-West Territories

These were originally part of the Hudson's Bay Territory and together with the Arctic islands were annexed in 1880. It received a coat of arms in 1956, and on 31 January 1969 the shield from the arms was placed in the centre of a flag chosen in a competition. The flag has the same construction as the national flag.



1:2

Yukon

Yukon became a separate territory in 1898 following the famous gold rush. It acquired a coat of arms in 1956 and later held a competition to find a flag design. In this, the white panel is smaller proportionately than in the national flag. The whole arms appears in the centre. The flag dates from 1 December 1967.



1:2

Aspirant Nations

The flags on this page are being promoted by groups who have not yet succeeded in establishing national states. Care needs to be taken when displaying any of these flags as they could be politically controversial.

Arab Palestine

The flag of the Arab Revolt (see p.11) is the one widely used by Arab groups of all kinds promoting the idea of an Arab state in the Israeli-occupied part of Palestine. It dates in this form from about 1920, and is also the flag of the *Ba'ath* parties dominant in Syria and Iraq. The state of Arab Palestine was proclaimed in November 1988.



1:2

Kurdistan

The Kurds occupy a region on the frontiers of Turkey, Syria, Iraq and Iran, and have made several attempts to create a national state since 1945. Their basic flag is as illustrated, but is subject to variation. The colours are unrelated to those of Iran.



2:3

Western Sahara

The Sahara Arab Republic has a government in exile in Algeria and claims all the former Spanish Western Sahara now occupied by Morocco. The flag, based on that of the Arab Revolt, dates from 1976.



1:2

Eritrea

The province of Eritrea was federated to Ethiopia in 1952 and annexed ten years later. Since then two politically divided separatist groups have been fighting to win the province back from Ethiopia. The Eritrean Liberation Front uses the flag of 1952, whilst the Eritrean People's Liberation Front uses one adopted in 1970. In the latter, the design is symbolic. The five branches of the star represent unity, liberation, justice, democracy and progress. The colours represent blood shed in the struggle for liberation (red), marine wealth (blue), agricultural and livestock wealth (green) and mineral resources (yellow).



2:3

West Irian

The Western part of New Guinea was taken over by Indonesia in 1963. The Free Papua Movement, based on the native population, is trying to expel the Indonesians. Their flag is the one designed for West Irian in 1961 when it was still under Dutch rule.



2:3

Kawthoolei

A separate state in Burma was promised to the Karen people during World War II, but the promise was never fulfilled, and so they are trying to achieve it themselves. The flag dates from 1974. A drum is sometimes added to the sunrays. The Shan State also maintains an army in the field against the government of Burma.



2:3

Namibia

Under a recent United Nations agreement this territory, which belonged to Germany until 1918 and has been ruled since then by South Africa, will become independent in 1989. The UN has recognized that the South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO)

is the main representative body of the inhabitants, and it is likely that the new national flag will be based on the blue-red-green tricolour of SWAPO. The tricolour has been used for many years by this group, whilst the South African government has sponsored other flags for use by the Bantustans it has set up there. The emblem of SWAPO is an arm and hand holding a flaming torch.



2:3

Khalistan

Some members of the Sikh community in India are trying to establish a separate state of Khalistan, based on the holy city of Amritsar. It would take up a large part of the Punjab in north-east India. There is no particular flag for this area, but the Sikhs have their own triangular flag. The orange right-angled triangle has a black emblem in the centre, known as the *khandi*, consisting of a sword, two daggers and a ring.



Glossary of Flag and Heraldry Terms

Achievement A complete coat of arms

Armorial banner The shield from a coat of arms made up as a flag

Badge A distinctive emblem that can be added to a flag or used separately

Banner (a) An armorial banner (as above); (b) a flag hanging from a cross-bar or suspended between two poles; (c) a flag of complex design

Battle honour The name of a victory inscribed on a flag or cravat, or a metal or sewn device added to a flag or cravat

Bicolour A flag divided into two colours

Border A wide band surrounding a field of a different colour

Broad pennant A short triangular flag with a swallow-tail

Bunting Traditional name for flag material; string of small flags used for decoration

Burgee A yacht club flag; may be rectangular, with or without swallow-tail, or triangular

Canton One quarter of a flag, usually the upper hoist quarter

Charge Any emblem or device added to a flag or shield

Chief The upper third of a shield

Civil flag and ensign The form of the national flag used by private citizens on land (flag) and sea (ensign)

Cockade A rosette or bow of livery or other significant colours worn as a badge

Colour or colours The ceremonial flags of a military or quasi-military unit; may be one flag or a pair of flags

Compartment The area beneath a shield, often filled with a mound or ornamental scrollwork

Cotise A narrow border surrounding a charge but separated from it by a narrow section of the field

Counterchanged Two colours reversed on either side of a line drawn across a flag or shield

Courtesy flag The civil ensign of a host country flown by a visiting ship

Cravat A streamer or ribbon attached above a flag on the same staff

Crest The upper part of a coat of arms, resting on the helmet

Crest-wreath The band of twisted cloth on a coat of arms

Cross The normal cross is of two equal arms at right angles extending to the edge of the flag or shield

Couped cross One whose arms do not extend to the edges of the flag or shield, as in the cross of Switzerland

Descate Term applied to flags with curved fly-ends

Disc A circular area of a single colour

Dexter The right-hand side of a shield from the point of view of the bearer, i.e. the observer's left

Emblem Any badge, device or distinguishing symbol, including a coat of arms

Ensign The flag flown at the stern of a ship, indicating nationality, or flown by government departments on land; includes air usage

Field The background colour of a flag or shield

Fimbriation A narrow band of colour separating two others

Finial The ornamental top of a flag staff

Flag officer A naval officer entitled to a distinctive rank flag

Flag of convenience Flag of a country where a vessel has registered to benefit from less stringent regulations

Fly The half of a flag away from the flag staff

Fringe Gold or silver threads sewn along the free edges of a flag

Gonfalon An elaborate flag hung from a cross-bar, often highly decorated, characteristic of Italy

Gonfanon An enlarged lance pennon, flown laterally, with swallow-tails or squared tails

Government flag See STATE FLAG

Guidon A military flag used for mounted troops or vehicles

Hoist The half of a flag nearest the staff; a hoist of flags is several flags raised together

House flag The flag of a commercial organization, e.g. a shipping or air line

Inescutcheon A small shield set inside a larger one

Inglefield clips Metal or nylon quick-release clips for attaching a flag to the hoist ropes

Jack A flag flown at the bows of a ship to indicate nationality

Jolly Roger Common name for flag used by pirates

Lance pennon Triangular flag attached to a lance near the point; may or may not be swallow-tailed

Length The horizontal dimension of a flag

Livery colours The main colours of the field and principal charge of a coat of arms

Mantling The cloth hanging from the crest-wreath in a coat of arms, usually depicted in the livery colours

Merchant flag See CIVIL ENSIGN

Mon The stylized badge of Japanese heraldry

National flag The flag indicating nationality used by a recognized nation-state; may have several forms: civil, government, military

National Order The principal order of merit awarded by a state, usually a star, cross or medal with a ribbon or sash

Naval ensign The form of the national flag used by naval vessels

Obverse The view of a flag with the staff on the observer's left

Pall a heraldic device like a letter Y

Passant A heraldic beast 'walking' towards the dexter side of the shield

Pennant A tapering flag used as a rank-signifier or for some similar function; may be swallow-tailed

Pendant Former synonym of pennant and pronounced the same way

Prize flag The flag used to indicate a winner in a yachting contest

Rank flag A flag or pennant indicating rank in the military services, or in a yacht club

Reverse The opposite of obverse

Roundel The concentric discs or similar pattern used to indicate nationality on a military aircraft, often also used on the air force ensign

Saltire A diagonal cross; more particularly the flag of Scotland

Sinister The opposite of dexter

Scandinavian cross A cross with unequal horizontal arms

Staff The fixed pole from which a flag is flown

Schwenkel A single tail extending from the upper fly of a flag; may be stiffened

Standard (a) A vexilloid; (b) a large gonfanon; (c) a heraldic flag in livery colours with badges; (d) popular synonym for heraldic banner; (e) ceremonial flag of mounted troops; (f) flag of a head of state

State ensign and flag The form of the national flag used for official purposes by the government at sea (ensign) or on land (flag)

Streamer A very long narrow flag; may be swallow-tailed

Triband A flag divided into three (usually equal) areas but of only two different colours

Tricolour A flag of three different colours, usually in equal areas

Tugh A vexilloid from Central Asia, usually decorated with horse or yak tails

Vexillology The scientific study of all aspects of flags

Vexilloid An object carried on a pole, fulfilling many of the functions of a flag

Vexillum A roman standard with a cloth hung from a horizontal bar

Width The vertical dimension of a flag

Index

- Aborigines of Australia, 125
 Afghanistan, 19, 76
 Africa, 11, 18, 21
 African National Congress, 10
 Alabama, 32
 Alaça Hüyük, 7
 Aland Island, 54
 Alaska, 35
 Albania, 58
 Alberta, 131
 Alderney, 25
 Algeria, 72
 American Samoa, 17, 36
 Amon-Hir, 7
 Anarchists, 10
 Andorra, 61
Andreëvskii flag, 9
 Andrew, St, 9, 15
 Angola, 97
 Anguilla, 26
 Antigua and Barbuda, 18, 111
 Arab Revolt Flag, 11, 82, 84, 132
 Arabs, 8, 11, 21, 132
 Argentina, 10, 121
 Arizona, 33
 Arkansas, 32
 Armenian SSR, 49
 Artigas, José, 22, 122
 Aruba, 45
 Assyria, 7
 Australia, 19, 22, 124–5
 Austria, 17, 59
 award flags, 12
 Azerbaijan SSR, 50
 Azores, 67

 badges, 15, 16, 17
 Bahamas, 9, 112
 Bahrain, 17, 78
 Banda, Hastings, 11
 Bangladesh, 18, 79
 banners, 8, 14, 15, 16, 18
 Barbados, 112
 Bedford Flag, 30
 Belgium, 19, 59
 Belgrano, General, 22, 121
 Belize, 119
 Benin, 94
 Berlin, 66
 Bermuda, 26
 Bhutan, 108
 Biafra, 105
 bicolour flags, 17

 Black Star Line, 11
 Blue Ensign, 14
 Blue Jack, 14
 Blue Peter, 12
 Bolívar, Simon, 22, 123
 Bolivia, 123
 borders, 17
 Botswana, 101
 Brazil, 67
 Britain, 21, 23–5
 British Antarctic Territory, 26
 British Columbia, 131
 British Virgin Islands, 26
 Brunei, 75
 Buddhist flags, 20, 21
 Bulgaria, 21, 46
Bundschuh flag, 10
 burgees, 14
 Burgundy, 9
 Burkina Faso, 93
 Burma, 19, 109
 Burundi, 99
 Byelorussian SSR, 50

 California, 33
 Cambodia *see* Kampuchea
 Cameroon, 90
 Canada, 18, 19, 22, 130–1
 cantons, 16, 17, 18
 Cape Verde, 92
 Caribbean, 21
 Carthage, 7
 Cayman Islands, 27
 Central African Republic, 96
 Central America, 10–11, 22
 Ceylon, 20
 Chad, 96
 Charlemagne, Emperor, 8
 chief, 15, 16
 Chile, 37
 China, 7, 19, 21, 51
 Christmas Island, 125
 civil flags, 14
 Civil Jack, 14
 coats of arms, 15, 16, 17
 Colombia, 120
 Colorado, 33
 colours, 14, 16
 Columbia, District of, 36
 Columbus, Christopher, 9, 20, 38, 42,
 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 118, 119, 120
 commercial flags, 12
 commission pennants, 13, 14

 Comoros, 73
 compartments, 16
 Confederate Battle Flag, 31
 Confederate States of America, 31
 Congo, 95
 Connecticut, 31
 Continental Colours, 30
 Cook Islands, 126
 corsairs, 10
 Cortés, Hernando, 9
 Costa Rica, 11, 21, 119
 Cote d'Ivoire, 103
 Council of Europe, 20
 crescent moons, 17–18, 21
 crests, 16
 Crete, 7
 crosses, 17, 21
 Crusaders, 8
 Cuba, 10, 38
 Cyprus, 70
 Czechoslovakia, 21, 46

 Delaware, 31
 Denmark, 54
 descate ends, 18
 designs, 17–18
 dexter, 16
 Djibouti, 80
 Dominica, 18, 111
 Dominican Republic, 21, 42
 Dubai, 83

 eagles, 17
 Ecuador, 121
 Egypt, 7, 19, 84
 Ellice Islands, *see* Tuvalu
 emblems, 17–18
 England, 8, 24
 ensign banners, 15
 ensigns, 9, 14, 24
 Equatorial Guinea, 104
 Eritrea, 132
 Estonian SSR, 17, 50
 Ethiopia, 11, 21, 88
 European Economic Community
 (EEC), 20

 Falkland Islands, 27
 Faroe Islands, 54
 Ferdinand, King of Spain, 9
 fields, 15, 17
 Fiji, 29
 fimbriations, 17

 finials, 13
 Finland, 14, 16, 55
 Flag of the Race, 20
 flag staffs, 13, 18
 Flanders, 19
fleurs-de-lys, 17, 41
 Florida, 32
 fly end, 18
 France, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14, 18, 21, 40–1

 Gabon, 104
 Gambia, 17, 101
 Garvey, Marcus, 11, 21, 87, 88
 Genghis Khan, 8, 53
 Genoa, 9
 George, St, 9, 15
 Georgia (USA), 32
 Georgian SSR, 50
 German Democratic Republic, 19, 65
 German Federal Republic, 19, 65
 Germany (pre-1945), 8, 10, 11, 19
 Ghana, 21, 88
 Gibraltar, 27
 Gilbert Islands, *see* Kiribati
 gonfanon, 8
 government flags, 12, 14
 Greece, 7, 57
 Green Flag, 14, 41
 Greenland, 54
 Grenada, 115
 Guam, 36
 Guatemala, 10–11, 118
 Guernsey, 25
 guidons, 15, 18
 Guinea, 89
 Guinea-Bissau, 92
 Guyana, 17, 116

 Haiti, 21, 42
 hammer and sickle, 18
 Hawaii, 33
 headings, 18
 heraldry, 8, 15–16, 21
 Herm, 25
 Hindu flags, 21
 Hitler, Adolf, 11, 19
 Hittites, 7
 hoist end, 18
 Honduras, 11, 118
 Hong Kong, 27
 house flags, 13, 14
 Hungary, 19, 21, 64

- Iceland, 56
 Idaho, 34
 Illinois, 35
 India, 19, 106
 Indiana, 35
 Indonesia, 106
 institutional flags, 12
 International Buddhist Flag, 20
 International Code of Signals, 12
 international flags, 20
 Iowa, 33
 Iran, 7, 76
 Iraq, 12, 19, 85
 Ireland, 14, 19, 21, 41
 Isabella, Queen of Spain, 9
 Islam, 12, 21, 71–81
 Isle of Man, 25
 Israel, 69
 Italy, 7, 10, 12, 43
- jacks, 13, 14
 Jamaica, 21, 114
 Japan, 16, 18, 109
 Jersey, 25
 Joan of Arc, St, 10, 40
 Jolly Roger, 10
 Jordan, 82
- Kampuchea, 52
 Kansas, 35
 Kawthule, 132
 Kazakh SSR, 50
 Kentucky, 34
 Kenya, 11, 19, 87
 Kenyatta, Jomo, 11, 87
 Khalistan, 132
 Kirghiz SSR, 50
 Kiribati, 17, 68
 Knights of St John, 8, 60
 Korea, North, 110
 Korea, South, 110
 Kurdistan, 12, 132
 Kuwait, 82
- Labarum*, 8
labrys, 7
 land, flags on, 13
 Laos, 18, 53
 Latvian SSR, 50
 League of Arab States, 20
 Lebanon, 18, 69
 Lepanto, Battle of, 9
 Lesotho, 100
- Liberators, 22
 Liberia, 38
 Libya, 17, 79
 Liechtenstein, 62
 lions, 17
 Lithuanian SSR, 50
 livery colours, 15, 16
 Louisiana, 35
 Luxembourg, 60
- Madagascar, 102
 Madeira, 67
Mahabharata, 6
 Maine, 34
 Malawi, 11, 18, 87
 Malaysia, 74
 Maldives, 73
 Mali, 89
 Malta, 60
 Manitoba, 131
 mantling, 16
 Maple Leaf, 18, 19, 22
 Marshall Islands, 36
 Maryland, 34
 Massachusetts, 31
 masts, 13
 Mauritania, 21, 72
 Mauritius, 68
 Mecca, 11
 Mesopotamia, 7
 metals, 16
 Mexico, 10, 11, 43
 Michigan, 34
 Micronesia, 36
 Middle East, 21
 military flags, 12
 Minnesota, 34
 Minoans, 7
 Miranda, 10, 22, 120
 Mississippi, 32
 Missouri, 34
 Moldavian SSR, 50
mon system, 16, 109
 Monaco, 62
 Mongolia, 53
 Mongols, 8
 Montana, 34
 Montserrat, 28
 moon, 9, 18
 Morocco, 77
 mottoes, 16
 Mozambique, 12, 17, 97
 multistripes, 17
- Namibia, 132
 Napoleon I, Emperor, 14
 national flags, 12, 14
 Nauru, 129
 naval ensigns, 14
 Nebraska, 34
 Nepal, 107
 Netherlands, 9, 10, 14, 21, 44–5
 Netherlands Antilles, 44–5
 Nevada, 35
 New Brunswick, 131
 New Hampshire, 31
 New Jersey, 32
 New Mexico, 34
 New South Wales, 124
 New York City, 36
 New York State, 32
 New Zealand, 126
 Newfoundland and Labrador, 17, 131
 Nicaragua, 10, 11, 22, 117
 Niger, 103
 Nigeria, 105
 Niue, 126
 Norfolk Island, 125
 North Carolina, 33
 North Dakota, 34
 North Korea, 110
 North Marianas, 37
 North-West Territories, 131
 North Yemen, 86
 Northern Cyprus, 70
 Northern Ireland, 19, 24
 Northern Territory (Australia), 125
 Norway, 56
 Nova Scotia, 131
- obverse view, 18
 Ohio, 35
 Oklahoma, 35
 Olympic Games, 12, 19, 20
 Oman, 77
 Ontario, 131
 Oregon, 35
 Organization of African Unity, 20
- Papua New Guinea, 18, 127
 Paraguay, 122
 party flags, 19
 peace flags, 20
 Pearson, Lester, 19
 pennants, 14
 pennons, 15
 Pennsylvania, 32
 Peru, 17, 123
 Peter the Great, Tsar, 9
 Philippines, 39
 pirates, 9–10
 Pitcairn Islands, 28
 Poland, 17, 58
 political flags, 10–11, 12, 19
 Portugal, 66–7
 Prince Edward Island, 131
Prinsenvlag, 10, 21, 44, 45
 proportions, 18
 Puerto Rico, 37
- Qatar, 18, 78
 quarters, 17
 Quebec, 130
 Queensland, 124
- Ramses III, 7
 Rastafarians, 11, 21
 Red Crescent, 20
 Red Cross, 20
 Red Ensign, 14
 Red Flag, 10, 11, 17, 21, 48, 51, 52
 regional flags, 20
 religious flags, 12, 20
 reverse view, 18
 Rhode Island, 32
 Richard I, King, 8, 15
 Romania, 21, 61
 Romans, 8
 Rosebecque, Battle of, 9
 Royal Standard, 14, 23–4
 Russia, 9, 21; *see also* Soviet Union
 Russian SFSR, 49
 Rwanda, 91
- St Christopher Nevis, 115
 St Helena, 28
 Saint Lucia, 113
 St Vincent and the Grenadines, 113
 saltire crosses, 17
 El Salvador, 11, 22, 117
 San Marino, 17, 63
 San Martín, José de, 22, 121

Index

São Tomé and Príncipe, 91
 Sark, 25
 Saskatchewan, 131
 Saudi Arabia, 18, 81
 Scandinavia, 17, 18, 21, 54–6
 Scotland, 24
 scrolls, 16
 sea, flags at, 8–10, 13
 Selassie, Haile, 11, 88
 Senegal, 90
 Seychelles, 99
 shields, 16, 17
 Siena, 12
 Sierra Leone, 105
 signal flags, 12
 Singapore, 21, 75
 sinister, 16
 sleeve, 18
 Solomon Islands, 128
 Somalia, 80
 Somaliland, 19
 South Africa, 19, 45
 South America, 10, 22
 South Australia, 124
 South Carolina, 32
 South Dakota, 36
 South Korea, 110
 South Vietnam, 19
 South Yemen, 86
 Southern Cross, 21, 22, 124
 Soviet Union, 10, 17, 18, 21, 48–50
 Spain, 9, 10, 20, 63
 Sri Lanka, 18, 107
 standards, 7, 8, 14, 15
 stars, 17–18, 21
 Stars and Bars, 31
 Stars and Stripes, 14, 17, 21, 30–1
 state flags, 14
 Sudan, 85
 sun, 18
 supporters, 16
 Surinam, 116
 swallow-tailed flags, 14, 15, 18
 Swastika, 11, 19
 Swaziland, 102
 Sweden, 14, 16, 55
 Switzerland, 17, 18, 57
 Syria, 19, 84
 Tadjik SSR, 10
 Taiwan, 19, 51
 Tanganyika, 19
 Tanzania, 98
 Tasmania, 124
 Tennessee, 33
 Texas, 33
 Thailand, 108
 Tibet, 51
 Togo, 93
 Tokugawa dynasty, 16
 Tonga, 22, 129
 triangles, 17, 18
 tribands, 17
Tricolore, 10, 18, 21, 40–1, 42
 tricolours, 17
 Trinidad and Tobago, 114
tugh, 8
 Tunisia, 71
 Turkey, 11, 18, 21, 71
 Turkmen SSR, 50
 Turks and Caicos Islands, 28
 Tuvalu, 29
 Uganda, 98
 Ukraine SSR, 50
 Union Jack, 9, 14, 19, 21, 23
 Union of Myanmar, 109
 United Arab Emirates, 83
 United Kingdom, 21, 23–5
 United Nations organization, 20
 United Negro Improvement Association, 11
 United Provinces of Central America, 11, 22, 117, 118, 119
 United States of America, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 16, 21, 30–7
 Uruguay, 122
 Utah, 33
 Uzbek SSR, 50
 Vanuatu, 128
 Vatican City, 64
 Venezuela, 120
 Vermont, 33
 vexilloids, 7, 8
vexillum, 8
 Victoria, 125
 Vietnam, 19, 52
 Vikings, 8
 Virgin Islands, 37
 Virginia, 32
 voluntary organizations, 12
 Wales, 15, 24
 Walloons, 19
 Washington, 36

weapons, as emblems, 18
 West Indies, 21–2
 West Irian, 132
 West Virginia, 17, 36
 Western Australia, 125
 Western Sahara, 132
 Western Samoa, 127
 White Ensign, 14
 William the Conqueror, 8
 windsocks, 18
 Wisconsin, 35
 Wyoming, 35

Yemen, North, 86
 Yemen, South, 86
 Young Arab Society, 11
 Yugoslavia, 47
 Yukon, 131

Zaire, 94
 Zambia, 15, 17, 100
 Zanzibar, 19
 Zimbabwe, 95

Acknowledgements

The author and publishers would like to thank: all the correspondents of the Flag Institute who have contributed material used in this book; Tony Mould and Pan Tek Arts for flag and coat of arms artwork; Craig Austin for cover artwork; and Hilary Bird for the index.

Photographic acknowledgements

The publishers would like to thank the following for kindly supplying photographs for this book:
 Page 1 ZEFA; 3 Spectrum Colour Library; 6 Michael Holford; 7 Ancient Art & Architecture Collection; 9 Michael Holford; 11 Popperfoto (top), Peter Newark's Military Pictures (bottom); 13 Peter Newark's Historical Pictures; 14 Peter Newark's Military Pictures; 15 Peter Newark's Historical Pictures; 20 Popperfoto; 25 The Hutchison Library; 31 Peter Newark's Western Americana; 44–5 Travel Photo International; 47 ZEFA (top), The Hutchison Library (bottom); 49 ZEFA; 67 David Cannon/Allsport; 81 The Hutchison Library; 83 ZEFA; 125 Peter Newark's Historical Pictures; 130 Travel Photo International.
 Cover back ZEFA.

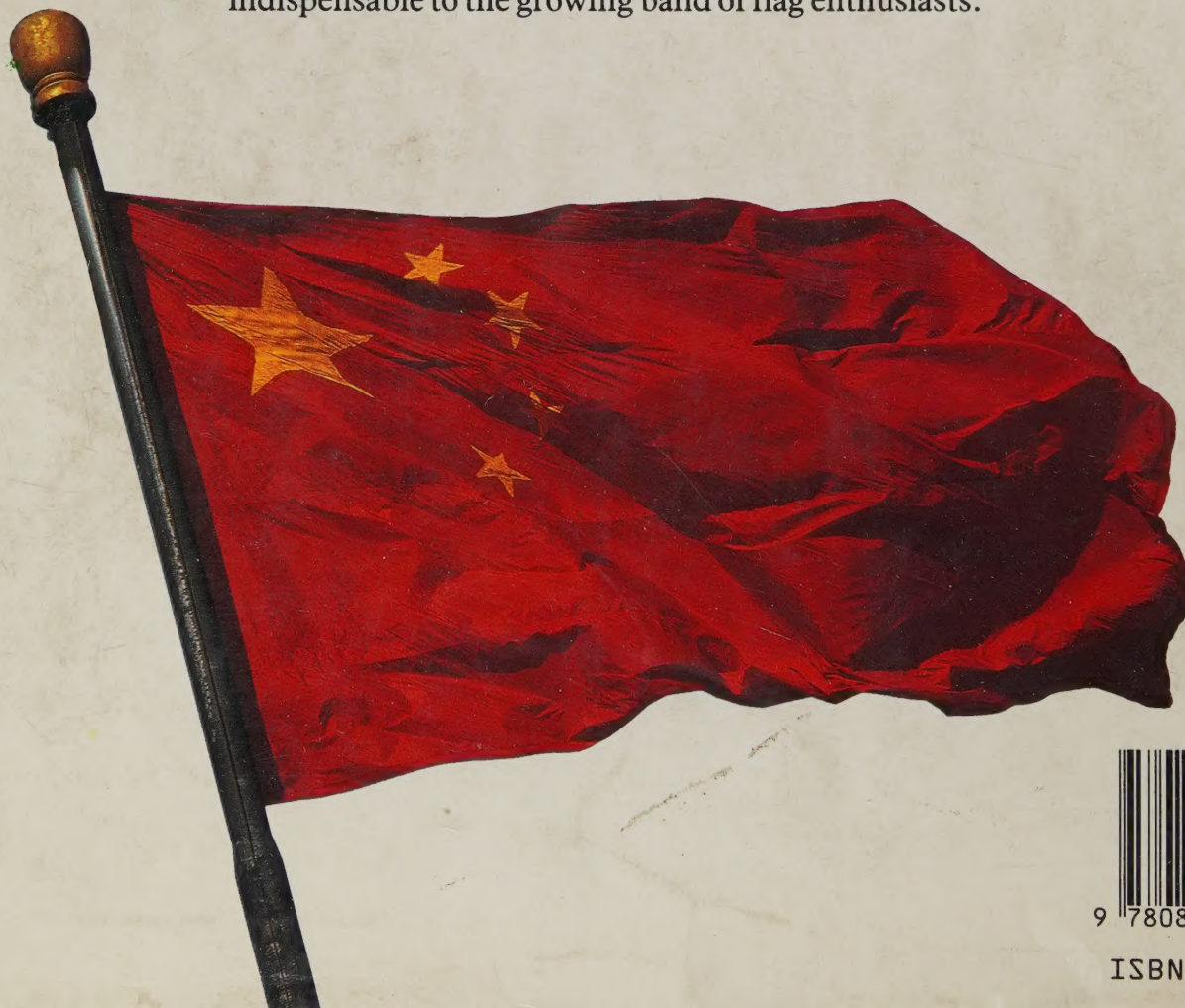
WILLIAM CRAMPTON is a well-known flag expert. He was one of the founding members of the Flag Institute and is now the Director. This unique institution is devoted to collecting information on flags, educating the public about them, and linking flag enthusiasts around the world. William Crampton also designs flags for regional and civic use, including that of Herm, one of the British Channel Islands. His interest and knowledge of flags has involved him in the making of several historical films as an adviser on authentic flag designs. He has written numerous articles on flags and one other book, *Flags of the World*.



GALLERY BOOKS
An Imprint of W. H. Smith Publishers Inc.
112 Madison Avenue
New York City 10016

The Complete Guide to
FLAGS

In *The Complete Guide to Flags* William Crampton – one of Britain's leading vexillologists – has written an authoritative, up-to-date guide to over 300 of the world's flags. In addition to the national flags and coats of arms, it includes the state and provincial flags of some of the world's largest nations. Packed with fascinating information and attractive color illustrations, this book will prove indispensable to the growing band of flag enthusiasts.



ISBN 0-8317-1605-3