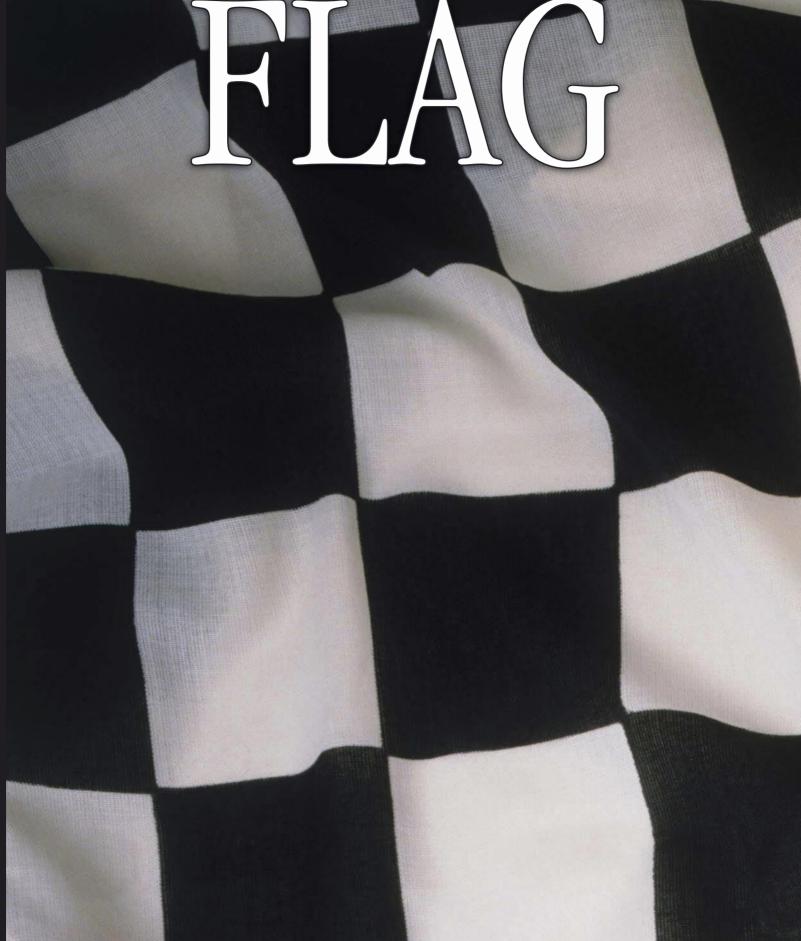


Eyewitness







# Eyewitness Flag





# Eyewitness Flag

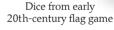
WILLIAM CRAMPTON





World War I, showing flags of France, Great Britain, and Belgium











Seal of King Edward VII

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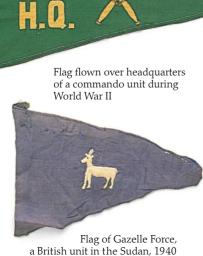




Stamp with flag of the Chinese Liberation Army



Army car pennant



### Soviet flags

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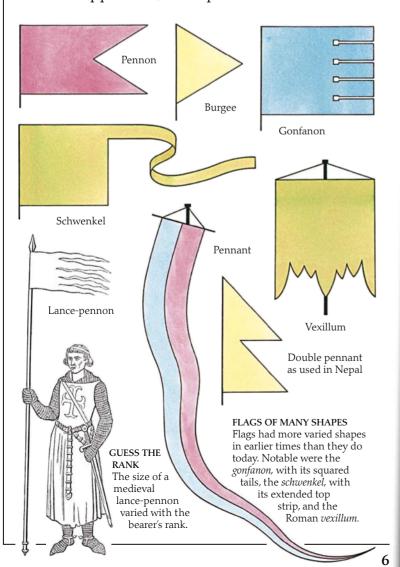
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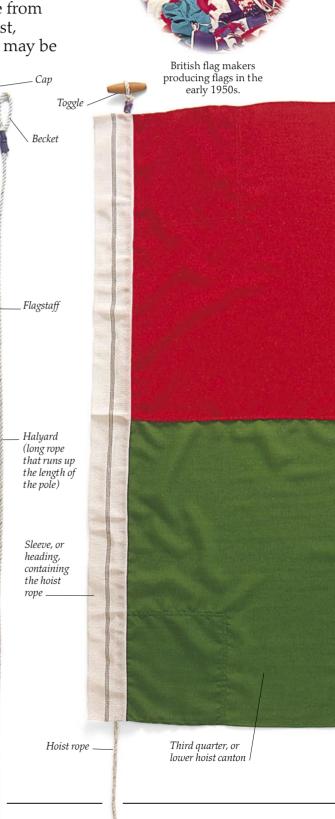
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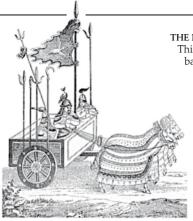
### The anatomy of a flag

FLAGS COME IN ALL SHAPES AND SIZES. Usually they consist of a piece of free-flying fabric attached to a rigid vertical staff, but they may also be hung from horizontal bars. Flags may be flown from flagpoles or the halyards of sailing ships, carried on staves or spears, fixed on pins for table stands, or hung from spars at 45 degrees to the vertical (known as gaffs). Most modern flags are made from polyester. Many different fabrics have been used in the past, including silk, taffeta, cotton, linen, and wool. The designs may be

built up by sewing together material of different colors, or they may be printed. In the past, elaborate designs were often painted or embroidered onto the surface of the flag, and these methods are sometimes still used today. Since the 17th century most of the flags used at sea have been rectangular, and this is now the standard form for use on land. Military flags are traditionally square. Some flags flown by yachts are swallow-tailed or triangular, and heraldic banners (pp.10-11) are squarish.



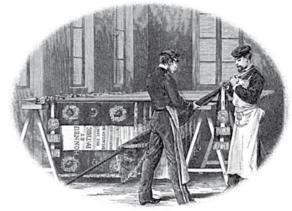




### THE MONGOL CONQUEROR

This is a traditional view of the banner of the Mongol leader Ghengis Khan, with a flag of nine "feet" beneath four horse tails. Chinese flags also had elaborately decorated ragged edges and colored borders, but rarely contained emblems such as the hawk of the Mongols.

> Second quarter, or upper fly canton



### THE PARTS OF A FLAG

Flags are divided into four quarters, or cantons. The two nearest the pole form the hoist and the other two the fly. The upper canton of the hoist, which often contains a badge or emblem, is also often known simply as the canton. Flags to be flown from a pole have a hollow tube of cloth called a sleeve, or heading, on the hoist side. Those made in Europe usually have a hoist rope sewn into this; American flags have an eyelet at either end. For indoor or parade use the flagstaff is passed through the heading, and ropes and tassels are often attached to the decorative finial at the end of the pole. The horizontal dimension (size) of a flag is the length and the vertical

dimension is the width The proportions of a flag are shown by two numbers, the first refering to the height of the flag and the second to the width. So a flag 1 ft high and 2 ft wide is in proportions of 1:2.

### MILITARY DECORATIONS

French military flags follow set patterns and are decorated with gold fringes and cravats (decorative streamers) attached just beneath the finial of the flagstaff. These carry the unit's number, as well as any honors that it has been awarded.

### FOLDING THE FLAG

Military flags are hoisted (raised), lowered, folded, and stored according to set rules and rituals.





Inglefield clips

Pulley





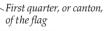






### FLYING FLAGS

There are various ways of fastening flags to the staff. American flags have eyelets to which clips are attached. In England the hoist rope is usually attached to the halyard with a becket and toggle. Inglefield clips (with their quick-release mechanism) are often used at sea. Indoor and parade flagstaffs have elaborate finials.





Fourth quarter, or lower fly canton

AND THE PROPERTY OF A CONTRACTOR

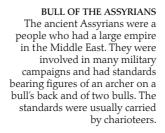
EVIDENCE FROM EGYPT This ancient Egyptian pot comes from the predynastic period (before 3000 B.C.). The object at the end of the pole on the right-hand side of the pot is a very early image of a flaglike object called a vexilloid.

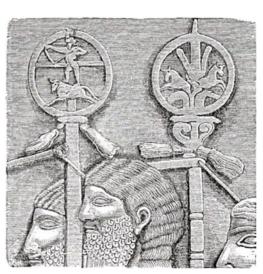
### First signs

 $W_{\text{E}}$  usually think of a flag as a piece of fabric attached to a pole. But before flags as we know them were invented, people carried poles topped with carved symbols. They used these objects in the same way that we use flags today - to send signals or to show loyalty to a leader or country. The first evidence of these solid flaglike objects comes from ancient Egypt, where they were used to identify various parts of the kingdom. The ancient civilizations of Greece, Rome, and the Middle East used them in similar ways. It was the ancient Romans who made most use of these symbols. Éach unit of their army had its own "standard", including the famous eagles of the legions. They also introduced the first true flag in the Western world - the vexillum. Unlike modern flags it was attached to a horizontal pole. Flags attached along one side to an upright pole first appeared in China, and were introduced to the west by the Arabs. But even then, flags were usually made only of plain fabric. Flags with actual designs on them became widespread during the Crusades (11th-13th centuries). The Christians used the symbol of the cross; the Moslems carried flags bearing inscriptions. In America, the Aztecs had developed flags made of feathers and also had flags that could be carried on a warrior's back.



FLAG OR FAN?
The ancient Egyptians had vexilloids that could be carried or fixed on chariots. Some looked like fans; others consisted of carvings attached to poles.





HOMEMADE FLAG
The first flag was
probably no more
than a piece of cloth
tied to a stick, but it
could still be used to
attract attention or to send a
message. Natural dyes could
produce very bright colors,
like on this red flag. A plain
red flag still means danger today,
just as it did in prehistoric times.



The basis of a coat of arms is the shield. This one is from a ceiling in a 15th-century building.

### Coats of arms

Heraldry is the art of producing and recording coats of arms. It has had a great influence on flags, creating new kinds of flags and laying down ground rules for their design and use. Anyone who has a coat of

arms can also use heraldic flags. Traditionally these are the long *standard*, the rectangular *banner*, the *badge-flag*, and the *pennon*. A coat of arms consists of the following items: a

shield, which can contain symbols connected to the history of the bearer's family; *supporters* on either side of the shield; and a helmet with a wreath, mantling, (cloth hanging from the helmet), and a *crest* on top of the shield. There may be a scroll and a motto.



STAMP OF APPROVAL
Personal heraldry - and
heraldry of towns and
cities - can be displayed on
seals. Sometimes the whole coat

of arms is shown; sometimes there is an image of the bearer of the arms in full heraldic armor.



### STANDARDS Heraldic standards show the colors, arms badges, and mottoes of the bearer. The bearers' shields are shown alongside.



Tournaments were great occasions for displays of heraldry and usually included an exhibition of the armor, coats of arms, and banners of those taking part.



### ROYAL ARMS

At the time of Henry VIII the British royal coat of arms had the lion of England and the Red Dragon of Wales (one of the badges of the Tudor dynasty) as "supporters."

Churchill arms

"Cadency mark" to indicate a second son

Spencer arms

### FOR A NATIONAL HERO

In Sir Winston Churchill's heraldic banner the background is the same as the shield of the coat of arms, and the border of black and white is in the main colors of the arms. The arms incorporate those of Churchill's two lines of descent, the families of Churchill and Spencer.





loves



Tree peony

### EASTERN SYMBOLS

Japanese heraldry uses highly stylized family badges known as *mon*. These can be borne on flags, used for decoration, or included on fans and clothing. Unlike European heraldic devices they do not have specific colors.



Churchill's crest is a lion bearing a flag. It is very unusual for heraldic crests to incorporate flags in this way. The heraldic term for the pose in which the lion is shown is *sejant* (seated) with one paw raised.



### Friend or foe?

In the confusion of the battlefield, flags provide an easy method of telling friends from enemies. Flags were once a common sight wherever battles raged, and even today they are used by the military, both on land and at sea. In medieval times (the 15th century) they identified individuals as well as groups, in the way that flags on vehicles and flags that fly over battle headquarters still do today. When armies became more organized (from the 16th century on), each individual regiment and company developed its own flag. These were known as colors, and they were often elaborately decorated with embroidered coats of arms. Eventually colors were used only in ceremonies - sturdier flags were needed for battle.



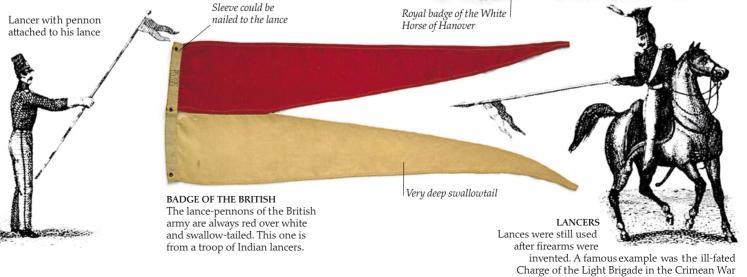
COMING OF THE CONQUEROR
The Norman knights at the Battle of
Hastings in 1066 carried small flags called
pennons on their lances. Duke William had
an elaborate one sent to him by the Pope.



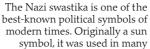
WHO WAS WHO? Medieval knights were easily identified because they carried their personal emblems on their shields and banners.



(1853-56), in which many British lancers died.







THE SWASTIKA

symbol, it was used in many different ways before it became the national flag of Germany in 1935. This version was used as a wall hanging. The swastika flag was replaced in 1945



Square shape indicates use as wall hanging

German flag



German national flag of the period beneath the Union Jack (p. 47). The motto Deutschland unter Alles ("Germany under all") pokes fun at a phrase from the German national anthem.



DEUTSCHLAND

The United States, France, England, and Italy are among the World War I Allies shown here. The flagstaffs are topped by decorative finials, a common feature of military flags.



### ONE WAR

The slogan on this poster from World War II means "One struggle for one country."



The flags of Britain, France, and Belgium



FLAGS FOR ALL

Devices showing the united flags of the Allies were very common during World War II. They took a variety of forms, including badges, handkerchiefs, scarves, cards, and games.



Britain

The arms and flag of Belgium



Belgium

Russia (the Naval Ensign)



Japan (the Rising Sun)

FLAG GAME

This game consists of dice with a different flag on each face.



FRIEND IN NEED Flags can still be used for identification in modern warfare. They are especially useful because they are international

symbols that anyone can understand. This piece of cloth was designed to be carried by British pilots serving in Eastern Europe during World War II. It bears the message "I am British" and an instruction to contact the local British Military Mission.



FLYING HOME
The house flag of the Scottish shipping line of MacCann bears the classical emblem of Pegasus, the winged horse, to represent speed.

Showing your colors

Many flags include symbols that are used to express ideas which would otherwise take many words. These symbols come from many different sources – from animals, plants, weapons, and everyday objects. One of the best-known examples is the lion in medieval heraldry, which represented both kingship and bravery.

Colors are also given symbolic

meanings. We use white and blue to represent peace in flags like that of the United Nations. And green is the color of vegetation but has also been used to represent youth and hope. Religious ideas are among the oldest to be expressed in flag form, and the cross is the oldest device in heraldry. In Moslem countries (where Islam is practiced) the crescent moon has been a symbol of religion since at least the 14th century; the crescent combined with a star is not as old. Another Islamic symbol is the double-bladed sword, which represents the Prophet's son-in-law, Ali. Islamic law does not allow pictures of God or people, but other religions have no such restrictions and there are many Chinese flags that show gods and Christian flags that

show images of saints.

Modern symbols include the Canadian maple leaf and the hammer and sickle of the former

Soviet Union.



Flag of former USSR

WORKERS UNITE!
The tools of the industrial
and the agricultural labourer
(the "workers" and "peasants" of the
Russian Revolution) appeared in stylized
form on the flag of the former Soviet Union.

Hammer

and sickle

## WELLINGTON'S CREST The combination of the king of beasts with the flag of victory rising from a duke's crown forms a fitting crest for the Duke of Wellington.





### WHICH COLOR? These flags show how

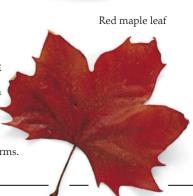
colors can have special meanings. Red and green were often used by Islamic countries in the 19th century. The green flags show forms of the crescent used in the Ottoman Empire, and the sword of Ali on the flag of a North African port. The red flags come from Turkey, India, and Egypt. The blue and yellow flags are "matriculation" flags, used in the 19th century to show a ship's port of registration.



Flag of Canada

For ease of manufacture and reproduction the red maple leaf on the flag of Canada has been reduced to a highly stylized form, making a new heraldic emblem.

This has happened to all the devices used in flags and coats of arms.





### DRESSED OVERALL

On holidays and when celebrating important victories, ships used to fly all their available flags, producing an effect like this. Today only signal flags are used to "dress ship."

Setting sail

Since the days of the first warships and the earliest trading vessels, flags have always been used at sea. Today such ships - as well as the thousands of passenger ships and the boats of all shapes and sizes that are used for recreation - still use flags. All ships over a certain size are supposed to display their national colors, although many do not do so. In practice this means that they should fly their national or mercantile (commercial) flag or naval ensign. The Stars and Stripes plays all these roles for American ships; British ships fly one of the three British Ensigns. About twenty other nations are like England in having separate national and mercantile flags, and one or two

have separate national flags for yachts. In addition, commercial shipping lines display their individual company flags. Other flag traditions include flying the proper national flag when entering a foreign port - this is known as flying a "courtesy flag." On leaving port, many ships fly

Material is orange symbol representing the coming together of opposites

Trigrams from the I Ching

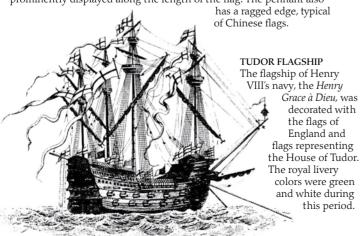
the blue flag with a white square in the center called the Blue Peter.

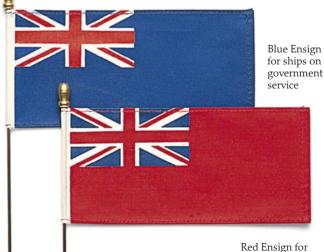


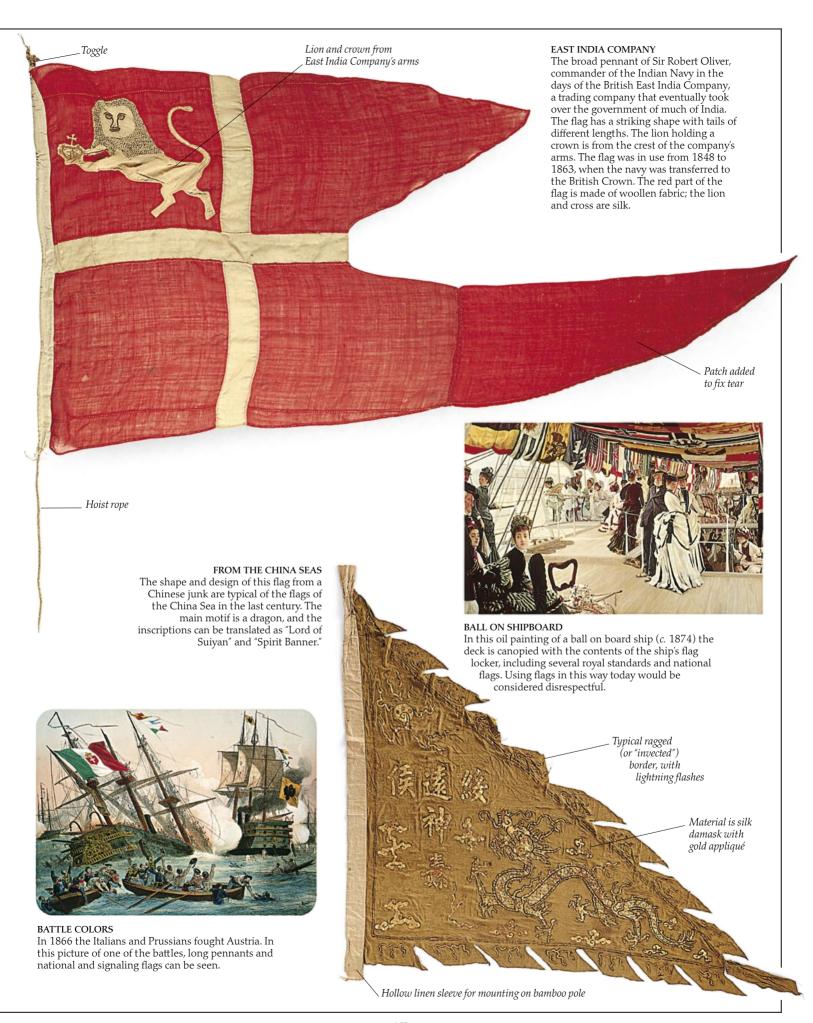
BRITISH ENSIGNS
The White Ensign
is the form of the
British national
flag used exclusively
on ships of the
Royal Navy. The
Red and Blue
Ensigns are also
British national
flags for use at seathe first for civilian
vessels and the
second for ships on
government service.

### PHILOSOPHICAL FLAG

This pennant comes from a Chinese junk (sailboat). It illustrates some of the key ideas in traditional Chinese thought, with the yin-yang symbol at the hoist and the trigrams from the *Book of Changes* or *I Ching* prominently displayed along the length of the flag. The pennant also







### Signaling with flags

COURTESY FLAG
A ship about to enter a foreign port hoists the flag of that country as a courtesy (p. 16).

Signaling at SEA is one of the oldest uses of flags. Signals were sent with flaglike objects called vexilloids (pp. 8-9) by both sides in the wars between the Greeks and Persians (547-478 BC). By the Middle Ages the Genoese and Venetian fleets of Italy had more elaborate signals. The first specially made signal flag was the "Banner of the Council" introduced for the English fleet in 1369 (used to summon captains to the admiral's ship). Signals were

also sent by hoisting ordinary flags in special positions. The first regular code of flag signals dates from the seventeenth century in

England. In the following century numeral flags were invented; they could be combined to make up

other flags, is also

messages. Each ship also had pennants to represent its name, and the numbers could also represent letters of the alphabet. In 1812 Sir Home Popham introduced special flags for letters of the alphabet and by 1889 there was a flag for each letter and numeral. The first International Code of Signals was introduced on January 1, 1901. Flag

introduced on January 1, 1901. Flag signaling, with semaphore and



CODE OF SIGNALS
This is flag 19, the letter O (Oscar), from the
International Code of Signals. As well as representing
the letters of the alphabet, the flags also indicate a
particular message. This one represents the signal
"Man overboard." Signal flags are usually made in
proportions of 5:6.



The semaphore system of signaling involves changing the positions of both arms to represent different letters and numbers. This is the semaphore signal for the letter C.



signals

MORSE CODE

During the

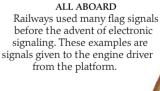
American Civil

War, a signaling

method was
developed that
used a single flag to
represent the dots

and dashes of the

Morse code.





The letter E in the flag semaphore code.



### Flags of the people

 ${
m M}_{
m ANY}$  flags start life being locally designed and made by individuals in response to the need for symbols of religious, political, or social action. Such flag designers do not always pay attention to the strict rules of heraldry or of flag design, and so the flags they produce are usually quickly and simply made. They often include very

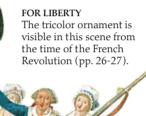
simple symbols (like the crab from the Southern

Cameroons, a region in Africa, shown opposite) and many also have some sort of inscription (whether a religious text or a political slogan). Some go on to become well-established political or national

flags; others exist only for the moment.

religious symbol in the

They are often subject to local changes and variations and are rarely made in a standard form. But this seldom matters to their users because, unlike national flags, they are more often used to rally the faithful than for identification.



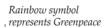


LAMB AND FLAG

Middle Ages.

This was an enduring

SOLIDARITY This symbol incorporates both flag and people.





Green for the environment and hope





ANC flag

FLAGS OF STRUGGLE Groups fighting to free their country from foreign rule often put their emblems on badges. The flag of the African National Congress (ANC) was banned in South Africa, but supporters still found ways of displaying the colors. Armenia chose a new flag after independence (p. 57). The SWAPO flag formed the basis of

SWAPO flag

Early 20th-

century Armenian

DAY OF THE LORD Roman Catholic festivals and processions often feature large religious banners. These examples are painted with subjects such as the Virgin and Child.





### FLAG OF RESISTANCE

The Union des Populations du Cameroun was a resistance movement in the Cameroons in the 1960s which now exists only in exile. This example of their flag was captured by British troops before the Southern Cameroons joined the Cameroon Republic.



### CHURCH BANNER

In the 1920s the Omega Workshop designed and produced many fine textiles, including this banner.



Many propaganda posters from the Soviet Union included the red flag.



### FLAG OF HEALING

The white background of the Red Cross flag represents peace, and the cross is inspired by the cross of Switzerland (p. 33). A red crescent is used in Moslem countries.



ISLAMIC FLAG FROM THE SUDAN This flag from the Sudan was taken by the British in 1885. It contains an inscription from the Koran (holy book of Islam), and is said to have belonged to the leader called the Mahdi.

### UNITING THE NATIONS

The blue of the United Nations flag is a distinctive pale shade, now known as United Nations blue. The olive branches stand for peace and harmony.

### Flags for sports and celebrations

 $F_{\text{LAGS}}$  are used in many sports, including all water sports, auto races, team games, golf, gymnastics, skiing, and cross-country events. They are

employed as signals, markers, team signs, supporters' favors, and decorations. They also signal the opening and closing of the

hoisting and lowering of the

Olympic Standard.

events. Each Olympic Games has its own flag, and the well-known flag of the Olympic movement itself dates from 1914 and has five rings that represent the five continents that take part in the Games. When medals are presented to the victors their national anthems are played, and the opening and closing of the Games is signaled by the



Sports fans encourage their heroes with flags and use them to show which side they are supporting.

WEAVING THEIR WAY THROUGH Flags are used as markers in many skiing events. In slalom they define the exact path the competitor has to follow.

LINESMEN'S FLAGS
Soccer linesmen use flags
to signal to the referee
when the ball has gone
out of play or when players
have broken the rules of the
game. Flags are also used in
soccer to mark the corners
of the playing area.

Swivel fitting for greater flexibility

\ One flag in each team color

AID TO EXERCISE

Wooden

In rhythmic gymnastics, the competitors perform exercises with long streamers that are meant to be light, bright, noticeable, and graceful.

Russian rhythmic gymnast Galina Krilenko



### WHO WAS THE FIRST? Robert Peary was the first man to reach the North Pole. He asserted his claim by hoisting the Stars and Stripes. His claim was disputed by Frederick Cook.

### The United States of America

 $\Gamma$  HE STARS AND STRIPES is the best-known flag in the world, but little is known for sure about its origin. It was not designed by one person but evolved gradually. Its first form was the Cambridge (or Grand Union) Flag of the winter of 1775-76,

which had thirteen stripes and the

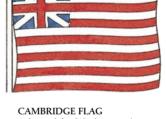
British Union Flag in the canton. In 1777 it was decided to replace the Union Flag with the blue canton and 13 stars. It is not certain exactly how the stars were first arranged - the law of 1777 refers simply to the

13 stars' representing "a



SURRENDER OF CORNWALLIS This painting of the surrender of English general Cornwallis shows the flags of the USA and of France (the Americans' ally), as they were supposed to be in 1781.

new constellation" - and many different designs were made. There is a legend that Betsy Ross of Philadelphia made the first flag and presented it to George Washington, but it is more likely that Francis Hopkinson (the creator of the seal of the USA) had a hand in the design. After the Revolutionary War each star and each stripe were considered to represent a state, but later it was decided to increase only the number of stars when a new state joined the Union.



Adopted for Washington's Continental army, this flag was also called the Continental Colors



FIRST STARS AND STRIPES This is the most familiar version of the first Stars and Stripes, although its exact form is uncertain.



FLAG OF THE SOUTH This flag was used in a square form in the American Civil War. The modern form is shown here.



STARS AND BARS This was the first flag of the Confederate States of America that broke away at the start of the Civil War. It flew over Fort Sumter, South Carolina, after the first shots in the war were fired there on April 12, 1861.



AMERICAN LEGION FLAG This is the flag of a force raised from American citizens living in Canada during World War I. The flag was presented to the Legion by American-born women of Canada and is decorated with gold fringes and tassels.



Each American state has its own flag, as well as a coat of arms or seal. This example, from Illinois, is being waved at a Republican Convention at Dallas. The central device is derived from the state seal.

SOUTHERN STATE

The flag of the state of Mississippi has the Southern battle flag in the canton. It was adopted after the American Civil War.





TRIUMPHANT RETURN Napoleon wore his threecolored cockade in his hat when he returned to Paris from exile in 1815.

### France

Some of the Best-known flags in history come from France. The first was the Oriflamme, used up until the English defeated the French at the battle of Agincourt in 1451 and recognizable because of its unusual, many-tailed shape. Second were the many flags that used the traditional emblem of France, the lily (fleur-de-lis). Just before the revolution in 1789 the national flag was plain white, the color of the reigning Bourbon kings; the military flags were still decorated with lilies. The royal standard carried the royal arms on a background of white with gold lilies all over it. But the most famous French flag of all is the

STANDARD BEARER

This Napoleonic soldier bears a *Tricolore*, topped with one of the eagles given to the regiments by the emperor.

red, white, and blue flag called the *Tricolore*, used during the revolution in 1789, and familiar as a symbol of liberty throughout the world. Its colors were adopted by naval ships in 1790, with a red stripe placed at the hoist. The Tricolore as we know it today was introduced in 1794 and, except for a short time in

the nineteenth century, has been in use ever since.



FOR REVOLUTION

This flag was made on board the French ship *L' Amerique* 

> French Revolution. reads "Sailors, the Republic or death."

during the The inscription











GERMAN EAGLE
Germany's traditional
emblem, the black
double-headed eagle, is
seen here in a piece of
stained glass showing
the arms of the city
of Lübeck.

### Germany

GERMANY IS A COUNTRY that is very rich in flags, with two distinct rival flag traditions based on two different color combinations. Flags of both these traditions can be found in several forms. The oldest German colors are black,

red, and gold, and their use on a flag dates from the time of the Napoleonic Wars (1796-1815) - before Germany was a unified country. A black, red, and gold flag was adopted by the first all-German parliament at Frankfurt in 1848, but from 1867 to 1945 a black, white, and red flag was also used.

This flag was designed by the Prussian chancellor Bismarck, who unified

the German states into a new empire in 1871. In 1919 the black-red-gold flag was again adopted, but the black, white, and red colors were eventually put back in use by Hitler in the form of the swastika flag (p. 13). Like Bismarck, Hitler took a close interest in the German flag and designed the swastika flag himself. After the defeat of the Nazis the two new states returned to the black-red-gold.



This flag, in use between 1903 and 1921, is the *Reichskriegsflagge* or naval ensign. Based on similar previous designs, the flag features the single-headed Prussian eagle in the center. In the canton is the national flag with the Iron Cross, a Prussian emblem derived from the Teutonic knights of the Middle Ages. The large black cross was inspired by the British White Ensign.



Imperial crown



### FLIGHT OF EAGLES

The eagles and coat of arms on this flag mark it as the flag of the Imperial German Crown Prince of the World War I period. It would only have been flown when the crown prince himself was present.

Prussian eagle



This lion is from a

15th-century coat

KISSING THE FLAG A German soldier salutes his flag in this patriotic picture from World War I. Such images were often printed on postcards.



The black, red, and gold tricolor was adopted again in West Germany on May 8, 1949. The colors come from the uniform worn by troops of a regiment called the Lützow *Freikorps* in 1814, which was black and red with gold decorations; the flag was given the form of a tricolor a few years later. It was adopted at Frankfurt for the new united Germany of 1848. In 1919, it was readopted by the new German Republic, but abolished with the Nazi takeover in 1933. In 1948, it was restored in East Germany as a symbol of a re-formed country, and also subsequently in the West. Parallel versions were used in East and West Germany until 1990.







### THE GATHERING STORM

The Nazis were famous for their use of flags and banners on all occasions from political rallies to army marches. The swastika appeared on the standards of the Nazi SA (Sturm Abteilung) together with the spread eagle, and their motto, Deutschland erwache ("Germany awake!").



RESISTANCE BANNER This banner was used by the Belgian Secret Army during World War II. The letters stand for the words "Secret Army" in French (Armée Secrète) and also in Flemish (Geheim Leger).

FLAG FOR LIBERTY First Belgium (1792) and then the Netherlands (1795) were taken over by the French. The

Netherlands became the

figure of Liberty holding

the republican emblems

(axes and rods, and the

Batavian Republic in

1796 and adopted the

Dutch tricolor with a

canton showing the

cap of liberty). This

version was the flag used by Admiral de Winter at the Battle of Camperdown (1797), at which the British fought the French and Dutch for control of

### Netherlands and Belgium

 ${
m T}$ he dutch tricolor was the first national flag in the modern sense of the word. It dates from the sixteenth century, when the Netherlands were ruled by Spain and the people were struggling against their Spanish overlords. At this time the upper stripe was orange, from the colors of William I, Prince of Orange. By 1630, however, it had changed to red, the color of the Dutch States-General, although orange still plays

an important part in Dutch national heraldry. The southern provinces (the area now covered by Belgium) had broken away by 1580, and remained dependencies until 1830. This was when the kingdom of Belgium was established and the present Belgian tricolor introduced. The rampant lion is common to both countries (it is yellow on black in Belgium,

red on yellow in Holland). The orange-whiteblue colors of the Netherlands have been adopted in several places originally colonized by the Dutch, including New York City.



The flags taken from the Spaniards by the Dutch were hung up in the Ridderzaal in The Hague (meeting place of the States-General). Most were naval flags, and bore the red cross of Burgundy.



Belgian . tricolor

the Netherlands Langedijk Zeeland Friesland

CITY PRIDE All Dutch cities and towns have their own flags. The lion of Holland can be seen on the flag of Zeeland, and water-lily leaves on the flag of Friesland.

The Belgian flag being waved at a royal wedding

**BELGIAN ARMS** 

the banners of

the provinces.

WILLIAM OF ORANGE

The colors of the House of

Orange were used in the first Dutch flags.

The gold lion on black represents the region of Brabant, but also forms the national arms of Belgium, adopted after independence in 1830. The motto is that of the States-General ("Unity is Strength"). Around the crest are

30



### Austria and Switzerland

The original regions (or "cantons") of Switzerland were ruled by Austrian dukes until the fourteenth century, when the regions threw off Austrian rule and formed a loose confederation which was joined by other Swiss states. The emblem that they chose derives from the symbol of the central canton of Schwyz. It was adopted by the other cantons as a battle flag in 1339 and as a common banner in 1480, but it was not widely used as a national



FLAG OF AN EMPIRE From 1867 to 1918 Austria and Hungary were ruled by the same emperor. The Austro-Hungarian empire used this flag at sea, which combines both their colors and shields.

flag until after 1848. Austria, meanwhile, grew into a large empire, which lasted until 1918. The red and white colors of the Austrian flag come from the arms of the dukes who were in power at the time of the struggle with Switzerland; their colors have been used in this form since at least 1230. Both Austria and Switzerland have strong heraldic traditions along German lines

(pp. 28-29) and every region has its own arms and flag. Many of the Swiss regional flags contain heraldic emblems; the majority the Austrian flags are plainer striped designs.

This figure carries a flag in the Imperial colors of Austria.



Most cantons of Switzerland use their armorial banners as local flags. They have the same designs as their coats of arms. The flag of Bern has the image of a bear, which can be seen all over the city. The flag of Uri portrays a wild ox, after which the canton is named.

> That of Lucerne uses the same colors as the local arms, but these are arranged in horizontal bands rather than the vertical ones of the shield.





Bern

Lucerne



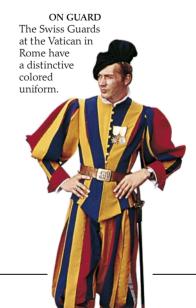
NATIONAL HERO

Arnold von Winkelried is a legendary Swiss hero who is supposed to have helped his country to victory over Austria. By seizing as many enemy spears as he could reach and creating a gap in the Austrian lines, he was able to give the Swiss the advantage in the Battle of Sempach (1386).



HERALDIC BEASTS Many Swiss coats of arms are based on animals, like this goat in a stained-glass window at the castle of Chillon.







## HERO OF THE RISORGIMENTO Garibaldi and his Red Shirts started

the movement to unite Italy in 1860.

### Italy

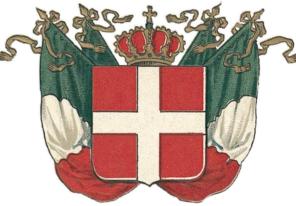
Before 1861, Italy was a collection of many separate states, some ruled by foreign dynasties, others under the control of the Catholic Church. Each state had its own flag and heraldry, and there was no attempt at unity until the end of the eighteenth century. The colors

of Italy were established during the great wave of activity when Napoleon invaded Italy in 1796. They were influenced by the French Tricolore (pp. 26-27) and were at first used in a horizontal form. The vertical tricolor was introduced in 1798, but was only used until the fall of Napoleon, with whom

the flag was so closely associated, in 1802. In 1848, "The Year of Revolutions," the tricolor appeared again in the Italian states. The form adopted by Sardinia eventually became the flag of the new Kingdom of

Italy, which was formed in 1861 after





Blue-bordered arms of Savoy



**GLORY** IN BATTLE Italian soldiers carried the Sardinian

version of the tricolor at

the battle of Ain-Zara in 1911.

### SYMBOLS OF UNITY The shield and crown of Savoy, combined with Italian flags, formed a popular patriotic symbol.

### CAPTURED IN AFRICA

This Italian national flag flew over the fortress of Gondar, Ethiopia, after Italy took over in 1936. It was captured when the Ethiopian emperor reconquered his country, with the help of the British, in 1941.



THE LION OF ST. MARK The ancient flag of Venice bore the lion, and a lion flag still flies in St. Mark's Square today.





Papal States



Naples

### KEYS OF ST. PETER

These flags were flown by some of the Italian states before 1870. The crossed keys (symbol of St. Peter) and the tiara (crown) appear on the modern Vatican flag.



# and the same of th

This lapel badge shows the modern Spanish flag.

# Spain and Portugal

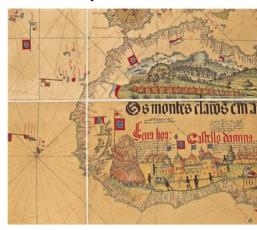
ALTHOUGH THEY LOOK VERY DIFFERENT, the flags of Spain and Portugal share a simple two-color design to which different coats of arms have been added. Yellow and red, the colors of Spain, were adopted as recently as 1785, but

they have a longer history as the traditional

colors of the regions of Castile and Aragon. The yellow and red flag was first created during the French Revolution (p. 26). Since then, there has always been a coat of arms on the state flag and ensign. First the arms of Castile and Leon were used, but while Francisco Franco was dictator (1939-47), they were replaced by the national arms. When the monarchy was restored, the present arms were added, but no arms appear on flags for civil use. Portugal adopted a

distinctive blue and white flag in 1830.

These colors were also traditional, but in 1910 Portugal became a republic, and the colors were changed to red and green.



EARLY COLONY

An old form of the Portuguese flag is shown on this map of the Guinea coast (c. 1502). The blue shields and white disks were known as the quinas, and the yellow castles on red were called the bordure of Castile.



IN ACTIVE SERVICE
The 1785 version of the Spanish naval
ensign is red and yellow with the
crowned arms of Castile and Leon. The
arms are usually set toward the hoist, so
this example has probably lost some







SPANISH FLAG? The red and yellow flag in this picture is not a Spanish flag - simply the international signal flag for the letter Y.



# Greece and Balkan

In the nineteenth century, these two Christian countries struggled to free themselves from the rule of the Moslem Turks. Their flags reflect this struggle in different ways. Greece based its symbolism on the cross and Christian banners. The blue and white in the Greek flag come from an early flag, and from the colors of Bavaria – a prince of that country became the first king of Greece in 1832. The stripes are thought to represent the nine syllables of the Greek motto (translated as "Liberty or death"). Whether or not this is true, it

shows how closely the flag is linked to the movement for freedom. When Serbia fought for independence in 1912, they used the red, white and blue of Russia, the country which helped them in their victory. These colors became known as the "Pan-Slav" colours. When the Federal Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia was formed, the red star of Communism was added to the flag. Four of the former Yugoslav republics became independent states in 1992.

This figure represents the 19th-century idea of Greek elegance and beauty.



FLAGS FOR FREEDOM In 1992, the Yugoslav republics regained their independence. In Croatia, the ancient

arms of red and white were revived.



SLOVENIJA SLOVENIJA



HERO OF THE GREEKS

The poet Lord Byron was a passionate supporter of Greek independence, and took part in the struggles of the 1820s. He died in Greece, at Missolonghi, in April 1824 and became a Greek national hero



The traditional Greek colors have a long history of use.



SYMBOL OF DIVISION

The Croatian flag is hoisted to indicate the new state's frontier. The disputes over the division of Yugoslavia led to the bloodiest war in Europe since World War II.





Greek colors at the Royal

Palace, Athens





The Danish flag on a 19th-century Christmas card.

Denmark

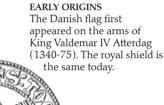
The danes have one of the oldest flags still in use, and there are two different stories of its origin. According to legend, the red flag with a white cross fell from heaven in 1219 during a battle at which the Christian Danes were victorious over the pagan Estonians. But according to historical records, the flag first appeared in the arms of King Valdemar Atterdag in the fourteenth century. At that time the cross had arms of equal length, like the cross of St. George (p. 46), but over the years the outer arm lengthened to produce the characteristic Scandinavian cross. As with the English flag of St. George, the colors of the cross

are not those of the royal arms (the red and white flag was in general

use in Christian Europe). The Danish cross and flag form spread to other Scandinavian countries and to Finland and Germany; it can also be found in Normandy, a memento

of the days when Norsemen colonized Europe. The Danes themselves are great flag-flyers, and the Danish flag can be seen in a variety of settings in Denmark - from government

buildings and town halls to back gardens and Christmas trees.

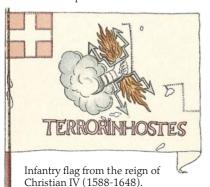


SPLITFLAG
This early 15th-century seal shows the swallowtail version of the Danish flag, called the splitflag. It is used for naval and official purposes.



Dragoon standard from the reign of Christian IV (1588-1648).

Musketeer company flag from the reign of Christian VII (1766-1808) used in the Napoleonic Wars.



# ARMY FLAGS

Denmark has a strong tradition of military flags. Many include the Danish cross. The infantry flag has the national flag in the canton, and the device of a chain-mailed fist emerging from a cloud, dealing out thunderbolts. The motto is "Terror to the enemy." The Musketeer flag also uses the Danish cross; the Dragoon flag carries a classical image of victory.





Beer can illustration showing Danish flags flying over cottages

# IN THE POLAR WASTES

Greenland, a part of Denmark that has home rule, acquired its own flag for use on land and at sea in 1985. The design was the winning entry in a competition. It is in the Danish colors, and it represents the sun rising over the polar ice.

makeup (above).

SCANDINAVIAN CROSS The arms of Denmark show the cross, which influenced the design of both the Norwegian and Icelandic flags.

# Norway and Iceland

 ${
m T}_{
m HE}$  flags of Norway and Iceland are very similar. They have a common origin - both designs are based on that of the flag of Denmark, the country to which both once belonged. The flag of Norway was designed in 1821 after control of the country had passed to Sweden. The blue cross was added so that the colors were the same as those of the French tricolor. In the nineteenth century there was a struggle to get this flag accepted for use at sea and on land without any "union" markings symbolizing Norway's link with Sweden. This was only achieved in 1899 and led to the dissolving of the union with Sweden in 1905. In the Icelandic flag the blue and white are said to come from the colors of the Order of the Silver Falcon. The flag was created in 1913, and was allowed to

be used at sea after 1918, when Iceland became a separate realm of the Danish crown. When the island became an independent republic in 1944, the flag became the national flag.

# SUPERB STANDARD

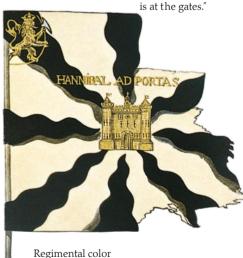
This ornate flag is a cavalry standard made in the city of Trondheim in the late seventeenth century. It is richly embroidered on a red damask fabric. Its shape recalls some of the European military guidons (pp. 12-13), which are also elaborately decorated.



Cavalry standard



ENEMY AT THE GATES Both these Norwegian flags a cavalry standard and a regimental color - date from the 17th century. Each one bears the arms of Norway, a lion holding a long-handled ax. In the corner of the cavalry standard is the cross of Denmark, to which Norway belonged until 1814. The regimental color is that of Hannibal Sehested's regiment and bears his motto, "Hannibal



# CONQUERING THE POLE

The Norwegian flag is notable for being the first at the South Pole, which was reached by Captain Roald Amundsen on December 14, 1911. It took Amundsen and his four companions 55 days to reach the Pole, using skis and sleds pulled by dogs to transport their supplies. They left the Norwegian flag in the ice

and it was still there when Captain Scott, Amundsen's British rival, reached the South Pole a month later.

# **SWALLOWTAIL**

The naval ensign of Iceland takes a distinctive swallowtailed form. The custom of using this shape for naval and official purposes is common in Scandinavia.





# Sweden and Finland



SWEDISH ARMS Flags and heraldry have a long history in Sweden. The three crowns of the medieval state arms are shown here. This Swedish soldier also carries a very long lancepennon (p. 6).

 ${f F}$ inland was part of sweden from the twelfth century until 1809, but never lost its individual character. In 1809 it became part of the Russian Empire and in 1917 finally achieved independence, joining the Scandinavian group of nations. Both Sweden and Finland have national flags based on the

Scandinavian cross. In the case of Sweden the colors come from the traditional arms, and in Finland they are based on the blue and white used in the nineteenth century to represent the blue lakes and white snows of the country. The Swedish cross on a flag dates back to at least 1533; the arms with their gold crowns on a blue background date back to 1364. As in Denmark, flags form an important part of Swedish life, and a national flag day is celebrated on June 6 each year. Finland's arms were granted by King John of Sweden in 1581. They

include a lion treading on a scimitar (a common Moslem symbol), representing victory over enemies from the East, and nine roses, which stand for the country's nine provinces.



# GUSTAVUS VASA

King Gustav I of Sweden reigned from 1523 to 1560 and was a member of the House of Vasa. He fought for Sweden against the Danes, whom he defeated in 1523. He is remembered as a just and pious king.



This region in southern Sweden is trying to secure home rule; its flag is well known in Sweden. Scania was ruled by Denmark until 1658, and the colors of the flag come from those of Denmark and Sweden.

# ALAND ISLANDS

This flag dates from the 1920s and represents a group of islands that belong to Finland but are inhabited mainly by Swedes. The colors combine the blue and yellow of Sweden with the red and yellow of the islands' arms.



A Swedish knight of the 14th century covered with

> heraldic emblems



# The United Kingdom

Since the thirteenth century, the English have flown a flag bearing the red cross of St. George, the country's patron saint. This was the flag behind which they rode into battle on the crusades against the Moslems (12th and 13th centuries), although they



ROYAL FUNERAL
The banners of England,
Ireland, Wales, Chester, and
Cornwall decorated the funeral
train of Queen Elizabeth I
in 1603

also carried flags bearing the English royal arms. At about the same time the Scottish adopted as their flag the saltire cross of St. Andrew, a white cross on a blue background. After the two kingdoms were united in 1603, these two crosses were combined to produce one of the most striking flag designs - the Union Flag. When Ireland came under direct British rule in 1800, the red cross of St. Patrick was incorporated into the design to produce the flag we know today. The fourth country of the United Kingdom, Wales, is not represented in the Union Flag; the Welsh have their own flag, which bears a red dragon on a white and green field.

Plain white diagonals show that this flag was made before 1801.
Badly aligned diagonals are a common mistake in flag-making; this flag was probably made aboard ship

# SAVING THE COLORS

These British Guards are saving their colors at the Battle of Inkerman in the Crimean War (1853-56). Troops made every effort to keep their



# EARLY VERSION

Lord Howe's command flag was flown on his ship HMS *Queen Charlotte* at the Battle of the First of June, 1794, during the French Revolutionary Wars.







This flag, based on the Ulster coat of arms, was used from 1953 until the British imposed direct rule of Northern Ireland in 1972.



The "ensign" was the most junior officer of a regiment. He carried the colors, and took his title from them. This 19th-century painting shows an ensign of the 75th Highlanders Regiment.





# ARMS OF NEW ZEALAND The arms have the Southern Cross in the main quarter. The royal crown replaced the previous crest in 1953. The "supporters" carry a New Zealand flag and a Maori spear. Around the scroll are leaves of fern, the national badge.

# Canada and New Zealand

CANADA WAS THE FIRST DOMINION to be set up within the British Empire, but the last to adopt a distinctive flag. New Zealand, on the other hand, had its own local ensign even before it became part of the empire. Under British influence, Maori chiefs chose the "Waitangi" flag in 1834 and used it until 1840, when they handed over control of New Zealand to Queen Victoria. After this, New Zealand used British ensigns with various badges, until the four stars of the Southern Cross (pp. 50-51) were adopted in 1896. The form of the Southern Cross used in New Zealand is similar to that on the Australian flag, but has only four stars. They were originally red on a white disk and when the red stars were placed on the fly of the Blue Ensign, they were outlined in white so that they could be seen more clearly. Canada also used British ensigns after it became a

> BRITISH BANNER A British Red Ensign with

fly makes up the flag of

Ontario. The shield, with

its yellow maple leaves, dates from 1868, and the flag was made official in 1965. It emphasizes the

British link with Canada.

federal dominion in 1867. In 1892 the use of a shield of arms on the Red Ensign was authorized for use at sea, and after 1945 this became the form used on land as well. In 1965 the present design was introduced, using the maple leaf, which had been an emblem of Canada since the nineteenth century. It was only adopted after the longest

parliamentary debate in Canadian history. The provinces of Canada also developed ensign badges. Newfoundland did the same, and

had its own set of ensigns before 1949, when it became part of Canada.



The Red Ensign with the Canadian shield was used by Canada in both world wars. The Canadian state arms still include the Union Jack.

# Bicentennial badge from the province of Ontario, Canada (1784-1984)



FOR THE FRENCH Known as the *fleurdelysé* flag, the banner of Québec comes from an earlier 19th-century version, and represents French-speakers throughout Canada. The fleur-de-lis and the white cross on blue recall the flags of prerevolutionary France (p. 26).

# SUN IN SPLENDOR The device of the setting sun on the British Columbian banner refers to the province's geographical position as the westernmost state, and also to the motto on its arms: Splendor sine Occasu ("A splendor that never sets").





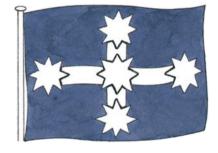
# Australia

The southern cross, a bright constellation visible from the Southern Hemisphere that has been used for centuries by sailors as a navigational aid, has been a major theme in Australian symbolism since the early nineteenth century. The first flag to carry the four stars of the Southern Cross was the National Colonial Flag of 1823-24, which placed them on the red cross of the British White Ensign. In 1831 the New South Wales ensign appeared, very similar to the Commonwealth flag (see below), but with stars of eight points. In due course this became the "Federation" flag. In 1854 the Eureka Stockade flag appeared, and there were several other adaptations of the emblem, including the ensign badge of Victoria (1870). So it is not surprising that the Southern Cross figured in the design which won the competition for a flag after Australia became a federal dominion in 1901. The resulting flag consisted of the Southern Cross on a blue field, with the Union Jack in

the canton. The stars are not quite the same as those in the flag of Victoria, and their varying numbers of points indicate the brilliance of the actual stars. The flag

Stars could have five

also had a large star of six points, standing for the six states. This was changed to a seven-pointed star in 1908, so that the Northern Territory of Australia was also represented.



THE EUREKA FLAG

This flag originally represented the Ballarat Reform League of 1854, which represented the gold miners who were fighting for a fairer licensing system for mining and for electoral reforms. It was hoisted over the stockade where the miners resisted the state troopers. Although the protest was quickly put down by the soldiers, a reform league was established to examine disputes between the miners and the government. The reputation of the Eureka Stockade as a focus for radical ideas has lived on, and the flag is still popular in Australia, particularly as a republican symbol.



BOUNCING BACK
One of these boomerangs is
decorated with designs from the
Australian flag.



# FLAG FOR UNITY

DISCOVERER OF TASMANIA In 1642 Abel Tasman discovered the

their tricolor flag.

island that now bears his name (it was formerly Van Diemen's Land). He was

exploring on behalf of the Dutch East

India Company and his ship carried

The Federation flag stood for the idea of uniting the six Australian states as an independent nation, which was not achieved until January 1, 1901. During the last two decades of the 19th century the Australian Natives Association and the Australian Federation League popularized the idea by displaying this flag.

Design comes from flag of New South Wales (1831)

The flag is in proportions of 1:2. The red and the blue colors have been officially defined, and the flag is designated the National Flag of Australia. There is a Red Ensign version for use on ships, and a White Ensign for the Navy.



WINNING DESIGN

A total of 32,823 designs were entered for the competition to find a flag for Australia in 1900. Five separate entrants submitted the winning design, which was officially adopted in February 1903 for use on Australian vessels and became the legal national flag in April 1954. The flag design consists of three parts: the Union Flag (showing the link with Britain), the Southern Cross (for Australia), and the Commonwealth Star (for the federal system). The official national colors of Australia, however, are green and yellow, and many of the new proposals for Australian flags use these colors.

 $Union\ Jack\ signifies\ the\ link\ with$ 

Britain and the Commonwealth



ABORIGINAL LAND RIGHTS FLAG This flag has become a powerful symbol for the native people of Australia. Black represents the people, the yellow circle stands for the sun, and the red is for the land of Australia.



New South Wales



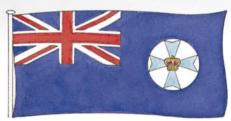
Western Australia



Tasmania

# STATE FLAGS

Each of Australia's six states has a flag, based on the British Blue Ensign, with the relevant badge in the fly. The badges are patterned after the states' coats of arms. Recently South Australia changed its arms to the same design as the flag-badge. Each



Queensland



South Australia



Victoria

state governor also has a flag. The flags date from the following years: 1875 (Tasmania, Western Australia), 1876 (New South Wales, Queensland), 1877 (Victoria), and 1904 (South Australia). The Northern Territory also has its own flag.

# Japan



A 19th-century Western view of a Japanese woman.

THE NAME JAPAN means "source of the sun." This fact is clearly reflected in Japanese flag design, for the two best-known forms of the Japanese flag are the red sun-disk on a white field (the national flag of today),

and the Rising Sun which has red rays extending from the sun to the edge of the flag. For centuries, Japan was virtually

flag. For centuries, Japan was virtually a "closed" country, avoiding all foreign influence and doing without a national flag. However, the sun-disk design is an old one, and was revived after the visit of the American commodore Matthew Perry in 1853, when Japan finally opened its doors to the influence of the West. The sun-disk was first used

as a national ensign, then legalized on February 27, 1870, following the Meiji Restoration of

BADGE OF HONOR The samurai

warrior carried his flag on his back. It usually bore his family heraldic emblem, or *mon*.

1868, when the military commander (shogun) was overthrown and the emperor reclaimed his political power. The flag's name in Japanese is *Hinomaru*, the sun-disk flag.

# FLAG WITH PHOENIXES

the flag of the president of South Korea.

Captured from the Japanese by the British in 1945, this flag includes two phoenixes surrounding a heraldic emblem, or *mon*. In Eastern thought the phoenix symbolizes the sun. This device can be seen today on



# THE RISING SUN

This flag was adopted as the naval and military ensign on November 3, 1889, but was outlawed at the end of World War II. However, it was revived for the Maritime Defense Force in June 1954 and forms the basis for the rank flags of admirals. A flag with the same basic design is used today for the Ground Self-Defense Force. This example is from World War II.

Proportions 1:2 (modern version is 2:3)

Phoenix represents the sun

# VICTORY!

The Rising Sun ensign flew on the Japanese ships at the Battle of Tsushima, 1905, when the Japanese defeated a Russian fleet.





# Africa and South America

ALL

CHANGE

country, a

new stamp,

a new flag. Gambia's flag

was adopted in 1965.

A new

The flags of these continents have emerged from periods of revolution and freedom from bondage. The peoples of Latin America began to throw off the rule of Spain in the early years of the nineteenth century, with the help of soldiers like Miranda of Venezuela, Bolívar of Bolivia, and San Martín of Argentina. Not surprisingly, many of their flags were tricolors, inspired by the French flag but using colors associated with the Latin American national heroes. Many of these tricolors still form

In Africa the process of gaining independence was the work of lawyers and politicians such as Nkrumah of Ghana and Kenyatta of Kenya. In designing their flags, the people of the new African nations looked to the example of Ethiopia, a country that had avoided foreign rule for many years. The Ethiopian flag of



BIRDS OF A FEATHER

Mexico makes use of Aztec traditions in its arms, which depict the legend of the foundation of Mexico City.

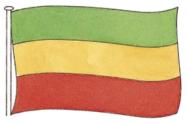
These arms appear on the tricolor flag of Mexico.

green, yellow, and red had been adopted by the West Indians and combined with the colors of black liberation (p. 25) to make the well-known Rastafarian combination. Ghana became the first African state to

adopt these colors, in 1957; since then they have become widespread.



IN THE VANGUARD
The Ethiopian flag
flew at the Battle of
Lasta during the war
of 1896.



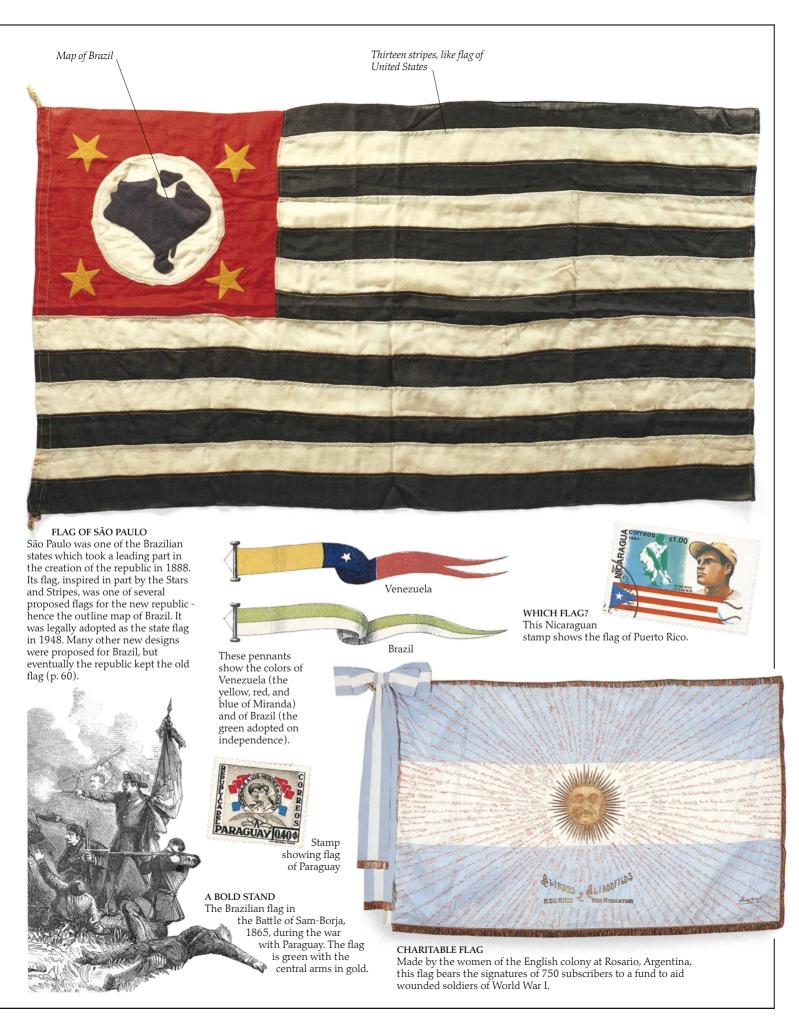
RASTAFARIAN COLORS
The flag of Ethiopia emerged in the 1890s. It was the inspiration of the Rastafarians, a West Indian cult whose members reject
Western culture and ideas and regard Haile Selassie, the former Ethiopian emperor, as divine.
Ethiopia remained free of colonization until 1936 and was admired for its resistance.

This marker flag was used by the King's African Rifles during the British campaign against the Mau Mau movement in Kenya. This 1950s movement aimed to gain better conditions for Africans under British rule, and the struggles between the two sides led eventually to independence from Britain in 1963. The figure 3 in the flag stands for the 3rd platoon. The flag's crude manufacture suggests that it was

locally made.

PRIDE OF KENYA

Peter Rono, Olympic gold medal winner at Seoul in 1988, carries the flag of Kenya. It is based on the colors admired by Jomo Kenyatta, the father of modern Kenya.



# MEETING OF ALLIES This painting commemorating the alliance between France and Russia in 1893 shows several prerevolutionary flags.

# Russia

Before the Russian Revolution in 1917, the person who had the greatest influence over the flags of Russia was the emperor, Peter the Great. Among the many things he did, Peter founded a navy and endowed it with flags and ensigns. These were based on Dutch models and used the colors red, white, and blue. These colors had been used on flags before his reign, but he was the first to establish and arrange a complete

PETER

THE GREAT
This emperor reigned
from 1682 to 1725.
He founded a navy
and created the flags
of Imperial Russia.

set of naval flags using these colors. Several other Eastern European countries followed suit and adopted red, white and blue flags. Many other flags were used in Russia before the revolution. During World War I, for example, the civil flag had a yellow canton with the imperial arms, but this

was dropped in March 1917, before the revolution, when the red flag of the communists took over. During the revolution red flags with inscriptions were widely used; more

traditional ones
were introduced
once the new
regime was
established.



TO EACH HIS OWN
Before and after the revolution Russia
had flags for every office and
department of government.
A selection is shown here. 1 Fleet
Auxiliaries. 2 Finnish Customs Posts.
3 Customs Service. 4 Vice-Admiral.

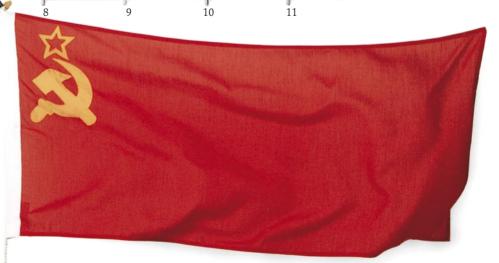
5 Chief of Naval staff. 6 Port Commander. 7 Minister of War. 8 Hydrographic Service. 9 Royal Prince as General-Admiral. 10 Czarevich as General-Admiral. 11 General-Admiral.



OFF TO THE WAR
General Dragomiroff, who left Russia for the war against Japan in 1904, kissed the Russian flag as a sign of allegiance.
Pictures of soldiers kissing the flag were popular patriotic images (p. 28).



RED ON SILVER
Diplomats often attach
flags to cars they use
abroad, for instant
recognition. Here, the
red flag of the former
Soviet Union flies from
the "Silver Lady" of an
English Rolls Royce.



THE HAMMER AND SICKLE
Following the Russian Revolution, the Union of Soviet Socialist
Republics (USSR) was formed and remained in existence from 1922
until the Union break-up of 1991. The 15 republics in the Union all
used red flags based on the national flag, introduced in 1923. The
hammer and sickle represented the workers in industry and
agriculture, and the red star the guiding light of the Communist Party.



# China

DRAGON OF THE EAST

This beautifully embroidered

flag was the first form of the Chinese national flag, used from 1872 to 1890. The device of the blue dragon snapping at the sun was later used on a rectangular flag. The size of the flag

varied with the

size of the

vessel, and could

be up to 10 ft (3 m)

long at the base.

Hand-embroidered

ALL ABOARD
This Chinese man
carries the flag of
the main Chinese
shipping line. It was
probably the Chinese
flag most often seen
by foreigners
before 1911.

In Chinese thought the world is divided into five parts: the center (colored yellow), the south (red), the north (black), the west (white), and the east (blue). Each part has its own symbol - the dragon, for example, represents the east. So when in 1872 the Chinese at last adopted a national flag, it was natural that it should be yellow, for the "Middle Kingdom," and bear the Blue Dragon of the East. Yellow was also the color of the Manchu dynasty. In 1911, when revolutionaries within the army took over, the main flag took the form of five simple stripes in the

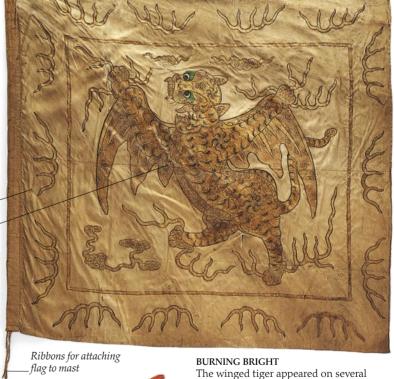
traditional colors. This remained in use until 1928 when the flag of the Kuomintang party was adopted; it represented a white sun in blue sky over red land. This flag is still in use in Taiwan (p. 63), but was replaced on the mainland in 1949 by the red flag of the People's Republic.

Cream silk

Painted figures .



EARLY ADVERTISEMENTS Chinese traders' banners have carried inscriptions for centuries, as these examples show.



The second form of the Chinese flag is shown in this

The winged tiger appeared on several military flags captured by the British during their campaign in China in 1857. Its claws hold lightning

flashes, and the border

represents tongues of flame.

The divisions of the

Chinese army

were known as banners.



image dating from 1894.



FLAGS OF THE WORLD
This illustration shows the variety of flags in use in the 19th century.

# Flags of all nations

Today's national flags have a great variety of designs. On the following pages, 160 of the most interesting are shown, arranged by continent. There are many similarities between the different flags. A number of African countries use the colors red, yellow, green, and black, often known as "Pan-African colors." Arab countries often use red, white, black, and green. There are also flags derived from the French *Tricolore*, from the Stars and Stripes, and from the Crescent and Star flag of Turkey. National flags vary in shape, from the square Swiss flag to the long, thin flag of Qatar.









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