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History of flag in ethiopia

As one of the first countries in Africa to adopt Christianity, Ethiopia’s flag is a symbol of their religious beliefs and the sovereignty of the state. The flag was first hoisted on 6th October 1897. Since then, the flag’s design has changed as the country transitioned from an empire to become the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. This flag is a symbol of the country’s deep, rich history and is an icon of the African strength. It is celebrated every 16th of October during Flag Day.Table of ContentsHistory of the Flag of EthiopiaEthiopia is one of the oldest countries in the world. kotakalumawi The country’s history can be traced as far back as 2 millennium BC. Historians note that Ethiopia adopted Christianity around the same time that the Romans did. At around 8th Century BC, the D’mit kingdom formed Ethiopia and distinguished it from Eritrea.The flag of Ethiopia is tri-colored red, green, and yellow. These colors have a traditional significance to Ethiopians. The three colours have always been displayed long before the adoption of an official flag in 1897. Before the rectangular flag came to use, Ethiopia flew a tricolored pennant. Red was at the top of the flag followed by yellow and green.Later, Menelik II, the emperor of Ethiopia introduced a rectangular tricolored flag. This flag consisted of red, yellow, and green stripes. At the center of the flag is the first letter of Menelik’s name, written in Amharic.



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At the center of the flag is the first letter of Menelik’s name, written in Amharic. When Menelik died in 1913, his initials were removed from the flag. From 1914 to 1936, the flag had no insignia or initials. However, in 1941, a new flag was adopted. This flag had the imperial coat of arms. It consisted of a lion holding a staff topped by a cross and with a ribbon. The ribbon has the same tricolors as the flag. This coat of arms is known as the ‘conquering lion of Judah.’ It symbolized that Emperor Menelik I was the son of the Biblical Queen Sheba and King Solomon.



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The insignia of Italy was at the center of the flag with a crown of the empire at the top. For much of the 20th century, Ethiopia was under the rule of Emperor Haile Selassie. He is attributed with the modernization of Ethiopia from 1916 up until his death in 1930. While Haile Selassie was in power, the flag with the lion of Judah insignia was in use. However, the fight against Italy, particularly, the second Italian Abyssinian War and occupation from 1941-1936 interfered with the use of the Ethiopian flag. Italy sought to reassert their dominance by using their flag.Although Ethiopia had earlier defeated the Italians in 1896 and attained recognition as a legitimate state by the Europeans, they still had to fight Italian occupation again. xicacexa Ethiopia joined forces with the British to defeat Italy in 1941. In 1974, Haile Selassie was overthrown, and a militaristic regime took over. This resulted in the adoption of a new flag under the new leader president Mengistu Haile Mariam. The new system was Marxist. As a result, the new flag had Marxist designs, such as a red star, a sheaf of wheat, and rays of light emanating from the star. The insignia also had unique features such as the obelisk of Axum. This represented an earlier Kingdom of Tirge. Included in the emblem were a cogwheel, a ribbon, a spear, and a scepter.In 1991, a civil war broke out, and Mengistu Haile Mariam was overthrown. The new regime was established under Menelik Zenawi and known as the Federal Democratic Republic. A new flag was adopted, as well. It consisted of a green-yellow-red tricolor with no insignia. On 6th February 1996, a flag with a central blue disk, a yellow outline, and a rayed star was adopted. The star symbolizes the unity of the people of Ethiopia whereas its rays represent prospects of the future. Blue symbolizes peace, red symbolizes the sacrifice for freedom and equality, yellow is a symbol of hope, and the green represents the fertile land of Ethiopia. This flag is in use up to date.What is the meaning behind the colors of the Flag of Ethiopia?Colors After 1996, the flag of Ethiopia was slightly modified and officially launched on 28th August 2009. It consists of the colors green, yellow, and red. Officially, the colors mean:Green: Development of the country, the fertility of the land and labor Yellow: Hope and love for the country Red: strength, and the bloodshed for freedomAside from the precise meaning, there are various other interpretations of the flag. Christians of the country associate the colors with the Holy Trinity:Green represents the Holy SpiritYellow represents God the FatherRed represents Jesus, the son of GodAlso, the colors symbolize Christian virtues. Green symbolizes hope. Yellow represents peace, natural wealth, love, and the church. Red represents the power of the blood of the Martyrs and members of the faith.Unofficially the interpretation of the flag associates colors with territories in the country:Red represents the region of TigreGreen represents ShewaYellow represents AmharaThese colors became Pan African colors. The yellow in the flag is replaced with black in the Pan African flag as a symbol of the Black community.Emblem At the center of the flag is a blue circle with a yellow star and rays of light emanating from the star. The blue symbolizes peace and democracy. It is also a symbol of hope, equality, and justice. The star symbolizes the diversity and unity of the people of Ethiopia. The equally long rays of light emanating from the star expresses hope for the future. The ensign in the flag was incorporated after the fall of Marxism.Shape The flag of Ethiopia is based on the width to length proportions 1:2. The horizontal green, yellow, and red are equally shaped. According to the constitution of the country, the flag should have the size 210 by 420 cm when hoisted at significant squares. The banner on significant government buildings is 135 by 270cm. The blue disk has a diameter that is ½ the length of the hoist. The circumference of the emblem curves on the midpoint of the width of the red and green stripes. The size of the emblem increased over the years. The symbol is more significant than the emblem of the flag used in 1996.Interesting Facts about the Flag of EthiopiaSince 2009, the Parliament of Ethiopia banned flags that did not contain the insignia. However, a plain tricolored version of the flag is considered a civil flag.The design of the current flag is associated with the designer Abebe Alambo. However, it is not clear whether he designed the original version or simply made the modifications that led to the modern version. He created the flag on 6th February 1996.The use of the Ethiopian flag without an emblem could land you in jail for one year, or you can pay a fine of up to $214.The Ethiopian flag inspired the design of the banners of many of the African countries associated with the Pan-African movement. These countries include Senegal, Congo, Cameroon, Togo and Burkina Faso. The flag also influenced countries outside of Africa.Ethiopia is the oldest independent state in Africa. Their history as a country that fought against colonial intrusion invented the tradition of the strength and unity of Africa. This is why the colors of the flag were adopted in the Pan-African movement and as an anti-colonial symbol.Originally the tricolor design of the flag was adopted as a sign of the legitimacy of the imperial elite. The religious and political symbolism of the flags gave the monarchy legitimacy over the country and the Orthodox church.The flag of Ethiopia is popularly associated with the Rastafarian religion.
It inspired legendary reggae artists such as Bob Marley, Marcus Garvey and many more.The flag is believed to represent the rainbow and goes by the name 'Keste Damena' or as it is commonly translated 'the bow of the clouds.'The word 'bandira' which is used to refer to the flag of Ethiopia, was derived from the Italians.Whereas the colors of the flag are a national symbol, the Bolivians use the same colors during their festivities.The first flag, pennant, was in use for 25 years. In the initial banner, the green stood for fertility, hope, and prosperity; the yellow stood for gold and religious freedom, whereas the red stood for blood.In 1958, Eritrea was absorbed into Ethiopia. The flag of Ethiopia was used in Eritrea on 23rd December 1958 up until 1962. At the time, Ethiopians claimed Eritrea as a lost province and sought to unite it with the country. However, Eritreans sought their independence separate from Ethiopia.The flag is hoisted in schools every morning before classes start and lowered after classes. The hoisting and lowering are done ceremoniously with the students present.During public holidays, the flag is hoisted on the eve of the holiday and lowered in the morning of the public holiday.
You can spot the flag in any principal government offices, public buildings, and schools.The country's National Flag Day falls on the second month of the Ethiopian calendar, Meskerem.Do you know any other interesting facts about the flag of Ethiopia?
Share your thoughts below. National flag Federal Democratic Republic of EthiopiaUseNational flag and ensign Proportion1:2Adopted11 October 1897 (original version)31 October 1996 (current, modified 16 May 2009)DesignA horizontal tricolour of green, yellow and red with the National Emblem superimposed at the center.Designed byAbebe Alambo The flag of Ethiopia (Amharic: የኢትዮጵያ ሰንደቅ ዓላማ, romanized: Ye-Ityōṗṗyā sändāq 'älama) is the national flag of Ethiopia. It consists of a green, yellow, and red tricolour with the national emblem, a golden pentagram on a blue disc, superimposed at the center. While the colors green, yellow, and red in combination held symbolic importance since at least the early 17th century, the modern tricolour was first adopted on 11 October 1897 by Menelik II, and the present flag on 31 October 1996.[1][2] Colors Ethiopia's national and regional flags The colors of green, yellow and red were used for the flag of the Ethiopian Empire in 1914.[1] On 11 October 1897, a year after Ethiopia decisively defeated the Kingdom of Italy at the Battle of Adwa, emperor Menelik II ordered the three pennants combined in a rectangular tricolour from top to bottom of red, yellow, and green with the first letter of his own name (the Amharic letter "ሚ") on the central stripe.[3][2][4][5][6] The letter of Menelik's name was removed from the flag after his death in 1913. For unknown reasons, the colour order was flipped - with green on top, red on the bottom, and the yellow remaining in place.[1] The flag's tricolour scheme has existed since the early 19th century, and the colours red, yellow, and green carried special importance prior to that.[7] To commemorate its adoption in 1897, Ethiopia celebrates Flag Day on the first Monday of the month of Tikimt (September–October).[8] The royal flag often featured the emblem of a Lion of Judah, a crowned lion carrying a cross centered in the banner's yellow midsection. The flag is understood to be a link between the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church, the peoples, and the nation that was united. The processional cross carried by the lion was the former flag or symbol of Ethiopia, and has likewise been in use since at least the early 17th century.[9] Whilst red is currently featured at the bottom of the horizontal tricolour, it was on top until the mid-19th century. What the colors symbolise varies depending on point of view. However, generally, red represents the blood spilled in defense of Ethiopia; yellow represents peace and harmony between Ethiopia's various ethnic and religious groups; and green is said to symbolise hope, or the land and its fertility.[citation needed] The colors had historically been used by the Ethiopian Orthodox Church (red for faith and power, yellow for the church & peace, and green for natural wealth) prior to their adoption as the colors of the state, likely due to them being easy to produce and common in the Ethiopian landscape.[10] Two French travelers in the 19th century, Ferret and Joseph Galinier, said "red, green, and yellow are the main colours of manuscript illuminations."[11] Upon gaining independence from colonial rule, several newly-established countries in Africa adopted these three colors in homage to Ethiopia's resistance against foreign occupation.
When adopted by Pan-Africanist polities and organisations for their activities, the colours are often referred to as the Pan-African colours.[12] The civil flag of Ethiopia until it was outlawed by the ruling coalition EPRDF in 2009. Also used by diaspora at community events,[13][14] by some government opposition groups,[15][16] during Ethiopian Orthodox Christian holidays,[17][18][19] and by transitional governments Symbolism Green represents labor, development, and fertility.Pantone 347C Yellow represents hope.Pantone Yellow C Red represents the blood in defense of Ethiopia.Pantone 032C[20] Emblem Prior to 1996, the plain green, yellow and red banner was commonly used as a civil flag. Although a number of different emblems were used by the government since 1974, flags with emblems were uncommonly used in public outside of government usage.
The basic colour schematic has remained constant. The star is yellow on a blue disc which overlaps the green and red stripes. The star testifies to Ethiopia's bright future, while the yellow rays which it emits are equidistant and are said to represent the equality of all Ethiopians regardless of race, creed, or sex. In recent years, the government of Ethiopia has taken a conscious effort to increase the usage of the flag with the emblem, which had been seen far less than the plain tricolour. As the plain tricolour was used and seen far more often than either the flag of the Derg or the Lion of Judah flag, this was considered unusual. In 2009, the Parliament of Ethiopia passed Proclamation 654/2009 (The Federal Flag Proclamation), which prohibited firstly amongst 23 other provisions "use [of] the Flag without its Emblem", as well as "to deface the Flag by writing or displaying signs, [sic] symbols, emblems or picture [sic]", or "to prepare or use the Flag without the proper order of its colors and size or its Emblem."[21] While most offenses were punishable by a fine of "3000 birr or rigorous imprisonment up to one year", the first offense, mandating the usage of the emblem, received an increased penalty of "5000 birr or rigorous imprisonment up to one year and six months."[21] This replaced the 1996 Flag Proclamation, which had made no mention of offenses or penalties.[citation needed] Historical flags Pennants of the Ethiopian Empire prior to the 1870s. The traditional colours were displayed on war flags and by the church prior to the first official state flag.[3][10] Flag of Ethiopia (1897–1913). Menelik II, on 6 October 1897, ordered for a rectangular tricolour consisting of, from top to bottom, red, yellow, and green, with the first Ethiopic letter of his name in the middle, which lasted until his death.[2][22][5] Flag of the Ethiopian Empire with the Lion of Judah (a symbol of the Solomonic dynasty dating back to medieval times), otherwise known as the imperial flag (1870?–1897, 1913–1936, 1941–1974).[6] It remains popular with the Rastafari movement, monarchists, and Ethiopian nationalists. Blank tricolor of the Ethiopian Empire which was flown alongside the imperial flag after the reign of Menelik. In tradition, the reversed colors are said to have first been used, exclusively, during times of war, but the reason behind the design change is unknown.[1][6] Flag of Italian East Africa (1936–1941)[23] War Ensign of the Imperial Ethiopian Navy (1955–1974), was based upon the Blue Ensign.
Flag of Ethiopia (1974–1975), modified after Haile Selassie's overthrow by removing the crown from the lion's head and by changing the cross tip to a spear point[24] War Ensign of the Imperial Ethiopian Navy (1974–1975) Civil flag of Ethiopia (1975–1987). State flag under the Derg (1975–1987), and a forerunner to the flag introduced in 1987 The flag of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (1987–1991) introduced the current ratio of 1:2 The civil flag of the Transitional Government of Ethiopia (1991–1996)[3] The state flag of the Transitional Government of Ethiopia, adopted on 28 May 1992[6] The flag of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia from 1996 to 2009[25] The current flag, used since 2009 See also Emblem of Ethiopia National anthem of Ethiopia Flags and emblems of the regions of Ethiopia Flag of Bolivia, a mirrored version of the flag References

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