

Respect for the American Flag

American Flag International Desecration

Union of Saints

A Modern Trend Increasing Since the 2010s

The American flag represents the United States, its people, its Constitution, its history, and the principles upon which the nation was founded. It also represents the sacrifices made by generations of Americans, including military members, veterans, public servants, and their families. For many Americans, the flag has personal and spiritual meaning that goes far beyond its appearance.

The American flag is not simply a graphic, logo, or decorative image. It is a national symbol that represents the identity and sovereignty of the United States and Ethnic-American people. For this reason, many Americans believe it should be displayed with honor, care, and respect.

When the American flag is cut, divided, altered, distorted, or combined with another country's flag, many Americans understandably find this offensive and disrespectful. Dividing the flag can create the impression that the United States itself is being divided, diminished, or incorporated into another national or political message. The concern is especially strong when the American flag is altered without regard for the meaning it holds for the American people.

Countries can work together while still respecting the individual identity and symbols of each nation. International cooperation does not require changing, cutting, or dividing the American flag. Nations can stand together as friends and partners while allowing each country's flag to remain whole and recognizable.

American and foreign flags have historically been displayed together in diplomatic, military, cultural, and international settings. There is an important distinction between displaying two national flags respectfully and combining portions of those flags into a single altered image. The Union of Saints recognizes that distinction and believes that international cooperation can be represented without altering the identity of either nation's flag.

The widespread use of digitally divided and blended American and foreign flags appears to have become increasingly visible during the 2010s, with substantially greater exposure during the **2020s**. The growth of digital media, social media, international political messaging, online activism, and modern graphic design has made these images easier to create, reproduce, and distribute. Although the practice itself did not suddenly begin in one particular year, its visibility and frequency in modern digital communication have increased significantly.

At the Union of Saints, we believe respect should extend to national symbols and to the people they represent. We respect the flags, histories, cultures, and national identities of other countries, and we ask that the American flag receive the same consideration. Respect

for other nations should never require Americans to surrender respect for their own national identity.

The American flag represents America and the American people. It holds the memory of those who served, sacrificed, and gave their lives in defense of the nation. Please allow the American flag to remain whole, recognizable, and treated with the whole and unaltered respect it deserves.