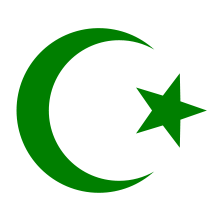
**Star and crescent**

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[F:\Star_and_crescent_files\magnify-clip.png](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Star_and_Crescent.svg)

A typical presentation of the star and crescent.

A [star](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Star) (or stars) and [crescent](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crescent) featuring in some combination form the basis of [symbols](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symbol) widely found across the ancient world, with examples attested from the Eastern [Mediterranean](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mediterranean) and [Central Asia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_Asia).[[1]](file:///F:\Star_and_crescent.html#cite_note-0)

The early Muslim community did not have a symbol. During the time of Muhammad, Islamic armies and caravans flew simple solid-colored flags (generally black, green, or white) for identification purposes. In later generations, the Muslim leaders continued to use a simple black, white, or green flag with no markings, writing, or symbolism on it.[[2]](file:///F:\Star_and_crescent.html#cite_note-1)

During the 19th century, it represented the [Ottoman Empire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ottoman_Empire), figuring on the [Ottoman flag](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ottoman_flag) from 1793. The Ottoman flag of 1844 with a white "*Ay-yıldız*" ([Turkish](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkish_language) for star-crescent) on a red background continues to be in use as the flag of the [Republic of Turkey](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic_of_Turkey). Other successor states of the Ottoman empire also used the symbol, including [Libya](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_of_Libya) (1951–1969 and after 2011), [Tunisia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_of_Tunisia) (1956) and [Algeria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_of_Algeria) (1958).

The same symbol was used in other [national flags](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_flag) introduced during the 20th century, including the flags of [Azerbaijan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Azerbaijani_flags) (1918), [Pakistan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_of_Pakistan) (1947), [Malaysia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Malaysian_flags) (1948), [Mauritania](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_of_Mauritania) (1959). During the 1950s to 1960s, the symbol was re-interpreted as symbolic of [Islam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam) or the [Muslim community](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ummah).[[3]](file:///F:\Star_and_crescent.html#cite_note-2) By the 1970s, this symbolism was embraced by movements of [Arab nationalism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab_nationalism) or [Islamism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamism) (even though it was not originally an Arab symbol), such as the proposed [Arab Islamic Republic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab_Islamic_Republic) (1974) and the US [Nation of Islam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nation_of_Islam) (1973).[[4]](file:///F:\Star_and_crescent.html#cite_note-3)

In [Unicode](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unicode), a "star and crescent" symbol is encoded at U+262A: ☪

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Star_and_crescent&action=edit&section=1)**] Use in antiquity**

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Star_and_crescent&action=edit&section=2)**] Ancient Near East**

The star and crescent appear in combination in finds from in and around ancient [Palestine](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palestine). It has been associated with the [Moabites](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moab) (14th or early 13th – 6th century BC[[5]](file:///F:\\Star_and_crescent.html" \l "cite_note-4)), as the symbol or symbols appear on what are thought to be Moabite name seals.[[6]](file:///F:\Star_and_crescent.html#cite_note-5) Crescents appearing together with a star or stars are a common feature of Sumerian iconography, the crescent usually being associated with the moon god [Sin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sin_%28mythology%29) (Nanna to the Sumerians) and the star (often identified as [Venus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Venus)) with [Ishtar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ishtar) ([Inanna](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inanna" \o "Inanna) to the Sumerians). However, in this context, there is a third element often seen, that being the sun disk of [Shamash](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shamash). Academic discussion of a star or stars together with crescents in Sumerian representations does not always clearly indicate if they appear in isolation (the "star and crescent" as such) or as part of a *triad* of symbols, "the three celestial emblems, the sun disk of [Shamash](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shamash) ([Utu](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Utu) to the Sumerians), the crescent of Sin (Nanna), and the star of [Ishtar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ishtar) ([Inanna](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inanna" \o "Inanna) to the Sumerians)"[[7]](file:///F:\Star_and_crescent.html#cite_note-6) or "the crescent of Sin (the moon god), the star of Ishtar and the ray of Shamash".[[8]](file:///F:\Star_and_crescent.html#cite_note-7) Nevertheless, later use of the star and crescent by the [Parthians](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parthian_Empire), and other Iranian dynasties is often traced to earlier use in [Mesopotamia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mesopotamia). As one scholar observed, "[t]he Parthian king [Mithradates I](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mithradates_I) conquered Mesopotamia around 147 BC, and [Susa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Susa) in about 140 BC A later Parthian king, [Orodes II](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orodes_II) (58-38 BC), issued coins at Susa and elsewhere which display a star and crescent on the obverse. The succeeding ruler, [Phraates IV](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phraates_IV) (38-3/2 BC), minted coins showing either a star alone or a star with crescent moon. In representing the star and crescent on their coins the Parthians thus adopted traditional symbols used in [Mesopotamia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mesopotamia) and [Elam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elam) more than two millennia before their own arrival in those parts."[[9]](file:///F:\Star_and_crescent.html#cite_note-8) Along these lines, some scholars maintain that later use of the symbol arose from [Babylonian mythology](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Babylonian_mythology) in which the juxtaposition of [Sin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sin_%28mythology%29) (moon god, father of time) and [Shamash](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shamash) (supreme ruling sun god, judge of heaven and earth) was a metaphor for the cosmic powers given to the [Babylonian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Babylon) king to rule.[[10]](file:///F:\Star_and_crescent.html#cite_note-9)

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Star_and_crescent&action=edit&section=3)**] Iran, Mithra and Mithradates**

[](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:E3_7_1_2c_oriental_coins.jpg)

[F:\Star_and_crescent_files\magnify-clip.png](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:E3_7_1_2c_oriental_coins.jpg)

Queen [Purandokht](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Purandokht), daughter of Khosrau II, the last woman and one of the last rulers on the throne of the Sassanid dynasty, 7th century.

The star and crescent was also the emblem of [Mithradates VI Eupator](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mithradates_VI_Eupator). "His royal emblem, an eight rayed star and the crescent moon, represented the dynasty's patron gods, [Zeus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zeus) Stratios, or [Ahuramazda](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ahuramazda), and Men Pharmacou, a Persian form of the native moon goddess."[[11]](file:///F:\Star_and_crescent.html#cite_note-10) Other scholars have suggested that the star and crescent are more directly related to the cult of the god [Mithra](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mithra). Ustinova associates the star and crescent motif attested in a number of finds in the [Bosporan Kingdom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bosporan_Kingdom) (which date from the 5th century BC to the 1st century AD) with the cult of Mithras, and indicates the star and the crescent together constituted the emblem of Pontus and its kings, asserting that it was introduced to the Bosporus by Mithradates and his successors, where it is attested on coins, locally produced jewelry and other objects. She suggests that this emblem indicates "the possibility of an earlier association of the Pontic dynasty with the cult of mounted Mithra. Mithra in fact must have been one of the most venerated gods of the Pontic Kingdom, since its rulers bore the theomorphic name of Mithradates […] although direct evidence for this cult is rather meager."[[12]](file:///F:\Star_and_crescent.html#cite_note-11) McGing also notes the association of the star and crescent with Mithradates VI, discussing its appearance on his coins, and its survival in the coins of the Bosporan Kingdom where "[t]he star and crescent appear on Pontic royal coins from the time of Mithradates III and seem to have had oriental significance as a dynastic badge of the Mithridatic family, or the arms of the country of Pontus."[[13]](file:///F:\Star_and_crescent.html#cite_note-12)

As a Turkish scholar has observed:

The significance of the star and crescent on royal coins has also been frequently debated. Many scholars have identified the star and the crescent as royal symbols of the Pontic kingdom. Their appearance on every royal issue suggests they were indeed important symbols, and the connection of this symbol to the royal family is definite. The nature of it, however, is still uncertain. Kleiner believed they were symbols of an indigenous god and had their origins in Persia. He associated the star and crescent with the god Men and saw them as representations of night and day (the star may be considered the sun here). Ritter, on the other hand, suggested that the star and crescent symbols derived from Perseus, just as the star symbol of the Macedonians did. […] Ma and Mithras are two other deities with whom the star and crescent symbol are associated. Olshausen believed that the star and crescent could be related to a syncretism of Pontic and Iranian iconography: the crescent for Men and the star for Ahura Mazda. Recently, Summerer has convincingly suggested that Men alone was the inspiration for the symbol on the royal coins of the Pontic kingdom.[[14]](file:///F:\Star_and_crescent.html#cite_note-13)

A combined star and crescent motif is commonly found on later coins minted by the [Sassanids](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sassanid).[[15]](file:///F:\Star_and_crescent.html#cite_note-14) This has led some researchers to suggest that Muslims adopted the [symbol](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symbol) in the context of its use by Sassanian rulers. After describing the crowns of a number of Sassanid kings, which featured a crescent, sphere and crescent, or star and crescent, H. Ayatollahi remarks, "Sasani coins remained in circulation in Moslem countries up to the end of the first century ([Hijra](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_calendar" \o "Islamic calendar)). This detailed description of Sasani crowns was presented because the motifs mentioned, particularly the crescent and star gradually changed into Islamic symbols and have often appeared in the decorative patterns of various periods of Islamic art." This author asserts that "The flags of many Islamic countries bear crescents and stars and are proof of this Sasani innovation.".[[16]](file:///F:\\Star_and_crescent.html" \l "cite_note-15)

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Star_and_crescent&action=edit&section=4)**] Hellenistic and Roman**

By the late [Hellenistic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hellenistic_civilization) or early [Roman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Rome) period, the star and crescent motif had been associated to some degree with [Byzantium](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Byzantium). If any goddess had a connection with the walls in [Constantinople](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constantinople), it was [Hecate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hecate). Hecate had a cult in Byzantium from the time of its founding. Like [Byzas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Byzas) in one legend, she had her origins in Thrace. For example, some Byzantine coins of the 1st century BC and later show the head of [Artemis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Artemis) with bow and quiver, and feature a crescent with what appears to be a six-rayed star on the reverse. According to accounts which vary in some of the details, in 340 BC the Byzantines and their allies the [Athenians](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Classical_Athens) were under siege by the troops of [Philip of Macedon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_II_of_Macedon). On a particularly dark and wet night Philip attempted a surprise attack but was thwarted by the appearance of a bright light in the sky. This light is occasionally described by subsequent interpreters as a meteor, sometimes as the moon, and some accounts also mention the barking of dogs. However, the original accounts mention only a light in the sky, without specifying the moon.[[17]](file:///F:\Star_and_crescent.html#cite_note-16) To commemorate the event the Byzantines erected a statue of Artemis (or [Hecate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hecate)) *lampadephoros* (light-bearer or bringer). This story survived in the works [Hesychius of Miletus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hesychius_of_Miletus), who in all probability lived in the time of [Justinian I](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Justinian_I). His works survive only in fragments preserved in [Photius](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Photius) and the 10th century lexicographer [Suidas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suda). The tale is also related by [Stephanus of Byzantium](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephanus_of_Byzantium), and [Eustathius](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eustathius_of_Thessalonica).

Devotion to [Hecate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hecate) was especially favored by the Byzantines for her aid in having protected them from the incursions of Philip of Macedon. Her symbols were the crescent and star, and the walls of her city were her provenance.[[18]](file:///F:\Star_and_crescent.html#cite_note-17)

Later, under the [Romans](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Rome), cities in the empire often continued to issue their own coinage. "Of the many themes that were used on local coinage, celestial and astral symbols often appeared, mostly stars or crescent moons."[6] The wide variety of these issues, and the varying explanations for the significance of the star and crescent on Roman coinage precludes their discussion here. It is, however, apparent that by the time of the Romans, coins featuring a star or crescent in some combination were not at all rare.

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Star_and_crescent&action=edit&section=5)**] Middle Ages**

The use of the [crescent](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crescent) symbol on Muslim flags is first seen by Europe during the [Crusades](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crusades). Flags showing crescents appear in depictions of flags from the 14th century, in the [Libro de Conoscimiento](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Libro_de_Conoscimiento&action=edit&redlink=1) and the [Catalan Atlas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catalan_Atlas).

In these early examples, the crescent mostly pointed upward. 14th-century Muslim flags with an upward-pointing crescent in a monocolour field included the flags of [Gabes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabes), [Tlemcen](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tlemcen) (Tilimsi), [Damas and Lucania](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Damas_and_Lucania&action=edit&redlink=1), [Cairo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cairo), [Mahdia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mahdia), [Tunis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hafsid_dynasty) and [Buda](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buda).[[19]](file:///F:\Star_and_crescent.html#cite_note-18) Evidence of crescent use is also found in the 14th century blue ensign of [Nubia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nubia)/[Dongola](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dongola" \o "Dongola) and yellow ensign of [Mamluks](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mamluks) of [Egypt](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egypt).[[20]](file:///F:\Star_and_crescent.html#cite_note-19) Flags with crescents facing the fly are attested from the 17th century.

Before the 14th century, the *star* next to the crescent does not seem to have been associated with Islam, and appears in Christian iconography.[[21]](file:///F:\Star_and_crescent.html#cite_note-20) [[22]](file:///F:\Star_and_crescent.html#cite_note-21)

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Star_and_crescent&action=edit&section=6)**] Use in the Ottoman Empire**

*Further information:* [*Ottoman flag*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ottoman_flag)*and [Flag\_of\_Turkey#History](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_of_Turkey" \l "History" \o "Flag of Turkey)*

[](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Tengrian_crescent.svg&page=1)

[F:\Star_and_crescent_files\magnify-clip.png](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Tengrian_crescent.svg)

The [Tengrian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tengrian) crescent

The star and the moon are two sky elements symbolizing the [Tengriist](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tengriism) beliefs of the sky-worshiping ancient [Turks](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkic_peoples). In [Turkic Mythology](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mythology_of_the_Turkic_and_Mongolian_peoples) four colors are associated with four [cardinal directions](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cardinal_direction#Cardinal_directions_in_world_cultures) such as "gök-blue" (east), "ak-white" (west), "al-red" (south) and "kara-black" (north). These colors represent the direction towards the [zenith](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zenith) where the [Tengri](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tengri) is residing in the sky. Red and white colors on the flag of Turkey symbolize the south-western branch of [Turks](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkic_people) called [Oghuzes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oghuz) who are the founders of present-day [Turkey](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkey) as well as [Azerbaijan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Azerbaijan), [Turkmenistan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkmenistan) and [Gagauzia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gagauzia). [Black Sea](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Sea) and [Turkish](http://tr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Akdeniz)/[Qırımtatar](http://crh.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aq_de%C3%B1iz" \o "crh:Aq deñiz) names of [Mediterranean](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mediterranean) (*Akdeniz*) got their name from the same mythology; **Kara**deniz being in the north and **Ak**deniz being in the west respectively. [Turkestan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_Turkestan)'s flag is similar to Turkey's, with only difference being blue.[[23]](file:///F:\Star_and_crescent.html#cite_note-22)[[24]](file:///F:\Star_and_crescent.html#cite_note-23)[[25]](file:///F:\Star_and_crescent.html#cite_note-24)

It has been suggested that the star-and-crescent had been adopted from the Byzantines. [Franz Babinger](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Franz_Babinger) (1992) suggests this possibility, noting that the crescent alone has a much older tradition also with Turkic tribes in the interior of Asia.[[26]](file:///F:\Star_and_crescent.html#cite_note-25) Parsons (2007) considers this unlikely, as the star and crescent was not a widespread motive in Byzantium at the time of the Ottoman conquest.[[27]](file:///F:\Star_and_crescent.html#cite_note-26)

Turkish historians tend to stress the antiquity of the *crescent* (not star-and-crescent) symbol among the [early Turkic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkic_expansion) states in Asia.[[28]](file:///F:\Star_and_crescent.html#cite_note-27) In Turkish tradition, there is an Ottoman legend of a dream of the eponymous founder of the Ottoman house, [Osman I](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Osman_I), in which he is reported to have seen a moon rising from the breast of a [Muslim](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muslim) [judge](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qadi) whose daughter he sought to marry. "When full, it descended into his own breast. Then from his loins there sprang a tree, which as it grew came to cover the whole world with the shadow of its green and beautiful branches." Beneath it Osman saw the world spread out before him, surmounted by the crescent.[[29]](file:///F:\Star_and_crescent.html#cite_note-28)

* [](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Coa_Croatia_Country_Illyria_History.svg&page=1)the fictional "coat of arms of Illyria" in the [Fojnica Armorial](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fojnica_Armorial), compiled in [Bosnia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bosnia_Eyalet) in the 17th century, at the time an Ottoman province.
* [](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Ottoman1798.svg&page=1)Ottoman Naval Flag, flying on all military vessels 1793-1844
* [](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Ottoman_Naval_Flag.svg&page=1)The late [Ottoman Navy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ottoman_Navy) flag with an eight-pointed star and crescent was used between 1793 and 1844
* [](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Ottoman_flag_alternative_2.svg&page=1)

The last flag of the [Ottoman Empire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ottoman_Empire) from 1844 to 1923 was adopted with the [Tanzimat](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tanzimat) reforms as the first official Ottoman national flag

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Star_and_crescent&action=edit&section=7)**] Successor states of the Ottoman Empire**

A number of Ottoman successor states adopted the design during the 20th century, including the [Emirate of Cyrenaica](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emirate_of_Cyrenaica) and the [Kingdom of Libya](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Libya), [Algeria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Algeria), [Tunisia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tunisia) and the proposed [Arab Islamic Republic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab_Islamic_Republic).

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Star_and_crescent&action=edit&section=8)**] Usage in the Mughal Empire**

Islamic flags containing the calligraphy of the [Quran](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quran) were commonly used by the [Mughal Emperor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mughal_Emperor) [Akbar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Akbar), it was the [Mughal Emperor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mughal_Emperor) [Shah Jahan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shah_Jahan), who is known to have inlaid the Crescent and Star symbol upon his personal shield, his son [Aurangzeb](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aurangzeb) is also known to have used similar shields and flags containing an upward Crescent and Star symbol. Various [Nawabs](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nawab) also preferred to utilize the Crescent and Star symbols such as the [Nawab of the Carnatic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nawab_of_the_Carnatic).

* [](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:The_Surrender_of_Kandahar.jpg)

A miniature painting from the [*Padshahnama*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Padshahnama), depicting [Mughal Emperor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mughal_Emperor) [Shah Jahan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shah_Jahan) (note: The upward Crescent and Star symbol, inlaid upon the imperial [shield](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shield)).

* [](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Taj_Mahal_finial-1.jpg)

The finial upon the [Taj Mahal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taj_Mahal) is topped on the main spire with the combined [spear](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spear) and crescent representing the official military standard of the [Mughal Emperor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mughal_Emperor).

* [](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Mather-brown-lord-cornwallis-receiving-the-sons-of-tipu-as-hostages-1792.jpg)

The Crescent military standard of the [Sultanate of Mysore](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sultanate_of_Mysore) (note: in the background), during the rule of [Tipu Sultan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tipu_Sultan).

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Star_and_crescent&action=edit&section=9)**] Contemporary use**

Today the flag is also used by Muslim-majority states which are not successor states of the Ottoman Empire. These include [Azerbaijan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Azerbaijan) (1918), [Pakistan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan) (1947), [Mauritania](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mauritania) (1959) and [Malaysia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malaysia) (1950).

Different designs that also involve a crescent and stars are found in the flags of the [Comoros](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comoros) (1963), [Uzbekistan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uzbekistan) (1991) and [Turkmenistan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkmenistan) (1992).

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Star_and_crescent&action=edit&section=10)**] Contemporary flags**

Contemporary national flags (used by [sovereign states](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_sovereign_states)) displaying the star-and-crescent symbol:

* [F:\Star_and_crescent_files\120px-Flag_of_Azerbaijan.png](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Flag_of_Azerbaijan.svg&page=1)[Flag of Azerbaijan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_of_Azerbaijan) (1918)
* [F:\Star_and_crescent_files\120px-Flag_of_Malaysia.png](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Flag_of_Malaysia.svg&page=1)[Flag of Malaysia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_of_Malaysia) (1963)
* [](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Flag_of_Mauritania.svg&page=1)[Flag of Mauritania](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_of_Mauritania) (1959)
* [](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Flag_of_Pakistan.svg&page=1)[Flag of Pakistan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_of_Pakistan) (1947)  
  *See also:* [*List of Pakistani flags*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Pakistani_flags)
* [](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Flag_of_Turkey.svg&page=1)[Flag of Turkey](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_of_Turkey) (1923)
* [](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Flag_of_Algeria.svg&page=1)[Flag of Algeria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_of_Algeria) (1962)
* [](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Flag_of_Tunisia.svg&page=1)[Flag of Tunisia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_of_Tunisia) (1831, 1956)
* [F:\Star_and_crescent_files\120px-Flag_of_Libya.png](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Flag_of_Libya.svg&page=1)[Flag of Libya](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_of_Libya) (1951, 2011)

Other flags with the symbol, used by separatist or political movements and [partially recognized states](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Partially_recognized_state):

* [F:\Star_and_crescent_files\120px-Tatar_Nationalist_Flag.png](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Tatar_Nationalist_Flag.svg&page=1)Unofficial flag used by [Tatarstan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tatarstan) nationalists (1980s)
* [](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Kokbayraq_flag.svg&page=1)[Flag of East Turkistan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_of_East_Turkistan) (Uyghur separatist movement, 1933)
* [](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Nation_of_Islam_flag.svg&page=1)Flag for the [Nation of Islam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nation_of_Islam)
* [F:\Star_and_crescent_files\120px-Flag_of_the_Sahrawi_Arab_Democratic_Republic.png](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Flag_of_the_Sahrawi_Arab_Democratic_Republic.svg&page=1)[Flag of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_of_the_Sahrawi_Arab_Democratic_Republic)
* [](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Flag_of_the_Turkish_Republic_of_Northern_Cyprus.svg&page=1)[Flag of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_of_the_Turkish_Republic_of_Northern_Cyprus) (1983)

Flags with variant symbols, involving a crescent and several stars

* [](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Flag_of_the_Comoros.svg&page=1)[Flag of Comoros](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_of_Comoros)
* [](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Flag_of_Turkmenistan.svg&page=1)[Flag of Turkmenistan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_of_Turkmenistan)
* [F:\Star_and_crescent_files\120px-Flag_of_Uzbekistan.png](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Flag_of_Uzbekistan.svg&page=1)[Flag of Uzbekistan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_of_Uzbekistan)
* [](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Flag_of_Singapore.svg&page=1)[Flag of Singapore](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_of_Singapore)
* [](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Flag_of_Maghreb.svg&page=1)Flag of the [Arab Maghreb Union](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab_Maghreb_Union) **[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Star_and_crescent&action=edit&section=11)**] State emblems**
* [](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Coat_of_arms_of_Pakistan.svg&page=1)[State emblem of Pakistan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/State_emblem_of_Pakistan)
* [](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Coat_of_Arms_of_Maldives.svg&page=1)[Emblem of Maldives](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emblem_of_Maldives). The ensign of the sultan of the Maldives from 1954 to 1968 showed a star-and-crescent. While not kept in the [flag of the Maldives](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_of_the_Maldives), the symbol still appears as part of the state emblem.
* [](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:TurkishEmblem.svg&page=1)The Turkish Emblem **[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Star_and_crescent&action=edit&section=12)**] Other**

Some star-and-crescent designs appearing in other contexts, unrelated to either the Ottomans or Islamism. The [People Nation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/People_Nation) street gangs have been known to use a star and crescent.[[30]](file:///F:\Star_and_crescent.html#cite_note-sets-29) The [Leliwa coat of arms](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leliwa_coat_of_arms), one of Poland's many coats-of-arms adopted by several families, used the star and crescent. One of the families that adopted it was the [Tarnowski family](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tarnowski_family), and its usage is reflected on the arms of several Polish and Ukrainian towns, including Przeworsk, Tarnów, Tarnobrzeg and Ternopil.

* [](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:SNT.png)Municipal coat of arms of [Sintra](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sintra), [Portugal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portugal). Crescent and star represent Moorish heritage.
* [](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:AlphaThetaSigma.JPG)[Alpha Theta Sigma](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_fraternities_and_sororities_in_the_Philippines)
* [](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:POL_Tarn%C3%B3w_COA.svg&page=1)Municipal coat of arms of [Tarnów](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tarn%C3%B3w), [Poland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poland).
* Municipal coat of arms of [Tarnobrzeg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tarnobrzeg), [Poland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poland). [](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:POL_Mi%C5%84sk_Mazowiecki_COA.svg&page=1)Municipal coat of arms of [Mińsk Mazowiecki](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mi%C5%84sk_Mazowiecki), [Poland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poland)
* [](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:POL_Przeworsk_COA.svg&page=1)Municipal coat of arms of [Przeworsk](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Przeworsk), [Poland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poland).
* [](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Arms-portsmouth.jpg)Arms of [Portsmouth City Council](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portsmouth_City_Council), [United Kingdom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Kingdom).
* [](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Coat_of_arms_of_Halle_(Saale).svg&page=1)Municipal coat of arms of [Halle an der Saale](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Halle,_Saxony-Anhalt), [Germany](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Germany).
* [](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Coat_of_arms_of_Croatia.svg&page=1)[Coat of arms of Croatia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coat_of_arms_of_Croatia)
* [](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Coat_of_arms_of_Zagreb.svg&page=1)[Coat of arms of Zagreb](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coat_of_arms_of_Zagreb), [Croatia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Croatia).
* [](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:POL_Trembowla_COA.svg&page=1)Municipal coat of arms of [Terebovl](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terebovl), [Ukraine](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ukraine).
* [](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Ternopilgerb.jpg)Municipal coat of arms of [Ternopil](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ternopil), [Ukraine](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ukraine).