

FLAG OF HUNGARY - A BRIEF HISTORY



Where In The World



Trivia

Hungary successfully removed communist symbols from its Soviet-era flag decades before the USSR collapsed.

Technical Specification

Adopted:	1957
Proportion:	1:2, 2:3 at sea
Design:	Three equally-sized horizontal stripes in red, white and green from top to bottom
Colours:	PMS - Red: 18-1660; Green: 18-6320 C CMYK - Red: 17% Cyan, 96% Magenta, 78% Yellow, 6% Black; Green: 75% Cyan, 37% Magenta, 77% Yellow, 24% Black

Brief History

The Kingdom of Hungary was declared at the end of the first millennium AD, in 1000. Ottoman invasions in the 1500s rent the country asunder, and mainland Hungary became a province of the Habsburg Empire. Strangely, as a composite monarchy, the realm incorporated countries both within and without the Holy Roman Empire. Hungary was never a part of Holy Rome, but they took its colours for the The Habsburg flag.

In 1848 Hungarian nationalists took up arms against the Habsburg Empire. The red-white-green tricolour was used as a sign of national sovereignty during the revolution and after the defeat of the revolution the Austrian Empire prohibited it. But after 1867 it became the official flag of Hungary with the Kossuth Coat of Arms in the middle.



Flag of the Habsburg Monarchy





Flag of Hungary 1867 - 1918

The Austro-Hungarian Empire was pressured by the Germans into declaring war on Serbia following the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand. The Central Powers were eventually defeated and Austria-Hungary was dismantled. The Democratic Republic of Hungary replaced the Kingdom of Hungary and replaced the Coat of Arms on the flag with a less elaborate 'minor arms' version.



Although the Democratic Republic's regime ended in the summer of 1919, there was a hiatus from March to August, where the Hungarian Soviet Republic was in power. Their flag was in plain red.

After a brutal crackdown on suspected reactionaries, and a botched attempt to invade Romania, the Soviet Republic collapsed and the Democratic Republic was reinstated. When that had subsided in 1920, the Kingdom of Hungary came into being. They used the same tricolour but with a different version of the arms until 1946.

	
The Hungarian Democratic Republic (1918 – 1919)	Flag of the Kingdom of Hungary (1920 – 1946)

The Kingdom never even saw a single coronation in its lifespan; Charles IV of Hungary died before he could claim the throne. Regent Miklos Horthy later aligned Hungary with the Axis powers, as a buffer against the Soviet Union. In 1944, Hungary surrendered to the Red Army. After the war, elections were held for a new Republic of Hungary. The crown was removed and the arms turned into a badge.

Although the Communist party lost at 17% against 57%, the Soviet Marshal forced a coalition government in which a Communist was the Minister of the Interior. Consequently, by 1949 there was no longer a coalition to speak of; the Communists had incarcerated all its political opponents with a secret police force, and established the Hungarian People's Republic. They replaced the badge on the tricolour flag with the Communist Rákosi Coat of Arms.

	
The Flag of the Republic of Hungary	The Flag of the Hungarian People's Republic

In 1956, an anti-communist revolution prompted reform in Hungarian government.

Although the reformist Chairman Imre Nagy was tried and executed for treason against the USSR, his reforms survived. One of these was a change to the national flag of Hungary, removing the communist/socialist symbols, the pure tricolour remaining.

The flag has remained the same ever since.


The Flag of Hungary (1957 to Present Day)

Other Flags of Hungary

Hungary's national flag is also the state flag and civil ensign. The national coat of arms depicts a heraldic shield, upon which the Holy Crown of Hungary is balanced. The military and naval ensigns of Hungary show the coat of arms in a white field, bordered with a pattern akin to parade bunting.

		
The War Flag of Hungary	The Navel Ensign of Hungary	The Hungarian Coat of Arms