

# Flag of Iran - A Brief History



## Where In The World



### Trivia

Flying the flag at half mast is banned in Iran.

### Technical Specification

<b>Adopted:</b>	29 <sup>th</sup> July 1980
<b>Proportion:</b>	1:1.7477
<b>Design:</b>	A green-white-red horizontal tricolour with two lines of white kufic script stating "god is great".

<b>Colours:</b>	<b>PMS</b>	Red: 186C	Green: 355C
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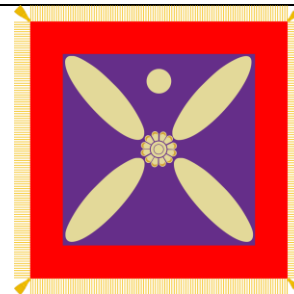
### Brief History

The first banner or flag flown in the country was the standard of Cyrus the Great of the Achaemenid Empire. It featured a falcon/eagle holding suns and would be held on a long pole. There are many reported designs of this flag including a one on a red field and one on a turquoise field.

In 224 a rectangular leather flag was used for the Sassanid Empire. It featured a thick red-bordered purple field with jewels and a four pointed star at the centre.



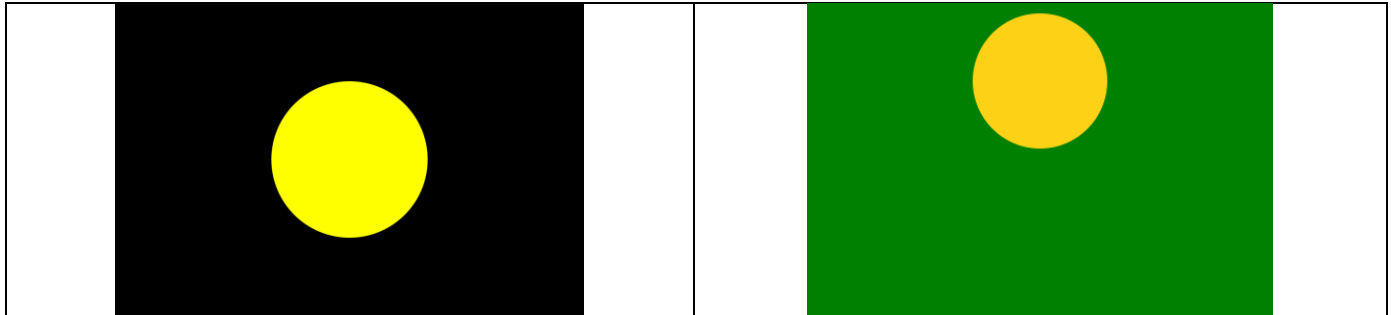
**The Standard of Cyrus the Great  
(550BC -330BC)**



**The Flag of the Sassanid Empire  
(224 – 651)**

Between 661 and 998 no specific flag was used as emblems were eliminated from Islamic Iran. Mahmud of Ghazni designed a flag in 998 that was a sun on a black background.

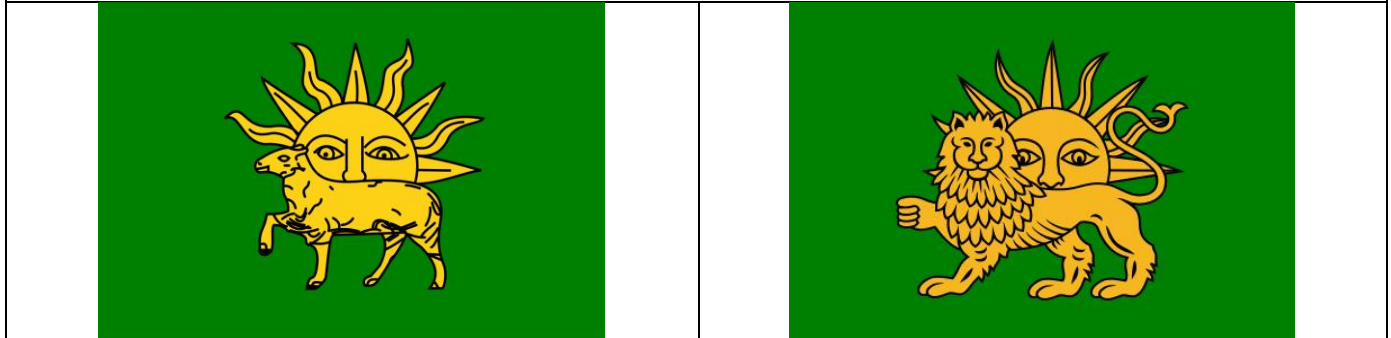
When the Safavid Dynasty took control of the area a flag featuring a plain green field with yellow sun was adopted as the flag of Ismail I.



**The Flag of the Ghaznavid Dynasty  
(998 – 1030)**

**The Flag of the Safavid Dynasty Under Ismail I  
(1501 – 1524)**

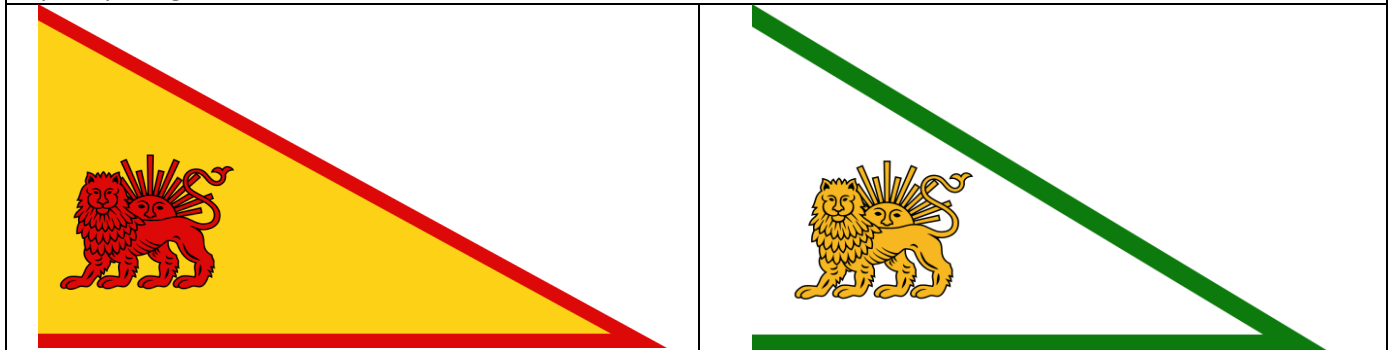
Tahmasp I replaced the yellow sun with a lamb and rising sun with face on the green flag around 1524. In 1576 the lion replaced the lamb.



**The Flag of Safavid Dynasty Under Tahmasp I  
(1524 -1576)**

**The Flag of Safavid Dynasty After Ismail II  
(1576 -1732)**

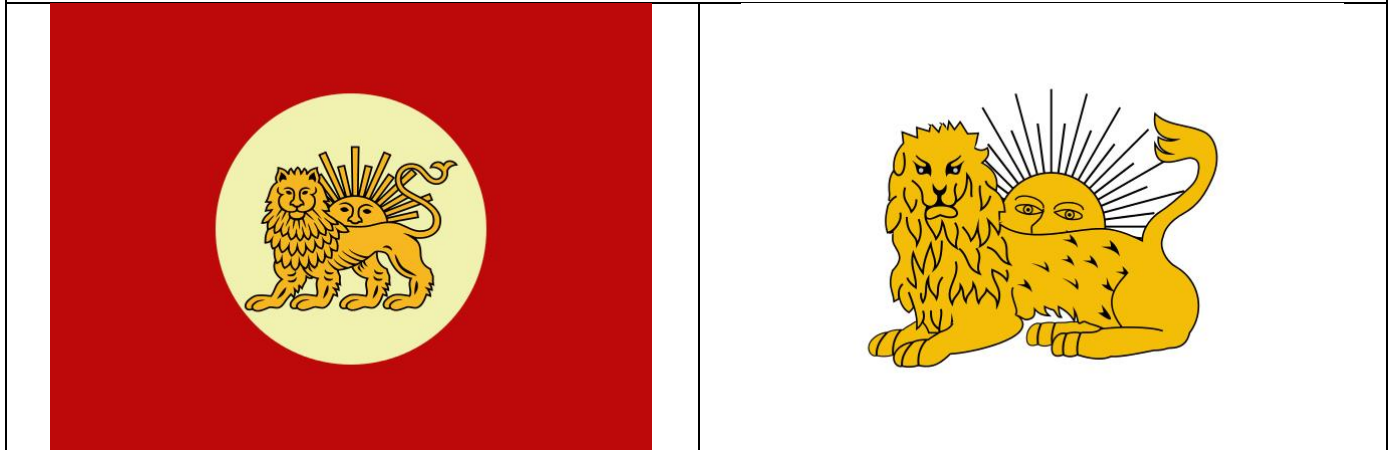
In 1736 a triangular flag was adopted with a red-bordered yellow field with a red lion and sun. During the Zand Dynasty the gold lion was reinstated on a white field.

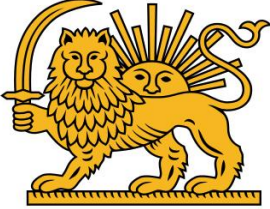
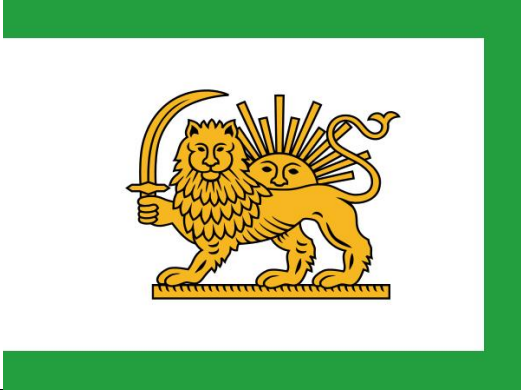






**The Afsharid Dynasty  
(1736 -1796)**

**The Flag of Zand Dynasty  
(1750 – 1794)**


In 1789 the Qajar Dynasty was formed. The first flag adopted was the flag of the founder Mohammad Khan. It was a plain red field with pale yellow circle, gold lion with rising faced sun. Upon Mohammad Khan's death in 1797 Fath-Ali Shah Qajar took over as ruler and adopted a plain white field with the gold lion and sun.




<p><b>The Flag of Mohammad Khan of the Qajar Dynasty (1789 – 1797)</b></p>	<p><b>The Flag of Fath-Ali Shah Qajar of the Qajar Dynasty (1797 – 1834)</b></p>
<p>In 1834 A sword and plinth was added to the lion image on the flag during the reign of Mohammad Shah. From 1831 a green border was added to three sides of the flag. When Mozaffar ad-Din Shah Qajar became the ruler the flag remained the same.</p>	
	
<p><b>The Flag of Mohammad Shah of the Qajar Dynasty (1834 – 1848)</b></p>	<p><b>The Flag of Nasser al-Din Shah of the Qajar Dynasty (1848 – 1907)</b></p>
<p>In 1907 the flag was changed to a long pale green-white-red horizontal tricolour to represent the post-constitutional revolution of the country. The state flag was similar but included the lion with sword and rising sun.</p>	
	
<p><b>The flag of Iran (1907 – 1933)</b></p>	<p><b>The State Flag of Iran (1907 – 1933)</b></p>
<p>When the Pahlavi Dynasty took control in 1933 the colours of the national and state flag were darkened.</p>	
	
<p><b>The flag of Iran under the Pahlavi Dynasty (1933 -1964)</b></p>	<p><b>The Flag of Iran under the Pahlavi Dynasty (1933 -1964)</b></p>
<p>During 1964 the ratio of the tricolour national and state flags were altered from 1:3 to 4:7.</p>	
	
<p><b>The Flag of Iran (1964 – 1980)</b></p>	<p><b>The State Flag of Iran (1964 – 1980)</b></p>

<p>After the Iranian Revolution a new tricolour flag was adopted. It featured the same green-white-red colours but with a repeating statement in Kufic script stating "GOD IS GREAT" 22 times and featuring the emblem of Iran at the centre.</p> <p>Green symbolises growth and nature, white for freedom and red for bravery.</p>	 <p data-bbox="1018 421 1284 479"><b>The Flag of Iran (1980 to Present Day)</b></p>
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### The Emblem of Iran

<p>The Emblem of Iran was adopted in 1980 and is a stylised Persian alphabetic symbol of the Arabic word for god with a shadda sword and four crescents. The emblem is said to resemble a tulip for the people who died for Iran and is symbol for martyrdom.</p>	
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### The Emblem of the Armed Forces of Iran

<p>The Emblem of the Armed Forces of Iran is a gold bordered blue disk surrounding a laurel branch surrounding a national flag bordered blue gold protected by the emblem of Iran, two crossed swords, an anchor, wings and crossed swords.</p>	
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