

Magadan Oblast

Магаданская область / Magadanskaia oblast'



Year Adopted: 2001 **Proportions:** 2:3

Designer: unknown

Federal District: Far Eastern

Administrative Center: Magadan

Population: 162,969



Magadan Oblast's flag incorporates the national colors of Russia. It has a red field with a series of blue and white waves running horizontally along the bottom 1/4 of the flag. The scalloped points of the lower white waves align with troughs of the upper white waves. These waves represent the oblast's location on Russia's east coast. In the upper hoist are the arms of the oblast. The upper portion of the arms shows a geology hammer and pick behind a pyramid of silver and gold ingots, symbols of prosperity, well-being, and mining—the economic base of the region. In the left portion of the arms are a hydroelectric dam and an airplane. These symbols emphasize the importance of the hydroelectric industry and the connection of Magadan Oblast to the rest of Russia. In the right portion are three golden fish, representing the importance of the fishing industry.

Sources: Magadanskaia oblast', "Simvolika regiona", <http://www.magadan.ru/region/gerb.php>, accessed 15 June 2008; "Flag Magadanskoi oblasti", *Geraldika.ru*, <http://geraldika.ru/symbols/130>, accessed 20 June 2008; "Magadanskaia oblast'", *Vexilllographia: Flagi Rossii*, <http://www.vexilllographia.ru/russia/subjects/magadan.htm>, accessed 1 August 2008; Borisov and Kozina, p. 180; Saprykov (2004), p. 56; Saprykov (2006), p. 55; Smetannikov, p. 66; Solov'ev, p. 200-201; "Magadan Region (Russia)", *FOTW Flags of the World*, <http://www.crwflags.com/FOTW/flags/ru-49.html>, accessed 27 June 2008.

Mari El Republic

Республика Марий Эл / Respublika Marii-El



Year Adopted: 2006

Proportions: 2:3; changed from 1:2 when redesigned in 2006

Designers: G. N. Bulygin and A. A. Danilov

Federal District: Volga

Capital: Yoshkar-Ola

Population: 700,118



The flag of Mari El consists of three horizontal stripes—blue, white, and red, in proportions of 3:4:3. Centered in the white stripe is a simplified Mari El cross in red (sometimes called a solar symbol in descriptions of the flag). This symbol has long been associated with the agrarian culture of the region and represents the concepts of fertility and eternity. The emblem is 1/3 the width of the flag in size. Blue symbolizes the clean skies over the republic. It also represents water, which was an ancient object of worship for the Mari people. White is the traditional color of labor and a characteristic of the national costume for both everyday use and for celebrations. White also symbolizes life, peace, goodness, fairness, and high morals. Red is widely used in the folk arts of the people and is linked to their spiritual origins.

An earlier version, used from 1992 to



2006, had narrower stripes at the top and bottom. The emblem was of a slightly different design and was closer to the hoist. Under the emblem were the words *Marii El* in Cyrillic letters.

Sources: Respublika Marii El, “Gosudarstvennye simvoly Respubliki Marii El”, <http://gov.mari.ru/rep/signs.phtml>, accessed 13 June 2008; “Flag Respubliki Marii El”, *Geral'dika.ru*, <http://geraldika.ru/symbols/16978>, accessed 17 June 2008; “Flag Respubliki Marii El (1992 g.)”, *Geral'dika.ru*, <http://geraldika.ru/symbols/272>, accessed 10 August 2008; “Marii El”, *Vexillolographia: Flagi Rossii*, <http://www.vexillolographia.ru/russia/subjects/marii.htm>, accessed 1 August 2008; Borisov and Kozina, p. 43; Saprykov (2004), p. 22; Saprykov (2006), p. 19; Sharkov, p. 60-63, 153-156; Smetannikov, p. 29; Solov'ev, p. 112-113; “Mariy-El (Russia)”, *FOTW Flags of the World*, <http://www.crwflags.com/FOTW/flags/ru-12.html>, accessed 27 June 2008.

Mordovia, Republic of

Республика Мордовия / Respublika Mordoviia



Year Adopted: 1995 **Proportions:** 2:3; changed from 1:2 in 2008

Designer: Andrei Stepanovich Alëshkin

Federal District: Volga

Capital: Saransk

Population: 833,031



Mordovia, or Mordvinia, has a flag that is a horizontal tricolor of red over white over blue. The top and bottom stripes are each 1/4 the width of the flag. Centered in the white stripe is a solar symbol in red. The emblem consists of four equal segments, resembling arrow fletches, which point toward the center. The colors of the flag derive from the traditional national costume of the republic. Red symbolizes creation and life. White represents spirituality, as well as purity of intentions and thoughts. Blue is a symbol of the fertility of soil when it is damp with moisture. The solar sign not only represents the sun, but also stands for warmth, goodness, and openness. Four portions making up the one symbol emphasizes the unity of the major ethnic groups in the republic—the Moksha and Erzya groups of the Mordvin people, the Russians, and the Tatars—which has led to balance and stability in the region.

Sources: “Flag Respubliki Mordoviia”, *Geral’ dika.ru*, <http://geraldika.ru/symbols/280>, accessed 17 June 2008; “Mordoviia”, *Vexillographia: Flagi Rossii*, <http://www.vexillographia.ru/russia/subjects/mordovia.htm>, accessed 1 August 2008; Borisov and Kozina, p. 45; Saprykov (2004), p. 23; Saprykov (2006), p. 20; Sharkov, p. 64–65, 157–158; Smetannikov, p. 30; Solov’ev, p. 114–115; “Mordovia (Russia)”, *FOTW Flags of the World*, <http://www.crwflags.com/FOTW/flags/ru-mo.html>, accessed 27 June 2008.

Moscow (city)

Москва / Moskva



Year Adopted: 1995 **Proportions:** 2:3

Designer: K. K. Ivanov

Federal District: Central

Population: 10,508,971

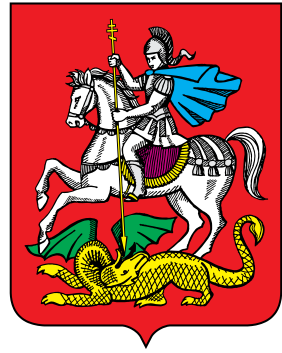
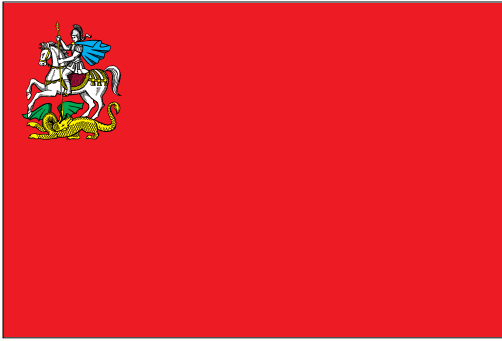


The flag of Moscow is drawn from the shield of the traditional arms of the city. It is dark red with an image of St. George the Victorious in the center. Dressed in armor and a blue cape, he rides a white horse and is slaying a dragon. The current arms are based upon a version adopted in 1781. It is believed that the colors of the field, horse, and cape were the basis for the national colors of Russia. St. George, the traditional patron saint of Moscow, was replaced by a socialist design during the Soviet period. The traditional arms were restored after the breakup of the Soviet Union.

Sources: Pravitel'stvo Moskv, "Ofitsial'nye simvol", <http://www.mos.ru/wps/portal/WebContent?rubricId=2344>, accessed 15 June 2008; "Flag goroda Moskva", *Geraldika.ru*, <http://geraldika.ru/symbols/301>, accessed 18 June 2008; "Moskva", *Vexillographia: Flagi Rossii*, <http://www.vexillographia.ru/russia/subjects/moscow.htm>, accessed 1 August 2008; Borisov and Kozina, p. 348; Saprykov (2004), p. 83; Saprykov (2006), p. 83; Smetannikov, p. 94; Solov'ev, p. 54-55; "Moscow City (Russia)", *FOTW Flags of the World*, <http://www.crwflags.com/FOTW/flags/ru-mow.html>, accessed 27 June 2008.

Moscow Oblast

Московская область / Moskovskaia oblast'



Year Adopted: 1999 **Proportions:** 2:3

Designer: unknown

Federal District: Central

Largest City: Balashikha

Population: 6,712,582

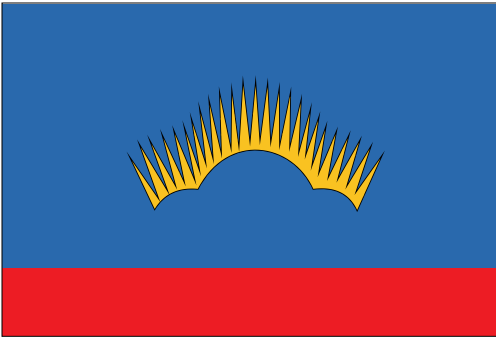


The flag of Moscow Oblast has a red field with the central emblem from the oblast's arms in the upper hoist. On the emblem is an image of St. George the Victorious, the patron saint of Moscow, riding a white horse and slaying a dragon. The emblem's width is 1/5 the length of the flag. Both the field color and the portrayal of St. George are based upon the historical arms of the city of Moscow.

Sources: Moskovskaia oblast', "Ofitsial'naya simbolika", http://portal.mosreg.ru/formal_symbolism/, accessed 15 June 2008; "Flag Moskovskoi oblasti", *Geral'dika.ru*, <http://geraldika.ru/symbols/873>, accessed 20 June 2008; "Moskovskaia oblast'", *Vexillographia: Flagi Rossii*, http://www.vexillographia.ru/russia/subjects/mos_obl.htm, accessed 1 August 2008; Borisov and Kozina, p. 182; Saprykov (2004), p. 57; Saprykov (2006), p. 56; Smetannikov, p. 67; Solov'ev, p. 38-39; "Moscow Region (Russia)", *FOTW Flags of the World*, <http://www.crwflags.com/FOTW/flags/ru-mos.html>, accessed 27 June 2008.

Murmansk Oblast

Мурманская область / Murmanskaia oblast'



Year Adopted: 2004 **Proportions:** 2:3

Designer: P. Abarin

Federal District: Northwestern

Administrative Center: Murmansk

Population: 842,452



Murmansk Oblast's flag is blue with a red stripe at the bottom, 1/5 the width of the flag. Centered in the blue field is a stylized representation of the *Aurora Borealis* in yellow. The aurora, also known as the Northern Lights, is a phenomenon only visible from the northern latitudes and represents the geographic location of the region. This emblem is 1/2 the length of the flag. Red represents both the concept of life and the progress of the region during the Soviet period. Blue symbolizes beauty, purity, and loyalty. Gold is a symbol of wealth.

Sources: Murmanskaia oblast', "Mnogosvetnyi risunok flaga Murmanskoi oblasti", <http://www.gov-murman.ru/symbol/flag/>, and "Zakon Murmanskoi oblasti o gerbe i flage Murmanskoi oblasti", <http://www.gov-murman.ru/symbol/>, accessed 15 June 2008 "Flag Murmanskoi oblasti", *Geraldika.ru*, <http://geraldika.ru/symbols/7312>, accessed 20 June 2008; "Murmanskaia oblast", *Vexilllographia: Flagi Rossii*, <http://www.vexilllographia.ru/russia/subjects/murmansk.htm>, accessed 1 August 2008; Saprykov (2006), p. 57; Smetannikov, p. 68; Solov'ev, p. 70-71; "Murmansk Region (Russia)", *FOTW Flags of the World*, <http://www.crwflags.com/FOTW/flags/ru-51.html>, accessed 27 June 2008.

Nenets Autonomous Okrug

Ненецкий автономный округ / Nenetskii avtonomnyi okrug



Year Adopted: 2003 **Proportions:** 2:3

Designer: unknown

Federal District: Northwestern

Administrative Center:

Naryan-Mar

Population: 42,023

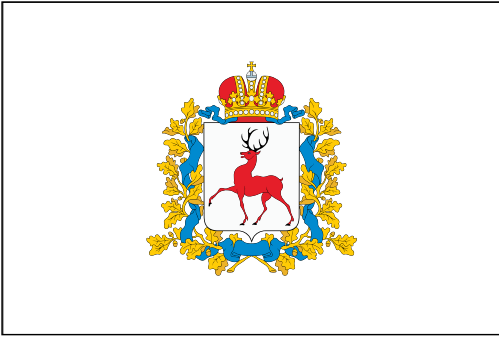


The flag of Nenets Autonomous Okrug (or Nenetsia) is white with stripes of blue and green running along its base. The white field occupies about 2/3 the width of the flag, and symbolizes purity, peace of mind, and the primordial nature of the region. Blue represents constancy and infinity. Green symbolizes youth, hope, and vitality. The blue and white stripes are separated by a repeating horizontal design (alternating blue and white) composed of a traditional antler-like ornament from the culture of the region.

Sources: Nenetskii avtonomnii okrug, "Administratsiia Nenetskogo avtonomnogo okruga", <http://www.adm-nao.ru/>, accessed 26 June 2008 (shows image of flag); "Flag Nenetskogo avtonomnogo okruga", *Geral'dika.ru*, <http://geraldika.ru/symbols/1808>, accessed 18 June 2008; "Nenetskii avtonomnyi okrug", *Vexillographia: Flagi Rossii*, <http://www.vexillographia.ru/russia/subjects/nenets.htm>, accessed 1 August 2008; Borisov and Kozina, p. 397; Saprykov (2004), p. 89; Saprykov (2006), p. 89; Smetannikov, p. 100; Solov'ev, p. 78-79; "Nenetsia (Russia)", *FOTW Flags of the World*, <http://www.crwflags.com/FOTW/flags/ru-nen.html>, accessed 27 June 2008.

Nizhny Novgorod Oblast

Нижегородская область / Nizhegorodskaia oblast'



Year Adopted: 2005 **Proportions:** 2:3
Designer: unknown

Federal District: Volga
Administrative Center:
Nizhny Novgorod
Population: 3,340,684



The flag of Nizhny Novgorod Oblast (or Nizhegorod) is white with the arms of the oblast in the center. White on the flag recalls the banners used by Nizhegorod regiments. The width of the emblem is $\frac{2}{5}$ the length of the flag. In the arms the principal element is a scarlet deer; a historical Russian crown tops the arms.

Sources: Nizhegorodskaia oblast', "Flag", <http://www.government.nnov.ru/?id=33750>, accessed 15 June 2008; "Flag Nizhegorodskoi oblasti", *Geral'dika.ru*, <http://geraldika.ru/symbols/11876>, accessed 20 June 2008; "Nizhegorodskaia oblast'", *Vexillographia: Flagi Rossii*, <http://www.vexillographia.ru/russia/subjects/nizhny.htm>, accessed 1 August 2008; Borisov and Kozina, p. 229; Saprykov (2004), p. 58; Saprykov (2006), p. 58; Smetannikov, p. 69; "Nizhniy Novgorod Region (Russia)", *FOTW Flags of the World*, <http://www.crwflags.com/FOTW/flags/ru-niz.html>, accessed 27 June 2008.

North Ossetia-Alania, Republic of Республика Северная Осетия-Алания / Respublika Severnaia Osetiia-Alaniia



Year Adopted: 1991 **Proportions:** 1:2

Designer: Iu. S. Gagloiti

Federal District: Southern

Capital: Vladikavkaz

Population: 701,807

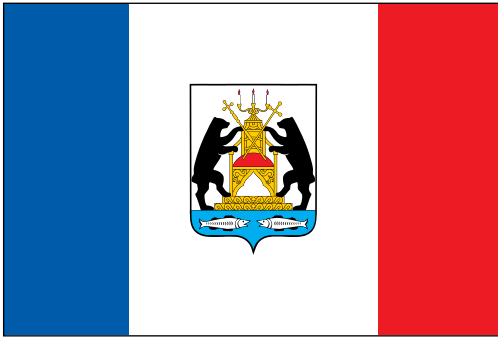


The flag of North Ossetia-Alania has three equal horizontal stripes of white, red, and yellow. White represents moral purity; red stands for military valor; and yellow symbolizes abundance and good fortune. These colors and the concepts they represent are drawn from the historic Scythian and Alan cultures.

Sources: Respublika Severnaia Osetiia-Alaniia, "Ofitsial'naya simbolika", <http://www.rso-a.ru/about/detail.php?ID=1387>, accessed 14 June 2008; "Flag Respubliki Severnaia Osetiia-Alaniia", *Geral'dika.ru*, <http://geraldika.ru/symbols/353>, accessed 17 June 2008; "Respublika Severnaia Osetiia - Alaniia", *Vexillographia: Flagi Rossii*, http://www.vexillographia.ru/russia/subjects/sev_oset.htm, accessed 1 August 2008; Borisov and Kozina, p. 50-51; Saprykov (2004), p. 25; Saprykov (2006), p. 22; Sharkov, p. 69-72, 163-166; Smetannikov, p. 32; Solov'ev, p. 94-95; "North Ossetia (Russia)", *FOTW Flags of the World*, <http://www.crwflags.com/FOTW/flags/ru-se.html>, accessed 27 June 2008.

Novgorod Oblast

Новгородская область / Novgorodskaja oblast'



Year Adopted: 2007 **Proportions:** 2:3

Designer: unknown

Federal District: Northwestern

Administrative Center: Veliky
Novgorod

Population: 645,986

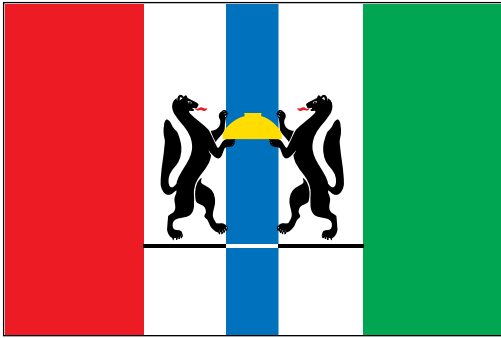


Novgorod Oblast's flag is a vertical tricolor of blue, white, and red in proportions of 1:2:1. Blue stands for devotion, fairness, and constancy, and represents the lakes and rivers of the oblast. White symbolizes aspirations for peace, well-being, and happiness. It is also the color of the cathedrals and monasteries of the region. Red represents the heroic past of the oblast and its antiquity, courage, and beauty. Centered on the white stripe is the shield from the arms of the oblast. In the arms, two black bears support a golden throne. A candlestick tops the throne, and behind the throne are a scepter and cross in gold. At the bottom of the arms are two fish.

Sources: "Flag Novgorodskoi oblasti", *Geraldika.ru*, <http://geraldika.ru/symbols/19893>, accessed 20 June 2008; "Novgorodskaja oblast", *Vexillographia: Flagi Rossii*, <http://www.vexillographia.ru/russia/subjects/novgorod.htm>, accessed 1 August 2008; Borisov and Kozina, p. 234-235; Saprykov (2004), p. 59; Saprykov (2006), p. 59; Smetannikov, p. 70; "Novgorod Region (Russia)", *FOTW Flags of the World*, <http://www.crwflags.com/FOTW/flags/ru-ngr.html>, accessed 27 June 2008.

Novosibirsk Oblast

Новосибирская область / Novosibirskaia oblast'



Year Adopted: 2003 **Proportions:** 2:3

Designer: Grigorii Vladimirovich Kuzhelev

Federal District: Siberian

Administrative Center: Novosibirsk

Population: 2,639,857

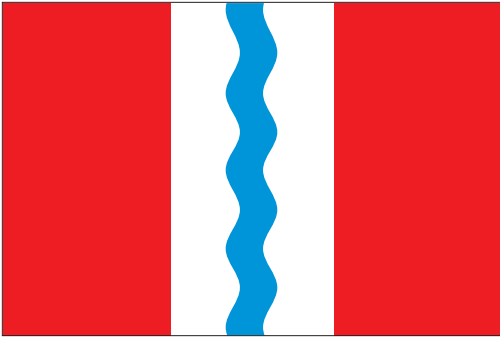


The flag of Novosibirsk Oblast has vertical stripes: from hoist to fly, red, white, blue, white, and green in approximate proportions of 3:2:1:2:3. Red symbolizes courage, bravery, memories of the heroism of the Novosiberians, and defense of the country. White is for purity, devotion, and faith, and is the color of the Siberian winter. Blue is for the Ob' River, as well as the many lakes and rivers of the region. Green is for hope, abundance, revival, and vitality and also for the natural beauty of the land. Centered on the white and blue stripes are elements from the arms of the oblast, including two black sables, a valuable fur-bearing animal native to the region. They are holding a round loaf of bread, a symbol of hospitality—the peasants of Siberia traditionally offer rye bread and salt to their guests. Below the sables is a narrow line of black/white/black which symbolizes the Trans-Siberian Railway crossing through the territory.

Sources: Novosibirskaia oblast', "Simvolika Novosibirskoi oblasti", <http://www3.adm.nso.ru/ru/spr/simvnsol/>, accessed 15 June 2008; "Flag Novosibirskoi oblasti", *Geraldika.ru*, <http://geraldika.ru/symbols/3415>, accessed 20 June 2008; "Novosibirskaia oblast", *Vexillographia: Flagi Rossii*, <http://www.vexillographia.ru/russia/subjects/novosib.htm>, accessed 1 August 2008; Borisov and Kozina, p. 237-238; Saprykov (2004), p. 60; Saprykov (2006), p. 60; Smetannikov, p. 71; Solov'ev, p. 172-173; "Novosibirsk Region (Russia)", *FOTW Flags of the World*, <http://www.crwflags.com/FOTW/flags/ru-54.html>, accessed 27 June 2008.

Omsk Oblast

Омская область / Omskaia oblast'



Year Adopted: 2003 **Proportions:** 2:3

Designer: unknown

Federal District: Siberian

Administrative Center: Omsk

Population: 2,014,135



Omsk Oblast's flag has three equal vertical stripes of red, white, and red. Red symbolizes bravery, courage, and fearlessness. It also stands for life, mercy, and love. White represents nobility, purity, justice, and magnanimity. It also represents the climatic features of Siberia. Centered in the white stripe is a wavy vertical blue line representing the Irtysh River, the main waterway of the oblast. Blue also symbolizes beauty, greatness, and gentleness.

Sources: Omskaia oblast', "Flag", <http://www.omskportal.ru/>, accessed 15 June 2008; "Flag Omskoi oblasti", *Geraldika.ru*, <http://geraldika.ru/symbols/2978>, accessed 20 June 2008; "Omskaia oblast'", *Vexillographia: Flagi Rossii*, <http://www.vexillographia.ru/russia/subjects/omsk.htm>, accessed 1 August 2008; Borisov and Kozina, p. 240; Saprykov (2004), p. 61; Saprykov (2006), p. 61; Smetannikov, p. 72; Solov'ev, p. 174-175; "Omsk Region (Russia)", *FOTW Flags of the World*, <http://www.crwflags.com/FOTW/flags/ru-55.html>, accessed 27 June 2008.

Orenburg Oblast

Оренбургская область / Orenburgskaia oblast'



Year Adopted: 1997 **Proportions:** 2:3

Designer: V. N. Eryshev

Federal District: Volga

Administrative Center: Orenburg

Population: 2,111,531



The flag of Orenburg Oblast is red with the arms of the oblast in the center. Symbols included in the arms are a running marten in blue on white, an orthodox cross and a crescent moon in gold on red, and two crossed imperial flags. The arms are topped with a gold crown. Red in the field represents historical continuity, as it has long been the color of the symbols of both Russia and the Orenburg region. The cross and the crescent moon represent the location of the oblast on the border between Europe and Asia. They also represent the two main religions of the residents—Russian Orthodoxy and Islam. The flags symbolize that Orenburg Oblast is part of the Russian Federation.

Sources: "Flag Orenburgskoi oblasti", *Geral'dika.ru*, <http://geraldika.ru/symbols/1033>, accessed 20 June 2008; "Orenburgskaia oblast", *Vexillographia: Flagi Rossii*, <http://www.vexillographia.ru/russia/subjects/orenburg.htm>, accessed 1 August 2008; Borisov and Kozina, p. 242; Saprykov (2004), p. 62; Saprykov (2006), p. 62; Smetannikov, p. 73; Solov'ev, p. 130-131; "Orenburg Region (Russia)", *FOTW Flags of the World*, <http://www.crwflags.com/FOTW/flags/ru-56.html>, accessed 27 June 2008.

Oryol Oblast

Орловская область / Orlovskaiia oblast'



Year Adopted: 2002 **Proportions:** 2:3

Designer: unknown

Federal District: Central

Administrative Center: Oryol

Population: 816,895

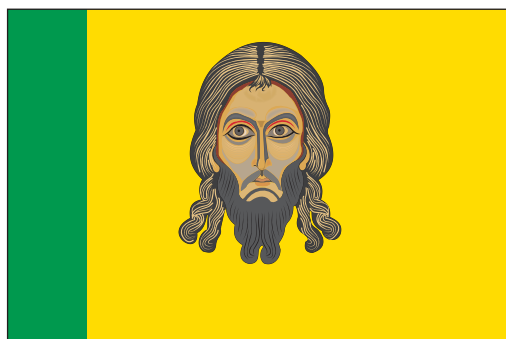


Oryol Oblast (or Orel Oblast) has a red flag with a light-blue stripe running along the bottom (1/5 the width of the flag). Centered in the red field are the arms of the oblast, in width 1/4 the length of the flag. Red symbolizes bravery, courage, and fearlessness. Blue represents beauty, greatness, purity of thought, and spiritual aspirations. Symbols on the arms include a two-headed Russian eagle, a fortress, stalks of grain, and an open book. The eagle represents the oblast's position as a federal subject of the Russian Federation. Below it, the fortress symbolizes the region's role in the defense of Russia, stability, dependability, and loyalty to the homeland. Grain and the green field represent agriculture and its importance in the region. The book symbolizes the literary traditions of the region.

Sources: Orlovskaiia oblast', "O gerbe i flage Orlovskoi oblasti", <http://www.adm.orel.ru/index.php?head=2&part=4>, accessed 26, 2008; "Flag Orlovskoi oblasti", *Geraldika.ru*, <http://geraldika.ru/symbols/565>, accessed 20 June 2008; "Orlovskaiia oblast'", *Vexillographia: Flagi Rossii*, <http://www.vexillographia.ru/russia/subjects/oryol.htm>, accessed 1 August 2008; Borisov and Kozina, p. 245; Saprykov (2004), p. 63; Saprykov (2006), p. 63; Smetannikov, p. 74; Solov'ev, p. 40-41; "Orel Region (Russia)", *FOTW Flags of the World*, <http://www.crwflags.com/FOTW/flags/ru-57.html>, accessed 27 June 2008.

Penza Oblast

Пензенская область / Penzenskaia oblast'



Year Adopted: 2002 **Proportions:** 1:1.6

Designer: A. N. Kniazev

Federal District: Volga

Administrative Center: Penza

Population: 1,379,839

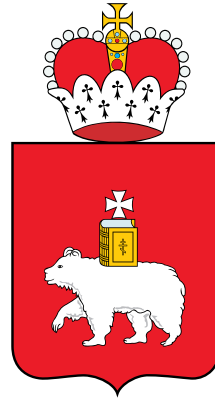
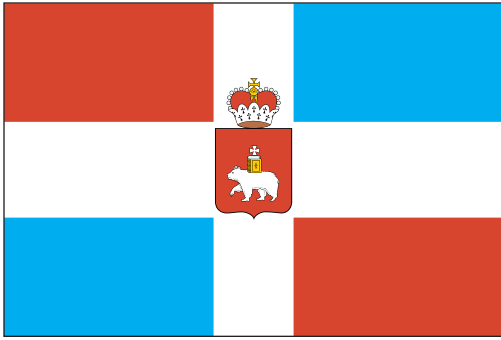


The flag of Penza Oblast is yellow with a green vertical stripe at the hoist, approximately 1/7 the length of the flag. Centered horizontally on the flag, set slightly toward the top, is an icon known as “*Spas Nerukotvornyi*” (Our Savior Not Made by Hands). This icon style is based upon an Orthodox tradition of the first icon image—the Image of Edessa, a miraculous image of the face of Jesus on a rectangle of cloth. Yellow symbolizes fields, wisdom, knowledge, light, a rich harvest, and outlook. Green represents nature in the oblast and its forest, fertility, eternal life, and health. The icon image stands for spirituality, omniscience, and national revival.

Sources: Penzenskaia oblast', “Flag Penzenskoi oblasti”, <http://www.penza.ru/common/status/990>, accessed 15 June 2008; “Flag Penzenskoi oblasti”, *Geraldika.ru*, <http://geraldika.ru/symbols/1721>, accessed 20 June 2008; “Penzenskaia oblast'”, *Vexillographia: Flagi Rossii*, <http://www.vexillographia.ru/russia/subjects/penza.htm>, accessed 1 August 2008; Saprykov (2004), p. 64; Saprykov (2006), p. 64; Smetannikov, p. 75; Solov'ev, p. 132-133; “Penza Region (Russia)”, *FOTW Flags of the World*, <http://www.crwflags.com/FOTW/flags/ru-58.html>, accessed 27 June 2008; “Spas Nerukotvornyi”, *Wikipedia*, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image_of_Edessa, no direct URL available, accessed 7 July 2008; “Image of Edessa”, *Wikipedia*, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image_of_Edessa, accessed 7 July 2008.

Perm Krai

Пермский край / Permskii krai



Year Adopted: 2003; 2007 **Proportions:** 2:3

Designer: unknown

Federal District: Volga

Administrative Center: Perm

Population: 2,708,419



Perm Krai's flag has a white cross in the center, dividing the field into four rectangular panels—red at the upper hoist and lower fly, azure blue at the upper fly and lower hoist. The cross is the traditional symbol of St. George, patron saint of Russia. It is 1/4 the width and 1/6 the length of the flag. In the center of the cross are the arms of the krai, showing a bear with the Book of the Gospels on its back. The bear is shown here in white, but official descriptions of the arms have it in silver. It is meant to be a European bear, not a polar bear. The bear recalls an ancient bear cult that once existed in the region. Victory of Christianity over the pagan religion is represented by placing the Gospels on the bear's back. Above the shield is a princely crown. White, blue, and red reflect the colors of the national flag and are traditional colors of the region. White symbolizes purity and goodness, and on the flag represents peace and the purity of the thoughts of the people. Blue symbolizes beauty, gentleness, and the warmth of human relations. It also represents the open waters of the Kama River, as well as the many lakes and rivers in the region. Red is a symbol of bravery, courage, and the fearlessness of the

inhabitants. The flag was initially adopted in 2003 as the flag of Perm Oblast. In 2005, Komi-Permyak Autonomous Okrug merged with Perm Oblast to form Perm Krai. The flag of the oblast continued to be used, and in 2007 that flag was formally retained for the krai.

Sources: Permskii krai, "Ofitsial'nye simvol'y Permskogo kraia", <http://perm.ru/region/symbols/>, accessed 14 June 2008; "Flag Permskoi oblasti", *Geraldika.ru*, <http://geraldika.ru/symbols/1465>, accessed 20 June 2008; "Permskii krai", *Vexillographia: Flagi Rossii*, <http://www.vexillographia.ru/russia/subjects/perm.htm>, accessed 1 August 2008; Borisov and Kozina, p. 251-252; Saprykov (2004), p. 65; Saprykov (2006), p. 65; Smetannikov, p. 76; "Perm Territory (Russia)", *FOTW Flags of the World*, <http://www.crwflags.com/FOTW/flags/ru-59.html>, accessed 27 June 2008.

Primorsky Krai

Приморский край / Primorskii krai



Year Adopted: 1995 **Proportions:** 2:3

Designer: Viktor Aleksandrovich Obertas

Federal District: Far Eastern

Administrative Center:

Vladivostok

Population: 1,988,008



The flag of Primorsky Krai, or Primorye, is divided by a white diagonal stripe running from lower hoist to upper fly, meeting the corners of the flag. The stripe's width is approximately 1/5 the length of the flag. In the red panel at the hoist is a gold tiger from the arms of the region. At the lower fly, the flag is blue. Red symbolizes feats, sacrifices, victories, bravery, courage, and fearlessness. Blue represents honesty, fidelity, beauty, gentleness, and greatness. Together with white, they are the historical colors of the region and represent the territory's unity with the Russian Federation. The Siberian tiger, also referred to as the Amur or Ussuri tiger, is one of the more distinctive animals that inhabit the region and represents the natural environment of the area.

Sources: Primorskii krai, "Flag", <http://www.primorsky.ru/primorye/heraldry/?a=254&cs=9&p=1> and <http://www.primorsky.ru/primorye/heraldry/?a=987&cs=9&p=1>, accessed 14 June 2008; "Flag Primorskogo kraia", *Geral'dika.ru*, <http://geraldika.ru/symbols/463>, accessed 18 June 2008; "Primorskii krai", *Vexillographia: Flagi Rossii*, <http://www.vexillographia.ru/russia/subjects/primor.htm>, accessed 1 August 2008; Borisov and Kozina, p. 82-83; Saprykov (2004), p. 34; Saprykov (2006), p. 32; Smetannikov, p. 42; Solov'ev, p. 192-193; "Maritime Territory (Russia)", *FOTW Flags of the World*, <http://www.crwflags.com/FOTW/flags/ru-25.html>, accessed 27 June 2008.

Pskov Oblast

Псковская область / Pskovskaia oblast'

No flag



Federal District: Northwestern

Administrative Center: Pskov

Population: 696,392



Pskov Oblast has not adopted an official flag. At least one flag manufacturer sells an unofficial flag derived from the shield of the oblast's arms. This unofficial flag shows a yellow snow leopard on a field of blue. The leopard represents the bravery and courage of the people of Pskov, preparedness to face all enemies, and leaving no hope for any aggressors. Above the snow leopard is a bank of white clouds. A hand of blessing in gold extends down from the clouds toward the animal, strengthening its defensive functions.

Sources: Pskovskaya oblast', "Simvolika Pskovskoi oblasti", http://www.pskov.ru/ru/about_region/symbolism, accessed 15 June 2008; BIAR Natsional'naia Simvolika, "Flagi sub"ektov Rossiiskoi Federatsii", *Katalog produktzii* 2007, p 8; "Pskovskaia oblast'", *Vexillographia: Flagi Rossii*, <http://www.vexillographia.ru/russia/subjects/pskov.htm>, accessed 1 August 2008; Borisov and Kozina, p. 258-259; Saprykov (2004), p. 66; Saprykov (2006), p. 66; Smetannikov, p. 77.

Rostov Oblast

Ростовская область / Rostovskaia oblast'



Year Adopted: 1996 **Proportions:** 2:3

Designer: unknown

Federal District: Southern

Administrative Center:

Rostov-on-Don

Population: 4,241,821

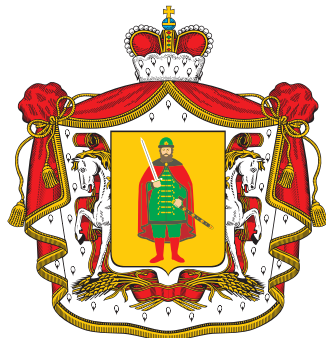


There are four stripes on the flag of Rostov Oblast—one vertical white stripe running along the hoist, and three equal horizontal stripes, of blue, yellow and red, running to the fly. The white stripe is 1/5 of the length of the flag. This design derives from a flag dating to 1918. On that flag blue symbolized the Don Cossacks, yellow the Kalmyks, and red the Russians (although yellow is now said to represent all people living along the river). The white stripe was added as a symbol of unity with the Russian Federation.

Sources: Rostovskaia oblast', "Flag Rostovskoi oblasti", <http://www.donland.ru/content/info.asp?partId=4&infol=671&topicFolderId=90&topicInfoId=0>, accessed 15 June 2008; "Flag Rostovskoi oblasti", *Geraldika.ru*, <http://geraldika.ru/symbols/1052>, accessed 20 June 2008; "Rostovskaia oblast'", *Vexillographia: Flagi Rossii*, <http://www.vexillographia.ru/russia/subjects/rostov.htm>, accessed 1 August 2008; Borisov and Kozina, p. 262; Saprykov (2004), p. 67; Saprykov (2006), p. 67; Smetannikov, p. 78; Solov'ev, p. 106-107; "Rostov Region (Russia)", *FOTW Flags of the World*, <http://www.crwflags.com/FOTW/flags/ru-61.html>, accessed 27 June 2008.

Ryazan Oblast

Рязанская область / Riazanskaia oblast'



Year Adopted: 2000 **Proportions:** 2:3

Designer: Mikhail K. Shelkovenko

Federal District: Central

Administrative Center: Ryazan

Population: 1,157,740

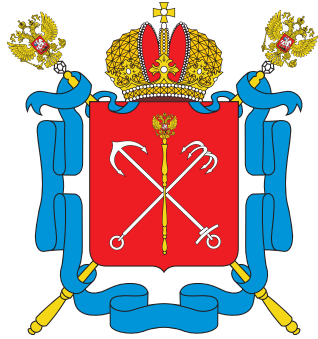
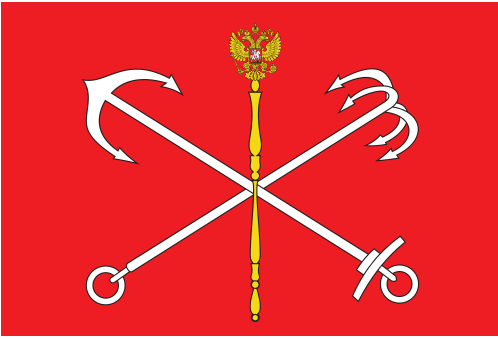


Ryazan Oblast has a flag with three horizontal stripes of white, yellow, and red in proportions of 1:2:1. Centered in the yellow stripe is an image of a prince from the arms of the oblast. The armed prince represents the role of the region in the defense of Russia. White on the flag is reminiscent of an ancient emblem of the region—a white horse. The yellow comes from the company standards of regiments from the region used as early as the reign of Peter I. Red recalls the military ribbons of those regiments.

Sources: Riazanskaia oblast', "Ofitsial'naia simbolika", <http://www.ryazanreg.ru/ryazan/symbolism/>, accessed 15 June 2008; "Flag Riazanskoi oblasti", *Geraldika.ru*, <http://geraldika.ru/symbols/665>, accessed 20 June 2008; "Riazanskaia oblast'", *Vexillographia: Flagi Rossii*, <http://www.vexillographia.ru/russia/subjects/ryazan.htm>, accessed 1 August 2008; Borisov and Kozina, p. 269; Saprykov (2004), p. 68; Saprykov (2006), p. 68; Smetannikov, p. 79; Solov'ev, p. 42-43; "Ryazan' Region (Russia)", *FOTW Flags of the World*, <http://www.crwflags.com/FOTW/flags/ru-rya.html>, accessed 27 June 2008.

St. Petersburg (city)

Санкт-Петербург / Sankt-Peterburg



Year Adopted: 1992 **Proportions:** 2:3

Designer: unknown

Federal District: Northwestern

Population: 4,581,854



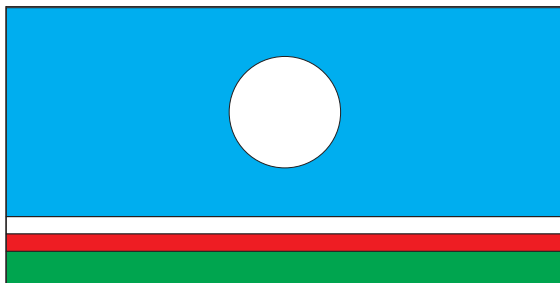
St. Petersburg bases its flag on the shield of the city's arms. On a field of red, two white anchors are crossed—one for use on the river and the other for use at sea. The anchors represent the location of the city on the Neva River and its importance as a port on the Baltic Sea. In front of the anchors is a gold scepter topped by a two-headed eagle. It symbolizes royal authority and the historical status of St. Petersburg as the imperial capital from 1713 to 1918. The current design of the arms is based upon one used in Imperial Russia. Red on the flag recalls the blood spilled at the site during the Great Northern War with Sweden (1700-21) when Russia first gained control of this region on the Baltic Sea.

Sources: Sankt-Peterburg, "Ofitsial'nye simvoly Sankt-Peterburga", <http://www.gov.spb.ru/gov/admin/gerb>, accessed 15 June 2008; "Flag goroda Sankt-Peterburg", *Geraldika.ru*, <http://geraldika.ru/symbols/518>, accessed 18 June 2008; "Gorod Sankt-Peterburg", *Vexillographia: Flagi Rossii*, http://www.vexillographia.ru/russia/subjects/st_peter.htm, accessed 1 August 2008; Borisov and Kozina, p. 388; Saprykov (2004), p. 84; Saprykov (2006), p. 84; Smetannikov, p. 95; Solov'ev, p. 76-77; Saint Petersburg (Russia), *FOTW Flags of the World*, <http://www.crwflags.com/FOTW/flags/ruspe.html>, accessed 27 June 2008.

Sakha Republic (Yakutia)

Республика Саха (Якутия) /

Respublika Sakha (Iakutiia)



Year Adopted: 1992 **Proportions:** 1:2

Designers: L. D. Sleptsova, M. G. Starostin, and A. P. Zakharova

Federal District: Far Eastern

Capital: Yakutsk

Population: 949,753



The flag of Sakha (Yakutia) has a field of light blue. Running horizontally at the base are narrow stripes of white, red, and green, 1/16, 1/16, and 1/8 the width of the flag. Centered in the blue is a white solar disk with a diameter of roughly 1/5 the width of the flag. Blue symbolizes the clear, peaceful northern sky, hope, and freedom. White is the color of snow and represents the severe beauty of the northern region, the extreme conditions of the people's lives, and the purity of their thoughts and temperaments. Red symbolizes vitality, beauty, loyalty to the native land, and progress. Green represents the short, bright summer, and the open spaces of the taiga. It also symbolizes revival, friendship, brotherhood, and the Turkic origins of the people of Sakha. The white sun comes from the mythology of the Yakut people who consider themselves "children of the white sun".

Sources: Respublika Sakha (Iakutiia), "Gosudarstvennyi flag Respubliki Sakha (Iakutiia)", <http://www.sakha.gov.ru/main.asp?c=1552>, accessed 14 June 2008; "Flag Respubliki Sakha (Iakutiia)", *Geraldika.ru*, <http://geraldika.ru/symbols/293>, accessed 17 June 2008; "Sakha (Iakutiia)", *Vexillographia: Flagi Rossii*, <http://www.vexillographia.ru/russia/subjects/saha.htm>, accessed 1 August 2008; Borisov and Kozina, p. 47; Saprykov (2004), p. 24; Saprykov (2006), p. 21; Sharkov, p. 66-68, 159-162; Smetannikov, p. 31; Solov'ev, p. 190-191; "Yakutia (Russia)", *FOTW Flags of the World*, <http://www.crwflags.com/FOTW/flags/ru-14.html>, accessed 27 June 2008.

Sakhalin Oblast

Сахалинская область / Sakhalinskaia oblast'



Year Adopted: 1997 **Proportions:** 2:3

Designer: Vitalii Evgen'evich Gomelevskii

Federal District: Far Eastern

Administrative Center:

Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk

Population: 514,520



The flag of Sakhalin Oblast is blue with an emerald-green hue. This color is reminiscent of a sea wave and represents the importance of the ocean to the region. Centered on the flag is a cartographic image of Sakhalin Island and the Kuril archipelago in white. The image of the islands represents the historical, natural, and geographic distinctiveness of the region, as well as its position as an integral part of Russia. White is a traditional color representing the expanse of Siberia, and symbolizes the concepts of purity, good, and independence.

Sources: Sakhalinskaia oblast', "Simvolika", <http://www.adm.sakhalin.ru/index.php?id=79>, and "Zakon Sakhalinskoi oblasti o flage Sakhalinskoi oblasti - sub'ekta Rossiiskoi Federatsii", <http://www.adm.sakhalin.ru/index.php?id=83>, accessed 15 June 2008; "Flag Sakhalinskoi oblasti", *Geraldika.ru*, <http://geraldika.ru/symbols/810>, accessed 20 June 2008; "Sakhalinskaia oblast'", *Vexillographia: Flagi Rossii*, <http://www.vexillographia.ru/russia/subjects/sakhalin.htm>, accessed 1 August 2008; Borisov and Kozina, p. 290; Saprykov (2004), p. 71; Saprykov (2006), p. 71; Smetannikov, p. 82; Solov'ev, p. 202-203; "Sakhalin Region (Russia)", *FOTW Flags of the World*, <http://www.crwflags.com/FOTW/flags/ru-sak.html>, accessed 27 June 2008.

Samara Oblast

Самарская область / Samarskaia oblast'



Year Adopted: 1998 **Proportions:** 2:3

Designer: unknown

Federal District: Volga

Administrative Center:

Samara

Population: 3,171,446

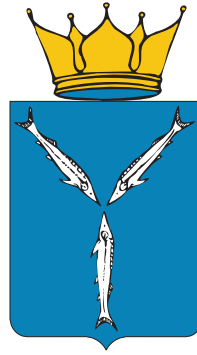


The flag of Samara Oblast consists of three equal horizontal stripes of red, white, and blue with the arms of the oblast in the center, more than half the width of the flag high. Red represents courage, boldness, magnanimity, and love. White symbolizes nobility and frankness. Blue is associated with fidelity, honesty, faultlessness, and chastity. The main symbol in the arms is a white billy goat on a light blue field, symbolizing unwavering strength and the honorable quality of leadership. Stripes on the flag are reminiscent of the “Samara banner”, a flag presented by the people of Samara to Bulgarian volunteers during the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-78. During the Battle of Stara Zagora, the Bulgarians heroically prevented the Ottomans from capturing the banner.

Sources: Samarskaia oblast, “Flag Samarskoi oblasti”, http://www.adm.samara.ru/oblast/oblast_simvolika/1131/, accessed 15 June 2008; “Flag Samarskoi oblasti”, *Geral'dika.ru*, <http://geraldika.ru/symbols/1078>, accessed 20 June 2008; “Samarskaia oblast”, *Vexilllographia: Flagi Rossii*, <http://www.vexilllographia.ru/russia/subjects/samara.htm>, accessed 1 August 2008; Borisov and Kozina, p. 277; Saprykov (2004), p. 69; Saprykov (2006), p. 69; Smetannikov, p. 80; Solov'ev, p. 134-135; “Samara Region (Russia)”, *FOTW Flags of the World*, <http://www.crwflags.com/FOTW/flags/ru-sam.html>, accessed 27 June 2008; “Samara flag”, *Wikipedia*, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samara_banner, accessed 30 September 2009.

Saratov Oblast

Саратовская область / *Saratovskaia oblast'*



Year Adopted: 1996 **Proportions:** 2:3

Designer: V. V. Volodin

Federal District: Volga

Administrative Center:

Saratov

Population: 2,572,866

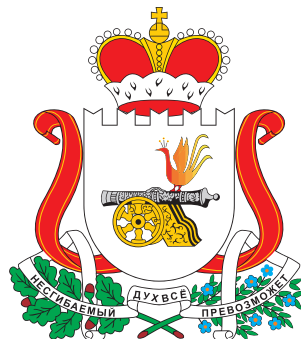


Saratov Oblast's flag has a white field with a red stripe along the bottom, 1/3 of the hoist height. White on the flag symbolizes purity of thoughts, nobility of deeds, truthfulness, and the lofty spirituality of those living in the region. Red represents courage, boldness, fearlessness, magnanimity, and love. Centered in the white field are the arms of the oblast surrounded by a wreath of oak and laurel branches. The arms are 1/4 the length of the flag. On the shield are three sterlets, a species of sturgeon, in white on a blue field, representing the importance of the fishing industry to the region.

Sources: Saratovskaia oblast', "Gosudarstvennaia simbolika", <http://saratov.gov.ru/region/emblem.php>, accessed 15 June 2008; "Flag Saratovskoi oblasti", *Geraldika.ru*, <http://geraldika.ru/symbols/131>, accessed 20 June 2008; "Saratovskaia oblast'", *Vexillographia: Flagi Rossii*, <http://www.vexillographia.ru/russia/subjects/saratov.htm>, accessed 1 August 2008; Borisov and Kozina, p. 282; Saprykov (2004), p. 70; Saprykov (2006), p. 70; Smetannikov, p. 81; Solov'ev, p. 136-137; "Saratov Region (Russia)", *FOTW Flags of the World*, <http://www.crwflags.com/FOTW/flags/ru-64.html>, accessed 27 June 2008.

Smolensk Oblast

Смоленская область / Smolenskaia oblast'



Year Adopted: 1998 **Proportions:** 2:3

Designer: Gennadii Vladimirovich Razhnëv

Federal District: Central

Administrative Center:

Smolensk

Population: 974,139

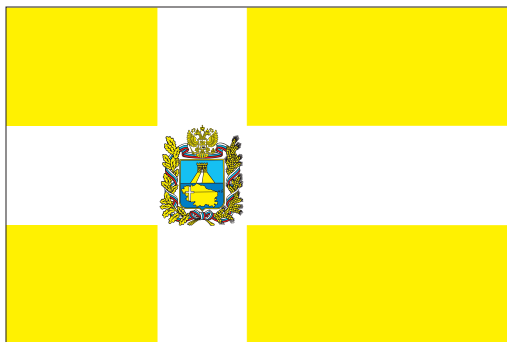


The flag of Smolensk Oblast is red with two narrow horizontal yellow stripes in the lower half, creating three red stripes. In the upper hoist are the arms of the oblast. Red is a symbol of the historical status of Smolensk as a battleground in some of the most significant wars in Russian history. The first red stripe stands for the war against the Polish interventionists (1609-11), the second for the French invasion of 1812, and the third for World War II. Yellow stripes on red also recall the Order of Lenin awarded to the region in recognition of its valor during World War II. In addition, yellow represents two mythical birds—the *gamayun* and the phoenix. The *gamayun* (shown perched on a gun carriage in the arms on a white field) is a traditional symbol of wisdom and knowledge. In the arms of Smolensk Oblast, it also represents peace, happiness, wealth, and prosperity. Allusion to the phoenix recognizes that Smolensk has twice risen from the ashes of war to rebuild (after the Napoleonic War and World War II). The gun carriage represents might and impenetrability, as well as mercilessness and retribution toward the enemies of Russia. On the arms, the crown symbolizes that Smolensk is an integral part of the Russian Federation.

Sources: Smolenskaia oblast', "Ofitsial'nye simvoly Smolenskoi oblasti", http://admin.smolensk.ru/of_sim_smol.htm and http://admin.smolensk.ru/of_sim1.htm, accessed 15 June 2008; "Flag Smolenskoi oblasti", *Geral'dika.ru*, <http://geraldika.ru/symbols/1123>, accessed 20 June 2008; "Smolenskaia oblast'", *Vexillographia: Flagi Rossii*, <http://www.vexillographia.ru/russia/subjects/smolensk.htm>, accessed 1 August 2008; Borisov and Kozina, p. 306; Saprykov (2004), p. 73; Saprykov (2006), p. 73; Smetannikov, p. 84; Solov'ëv, p. 44-45; "Smolensk Region (Russia)", *FOTW Flags of the World*, <http://www.crwflags.com/FOTW/flags/ru-67.html>, accessed 27 June 2008; "Gamayun", *Vikipediia*, no direct URL available, accessed 9 July 2008; "Gamayun", *Wikipedia*, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gamayun>, accessed 9 July 2008.

Stavropol Krai

Ставропольский край / Stavropol'skii krai



Year Adopted: 1997 **Proportions:** 2:3

Designers: Vadim Nikolaevich Solov'ev, Tat'iana Petrovna Solov'eva, and Irina Nikolaevna Postnikova

Federal District: Southern

Administrative Center: Stavropol

Population: 2,707,290

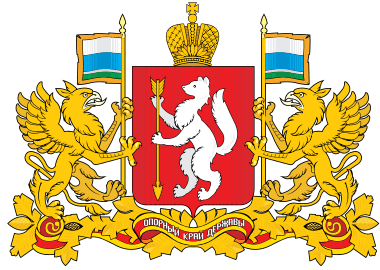


Stavropol Krai's flag is gold (yellow) with a white Scandinavian cross. Along the hoist, the proportions of the sections are 55:41:55 and across the length of the flag they are 75:45:130. Gold recalls that Stavropol Krai is a sunny southern region, symbolizes the region of the golden ear and golden fleece, and marks the lofty position of Stavropol. Centered in the cross are the arms of the region which include a map of the krai. A cross marks the city of Stavropol as the region's religious center and represents the meaning of its name—"City of the Cross". The arms also show a fortress with a road leading to it, and are topped by a Russian imperial double-headed eagle bearing a shield with St. George slaying the dragon.

Sources: Stavropol'skii krai, "Flag Stavropol'skogo kraia", http://www.govsk.ru/o_stavropolskom_krae/gerald/flag/, accessed 14 June 2008 "Flag Stavropol'skogo kraia", *Geraldika.ru*, <http://geraldika.ru/symbols/455>, accessed 18 June 2008; "Stavropol'skii krai", *Vexilllographia: Flagi Rossii*, <http://www.vexilllographia.ru/russia/subjects/stavropol.htm>, accessed 1 August 2008; Borisov and Kozina, p. 86; Saprykov (2004), p. 35; Saprykov (2006), p. 33; Smetannikov, p. 43; Solov'ev, p. 100-101; "Stavropol Territory (Russia)", *FOTW Flags of the World*, <http://www.crwflags.com/FOTW/flags/ru-26.html>, accessed 27 June 2008.

Sverdlovsk Oblast

Свердловская область / Sverdlovskaiia oblast'



Year Adopted: 2005 **Proportions:** 2:3

Designers: A. N. Vybornov, V. V. Startsev, and O. V. Startseva

Federal District: Urals

Administrative Center:

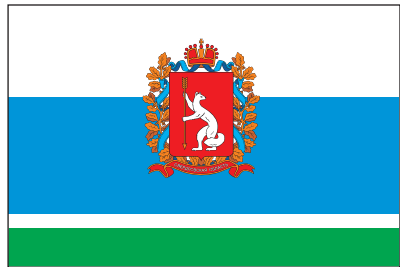
Yekaterinburg

Population: 4,394,649



Sverdlovsk Oblast has a flag with horizontal stripes of varying width and color, from top to bottom: white, blue, white, and green, in proportions of 7:9:1:3. White is the color of purity, innocence, and peace. Blue represents loyalty, honor, glory, and sincerity. Green symbolizes life, health, renewal, and the natural riches of the Urals.

Another design, used 1997-2005, included the arms of the oblast centered on the top two stripes. In 2005, the arms were revised and dropped from the flag design.



Sources: Sverdlovskaiia oblast', "Simvolika Sverdlovskoi oblasti", http://www.midural.ru/midural-new/page_oblast14.htm, accessed 15 June 2008; "Flag Sverdlovskoi oblasti (2005 g.)", *Geral'dika.ru*, <http://geraldika.ru/symbols/11456>, accessed 20 June 2008; "Flag Sverdlovskoi oblasti (1997 g.)", *Geral'dika.ru*, <http://geraldika.ru/symbols/623>, accessed 7 August 2008; "Sverdlovskaiia oblast", *Vexillographia: Flagi Rossii*, <http://www.vexillographia.ru/russia/subjects/sverdlov.htm>, accessed 1 August 2008; Borisov and Kozina, p. 294; Saprykov (2004), p. 72; Smetannikov, p. 83; Solov'ev, p. 144-145; "Sverdlovsk Region (Russia)", *FOTW Flags of the World*, <http://www.crwflags.com/FOTW/flags/ru-66.html>, accessed 27 June 2008.