

# Russian Flag



## The National Flag of the Russian Federation..

...is rectangular, with three identical horizontal stripes of white, blue, and red. It was introduced by Peter the Great on January 20<sup>th</sup>. 1705, as the flag to be flown by every merchant ship that cruised the Moskva, the Volga and all other rivers both big and small on commercial business. Anyone flying a different flag was punished. The colours are the most used in Russian Folk Stories, and were the colours used by Tsar Alexis, Peter The Great's Father, for his favourite ship the Eagle, in the late 1660s. The colours are arranged with the earthly blood and toil under a blue sky, above which are the pure heavens.

However, the three colours, white, blue and red, could be regarded as the three cardinal virtues of faith, hope, and love. Again, some say that the three colours stand for the unity of the three East Slavic Nations, Belarussia, Ukraine, and Russia.

After the reign of Peter the Great, Russia did not adopt the flag until 1883 when Alexander III used it for his coronation. This lasted until the Civil War of 1918 - 1920 when the Bolsheviks fought under the Red Revolutionary flag while the White Army used the tricolour.

The old flag was resurrected after the disintegration of the Soviet Union and on the morning of August 22<sup>nd</sup>. 1991 was raised for the first time at a rally before several thousand people.

*August 22<sup>nd</sup>. has since been celebrated as The National Flag Day.*

# Флаг

