

= Flag of China =

The flag of the People's Republic of China ( simplified Chinese : ????????? ; traditional Chinese : ????????? ; pinyin : Zhōnghuá Rénmín Gònghéguó guóqí ) is a red field charged in the canton ( upper corner nearest the flagpole ) with five golden stars . The design features one large star , with four smaller stars in a semicircle set off towards the fly ( the side farthest from the flag pole ) . The red represents the communist revolution ; the five stars and their relationship represent the unity of the Chinese people under the leadership of the Communist Party of China ( CPC ) . Sometimes , the flag is referred to as the " Five @-@ star Red Flag " ( simplified Chinese : ????? ; traditional Chinese : ????? ; pinyin : wǔ xīng hóng qí ) .

The flag was designed by Zeng Liansong , a citizen from Wenzhou , Zhejiang . He designed it in response to a circular distributed by the Preparatory Committee of the New Political Consultative Conference ( Chinese : ????????? ; pinyin : Xīn zhèngzhì xiéshìng huìyì chóubèi huì ) in July 1949 , shortly after they came to power following the Chinese Civil War . The design competition received 2 @, @ 992 ( or 3 @, @ 012 , see below ) entries , and Zeng 's design was put into a pool of 38 finalists . After several meetings and slight modifications , Zeng 's design was chosen as the national flag . The first flag was hoisted by the People 's Liberation Army ( PLA ) on a pole overlooking Beijing 's Tiananmen Square on October 1 , 1949 , at a ceremony announcing the founding of the People 's Republic .

Other flags used in the People 's Republic of China use a red background to symbolize the revolution in conjunction with other symbols . The flag of the People 's Liberation Army uses the gold star with the Chinese characters 8 @-@ 1 ( for August 1 , the date of the PLA 's founding ) . The flag of the Communist Party of China replaces all of the stars with the party emblem . Due to government regulations , cities and provinces of China cannot have their own flags ; the only sub @-@ national flags that exist are those of the Hong Kong and Macau Special Administrative Regions . Despite this , at least two cities have adopted flags after the law was passed . The cities of Kaifeng and Shangrao adopted their flags in March 2006 and March 2009 respectively . This implies that the law is either repealed or not enforced .

= = History of the design = =

On July 4 , 1949 , the sixth working group of the Preparatory Committee of the New Political Consultative Conference ( ????????? , PCNPCC ) created a notice to submit designs for the national flag . After a few changes , the notice was published in the papers People 's Daily , Beijing Liberation News , Xinmin News , Dazhong Daily , Guangming Daily , Jinbu Daily and Tianjin Daily during a period between July 15 ? 26 . The list requirements for the national flag were also posted in the notice :

Chinese characteristics ( Geography , nationality , history , culture , etc . )

Power characteristics ( A people 's democratic government , led by the working class and based on the worker @-@ peasant alliance . )

The shape should be rectangular and the length @-@ breadth ratio should be 3 : 2

The colour should mainly be bright red ( an early draft of the notice had the colour at dark red , but was changed to bright red by Zhou Enlai ) .

Zeng Liansong was working in Shanghai at the time the announcement came out ; he wanted to create a flag design to express his patriotic enthusiasm for the new country . In the middle of July , he sat down in his attic for multiple nights to come up with designs . His inspiration for the current design comes from the stars shining in the night sky . He thought of a Chinese proverb " longing for the stars , longing for the moon , " ( ?????? , pàn xīngxīng pàn yuèliàng ) which shows yearning . Later , he realized that the CPC was the great savior ( ??? , dà jiùxīng ) of the Chinese people , being represented by a larger star . The idea of four small stars came from On the People 's Democratic Dictatorship a speech by Mao Zedong , which defined the Chinese people as consisting of four social classes . Yellow also implies that China belongs to the Chinese people , a " yellow race " . After working out the details of the placement of the stars and their sizes ( he had tried to put

all of the stars in the center , but believed it would be too heavy and dull ) , he sent his " Five Stars on a Field of Red " ( ????? , hóng dì wǔ xīng qí ) design to the committee in the middle of August .

As of August 20 , a total of 2 @, @ 992 ( or 3 @, @ 012 ) designs were sent to the flag committee , which included input from committee members themselves , such as Guo Moruo and Tan Kah Kee . From August 16 to 20 , the designs were viewed at the Beijing Hotel and culled down to a list of 38 . These designs are collected into a book named A Reference of National Flag Designs ( ????????? ) . This book was then submitted to the newly established Chinese People 's Political Consultative Conference ( CPPCC ) for further discussion . However , Zeng 's design wasn 't included until Tian Han nominated it again .

In the morning of September 23 , the representatives of the CPPCC discussed the national flags , but came to no conclusion . Some didn 't like the symbolism which Zeng attached to the four smaller stars , and said it shouldn 't include the bourgeoisie . The design Mao and others liked had a giant golden star in the corner on a red flag that was charged with a golden horizontal bar . But this design was strongly opposed by Zhang Zhizhong due to the golden bar symbolizing the tearing apart of the revolution and the country . In the night , Peng Guanghan ( ??? ) recommended Zeng 's design to Zhou Enlai , Zhou was satisfied with it and asked for a larger copy of the design to be made . Tan Kah Kee also gave his advice to Mao and Zhou that the power characteristics are more important than Chinese geography characteristics , so there 's no need to insist on the golden bar which stands for the Yellow River . Two days later , Mao had a meeting in his office about the flag . He persuaded everyone to adopt Zeng 's design , with some slight modifications . According to earlier discussions at the Beijing Hotel , the hammer and sickle from Zeng 's original design was removed since it was similar to the Flag of the Soviet Union . On September 27 , 1949 , Zeng 's modified design was selected unanimously by the First Plenary Session of CPPCC , which changed the flag 's name to " Five @-@ star Red Flag " .

On September 29 , the new flag was published in the People 's Daily , so the design could be copied by other local authorities . The flag was officially unveiled in Beijing 's Tiananmen Square on October 1 , 1949 , the formal announcement of the founding of the People 's Republic of China . The first flag flown over Tiananmen Square was sewn together by Zhao Wenrei ( ??? ) , a seamstress who finished the task around 1 PM on September 30 . Zeng had a hard time believing that his design was picked , due to the missing hammer and sickle from the giant star . However , he was officially congratulated by the General Office of the People 's Government as the designer of the flag and received 5 million yuan for his work .

Rejected alternate designs of the Five @-@ star Red Flag

Other rejected proposed designs

= = Symbolism = =

According to the current government interpretation of the flag , the red background symbolizes the revolution and the golden colours were used to " radiate " on the red background . The five stars and their relationship represents the unity of Chinese people under the leadership of the Communist Party of China . The orientation of the stars shows that the unity should go around a center . In the original description of the flag by Zeng , the larger star symbolizes the Communist Party of China , and the four smaller stars that surround the big star symbolize the four social classes ( the working class , the peasantry , the urban petite bourgeoisie and the national bourgeoisie ) of Chinese people mentioned in Mao 's " On the People 's Democratic Dictatorship " . The five stars that formed an ellipse represent the territory of China ( including Outer Mongolia ) which is shaped like a Begonia leaf . It is sometimes stated that the five stars of the flag represent the five largest ethnic groups . This is generally regarded as an erroneous conflation with the " Five Races Under One Union " flag , used 1912 ? 28 by the Beiyang Government of Republic of China , whose different @-@ coloured stripes represented the Han , Manchus , Mongols , Hui , and Tibetans .

= = Construction details , sizes and colours = =

The construction sheet for the national flag was published on September 28 , 1949 by an order from the Presidium of the First Plenary Session of the Chinese People 's Political Consultative Conference . The flag is split into four sections , with the top hoist part of the flag being a grid of 10 by 15 units . The center of the biggest star is placed at five units from the hoist and five units from the top of the flag . The diameter of the biggest star 's circumscribed circle is six units . Of the four smaller stars , the first one is centered two units from the top of the flag , 10 units from the hoist ; the second one is centered four units from the top of the flag and 12 units from the hoist ; the third one is centered seven units from the top of the flag and 12 units from the hoist ; the fourth one is centered nine units from the top of the flag and 10 units from the hoist . The diameter of each small star 's circumscribed circle is two units . Each of the top points of the four smaller stars are rotated such that they point towards the center point of the larger star . The information can also be found in the document " GB 12982 @-@ 2004 : National flag " that was released by the Standardization Administration of China . The Law on the National Flag mentions five possible sizes that could be made for the national flag : According to Article four of the Law On the National Flag , people 's governments of provinces , autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the Central Government are directed to authorize companies to make any copy of the national flag .

= = = Colours = = =

The colours of the national flag are regulated in the document " GB 12983 @-@ 2004 : Standard Colour Sample of the National Flag , " also released by the Standardization Administration of China . The colours are in the CIE Standard illuminant D65 and the CIE 1964 Supplementary Standard Colourimetric System .

= = Regulations = =

The current law about the national flag was passed by 14th Meeting of the Standing Committee of the Seventh National People 's Congress on June 28 , 1990 and was enforced starting October 1 , 1990 . The main point of the law was to not only set down regulations on how to make the Chinese flag , what it looks like , where it can be flown and how it can be flown . The law also stresses that the national flag is " the symbol and hallmark of the People 's Republic of China " and that everyone " shall respect and care for the National Flag . "

= = = Folding the flag = = =

Fold horizontally along the center .  
Repeat , fold horizontally along the center again .  
Fold vertically along the center of the flag .  
Repeat , fold vertically along the center of the flag .  
Repeat again , fold vertically along the center of the flag .

= = Historical flags = =

= = Flags of the Special Administrative Regions of the People 's Republic of China = =

Due to an order passed by the CPC Central Committee General Office and General Office of the State Council , cities and provinces are no longer allowed to adopt their own symbols . However , both of the Hong Kong and Macau Special Administrative Regions of China have their own special flags . The precise use of the SAR flags are regulated by laws passed by the National People 's Congress .

The Regional Flag of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region features a stylized , white , five @-@ petal Bauhinia blakeana flower in the center of a red field . On each petal is a red star ; the

stars demonstrate that Hong Kong residents love their motherland while the overall flag design signifies the link re @-@ established between post @-@ colonial Hong Kong and China while demonstrating the " One country , two systems " political principle applied to the region . The flag of Hong Kong was adopted on 16 February 1990 . On 10 August 1996 , it received formal approval from the Preparatory Committee , a group which advised the People 's Republic of China ( PRC ) on Hong Kong 's transfer of sovereignty from the United Kingdom to the PRC in 1997 . The flag was first officially hoisted on 1 July 1997 , in the handover ceremony marking the transfer of sovereignty .

The Regional flag of the Macau Special Administrative Region is " Macau green " with a lotus flower above a stylized image of the Governor Nobre de Carvalho Bridge and water in white , beneath an arc of five gold , five @-@ pointed stars : one large star in the center of the arc and four smaller ones . The lotus was chosen as the floral emblem of Macau . The Governor Nobre de Carvalho Bridge is a bridge linking the Macau Peninsula and the island of Taipa . The bridge is one of the most recognizable landmarks of the territory . The water beneath the lotus and the bridge symbolize Macau 's position as a port and its role played in the territory . The five five @-@ pointed stars echo the design of the national flag , symbolizing the relationship Macau has with its mother country . The design was chosen on January 15 , 1993 by a committee that was drafting the Basic Law for the Macau SAR and was formally adopted by the Macau SAR Preparatory Committee on January 16 , 1999 . The flag was first officially hoisted on 20 December 1999 , in the handover ceremony marking the transfer of sovereignty .

= = Military flags = =

There are four flags that are used by the People 's Liberation Army ( PLA ) . The main feature of these flags is a golden star at the top left corner and two Chinese characters " ?? " to the right of the star , all placed on a red background . The characters " ?? " ( literally " eight one " ) pay homage to the events on August 1 , 1927 ( 8th month , 1st day ) ; this was when the PLA was created by the Communist Party to start their rebellion against the Kuomintang Government in Nanchang . The main flag of the PLA was created on June 15 , 1949 by a decree issued from Mao . The flag has a ratio of 4 by 5 , which has a white sleeve measuring 1 ? 16 of the flag 's length . For ceremonies , a PLA flag with golden fringe is placed on a pole with gold and red spiral stripes and topped with a golden finial and red tassel . Each branch of the PLA , the Ground Forces , Navy and Air Force , also have their own flags to use . In a 1992 order , the flags of the three branches were defined . The top 5 ? 8 of the flags is the same as the PLA flag ; the bottom 3 ? 8 are occupied by the colours of the branches . The flag of the Ground Forces has a forest green bar at the bottom , the naval ensign has stripes of blue and white at the bottom , the Air Force uses a sky blue bar and the Rocket Force uses a yellow bar at the bottom . The forest green represents the earth , the blue and white stripes represent the seas , the sky blue represents the air and the yellow represents the flare of missile launching .

= = Organizational flags = =

After the Communist Party of China was founded in 1920 , various sections of the party made flags based on what the Bolsheviks used , producing various designs and patterns . The current flag of the CPC was not created until April 28 , 1942 . On that date , the CPC Central Committee Political Bureau issued a decree announcing the flag and the pattern it should follow . The design was further defined in the CPC Constitution in 1996 . The flag has a red background that is charged with the emblem of the CPC in gold at the top left corner . The flag ratio is defined as two by three ( 24 x 36 units ) ; the size of the emblem is eight units square , placed four units away from the hoist and three units away from the top of the flag .

The flag of the Communist Youth League of China was adopted on May 4 , 1950 . The design of the flag consists of the group emblem , a gold star surrounded by a ring of gold , charged on a red field . The construction of the flag consists of making the top hoist portion of the flag into twelve by

eighteen units , placing the emblem in the middle of that rectangle . The radius of the emblem is four units .

There are two flags used by the Young Pioneers of China . The first flag that is used is for large detachments . The length of the flag is 90 centimeters and the width is 120 centimeters . A golden badge of the Young Pioneers is placed in the center of the flag . For a medium detachment , a modified flag is used . The flag has a length of 60 centimeters and a width of 80 centimeters . A 20 @-@ centimeter triangle is cut out of the fly edge of the flag and the golden emblem is shifted closer towards the hoist .