

= Flag of Tunisia =

The red and white flag of Tunisia , adopted as national flag in 1959 , has its origins the naval ensign of the Kingdom of Tunis adopted in 1831 by Al @-@ Husayn II ibn Mahmud . The star and crescent recalls the Ottoman flag and is therefore an indication of Tunisia 's history as a part of the Ottoman Empire . The current official design dates to 1999 .

= = History = =

= = = Previous flags = = =

Until the mid @-@ 18th century , the design and significance of maritime flags flying on ships in Tunis were unknown . However , various sources have been able to distinguish certain similarities among the flags : they were designed with a crescent @-@ oriented shape in the presence of the colors blue , green , red , and white . Thereafter , and until the early 19th century , the flag was composed of horizontal blue , red and green stripes , identifying the Ottoman regency in Tunis . This kind of flag with multiple bands and irregular contours floated on top of ships all along the coast of North Africa ; similar flags with different colors and arrangements were also used on the continent .

According to Ottfried Neubecker , the bey of Tunis also had his own flag . This flag was most likely a simple personal banner of the ruler , as it floated above the Bardo Palace , the Citadel of Tunis , on navy ships , and also in the center of the coat of arms in Tunisia . It was used at a number of public ceremonies ? including at the proclamation of the Ottoman constitution on 21 March 1840 ? until the abolition of the Bey monarchy on 25 July 1957 .

Believed to have been introduced by Al @-@ Husayn II ibn Mahmud , although some sources , such as Abdel @-@ Wahab , claim that it was in use three centuries earlier , the flag was rectangular in shape and divided into nine stripes , the middle one green and double the size of all other bands , while the others alternated between yellow and red . Featured in the center of the green stripe was the Zulfiqar , the legendary Islamic sword of Ali , with the blade in white and the hilt multicolored . The red and yellow stripes each contained five equidistant symbols , whose order was alternated between each stripe . These symbols were divided into two categories : one red six @-@ sided star voided with a disk of a different color in the center ? either a red star and green disk or a white star and blue disk ? , and a large disk voided in its lower right by a small disk of different color , with the combination being either a small red disk within a larger blue disk or a small yellow disk within a larger red disk . The first yellow stripe contains three red stars and two blue disks . The second stripe , red in color , contains three green disks and two white stars . The third stripe ( second yellow one ) is identical to the first , with the exception that the star in its center is white , while the fourth stripe ( second white one ) is identical to the second stripe .

= = = Origin of the current flag = = =

Several Muslim countries along the south coast of the Mediterranean Sea used a red flag similar to the flag of the Ottoman Empire . After the destruction of the Tunisian naval division at the Battle of Navarino on 20 October 1827 , the sovereign Husainid Dynasty leader Al @-@ Husayn II ibn Mahmud decided to create a flag to use for the fleet of Tunisia , to distinguish it from other fleets . There are some discrepancies over the date of the flag 's adoption , as the government states that it was adopted in 1831 , while other sources like Siobhan Ryan 's Ultimate Pocket Flags of the World claim that it was adopted in 1835 .

= = = French protectorate = = =

During the era of the French protectorate in Tunisia , French authorities did not change the Tunisian flag . However , according to an article in the Flag Bulletin publishing in Fall 2000 , for a short period

of time during the French protectorate , the flag of France was placed in the canton ( upper left ) of the Tunisian flag . In the same vein , vexillologist Whitney Smith stated that the addition of the French flag was " modification of the unofficial Tunisian national flag , used for a few years " . He added :

Tunisia , a French protectorate , retained its national flag on land and at sea . Nevertheless , in the late 19th Century or early 20th Century an unofficial version of the flag was used with the tricolor canton . In 1925 a formal proposal was made to adopt that flag as official , but no action was taken . That flag , featured on the cover of this issue [ of the Flag Bulletin ] , does not appear to have been illustrated in any vexillological source .

Confusion arose when an issue of the French daily newspaper Le Petit Journal , published on 24 July 1904 on the occasion of the bey of Tunis 's visit to France , reproduced an illustration showing the flag used while was visiting the Hôtel de Ville , Paris . Ivan Sache of Flags of the World claimed that this flag design , which hadn 't been seen earlier , may have been inaccurate , suggesting that the journalist might not have been at the affair or he had reproduced a drawing of the wrong flag .

= = Description = =

The Tunisian flag was defined in Article 4 of the 1 June 1959 constitution under these terms : " The flag of the Republic of Tunisia is red , it has , under the conditions defined by law , in the middle , a white disk containing a five @-@ pointed star surrounded by a red crescent . "

The Organic Law No. 99 @-@ 56 of 30 June 1999 , adopted on 3 July by the Chamber of Deputies , formalized the Tunisian flag for the first time in law , clarifying Article 4 of the constitution . The flag is in the form of a red rectangle with a width equal to two @-@ thirds of its length . In the middle of the flag is a white disk whose diameter is equal to one @-@ third of the length of the rectangle and whose center is located at the intersection of the diagonals of the rectangle . A red five @-@ pointed star is located to the right of the disk , whose center is at a distance equal to one @-@ thirtieth of the length of the flag from the center of the disk .

The location of the star 's five points is determined by an imaginary disk centered on the star 's center , its diameter equal to roughly 15 % the length of the flag . The points of the star are equidistant from each other , and one of the points is located on the horizontal median of the flag to the left of the center of the imaginary disk . The star is surrounded on its left by a red crescent made by the intersection of two arcs , an outer arc whose diameter is equal to one @-@ fourth of the length of the flag , and an internal arc with a diameter equal to one @-@ fifth of the flag 's length . In addition , at the top of the flag used by the President of the Republic , the words " for the nation " ( Arabic : ????? ) are written in gold . The three outer edges of the flag are lined with golden yellow fringe and a red ribbon , with golden fringe on the right vertical side and a white disk with a star and crescent near the fringe , is attached to the flag pole above the flag .

Article 4 of the 1959 constitution specifies the presence of a technical dossier containing a model of the flag , a guide to drawing it , which includes the proper measurements , and technical specifications of its colors .

= = Symbolism = =

For the Tunisian embassy in France , the color red represents the blood of martyrs killed during the Turkish conquest of Tunisia in 1574 . However , the Tunisians invited the Turkish to liberate them from the Spanish invaders and from what is left of the Hafside dynasty . Another interpretation is that the " red Beylical flag spread light throughout the Muslim world " . The white symbolizes peace , the disk symbolizes the radiance of the nation as the sun , while the crescent and five @-@ pointed star represent unity of all Muslims and the Five Pillars of Islam , respectively .

According to Ludvík Mucha , author of Webster 's Concise Encyclopedia of Flags & Coats of Arms , the white disk located in the center of the flag represents the sun . The red crescent and the five @-@ pointed star , two ancient symbols of Islam , were most notably used on Ottoman flag and have since appeared on many flags of Islamic countries . The crescent is , from the viewpoint of an

Arabic observer , supposed to bring good luck . The color red is a symbol of resistance against Turkish supremacy . Whitney Smith states that the crescent was first emblazoned on standards and buildings in the Punic state of Carthage , located in present @-@ day Tunisia . Since appearing on the Ottoman flag , they were widely adopted by Muslim countries , and have become known as symbols of Islam , when in fact , they may be cultural symbols . Likewise , the sun is often represented with the crescent on ancient Punic artifacts and is associated with the ancient Punic religion , especially with Tanit symbol .

= = Protocol = =

The Tunisian flag is visible on all public and military buildings . The flag also floats on the seats of Tunisian ambassadors at regional and international meetings as well as at buildings housing Tunisian representatives around the world . It is deployed during commemorations and national honors in a strictly ceremonial manner . On the listed Flag Days below , the Tunisian flag is flown in public buildings , compulsory by law :

Article 129 of Penal Code of Tunisia punishes the insult either " publicly , by words , writings , gestures or any other manner " of the Tunisian flag and also foreign flags with one year imprisonment .

= = Variants = =

The colors of the flag are included in other Tunisian symbols , such as the coat of arms , which contains a crescent and star enclosed in a disk with red border . In addition , equipment belonging to the Tunisian army are visually recognized by the presence of a cockade .

Most political parties of Tunisia reflect the colors of the flag or the flag itself . Many postal stamps reflect the motifs of the flag , which radiate " with brightness " on them .