

Flag Facts

- The Swiss Flag was introduced in its current form in the Sonderbunds wars of 1847. Before that, the troops used the white cross and red ground. However, Napoleon Bonaparte banned these symbols in 1798-1803. Since 1804, the cross and the red square were symbols of the battalion troops of the Swiss armies.
- The official Swiss flag is the only square flag in the world today.
- The Swiss cross on a red field ultimately derives from a similar banner of the Holy Roman Empire, and thus has strong Christian connotations.
- The Swiss flag traditionally stands for freedom, honor and fidelity. The motto "Honor et Fidelitas" was inscribed on the cross of several Swiss mercenary flags of the 18th century.
- In modern times, through association with consistent Swiss policy, the flag has also come to mean neutrality, democracy, peace and refuge.

