

# FLAG FACTS



- The National Flag of Estonia was officially adopted on August 7, 1990.
- The current flag of Estonia first appeared on September 17, 1881, when it was used as a symbol of the Estonian Students Society in the city of Tartu. The design was used as the country's national flag on February 24, 1918, when the Estonian Declaration of Independence was issued, and then formally adopted as the national flag of Estonia on November 21, 1918.
- The flag was banned during the Soviet occupation, replaced with the Estonian SSR flag, and only recognized as an ethnic flag of the people under German occupation.
- The National Flag of Estonia is a horizontal tricolor featuring three equal horizontal bands of blue (top), black, and white. The blue color of the flag represents faith, loyalty, and devotion. The black color symbolizes the fertile black soil of the country and the dark past and suffering endured by the Estonian people. The white color represents virtue, purity, hard work, and Estonia's long struggle for freedom and independence. The flag has a width-to-length proportion ratio of 7:11.
- The upper stripe on the Estonian flag is commonly called cornflower blue. The shade on the flag dates to the late 1800s and was strongly connected with Estonian nationalism from that period through the nation's Soviet era; it is still seen as a symbol of Estonian independence.

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