

Part of the "History of National Flags" Series from Flagmakers

# Flag of Abkhazia - A Brief History





#### Trivia

The green and white stripes represent the cohabitation of Christianity and Islam.

Technical Specification

Adopted:	23 <sup>rd</sup> July 1992
<b>Proportion:</b>	1:2
Design:	Seven green and white stripes with a red rectangle upper left with a white open hand and seven white stars in a semicircle.

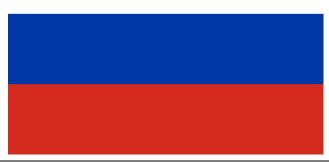
<b>Colours:</b>	CMYK	Orange:	<b>C</b> yan	0%	<b>M</b> agenta	75%	<b>Y</b> ellow	22%	<b>B</b> lack	22%	
	CMYK	Green:	<b>C</b> yan	100%	<b>M</b> agenta	0%	<b>Y</b> ellow	40%	<b>B</b> lack	40%	

## **Brief History**

Prior to 1917 the most prominent flag flown was the white-blue-red horizontal tricolour flag of the Russian Empire. In 1917 a Diet consisting of Georgia, Admenia and Azerbaijan called the Transcaucasian Commissariat was created but the flag remained the same.





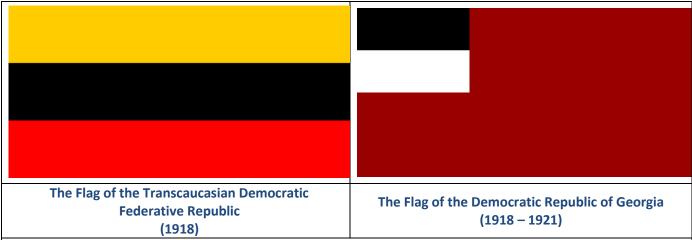


The Flag of the Transcaucasian Commissariat (1917-1918)

The Russian Provision Government created the Transcaucasian Federation following the February Revolution in 1918. The flag adopted was a yellow-black-red horizontal tricolour.

In the same year the first Republic of Georgia was created and a flag featuring a dark red field with a square made of a black and white band in the top left corner.





Even though the Socialist Soviet Republic of Abkhazia was established in 1921 it wasn't until 1<sup>st</sup> April 1925 that a red soviet flag with crossed gold hammer and sickle and gold five-pointed star with the letters SSRA in Abkhazian language was adopted.

When the area became an Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic in 1931 the letters became ASSRA in Abkhazian language.



In 1951 the text was removed from the red flag. A blue band with a squared blue sun and rays with red hammer and sickle with five pointed tsar was in the top left corner. The name of the republic was added to the flag in gold in 1978

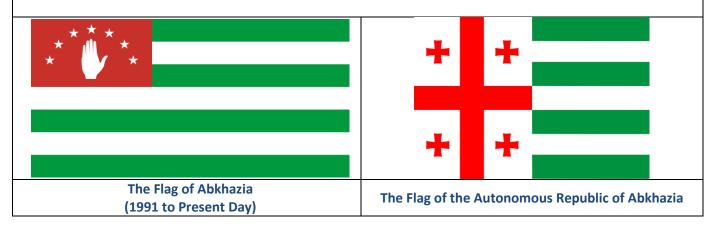


After the fall of the Soviet Empire in 1991 Abkhazia declared itself as an independent state. A new flag featuring Seven green and white stripes with a red rectangle upper left with a white open hand and seven white stars in a semicircle was adopted in 1992.

The stars represent the several historical regions of the country, the hand represents hello to friends and stop to enemies the red represents the banner of the medieval Abkhazian kingdom and the green and white stripes represent the mountainous republic of Northern Caucasus.



Georgia has claimed control over Abkhazia because the country is on Georgian land. The flag adopted by Georgian Government of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia is half Georgian, half Abkhazian flag with the red cross on a white field with four smaller crosses on the left and the green and white stripes on the right.



### The Coats of Arms of Abkhazia

The Emblem of the Republic of Abkhazia was adopted in 1992. It features a blue-green yellow bordered shield with three gold eight pointed stars and a horseman shooting an arrow upwards.

The Georgian chosen Coat of Arms of the Autonomous republic of Abkhazia is a shield split into four parts. The top right, bottom left parts feature the green and white strips of the Georgian flag and the top left flag features St George on a red background and lower right is the arms of the Shervashidze family.



The Emblem of the Republic of Abkhazia



The Coat of Arms of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia

## The Presidential Standard of Abkhazia

The Presidential Standard of Abkhazia is the variant flag. It is the national flag with the coat of arms in the centre.

