

FLAG OF BELGIUM – A BRIEF HISTORY



Where In The World



Trivia

The national flag of Belgium was based on the French flag and even though it has an official ratio of 13:15 the unofficial 2:3 ratio is more commonly flown.

Technical Specification

Adopted:	23 rd January 1831
Proportion:	13:15
Design:	A tricolour with three equal vertical bands of black (hoist side), yellow and red from left to right.
Colours:	PMS - Yellow: 115 C, Red: 032 C CMYK – Yellow: 0% Cyan, 8.5% Magenta, 79% Yellow, 0% Black; Red: 0% Cyan, 94% Magenta 87% Yellow, 0% Black

Brief History

For most of the 18th Century, the part of the Netherlands that Belgium used to belong to was a province of Austria which at the time was the primary constituent of the Habsburg Empire as well as a member of the Holy Roman Empire. The flag of the Austrian Netherlands incorporated symbols relating to the Holy Roman Empire, the Duchy of Burgundy and Austria.

The Austrian dissolution of the Brabant Council - Brabant being a historical duchy sharing territory with today's Belgium - provoked dissent. A war between Austria and Turkey made it impossible to prevent a Brabant Revolution.

The successful revolution briefly brought about a United States of Belgium. However in 1790, the following year, the Austrian Habsburg forces were able to reestablish control but only until Napoleon's forces invaded. The French commissioned a new flag for the Netherlands, a tri-colour in similar design to the new French flag.



After Napoleon's downfall, the Prince of Orange was invited to return from exile in England and rule the new United Kingdom of the Netherlands. However, numerous factors led to another Belgian revolution.

The previous revolution had taken place a little over ten years prior and the country was steeped in post-Napoleonic revolutionary ideology. The authoritarian rule of the new monarch, and a cultural divide between the Germanic north and the Francish south, also contributed to a Belgian revolution against the Netherlands.

At the start of the rebellion in Brussels, a tricolour was established with the same colours that flew in the earlier Brabant Revolution.

	
<p>The Flag of the Austrian Netherlands</p>	<p>The Flag of the Brabant Rebellion (1789 – 1790)</p>
	
<p>The Flag of the Netherlands</p>	<p>The Flag of the Belgian Rebellion (1830-1831)</p>

Other Flags of Belgium

<p>The state flag of Belgium features the Lion of Brabant ensigned by a crown, both sable (black), the lion armed and langued gules (red).</p>	
<p>Belgium's naval ensign styles the national colours in a saltire, with pictures of an anchor, cannons and a crown.</p> <p>This was created after the Belgian Navy was re-established in 1950.</p>	
<p>The naval jack of Belgium is exactly the same as the national flag and its civil ensign apart from the 1:1 aspect ratio, making it square.</p>	