

FLAG OF GREECE - A BRIEF HISTORY



Where In The World



Trivia

The nine blue and white stripes are said to represent freedom or the nine goddesses of art and civilization.

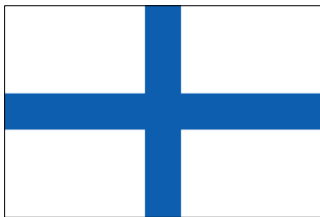
Technical Specification

Adopted:	22 nd December 1978
Proportion:	2:3
Design:	Four blue and four white horizontal stripes with a white cross on a blue square in the left hand corner.
Colours:	PMS – Blue: 286 C CMYK – Blue: 100% Cyan, 60% Magenta, 0% Yellow, 5% Black

Brief History

The first modern style Greek flag was an unofficial flag during the Greek War of Independence between 1770 and 1822. This is when Greece was attempting to overthrow the Ottoman Empire to create an Independent state.

The Greek revolutionaries adopted a new design during the Greek National Assembly in 1822. Once the Ottoman Empire was overthrown a dark blue flag with white cross was used up until 1978, when the naval ensign that had been used since 1822 was chosen to be the new sole national flag.



The Greek Revolution Flag
(1770 – 1822)



The Flag of Greece
(1822 – 1978)



The Flag of Greece
(1978 to present day)

Presidential Standard

The Presidential Standard of Greece is used on all the president's vehicles, buildings and Hellenic Navy's ships mainmasts.

It features a version of the Coat of Arms of Greece. A silver cross on a blue shield on a blue flag surrounded by two gold laurel branches.



Coat of Arms of Greece

The Coat of Arms of Greece was first introduced in 1975 after the monarchy was abolished.

It is a monochrome blue design that features a cross on a shield surrounded by two laurel branches.

The artist Kostas Grammatopoulos designed it.



Historical Coats of Arms

Greece has had various Dynasties up until the monarchy was abolished 1973. The historical coat of arms reflected the more traditional royal symbols.

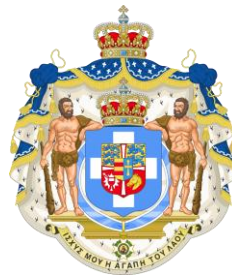
The first Coat of Arms was created for King Otto and featured two crowned rampant lions surrounded by a crown. The lions were replaced with men with clubs during King George II's rule.

Created in 1863 was a simplified version of the royal coat of arms that included the white cross that we still see used today.

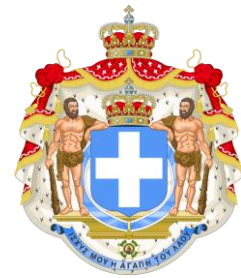
During the Second Hellenic Republic between 1925 and 1935 a simple blue shield with white cross was used and after the restoration of the monarchy the more ornate Coat of Arms was reinstated.



The Coat of Arms of The Kingdom of Greece during the Wittelsbach Dynasty (1833 – 1862)



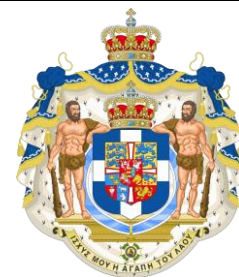
The Coat of Arms of The Kingdom of Greece during the Glücksburg Dynasty (1863 -1924)



The Simplified Coat of Arms of the Kingdom of Greece (1863 – 1973)



The Coat of Arms of the Second Hellenic Republic (1924 -1935)



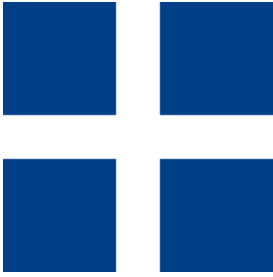




The Coat of Arms of the Kingdom of Greece (1936 – 1973)

Military Flags of Greece

The Greek Military use a different flag for their Navy Jack, Air force and regimental war flag. Since 1822 the Jack of the Hellenic Navy has remained the same square field with white cross. The warship pennant is a blue elongated isosceles triangle with small white cross.








The Army war flag is lighter blue field with white cross with an image of Saint George; the Air force has a similar war flag with the image of Archangel Michael.

When the Prime Minister or Minister of National Defence is aboard a Hellenic Navy Vessel they have their own Rank Flag.

		
<p>The Jack of the Hellenic Navy (1822 to Present Day)</p>	<p>The Commissioning Pennant flown by Hellenic Navy Ships</p>	<p>Army War Flag (Similar is the Air Force War Flag)</p>
		
<p>The Rank Flag of the Prime Minister of Greece (1956 to Present Day)</p>	<p>The Rank Flag of the Greek Minister of National Defence (1956 to Present Day)</p>	

Historical Royal Standards of Greece

Prior to the Monarchy being abolished there was a Royal Standard for both the King and the Crown Prince of Greece. The first was created in 1863 and featured a Nordic cross and the Coat of Arms of the House of Glücksburg. During this time there was also the standard of King George I of Greece, featuring the Royal Coat of Arms of Greece. This was replaced with the Coat of arms of King Constantine I in 1913. In 1935 a flag with the Royal Family Arms and four crowns in each corner featured up until 1974

		
<p>The First Royal Standard of Greece (1863 -1913)</p>	<p>The King George I of Greece Standard (1863 – 1913)</p>	<p>The Royal Standard of the King (1913 – 1922)</p>
		
<p>The Crown Prince Standard (1916 – 1922)</p>	<p>The Royal Standard of The King (1935 – 1974)</p>	<p>The Crown Prince Standard (1935 – 1974)</p>
		
<p>The Greek Royal Family Standard (1935 – 1974)</p>		