

TAIWAN FLAGS

The flag of the 1895 Taiwan Republic was established on May 25 1895 after the Shimonoseki Peace Treaty. It is black with a yellow tiger in the middle. This marked a major milestone in Taiwan's evolution toward an independent nation state. This was Asia's first independent republic. However, this republic ended on October 21, 1895 when Japanese imperial troops entered Tainan, crushing and ending the short life of the republic.

In 1912, the flag of the Kuomintang Party (Nationalist Party) was established in China. The flag is blue with a white sun centered in the middle. The white sun symbolizes the spirit of progress as the twelve points represent the twelve hours of the day (two Chinese hours = two conventional hours), and the blue field represents the party itself. The flag came over from China to Taiwan following the defeat of the Kuomintang at the end of the Chinese Civil War (1945-1949), but the flag was first used in 1928.

On December 17, 1928 the ROC national flag was adopted by the national government, following the successful completion of the Northern Expedition and the unification of China. To the native Taiwanese this became a symbol of repression during Kuomintang's four decades of martial law. This flag consists of a white sun in a blue sky over crimson ground, representing the three principles of the people.

In 1970, the World United Formosans for Independence, the prime organization advocating Taiwan independence was established through a merger of four Taiwanese organizations in Japan, Europe, the United States, and Canada, and this flag was created as their symbol.

In 1996, the flag of the Democratic Progressive Party was established in spite of the Kuomintang's repression and martial law. The green Taiwan symbolizes the hope for a free and democratic nation in the future. The white cross with Taiwan on the broad symbolizes the island at the crossroads.

In 1996, the four hearted flag was devised in the "New Flag, New Anthem" campaign. The green symbolizes the natural beauty of the island and the need to protect the environment; the white represents the original purity of the people on the island and the desire to protect this natural beauty; and the four hearts depicts harmony, representing the four population groups on the island, who have to learn to live together in peace.