Maps on Flags

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Introduction

My goal in this study was to find as many flags with maps on them as possible, then to see what could be learned from them. I searched for any flag depicting a map of a specific territory as a graphic element. I called them "mappy flags".

1. Examples of Mappy Flags

Researching flag literature and consulting with my vexillological colleagues in NAVA and around the world, I have documented over 370 such mappy flags. They show wide variety across geography, types of entities represented, and design styles. I will show about a third of them during this talk. I concluded that maps appear to be used on flags for two major reasons: they are unique symbols, and they are neutral symbols.

Thank you's

Finding so many maps on flags would have been extremely difficult for one person to accomplish alone. The task was made less daunting with the help of many friends and colleagues around the world:

Luc Baronian	Donald Healy
Portland Flag Assoc.	Ralph Bartlett
Ron Hesson	John Purcell
Roberto Breschi	Rich Kenny
Philippe Rault	Frederick Brownell
Albert S. Kirsch	Ural Wayne Raymond
Jim Croft	Michel Lupant
Whitney Smith	Peter Edwards
David Martucci	Ron Strachan
Michael Faul	Philip Nelson
Theodoulos Stylianides	Erwin Günther
Peter Orenski	Gustavo Tracchia
Kevin Harrington	Truman G. Pope
Larry Wentworth	

I would like to thank all of them for aiding me in my research. The *Flags of the World* web site proved to be an extremely valuable source of information and images; I thank those who are responsible for it. Thank you also to FIAV and the Flag Institute for providing me with a forum to share my research today.

Survey Results

Now let me describe what I found. I was able to compile images and descriptions of over 370 "mappy flags". In my research, I used many different sources of information. I asked my flag colleagues to help me in this task. Many responded, with information and flag images from all parts of vexillology. I read through all of the flag books and periodicals in my family's library. Then I looked on the Internet, which provided about a quarter of my data.

I made a page for each flag that I found, with the flag's image and a description, and placed them in a binder. I created a database to keep track of all of the maps on flags I had documented, especially the ones for which I had descriptions but not images. For each flag, I listed ten data points: the name, geographic location, type of entity (for example: county, municipality, political party, or organization), the date of adoption, source, territory depicted, political level, colour (with or without outline), position on flag, an atlas reference of the geographic coordinates, and any additional comments.

This project took a year and a half. After this Congress, I will make a copy of my binder for the library of the Flag Research Center in Massachusetts.

Yes & No Examples

My guideline was to accept: "any flag that depicts a map of a specific territory as an identifiable graphic element of the flag". Flags that meet this criterion are Chatham Island, a dependency of New Zealand, Wayne County, in Ohio, and the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada, an Indian organization. However, such flags as the Earth Flag and the Commonwealth of Nations may have globes on them, but do not depict a specific territory. The flag of the South East Asia Treaty Organization features a globe with the southeastern quadrant shaded, but again, it does not portray a specific territory. Another rule that I followed was "no highly stylized maps". A few prefectures of Japan stylize their maps when on a flag to make them more graphically appealing. This rule meant that flags like Kagoshima were excluded from this analysis.

2. Chatham Island, New Zealand
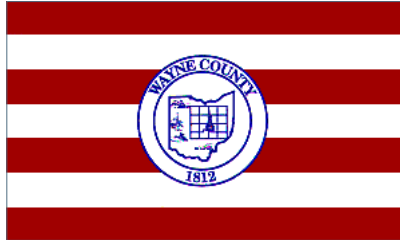
3. Wayne County, Ohio, USA
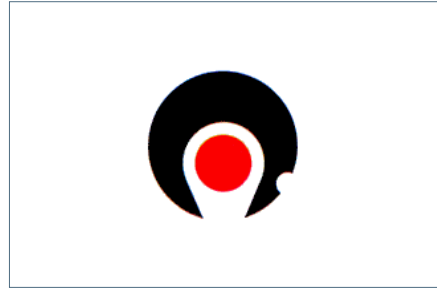

4. Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada

5. Earth Flag

6. Commonwealth of Nations


7. South-East Asia Treaty Organization

8. Kagoshima, Japan

Types of Flags with Maps

Different kinds of flags depict maps. They vary across *types of entities*—such as governments, political parties, organizations, military groups, and American Indian reservations, and across *the entire world*—from Anzoategui in Venezuela to Zamboanga in the Philippines. Two-thirds of the mappy flags I found represent some level of government, and approximately one-fourth represent organizations and political parties.

9. Anzoategui, Venezuela
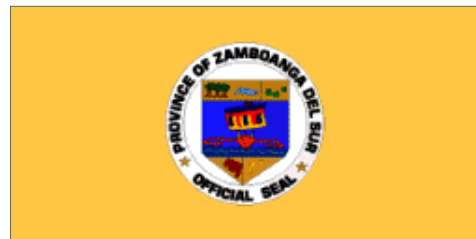
10. Zamboanga, The Philippines

By Entity

Governmental entities at all levels such as cities, counties, provinces, states, and nations use maps on flags, as well as political parties, and international organizations. Cities around the world, like Södermalm, Sweden, use maps on flags. Cities in the United States are great users of maps on flags. In fact, almost one third of all the maps on flags I found are United States city flags, like Sharonville, Ohio. Many counties in the United States use maps on flags, such as Chippewa County, in Michigan. A recent example of a provincial mappy flag is a design for Manitoba, Canada, proposed this month. Many provinces in the Philippines use maps on their seals as part of their flags, like Sorsogon. Cyprus is the only country that currently has a map on a national flag, although other countries have had mappy flags in the

past. Some countries use maps on their arms, such as Belarus. There are many international mappy flags, like the Interlingua language movement, and of course, the United Nations. A few military groups use maps on their flags, such as the Eurocorps, a first step to a European army. American Indian reservations in the United States often use maps on flags, including the Nez Perce, in Idaho, as do organizations, such as the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, based in my home town of Portland, Oregon. Political parties use maps on flags as well, such as the Madagascar Socialist Union.

11. Södermalm, Sweden

12. Sharonville, Ohio, USA

13. Chippewa County, Michigan, USA

14. Manitoba, Canada (proposal)
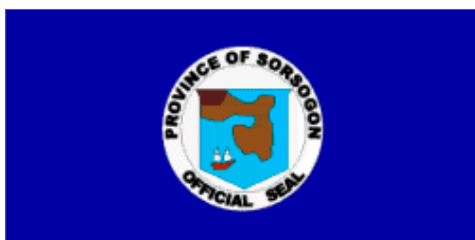
15. Sorsogon, The Philippines

16. Cyprus

17. Arms of Belarus

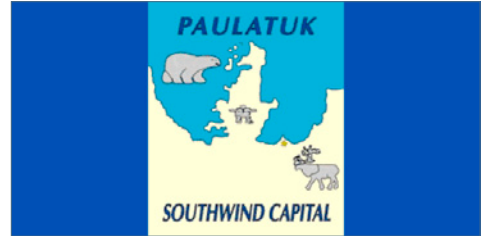18. Interlingua Movement

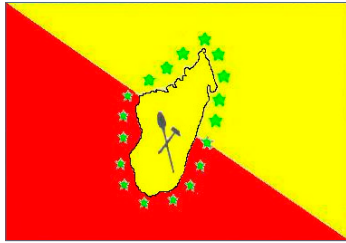19. United Nations

20. Eurocorps

21. Nez Perce, Idaho, USA

22. Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians


26. Paulatuk, NW Territories, Canada

23. Madagascar Socialist Union

27. Frederick County, Maryland, USA

By Geography

Maps on flags fly above all seven continents of the world (if we include Graham Bartram's proposed flag of Antarctica), but some continents fly more than others do. North America accounts for about half of the world's maps on flags. This is due to the large number of counties and cities that use maps on flags in the United States and Canada, as well as Native American Tribes. Europe has about an eighth of the maps on flags. About a tenth of the maps on flags are from Africa, many depicting the map of Madagascar, Namibia, or the continent itself. Asia holds less than 10% of the maps on flags, the majority of which are from the Philippines. Relatively few come from Australia or Latin America.
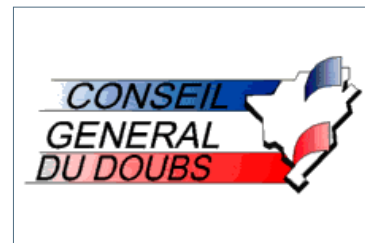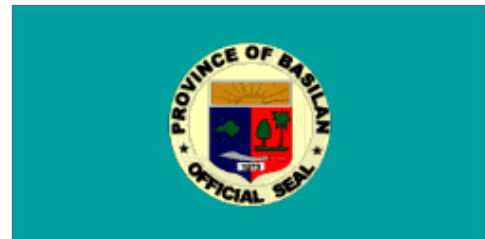

28. Doubs, France
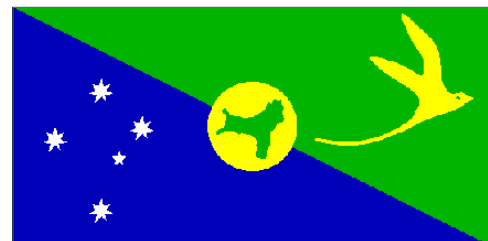

29. Highwall of the Democracy of Madagascar

24. Antarctica

50%	North America
15%	Europe
11%	Africa
8%	Asia
7%	Other Continents
9%	Not Applicable

25. Table of Usage by Continent

30. Basilan, The Philippines

31. Christmas Island Workers' Union, Australia

32. Alta Verapaz, Guatemala

Cross-Use

Most maps on flags are of the same political level as their geographic location. For instance, Cyprus is a country, and the map of that country is on its national flag. This is a nation-nation correspondence. The flag of Caroline County, in Virginia, depicts the map of the county. This is a county-county correspondence. However, some flags use a different and larger territory as an image than the entity whose flag it is. For example, the flag of the city of Amarillo, Texas depicts a map of North America, a city-continent correspondence, while the flag of Lubbock depicts a map of Texas, a city-state correspondence. The state of São Paulo has a map of Brazil in its canton, a state-country correspondence. As would be expected, no flag depicts a map of a lower political level than its geographic location. However, in an unusual design, the arms of the nation of Colombia depict a portion of the country that no longer belongs to it: the Isthmus of Panama.
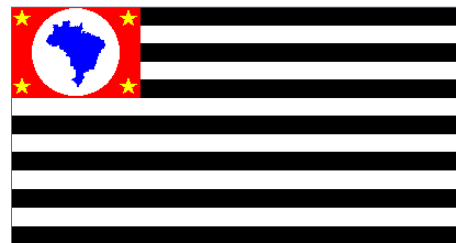

33. Cyprus

34. Caroline County, Virginia, USA

35. Amarillo, Texas, USA

36. Lubbock, Texas, USA

37. São Paulo, Brazil

38. Arms of Colombia

Nearly all county flags use county maps, and most city flags use state maps. About 25% of the political entity flags with maps depicted a map of a greater political level than that of the flag, while about 75% depict a map of an equal political level.

Presentation

Maps on flags are presented in many ways. Some are in outline form, and others are in a solid block of colour, sometimes with fimbriations. The placement of the maps is usually in the center, but varies. Some maps are partially covered, and some are simplified. Some maps are not complete, and the level of detail differs widely (some even show longitude and latitude). All flag colours seem to be used for maps, and at times, maps are shown at an angle or in three dimensions, or appear as part of arms or seals.

Outline versus Solid

About two thirds of maps on flags are a solid block of colour, such as the Orcas Island Yacht Club, or the Guainia Department in Colombia. Some, like a proposed flag of Bosnia and Herzegovina, are often outlined with a fimbriation, to separate the map from the background or to make it stand out. About one third of the maps

on flags have such outlines. There is no predominant colour used as an outline—all colours are common. An unusual outlined map is the Bierzo Party of Castille and Leon, Spain, which has only a counterchanged outline, the background of the map is the same as the field of the flag.
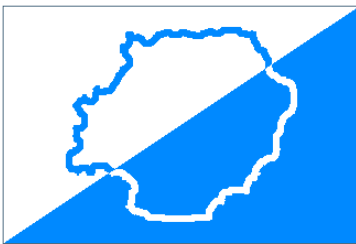

39. Orcas Island Yacht Club, Washington USA
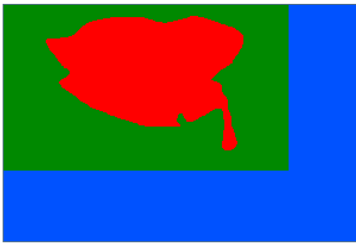
40. Guainia, Colombia

41. Bosnia & Herzegovina (proposal)

42. Bierzo Party, Castille and Leon, Spain

Placement

More than three-fourths of the maps are centred on their flag, because it is usually the main graphic element, such as on the old flag of Dallas, Texas. Very few are in any corner. Most of the remaining maps on flags are centred either in the flag's top (Charente, France), bottom (Armenian Secret Army), fly (Blackfoot Nation), or hoist (Geographic Sailing Club). On a few flags, the map is practically hidden, making it hard to notice, as on the flag of La Gomera Island. The map is there, up in the canton. An image of a map must be kept simple (that is, few colours and no words) to be recognizable. If a map is in the center (Australian Aboriginal Variant),

and it is simple, then the whole flag will share the map's simplicity. Some flags with centred maps are the Defence Corps of Cantabria, the Sakhalin Territory in Russia, and the Pan-Africanist Congress. Almost one third of the maps are shown within a circle, such as the Guadeloupe 7th Communist Congress and the Sulawesi Separatists in Indonesia.
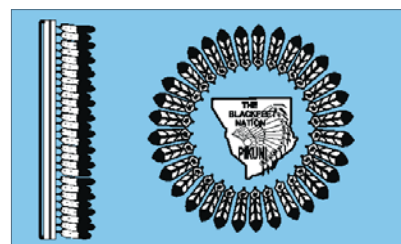

43. Dallas 1916-67, Texas, USA

44. Charente, France

45. Presumed flag of Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia

46. Blackfoot Nation, Montana, USA

47. Geographic Sailing Club

48. La Gomera Island, Canary Islands, Spain

49. Australian Aboriginal Variant

50. Defence Corps of Cantabria, Spain

51. Sakhalin Territory, Russia

52. Pan-Africanist Congress

53. Guadeloupe 7th Communist Congress

54. Sulawesi Separatists, Indonesia

Partially Covered

On some flags, the maps are not completely shown, or have objects covering parts of the maps. One quarter of the maps on flags are partially covered. Arctic Bay, Nunavut, has one map covered up by another. The Bluewater Windjammers Association has a blue map of the state of New Jersey partially covered by a ship. Many of the maps on flags are plain, or have nothing on them. But one in every four maps has other objects on it, such as sun rays, stars, logos, tools, or components of seals. I believe Chester County has all of these, and more!

55. Arctic Bay, Nunavut, Canada
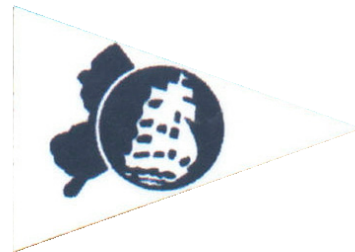
56. Blue Water Windjammers Association, New Jersey, USA

57. Chester County, Pennsylvania, USA

Simplification

If one wants to make a simple flag, an option is to put a map on it, such as on the 1971 flag of Bangladesh. But sometimes even the map is simplified, instead of the true representation of the territory. A simplified version of a map is often easier and better to put on a flag than the

actual map. For example, the map of France could be represented at different levels of simplification (Centre and Franche-Comté). However, if a map were so highly simplified that it became a logo or symbol, I excluded it from this analysis. For example, this Japanese prefecture's logo is the Katakana character "ku" and also expresses a map of Kyushu Island in white, with the circle representing Kumamoto.

58. Bangladesh 1971

59. Centre, France

60. Franche-Compté. France

61. Kumamoto, Japan

Partial Maps

One solution to the problem of complexity, if one does not want to put a simplified map on a flag, is to exclude parts of the territory. For example, the island of Tasmania is sometimes not included on flags showing the map of Australia, such as on the flag of Bumbunga. The outline of continental Australia is still recognizable without Tasmania. For the same reason, Madagascar is often excluded from the map of Africa. The African-Americans' flag has two maps: one of the continental United States, which does not include Alaska or Hawaii, and Africa, which does

not include Madagascar. The flag of the 25th Annual All-American Grooming Show has a map of the United States, without Alaska or Hawaii. A handful of mappy flags have more than one map on them, such as the Gila River Pima & Maricopa Indian Reservation, which shows a map of the reservation as well as the state of Arizona.

62. Self-declared Province of Bumbumga, Australia

63. African-Americans

64. 25th Annual All-American Grooming Show

65. Gila River Pima & Maricopa, Arizona, USA

Level of Detail

Some maps are more detailed than others. The Defence Corps of Kosovo is just a red background with a solid black map of Kosovo. The flag of Dunbar, West Virginia, is a plain yellow map on a white background. On the other hand, Torrance, California has a map on its flag that even shows freeways and streets. The flag of Jacksonville, Florida shows a river. More than 10% of the mappy flags show a star that marks a city or county on a larger map, like the Coquimbo Region in Chile. The French Department of Poitou-Charentes shows lines of longitude and latitude, as do a few other mappy flags.
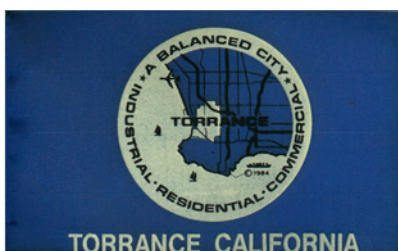
While there is a lot of variation in the level of detail on maps on flags, only about a tenth have details <u>on</u> them, like the ones above. One in seven maps has writing on it, like the Bolivian United Left Party.

66. Defence Corps of Kosovo
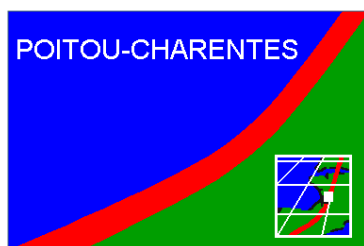

67. Dunbar, West Virginia, USA

68. Torrance, California, USA

69. Jacksonville, Florida, USA

70. Coquimbo, Chile

71. Poitou-Charentes, France

72. Bolivian United Left Party

Colour

The colours on maps on flags vary from the traditional red, white, blue, green, yellow, and black to purple (Georgetown, Texas), orange (Yacht Kookaburra), gold (Coral Harbour, Canada), gray (Dekalb County, Georgia) and brown (Mojave Tribe, USA). More than two thirds of the maps I found had more than one colour. The colours seldom seem to have any meaning. However, maps of rivers and lakes are mostly depicted in blue, such as on the flag of Webster, Massachusetts.
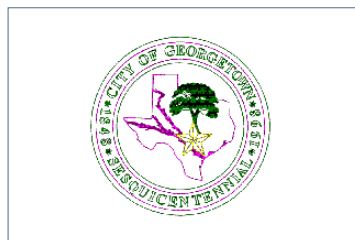
73. Georgetown, Texas, USA

74. Yacht Kookaburra, Australia

75. Coral Harbour, Nunavut, Canada

76. Dekalb County, Georgia, USA

77. Fort Mojave Tribe, USA

78. Webster, Massachusetts, USA

Other–Angle, 3-D

Most of the maps on flags are two-dimensional. But a few give the appearance of having three dimensions, or are depicted at a slant or angle, such as the flag of the Bersatu Sabah Party in Malaysia, or the Morena party flag in Panama.

79. Bersatu Sabah Party, Malaysia

80. Morena Party, Panama

Arms and Seals

Sometimes maps appear on coats of arms or seals rather than flags, such as Cameroon, Burma, Carson City, Nevada, the North American Vexillological Association, or the Breton Vexillological Society.

81. Arms of Cameroon

82. Arms of Burma

83. Seal of Carson City, Nevada, USA

84. Seal of North American Vexillological Association

85. Seal of Breton Vexillological Association

Popular Uses

Maps on flags are used throughout the world in diverse places. But in some areas their use is very common, like in French departments, United States cities & counties, the Philippine Islands, American Indian Tribes, Political Groups, International Organizations, and Sports Organizations.

French Departments

The French departments have many maps on flags. A good unique representation of any group of people is the shape of their political boundary; and in France, there are many political boundaries. Of over 100 French departments, at least 14 are represented by flags with maps.

86. Bas-Rhin, France

87. Cher, France

88. Haute-Corse, France

US Cities & Counties

The state of Texas has a seventh of all the maps on flags in the United States (Tarrant, San Antonio and Richland Hills). A possible reason is the Texans' well-known self-image; they love Texas, and the state's outline is a common symbol there. Texas is also the third most populous state in the United States. California is a close second (Alpine County and Santa Clara County), with more than 10% of the maps on flags, perhaps simply because it is the most populous state. The state of Massachusetts uses many maps on flags (Rutland and New Braintree), which are very well documented on the state's official website. Other states with a significant share of the maps on flags in the United States are New Jersey (New Jersey Ratification), Ohio (Celina), and Oklahoma (Sapulpa).

89. Tarrant, Texas, USA

90. San Antonio, Texas, USA
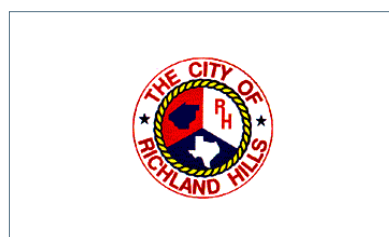
91. Richland Hills, Texas, USA

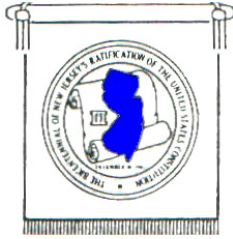92. Alpine County, California, USA

93. Santa Clara County, California, USA

94. Rutland, Massachusetts, USA

95. New Braintree, Massachusetts, USA

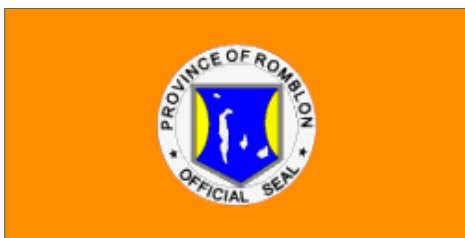96. New Jersey Ratification, USA

97. Celina, Ohio, USA

98. Sapulpa, Oklahoma, USA

100. Northern Samar, The Philippines

101. Tawi-Tawi, The Philippines

102. Lanao del Sur, The Philippines

103. Surigao del Norte, The Philippines

Philippine Islands

The Philippines has many, many islands; it also has many maps on flags. All provinces consist of islands or parts of islands—a natural shape for a symbol. This could be because there are so many islands in the Philippines, and each is unique. And a way to make a flag a good and unique representation of a province is to put a map of the island on the flag. The flag of Lanao del Sur has a map of both North and South Lanao, possibly because they share the same island. It is the same case for Surigao del Norte, which has a map of Surigao on the island of Mindanao.

99. Romblon, The Philippines

American Indian Tribes

Many American Indian tribes in Canada and the United States are represented by maps of their reservation or state, such as the Cheyenne and Arapaho of Oklahoma, or the Colville Confederated Tribes in Washington. Many Indian tribes may use maps on flags because they have a strong connection with the land, particularly the land that they're occupying. Another reason could be pride; the Indians are proud of their land, and may want to symbolize that pride by putting an outline of their land on their flag (Klamath). A third reason may be that they want to distinguish themselves from the states in which they are located, since they are legally nations at the same governmental level as the United States (Sisseton and Wahpeton Sioux). In fact, among American Indian reservation flags with maps on them, more than twice as many depict the reservation itself as depict the state in which they are located.

104. Mille Lacs Band, Ojibwe, Minnesota, USA

105. Cheyenne and Arapaho of Oklahoma, USA

106. Colville Confederated Tribes, Washington, USA


107. Klamath, California, USA

108. Sisseton and Wahpeton Sioux, North & South Dakota, USA

Political Groups

Political groups around the world use maps on flags as symbols, especially in Africa. For example, in Namibia, many are illiterate, and cannot read the ballot in order to vote … like in Florida, in the United States, during our last election! Parties in many countries choose symbols that all people can identify with in a non-written format, such as the outline of Namibia, or the island of Martinique in the Caribbean. A map is both a neutral symbol, and can be understood and recognized by all voters. And if

the party opposes the government, the country's map is a perfect symbol, because it identifies with the people and the country, not the ruling government. In Madagascar, many political parties have maps on their flags – all of which depict the island of Madagascar.
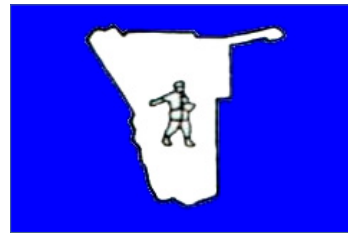
109. Namibian Political Flags

110. Martinique Worker's Party

111. National Party for the Independence of Madagascar

112. Madagascar MTM Party

International Organizations

International organizations use maps on flags because maps can be powerful symbols of cross-border cooperation. Such groups as the World Health Organization use a map of all continents on their flags because it includes everyone on the planet. International organizations that span a continent can use the map of the continent

as a symbol, since it does not favour one country over another, like the flags of the Common Market for Eastern and South Africa (COMESA), or the Inter-Governmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD). Both flags have a map of Africa, with certain countries highlighted in a different colour.

113. World Health Organization

114. Common Market for Eastern and South Africa

115. Inter-Governmental Authority on Drought and Development

Sports Organizations

Sports organizations often use maps on flags because, as international organizations, they should be unbiased and neutral. Worldwide sports organizations that use maps on flags almost always show a map of the entire world. For example, FIFA, the international soccer association, shows two globes in the form of soccer balls. The International Basketball Federation also shows a globe. The European Union of Football Associations uses a map of Europe.

116. International Dance Sport Federation

117. Fédération Internationale de Football Association

118. International Basketball Federation

119. Union Européenne de Football-Association

Dates of Adoption

The use of maps on flags seems to be a recent development. Among the very few whose adoption dates I could determine, most were designed after the Second World War, such as the burgee of the Nantucket Sailing and Wireless Association in Massachusetts, adopted in 1972. However, the earliest mappy flag I found dated to the end of the 19th century, a United States military flag from the Spanish-American War depicting the Philippine Islands.

120. Nantucket Sailing and Wireless Association, Massachusetts, USA

121. Spanish War and Philippine Insurrection

Research Pitfalls

Sometimes it wasn't easy finding mappy flags! I was fooled into thinking that I had hit the mother lode of maps on flags when searching for the word "map" on the Flags of the World website. I found over 500 references to Canadian flags. Unfortunately, this was because of the *map*le leaf on the Canadian flag. Because the word "maple" has the word "map" in it, many, many references to Canadian flags came up. Another one that fooled me was the *Map*uche people in Chile!
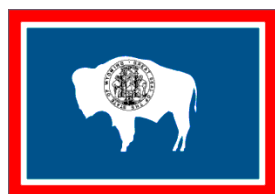

122. Canada

123. Mapuche People, Chile

I also want to thank Jim Croft for pointing out two US states whose flags themselves are in the shape of their map: The states of Colorado and Wyoming. Each state has a flag in the shape of its territory!

124. Colorado, USA

125. Wyoming, USA

Analysis

What did examining these 370 maps on flags tell me? It seems that there are two major reasons why maps appear on flags: First, a map is a *unique* symbol of a geographic territory that can be used by *any* group or organization. Second, a map is a *neutral* symbol that does not carry the bias that nearly all other symbols might have.

Uniqueness

The outline of a territory is very recognizable—especially to the people it represents, making the map a natural symbol to put on their flag. Also, a map is nearly always a distinctive shape. The possibilities are unlimited when depicting a territory, therefore *any* entity can be represented by its map, making this form of flag design accessible to entities from large to small.

Distinctive

A map's unique silhouette can make a very distinctive symbol. A New Zealand political party uses a white map of the country on a black background. The French department of Ariège uses a green map of its territory outlined in white. Also, the location of a city, for example, on a state map, is unique to that city, such as Republic, Missouri.

126. New Zealand First

127. Ariège, France

128. Republic, Missouri, USA

Recognizable – Popular Symbol

Many places use the outline of their territory as a common image, making the map an instantly recognized symbol. For instance, the flag of the city of Keller uses a map of Texas, a very popular and well-known shape. The *Union Africaine et Malgache* has a red map of Africa outlined in yellow. The flag of the Commander in Chief of UK Forces in the Falkland Islands has a yellow map of the islands outlined in black.

129. Keller, Texas, USA

130. Union Africaine et Malgache
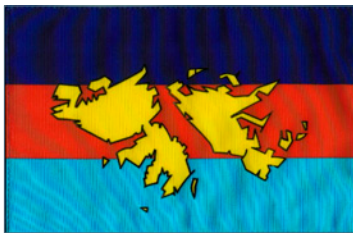
131. Falkland Islands, C-in-C UK Forces

Accessible to Any Size

Every group of people has a distinct map that represents it, therefore any group—no matter the size—can use its map as its symbol. Because the map is accessible to any group, it is often used by the lower political levels, like Howard County, in Maryland, which uses a dark green map of the county. Jura, a French department, uses a blue and green map of its territory. The flag of Aomori, a prefecture of Japan, uses a slightly simplified map in green. The island is actually very close to this shape.
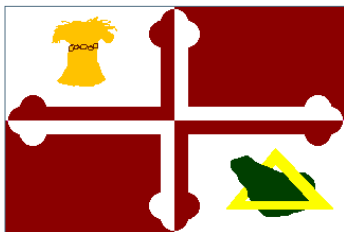
132. Howard County, Maryland, USA

133. Jura, France
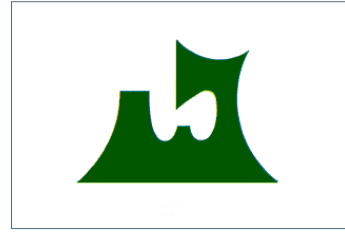
134. Aomori, Japan

Neutrality

A map is also a *neutral* symbol. As a representation of a territory - rather than of an idea, party, or religion - a map is the ultimate symbol without bias. For example, the flag of Cambodia under United Nations administration from 1992-1994 showed a white map of Cambodia on United Nations blue. This was used because it represented only Cambodia; not the Khmer Rouge, not Prince Sihanouk, just Cambodia. Another reason for maps on flags being popular with international organizations is that a map does not favour one country over another. The International Maritime Organization, a United Nations agency, uses this principle of neutrality in its flag.


135. Cambodia (UN Administration 1992-94)

136. International Maritime Organization

A very real and recent example of this is the Korean Olympic Parade flag used in the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, Australia. North and South Korean athletes marched hand in hand, waving a flag with a blue map of Korea on a white background. It was not a map of North Korea, nor one of South Korea, but a map of the entire Korean peninsula. For the Koreans, the map is a common symbol, as well as a unifying symbol. Another example is the flag of the United Nations, which was adopted in 1947 explicitly to be neutral. It is in no way biased, except perhaps in which way the map is turned. The difference between the original unofficial United Nations emblem of 1945 and the current flag is that the map is turned 90 degrees. The Prime Meridian is now vertical, rather than the earlier design that favoured North America.
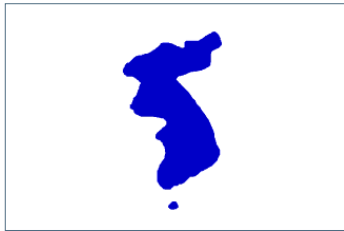
137. Joint Korean Olympic Flag

138. United Nations Badge 1945

139. United Nations Badge 1947

The designers of mappy flags have rarely left explanations of why they chose a map as a graphic element on the flag. However, here are three examples. [Old Cyprus] Whitney Smith has written, "Composed partially of Greek and partially of Turkish populations, Cyprus chose a flag of neutral design and colours when it became independent in 1960."[1] The colour of the map, first in outline and then in solid, represents the copper for which the island has been known since antiquity. [Antarctica] Graham Bartram's proposed flag of Antarctica, likely the most widely known design for the continent, since it is now used in over 1.5 million atlases, was created specifically to have "…no political bias, as to not get into the disputes between the United Kingdom, Chile, and Argentina".[2] [OAU] When designing the flag for the Organization of African Unity, the multinational committee designed a flag which "ignored personal, political, and national jealousy and worked on the symbolism of the flag regardless of the colour or patterns within the individual states".[3]


140. Cyprus – Pre-Independence
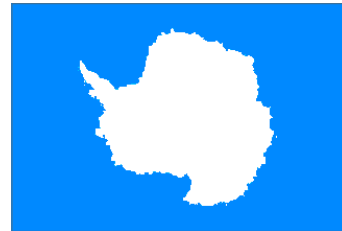
141. Antarctica
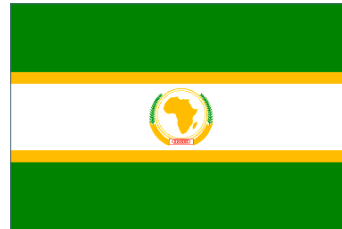
142. Organization of African Unity

Favourites

People have asked me what my favourite mappy flags are. One that I especially like is the flag of the fictional Land of Oz. The country itself is rectangular, divided diagonally into four parts, with the capital, The Emerald City, in the centre. The flag of Oz is simply a depiction of the country's map. Among real places, I would say either the Bierzo Party, or the Australian Aboriginal Movement, both for their interesting colour choice and colour placement. But a certain city in Iowa takes the grand prize – Mason City! It happens to be my favourite tribar, too.
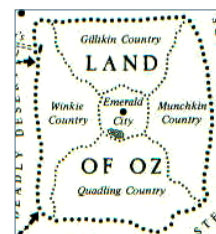
143. Map of Oz

144. Flag of Oz
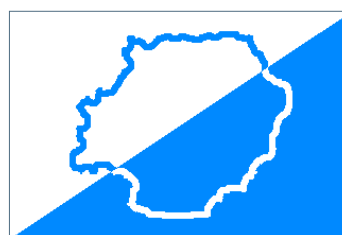
145. Bierzo Party, Castille and Leon, Spain

146. Australian Aboriginal Movement

147. Mason City, Iowa, USA

Conclusion

My goal in this study was to find as many flags with maps on them as I could, and to see what I could learn from analysing them. I documented over 370 such flags, finding a wide variety in their use across geography, entities represented, and design styles. I concluded many things, but most importantly that maps on flags appear to be used for two major reasons: because they are unique symbols, and because they are neutral symbols.

Acknowledgments

Notes

1.   Whitney Smith, *Flags and Arms Across the World*, 1980. p. 121.

2.   Graham Bartram, http://www.fotw.net/flags/aq!.html

3.   Bruce Berry, http://www.fotw.net/flags/oau.html