Kabardino-Balkaria (Kabardino-Balkar Republic)
Кабардино-Балкарская Республика / Kabardino-Balkarskaia Respublika

Year Adopted: 1994  Proportions: 2:3
Designer: unknown

Federal District: Southern
Capital: Nalchik
Population: 892,389

The flag of Kabardino-Balkaria has equal horizontal stripes of light blue, white, and green. Centered in the white stripe is a circular emblem divided horizontally into blue and green halves. In the center of the blue section is a stylized representation of Mount Elbrus in white. Mount Elbrus, located in the republic, is the highest mountain in the Caucasus range and in Europe. Light blue symbolizes the glory of the ancestors of the Kabardins and the Balkars, the honor of the inhabitants, loyalty, and sincerity. White stands for peaceful nature and goodness. Green represents freedom in ideas and affairs, acts, pleasure of dialogue and understanding, and hope for a bright future.

Kaliningrad Oblast
Калининградская область / Kaliningradskaja oblast’

Year Adopted: 2006  Proportions: 2:3
Designer: unknown

Federal District: Northwestern
Administrative Center: Kaliningrad
Population: 937,360

The flag of Kaliningrad Oblast has three horizontal stripes: red over yellow over blue, with the central stripe 1/3 the width of the others. In the upper hoist is a white fortress with an open gate. Above the fortress is a yellow monogram of Empress Elizabeth Petrovna (ruled 1741-62). The colors come from the arms of the oblast where red is a symbol of labor, vitality, strength, courage, selflessness, heroism of the Russian soldier, and as a tribute to those who have fallen in defense of the territory. Blue represents beauty, love, peace, and lofty aspirations. Yellow symbolizes greatness, wealth, constancy, durability, and power. The fortress is a symbol of confidence, steadfastness, and defense preparedness; the open gate stands for hospitality, friendly intentions, and contacts with foreign countries near and far. In addition, the monogram emphasizes the historical links of present-day Kaliningrad with Russia during the 18th century.

Kalmykia, Republic of
Республика Калмыкия / Respublika Kalmykiiə

Year Adopted: 1993  Proportions: 1:2; changed from 2:7 in 1996
Designer: B. B. Erdniev

Federal District: Southern
Capital: Elista
Population: 284,001

Kalmykia’s flag has a yellow field with a light blue disk in the center bearing a stylized lotus flower with nine petals. Yellow represents the people, their religious beliefs, and the sun shining on the republic. The blue disk (approximately 2/3 the height of the flag) with the lotus represents the road to a bright future, prosperity, and the well-being and happiness of the people. In addition, the upper five petals of the lotus symbolize five continents of the globe; the lower four represent the aspiration of the republic’s people for friendship and cooperation with all the nations of the world. The lotus is also a traditional symbol of Buddhism, the predominant religion in the region.

For a brief period (1992-93) another flag was used. It consisted of three horizontal stripes—azure blue, yellow, and red in proportions of 1:2:1; in the center of the yellow stripe was a symbol in red from old Mongolian script which meant Kal-
The first flag was based upon the tricolor of the Don Cossacks and was designed by P. Bitkeevym.

Kaluga Oblast
Калужская область / Kaluzhskaiia oblast’

Year Adopted: 2004  Proportions: 2:3
Designer: unknown

Federal District: Central
Administrative Center: Kaluga
Population: 1,002,859

Kaluga Oblast has a flag with three horizontal stripes. The top and bottom stripes are of equal width and are red and green. Separating these stripes is a band of silver (often shown as white) 1/6 the width of the flag. Red is a symbol of fearlessness, strength, and the desire to protect the fatherland. Green represents hope, youth, and peace, and in Orthodox tradition is the color of festive clothing. Silver (or white) symbolizes light, purity of thoughts, the Oka River, and the belt of the Virgin Mary, protector of the land of Russia. Centered on the red stripe is an imperial crown in gold, reflecting that in the 19th century the region had the status of a guberniya or imperial province.

Kamchatka Krai
Камчатский край / Kamchatskii krai

Federal District:  Far Eastern
Administrative Center:  Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky
Population:  343,539

Kamchatka Krai was formed by the merger of Kamchatka Oblast and Koryak Autonomous Okrug on 1 July 2007. A commission has been formed to create new symbols. The commission has held a design contest, but a new flag had not yet been adopted at press time. In the absence of a new flag for Kamchatka Krai, the old flags of Kamchatka Oblast and Koryak Autonomous Okrug continue to be used in those regions. See the “Flags of Merged Federal Subjects” section for information on these flags.

Karachay-Cherkessia (Karachay-Cherkess Republic)
Карачаево-Черкесская Республика / Karachaevo-Cherkesskaia Respublika

Year Adopted: 1994  Proportions: 2:3; changed from 1:2 in 1996
Designer: Nazir K. Kushkhov

Federal District: Southern
Capital: Cherkessk
Population: 427,194

The flag of Karachay-Cherkessia consists of three equal horizontal stripes of blue, green, and red. In the center of the green stripe is a yellow circle encompassing a scene of a sunrise behind Mount Elbrus, the highest peak in the Caucasus Mountains and in Europe. Blue symbolizes bright and good motives, peace, and calmness. Green symbolizes nature, fertility, riches, creation, and is the color of youth, wisdom, and restraint. Red is a solemn color and represents warmth and closeness between people.

Karelia, Republic of
Республика Карелия / Respublika Kareliia

Year Adopted: 1993    Proportions: 2:3; changed from 1:2 in 1997
Designer: A. I. Kinner

Federal District: Northwestern
Capital: Petrozavodsk
Population: 687,500

Karelia’s flag has equal horizontal stripes of red, light blue, and green. Red stands for the strength and courage of the people, and is also reminiscent of traditional red-on-white Karelian embroidery. Green and blue represent the environment of Karelia—woods, lakes, and rivers. Blue not only symbolizes water, but also represents greatness and beauty. Green also personifies hope and a belief in happiness. The order of the stripes is based on the historic flag of the Karelo-Finnish Soviet Socialist Republic from the 1940s and 1950s—a Soviet-style flag with a red field, yellow hammer and sickle at the hoist, and light blue and green stripes at the bottom.

Kemerovo Oblast
Кемеровская область / Kemerovskaia oblast’

Year Adopted: 2002  Proportions: 2:3  Designer: unknown

Federal District: Siberian
Administrative Center: Kemerovo
Largest City: Novokuznetsk
Population: 2,821,859

The flag of Kemerovo Oblast has two vertical stripes—blue at the hoist (1/3 the length) and red at the fly (2/3 the length). The colors of the flag are taken from the old flag of the Russian SFSR. In the upper hoist are the arms of the oblast. Symbols on the arms include a hammer and pick (symbols of industry) and three stalks of wheat (symbols of agriculture). The arms are topped with a crown in the form of a stylized full bowl, which represents the mines of the Kuznetsk Basin (often abbreviated as Kuzbass).

Khabarovsk Krai
Хабаровский край / Khabarovskii krai

Year Adopted: 1994   Proportions: 2:3
Designer: Sergei N. Loginov

Federal District: Far Eastern
Administrative Center: Khabarovsk
Population: 1,401,915

The flag of Khabarovsk Krai is divided into three sections. At the hoist is a green isosceles triangle; at the fly are two horizontal stripes—white over blue. Green symbolizes hope, joy, and abundance, and also is reminiscent of the flora of the territory and the “endless sea of the taiga”. White is a symbol of purity, goodness, and innocence. On the flag, it represents the cloudless peaceful sky, and the pure thoughts of the inhabitants. Blue symbolizes beauty, gentleness, greatness, and the extensive water resources of the territory.

Khakassia, Republic of
Республика Хакасия / Respublika Khakasiia

Year Adopted: 2002    Proportions: 1:2
Designers: Sergei Andreevich Donskov and Gennadii Afrikanovich Viatkin

Federal District: Siberian
Capital: Abakan
Population: 538,054

The flag of Khakassia has a green stripe at the hoist and three equal horizontal stripes (blue over white over red) which comprise the remainder of the field. Centered in the green stripe is a golden solar sign, a traditional symbol found on stone sculptures in the republic. This symbol represents the universe and honors the generations of Khakas people who have lived in the region. Green is a traditional color of Siberia and its placement uniting the three stripes symbolizes the connection of modern Khakas to their distant ancestors. It also represents eternal life; the color of the taiga, steppe, and meadows; revival; and the friendship and brotherhood of the people. The colors of the horizontal stripes are from the national flag and emphasize the role of Khakassia as a federal subject of the Russian Federation.

When the flag was first adopted in 1992, the solar sign was black and the stripes were ordered white, blue, and red. The color of the solar sign was changed
in 1993, and the stripes were changed to the current order in 2002. This final change was made because of a federal law barring federal subjects from incorporating the national flag into their own flags.

Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Okrug
Ханты-Мансийский автономный округ / Khanty-Mansiiskii avtonomnyi okrug

Year Adopted: 1995  Proportions: 1:2
Designer: unknown

Federal District: Urals
Administrative Center: Khanty-Mansiysk
Largest City: Surgut
Population: 1,519,962

Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Okrug (or Khantia-Mansia) has a flag with two horizontal stripes of blue over green and a narrow white vertical stripe at the fly, 1/20 of its length. The colors of the flag represent the geographical features of the region—blue for the water in the rivers and lakes, green for the forests, and white for the snow that covers the region over 200 days a year. In the upper hoist is a symbol from the arms—the main element of the national ornament. This emblem is reminiscent of the antlers of a reindeer, an animal central to the culture of the people.

Kirov Oblast
Кировская область / Kirovskaia oblast’

Year Adopted: 2003   Proportions: 2:3
Designers: Sergei Iur’evich Gorbachev and Aleksandr Ivanovich Veprikov

Federal District: Volga
Administrative Center: Kirov
Population: 1,401,201

Kirov Oblast’s flag is white with two stripes, green and blue, at its base, each 1/8 the flag’s width. White represents the purity of moral foundations, goodness, and modesty, as well as the snow of winter. Green is a symbol of hope, joy, and health. In addition, green stands for the fertility of the land and riches of the forest. Blue symbolizes faithfulness, honesty, and faultlessness; and also represents the Vyatka River. Centered in the white field are the arms of the oblast, placed so that the edges are 1/8 the width of the flag from the top and bottom of the field. On the arms a right hand extends from the clouds holding a drawn bow and arrow. In the upper left of the shield is a military cross with arms of equal size. These symbols represent defense of the homeland, and the essential qualities of bravery, courage, and military skill.

Komi Republic
Республика Коми / Respublika Komi

Year Adopted: 1991  Proportions: 2:3; changed from 1:2 in 1997
Designer: V. Ia. Serditov

Federal District: Northwestern
Capital: Syktyvkar
Population: 958,544

Komi’s flag consists of three equal horizontal stripes of blue over green over white. The colors represent specific geographic features of the republic—the large endless open spaces of the north (blue), the fields of the taiga (green), and the cleanliness of the snow (white). Green also symbolizes hope and abundance, and the rich environment that supports the Komi people. In addition to representing snow, white stands for the northern position of the republic, the equality of the people, and the unity of their cultures.

Kostroma Oblast
Костромская область / Kostromskaia oblast’

Year Adopted: 2006  Proportions: 2:3
Designers: Konstantin Mochenov, Vladimir Neimark, Yuri Smirnov, Iraida Khlebnikova, Yuri Tsirkunov, Mikhail Medvedev, Gleb Kalashnikov, Galina Tunik, Kirill Perekhodenko, Robert Malanichev, Galina Rusanova

Federal District: Central
Administrative Center: Kostroma
Population: 692,315

The flag of Kostroma Oblast has three vertical stripes of red/blue/red in proportions of 1:2:1. Centered in the blue stripe is a galleon from the arms, which Catherine II granted the region in memory of her travels along the Volga. It has an eagle’s head at the bow and flies a Russian flag from the era of Alexander II.

An earlier design, used 2000-06, was red with a blue stripe at the hoist, similar to the old flag of the Russian SFSR. The shield from the arms was centered on the red portion, and included the ship on the current flag.

The flag of Krasnodar Krai has three horizontal stripes—blue over crimson over green in proportions of 1:2:1. Blue represents the Don Cossacks. Crimson stands for the Zaporozhian Cossacks (also known as the Black Sea Cossack Host), credited with founding Kuban, another name for the region. Green symbolizes the fertility and riches of the territory. Centered in the field of the flag is a one-color variant of the territory’s arms in yellow with orange outlines. The major elements are the top portion of a two-headed eagle and a fortress. Also in the charge are five monogrammed standards of rulers of the Russian Empire—Alexander I, Catherine II, Alexander II, Paul I, and Nicholas I.

The basic design was adopted in 1995 but altered in 2004 to use a lighter shade of blue. During this time the arms on the flag were also changed so that the background colors of the stripes would show through.
Krasnoyarsk Krai
Красноярский край / Krasnoiarskii krai

Year Adopted: 2000  Proportions: 2:3  Designer: V. A. Grigor’ev

Federal District: Siberian  Administrative Center: Krasnoyarsk  Population: 2,889,785

Krasnoyarsk Krai’s flag is red with the arms of the territory in the center. The height of the arms is 2/3 the height of the hoist. On the arms the principal element is a gold lion holding a shovel in his right paw and a sickle in his left. Behind the lion is a vertical blue stripe set to the left. On top of the shield are three military ribbons. The red color of the field represents courage, bravery, and fearlessness.

Kurgan Oblast
Курганская область / Kurganskaia oblast’

Year Adopted: 1997    Proportions: 1:2
Designer: Dmitrii V. Ivanov

Federal District: Urals
Administrative Center: Kurgan
Population: 952,673

Kurgan Oblast has a flag with three equal horizontal stripes—white, emerald green, and white. Green and white have long been the traditional colors of Siberia, a region which is sometimes defined as including Kurgan Oblast. Centered in the green stripe are two white burial mounds. In Russian, the word for this type of barrow is *kurgan*, the source of the oblast’s name.

Kursk Oblast
Курская область / Kurskaia oblast’

Year Adopted: 1996   Proportions: 2:3
Designer: A. V. Rutskoi

Federal District: Central
Administrative Center: Kursk
Population: 1,155,417

The flag of Kursk Oblast has five horizontal stripes: red, silver, gold, black, and red, in approximate proportions of 1:2:2:2:1. Red represents continuity, as it has appeared on the flags of the Russian Empire, the Soviet Union, and modern Russia. It is also included on the flag as a tribute to the veterans of the Great Patriotic War (World War II). Silver/white represents the purity of the thoughts of the population. Gold/yellow recalls the abundant fields of grain in the region, and black symbolizes чернозём—the fertile black topsoil of central European Russia. On the field of the flag are the arms of the oblast, which feature three silver partridges on a blue diagonal stripe and a field of white. It has been suggested that the name “Kursk” is derived from the word for “partridge”—куropатка, although this explanation is not widely accepted. The shield is topped with a crown.

Leningrad Oblast
Ленинградская область / Leningradskaya oblast’

Year Adopted: 1997    Proportions: 2:3
Designer: V. I. Evlanov

Federal District: Northwestern
Largest City: Gatchina
Population: 1,631,894

Leningrad Oblast’s flag has stripes in the same sequence as the national flag’s and represent the oblast’s role as a federal subject of the Russian Federation. The upper two-thirds of the flag are white with waves of blue and red (each 1/6 of the flag’s width at the hoist) running along the bottom. These blue and red waves are separated by a white fimbriation. Centered in the white area are the arms of the oblast, which show a silver anchor crossed by a gold key in front of a white fortified wall, on a field of blue. The anchor represents the role of the oblast as a seaport, while the key symbolizes how Russia gained access to the West through the Baltic Sea. In addition, the fortress wall illustrates the role of this region in guaranteeing the security of Russia.

Lipetsk Oblast
Липецкая область / Lipetskaia oblast’

Year Adopted: 2003  Proportions: 2:3
Designers: M. Medvedev, K. Mochenov, R. Malanichev, Iu. Korzhik, G.Tunik

Federal District: Central
Administrative Center: Lipetsk
Population: 1,163,348

The flag of Lipetsk Oblast is an armorial banner of the oblast’s arms. It has a red field with five overlapping green hills at the bottom (in height approximately 1/3 the width of the flag). Centered on the hills is a yellow linden tree, an ancient symbol of brotherhood and harmony. Red symbolizes the industry of the region, work, vitality, courage, celebration, and beauty. Green stands for nature in the oblast, plenty, prosperity, and stability. Yellow (gold) represents the sun, wealth, grain, and fertility. All elements in the arms represent the people and their contribution to the economic, cultural, and spiritual development of the region and of the country. Four of the hills represent the regions from which the territory of Lipetsk Oblast was drawn—Voronezh, Oryol, Ryazan, and Kursk; the fifth symbolizes Lipetsk Oblast.