



**The Rise and Fall of Worldface:
Social Networking, Identity, and the Power of Flags**

Scot M. Guenter

Abstract

This essay explores the creation and rise in popularity of a British comedy website called Worldface, which parodied the Facebook phenomenon while providing an opportunity to celebrate or castigate national identities and traditions through interactive engagement and the use of flags. Begun in November 2009, the site soon drew fans and users from around the world. Its popularity grew faster than a support system to sustain it, and the quality of the site was also affected by what originator Phil Cooper labeled “idiot” postings. Worldface often provided sophisticated commentary on politics, history, and international relations before it shut down in July 2010, its demise due in part to the rise of an anime subculture. Its creators, Team Fishcake, also did clever satires called “Alternative World Cup” flags, and other Facebook parody websites have appropriated flag use to good effect, often while teaching history or geography.



Logo of the Worldface interactive website

THE RISE AND FALL OF WORLDFACE

At ICV 21 in Buenos Aires in 2005, I suggested an emerging area that required further exploration for vexillologists: how flags were increasingly being used in new technologies and cyberspace.¹ As more and more people around the planet spend greater amounts of time in online or videogame activities, the socially constructed categories of identity—both personal and national—are being affected, but in what manner and to what degree is still relatively new territory worthy of inquiry and analysis. Among the social networking sites that have popped up and evolved since Sixdegrees.com triggered an advancing sophistication of combining connecting with friends and conveying a controlled identity status in 1997,² the most prominent on the planet is Facebook, founded by Mark Zuckerberg in February 2004.

The story of the rise of Facebook has been dramatized by an Academy Award winning Hollywood film, *The Social Network*, made in 2010. As of its closing day in theatres 3 March 2011, the film had grossed \$224,920,315 worldwide.³ Not only has the legend of its origin become a well known tale around the planet, but the very name of the website has become an active verb in day-to-day parlance: one might overhear strangers say “don’t forget to facebook me later”, “I’ve got to netflix that movie”, or “I’ll tweet about it once I know”—and will immediately understand the intent.

Facebook is currently used by more than 500 million active participants around the planet: 50% of them log in on any given day and they spend a combined 700 billion minutes per month there, to differing degrees and in varying ways.⁴ In the early 21st century, Facebook is clearly affecting how personal identity is constructed and socially maintained, and while it continues to change the way targeted advertising reaches the masses and privacy is defined or understood, both important components that more people should take the time to study and reflect upon, it also has had some interesting connections to the world of flags that deserve attention as well.

Facebook once had a wonderful application for collecting flags, just as it did for collecting classic comic books or great works of art. One accrued credits and then used those credits to purchase virtual flags, which could then be sold or traded to other Facebook flag collectors. Several vexillologists I know through FIAV and NAVA participated in that activity, and I met and made new flag enthusiast friends by playing the daily quiz and collecting flags from all over the world, and at all levels of political organization. However, this application was run by an outside provider, and was shut down about a year ago.

Facebook is also a place where many vexillological organizations have established a presence and currently disseminate information to their constituents or allow members to have virtual communications and discussions. For example, among the groups I personally connect with there are FIAV, the Flag Institute, the Canadian Flag Association, NAVA, the Southern African Vexillological Association, Friends of the California Bear Flag, the Antarctic Vexillological Association, and Emblems of the World.

My focus today is on the use of flags and the cultural phenomenon that occurred when a parody website of Facebook appeared. One could only participate fully and understand the process and procedure of conveying the jokes there if one were already fluent in Facebook process, practice, and terminology. And what made it even more engaging was the fact that the identity being constructed and conveyed at this parody website was not one's individual identity being shared with an online world through status updates, comments, pokes, and likes, it was the identity of nation states as represented by their profile picture flags. Aside from the clever interactive entertainment it assuredly provided, the rise and fall of this website, known as Worldface, also provides intriguing evidence about how flags have recently been used to encapsulate broad assumptions and strong beliefs of different nations and societies, and at the same time, how a subculture centered on anthropomorphic representations of national identity ultimately contributed to this practice's demise.



Figure 1. Logo of the Worldface interactive website, created by teamfishcake.co.uk.

Worldface grew out of an online conversation Phil Cooper, a member of a British comedy collective known as Team Fishcake, had with a friend in November 2009. They began bantering about current world politics and used Facebook clichés to humorously suggest relationships between various parties involved. This spurred his idea to write a comedy article using Facebook statuses of separate nations as the structural framework that readers would recognize. When Cooper talked it over with Team Fishcake, the group decided to try setting it up to be interactive, like Facebook itself—though they feared at the time that the six of them might be the only ones who would use the site to make witty comments and go through Facebook communication activities pretending to be any nation state of their choosing.⁵



Figure 2. Screen shot of the first Worldface posting, 15 November 2009.
(courtesy Phil Cooper)

After they launched the website (which was subtitled “If World Politics Was Social Networking”), they submitted it for consideration in www.b3ta.com, a popular Internet newsletter, and when it was highlighted there in late November 2009, Phil left this challenge: “Worldface—if world politics was social networking. Yes, there have been social networking satires before, but this one isn’t shit. It’s interactive—suggest your own statuses. Shit ones will be kicked in the face.”⁶

Soon the number of hits the Worldface page got started to take off. The Fishcakes had previously had some of their comedy output featured in www.b3ta.com, so they weren’t surprised by the sudden popularity of the site following this coverage. What was different this time was that people didn’t just stop in, check out the site once, chuckle, and leave—many of them started returning, repeatedly, and making a habit of interacting there.⁷ I was one of those people: it was a fun, witty place to play and interact with strangers online; commenting on history, politics, or current events; emulating or parodying Facebook conventions. Plus, everyone’s profile picture was the flag of the nation they represented.

As one positive web review summarized it: “Facebook parody. Silly, surreal, original British humour. ‘Facebook for countries.’ Gotta love this site.”⁸

Many of the early users of the site were Europeans, as it was also featured in both the free British newspaper *Metro* and the online version of the French newspaper *Le Monde*.⁹ It was a French fan who first alerted me to the site in the early spring of 2010, a foreign exchange student

who had heard me talk about Facebook affecting social construction of identity in a Pop Culture class and about vexillology in an American studies class. She told me the website was very popular among her friends back in Europe and, knowing my interests, urged me to check it out.

Commenting on the role of flags on the website, creator Phil Cooper said “From the start they seemed the obvious choice for each nation’s avatar, and they quickly became one of the biggest points of discussion among users.”¹⁰ He recalls people posting statuses such as “Comment if your flag has a weapon on it.” He added “I particularly remember a United Kingdom post asking for all the ‘colonies’ (i.e. nations with the Union flag/jack—there was probably a discussion about the correct name too—somewhere on their own flag) to ‘check in’. There were also a few discussions about the use of colours on flags and how several countries’ flags were just other flags with a different orientation.”¹¹ [See Appendix for sample screen shots of Worldface postings dealing with flags.]

Team Fishcake also added to the mix a flag of Droitwich Spa they created, based on that small town’s crest, as an in-joke for their long-term fans to honor the site celebrated in their music video “Droitwich-Rock City”.¹²

Fame, however, has its price. On a website where one can become the voice of any nation he chooses, and switch back and forth between several nations if he desires, and leave public messages anonymously, problems will arise. Unfortunately, not everyone has the wit of Oscar Wilde—or, sadly, the basic history and geography knowledge once expected of a high school graduate. It is also a well documented fact that as anonymity increases in computer interaction, so does “disinhibitive behavior”—insults, swearing, and abusive language.¹³ Stereotypes of national groups can be used in playful ways, but also in abusive and offensive ways, and opinions will vary as to when and how one crosses the line from one category into the other.

Cooper recalled: “All of a sudden we were getting thousands of visits every day, and while most of the posts were clever and funny we started to get an issue with what we like to call ‘idiots’ posting, and I had to do some emergency coding to put some moderation in place.”¹⁴ As Worldface became a global phenomenon, they also had to draft moderators from varied time zones, so someone could moderate the site while the Fishcakes slept in the UK.

Then a wave of fans of the anime series Hetalia found out about the site. Hetalia started as a Japanese webcomic in 2008 and evolved into a manga and anime series. It focuses chiefly on the relationships between the Axis Powers and their adversaries in the first half of the twentieth century, and what is distinctive in Hetalia is that each nation-state is given an anthropomorphic representation. With the nations represented as people, the series plays on economic and political encounters through romantic and physical innuendoes and interactions.¹⁵

When the Hetalia fans discovered Worldface, they moved in, and started to take over the site: while impersonating their anime characters they used referential language and in jokes that non-Hetalia fans just didn’t understand. Both Hetalia and non-Hetalia folks complained of how they were treated by the others. Aggravating the situation, some regular users began clamoring for new additions to and expansions of the free site.

Ultimately, the core of the problem was repeated squabbling over identity boundaries. Cooper recalled it this way:

We ended up having more and more people who came on to the site and decided that they would just be one country and “role-play”, they’d end up getting very twitchy when other people wanted to post using “their country”. This resulted in status after status arguing quite bitterly about who had the right to do what and whether role playing of this kind belonged on Worldface. Unfortunately we couldn’t see this problem resolving itself, and we didn’t have the time or inclination to radically alter things.¹⁶

On 26 July 2010 Worldface posted this announcement on its supplementary blog:

In our opinion, and speaking only generally, the quality of posts submitted recently have become so poor that the line between what is spam and what isn’t spam has been significantly blurred. The situation has reached the point where we are receiving emails of complaint and there are now even arguments between users on the site fighting about what should and shouldn’t be posted about. This isn’t what Worldface was made for. The site has ceased to be something we want to be associated with and we no longer enjoy running it.¹⁷

The next day Worldface was officially shut down.

By the summer of 2010 Cooper, who as the most technically savvy of the Fishcakes would have been responsible for the increased moderation and webmastering required, was also busy with his rock band The Haiku, working hard promoting its latest album. He explained “the decision was made to end on a high rather than let the site become neglected and gradually decline. I hope that this decision has left Worldface as a happy memory for people, rather than something they used to enjoy, which gradually got less and less fun for them.”¹⁸

Separately, but perhaps influenced by Team Fishcake, in the spring of 2010 another website got some notoriety using a Facebook format to summarize World War II. Although not interactive like Worldface, Matthew Loeb’s “OMG WWII ON FACEBOOK!” was a clever summary of that conflict, and again, flags were used as profile pictures and nation-states were represented as individual people using social networking to interact.¹⁹



Figure 3. Sample Screen shot from OMG WWII ON FACEBOOK!



Figure 4. Another Screen shot from OMG WWII ON FACEBOOK!

Team Fishcake also demonstrated its vexillological wit in the summer of 2010, during the World Cup fervor. This time, member Mike Thorpe, who first set up the teamfishcake.co.uk website in 1996, offered some wry commentary on World Cup flag marketing. In a blog entry entitled “Alternative World Cup Flags” posted 12 June 2010, he wrote: “We would like to say a big THANKS to the flag manufacturers that sold their wares with ‘England’ emblazoned across the St George’s cross, *just in case we didn’t know what country it represented*. As a dedication to those companies that somehow don’t believe that the simple vertical/horizontal solid colour motif is enough, here are some flags that you can print out and use for yourself.”²⁰ Among the flags he included:



Figure 5. Scotland supports England in the World Cup (creator Mike Thorpe).



Figure 6. France Alternative World Cup Flag (creator Mike Thorpe).



Figure 7. England Alternative World Cup Flag (creator Mike Thorpe).



Figure 8. New Zealand Alternative World Cup Flag (creator Mike Thorpe).

When Team Fishcake shut down Worldface, they tried not to leave habitual users high and dry. As an alternative, they offered links to an unofficial Worldface IRC chat room, an unofficial Worldface forum recommended for non-Hetalia folks where users could leave messages attached to their profile images, a similar messaging forum for Hetalia folks, and still another forum replicating the Worldface forum approach but called Worldbook.²¹ These forums lacked the social networking interactive dimension that Worldface provided, however, and within a few months traffic there virtually disappeared.

Worldface might be gone, but its legacy lives on in many ways. Social networking systems do not show any sign of diminishing in their cultural influence in the modern world; indeed, in the past year many have credited such systems for being an integral part of the spirit of democratic revolution that rippled through the Islamic world.²² And increasingly, in education, teachers are finding that introducing classroom activities related to social networking interaction is an effective way to teach history and geography. For instance, in Vacaville, California, “World history and AP art teacher Ali Eeds created her own *facebook.us* ‘website’ with Microsoft Word because her school, like many K-12 schools, does not allow access to real social networking sites” which might violate student privacy or become classroom distractions.²³ On Eeds’ website, students created profile pages for historical figures such as Benito Mussolini, and prominent on each figure’s webpage, in the top right corner, could be found the appropriate national flag—in Mussolini’s case, the flag of Italy.²⁴

Worldface used flags in a vibrant and compelling way. This is evident by the range of 221 separate posts dealing with flag topics that appeared during its time as an accessible site on the Internet from 15 November 2009 to 27 July 2010, samples of which are included in the Appendix.²⁵ Over its eight months’ duration, in nearly one post a day participants focused in on the design, power, and purpose of flags.

Ultimately, it was people fighting over proper use of particular flags—who got to control them, what identity and distinctive meaning different flags specifically encompassed and represented—that led to the disharmony that brought down the site. If one thinks about it, this is akin in some ways to how different political factions in a nation such as the United States will wage long, ongoing struggles against each other, trying to convince voting citizens that their version of the national history and their vision of its future is the true patriot’s choice, that their faction holds true claim to ownership of the flag.

As vexillologists continue to study and evaluate how and why actual banners are used in the world around us, we could and should also continue to document and explore how the use of flags as visual symbols in social networking systems can cultivate, influence, or modify perceptions of national identity, and thereby impact political, social, and cultural behavior. There will be more such activities and uses of flags spreading through new modes of communication occurring in the future: if and when you discover them, please share your understandings of what you discover with the rest of us. And might I suggest a fast and efficient way to get me this information quickly and directly? Just friend me on Facebook! Thank you.

¹ See Scot Guenter, “Simulations: Flags, the Internet, and Modern Technologies” in *Vexillobares: Proceedings of the XXI International Congress of Vexillology*, Francisco Gregoric, ed. Buenos Aires, Argentina, 2009. 191–200. CD format.

² Danah M. Boyd and Nicole B. Ellison, “Social Network Sites: Definition, History, and Scholarship,” *Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication* 13.1 (2007): article 11, 19 June 2011. <http://jcmc.indiana.edu/vol13/issue1/boyd.ellison.html#history>

³ “The Social Network”, *Box Office Mojo*. N.d. 23 June 2011. <http://boxofficemojo.com/movies/?id=socialnetwork.htm>

⁴ “Statistics”. Facebook.com 19 June 2011. <http://www.facebook.com/press/info.php?statistics>

⁵ Phil Cooper, e-mail to author, 14 June 2011.

⁶ “Worldface—if world politics was social networking.” B3ta.com. 28 November 2010. 20 June 2011. <http://www.b3ta.com/links/400370>

⁷ Cooper.

⁸ Jamie Jones, “Jamie’s Rants and Things: Just Another Pointless Exercise in Nothingness”. jamiejones.org. 21 April 2010. 19 June 2011. <http://rants.jamiejones.org/2010/04/21/>

⁹ Cooper.

¹⁰ Cooper.

¹¹ Cooper.

¹² teamfishcake, “Droitwich -Rock City”. YouTube.com. 18 October 2006. 19 June 2011. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XP7EikeD11g>

¹³ Michael Tresca, “The Impact of Anonymity on Disinhibitive Behavior through Computer-Mediated Communication.” Master’s Thesis. Michigan State University. 1998. 19 June 2011. <https://www.msu.edu/user/trescami/thesis.htm?pagewanted=all>

¹⁴ Cooper.

¹⁵ Wikipedia contributors. “Hetalia: Axis Powers”. *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 19 Jun. 2011. Web. 20 Jun. 2011.

¹⁶ Cooper.

¹⁷ “Worldface Announcement”. Worldface blog. 27 July 2010. Blogspot.com. 20 June 2011. <http://tfcworldblog.blogspot.com/2010/07/worldface-announcement.html>

¹⁸ Cooper.

¹⁹ Matthew Loeb, “OMG WWII ON FACEBOOK! A Modern Adaption of World War II for the American Teenager”. College Humor. 8 March 2010. Collegehumor.com. 20 June 2011. <http://www.collegehumor.com/article/5971108/omg-wwii-on-facebook>

²⁰ Mike Thorpe, “Alternative World Cup Flags”. 12 June 2010. [teamfishcake.co.uk](http://www.teamfishcake.co.uk) 20 June 2011. http://www.teamfishcake.co.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=493:world-cup-flags&catid=5:cartoons&Itemid=6

²¹ “Worldface Announcement”.

²² See Samantha M. Shapiro, “Revolution, Facebook-Style”. *New York Times*, 25 January 2009. Pdf.; Chris Taylor, “Why Not Call it Facebook Revolution?” CNN, 24 February 2011, Tech section; 23 June 2011. http://articles.cnn.com/2011-02-24/tech/facebook.revolution_1_facebook-wael-ghonim-social-media?_s=PM:TECH; Hong, Caroline Kyungah. (2011). The Networks of Transnational American Studies. *Journal of Transnational American Studies*, 3(1). 23 June 2011. <http://escholarship.org/uc/item/1bm7f5qq>

²³ Sherry Possnick-Goodwin, “Social Learning: Facebook and Twitter Change How We Teach,” *California Educator* 15.7 (April 2011): 13.

²⁴ Possnick-Goodwin, 12.

²⁵ These long dormant web posts were culled from the site’s archives by using the search term “flag” and graciously shared with the author by Phil Cooper on 8 July 2011.

APPENDIX: Sample Worldface Screen Shots

The following samples have been culled from the dormant archives of the former Worldface website to give a sense of the range and tone of interactive flag-related responses posted by anonymous users on this website. These were taken from a temporary link set up by Phil Cooper, the Team Fishcake creator of Worldface, for Scot Guenter in July 2011.



The screenshot shows a forum post from Bangladesh with a red circle on a green field. The post title is "Got a huge zit on my flag" and it includes a "Report offensive content" link. Below the post are seven replies from various countries, each with a small flag icon and a comment:

- Japan**: Shit! It's spreading!
- Aruba**: try giving it a little rub
- Macedonia**: whatever you do dont squeeze it!
- Albania**: Ew, Macedonia, you're so greasy. Just drink lots of water - it'll totally help your skin.
- Switzerland**: Try covering it with some band aid
- Macedonia**: thx albania, i was wondering what you thought about the effectiveness of urine as a skin toner?
- Libya**: Just pop it already, Bangladesh. Then you can look like me!
- Saudi Arabia**: Don't forget to scribble something on it so they don't all look the same.



British Indian Ocean Territory Fancy flags FTW.

[Report offensive content](#)

Posted: 2nd Dec at 22:16
[Comment](#) [Like This](#)



Libya
big sigh



Libya
I'm in.



United Kingdom
give us a wave!



Kiribati
No one can beat me



Nepal
ha ha ha!!!!



Turkmenistan
And you are?



French Southern and Antarctic
Let's do it!



Antigua and Barbuda
yep



United Kingdom is proud to own the coolest flag that ever exist.

[Report offensive content](#)

Posted: 3rd Dec at 15:56 by xxx
[Comment](#) [Like This](#)



Nepal
WTF?



Argentina
huh?



Tibet
you gotta be kidding



Swaziland
Pfft. Ours has spears on it (not Britney). How awesome?



Mozambique
look at my AK 47



American Samoa
errrr....look at my indian... a real american



American Samoa
Mine has an eagle and a spear (not britney)



Canada If our favorite colors are the colors from our flags, then a lot of us would like red...

[Report offensive content](#)

Posted: 22nd Jun at 07:24

[Comment](#) [Like This](#)



Russia

I LOVE BLOODSHED



Armenia

What stupid fuck created my flag?



United States of America

Aw, look, the Three Musketeers.



Canada

Shut up, America. You're just jealous that people actually LIKE me.



Armenia

Yeah, no one likes you, America.



Isle Of Man

In regards to flags, okay. I just won the game.



Russia

OH MY GOD I HATE THE GAME



Canada

I HATE IT TOO. & it's not just because Russia doesn't like it... *cough*



Russia

Uh...yeah...I really like maple syrup too...



Canada Canada: (currently) the only country with a marijuana leaf on its flag (before the Netherlands!)

[Report offensive content](#)

Posted: 16th Dec at 00:44

[Comment](#) [Like This](#)

[Afghanistan](#) likes this



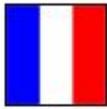
Canada

@ Other...Canada? Come on, now, It's maple.



Jamaica

Yeah man



France Arise children of the fatherland The day of glory has arrived Against us tyranny's Bloody standard is raised Listen to the sound in the fields The howling of these fearsome soldiers They are coming into our midst To cut the throats of your sons and consorts To arms citizens Form your battalions March, march Let impure blood Water our furrows What do they want this horde of slaves Of traitors and conspiratorial kings? For whom these vile chains These long-prepared irons? Frenchmen, for us, ah! What outrage What methods must be taken? It is us they dare plan To return to the old slavery! What! These foreign cohorts! They would make laws in our courts! What! These mercenary phalanxes Would cut down our warrior sons Good Lord! By chained hands Our brow would yield under the yoke The vile despots would have themselves be The masters of destiny Tremble, tyrants and traitors The shame of all good men Tremble! Your parricidal schemes Will receive their just reward Against you we are all soldiers If they fall, our young heros France will bear new ones Ready to join the fight against you Frenchmen, as magnanimous warriors Bear or hold back your blows Spare these sad victims That they regret taking up arms against us But not these bloody despots These accomplices of Bouillé All these tigers who pitilessly Ripped out their mothers' wombs We too shall enlist When our elders' time has come To add to the list of deeds Inscribed upon their tombs We are much less jealous of surviving them Than of sharing their coffins We shall have the sublime pride Of avenging or joining them Drive on sacred patriotism Support our avenging arms Liberty, cherished liberty Join the struggle with your defenders Under our flags, let victory Hurry to your manly tone So that in death your enemies See your triumph and our glory!

[Report offensive content](#)

Posted: 15th Dec at 16:34

[Comment](#) [Like This](#)



Hungary

Thank you France for being French all the time.



United States of America

TOO MANY WORDS



Principality of Sealand

France, don't forget you're under Seanland's rule now. Forget your Marseillaise. Your national anthem is "The little Mermaid" song !!!



France

Go to hell



Germany

Seanland? Where's it?



Indonesia I just realized... almost all flags have red and white in them. I wonder why...

[Report offensive content](#)

Posted: 22nd Jul at 09:13 by Chelsea
[Comment](#) [Like This](#)



United States of America

Red is a very stand-out color. I suppose part of the original reason for flags was to be a marker in military formations where one would need to identify the locations of your forces over long distances.



Mozambique

no



Indonesia

Alex, is that you? BILL IF YOU ARE PLEASEEE SCROLL DOWN TO ISRAEL'S POST ABOUT WAR AGAINST THE FREE WORLD!



Indonesia

mozi you have red in your flag.



Mozambique

I also have an AK 47



Indonesia

hell yeah~ YOUR CASTLE IS DONE.



Libya

Fuck yeah.



Indonesia

Libya. You're awesome. The only country I know with one color. YOU'RE AWESOME.



Sweden

Blue and yellow is where it's at.



Iran it's going to declare war on all those cross flagged country in the list below. INFADELS!

[Report offensive content](#)

Posted: 2nd Dec at 17:58 by mddl

[Comment](#) [Like This](#)

[Afghanistan](#) likes this



United States of America

No you won't!



Netherlands

@USA: Thash a better way to decide who to invade than you've ever had



France

Beware! we'll send our army (but please wait that our only aircraft carrier is repaired)



England

"Army" and "France" used in the same sentence??! Is that an oxymoron?



Luxembourg

I'll join the fight! Believe it or not....I have an Army!



France

you mean like saying "england" and "beautiful girls" in the same sentece?



England

LOL! Exactly!



Isle Of Man Hello ladies.... let me show you why our flag has three legs.....

[Report offensive content](#)

Posted: 4th Dec at 18:59 by fizzybunghole

[Comment](#) [Like This](#)

[Australia](#), [US Virgin Islands](#) and [Colombia](#) like this



Scotland

Because you are inbred?



Denmark

Vikings Innit



Uruguay

I LIKE IT! :P



Italy changed it's profile picture from (completely blank white flag) to (it's current flag) France likes this

[Report offensive content](#)

Posted: 4th Dec at 19:50 by mbfos

[Comment](#) [Like This](#)



France

Welcome, bro'!



England

Learn how to use a sodding apostrophe, pasta-face.



Libya We have some extra green fabric dye. Anyone want it for their flag?

[Report offensive content](#)

Posted: 14th Dec at 01:00

[Comment](#) [Like This](#)



Poland

I do!!! :D



India

@ Poland .. Then you would probably look like us :) ...



Italy

Yeah because green, red, and white is so close to your flag rather than say...us?



Hungary

Yeah because horizontal stripes is so close to your flag rather than say...us?



Italy Hey Mexico, get yer own flag D

[Report offensive content](#)

Posted: 13th Jun at 23:57

[Comment](#) [Like This](#)



Mexico

SHUT UP. WE ARE BIGGER THAN CHU!



Italy

Well, at least my boot is made for knocking!



Mexico

My dick is bigger than yours!



Switzerland

Watching other countries fight is fun~ *sits at his house and watches*



Mexico

Bitchplz. My flag has a fucking eagle on it.



Mexico

iPutá, Por favor!



France

I'm the one who started that Tricolore thing, so shut up. Especially you Mexico, or I'll have Thierry Henry's left hand kick your arse in our upcoming match.



Netherlands

Hmph. I agree.



Croatia

Ay! I have checkers on mine! D:



Mexico Flag animals rock !

[Report offensive content](#)

Posted: 2nd Dec at 21:39 by Don Dado
[Comment](#) [Like This](#)

[Cote d'Ivoire](#) and [Sri Lanka](#) like this



Kiribati
Yeah!!!



Azores
realizes it has no animal on its flag - feels stupid



Azores
Yeah!!



Bhutan
Yeah Bro! But Dragons are better than birds.



Sri Lanka
f*ck yeah



Libya
would love to have ANYTHING on its flag



Mozambique
WIN



Wales
Loser!



Italy
you stink.



Morocco All the countries with a star in their flag...We are superstars !!

[Report offensive content](#)

Posted: 4th Dec at 23:30
[Comment](#) [Like This](#)

[Vietnam](#), [United States of America](#), [Brazil](#), [Chile](#) and [Turkey](#) like this



Russia
Soviet flag had a star : may we still be superstars ?



United States of America
I guess we're always the best in what we do... Weapons anyone?



United States of America
Well, You were a superstar ...negociate with the USA :p



Mozambique Would like to alert you to the fact that, yes indeed, that is an AK47 on our National flag.

[Report offensive content](#)

Posted: 5th Dec at 13:32 by ManAboutCouch

[Comment](#) [Like This](#)

Slovakia likes this



Macedonia

At least you are allowed to have a flag



Russia

I know, I sold you this one.



Sri Lanka

We've seen enough of those kinds of flags, thanks



Germany

Sure? Thought our RAF was the only one



Germany

yeah, get rid of that ols stuff... you want some seroius, uberpwning arms ? give me a call...



Russia

owns the patent



Somalia

Don't be hatin on the AK. it brings much needed industry to our coastal line.



Nepal Anyone got any money to pay for the rest of my flag? We'll repay you with yak cheese

[Report offensive content](#)

Posted: 5th Dec at 06:11

[Comment](#) [Like This](#)



Libya

I would, but my flag designer took our money and ran off with it! Now we have this sorry excuse for a flag



United States of America

Not me, but I could use some of that cheese.



Monaco

Sorry, we're being sued by the Poles at the moment



Zimbabwe

We have lots and lots of money! We don't even need toilet paper anymore!



Greenland

Libya, wanna swap?



Bahrain

Sorry, saving up to buy the rest of mine as well.



Mozambique

At least you don't have a bloody AK-47 on your flag. Try getting that past airport security!



Wales

Hey guys just photoshop a dragon onto your flag. Uber coolness!!



Japan

Sorry, i haven't got money to take my own one to the laundry!! Some chick had the period on it!



South Korea

Pepsi owns the rights to ours



Bhutan

agrees with Wales



Spain thinks Catalunya should have its own flag on here seeing as the Basques have theirs.

[Report offensive content](#)

Posted: 2nd Dec at 21:48 by Steve

[Comment](#) [Like This](#)

[Quebec](#) and [Serbia](#) like this



Cornwall

they dont have a flag cos they dont have any chance of being independant.....unlike Cornwall.....-.-



Spain

respectfully disagrees with itself



Basque Country

Haha, losers! catalunya smells of wee.



France

thinks Brittany should have one too



England

We let you have a flag for good behavior. Don't go getting ideas of grandure.



China

Independence sucks



Tibet

Yeah



Tibet

err... I meant "no"



Quebec

Visca Catalunya lliure!



Sri Lanka Our flag could eat your flag any day of the week

[Report offensive content](#)

kim

Posted: 5th Dec at 22:56

[Comment](#) [Like This](#)



Wales

I highly doubt that



United States of America

FALSE!



Sri Lanka

@ Wales. Oh yeah, does your dragon have a sword hmmm



US Virgin Islands

:-)



Isle Of Man

and ours would kick your ass. three times.



Libya

Green, bitch



Sri Lanka

Lions eat feet, especially when armed with a scimitar.



Bhutan

Evenin' all.



North Korea

His supremeness commands that our flag eats everything. **Kim** is always right. ALWAYS!



Azerbaijan

Two heads FTW.



Albania

@Azerbaijan - did you think you were me?



Mozambique

Fancy taking us on with that sword, do ya?



Swaziland Those with weapons on their flags unite!

[Report offensive content](#)

Posted: 4th Dec at 00:40 by M
[Comment](#) [Like This](#)



Mozambique

Wooo weee!



Kenya

Awww yeah baby!



Libya

:(:



Iran

Hah, spears! Catch up Africa. We're going to put nukes on our flag...



Bangladesh

I've got a sniper's laser on my forehead, does it count?



Saudi Arabia

is a the samurai of islam...



Japan

Don't even try it Saudi Arabia, I've got a red dot on your head and my aim is true.



United States of America Did you know? The American flag and the Moon flag are identical.

[Report offensive content](#)

Posted: 15th Dec at 12:33
[Comment](#) [Like This](#)

Sark likes this



Iran

@USofA: Everybody knows Kubrick helped you "land" on the moon!! Gotta go, need to test something



Republic of Ireland

Both are highly flammable?



United Kingdom

both cheesey?



Iraq

so why don't you emigrate to moon. moon needs you more then anyone here.



Iran

@Iraq: Because he never went there brother!



Palestine

why is Iraq a brother and not a sister?



Iran

@palestine: Iraq is sometimes my play-thing too



Wales We've got a flippin dragon on our flag! Beat that!

[Report offensive content](#)

Posted: 4th Dec at 23:27 by ro_bot

[Comment](#) [Like This](#)

Bhutan likes this



England

Minimalist design win?



Wales

A dragon, England. A BLOODY DRAGON!



Libya

Ehem



Mozambique

I see your Dragon and raise it one AK47.



Isle Of Man

We can fire our flag as a three-pronged shuriken of feet-kicking-ass action into your limp-wristed little dragon.



Libya

Call that minimalist, England?



Bhutan

@Wales: You were saying....?



Wales

IoM. We have 4 legs. With claws. And wings. And fire-breath.



Wales

Hey Bhutan, sexy flag. We could be hot together...



Wales

Oh and Mozzie, dragon > silly guns foo'!

About the Author

Scot M. Guenter is Professor and Coordinator of American Studies at San José State University in California, where he recently became Director of the Campus Reading Program as well. He received his Master's and Doctorate in American Studies from the University of Maryland, and has also taught at Dickinson College, the University of Guam, the University of Mainz, and the National University of Singapore. He is past president of the California American Studies Association, a former president of the North American Vexillological Association, founding editor of *Raven: a Journal of Vexillology*, and a Laureate of FIAV. His major book on the American flag led to consulting work at the Smithsonian Institution. In 2006 he co-edited with Professor Stanislav Kolar, an American Studies professor in the Czech Republic, *Considering America from Inside and Out: A San Jose/Ostrava Dialogue Sharing Perspectives*. He studies not only flags but cultural history and pop culture, and has a deep and abiding love for old movies.



Scot M. Guenter, Ph.D.
American Studies
San José State University
San José, CA 95192-0092