

## FLAG

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**The symbols of the Republic of Azerbaijan**  
**(extract from the Constitution of November 12, 1995)**

**Article 23.**

I. The national symbols of the Republic of Azerbaijan are the National Flag of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the National Emblem of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the National Anthem of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

II. The National Flag of the Republic of Azerbaijan consists of three equal stripes. The upper stripe is blue, the middle stripe is red and the lower stripe is green and in the middle of the red one on both sides of the flag there is a white-colored crescent and eight-point star. The width across length of the flag is 1:2.

III. The image of the National Flag of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the National Emblem of the Republic of Azerbaijan are defined by the Constitution, as well as the music and the text of the National Anthem of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

## National Flag

The three-color National Flag of Azerbaijan was accepted by the government of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic on November 9, 1918. After the collapse of the Democratic Republic in April 28, 1920 and the establishment of the Soviet regime this flag was relinquished in Azerbaijan. Yet the flag was restored by the order of the Supreme Majlis of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic and was declared the national flag of the Autonomous Republic on November 17, 1990. At the same time the Supreme Majlis of Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic petitioned to the Supreme Council of the Azerbaijan SSR for recognition of the three-color National Flag of Azerbaijan.



The Supreme Council of the Republic of Azerbaijan considered the petition of the Supreme Majlis of Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic and approved the three-color flag, the National Flag of the Republic of Azerbaijan on February 5, 1991.

The National Flag of the Republic of Azerbaijan consists of three equal strips. The upper strip is of blue color, the middle-of red, the lower is green. The blue strip designates the Turkish origin of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the red color-its intention to create a modern state and develop democracy, the green strip-its relation to the Islam civilization. In the middle of the red strip on both sides of the flag there is a white-color crescent and an eight-point star. The relation between the width and the length of the flag is 1 to 2. On November 17, 2007 the President Ilham Aliyev signed an order on establishment of National Flag Square in Baku. The same day, the President signed another order to declare November 9 as the National Flag Day.

On September 1, 2010 the President of Azerbaijan, Supreme Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev and his spouse Mehriban Aliyeva attended the inauguration of the National Flag Square.

The National Flag with a 162 meter-high flagpole measures 70 meters high x 35 meters wide and weighs 350 kilos.

## Meaning of symbols of the National Flag

The National Flag of the Republic of Azerbaijan is a symbol of sovereignty of the Azerbaijani state. Like the National Emblem and the National Anthem of the Republic of Azerbaijan it is a sacred symbol and any outrage upon it is punishable by law. The upper strip of the flag is blue. This colour means glory, honour, loyalty, sincerity. For Azerbaijan it is also the color of the ancient Khazar (the Caspian Sea).

The middle strip is red. It symbolizes right, strength, courage, love, braveness. The red colour of the Azerbaijani flag reminds us of the heroic struggle of people led by Babak against foreign oppression. It is the colour of fire and wheat. The lower stripe of the flag is green. It means freedom, happiness, hope, health. Green is the favorite color of Azerbaijani people. It is present in the names of the lakes of Azerbaijan and symbolizes spring, Novruz and reminds us of semeni - the green circle of hope.

There is a crescent in the middle of the red stripe. For many years they tried to take it away from the heraldry of Azerbaijan. It was interpreted “as a religious symbol, alien to ideological consciousness and the sense of secular emblems”. A crescent is one of the most ancient symbols which were popular with the peoples of Asia who worshiped the Moon in the times of paganism. By the way, before Christianity was introduced in Caucasian Albania this state was famous for its temples devoted to this cult (it was mentioned by Strabon).

The eight-pointed star to the right of the crescent has no “religious meaning” either. As a matter of fact it is composed of two four-pointed stars. An eight-pointed star in Azerbaijani mythology meant Sirius - the star of all travelers, a luminary creating great space and time. There is nothing mystical in the symbolism of the Azerbaijani flag: no secret meaning, no freemason’s secret, no alien signs. The flag entwines such symbols common to all mankind as good, hope, glory and national pride for the native land. The symbols of the spiritual culture of ancient Azerbaijan are an eight-pointed star and its semantic synonyms - Simurg and Novruz. Adoption of the ancient Azerbaijani philosophy as well as the symbols, in particular the ancient astral symbol of the goodwill of the gods - an eight-pointed star and the philosophy of the Universe by the cultures of other nations can serve as a proof to it. An eight-pointed star in the radial-petal and other stylized designs are present in the Azerbaijani carpets which have been woven since the beginning of the

first millennium BC, as well as in national embroideries, jewels and other objects of arts and crafts. Following the law of succession of the cultural heritage, an eight-pointed star has become a national symbol of Azerbaijan being embodied in the National Emblem and the National Flag of the Republic.

Eight-sign symbols were spread in the ancient civilizations in the East and the ancient world - in Shumera, Assyria and Babylon, Midia and Iran, India and Palestine, Greece and Rome, Britain and Russia. They were present in the tsar cylindrical seals, in bas-reliefs of palaces and in architectural designs, in land-marks and jewellery. In the history of human culture an eight-pointed star as a divine astral symbol was first met in cylindrical tsar seals, tsar bas-reliefs and in the jewels of Shumera, Assyria and Babylon dating back to the end of the IV-the beginning of the III millennia BC. Thus, an eight-pointed star - the most important astral symbol of the goodwill of the gods of Shumera, Mesopotamian civilization, acquired new philosophical meaning in the culture of zoroastrism as seven stages and the foundations of the Universe which were followed by the eighth stage - a new eternal life of pious people.

## History of Azerbaijani banners

### *Baku khanate*

There are different hypotheses proposed to explain the etymology of the word "Baku" – the capital of Azerbaijan. According to L. G. Lopatinski and Ali Huseynzade "Baku" is derived from Turkic word for "hill". After the disintegration of the Safavid Empire and the death of Nader Shah, the semi-independent principality of Baku Khanate was formed in 1747. It was ruled by Mirza Muhammed Khan and soon became a dependency of the much stronger Quba Khanate. The population of Baku was small (approximately 5,000), and the economy was ruined as a result of constant warfare, banditry, and inflation. The khans benefited, however, from the sea trade with Iran, an influx of Hindu traders who rebuilt the Fire Worshipping temple near Baku, and Russian military help. Feudal infighting in the 1790s resulted in the dominance of an anti-Russian faction in the city resulting in the Russian-leaning brother of the Khan being exiled to Quba.

Tsarist Russia began a policy with the intent to conquer the Caucasus. In the spring of 1796, by Yekaterina II's order, General Valerian Zubov's troops started a large campaign in Transcaucasia. Zubov had sent 6,000 men to capture the city, and it surrendered immediately. On June 13, 1796, a Russian flotilla entered Baku Bay, and a garrison of Russian troops was placed inside the city. General Pavel Dmitriyevich Tsitsianov was appointed Baku's commandant. Later, however, Pavel I ordered the cessation of the campaign and the withdrawal of Russian forces. In March 1797, the tsarist troops left Baku.

*The banners of the Baku khanate in 1747*



### *Ganja khanate*

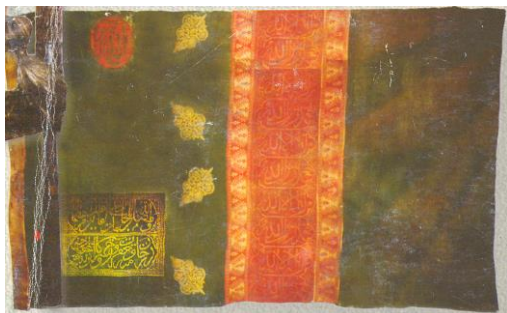
The Ganja khanate existed in the territory of Azerbaijan in 1747-1805. The principality was ruled by the dynasty of Ziadogly (Ziyadkhanov), that had ruled Ganja as governors under Nadir Shah and was of Qajar extraction. Shakhverdi khan (1740-1761) became the khan of Ganja in 1747.

In 1781-84, the Karabakh khan Ibrahim-Khalil khan Javanshir ruled Ganja. During the government of Javad Khan (1785-1804), Ganja khanate grew in economic and political importance and it carried out an independent foreign policy, sometimes contrary to the Persian one. The khans had their own mint in Ganja.

During the first Russo-Persian War (1804-1813), Russians considered Ganja as a town of foremost importance. General Pavel Tsitsianov several times approached Javad khan asking him to submit to Russian rule, but each time was refused. On November 20, 1803, the Russian army moved from Tiflis and in December, Tsitsianov started the siege preparations. After heavy artillery bombardment, on January 3, 1804 at 5 o'clock in the morning, Tsitsianov gave the order to attack the fortress. After fierce fighting, the Russians were able to capture the fortress. Javad khan was killed, together with his sons. According to a major study of the military events in the Caucasus by John F. Baddeley:

Ganja was renamed Elizavetpol in honour of Alexander's wife Elizaveta. In 1805, the imperial government officially abolished the khanate and the military district of Elizavetpol was created.

*The banners of the Ganja khanate 1747-1805*



### *Karabakh khanate*

After the death of Nadir Shah, who had put an end to the existence of the Safavids state, new independent and semi-independent entities, khanates and sultanates emerged in Azerbaijan. One of them was the Karabakh khanate. The founder of the Karabakh khanate was one of the prominent statesmen of Azerbaijan – Panahali khan Javanshir. During the reign of his son, Ibrahim khan, the Karabakh khanate became even more powerful. In the period of Karabakh khanate establishment it did not comprise cities as Tebriz, Ardebil, Ganja, Shamakhy, Baku, Nakhichevan, Sheki, Derbend. However, the existence of such politico-economic centers would play a great role in the further development of the khanate. Besides military-political works Panah Ali also made a great progress in the military installations and establishment of towns.

One of the first steps taken in this sphere was the construction of the Bayaty tower named after the ancient Azeri-Turkish tribes - bayats in 1748. "The khan assembled his family, relatives and aged men there. The people surrounding him and those who heard about his progress and kind treatment moved to the Bayaty tower from Tebriz and Ardebil.

In 1805 Ibrahim khan signed a treaty with the commander of the Russian forces, P.D. Sisianov in Kurakchay. According to the Kurakchay Treaty, Karabakh khanate was annexed to Russia as a Muslim - Azerbaijani land. The Kurakchay Treaty is one of the most important documents evidencing that Karabakh, including its mountainous region, historically belonged to the Azerbaijani nation. After the occupation of the Northern Azerbaijan, Tsarism pursued the policy of Armenianization in order to consolidate its positions on those lands. In accordance with the 1828 Turkmenchai Treaty and the 1829 Edirne Treaty, Armenians from Persia and Turkey resettled to Northern Azerbaijan, including Karabakh.

*The honorable banner of Mehtigulu-khan presented to him by the emperor Aleksandr I*

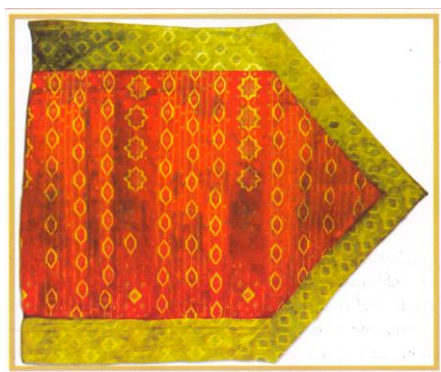


### *Sheki khanate*

Sheki khanate became a vassal of the Russian Empire in accordance with the second Kurekchay Treaty of 1805. The area was fully annexed by Russia by the Treaty of Gulistan in 1813 and the khanate was abolished in 1819 and in its place the Sheki province was established.

During its history, the town was devastated many times and because of that, the oldest historic and architectural monuments currently preserved date only to the 16th-19th centuries. For many centuries, Sheki had been famous as the basic center of silkworm-breeding. Originally located on the left bank of the river Kish, the town sited lower down the hill, however Sheki was moved to its present location after a devastating flood in 1772 and became the capital of Sheki Khanate. As the new location was near the village of Nukha, the city became also known as Nukha, until 1960 when it reverted back to the name Sheki. Sheki is famous for the 18th century Khan's palace and caravanserai.

### *The banners of Sheki khanate 1772-1824*

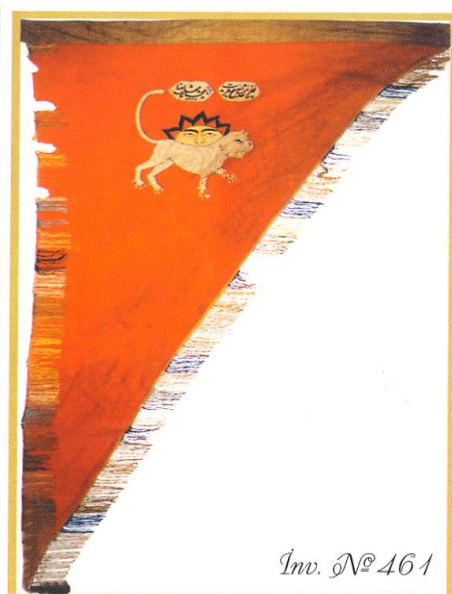


## Irevan Khanate

Irevan Khanate was a Muslim principality mostly under the dominion of Persia that existed on the territory of Azerbaijan between 1747 and 1828. According to Treaty of Turkmenchay it was ceded to Russia as a result of Persian defeat in Russo-Persian War of 1826-1828. During Safavid times Erivan and Nakhichevan were places of residence ("ulka") for the Kizilbash, with Chukhur-Saad (modern Armenia) being their hereditary *ulka* from about 1604, where the rule of the first khan Amirgun was recorded. After the disintegration of Persia in 1747 the Chukhur-Saad beylerbeylik continued as Erivan khanate under the same dynasty (Other sources indicate Qajar related dynasty). At different times the Khanate was dependency of both Persia and Ottoman Empire, and then from 1795 of Qajars. During the existence of the khanate the population consisted predominantly of Azerbaijanis: for example – 57364 Azerbaijanis (10540 families) and – 20073 Armenians (3498 families). It means 74,07% of the population were Azerbaijanis and only 25,93% were Armenians.

The dynasty and the ruling elite of the principality were from Kizilbash Turkic origin.

### *The banners of Irevan khanate 1823-1824*



### *Tabriz and Hoy khanates*

Tabriz khanate was formed on the territory of the South Azerbaijan after the Nadir-Shakh's death and falling of the Afshar's dynasty that existed in the second half of the XVIII century. The founder of the Tabriz khanate was Nadjafgulu-khan, from the noblest family *dumbuli*. He ruled the khanate until 1784. The capital of the khanate was the biggest town of Azerbaijan – Tabriz.

The Hoy khanate was formed in 1747. The founder of the khanate was Akhmed-khan from the noblest family *dumbuli*. The Hoy region was *ulka* of the *dumbuli* tribe until 1805 and this territory became the foundation of the new governmental establishment – Hoy khanate.

In 1848 Fatali-khan Afshar, khan of Urmiya united some of the khanates – Urmiya, Tabriz, Hoy, Karadag and Sarabian.

Translated.

#### *The banners of Tabriz and Hoy khanates 1747-1802*

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## Flags of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic 1918-1920

On May 28, 1918 the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic became the first Democratic state proclaimed in the Eastern world. Thus, after more than 100-year break in Azerbaijan the national statehood within the East Transcaucasia was restored. At the same session "The Act of Independence of Azerbaijan", legally fixing the fact of creation of the new democratic state was adopted.

The government of independent Azerbaijan met difficulties early in its term of activity. One of the difficulties was that Azerbaijan being at the stage of the state formation had no own armed forces for struggle against bolshevist-dashnak groups, which in March, 1918 under the leadership of S.S. Shaumyan, P. Japaridze, G. Karganov (Karganyan) and others made in the country a terrible slaughter, which took lives of over 10 thousand Azerbaijanians, generally old men, women and children.

On June 4, 1918, in Batumi between delegations of Azerbaijan and Turkey the treaty of peace and friendship of the Azerbaijan Republic and Ottoman Turkey was signed. The Article IV of the Batumi treaty of peace read as follows: "The imperial ottoman government pledges to render an armed assistance to the government of the Republic of Azerbaijan, in case of need to ensure order and safety in the country". According to the Article of the Batumi treaty of peace, Turkey, fulfilling its allied obligations to the Azerbaijan state, on June 5, 1918, under the command of Mursel-Pasha brought some parts of the 5th Turkish division into Ganja. On June 6, Nazim-Pasha's detachment from the Southern Azerbaijan 7 thousand soldiers hundred in number came into Ganja. By means of the Turkish officers the Azerbaijan government, even before being under the command of Nuri-Pasha succeeded in a short term to form "The special corps of Azerbaijan", integrated with the Turkish armies in the Caucasian Islamic army. The total number of this army reached 20 thousand people.

Because of the concentration of power in the hands of the Council of People's Commissars in Baku, on June 16, 1918 the members of the National Council and the government of the Azerbaijan Republic led by Fatali Khan Khoyski moved from Tiflis to Ganja.

The most significant decisions and resolutions of the new state, such as the announcement of the martial law (on June 19, 1918), creation of the National Army of Azerbaijan (on June 26, 1918),

restoration of the historical name of Ganja (on July 30, 1918), the announcement of the Azerbaijani language the state language (on June 27, 1918) and at last the statement of the national flag (on June 21, 1918) were all adopted during "The Period of Ganja" in the history of Azerbaijan Democratic Republic. The first flag of Azerbaijan represented a red material with the image of a white crescent and a white eight-pointed star against the background of red. The historical reality is that on June 21, 1918 the government established the national flag of the Azerbaijan Republic a flag of the Ottoman Empire, existing since the end of the XVIII century to the 50th years of the XIX century.

The acceptance of the Turkish flag by Azerbaijan, being at the stage of state formation then, can be explained by a difficult historical, political and military situation created in Ganja during that period. Development of the further events is corroborating that.

The Caucasian Islamic army starts its military operations on different sectors of the front, generally in the northern regions of Azerbaijan - Guba and Khachmaz. But Kyurdamir direction was still the most important sector of the front. It was the area, where the main forces of the Commune waged an attack on Ganja. On July 7, 1918 the fight for Kyurdamir started and was proceeding for three days. On July 10, 1918 the Turkish and Azerbaijani askers (soldiers) liberated Kyurdamir. On July 14, the 13th Turkish regiment attacked and occupied the Kerar station. On July 20, 1918 the Caucasian Islamic army liberated Shamakhi.

Understanding a hopelessness of situation and seeking by all means to prevent the liberation of Baku by national forces dashnaks, socialist-revolutionaries and mensheviks, decided to turn to the British. Being under pressure of representatives of these parties, on June 25, 1918 the Baku Council adopted the resolution on the invitation of the English armies. This decision led to the resignation of the Bolshevik Baku Council of People's Commissars, on July 31 and the power in the city passed into the hands of so-called "The Central-Caspian Dictatorship and the Presidium of Interim Executive committee of Council". However neither the new Baku authorities, nor their English allies were already able to prevent inevitable liberation of Baku by national forces.

On September 15, 1918 the integrated Turkish-Azerbaijani forces exempted Baku from the forces of so-called "The Central-Caspian Dictatorship". On September 17 the Azerbaijani government led by F.Kh. Khoyski arrived from Ganja to Baku. The liberation of Baku became one of the important stages on the way to the goal achievement of national movement – the creation of independent Azerbaijan. Immediately after the establishment of power of the Republic the

government of Azerbaijan started adoption of necessary decisions and carrying out social reforms in a country's territory.

On November 9, 1918, the council of ministers of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, in terms of the report of Fatali Khan Khoyski adopted the resolution on establishment of the new – green-red-blue with a white crescent and white eight-pointed star – a national flag of Azerbaijan.



Being a pride of each Azerbaijani and fluttering over Azerbaijan nowadays our national flag rose for the first time on November 9, 1918, in Baku, in the building where the Council of ministers of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic sat.

But the most unforgettable, most honourable day in the history of the Azerbaijani flag happened on December 7, 1918 - the opening day of Parliament of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, which became the first democratic, secular state in all East. It was the historical day, when our national flag was hoisted over the Parliament building (nowadays the building of Institute of Manuscripts). The first meeting of the first Parliament was opened with a declamation of the Chairman of National Council M. Rasulzade. Addressing to a three-colored flag during his speech, he said: "The banner raised by us, which composed of three colors symbolizing Turkic national culture, a Muslim civilization and democratic principles of modern Europe mustn't fall ..."

But unfortunately the subsequent historical and political processes didn't allow keeping independence of Azerbaijan. As a result of occupation of Azerbaijan by the 11th Red Army the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic fell and a symbol of its independence - the three-colored banner - was lowered from the Parliament building on May 3, 1920.

The words of M. E. Rasulzade "The banner raised by us... mustn't fall" were confirmed only 70 years later. In 1990 this banner was raised on Lenin Square (nowadays Liberty Square) as protest against the Soviet empire. According to the decision of the Supreme Majlis of Nakhchivan AR, on November 17, 1990 a three-colored flag was adopted as national flag of the Autonomous Republic. At the same time the Supreme Majlis of NAR brought up a question before the Supreme Council of Azerbaijan SSR about application for recognition of a three-colored flag as an official symbol of the Azerbaijan state. On February 5, 1991 the Supreme Council of the Azerbaijan Republic considered

the application of the Supreme Majlis of Nakhchivan and adopted the law “About National Flag of the Azerbaijan Republic”. On November 17, 2007 the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev passed an ordinance about creation of a Square of National flag in the capital of the Republic of Azerbaijan, in the city of Baku. Also, according to the order of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan of November 17, 2009 passed an ordinance about constitution of day of National flag, which is celebrated as Day of the National flag of the Republic of Azerbaijan annually, on November 9.

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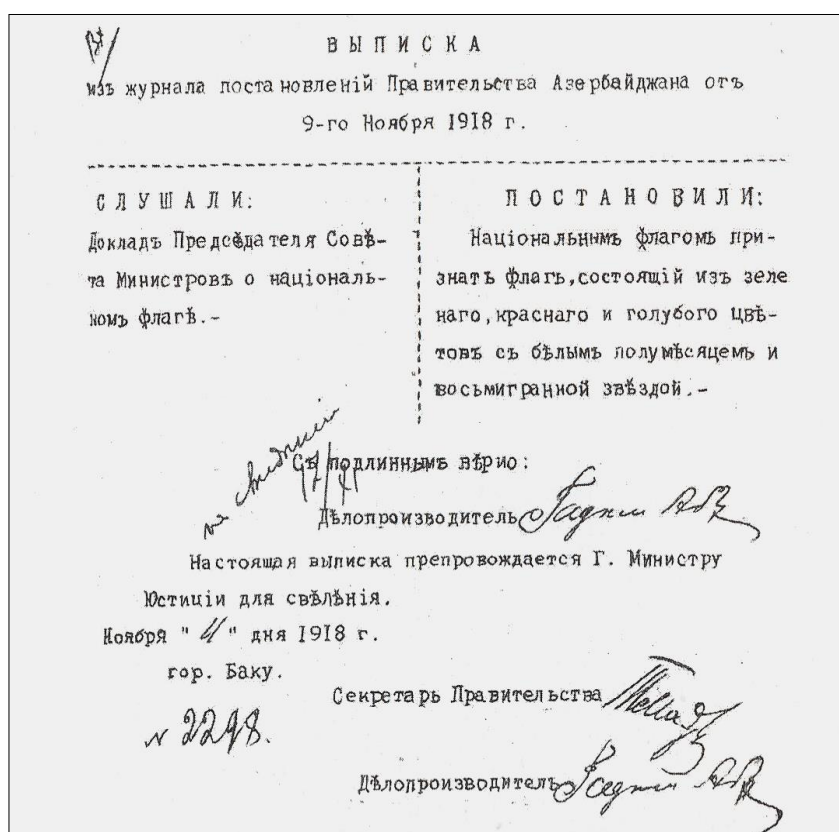
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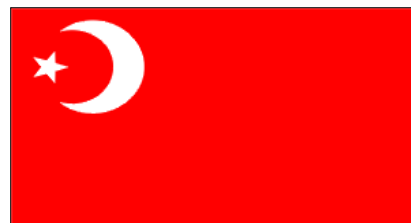
Extract from magazine of the decrees of Azerbaijani Government from November 9, 1918.

### *Flags of the Soviet Azerbaijan*

Azerbaijan Socialist Soviet Republic was established on April 28, 1920 in Baku. According to the famous soviet specialist on flags



L. N. Strelsov, in the beginning a red flag with white five-pointed star and white crescent in the



upper hoist was being unofficially used together with red revolutionary flag. On May 6, 1921 the First All-Azeri Congress of Soviets adopted the first Constitution of the Azerbaijan SSR. The State flag was described in the article 104 of the Constitution. *“Red (scarlet) colour cloth, with gold initials “A. S. S. R.” or inscription of “Azerbaijan Socialist Soviet Republic” above in the hoist.*

This describing had repeated the flag of the RSFSR in the Constitution of 1918 word for word. As in the view state language of Azerbaijan SSR was Turkish on Arabian graphics, the abbreviation “A.S.S.R.” represented Turkish with Arabian graphics.



On December 30, 1922 the Central Executive Committee of the Azerbaijan SSR issued a decree



about equal rights of the new Latin alphabet on the base of the Arabian graphics. It was reflected on the flag with the abbreviation of “A.S.S.R.”

The State flag was described in the article 104 of Constitution: *“Red (scarlet) colour cloth, with gold initials “A. S. S. R.” or inscription of “Azerbaijan Socialist Soviet Republic” above in the hoist.* At the end of 1920 in Turkic-tartaric language, the word “социалистическая” started to be translated like “socialist”

instead of “ishtirak”, as before. The abbreviation on the flag was changed accordingly.

By the decree of the Azerbaijan SSR from January 1, 1929, the final transition of Turkic-tartaric written language to the Latin alphabet was established and some words in the description of the flag in the article 104 of the Constitution of Azerbaijan SSR were removed accordingly. On the flag of Azerbaijan SSR, the abbreviation “A.S.S.R” was imaged only in Latin alphabet from 1930. It had

been fixed in the new redaction of the Constitution (the Main Law) of the Azerbaijan SSR that was issued by the All-Azeri congress of the Soviets in February 14, 1931.

On May 14, 1937 an extraordinary IX congress of the Soviets of the Azerbaijani SSR issued a new Constitution (Main Law) of the Azerbaijan SSR, the article 152 of which contained a describing of the flag:  
*"The state flag of the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic consists of a red color cloth, with a gold sickle and hammer and inscription "AzSSR" in Azerbaijani language above in the hoist.*



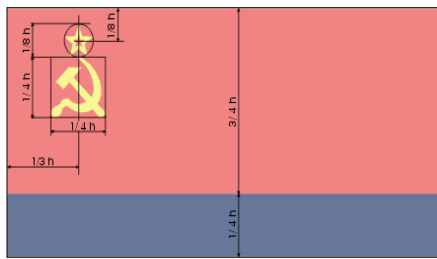
In accordance with the decree of the Azerbaijan SSR from July 11, 1939 "About the transition of the Azerbaijan written language from Latin alphabet to Russian" the Azerbaijani written language from January 1, 1940 was transferred from Latin alphabet to the graphics on the base of the Russian alphabet. By the decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the Azerbaijan SSR from March 20, 1940 an abbreviation "АзССР" on the State flag of the Azerbaijan SSR began to be represented in the new alphabet.

By the decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Azerbaijani SSR from October 7, 1952 by the project of the famous artist of the Azerbaijani SSR, honored figure of the art, the head of the State museum of the Art of Azerbaijan K. Kazimzade the new State flag of the Azerbaijan SSR was established. The describing of the flag was brought into the article 152 of the Constitution (Main Law) of the Azerbaijan SSR by the law of the Azerbaijan SSR from August 18, 1953:

*"The State flag of the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic is a color cloth of two horizontally placed colored stripes; the upper red one, that accounts for three-quarters of the flag width and the lower dark blue one that accounts for one-quarter of the flag width, with the images of a gold sickle and hammer and a five-pointed red star, framed with gold fringe above, in the upper hoist (the upper left corner by the flagstaff) of the red strip. The ratio of the width to the length is 1:2.*



On May 5, 1956 by the Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Azerbaijani SSR



“Statute about the State flag of the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic” was approved. And that state established more precise images of the sickle, hammer and the star on the flag, repeating their disposition on the State flag of Soviet SSR according to the description.

As a result of this change the size of the emblem of the sickle and the hammer was brought into conformity with the images on the State flag of the USSR.

In the new Constitution of the Azerbaijan SSR passed in 1978 and in the new redaction of the “Regulation about the State flag of the Azerbaijan SSR” confirmed on March 16, 1981 by the Decree of the Council of the Supreme of the Soviets of the Azerbaijan SSR the describing of the State flag of the republic remained changeless compared to the describing of it in 1956.

By the Decree of the President of the Azerbaijan SSR from November 29, 1990 “About the change of the appellation and State flag of the USSR” the title of the Azerbaijan SSR was changed to the Azerbaijan Republic and its new flag was established.

## Flags of the Azerbaijani Navy, 1920

On May 2, 1920 the Red Navy of the Soviet Azerbaijan was established. The flag of the Red Navy was described by A. Basov according to the materials of his talking with a 1<sup>st</sup> rank



retired captain B.A.

Macheramov, that served on

the gunboat "Kars" in 1920. On August 1, 1918 the ensign of the Ministry of Communications was established, it meant "the flag of the Turkish commercial crafts with some changes". Probably



"some changes" means that the crescent on the Azerbaijani flag was turned to another side.

Formally in 1920 there were two Red Armed Navies– Azerbaijani and Russian on the Caspian Sea. The flag of the united Azerbaijani and Russian Navy was a red color cloth with a red star on the white upper hoist.

In May-July 1920 the pennant of the Caspian Navy of the RSFSR and the Red Navy of the Soviet Azerbaijan was of a red color cloth with a red star on the white upper hoist.



The pennant was the same with the pennants of the Russian Navy, but without abbreviation "RSFSR"

On July 19, 1920 by the order №373 of the People's commissar of the Armed-Navy affairs a new flag was established. 1/3 of the flag width had to be white and 2/3 – red. On the white field of the width was settled a blue anchor, a red star, a yellow moon and the gold inscription.

Very soon the Azerbaijani Red Navy had to put an end to its existence.

**Translated.**

## Standard of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan

*The standard was established by the  
Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan  
from September 15, 2008.*

The standard (flag) of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan has a form of the square which consists of tricolor stripes of the same size. In accordance with the colors of the State Flag of Azerbaijan – upper stripe of the standard is blue, medium is red and bottom is green. There is an image of the State Emblem of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the centre of the red stripe.



The edges are framed with gold fringe.

On the flagstaff of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan there is a silver cramp, on which the surname, the name and the patronymic of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the dates reflecting the period of his election as the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan are engraved.

On the top of the flagstaff there is a metallic tip in the form of the crescent with eight-pointed star.

**Translated.**

## Flags of the Naval forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan

### *Official Armed-Navy flag of the President of the Azerbaijan Republic*

This image shows the flag of the President of the Republic as a flag of ratio 3:5, white with a light blue cotises wavy stripe along the bottom, as in the naval flag. Along the middle of the white field are set the national tricolor stripes defaced with a white disk of diameter larger than the width of the tricolor, in which is set the national emblem (coat of arms).



### *Flag of the Minister of Defense*



This image shows the flag of the Minister of Defense as a flag of ratio 3:5, white with a light blue cotises wavy stripe along the bottom, as in the naval flag. Along the middle of the white field there is a light blue stripe (1/5 of the hoist). In hoist are placed a red crescent and star framed white, and in fly a light blue cabled anchor within a yellow wreath with a ribbon of national tricolor in base all framed from the blue stripe in white. Compared with the national flag, the flag has a bigger (or equal) star and a more "opened" crescent.

### *Naval flag*

The image shows the naval flag as a flag of ratio 3:5, white with a light blue wavy (13 waves) cotises stripe in base. In hoist are placed a red crescent and star, and in fly a light blue anchor. This flag is used neither as an ensign nor a jack (which are similar to the national flag), but as a ceremonial flag only.



### *Naval auxiliary flag*



The image shows the naval auxiliary flag as a flag of ratio 3:5, blue with the naval flag in canton. This flag is used as a ceremonial flag only.

The images shown above were made approximating those colors to the closest BS (browser-safe) color. The two blue shades seem on the screen very similar, though yet clearly different, but the difference is much more observable in printing since the Process blue is livelier than in on-screen look.

### *A note on the crescent and star*

Regarding the crescent and star, it seems that slightly different designs are used on different flags. Compared with the national flag, the flags shown above have a smaller star and a more "closed" crescent.



### *Flag of the Commander in Chief of the Navy*

The image shows the flag of the Commander in Chief of the Navy as a flag of ratio 3:5, similar to the Minister of Defense's flag, but the blue stripe is defaced along the middle with a white stripe half the width of the blue stripe.

### *Flag of the Commander in Chief of Naval Staff*



The image shows the flag of the Chief of Naval Staff as a flag in ratio 3:5, similar to the flag of the Minister of Defense, but the blue stripe is divided by two that is 1/10th of hoist.

### *Flag and pennant of the Commander of a Group*



This image shows the flag of the Commander of a Group as a flag if ratio 3:5, similar to the Minister of Defense 's flag, but without the blue stripe, and a slightly different crescent and



star. The matching pennant is made of the naval flag , in ratio 3:5, with a red, swallow-tailed fly. Indentation seems to be about 4/3 of hoist.

### *Pennant of the Commander of a Division*



The image shows the pennant of the Commander of a Division as a pennant in ratio 3:5, similar to the Commander of a Group 's pennant, but with the fly blue instead of red. Indentation seems to be about 4/3 of hoist.

### *Pennant of the Senior Officer Afloat*

The image shows the pennant of the Senior Officer Afloat as a pennant in ratio 3:5, similar to the Commander of a Group 's pennant, but with the fly white instead of red, divided from the hoist part by a black vertical line. Indentation seems to be about 4/3 of hoist.



### *Masthead Pennant*

The image shows the Masthead Pennant as a long swallow-tailed pennant with the naval flag in hoist and the national flag in fly



part. The vertical proportions seem to be 1:2:3:2:1 (pennant top to fly top end: fly top end to red stripes: red stripe: red stripe to bottom fly end: bottom fly end to bottom of the flag). Indentation looks like about 4 hoist sizes. The proportion of the pennant is approximately 1:12.

## **Documents related to the flag**

*June 21, 1918* – An Act of the Council of Ministers of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic about establishment of the State Flag.

*August 1, 1918* – An Act about the flags of merchant ships

*November 9, 1918* – An Act of the Council of Ministers of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic about the National Flag.

*December 8, 1919* - The excerpt from the order of Mehmandarov S.S, the Military Minister of Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, about the draft and describing of the banner for infantry and cavalry regiments, some battalions and military college

*May 5, 1956* – A Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the Azerbaijan SSR on approval of the Regulation on State Flag of Azerbaijan SSR

*May 5, 1956* – The Regulation on State Flag of the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic

*June 4, 1956* – The Direction on using of the Regulation on State Flag of the Azerbaijan SSR

*March 16, 1981* – A Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of Azerbaijan SSR about Flags and pennants of the State and public bodies, organizations and officials

*November 17, 1990* –An Act of the Supreme Majlis of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic about State symbols of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic

*November 29, 1990* – An Act of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Azerbaijan about the Decree of the President of the Azerbaijan SSR “On changing the title and State Flag of the Azerbaijan SSR”

*February 5, 1991* - A Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan On State Flag of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

*February 5, 1991* – The Regulation about State Flag of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

*February 5, 1991* – An Act of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Azerbaijan about formerly active State Flag of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

*November 4, 1997* - A Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan about the using of the ribbons to the militant banners of the military units.

*March 13, 1998* – A Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan about intensification of the propaganda of State attributes of the Republic of Azerbaijan

*June 8, 2004* - A Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan On the rules for using the National Flag of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

*July 19, 2004* – A Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan about using of the law of the Republic of Azerbaijan “On the rules for using the National Flag of the Republic of Azerbaijan”.

*March 25, 2005* – A Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan about approval “The rules for rising, releasing, keeping and manufacturing the State Flag of the Republic of Azerbaijan”.

*February 7, 2006* – A Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan On establishment of the heraldry’s council under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

*February 7, 2006* – A Decree about approval of the staff heraldry’s council.

*November 17, 2007* – A Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan On establishment of the square of National Flag in the capital of the Republic of Azerbaijan Baku city.

*September 15, 2008* – A Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan about standard (flag) of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

*November 17, 2009* – A Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan On establishment of National Flag Day of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

*November 24, 2010* – A Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan On establishment of the Administration of National Flag Square's Facility under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan

#### **Flags of the armed forces and other military formations**

*November 4, 1997* – A Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan about using of the ribbons to the fighting banners of the military formations

*March 11, 2002* – A Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan on approval of the Regulation on the Fighting banner of the military formation of the Internal Troops of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan and describing of the fighting banner of the military formation of the Internal Troops of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan

*January 14, 2004* – A Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan on approval of the Regulation "On the Fighting banner of the State Border Service of the Republic of Azerbaijan – frontier troops and military formations" and "Describing of the fighting banner of the frontier troops and military formations of the State Frontier Service of the Republic of Azerbaijan"

**October 4, 2005** – A Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan on approval the Regulation “On the Fighting banner of the National Guard of the Special State Protection Service of the Republic of Azerbaijan” and “Describing of the fighting banner of the National Guard of the Special State Protection Service of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

**November 21, 2008** – A Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan on approval “The Regulation on the Fighting banner of the special detachment of the Ministry of Emergency situations of the Republic of Azerbaijan” and “Describing of the fighting banner of the special detachment of the Ministry of Emergency situations of the Republic of Azerbaijan”

**November 21, 2008** – A Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan about the Banner of the Security regiment of the Security service of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Azerbaijan

*You can look through the text of the given documents in Azerbaijani and Russian versions of e-resources.*

**Translated.**

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*Informal translation by Sarijalinskaya K.*