

Lebanese Flag

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1) Introduction

The Lebanese flag represents an exception amongst other Arab flags for it is the only flag which feature a symbolic reference that link it organically to Lebanon's Land which is the cedars. The Lebanese flag had been changed several times before it become as it is now, in which throughout the history Lebanon has taken the flag of the people who occupied him .



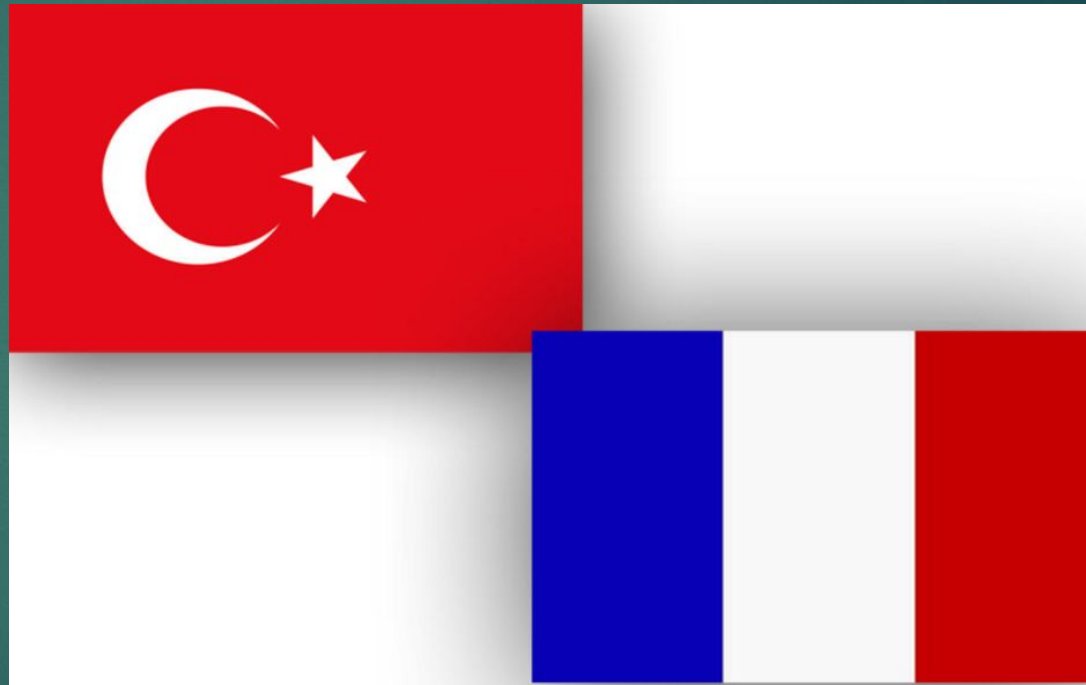
2) Adoption of Lebanese flag (Maanid and Shihab)

It all started in the Emirate of Mount Lebanon an autonomous region within the Ottoman Empire, governed successively by the Maanid Emirs with their red and white banner in the period between (1515-1698), followed by the Shihab Emirs and their blue banner in the period between (1697-1842).



3) Turkish and France Ruling

The region witnessed bitter conflict between Maronite Christians and Druze that subsided only when the Ottoman Sultan Abdulmejid 1 was forced to recognize the Mount Lebanon Mutasarrifate and French troops were deployed to protect the Christians. With the end of the Ottoman rule after the world war 1, French came and mendate over Lebanon.



4) France Mandate

The state of Greater Lebanon was declared on September 1st 1920, and in a clear reference to the mandate, the new territory was granted a new flag, the new flag was designed by the president of the Lebanese Renaissance Movement, it was similar to the flag of France but with a green cedar in the middle.



5) Independence of Lebanon

By 1943, the Lebanese united under what was known as the National Pact and agreed on the need to put an end to the French Mandate, and to declare the independence, the first president of the Republic was elected and a new prime minister designated. Lebanese notable Henri Pharaon designed the new flag. At a secret meeting held in the home of Saeb Salam the new flag was embroidered on a curtain and carried to the legitimate government in Bshamoun.



6) Lebanese flag meaning

The Presence and position of the Cedar in the middle of the flag is directly inspired by the mountains of Lebanon cedar. The Cedar is a symbol of holiness, eternity and peace. As an emblem of longevity, the cedar of Lebanon has its origin in many biblical references. The white color on the flag represents the snow as a symbol of purity and peace. The two red stripes refer to the Lebanese blood shed to preserve the country against the successive invaders.



7) Conclusion

The independence flag have witnessed many things till now, as the building of the new nation's institution and saw a period of distinct economic growth that transformed Beirut into a financial, commercial and tourism hub. During this period of relative calm, the country experienced a degree of political unrest that culminated in the outbreak of the civil war in 1975. Several flags were raised during the civil war, but with the end of war the Lebanese flag returned as a unifying factor.