

# FLAG STORIES 1 TO 13

This special PDF includes the first 13 flag charts that can be found on the [Flag Stories website](#). The charts were developed by the infographic agency [ferdio](#), and are made available under the terms of a [Creative Commons NonCommercial 4.0 International License](#).

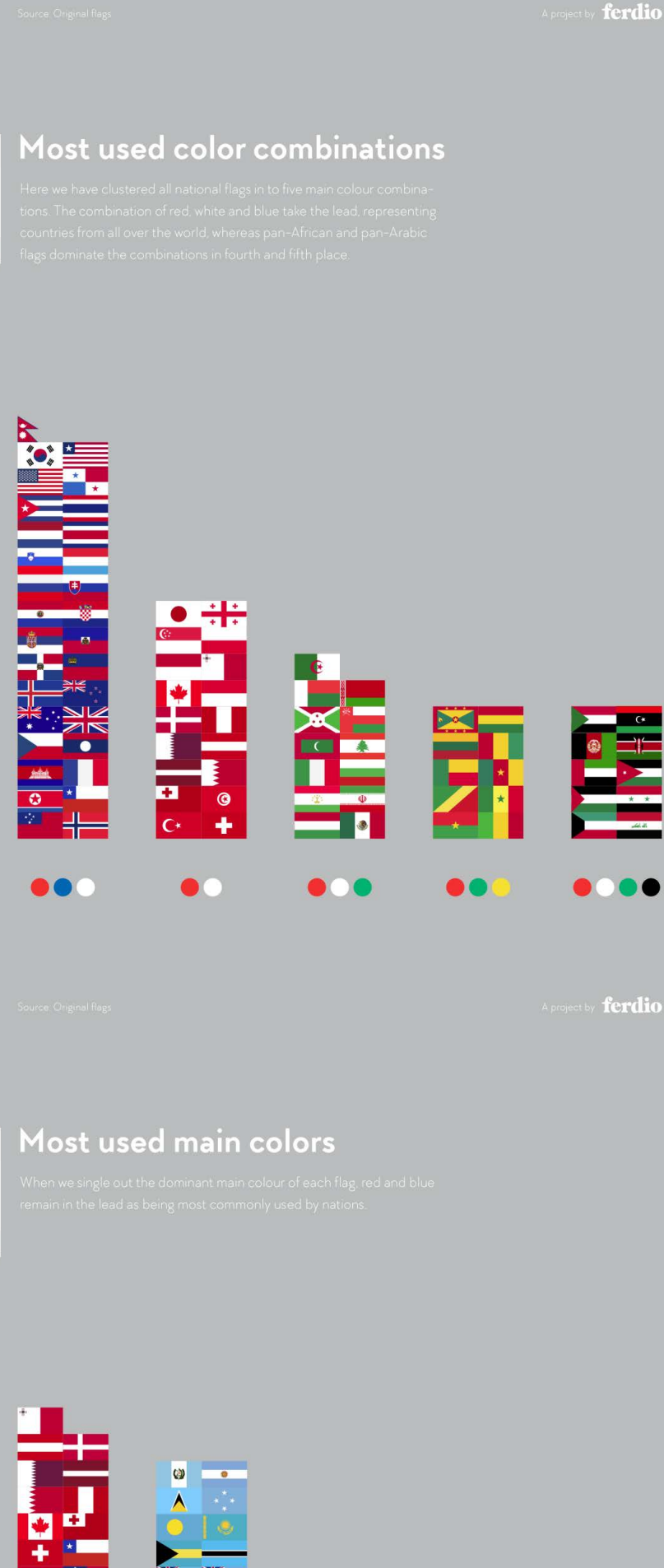
Because the heights of the various charts vary considerably, this PDF has been formatted as one long single page, but each of the flag charts is a separate image that can be selected, copied, and pasted into a graphics program for printing. If you are viewing the PDF with [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#), select the arrow icon at the top of the Reader window, click on an individual chart to select it, and then right-click the selected chart to copy it.

Alternatively this entire page can be printed out as a 'banner' on a single long sheet, and then the individual charts can be cut out.

Due to the unusual dimensions of this single-page document, some of the charts towards its bottom area may not be visible unless you first resize the entire long, narrow page to fit in your PDF viewer window, after which you should be able to size the page larger and still see all of its charts.

## Number of colours in flags

Some countries have quite colourful flags while others prefer to keep it simple. As we can see here however, more than one third of all countries seem to prefer three to four colours.

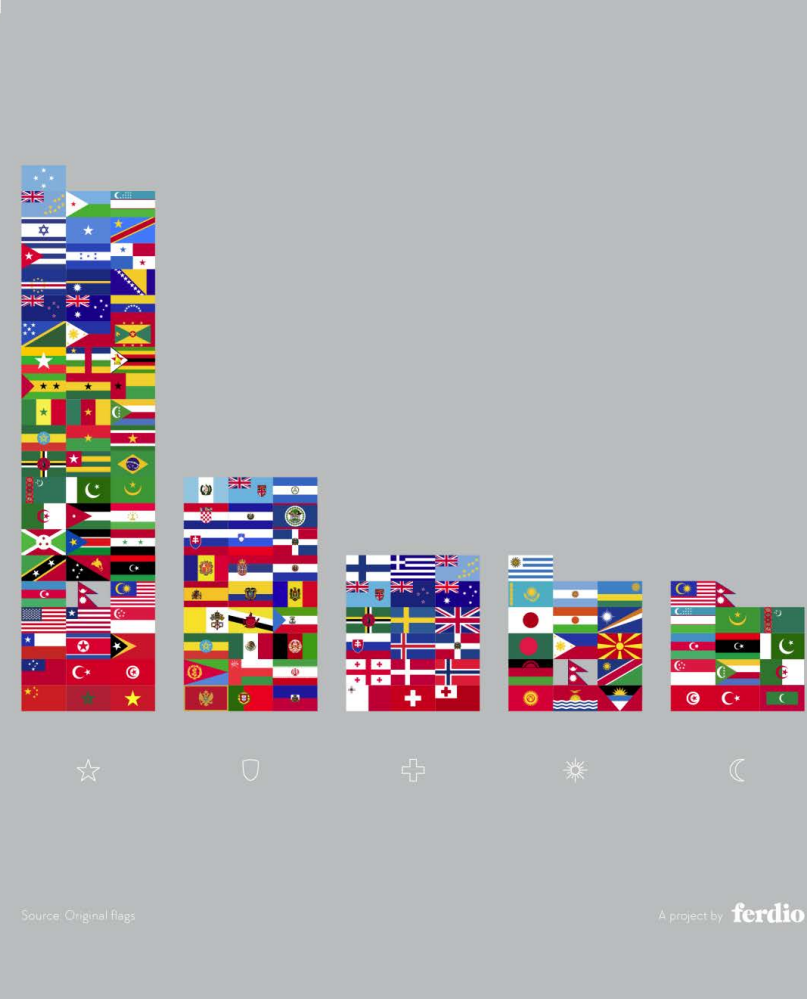


Source: Original Page

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## Most used color combinations

Here we have clustered all national flags into five main colour combinations. The combination of red, white and blue take the lead, representing countries from all over the world, whereas pan-African and pan-Arabic flags dominate the combinations in fourth and fifth place.



Source: Original Page

A project by [ferdio](#)

## Most used main colors

When we single out the dominant main colour of each flag, red and blue remain in the lead as being most commonly used by nations.



Source: Original Page

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## Most used symbols in flags

Two thirds of all national flags include the use of symbols. Some flags even have more than one. All of these symbols were counted and placed in a most used top five with the star symbol taking first place.



Source: Original Page

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## When is it national flag day?

A flag day is when a nation's adoption of its flag is celebrated. Not all nations have such a date, while some celebrate more than once a year. We have listed all the nations that have one flag day.

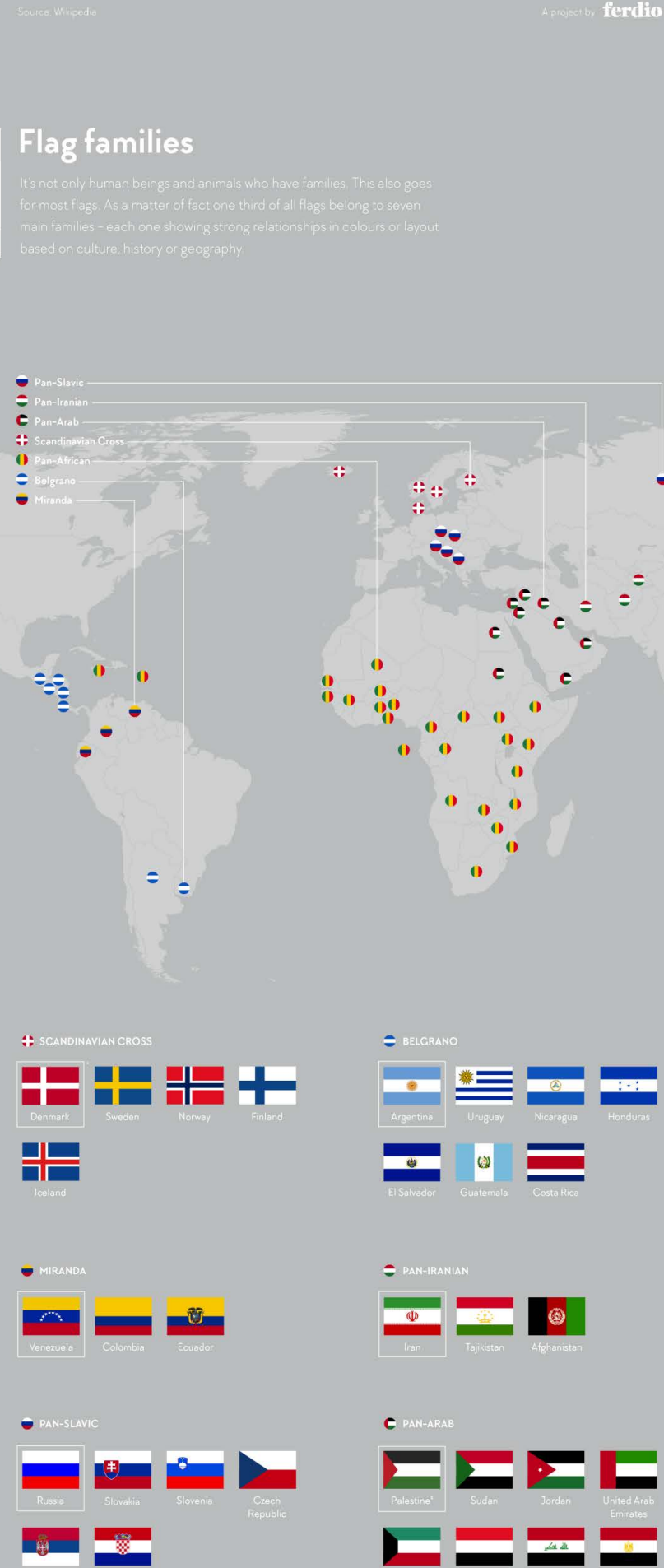


Source: Wikipedia

A project by [ferdio](#)

## When two flags become one

Some nations decide to merge or take over flags from the past the best of both to create their own. This might not be entirely true, but you'd be forgiven for thinking it in the following cases.



Source: Wikipedia

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## What do flag colours say about a country?

Red can symbolise blood, a volcano, the carpet industry, unity or bravery depending on where you're from. We took a closer look at some nations to show the meaning behind their flag colours.

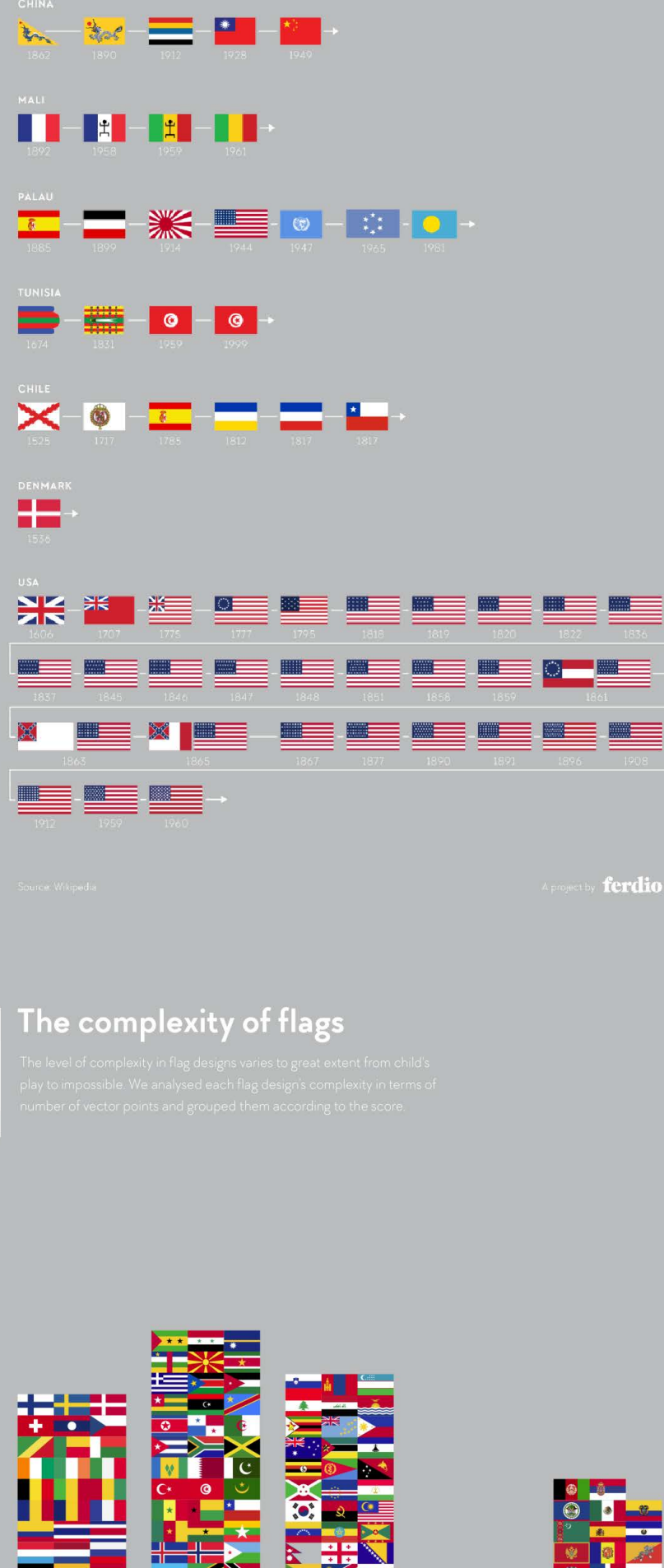


Source: Wikipedia

A project by [ferdio](#)

## What do flag colours symbolise?

Blue doesn't necessarily symbolise the sea. Each national flag has its own meaning behind the colours, resulting in many combinations of meaning and colour. We analysed the symbolism for each flag to see the variety and most common meanings.



Source: Wikipedia

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## Flag families

It is rarely human beings and animals who have families. This also goes for most flags. As a matter of fact one third of all flags belong to seven main families – each one showing strong relationships in colours or layout based on culture, history or geography.

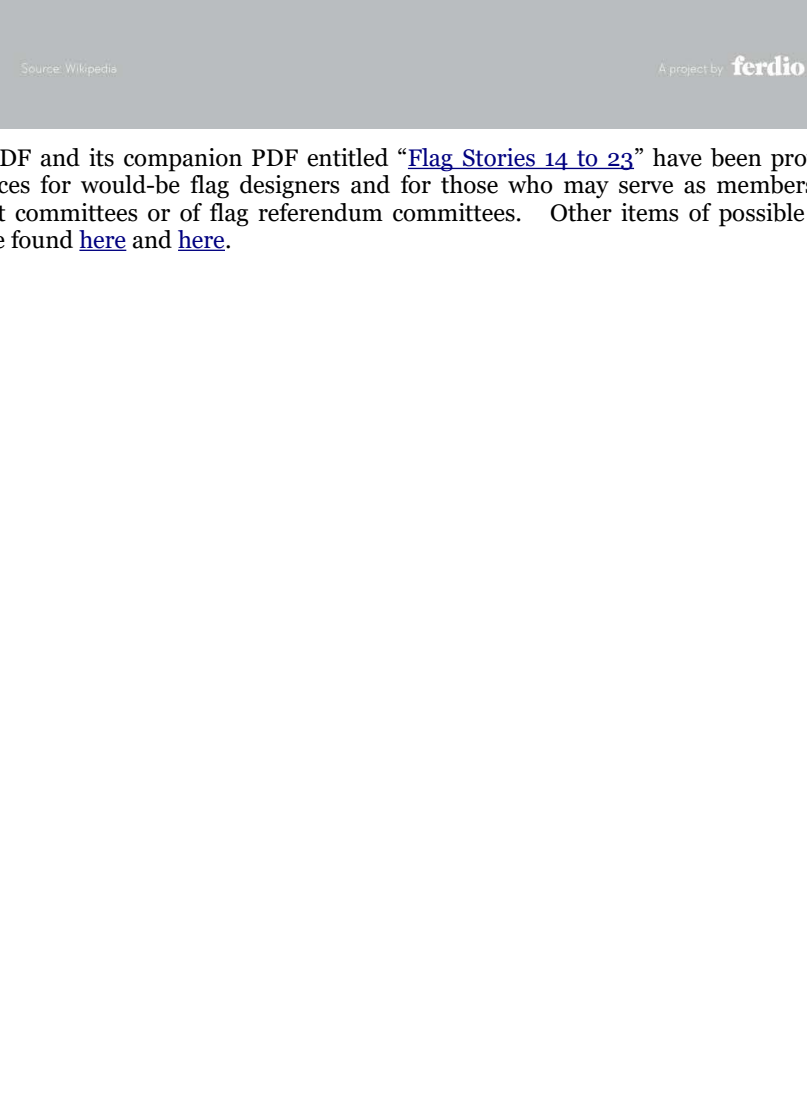


Source: Wikipedia

A project by [ferdio](#)

## How flags are combined

Most flags are based on a simple formula of colours, symbols and layouts. This results in many similarities, but as you can see, there are still some empty spots available for new flag designs.



Stock: iStockphoto

A project by [ferdio](#)

## World history in flags

A flag tells us a lot about a nation's history in a simple graphic as each flag adoption represents a significant event throughout history.



Source: Wikipedia

A project by [ferdio](#)

## The complexity of flags

The level of complexity in flag design varies to great extent from child's play to impossible. We analysed each flag design's complexity in terms of number of vector points and grouped them according to the score.



Source: Proctor and Kuhn based on using Adobe Illustrator

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## Continent flags

Flags from a particular continent often have common characteristics. We have taken the most used formula of colours, layouts and symbols for each continent to design one flag that represents them.



Source: Wikipedia

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