

ASSYRIAN NATIONAL FLAG

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Each national flag has its own history and symbols. Over the centuries, the Assyrians have had different flags to represent this people. And different people or communities created it in their own way. For example, is it

Have you ever wondered about the current flag, what its colors mean, or how did they come about? Here is a brief history of the official flag of the Assyrians.

In the aftermath of the inception of the Assyrian Universal Alliance in 1968, a serious effort was undertaken by this organization to address the



known that there were flags created by the Agha Patrus (two types) or the flag of Malik Kambar, long before the appearance of the modern flag.



Designed by Assyrian commander Agha Patrus



need for the Assyrian nation to have its own official national flag. To realize this dream it was decided to appeal to various Assyrian artists and knowledgeable people, for the purpose of soliciting ideas and layouts on this important national task.



Assyrian commander Malik Kambar with his flag

Layouts and suggestions were to be collected from across the world in order to be presented to the AUA Congress for approval.

This worldwide effort netted a large number of designs which were duly received and noted. Following meticulous consideration, a decision was reached in favor of one particular design which best captured the Assyrian essence from the past and the present.

It was initially designed by an Assyrian well-known artist and social activist Mr. Vladimir Beit David of Tehran (Iran) who created the first Assyrian calendar in



Mr. Vladimir Beit David

1948; He published in it an ancient symbol of the Assyrian star with three waving stripes from each corner.

Later, Mr. George Bit Atanus of Tehran (Iran) redesign it and added more colors. In the year 1974, this design was approved by the 6th congress of the AUA which convened



Mr. George Bit Atanus
(Courtesy of Suzanne Shamoun)

in the United States in the city of Yonkers, NY.

The artists had brilliantly blended ancient Mesopotamian designs representing the former glory of the Assyrian empire, to create an attractive fusion between the past and the present. Thus, the artists recreated the ancient symbol of Assyria, the glorious past and the real hope for the restoration of the future Assyria.

The Assyrian flag is designed with a white background on which three waving stripes emerge from each corner of a center design which is in the shape of a four headed star. At its center, the star encompasses a golden circle representing Shamash the Assyrian sun-god who was believed to give life to all things on earth. The four wedges of the star are a bright blue color and represent happiness and tranquility. The waving stripes protrude from the four joints of the star and stretch to the four corners of the flag. The Stripes are narrow at the base and become wider as they distance themselves from



Shamash was a native Mesopotamian deity and the sun god in the Akkadian, Assyrian and Babylonian pantheons.

the center. They symbolize the three major rivers flowing through the land of Assyria. At the top we see the mighty Euphrates, represented in blue denoting abundance. In the center the great Zab is in white portraying peace, and in



Assyrians of the village Urmia in the Krasnodar district in Russia.

the bottom we see the mighty Tigris in a red color representing the Assyrian national pride. These three stripes are also picturing the rays of the center star and stand to symbolize the dispersion of the Assyrian people to the four corners of the world. The manner in which these stripes emerge from the star also symbolically portrays the eventual return of the Assyrians to their ancestral homeland which is represented by the center of the star.

Hovering over the star and the emblem of Shamash, there is a representation of the image of God Ashur the ancient Assyrian supreme deity. The emblem of Ashur features



Ashur, Ashshur, also spelled Ašur, Aššur the head of the Assyrian pantheon and.

the deity standing in a circle with two eagle wings spanning and stretching over its length on two sides. Ashur has drawn a bow and his arrow is ready to fly. This emblem is in the same shape and color scheme of the original ceramic work preserved in the British Museum.

Finally, atop the flag pole there stands the royal insignia of the famous Assyrian king Sargon II, signifying the might and the great civilization achieved by the Assyrians.

The Assyrian flag is the symbol of Assyrian strength and unity. It's been a source of pride and inspiration for millions of Assyrians.



Assyrian Parade in Chicago, Il - 2014.