



CAPODISTRIAS
MUSEUM

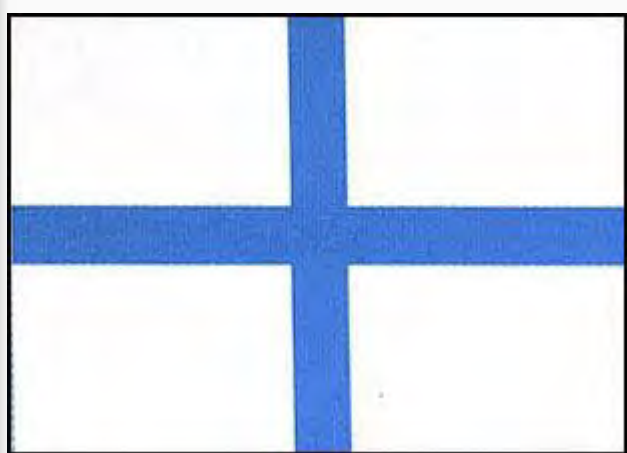
Flags of the Revolution

A creative & educational game for children and adults

Let's paint some of the flags of the Greek War of Independence

Since there was not a unified command at the outbreak of the Greek Revolution, each corps created its own flag. Some of the revolutionaries adopted the church banner of their parish.

The flag forms an identification mark, an identity.



Each one of the revolutionaries, created their own “Bairaki”, namely their own war flag. The symbols and the colors chosen meant something special to them and their comrades during the war.

The revolutionaries felt that the bond between them and their symbols was as strong as their bond with their guns and that’s why they always wanted to remember its meaning.

Luis Dupré (1789-1837),
Un Grec arborant son étendard sur les murs de Salone

N. Mitropoulos raises the flag of the Greek Revolution in Salona, 1821



Paint the flags of the Greek War of Independence

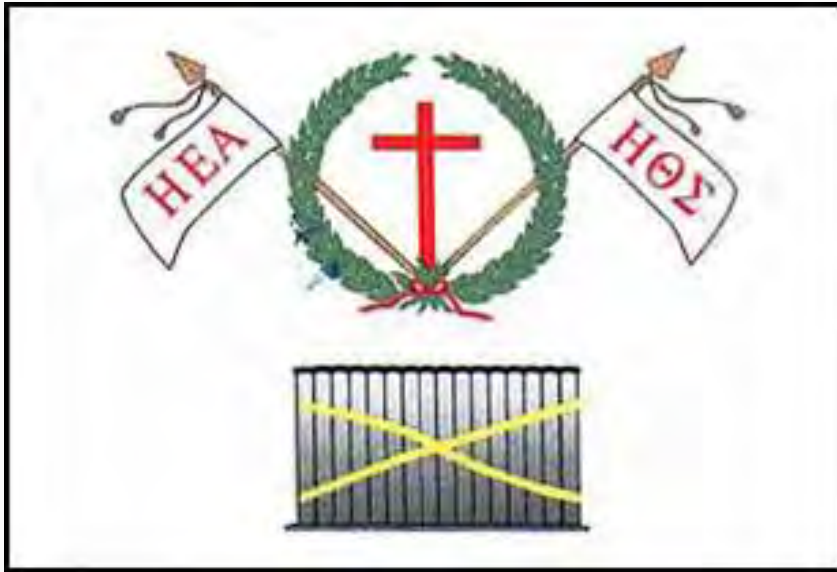


The Greek Flag as it was established from 1822 until 1969.



An image of the flag brought by Andreas Lontos while entering Patras, in 1821. Germanos III of Old Patras blessed this flag and placed a big wooden cross at the square of Saint George. The revolutionaries bowed before the cross and vowed “Liberty or Death”.

On 26 March, 1821 the Directorate of Achaea declares officially the beginning of the Revolution.



The flag designed by Germanos III of Old Patras with the Filiki Eteria symbols. It is the only flag made by silk.

HEA stands for EITHER LIBERTY

ΗΘΣ stands for OR DEATH

Georgios Sisinis raised the flag in 1821 in Ilida (Prefecture of Ilia, Peloponnese).

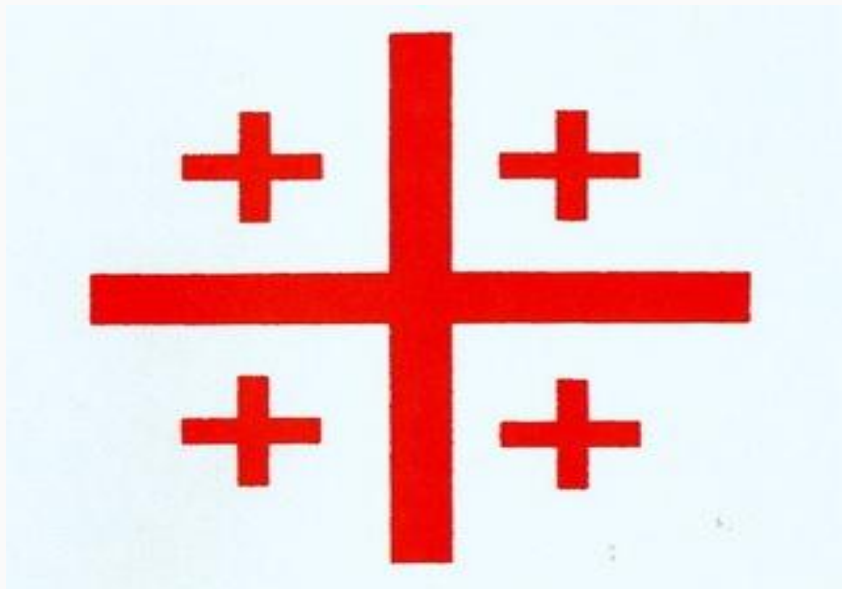


Image of the flag raised by Anthimos Gazis in 1821 in Thessalomagnisia.



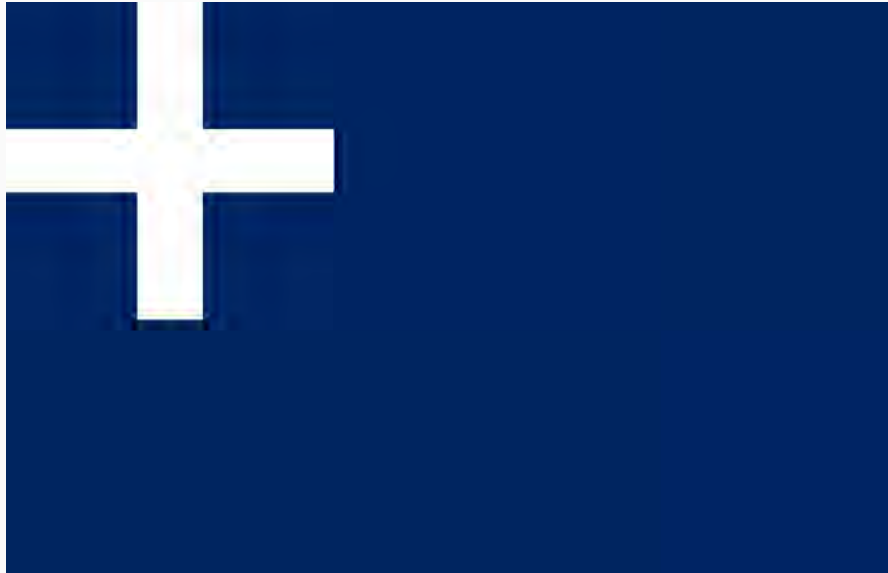
Image of the front side of the flag raised by D. Ipsilantis in 1821 in Iasi, Moldova-Wallachia.

The red color represents the patriotism, the white color the fraternity and the black color the sacrifice.



An image of the flag of Areopagus.

The anchor stands for the steadiness of the ultimate purpose of the Revolution. The burning heart stands for the purity of the purpose of the Revolution and the flame of the Freedom. Finally, the cross stands for the faith and the hope for the fair war of the Nation.



The flag of the Greek Merchant Marine was flown, from 1822 to 1828, on the vessels that belonged to the merchant fleet of Greece.



An image of the flag raised on Hydra Island on April, 1821.

The cross, symbol of the Christian faith, steps on the Half-moon which represents the Ottoman Empire. The erect anchor expresses the wish to win the impending naval battles. The snake that twists itself around the anchor stands for neither the power of the Greek Nation or the Turks that are eaten by the owl which symbolizes the Greeks. On the left, we can see a lance with a banner which depicts a helmet, to remind the glorious battles of the Ancient Greeks. Also, at the bottom, it is written the phrase that the women of Sparta used to say to the men who were about to leave for the battle: Η' ΤΑΝ' Η ΕΠΙ ΤΑΣ which stands for “come back with your shield, or on it”.



Rigas Feraios suggested this flag that bears three crosses and the club of the mythical hero Hercules, who represents the Greek Power. On the club it is written the phrase “Υπέρ των νόμων και της Πατρίδος” which stands for: “In favour of the laws and the motherland”, and the inscription inside the club says: Ελευθερία-Ισοτιμία-Αδελφότης which is the famous motto of the French Revolution: Liberty-Equality —Fraternity. The colors represent the Revolution. More specifically: the red color stands for the blood, the white for the freedom and the black for the death. The French Revolution and the teachings of the Enlightenment influenced Rigas.

Activity: How would you make your own Revolution Flag?

Draw your inspiration from these flags and make your own!

Paint it, take a picture of it & send us your flag at our email:

info@capodistriasmuseum.gr