

Flag Descriptions: Merged Federal Subjects

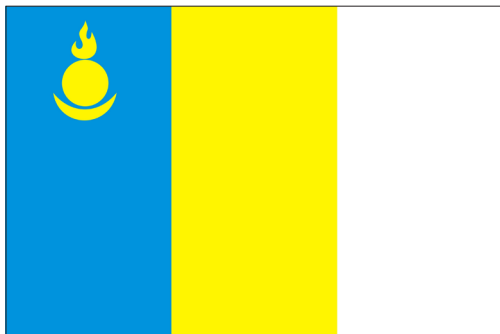
As has previously been discussed, some federal subjects have merged since the creation of the Russian Federation. The flags of the merged regions are described in the following section, but were not included in the design analysis. Most of these flags represent autonomous okrugs which merged into the oblast or krai of which they are a part. One of the flags belongs to Kamchatka Oblast, which merged with Koryak Autonomous Okrug to form Kamchatka Krai. The government has formed a commission and held a design contest, but has yet to pick a new flag. In several cases the flags of former federal subjects continue to be used after the mergers, but their status as official symbols is not always clear.

Agin-Buryat Autonomous Okrug

Агинский-Бурятский автономный округ /

Aginskii-Buriatskii avtonomnyi okrug

Merged into: Zabaikal Krai



Year Adopted: 2001, 2009 **Proportions:** 2:3

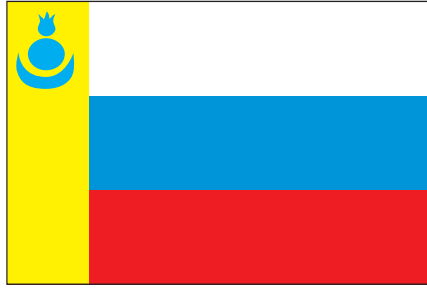
Designer: Bato Galsanovich Dampilon

The flag of Agin-Buryat Autonomous Okrug has three equal vertical stripes—blue, yellow, and white. Centered in the upper hoist is a yellow *soyombo*, a cultural symbol of the Mongol people that combines a flame of the hearth, the sun, and the crescent moon. The symbolism of the *soyombo* is the same as in the flag of Buryatia. Blue represents eternity, freedom, the purity of nature, respect, good relations, peace, and harmony between people. It is also the color of a Mongolian *khadag*—a silk scarf traditionally given to honored guests and elders as a sign of respect, blessing, happiness, and longevity. Yellow is the color of faith and has long been associated with the religion of the people—Buddhism. White symbolizes honesty, purity of thoughts, well-being, wealth, and is reminiscent of the color of dairy foods, which are important to the culture. The *soyombo* was altered in 2009 so that the crescent moon is now narrower and the flame matches the asymmetric version used on the coat of arms.



Another flag, used from 1996 to 2001, had a yellow stripe at the hoist with the *soyombo* in blue. Three horizontal stripes at the fly mirrored the national

flag—white/blue/red. The width of the yellow stripe was approximately 1/6 of the length of the flag. This first flag was designed by Batozhargal Shagdarov. On 1 March 2008, the autonomous okrug merged with Chita Oblast to form Zabaikal Krai.



Sources: “Flag Aginskogo Buriatskogo avtonomnogo okruga”, *Geraldika.ru*, <http://geraldika.ru/symbols/2038>, accessed 18 June 2008; “Aginskii Buriatskii avtonomnyi okrug”, *Vexillographia: Flagi Rossii*, <http://www.vexillographia.ru/russia/subjects/aginskoe.htm>, accessed 1 August 2008; Borisov and Kozina, p. 394; Saprykov (2004), p. 86; Saprykov (2006), p. 86; Smetannikov, p. 97; Solov’ev, p. 180-181; “Aghin Buriatia (Russia)”, *FOTW Flags of the World*, <http://www.crwflags.com/FOTW/flags/ru-agb.html>, accessed 27 June 2008; “Khata”, *Wikipedia*, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khadag>, accessed 12 July 2008; Zakonodatel’noe Sobranie Zabaikal’skogo kraia, “O simbolakh Aginskogo Buriatskogo okruga Zabaikal’skogo kraia,” http://oblдума.chita.ru/store/files_v3/zakon_231-zzk.doc, accessed 18 November 2009.

Evenk Autonomous Okrug

ЭВЕНКИЙСКИЙ автономный округ /

Evenkiiskii avtonomnyi okrug

Merged into: Krasnoyarsk Krai



Year Adopted: 1995 **Proportions:** 1:2

Designer: Sergei Salatkin

Evenk Autonomous Okrug has a flag with three horizontal stripes of light blue, white, and dark blue in proportions of 27:34:27. The stripes represent the colors of the polar day and night, characterizing the northern environment of the okrug. Centered on the white stripe is a *kumalan* emblem with eight spokes, a traditional solar symbol in Evenki culture. Evenk Autonomous Okrug merged into Krasnoyarsk Krai on 1 January 2007.

Sources: "Flag Evenkiiskogo avtonomnogo okruga", *Geraldika.ru*, <http://geraldika.ru/symbols/530>, accessed 18 June 2008; Borisov and Kozina, p. 408; Saprykov (2004), p. 94; Saprykov (2006), p. 94; Smetannikov, p. 105; Solov'ev, p. 186-187; "Evenkia (Russia)", *FOTW Flags of the World*, <http://www.crwflags.com/FOTW/flags/ru-eve.html>, accessed 27 June 2008; "Flag of Evenk Autonomous Okrug", *Wikipedia*, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_of_Evenk_Autonomous_Okrug, accessed 12 July 2008.

Kamchatka Oblast

Камчатская область / Kamchatskaia oblast'

Merged into: Kamchatka Krai



Year Adopted: 2004 **Proportions:** 2:3

Designer: unknown

Kamchatka Oblast's flag has a white field with a blue stripe at the base, 1/3 the width of the flag. At the upper hoist is an emblem from the arms of the area, which features three erupting volcanoes over alternating wavy lines of blue, white, and blue. The Kamchatka Peninsula has 160 volcanoes, 29 of which are still active. Wavy lines represent the waters which border the region. Blue symbolizes not only the sea, but also the political and economic greatness that Russia has gained from the oceans. White represents a peaceful nature, purity, honor, and nobility. Kamchatka Oblast and Koryak Autonomous Okrug merged on 1 July 2007 to form Kamchatka Krai. A commission for selection of new symbols has held a design contest, but a flag has yet to be adopted. In the meantime, the government website continues to show this flag as that of Kamchatka Oblast.

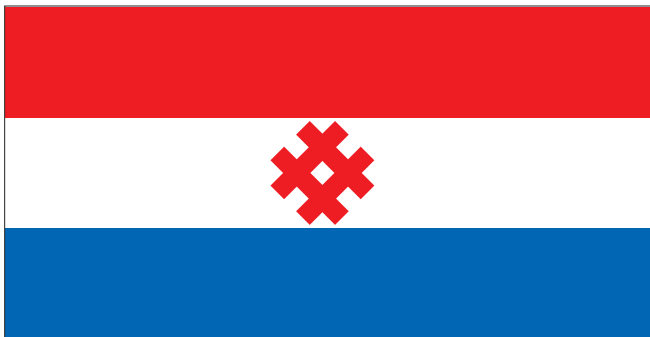
Sources: "Flag Kamchatskoi oblasti", *Geraldika.ru*, <http://geraldika.ru/symbols/6240>, accessed 19 June 2008; "Kamchatskii krai", *Vexillographia: Flagi Rossii*, <http://www.vexillographia.ru/russia/subjects/kamcatka.htm>, accessed 1 August 2008; Borisov and Kozina, p. 150; Saprykov (2004), p. 48; Saprykov (2006), p. 47; Smetannikov, p. 58; Solov'ev, p. 198-199; "Kamchatka Territory (Russia)", *FOTW Flags of the World*, <http://www.crwflags.com/FOTW/flags/ru-41.html>, accessed 27 June 2008.

Komi-Permyak Autonomous Okrug

Коми-Пермяцкий автономный округ /

Komi-Permiatskii avtonomnyi okrug

Merged into: Perm Krai



Year Adopted: 1996 **Proportions:** 1:2

Designers: A. M. Belavin, G. N. Klimova, and V. N. On'kov

The flag of Komi-Permyak Autonomous Okrug has three equal horizontal stripes—red over white over blue. These colors not only represent the colors of the national flag, but are also characteristic of the traditional clothing worn by the Komi-Permyak people. Red also represents courage, strength, bravery, and love. White symbolizes purity of thoughts, innocence, and wisdom. Blue is a symbol of glory, honor, and eternity. It also recalls the sky, bodies of water, and wide open spaces of the territory. Centered on the white stripe is a red symbol from the okrug's arms called a *perna*, formed by the crossing of two sets of parallel lines at a diagonal. This emblem is a widespread cultural symbol that signifies eternity, lofty aspirations, and happiness. The territory merged with Perm Oblast on 1 December 2005 to form Perm Krai.



Sources: "Flag Komi-Permiatskogo avtonomnogo okruga", *Geral'dika.ru*, <http://geraldika.ru/symbols/504>, accessed 18 June 2008; Borisov and Kozina, p. 395; Saprykov (2004), p. 87; Saprykov (2006), p. 87; Smetannikov, p. 98; Solov'ev, p. 124-125; "Parma (Russia)", *FOTW Flags of the World*, <http://www.crwflags.com/FOTW/flags/ru-81.html>, accessed 27 June 2008.

Koryak Autonomous Okrug

Корякский автономный округ /

Koriakskii avtonomnyi okrug

Merged into: Kamchatka Krai



Year Adopted: 1998 **Proportions:** 2:3

Designer: A. V. Prikhod'ko

Koryak Autonomous Okrug's flag has three equal vertical stripes of light blue, white, and light blue. The colors of the flag are drawn from the national flag, and represent unity with Russia, its friendship, and harmony. Light blue is the color of the sky, represents the waters of the Okhotsk Sea and the Bering Sea which wash the shores of the Kamchatka Peninsula, and symbolizes the many rivers in the region. White is tied to the concepts of high moral beginnings, peace, tranquility, well-being, and happiness. It also recalls the climate of the region which is covered in deep snow for much of the year. Centered on the white stripe is the stylized head of a reindeer in red. This represents the basis of rural agriculture in the region—reindeer breeding. The autonomous okrug merged with Kamchatka Oblast on 1 July 2007 to form Kamchatka Krai. A commission for selection of new symbols has held a design contest, but a flag has yet to be adopted. In the meantime, the government website continues to show this flag as that of Koryak Autonomous Okrug.

Sources: "Flag Koriakskogo avtonomnogo okruga", *Geral'dika.ru*, <http://geraldika.ru/symbols/512>, accessed 18 June 2008; Borisov and Kozina, p. 396; Saprykov (2004), p. 88; Saprykov (2006), p. 88; Smetannikov, p. 99; Solov'ev, p. 206-207; "Koryakia (Russia)", *FOTW Flags of the World*, <http://www.crwflags.com/FOTW/flags/ru-82.html>, accessed 27 June 2008.

Taymyr Autonomous Okrug

Таймырский автономный округ /

Taimyrskii avtonomnyi okrug

Merged into: Krasnoyarsk Krai



Year Adopted: 2000 **Proportions:** 2:3
Designer: Vladimir S. Taranets

The flag of Taymyr Autonomous Okrug is blue. This color symbolizes the greatness and beauty of the Taymyr region, the Yenisei River, and the Kara and Laptev Seas. Centered on the field is a silver/white solar disk with four narrow triangular points extending in the cardinal directions like the four points of a compass. The disk represents the territory of the Taymyr Peninsula and also the long winter which can last for as much as 285 days in the northern regions. It also symbolizes the sun and the warmth it provides to the people of the North. In the center of the disk is a Red-breasted Goose flying from west to east. This goose is a rare bird which nests on the tundra. Its flight path symbolizes the movement of the region toward progress. The Taymyr Autonomous Okrug merged into Krasnoyarsk Krai on 1 January 2007.

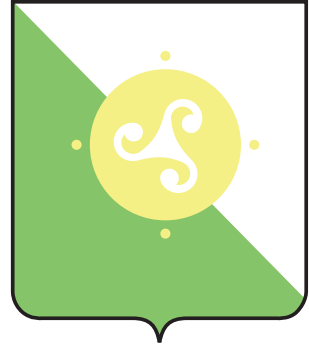
Sources: "Flag Taimyrskogo (Dolgano-Nenetskogo) avtonomnogo okruga", *Geraldika.ru*, <http://geraldika.ru/symbols/516>, accessed 18 June 2008; Borisov and Kozina, p. 398; Saprykov (2004), p. 90; Saprykov (2006), p. 90; Smetanikov, p. 101; Solov'ev, p. 182-183; "Taymyr (Russia)", *FOTW Flags of the World*, <http://www.crwflags.com/FOTW/flags/ru-84.html>, accessed 27 June 2008.

Ust-Orda Buryat Autonomous Okrug

Усть-Ордынский Бурятский автономный округ /

Ust'-Ordynskii Buriatskii avtonomnyi okrug

Merged into: Irkutsk Oblast



Year Adopted: 1997 **Proportions:** unknown

Designers: M. V. Dambieva, I. I. Soktoeva, A. B. Tsybendorzhieva, and A. A. Bulgatov

The flag of Ust-Orda Buryat Autonomous Okrug (or Ust-Orda Buryatia) has a blue field. Along the bottom of the flag is a white stripe 1/8 the width of the flag, bearing a traditional red pattern from the arts and crafts of the region. In the center of the flag is an emblem from the arms—a gold disk bearing a white triad design with curved beams. Four small gold circles flank the disk at top, bottom, left, and right. This solar symbol represents perfection of the world, the form of the universe, the land, and the ancestral tribe. Blue on the field represents the eternal dark blue of the sky. White symbolizes heaven and the emptiness from which the universe was made, the whiteness of milk, impetus toward development, and the sacred color used in purification and healing rituals. Red symbolizes blood, fire, warmth, the sun, bravery, courage, and fearlessness. Gold represents the richness of the territory. It is also the color of the sun, happiness, and well-being. The Ust-Orda Buryat Autonomous Okrug merged into Irkutsk Oblast on 1 January 2008.

Sources: "Flag Ust'-Ordynskogo Buriatskogo avtonomnogo okruga", *Geraldika.ru*, <http://geraldika.ru/symbols/525>, accessed 18 June 2008; Borisov and Kozina, p. 399; Saprykov (2004), p. 91; Saprykov (2006), p. 91; Smetannikov, p. 102; Solov'ev, p. 184-185; "Ust-Ord Buriatia (Russia)", *FOTW Flags of the World*, <http://www.crwflags.com/FOTW/flags/ru-85.html>, accessed 27 June 2008.