

FLAG STORIES 14 TO 23

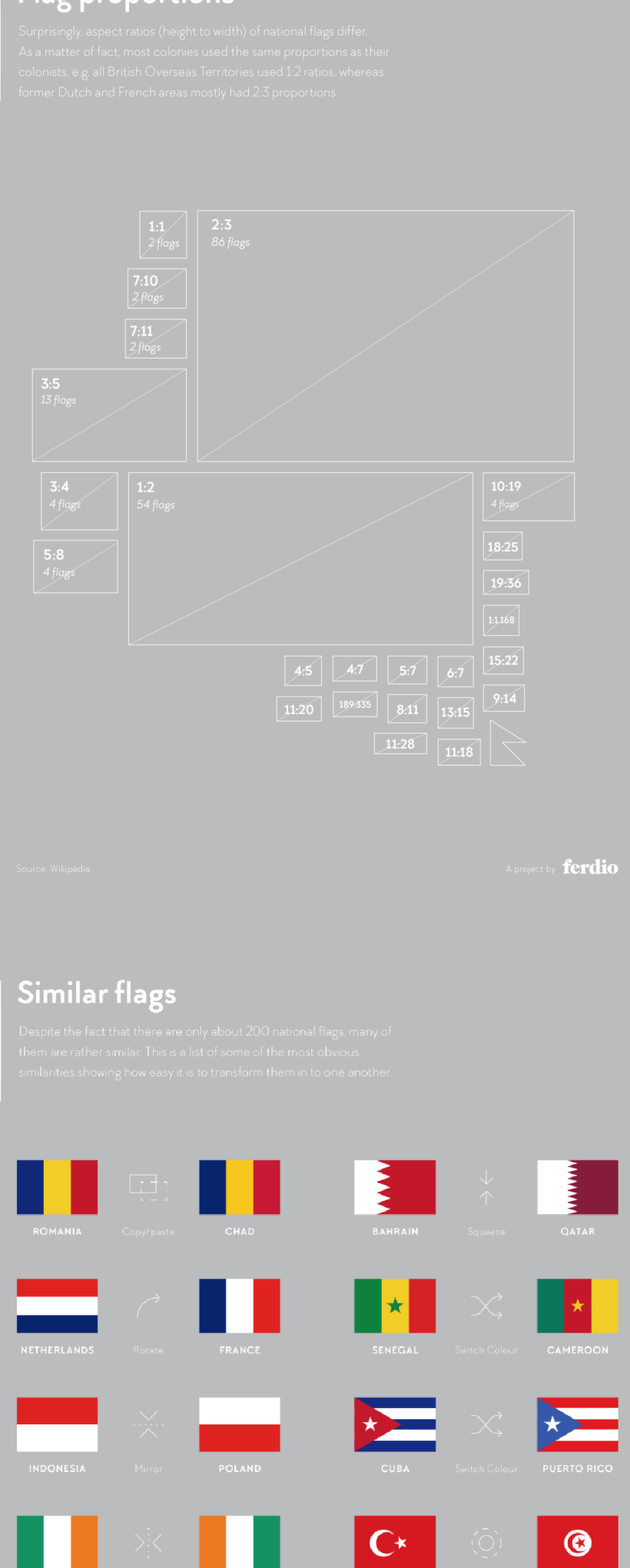
This special PDF includes the second 13 flag charts that can be found on the [Flag Stories website](#). The charts were developed by the infographic agency [Ferdio](#), and are made available under the terms of a [Creative Commons NonCommercial 4.0 International License](#).

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 at full resolution 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.

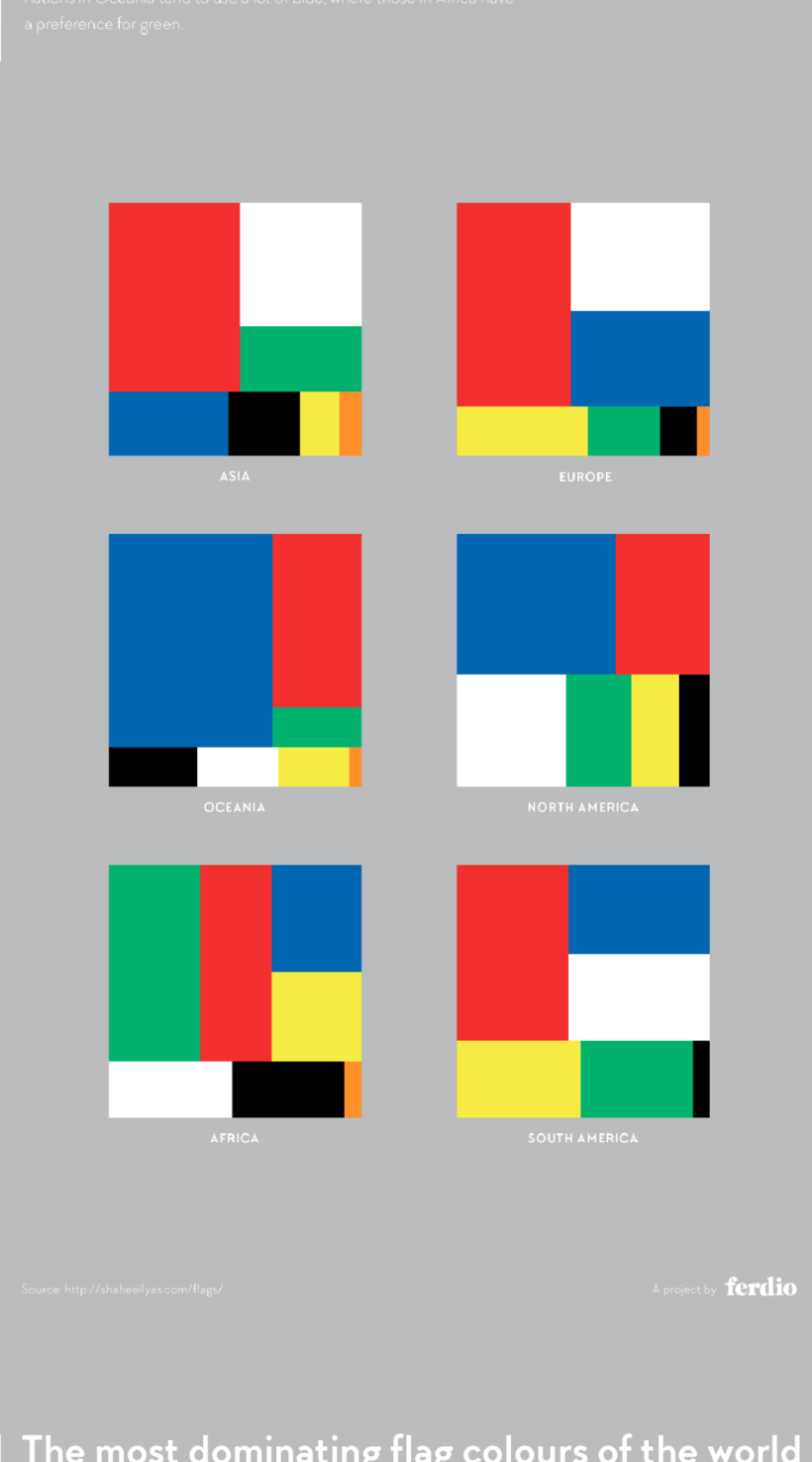
How old are national flags?

This timeline is based on the date in which each nation adopted their current national flag and is sorted by a 20-year interval. As you can see, only four of the current national flags are dated before the 19th century.



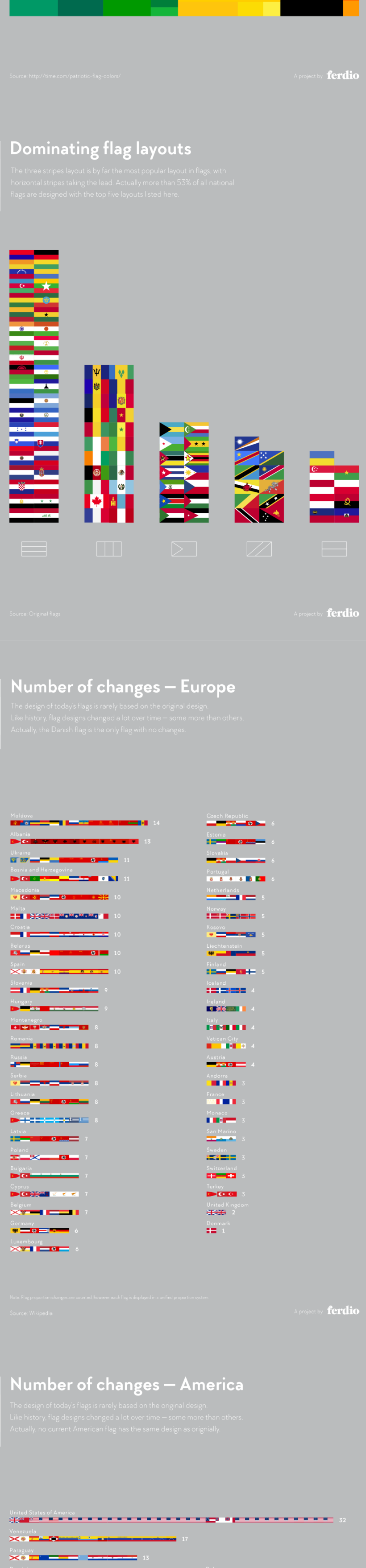
Flag proportions

Surprisingly, aspect ratios (height to width) of national flags differ. As a matter of fact, most countries used the same proportions as their colonies. For example, the British Overseas Territories used 1:2 ratios, whereas former Dutch and French areas mostly had 2:3 proportions.



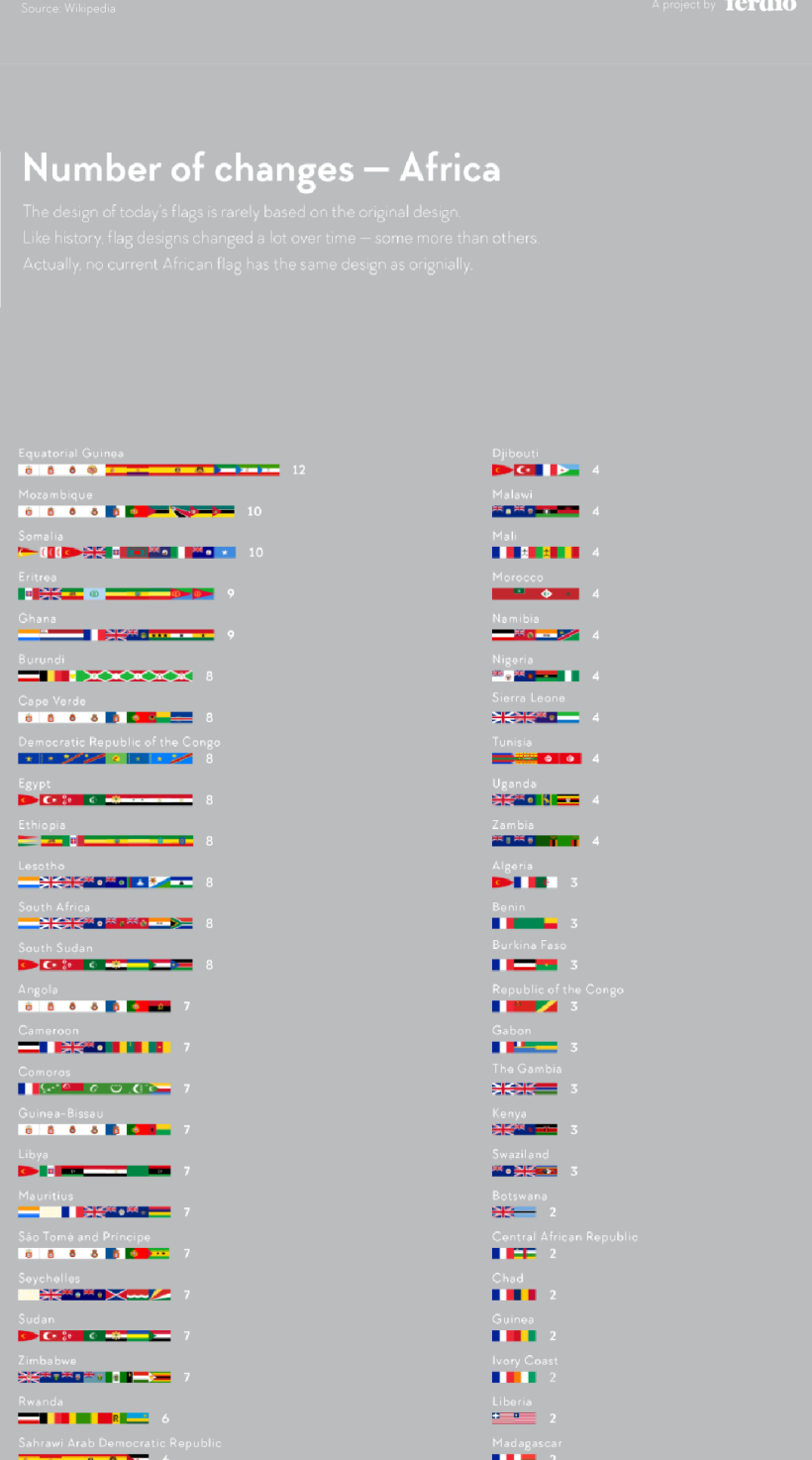
Similar flags

Despite the fact that there are only about 200 national flags, many of them resemble each other. Here is a list of some of the most obvious similarities showing how easy it is to transform them into one another.



Most used flag colours by continents

These treemaps show the use of colour by continent. Interestingly, nations in Oceania tend to use a lot of blue, where those in Africa have a preference for green.



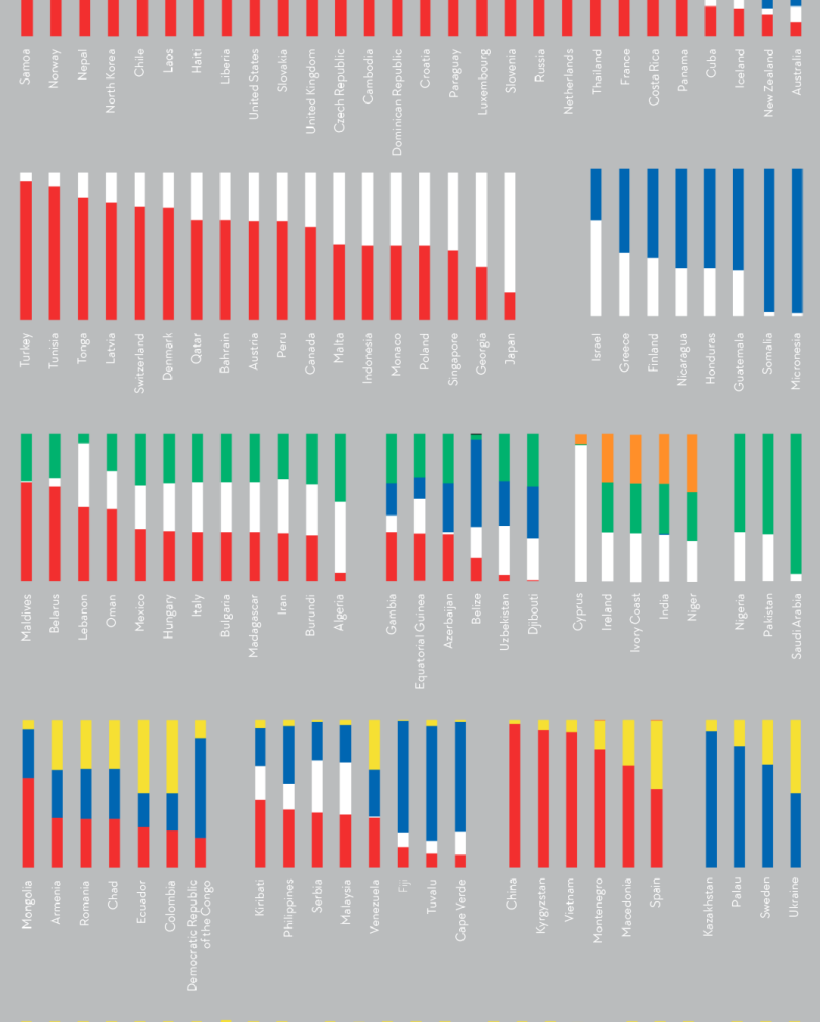
The most dominating flag colours of the world

This is how it looks when you extract the colors of all flags and group them into main colours by proportion. Clearly primary colours dominate, but strangely enough purple is not represented at all.



Dominating flag layouts

The three stripes layout is by far the most popular layout in flags, with horizontal stripes taking the lead. Actually, more than 55% of all national flags are designed with the top three layouts listed here.



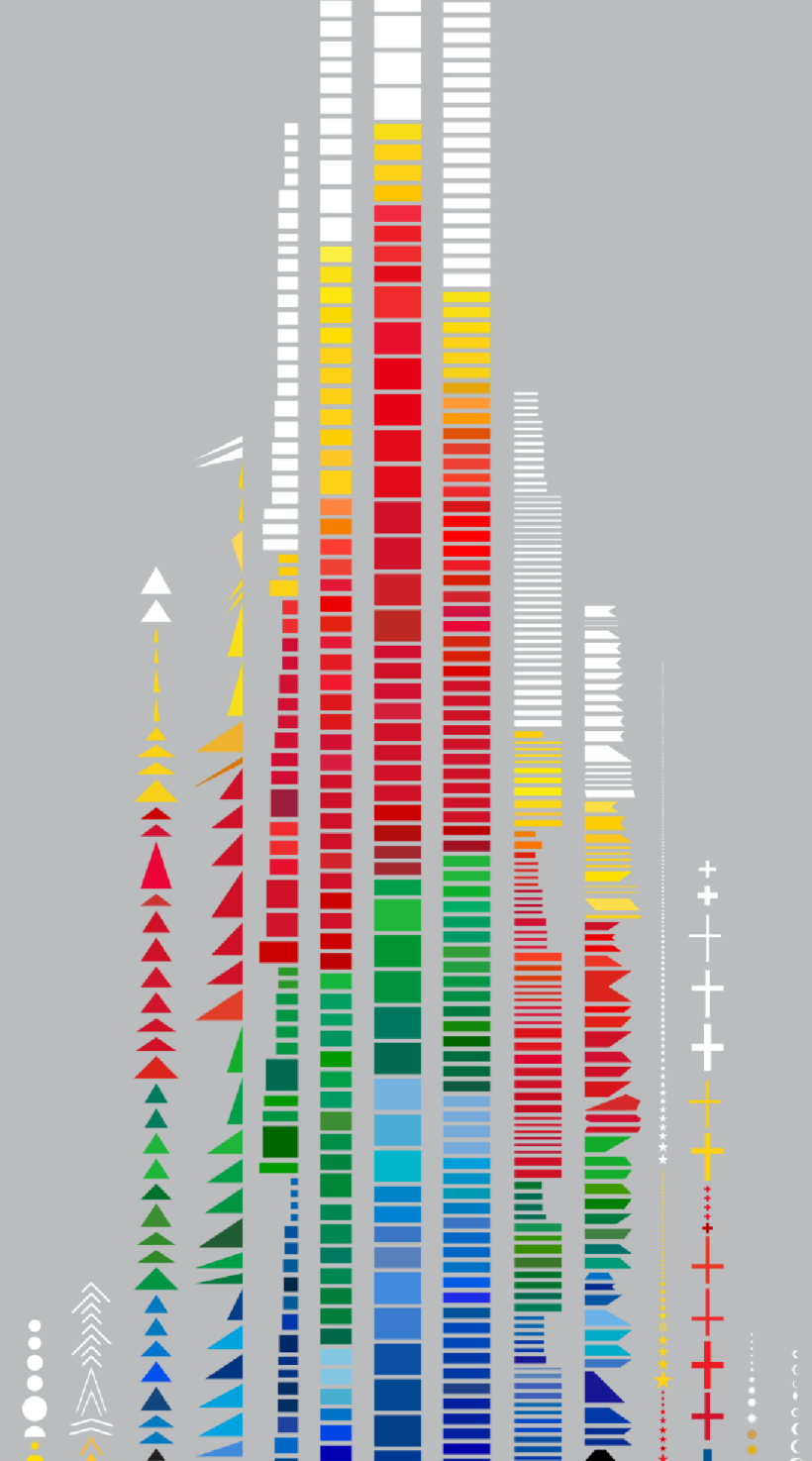
Number of changes – Europe

The design of today's flags is rarely based on the original design. Like history, flag designs changed a lot over time – some more than others. Actually, the Danish flag is the only flag with no changes.



Number of changes – America

The design of today's flags is rarely based on the original design. Like history, flag designs changed a lot over time – some more than others. Actually, no current American flag has the same design as originally.



Number of changes – Africa

The design of today's flags is rarely based on the original design. Like history, flag designs changed a lot over time – some more than others. Actually, no current African flag has the same design as originally.



Number of changes – Asia & Oceania

The design of today's flags is rarely based on the original design. Like history, flag designs changed a lot over time – some more than others. Actually, no current flag from Asia or Oceania has the same design as originally.

Flag charts

Flags look so much more alive when leaving out borders and simply visualize them as colored bar charts according to color proportion.

Flag Tetris

Imagine all flag elements splitted into separate parts, sorted by colours and stacked like a tetris game. Well, this is how it looks. Now you can fill your desktop with flag elements as you wish.

Most used flag elements

Split each flag into elements, sort them by shape, quantify them and stack them into bar charts – then you have most used flag elements. Rectangles, stars and regular polygons seem to be our favorites.

This PDF and its companion PDF entitled "Flag Stories 1 to 13" have been provided as resources for would-be flag designers and for those who may serve as members of flag contest committees or of flag referendum committees. Other items of possible interest may be found [here](#) and [here](#).