



## **STATE SYMBOLS – A FACTOR OF NATIONAL PRIDE**

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### **Abstract**

The article analyzes the importance of patriotism and the education of young people in the educational process, as well as focuses on the study of national symbols, particularly flags. Flags are significant symbols in the history of humanity, with meanings, origins, and roles unique to different cultures. Initially, flags emerged as symbols of clans and tribes, and later began to be used to express military and political affiliation. The article examines the religious beliefs, traditions, and cultures related to flags, as well as the symbolic significance of these signs. Moreover, in various cultures, the loss or theft of a flag was considered equivalent to the fall of power. The article analyzes flags as symbolic signs and their role in the history of nations and peoples.

**Keywords:** Patriotism, education and upbringing, state symbols, history of flags, The Avesta and flags, Firdawsi's Shahnameh, clan symbols, symbol of political unity, religious views, clan or tribal totem.

### **Introduction**

One of the key elements of spirituality is patriotism. One of the main directions of education and upbringing is to nurture the younger generation in the spirit of patriotism. Indeed, all forms of knowledge and the interests of the people and the nation must serve the development of the country.

Today, state symbols are distinct and historically established signs that represent the sovereignty of a particular state. They embody the most important characteristics of an independent nation. State symbols are defined by the Constitution or special laws. The national flag, the national emblem, the national anthem, the constitution, and the capital city are considered the primary symbols of a state. Among these, one of the symbols that has been used since ancient times is the flag. Throughout various periods, flags have been referred to by different

names such as «tugh», «bayroq», «alam», and «sanjaq», and they have appeared in various forms.

## **MATERIAL AND METHODS**

Flags are unique codes that reflect human history in the form of symbols. They serve as signs that convey the history of nations and significant events, but since the keys to reading these symbols have been lost, they often remain shrouded in mystery.

As early as the 3rd–2nd millennia BCE, flags emerged as tribal emblems and later became symbols of authority. Over time, they came to be widely used as visual tools during military confrontations to indicate troop positions and the affiliation of ships. Flags were used to send messages, distinguish friends from foes, and indicate the status and rank of their bearers.

The emergence of flags in Central Asia also dates back to very ancient times. One of the earliest state formations in our land, Bactria (Bakhdi), is mentioned in the Videvdad section of the Avesta, where it is described as the land of “a thousand banners – a thousand flags (hazahra drafsha).”

In addition, the Avesta refers to “flags fluttering in the wind – gaoša drafša,” an “army raising wide and bloody banners high,” and “the enemy’s standard.” In the Avesta, the word drafšā- (Middle Persian), rδ’šp (Sogdian), and λραφο (Bactrian) are used as equivalents meaning “flag” or “standard.”

Ferdowsi’s Shahnameh recounts how the blacksmith Kaveh raised the people in rebellion against the tyrant Zahhak under a banner fashioned from his leather apron. Depictions of military flags can also be found in ancient artistic monuments, particularly in battle scenes. For example, a 6th–8th century silver vessel from Khwarazm, now housed in the Hermitage Museum, features a scene of a castle under siege where various flags and standards are clearly visible.





The flag is a sacred symbol that has become an emblem of political and military unity. According to Mongol beliefs, if a flag was captured or stolen, it meant there was no longer any possibility of resisting the enemy. Among the Arabs, the flag was kept in the tent of the tribal sheikh, and the theft of the flag was considered equivalent to the collapse of the sheikh's authority. In the Chinese military treatise Wu Zi Sun Yao, which contains the military laws of the Tang and early Song dynasties, it is stated that the loss of a flag or war drum—or their capture by the enemy—was punished by the execution of the entire unit.

## **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, we can say that the origins of the symbols depicted on ancient flags were often linked to religious beliefs. Religious convictions led certain objects and items to gain special significance in people's lives. In many cases, important symbols representing a tribe's or clan's totem later evolved into various emblematic signs.

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