

REMEMBERING THE RED, BLACK AND GREEN!

The symbolic meaning behind the pan-African flag



[Source](#)

History of the Pan-African flag

- The Pan-African Flag is also known as the Afro-American flag, the Black Liberation flag, and the UNIA (Universal Negro Improvement Association) flag. [Source](#)
- The flag was created in 1920 with the support of the Honourable Marcus Garvey, the Black nationalist and leader of the Pan-Africanism movement and founder of the UNIA. [Source](#)
- The flag was created in response to a racially derogatory song “Every race has a flag but the Coon”. Garvey stated, **“Show me a race of the nation without a flag, and I will show you a race of people without any pride”**. [Source](#)

The Meaning of the Colours



The flag consists of three equal horizontal bands coloured Red, Black, and Green.

- The UNIA stated that: **Red** represents the blood that unites all people of Black African ancestry and was shed for liberation.

- **Black** is for Black people whose existence as a nation, though not a nation-state, is affirmed by the flag.
- **Green** is for the abundant natural wealth of Africa. [Source](#)

The Pan-African flag today

- When African nations broke free from colonial rule, they needed symbols of their independence.
- Many looked to the Pan-African flag for inspiration. Its bold red, black, and green stripes spoke of struggle and hope.
- As countries like Ghana, Libya, Malawi, and Kenya crafted their flags, they borrowed these powerful colours. Some added touches of gold — a nod to the riches beneath their soil.
- Since its existence, many African nations have adopted the colours to symbolize sovereignty, solidarity and unity.
- These colours have also been adopted by Black organizations that fight for justice and liberation for Black people. [Source](#)

Learn more about Pan-Africanism

- [The Red, Black, and Green Flag and Pan-Africanism’s Historic Connection to Nova Scotia](#) | The Halifax Examiner
- [Pan-Africanism](#) |South African History Online (SAHO)
- [What was the Pan-African movement?](#) | Brown University.
- [Pan-Africanism Reborn?](#) | Africa Center for Strategic Studies

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