

The Flag of Japan

The flag of Japan has a white background with a large red circle {or disc} in the center. The disc represents the sun. The flag is known as Nisshoki or Hinomaru in the Japanese language, which means 'circle of the sun'. The centered sun on the flag has been an important part of Japan's flag for thousands of years. The white background represents purity or honesty.

The flag was officially adopted on January 26, 1870. In August of 1999 the Law regarding the National Flag and Anthem went into effect. This law slightly altered the dimensions of the flag, but did not change the overall flag design.

