

CHINA

Facts & Figures

The National Flag, the National Emblem, the National Anthem and the National Capital

The National Flag

The flag of the People's Republic of China is red with five yellow stars in the upper lefthand corner – one big star half-circled by four small stars on the right.

The colour red symbolizes the spirit of revolution, and the five yellow stars, like twinkling stars shining over the red ground, signify the unity of the people under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party. The big star represents the party in power – the Communist Party of China – and the four small stars stand for the four classes at the time of Liberation: the working class, the peasantry, the urban bourgeoisie and the national bourgeoisie.

The design of the five yellow stars is dignified, bright and clear. The colour yellow symbolizes the yellow race, to which the Chinese people belong, and the shape the five stars form suggests China's geographical outline.

In April 1949, the People's Liberation Army captured Nanjing, thus overthrowing the Kuomintang Government. Attended by representatives

of the Chinese Communist Party, democratic parties, people's organizations, nonparty personages, minority nationalities and overseas Chinese, the Preparatory Meeting of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) was held in June of the same year to discuss matters relating to the founding of the PRC, and a primary selection committee for a national emblem and the design of a national flag was set up. Shortly after the committee's public invitation in July, 3,012 designs for a national flag were received, out of which 38 were chosen to be examined and approved by the delegates to the CPPCC, which exercised the power and functions of the National People's Congress before its convocation. Finally, the red flag with five stars, designed by Zeng Liansong, a Shanghai economist, was adopted at the First Plenary Session of the CPPCC, held on September 27, 1949, shortly before the founding of New China. On October 1, 1949, the flag first went up in Tiananmen Square upon the formal announcement of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

It is stipulated that the national flag hang on government buildings, Chinese consulates and embassies in foreign countries, and oceangoing naval and merchant vessels. On national holidays, such as National Day, the flag is flown throughout the country.

The National Emblem

The national emblem of the People's Republic of China depicts Tiananmen illuminated by five stars and encircled by ears of grain and a cogwheel. The colours for the yellow design against a red background were chosen because red and yellow represent luck and happiness in Chinese tradition.

Tiananmen (Gate of Heavenly Peace), situated in the centre of Beijing, was built in 1417. It symbolizes the national spirit because it was there that the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal May 4th Movement of 1919 was launched and the inauguration of the People's Republic of China was held. The cogwheel and the ears of grain represent the working class and the peasantry respectively, and the five stars symbolize the solidarity of the Chinese people led by the Chinese Communist Party. The emblem clearly indicates that New China is a socialist state under the people's democratic dictatorship led by the working class and based on an alliance of workers and peasants.

In July 1949, shortly after the Preparatory Meeting of the CPPCC invited the public to contribute designs for the national emblem, more than a thousand designs from Chinese at home and abroad were received, but none was chosen until June 23, 1950, when the Second Session of the First CPPCC adopted the present design. On September 20, Chairman of the Central People's Government Mao Zedong issued the order to publish the design.

It is stipulated that the national emblem hang above the entrances to central and local organs of state power, government bodies, CPPCC organizations and Chinese consulates and embassies in foreign countries.

The National Anthem

Arise, those who do not want to be slaves!

*We will use our flesh'n blood;
We will build another Great Wall!
China has reached*

*The most dangerous moment.
People everywhere are making their
last outcry.
Arise! Arise! Arise!
All our hearts become one.
Let us face the angry guns! March
on!
Let us face the angry guns! March
on!
March on! March on! On!*

The words for the national anthem were written by Tian Han, and the music was composed by Nie Er.

Originally known as the "March of the Volunteers," it was the theme song of *Sons and Daughters in Time of Turmoil*, a film that depicted how Chinese intellectuals in the Kuomintang-controlled areas in the 1930s, at the critical moment when the nation's destiny was in the balance, marched bravely to the front in the War of Resistance Against Japan. When Tian Han, both dramatist and poet, was arrested by the KMT shortly after finishing the first draft of the story for the film and the song's lyrics, Xia Yan, a playwright, took over and put the story in scenario form. When the film was shown for the first time, the theme song, like a blazing fuse, kindled the flame of patriotism in the people to protect the motherland against the Japanese invaders. It soon resounded throughout the country, encouraging people to fight vigorously in their anti-Japanese struggle.

Vivid, inspiring and sonorous, the song describes the determination of the Chinese people to fight for their nation's liberation and embodies the bravery, perseverance and solidarity of the Chinese nation.

At the First Plenary Session of the CPPCC on September 27, 1949, it was decided that "The 'March of the Volunteers' will be the national anthem of the People's Republic of China until a national anthem is formally composed." On December 4, 1982, the Fifth Session of the Fifth National People's Congress decided to restore the original words, revised in 1978, and formally adopt the song as the national anthem of the PRC.

The Capital

Beijing, the capital of the People's Republic of China, is situated in the northwest rim of the North China Plain. With mountains to the north and west and flatlands sloping gently towards Bohai Bay to the south and east, Beijing covers an area of more than 16,000 square kilometres with a population of 9,230,000, according to the 1982 census. It has a temperate continental climate and four clearly contrasted seasons, of which autumn is the most pleasant.

Beijing became a city during the Western Zhou Dynasty (11th century B.C. to 770 B.C.), then being known as Ji. During the Warring States Period (475 B.C.-221 B.C.) it was the capital of the Yan Kingdom, and for more than a thousand years afterwards, it was a place of strategic military importance as well as a trade centre. By the early 10th century it became the second capital of the Liao Dynasty, then known as Yanjing. From 1115 to 1911 it served as the capital of the Jin, Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasties consecutively.

Beijing is also a city with a glorious revolutionary history, witness to events such as the May 4th Movement of 1919, the movement against Japanese aggression and for national salvation of December 9, 1935, and the beginning of the Anti-Japanese War on July 7, 1937.

Among Beijing's numerous historical relics and monuments Badaling, an important part of the Great Wall, is only about an hour by bus from the city centre. The Imperial Palace, also known as the Forbidden City, with some nine thousand rooms and the largest and most complete ensemble of ancient architecture in the world, is situated in the centre of Beijing over an area of seventy-two hectares. It served as office and residence for emperors of the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) dynasties. Originally a temporary residence and garden for emperors, the Summer Palace, in the western suburbs, occupies 290 hectares. Built in traditional Chinese style with green hills, clear waters, pavilions and corridors everywhere, it

is a masterpiece of gardening. Some fifty kilometres northwest of Beijing's city centre is Dingling, one of the thirteen imperial tombs of the Ming Dynasty. Emperor Shen Zong, who reigned from 1573 to 1620, and his two empresses were buried there. The Temple of Heaven, situated in southern Beijing, was where emperors of the Ming and Qing dynasties prayed to heaven for bumper harvests. The Home of Peking Man, the 500,000-year-old primitive apeman, is located on Dragon Bone Hill near the town of Zhoukoudian, fifty kilometres southwest of Beijing. Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, these monuments of cultural and historical importance, all under state protection, have been restored and opened to tourists.

Beijing, seat of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party and the Central People's Government, is also where the National People's Congress and the National Congress of the Communist Party of China convene. Among the city's dozens of institutions of higher learning, Beijing and Qinghua universities are the most famous; as a scientific research centre, Beijing is home for the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, along with numerous research institutes; Beijing Library has the largest collection of books in China; in addition, Beijing supports many cultural organizations for news dissemination, radio and television broadcasting, publishing, theatre and films.

The old city of Beijing, built in the typical architectural pattern of ancient Chinese capitals, has a central north-south axis with a symmetrical chessboard layout on each side. The imperial palace, situated at the centre of the axis, used to be encircled by inner and outer walls. Great changes have taken place, however, over the past thirty years in the city's construction. After the east and west walls flanking the palace square in the old imperial city were pulled down, the square was enlarged from eleven to forty hectares and became the famous Tiananmen Square, a place for

The national flag of the People's Republic of China



The national emblem of the People's Republic of China



中华人民共和国国歌

田 汉作词
聂 耳作曲

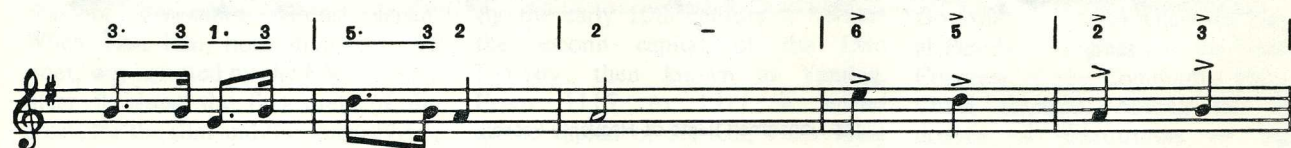


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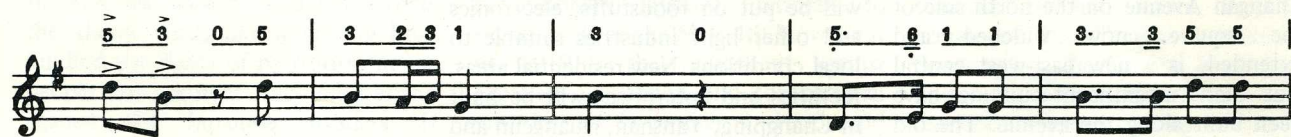
起



来! 不 愿 做 奴 隶 的 人 们! 把 我 们 的 血 肉,



筑 成 我 们 新 的 长 城! 中 华 民 族



到 了 最 危 险 的 时 候, 每 个 人 被 迫 着 发 出



最 后 的 吼 声。 起 来! 起 来! 起 来!



我 们 万 众 一 心, 冒 着 敌 人 的 炮 火 前 进!



冒 着 敌 人 的 炮 火 前 进! 前 进! 前 进! 进!



Tiananmen (Gate of Heavenly Peace).

both sightseeing and public meetings. Changan Avenue on the north side of the square, now widened and extended, is a new east-west central axis. Many magnificent buildings have been built along the avenue. The old city walls have been pulled down to make way for paved roads with a subway beneath. Parks have been constructed and trees planted. In once desolate places outside the city proper, a great many high-rise buildings, including factories, shops, office buildings and apartment houses, have sprung up.

However, modern urban construction has brought many problems along with it, such as shortage of housing and land, heavy traffic, air pollution and insufficient energy. The "Overall Plan for the Urban Construction of Beijing" stipulates that since Beijing is not only the nation's political and cultural centre but also an ancient capital and historical city, its typical architectural style should be preserved in the city's construction. Instead of

developing heavy industry, emphasis will be put on foodstuffs, electronics and other light industries suitable to local conditions. New residential areas, factories and enterprises will be built in Changping, Yanshan, Huangcun and Tongxian counties, four satellite towns around Beijing proper. In the old city of Beijing new buildings will not rise above six stories. More than fifty shops in Liulichang Street, dealing in antiques, calligraphy, painting, ancient books and the "four treasures of the study" (writing brush, ink stick, ink slab and paper) in the old days, have been restored. The traditional *siheyuan*, or courtyard, will be preserved for buildings in some areas, and acreage to be planted will be increased so as to beautify the environment.



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