

ITALY: Italian Social Republic · IVORY COAST and REPUBLIC OF IVORY COAST · JAMAICA



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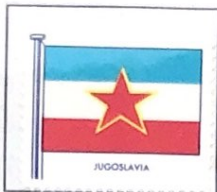
JAPAN



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JAPAN





JUGOSLAVIA

JUGOSLAVIA or YUGOSLAVIA ("Land of the Southern Slavs"; area 98,766 sq. mi.; pop. 18,400,000; cap. Belgrade or Beograd) was born of World War I, when the southern Slavs escaped from the rule of Austria-Hungary. Their first King, Alexander I, and his son Peter II, are much pictured on the early stamps. During World War II, Jugoslavia was overrun by the Germans; but the Slavs, fierce fighters, took to mountains and forests, where two rival guerilla armies fought both the invaders and each other. The Partisans under Marshal Tito won, abolished the monarchy, set up the present Communist Republic, a federation of Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Macedonia, Slovenia and Montenegro. In 1948 Dictator Tito amazed the world by freeing Jugoslavia from the domination of Russia — and living.

COAT OF ARMS



JUGOSLAVIA



JUGOSLAVIA



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JUGOSLAVIA (concluded) • KENYA and UGANDA • KIAUCHAU • KUWAIT





NORTH KOREA



SOUTH KOREA

KOREA

Annexed by Japan in 1910, KOREA or CHOSEN ("Land of Morning Calm") was liberated at the close of World War II. Russia occupied North Korea and turned it into the Communist "PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA" (47,862 sq. mi.; pop. 8,000,000; cap. Pyongyang). The U. S. occupied South Korea, which became the democratic REPUBLIC OF KOREA (37,424 sq. mi.; pop. 23,000,000; cap. Seoul). In June 1950 the well-armed Communists attacked South Korea; U.S. and U.N. forces went to the rescue; and there followed the bitter Korean War which ended in stalemate and truce (July 1953). North Korea with its valuable mines and factories is today a satellite of Red China. Agricultural South Korea, with massive U.S. aid, is gradually rebuilding and industrializing its devastated economy.

COAT OF ARMS

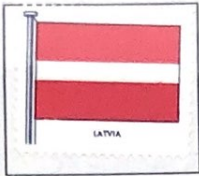


LABUAN · LAGOS · LAOS · LATAKIA



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LATVIA

For 150 years LATVIA or LETTLAND (25,305 sq. mi.; pop. 2,000,000; cap. Riga) was a province of Imperial Russia, whose people had kept their own language and customs. Dairying, stock-raising, lumbering and manufacturing (leading exports were light and heavy machinery) brought them prosperity; and Riga, after Leningrad, became Russia's finest seaport. Latvia was devastated, a third of its population perished, during World War I, after which the Latvians proclaimed their independence. By 1940 the Russians, grown powerful again, took back what they claimed to be their rightful Baltic seacoast, liquidated the upper classes, and turned the unhappy country into the Latvian Socialist Republic, a member state of the Soviet Union — an act which the United States still refuses to recognize.

COAT OF ARMS



LEBANON

In LEBANON (4,015 sq. mi.; pop. 1,525,000; cap. Beirut), fierce Moslem Arabs called Druses used to sweep down from the hills and massacre Christian Arabs living along the coast. France intervened in 1860, eventually assumed control over Lebanon, and granted its independence in 1941. Primarily engaged in agriculture, the Lebanese produce fruits, tobacco, olive oil, silk and cotton. Impressive ruins pictured on their postage stamps remind us that Tripoli and Sidon — now terminals of oil pipe lines from Iraq and Saudi Arabia — were centers of the great Phoenician civilization of 3,000 years ago. Since the insurrection of 1958, when U. S. Marines were landed, at Lebanon's request, to help keep order, this half-Christian, half-Moslem country has rapidly regained its former prosperity.

COAT OF ARMS



LIBERIA



The Negro Republic of LIBERIA ("Land of Freedom"; 43,000 sq. mi.; pop. 1,250,000; cap. Monrovia) was founded by a charitable organization to provide a homeland for freed American slaves. The first settlers landed in 1822. Their descendants, numbering about 20,000—and who until recent years were accused of practicing slavery themselves!—constitute the ruling class today. They inhabit a low coastal strip running about seven miles inland. Beyond that lie dense jungles inhabited by some 28 tribes of uncivilized blacks, who still live the primitive village life of their ancestors. With few roads and only one railroad (43 miles), interior travel in Liberia is still on foot with native bearers. A million acres leased to Firestone Plantations Co. make Liberia tenth in world production of rubber.

COAT OF ARMS



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LIBERIA

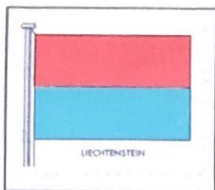


LEEWARD ISLANDS • LIBIA • LOURENCO MARQUES



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LIECHTENSTEIN



The world's 4th smallest country, tiny LIECHTENSTEIN (61 sq. mi.; pop. 15,000; cap. Vaduz) is tucked away between Austria and Switzerland along the Upper Rhine. A Principality, or country ruled by a Prince, its reigning family dates back to the 12th century. Its stamps reveal a land of great natural beauty: fertile valleys walled in by Alpine summits; picturesque inns clinging to steep mountainsides; hills crowned by the ruins of old castles. Liechtenstein abolished its army in 1861, and has managed to stay neutral, independent and virtually tax free ever since. Perhaps that is because many great enterprises (Royal Dutch Shell, Krupp, etc.) are incorporated there to take advantage of the painless tax laws — a purpose for which, naturally, a separate, independent nation should forever be preserved!

COAT OF ARMS



LITHUANIA

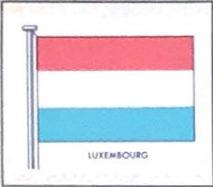


Low marshy LITHUANIA ("Land of Rain"; 24,500 sq. mi.; pop. 2,900,000; cap. Vilna) has vast stretches of swamps, lakes and forest. But half its area — now collectivized — formerly consisted of small farms industriously cultivated by peasants engaged in agriculture, dairying, poultrying, stock raising and bee-keeping. A large, fair-haired sturdy people, the Lithuanians are neither Germanic nor Slavic. In the 15th century, under Vytautas the Great, they were the largest nation of Europe! Declining thereafter, they survived centuries of oppression by Poles and Russians, and emerged in 1918 as an independent republic. Scarcely had they restored their war-stricken country when the Russians marched in, in 1940, liquidated the ruling class and turned Lithuania into the 14th Republic of the Soviet Union.

COAT OF ARMS



LUXEMBOURG



LUXEMBOURG (999 sq. mi.; pop. 322,000; cap. Luxembourg) is the world's only Grand Duchy, or country ruled by a Grand Duke (or Duchess), a nobleman one degree inferior in rank to a king. Created as a buffer state between France, Germany and Belgium, its neutrality was guaranteed by appropriate treaties which were immediately violated by Germany upon the outbreak of World Wars I and II. A bit cynical about guarantees, the Luxembourgers have now abandoned neutrality, formed the Benelux Customs Union with Belgium and the Netherlands, joined the North Atlantic Pact, and raised a standing army of four battalions. About a third of the people farm rolling hillsides and fertile river valleys. But the great industry is iron and steel, so profitable that there is no illiteracy, poverty or unemployment.

COAT OF ARMS



MACAO • MADAGASCAR and MALAGASY REPUBLIC



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REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES 1r



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