# 1. The Rising Sun Flag As Part Of Japanese Culture

The design of the Rising Sun Flag symbolizes the sun as the Japanese national flag does. This design has been widely used in Japan for a long time.

Today, the design of the Rising Sun Flag is seen in numerous scenes in daily life of Japan, such as in fishermen’s banners hoisted to signify large catch of fish, flags to celebrate childbirth, and in flags for seasonal festivities.

<table>
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<th>Reference</th>
<th>Press Conference by the Chief Cabinet Secretary SUGA, September 26, 2013(AM)  (excerpt)</th>
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<td>As you all know, the design of the Rising Sun Flag is widely used throughout Japan, such as good catch flags used by fishermen, celebratory flags for childbirth and seasonal festivities, and flags of Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) vessels. Claims that the flag is an expression of political assertions or a symbol of militarism are absolutely false. It appears to me that this is a large misunderstanding.</td>
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https://japan.kantei.go.jp/tyoukanpress/201309/26_a.html

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### Japanese culture and rising sun flags

- **Priest Kiyomori**, an old Kabuki story, by Ginko Adachi, 1885
- An ukiyoe print, *Lucky gods Visit Enoshima Palace*, by Yoshiiku Ochiai, 1869

### Daily life and rising sun flags

- The return to Ukedo port (2017) of fishing boats that had evacuated due to the Great East Japan Earthquake
- ©Kyodo News Images
- People celebrating the opening of the Hokkaido Shinkansen with big fishing flags, 2016
- ©Kyodo News Images

As Official Flags of Japan’s Self-Defense Forces


Ever since these flags were officially designated, they have been hoisted on various occasions, both domestically and internationally.

For more than half a century, these flags have been playing an indispensable role to show the presence of the Self-Defense Forces vessels and units, and are widely accepted in the international community.
The design of the rising sun is widely used in the world.

The design of the rising sun with beams of lights is not unique to Japan. Similar designs are widely used in the world, as seen in the national flag of Republic of North Macedonia, the state flags of Arizona, the U.S. and Lara, Venezuela as well as the flag of the air force of Belarus.

Flag of the Republic of North Macedonia (1995-)
https://www.vlada.mk/?ln=en-gb

Flag of Lara State, Venezuela (1901-)
http://www.lara.gob.ve/site/

Flag of Arizona State, the U.S. (1917-)
https://az.gov/

Flag of Belarus Air Force (2001-)
https://www.mil.by/ru/enceklop/heraldry/vvspvo/