The Latvian flag, flying on a flagpole

Latvijas valsts karogs

The current design of Latvian flag was approved in May 1917, at a meeting of the Art Promotion Association. Several proposals were reviewed. Finally the design with red-white-red flag having colour ratio 2:1:2 was accepted. The designer was Ansis Cirulis. The design was officially adopted as the Latvian flag. During the Soviet era the use and keeping of this flag was prohibited. Only in the spring of 1990 was the red-white-red flag restored as the official Latvian flag.

A modern legend says that after the prohibition of the Latvian flag by the Soviet regime, Latvians became fanatic supporters of the football club Spartak Moscow, because its colour were red-white-red and matches were a good opportunity to expose the prohibited flag.

However, the authorities understood the trick quickly, and Spartak was ordered to change its colours.