

## 新中国第一面五星红旗

## The First Flag of New China

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### 摘要

新中国第一面国旗仅用了三天就缝制完成。作者的父亲当年是一名 28 岁的中共党员和公司供销科职员，他监制了一面特殊的国旗。这面国旗用难得一见的黄蚕丝制作，1949 年 10 月 1 日开国大典上，毛主席在天安门广场首次升起。这面五星红旗高 3.4 米，长 4.6 米，现陈列在中国国家博物馆。

### Abstract

The first national flag of new China was completed in just three days. The author's father, a 28-year-old Communist party member and factory foreman, supervised its creation, organizing the craftsmen and procuring the hard-to-find yellow mulberry silk needed for the stars.

The flag first flew on October 1, 1949, raised in Tiananmen Square by signal of Chairman Mao. The red flag with five yellow stars, 3.4 meters high and 4.6 meters long, is now on display at the National Museum in Beijing.

我的父亲宋树信是“新中国第一面五星红旗”的监制者(图1)。2003年在非典时期因患糖尿病并发症于4月份病逝，享年83岁。生前在北京冶金局下属高熔金属材料厂担任党委副书记，厂长工作。

1920年12月，父亲出生在河北省博野县宋家庄一个普通农民家里，因生活所迫16岁起在内蒙集宁某皮货店学徒。他自幼贫苦，又生活在战乱年代，深知老百姓生活的艰难和谋生不易，因而养成了勤劳、勤俭，与人为善的品格。

1942年，父亲在北京前门某货栈做店员工作，在日伪势力很猖獗的时候，开始接触中国共产党地下工作者。革命的熏陶和质朴的阶级感情感染了父亲，激励父亲在抗战时期坚定不移地走上了革命道路，成为中国共产党的一名宣传员(图2)。

1948年，由于叛徒的出卖，国民党特务把父亲抓进监狱，严刑拷打，威逼利诱，但父亲始终没有暴露出中共党员的身份，没有给组织带来任何损失。

My father, SONG Shuxin, was one of the supervisors of the production of the first five-star red flag of new China in 1949 (fig. 1). He died in April 2003, at the age of 83, due to complications of diabetes during the SARS epidemic. Before his death, he served as the Deputy Secretary of the Party Committee and Factory Director at the Gaorong Metal Materials Factory under the Beijing Metallurgical Bureau.



图1. 宋树信（中排右）和同事。

Figure 1. SONG Shuxin (middle row, right) and colleagues.

My father was born in December 1920, into an ordinary peasant family in Songjiazhuang, Boye County, Hebei Province. Due to financial constraints, he began an apprenticeship at the age of 16 at a leather goods store in Jining, Inner Mongolia. He was poor from a young age and lived in an era of war. He was well aware of the difficulties of ordinary people's lives and the difficulty of making a living, so he developed a character of hard work, thrift, and kindness towards others.



图2. 北京学生参加抗日救亡运动。

Figure 2. Students in Beijing participating in the anti-Japanese and national salvation movement.

In 1942, my father worked as a shop assistant in a warehouse in Qianmen, Beijing. When the Japanese puppet forces were rampant, he began to contact underground workers of the Communist Party of China (CPC). The influence of the revolution and simple class feelings infected my father, encouraging him to embark unswervingly on the revolutionary road during the Anti-Japanese War and become a propagandist for the CPC (fig. 2).

In 1948, due to the betrayal of a traitor, Kuomintang spies arrested my father and subjected him to severe torture, coercion, and attempted bribery. However, he never revealed his identity as a member of the Communist Party of China and did not cause any losses to the organization.

1949年，北平和平解放，党派父亲到国营永茂实业公司工作。这个公司是中共北平市委，市政府所属的领导全市生产的一个权威部门。负责接管敌伪工厂企业工作，地址在现在的东单煤渣胡同(图3)。



图 3. 煤渣胡同。

Figure 3. Meizha Hutong.

9月下旬，中国人民政治协商会议第一届全体会议通过了《中国人民政治协商会议共同纲领》确定了我国的国旗、国歌、国都，并决定于10月1日举行开国大典。中央要求10月1日要在北京首都飘扬起数万面国旗(图4)。这个任务交给了北平市政府，市政府则要求永茂实业公司来完成。



图 4. 开国大典举办地天安门广场。

Figure 4. Tiananmen Square, site of the National Founding Ceremony.

ceremony on October 1. The central government required tens of thousands of national flags to be flown in the capital of Beijing on that day (fig. 4). This task was entrusted to the Beijing Municipal Government, which assigned the task to Yongmao Industrial Company.

父亲和公司另外几个同志负责具体的组织监制工作(图5)，有的到各个商店，布店去找布源，有的跑缝纫社，被服厂联系制作，有的现场监制，夜以继日加班加点抢时间。公司负责国旗组织监制的同志一连几天都没有回家，任务完成的比较顺利。



图 5. 制作国旗，1949 年 9 月。

Figure 5. Making national flags, September 1949.

In 1949, Beijing was peacefully liberated, and the party sent my father to work at the state-owned Yongmao Industrial Company. This company is an authoritative department under the leadership of the Beijing Municipal Committee of the Communist Party of China and the municipal government which led the production of the entire city. It was responsible for taking over the work of enemy and puppet factories located in today's Dongdan Meizha Hutong (fig. 3).

In late September, the first plenary session of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference adopted the "Common Program of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference", which established the national flag, national emblem, and national anthem, and decided to hold the founding

My father and several other colleagues in the company were responsible for the specific organization and supervision work (fig. 5). Some went to various stores and fabric shops to find cloth, some went to sewing clubs and clothing factories to arrange for production, and some supervised on-site production, working overtime day and night to meet the deadline. The comrade in charge of organizing and supervising the production of the company's national flags did not go home for several days in a row, and the task was completed relatively smoothly.

仅仅3天就做了4000多面国旗。

9月29日上午一上班，公司经理找到父亲说：

“市委指示10月1日毛主席要在开国大典上升起一面特大号的五星红旗，制作任务交给了我们公司。公司决定由你负责完成，这面红旗质量要好，五颗星必须用黄缎子做，旗子做好后由你亲自送到开国大典筹备处。”（图6）接到任务后，父亲又激动又紧张，心想，党把这么光荣的任务交给自己，是对自己的信任，使自己终身引以为荣。

紧张的是，当时离开国大典只有2天的时间了，父亲二话没说，先到公司找了做旗面的料子和做旗子套的白布，可困难的是找不到做五颗星的黄缎子。随即父亲便骑上二八自行车跑遍了北京王府井，西单，东四，西四前门等商业区所有布店，整整一天没有找到黄缎子。父亲心急如焚，夜不能寐。

当时公司制作了几万面的红旗，北京的红布黄布几乎买不到了，临时去外地买黄缎子，时间根本不许可也来不及，父亲把希望最后寄托在北京最大的绸布庄“瑞蚨祥”。30日清早，天刚蒙蒙亮，父亲骑车就赶到了“瑞蚨祥”，敲门叫醒了值班的师傅，说有天大的事请师傅们帮帮忙，因骑车心急，头冒大汗。

Over 4,000 national flags were made in just three days.

On the morning of September 29, when my father came to work, the company manager approached him and said, “The Municipal Party Committee instructed Chairman Mao to raise an especially large five-star red flag at the founding ceremony on October 1, and the production task has been entrusted to our company. The company decided that you would be responsible for completing the task. The quality of this red flag must be good, and the five stars must be made of yellow satin. After the flag is ready, you will personally deliver it to the preparatory office for the founding ceremony.” (fig. 6) After receiving the task, my father was both excited and nervous, considering how the party entrusted such a glorious task to him and gave him life-long pride.



图6. 新中国的国旗，五星红旗。

Figure 6. The first national flag of China, red with five stars.

There were only two days left before the National Ceremony. Without a word, my father went to the company to find materials for making the flag itself and white cloth for making flag covers. However, the difficulty was finding yellow satin for making the five stars. Immediately, my father rode his 28-inch bicycle and visited all the fabric stores in the commercial areas of Wangfujing, Xidan,

Dongsi, and Xisi Qianmen in Beijing, but couldn't find any yellow satin for a whole day. My father was burning with anxiety and couldn't sleep at night.

At that time, the company produced tens of thousands of red flags, and it was almost impossible to buy red and yellow fabric in Beijing. It was too late to go outside of the city in search of fabric. My father finally pinned his hopes on Ruifuxiang, the largest silk and fabric store in Beijing. In the early morning of the 30th, just at daybreak, my father rode his bike and arrived at Ruifuxiang. He knocked on the door and woke up the on-duty master, saying that there was a big matter to discuss and asked the masters for help. After to his bicycle ride he was sweating profusely.



接待的师傅就是当时“瑞蚨祥”（图7）的经理，他说：“小伙子，先别急，”随即便沏了壶茶，让父亲先喝茶，稍安勿躁。之后立刻叫来几位师傅，商量着大翻库也要帮这个忙。马上行动，说干就干！经过2个多小时的努力，终于在地窖里找到了唯一一块三米多长的上好的黄缎子，交给了父亲。

在这里，我对国旗的面料做一个简单的介绍：料子用的是当时上等的桑蚕丝（也属缎类），黄缎子原在皇宫里用的比较多，属于是皇家专用。受传统观念影响，平常百姓家几乎不用，所以市面上需求低，“瑞蚨祥”经理说一年也卖不了“一剪刀”，属于滞销品。所以有的绸布庄干脆没货，“瑞蚨祥”柜面上也不摆放。该店提供的红绸子和黄缎子是店里上等的天然桑蚕丝面料，红色是纯正的中国红，黄缎子也是正宗黄色，符合上级要求。它的观感、手感、光泽、亮度，是化纤品不可比拟的！（图8）。

父亲拿到料子后喜出望外，激动不已，感动地连声说：“谢谢谢谢”，随后骑车飞奔西单一家缝纫社。这家缝纫社信誉好，有经验，在当时的年代算是一家制作规模较大的企业，有大的剪裁工作条案，而且在前几天也配合永茂公司赶制过其他型号的旗



图 7. 瑞蚨祥丝绸布料商店。

Figure 7. Ruifuxiang, a silk and fabric store.



图 8. 瑞蚨祥提供的面料。

Figure 8. Fabric provided by Ruifuxiang.

The manager of Ruifuxiang (fig. 7) received him, saying, “Young man, don’t worry for now”. He then brewed a pot of tea and asked his father to drink it first, just calm to down. Afterwards, he immediately called several employees to discuss the large-scale inventory search. They took immediate action! After more than two hours of hard work, they finally found in the cellar the only piece of high-quality yellow satin that was over three meters long and handed it to my father.

Here, I would like to give a brief introduction to the fabric of the national flag: the material used was high-quality mulberry silk (also a type of satin). Yellow satin was originally more commonly used in the imperial palace, exclusively for the royal family. Influenced by that tradition, ordinary households hardly used it, so the demand for it was low. The manager said Ruifuxiang hardly sold a “scissors’-worth” in a year, it was such a slow-moving product. So some silk shops simply had no stock, and Ruifuxiang did not display it either. But the red silk and yellow satin provided by the store were top-quality natural mulberry silk fabrics. The red is pure Chinese red, and the yellow satin is also authentic yellow, which met the requirements of my father’s superiors. The satin’s appearance, feel, luster, and brightness were superior to chemical fiber products! (fig. 8).

After receiving the fabric, my father was overjoyed and excited. He exclaimed emotionally, “Thank you, thank you” and then rode his bike to a sewing company in Xidan. This sewing company has a good reputation and experience and at that time was considered a large-scale enterprise with a large cutting work bench. In addition, a few days before it also worked with Yongmao Company to produce other types of flags. At that time, a female technician received my father,

子。当时一位女技术员接待了父亲，父亲把面料交给她，做国旗的材料总算找齐了。

可接下来的制作又出现了新的问题。解放初我国经济条件受限，织布机没有宽幅，红绸子面宽只有二尺七，黄缎子只有一尺多宽，而制作国旗的要求是长4.6米，宽3.4米，单幅面料宽度根本不够制作一面国旗，因此开国大典的这面国旗需要用五幅红绸拼接才能符合要求。

左右比量最大的五角星的一个角儿需要拼接，父亲马上向公司汇报，因为制作特大国旗有特殊要求，必须要请示领导，最后上级同意了拼接方案，将大五角星一个角接一个尖。缝纫社领导把做工精湛的师傅们组织一起，用缝纫机进行拼接，师傅们操作非常的娴熟，高超，达到极致。

近距离能看出来，远距离根本就看不出来有接缝，如同一整块面料制造的没什么两样，这是新中国成立前夕最后的一个夜晚，父亲和工人师傅们忙碌着兴奋着，在缝纫机哒哒哒的声音中憧憬着……，终于在10月1日凌晨两面尺寸大小相同的国旗在师傅们精心努力之下赶制出来了，拼接处理细腻完美无缺！不仔细看真看不出来(图9)，为此，父亲长长的舒了一口气。

精神气爽的父亲带着包好的簇新的五星红旗，送往天安门城楼北侧的开国大典筹备处。筹备处的同志们验收后非常满意！这时一位四五十岁的首长笑着走过来亲切的问：“小同志是党

and he handed her the fabric. He'd finally found all the materials needed to make the national flag.

But a new problem arose in the subsequent production. At the beginning of the liberation, China's economic conditions were limited, and looms did not have wide widths. Red silk was only 0.8 meters wide, and yellow silk was only a third of a meter wide. The requirements for making a national flag were 4.6 meters long and 3.4 meters high, and a single fabric width was not enough. Therefore, the national flag for the founding ceremony needed to be sewn with five pieces of red silk.

Also, the larger five-pointed star had to be spliced from two pieces. My father immediately reported to the company that there were special requirements for making an extra-large national flag, and he needed to consult with the leader. His superior agreed to the splicing plan, to create a large star out of two pieces of fabric. The leaders of the sewing group organized skilled craftsmen to use sewing machines for splicing. The craftsmen were very skilled and superb in their operations, reaching the pinnacle of their craft.



图9. 天安门广场升起的第一面国旗，在国家博物馆展出。

Figure 9. The first national flag, on display at the National Museum.

You can see them up close, but you can't see the seams from a distance. The flag looks as if it were made from one piece of fabric. On the last night before the founding of the People's Republic of China, my father and the workers were busy and excited, looking forward to the sound of the sewing machines. Finally, on the early morning of October 1, two flags of the same size were meticulously completed by the workers. The seaming process was delicate and perfect! If you don't look

carefully, you can't tell that the flag is pieced together (fig. 9). For this, my father breathed a sigh of relief.

My father, in high spirits, took the new five-star red flag and sent it to the preparatory office for the founding ceremony on the north side of the Tiananmen Gate. The comrades in the preparatory office were very satisfied after inspecting it! At this time, a leader in his 40s or 50s came over with a smile and asked kindly: "Are you a party member?" My father replied: "Yes". The leader said: "You have made a contribu-

员吗？”父亲回答：“是”“你为党立了一功啊”父亲激动谦虚地说“应该的”。事后才知道这位首长就是当时北平市长聂荣臻(图10)。

盛典那天，北京的街头可谓是迎着太阳一片红，许多门前插起一面两面，甚至五面红旗迎风飘扬，当时北平市有200万人迎接新中国诞生的欢欣与兴奋是很难形容的！父亲离开了筹备处，找到了公司的集合地点，就在国旗杆附近，亲临开国大典的盛况，成为了“新中国第一面五星红旗”历史的参与者和见证人。

下午三时，首都30万人聚集在天安门广场，隆重举行了庆祝典礼，当毛主席和其他首长登

上天安门广场城楼的时候，全场沸腾了，人们高呼“毛主席万岁”！毛主席脱帽挥手向大家致意！当毛主席向全世界庄严宣告：“中华人民共和国中央人民政府于本日成立了！”(图11)。“毛主席万岁”的欢呼声顿时响彻广场上空。随后他亲自摁下电钮“新中国第一面五星红旗”伴随“义勇军进行曲”冉冉升起(图12)。

在军乐声中，54门礼炮齐鸣28响（1921~1949），全场欢声雷动。父亲的目光随着红旗移动，视线模糊，泪水止不住，这是激动的泪水，幸福的泪水。



图 10. 1955年授衔后的聂荣臻元帅

Figure 10. NIE Rongzhen, then the mayor of Beijing, shown in 1955 after promotion to rank of marshal.



图 11. 开国大典。

Figure 11. The National Founding Ceremony.

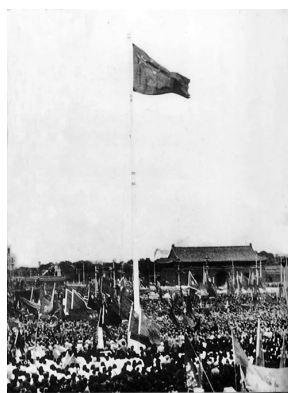


图 12. 升旗仪式，1949年。

Figure 12. National Flag-Raising Ceremony, 1949.

tion to the party.” My father said excitedly and modestly, “Yes, I should.” Later, he learned that this leader was Marshal NIE Rong-zhen, then the mayor of Beijing (fig 10).

On the day of the ceremony, the streets of Beijing were red in the sun, and one, two, or even five red flags were planted in front of many doors, fluttering in the wind. It was hard to describe the joy and excitement of 2 million people in Beijing welcoming the birth of the new China! My father left the preparatory office and found his company’s gathering place, near the flagpole, to personally witness the grand ceremony of the founding of the People’s Republic of China and became a participant in and witness to the history of the first national flag of China.

At 3 pm, 300,000 people in the capital gathered in Tiananmen Square for a grand celebration. When Chairman Mao and other leaders ascended the Tiananmen Square Tower, the whole place was boiling with excitement. People shouted “Long live Chairman Mao!” He took off his hat and waved to greet everyone, then he solemnly announced to the world: “The Central People’s Government of the People’s Republic of China has been established on this day!” (fig. 11). The cheers of “Long live Chairman Mao” echoed across the square. Then he personally pressed a button and the first five-star red flag of new China rose slowly to the strains of the “March of the Volunteers” (fig. 12).

Amid the sound of military music, 54 cannons fired 28 times (to mark the years 1921–1949), and the whole scene was filled with thunderous joy. Father’s gaze followed the red flag, his vision blurred as unstoppable tears flowed. These were tears of excitement and happiness.



饱经沧桑的中国人民解放了，从此站起来了！

The Chinese people, who had experienced so many hardships, were liberated and stood tall from then on!

第一面国旗在亿万人民的欢呼声中升起，飘扬在九百六十万平方公里的祖国土地上空，飘扬在亿万同胞的心中，这标志着中国历史进入了一个新纪元，中国人民遭受屈辱的时代一去不复返了！（图13）。



图 13. 今天的国旗。

Figure 13. The National Flag today.

为了牢牢记住开国大典的盛况，10月2日父亲买了一份《人民日报》，报纸在显著位置刊登了升国旗的照片（图14），这份报纸我家一直保留到现在。2019年建国70周年，由中国中央电视台网络台记者们帮助裱糊好成为我家思念父亲的最好“念想”。

也就是在那一年我到天安门广场瞻仰升国旗。也就在那一年我到国博瞻仰了全方位展开的“新中国第一面五星红旗”（图15），睹物思亲，思念老父亲，我泣不成声。告慰父亲我亲眼看到您监制的国旗了。父亲自从开国大典将国旗交到首长后，再也没见过她。我手扶玻璃柜认真真地看国旗，每个细节都不放过。尽管她有些褪色，但在我的眼里她依旧熠熠生辉，光彩夺目！



图 14. 《人民日报》，1949 年 10 月 2 日。

Figure 14. *People's Daily*, October 2, 1949.



图 15. 敬礼国旗。

Figure 15. Paying homage to the national flag.

The first national flag had been raised amid the cheers of millions of people, fluttering over the 9.6 million square kilometers of the motherland and in the hearts of hundreds of millions of compatriots. It marked the beginning of a new era in Chinese history. The era of humiliation suffered by the Chinese people was gone forever! (fig. 13)

In order to remember the grand occasion of the founding ceremony, my father bought a *People's Daily* newspaper on October 2. It prominently featured photos of raising the national flag (fig. 14). This newspaper has been kept by my family ever since. On the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China in 2019, with the help of reporters from China Central Television Network, it became the best “memory” for my family of my late father.

That same year, I went to Tiananmen Square to for the anniversary of the national flag's first raising, and to the National Museum to pay my respects to the “First Five Star Red Flag of new China”, fully displayed there (fig. 15). Seeing it reminded me of my father and I couldn't help but cry. I felt connected to my father when seeing with my own eyes the national flag he supervised creating. Since handing over the national flag to the leader at the founding ceremony, my father had never seen it again. I held onto the glass cabinet and carefully looked at the national flag, not neglecting any detail. Although it may have faded a bit, it still shone brightly in my eyes!



这面国旗自开国大典飘扬不久，就由北京市委收藏起来，50年~51年6月只在盛大节日才升起这面旗帜，之后由北京市委转交中国革命历史博物馆收藏至今。75年来，“新中国第一面五星红旗”是国家博物馆的镇馆之宝(图16)。

值得一提的是，这面国旗在国庆40周年前，没有明确的文字记载，为了填补空白，对重大文物负责任，国家博物馆的专家和有关人员经反复核实确认本馆所藏新中国开国大典所用五星红旗为当年的北平市永茂实业公司宋树信监制。

自从父亲去世后(图17)，我传承红色基因多次参加中国国旗网组织的国旗论坛，宣讲中国传统文化，宣讲国旗的故事，从中受到鼓舞。也深深体验到我们的国家从站起来，到强起来，富起来的过程。深知今天的幸福生活来之不易，是无数革命前辈用鲜血和生命换来的！

我被中国中央电视台，北京电视台邀请做过专题片，各家媒体等都进行过报导。



图 16. 天安门广场升起的第一面国旗，在国家博物馆展出。

Figure 16. The first national flag, on display at the National Museum.



图 17. 宋树信。

Figure 17. SONG Shuxin.

This national flag was collected by the Beijing Municipal Committee shortly after it was flown during the founding ceremony. It was only raised during large events from 1950 to June 1951. It was later transferred by the Beijing Municipal Committee to the Museum of Chinese Revolutionary History, where it remains in the collection to this day. For 75 years, the “First Five-Star Red Flag of New China” has been the treasure of the National Museum (fig. 16).

It is worth mentioning that before the 40th anniversary of the National Day, there was no clear written record of this national flag. In order to fill the gap and take responsibility for major cultural relics, experts and relevant personnel of the National Museum have repeatedly verified and confirmed that the national flag used in the founding ceremony of the People's Republic of China, now in its collection, was produced by SONG Shuxin of the Yongmao Industrial Company in Beijing that year.

I inherited the red gene and since my father's death (fig. 17) I have participated in several national flag forums organized by China National Flag Network to promote traditional Chinese culture and the story of the national flag, which has inspired me. I have also experienced profoundly the process of our country's rise from its founding to becoming strong and prosperous. I understand deeply that today's happy life was hard-won and obtained through the blood and lives of countless revolutionary predecessors!

I have been invited by China Central Television and Beijing Television to make feature films, and various media have reported on the flag's story.

各大专院校，中学，小学，央企，街道，社区，北京监狱，还到南京宁海中学，也就是国旗设计者曾联松先生的母校(图18)，还有中华中学进行国旗宣讲教育，受到各界好评。2022年并通过网络视频给广西某监狱少年犯进行国旗教育，激发他们的爱国情怀！

去年，我侄女的儿子代表北京皇城根小学到国旗班接受赠送国旗，赓续红色基因，我家有传承人了(图19)。国旗在我们心中，她庄严，神圣，她是国家的象征，尊严！我们要像爱护生命一样爱护国旗！尊重国旗！



图 18. 宁海中学宣讲（曾联松母校）。

Figure 18. Ninghai Middle School Lecture (at Zeng Liansong's alma mater).



图 19. 宋树信的曾孙王达理在天安门国旗班接受国旗。

Figure 19. SONG Shuxin's great-grandson, WANG Dali, receives the national flag at Beijing Huangchenggen Elementary School.

I have been to colleges and universities, middle schools, primary schools, state-owned enterprises, streets, communities, Beijing prisons, as well as Nanjing Ninghai Middle School, the alma mater of Zeng Liansong (fig. 18), the flag's designer and Zhonghua Middle School to conduct national flag education, receiving praise from all walks of life. In 2022, I provided national flag education to juvenile offenders in a prison in Guangxi through online videos, inspiring their patriotism!

Last year, my niece's son represented Beijing Huangchenggen Elementary School in accepting the national flag as a gift in the flag class, continuing the red gene (fig. 19). My family now has a successor. The national flag is in our hearts, it is solemn and sacred, it is a symbol of national dignity! We must cherish our national flag as we cherish life! Respect the national flag!

## 关于作者

### 宋如芬

宋如芬，新中国开国大典升起国旗监制人宋树信之女，多次参加全国国旗文化论坛和国旗知识宣讲活动。

## About the Author

### SONG Rufen

Song Rufen is the daughter of Song Shuxin, who supervised the raising of the national flag during the founding ceremony of New China. She has participated in various national flag culture forums and outreach activities focused on flag knowledge.





