



His Excellency  
**Igor Munteanu**

Ambassador Extraordinary and  
 Plenipotentiary Permanent  
 Representative to the  
 United States and Canada

Igor Munteanu, a political analyst and journalist, has served as Moldova's ambassador to the United States since August 2010. He has also served as ambassador to Canada since February 2011.

Born August 10, 1965, in Costuleni, Ungheni, Munteanu holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in communications and journalism from Moldova State University (1989). He earned his master's degree in political analysis and administration in 1992 from Romania's National School of Political and Administrative Studies and his law degree in 2002 from Free International University of Moldova.

From 1992 to 1994, Munteanu served as an advisor to the Office of the President of Moldova.

In 1993, he helped found one of Moldova's first think tanks, the Institute for Development and Social Initiatives (IDIS) Viitorul. Three years later, he became executive director of IDIS Viitorul and served in this capacity until 2010. Munteanu also served as a senior expert for the institute, working on international and national research projects devoted to public policy elaboration, re-

gional development, political research and comparative studies.

"Moldova is a former Soviet nation which attracts great interest of both Russia and the EU, but for different reasons. The latter sees it as a kind of buffer state with former Soviet states and the former views it as an important ally on the east adjacent to the EU. The future of this highly charged region and the conflicts it engenders will be the subject of the Ambassador's address to the UVU community."

*Associate Vice President  
 for UVU International  
 Affairs & Diplomacy*

*Rusty Butler*

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*this issue*  
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**Igor Munteanu**  
 Ambassador of the  
 Republic of Moldova  
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**WHO WE ARE**

The Office of International Affairs & Diplomacy actively supports UVU's global engagement efforts by advancing UVU's presence and prestige in the International community; helping UVU students become globally competent graduates; promoting cultural literacy and diversity both on campus and in the community.

**CONTACT US**

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## INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT

# MOLDOVA

## THE FLAG OF MOLDOVA



## HISTORY AND MEAING

The current flag of Moldova was created in 1990. Once part of Romania, Moldova's flag reflects that association, as the two countries use almost identical shades of red, yellow and blue in their national flags. The centered Moldova shield's main feature is a golden eagle holding an Orthodox Christian cross in its beak. The olive branch is said to symbolize peace.

Information gathered from:  
<http://en.wikipedia.org>

- Part of Romania during the interwar period, Moldova was incorporated into the Soviet Union at the close of World War II.
- Although the country has been independent from the USSR since 1991, Russian forces have remained on Moldovan territory east of the Nistru River supporting a Transnistrian separatist region composed of a Slavic majority population.



- Martisor- one of the important traditional holidays in Moldova. It is considered as the symbol of spring. In March everybody in Moldova hangs two knitted white and red ropes on their collar, which symbolize nature's revival.
- Moldova is placed 7<sup>th</sup> among the top world wine exporters.
- The largest underground wine cellar in the world, Cricova, is "hidden" in Moldova
- In Moldovan villages- "Sezatorile" are very traditional social meetings, especially in the winter, where people sing, dance, and make handicrafts.



- Four-fifths of Moldovan land -about 2.5 million hectares is covered with chernozem, black earth, which is Moldova's main natural resource and the main reason for the agricultural orientation of the country's economy.
- Old Orhei is an open air archaeological complex located in the commune of Trebujeni in the Orhei district of Moldova. First traces of human activities found in Old Orhei was the Geto-Dacian fortress built between 100-600 BC.



- As depicted in the photo above, Moldavians in national costume carry grapes in large baskets and perform traditional dances in celebration of the country's great grape nectar harvest.

Information gathered from: [www.thetravelword.com](http://www.thetravelword.com):  
[www.wiki.com](http://www.wiki.com): <http://triptomoldova.wordpress.com>:  
<https://www.cia.gov>: <http://www.placesfortour.com>