



His Excellency

Sergey I. Kislyak

Ambassador of the Russian Federation
to the United States

Ambassador Sergey I. Kislyak was born in 1950. He graduated from the Moscow Engineering Physics Institute in 1973 and from the USSR Academy of Foreign Trade in 1977.

Mr. Kislyak has a long history of representing Russia in international diplomatic work. He served as a second secretary at the Russian Permanent Mission to the United States in New York (1981-85); first secretary and counselor at the Russian Embassy in Washington (1985-89); deputy director of the Department of International Scientific and Technical Cooperation (1991-93) and then director (1993-95); and director of the

Department of Security Affairs and Disarmament (1995-98).

Also Ambassador Kislyak served simultaneously as both ambassador to Belgium and Russia's permanent representative to NATO in Brussels (1998-2003), and later as Russia's deputy minister of foreign affairs (2003-2008). He became the ambassador of Russia to the United States on September 16, 2008.

Ambassador Kislyak speaks Russian, English, French, and is married and has one daughter.

"Ambassador Kislyak's visit to Utah and UVU gives our students and our community a rare opportunity to engage with the senior representative of one of the world's most prominent powers," said Dr. Rusty Butler, UVU associate vice president. "US-Russia relations may be at a post-Cold War low but many are hopeful that continued engagement and open dialogue will help change that."

**Associate Vice President
for UVU International
Affairs & Diplomacy
Rusty Butler**

April 2014

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

Office of International Affairs
800 West University Parkway
MS 263
Orem, UT 84058
Phone: 801-863-7191
E-mail: MarieP@uvu.edu
www.uvu.edu/intlaffairs

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT

Russia

THE FLAG OF Russia



History

The flag was originally used as a naval and military ensign as early as 1693, and was adopted as the Russian merchant flag in 1705. The flag was adopted in 1896 and was reestablished as the official flag of Russia after the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991. After a couple of slight alterations in 1993, the current flag was made official in 2000.

Meaning

Although there is no official interpretation assigned to the colors on the flag, there are several theories concerning their meaning. One theory is that white represents a bright future, blue represents the cloudy present, and red represents the bloody past associated with Russian history.

Information gathered from: wikipedia.org, CIA world factbook, business insider.com, buzzle.com, travelrussia.com, and huffingtonpost.com

- Russia is the largest country in the world (17, 098, 242 sq. km) constituting 1/7 of the world's landmass and spanning eight time zones.
- Moscow, the capital of Russia, which is populated by 11 million people, is Europe's largest city.
- In the 18th century, Russia was the 3rd largest empire in world history; it covered the area from Poland in Europe to Alaska in North America.



- Although most of Russia is extremely flat, the tallest peak in Europe is Mount El'brus (18,510 ft) which is found in Russia's Caucasus mountain range.
- The Urals is the oldest mountain range in the world.
- Russia is home to the world's largest active volcano Klyuchevskaya Sopka, which has a height of 4, 750 meters (15,584 feet) and is located on the Kam-chatka Peninsula.
- Borshch, is beet soup, and one of the most famous Russian traditional foods.



- Russia is known as the 'lungs of Europe' since it has the largest forest reserves in the world, and the amount of carbon dioxide absorbed by it is second only to the rainforests in the Amazon.
- The lakes in Russia contain approximately 1/4 of the world's fresh water.
- Russia's Lake Baikal is the most capacious, purest, and deepest freshwater lake in the world.
- Orthodox Christians represent 75% of the Russian population Islam is professed by 5%, Catholicism, Protestantism, Judaism and Buddhism are professed by 1% of the population each.
- Russia is home to more than 100 ethnic groups and indigenous people. Slavs account for 75% of population.



- When important guests arrive, they are presented with a loaf of bread placed on a rushnik (embroidered towel). A salt holder or a salt cellar is placed on top of the bread loaf or secured in a hole on the top of the loaf.