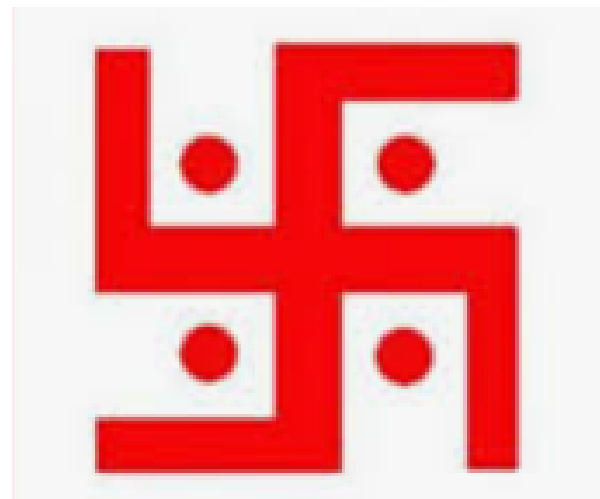


BACKGROUND

- This presentation is meant for educational purposes and to create awareness about the sacred Swastika symbol and to ensure that this sacred symbol is not conflated with Hitler's symbol of hatred.
- As Hindus and people of Dharmic traditions, we stand in solidarity with the Jewish and other communities (including ours) who have been targeted by neo-Nazis, supremacist groups and others whose aim to spread hate and intolerance.
- The Swastika an ancient, sacred and deeply auspicious symbol for over two billion people across the world and has nothing to do with Nazi symbol of hate. While the two may have overlapping features, they are used in diametrically opposite ways.

HAKENKREUZ IS NOT SWASTIKA



Swastika - a Sanskrit word meaning “that which brings good luck and well-being” and important to Dharmic traditions

DEFINITIONS

- The word *Swasti* occurs in the Vedas as well as classical Hindu literature. It has various meanings – health, luck, success, prosperity, etc.
- The symbol is revered by Hindus, Buddhist, Jains and Sikhs

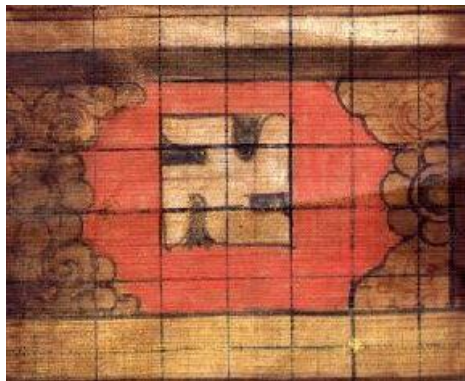
Hakenkreuz - a German word, which translates to “Hooked-Cross”. It was symbol designed and used by Hitler and the Nazis

- To the Jewish people, this Nazi symbol represents the most genocidal evil; one which was responsible for the extermination of over six million Jews, one and half million Roma and others
- Hakenkreuz brings fear, trauma and pain in the hearts and minds of these communities even today
- The Hooked Cross has had deep significance for Christianity through history

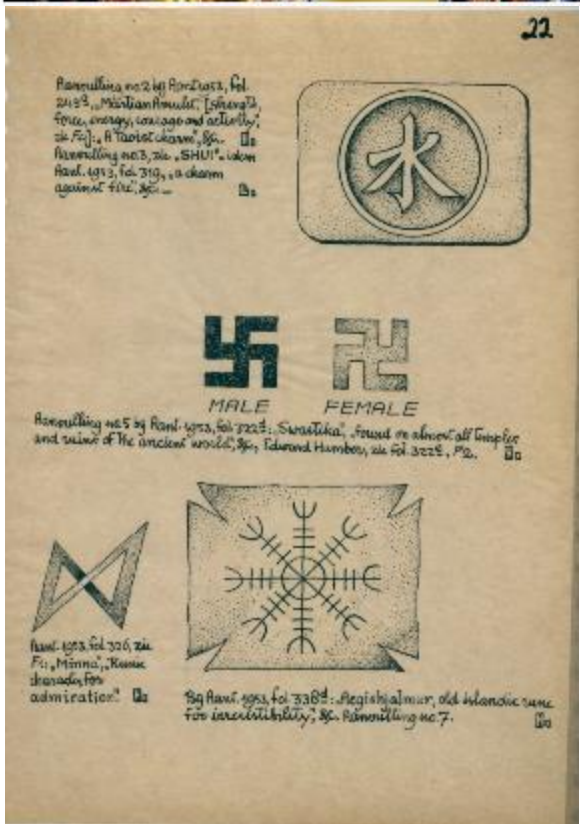
The Swastika has been continuously used since at least 10,000 years. Together with its equivalent symbols, it's held as an extremely sacred symbol for over 2 billion people globally

SWASTIKA A GLOBAL SYMBOL OF PEACE
THROUGHOUT HISTORY

INDIA / BHARAT



JAPAN, CHINA, TIBET, SOUTHEAST ASIA



EUROPE



Finnish Ministry of Defense



Finnish Airforce



Lielvārde Belt,
Latvia



Greek Helmet, 350-325 BCE



Bishop William Edington,
Winchester Cathedral, UK



Finland President's Flag



Khimoy, Chechnya



Villa Romana de La
Olmeda, Palencia, Spain



Sanahin, Armenia

AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST



Lalibela Church, Ethiopia



Iran



Iran



Uzbekistan



Iraq



Ghana



Ghana

ISRAEL AND SURROUNDING AREAS



Mosaic at Shavei Zion



Synagogue at Umm el-Qanatir



Tower of David



Synagogue at Ein Gedi



Capernaum Synagogue



Kufer-Jayez Byzantine Church, Jordan

AMERICAS



Idaho Falls, Idaho



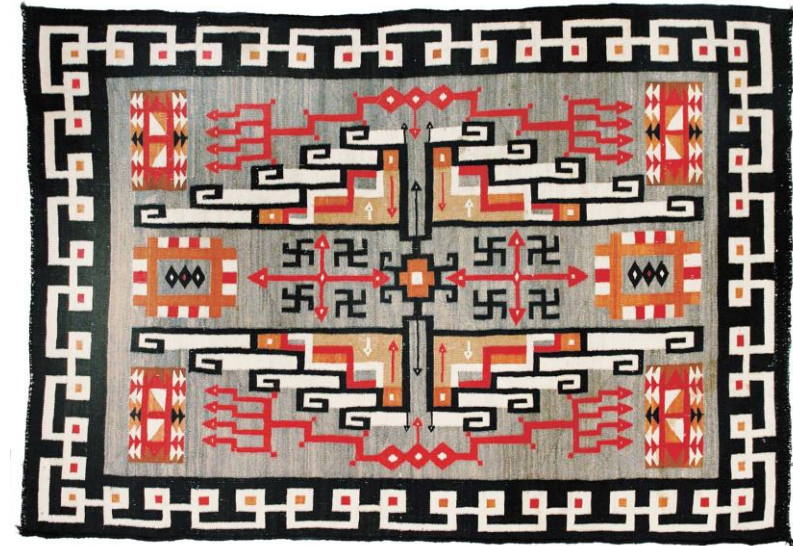
Tampico, Mexico



AMERICAS



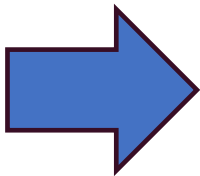
Mohawk pincushion on display in the National Museum of American Indian History



DID HITLER EVER USE “SWASTIKA”?

A look at the original text from *Mein Kampf* reveals that Hitler always used “Hakenkreuz” (Hooked Cross) not “Swastika” when referring to his symbol of hate.

- “1. Dennoch mußte ich die zahllosen Entwürfe, die damals aus den Kreisen der jungen Bewegung einliefen, und die meistens das **Hakenkreuz** in die alte Fahne hineingezeichnet hatten, ausnahmslos ablehnen.
2. atsächlich hat ein Zahnarzt aus Starnberg auch einen gar nicht schlechten Entwurf geliefert, der übrigens dem meinen ziemlich nahekam, nur den einen Fehler hatte, daß das **Hakenkreuz** mit gebogenen Haken in eine weiße Scheibe hineinkomponiert war.
3. Ich selbst hatte unterdes nach unzähligen Versuchen eine endgültige Form niedergelegt; eine Fahne aus rotem Grundtuch mit einer weißen Scheibe und in deren Mitte ein schwarzes **Hakenkreuz**. Nach langen Versuchen fand ich auch ein bestimmtes Verhältnis zwischen der Größe der Fahne und der Größe der weißen Scheibe sowie der Form und Stärke des **Hakenkreuzes**.”



The first English translation by ETS Dugdale correctly used “hooked cross” as the translation for “Hakenkreuz.” However, subsequent translations such as the one by Irish Catholic Priest and Journalist James Vincent Murphy incorrectly used “Swastika.”

“KREUZ” (CROSS) IN GERMAN LANGUAGE

The German language has various words associated with the cross and does not contain the word “Swastika.” Some examples include:

- *Christenkreuz* (Christian Cross)
- *Hakenkreuz* (Hooked Cross)
- *Ritterkreuz* (Knight’s Cross)
- *Balkenkreuz* (Beam Cross)
- *Winkelkreuz* (Angled Cross)
- *Krummkreuz* (Crooked Cross)

Where is
“Swastika”?

“Ritterkreuz”, shown below, was created by Hitler as the highest award in the military and paramilitary forces of Nazi Germany during World War II.

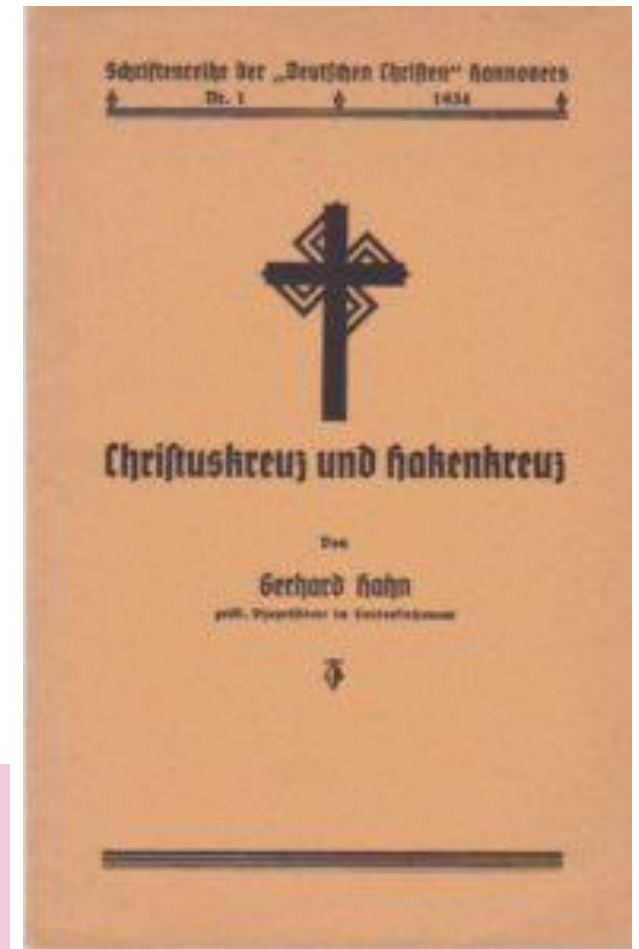


NAZI PROPAGANDA AND LITERATURE USES “HAKENKREUZ”

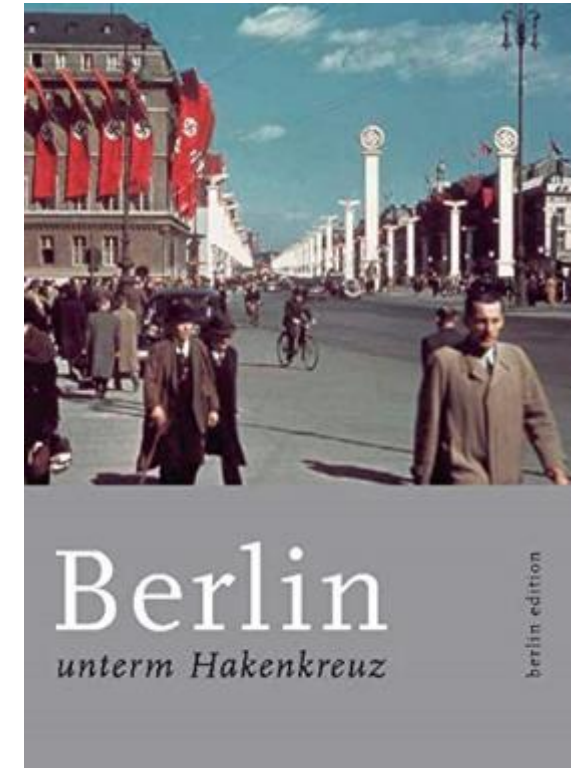
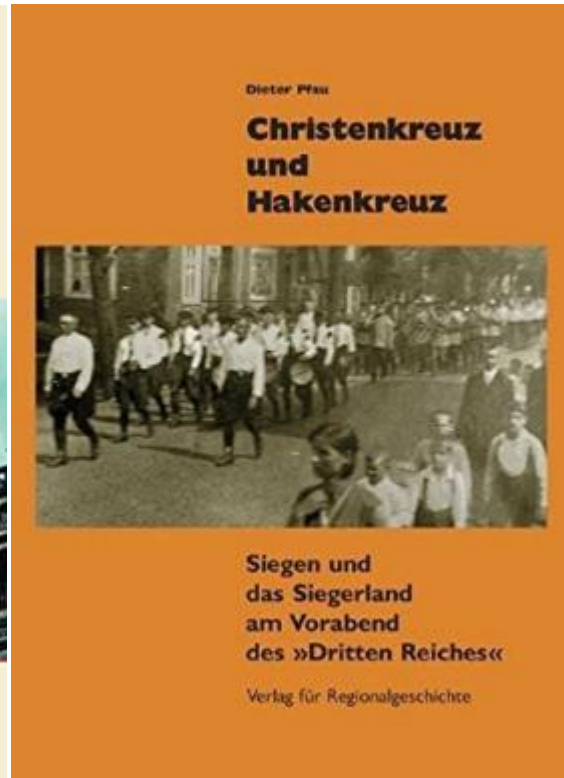
Gerhard Hahn, a prominent leader of the Lutheran Church of Hanover, Germany, while speaking of the solidarity between the Hakenkreuz and the Christian cross, proudly declared:

- “The cross of Christ and the [Hakenkreuz] do not need to oppose each other, and must not do so, but rather they can and should stand together. One should not dominate the other, but rather each should maintain its own meaning and significance...Both together, however, the cross of Christ and the [Hakenkreuz], admonish us: Remember that you are German Christian people and should become ever more whole German Christian people, and remain so!”

His book “Christuskreuz und Hakenkreuz” attempted to reconcile Nazism with Christianity.



GERMAN BOOKS REFER TO HAKENKREUZ



Where is “Swastika”?

HOOKED CROSS TO SWASTIKA – THE
WRONGFUL ATTRIBUTION

HEINRICH SCHLIEMANN'S DISCOVERY – MAX MUELLER'S WARNS AGAINST USING “SWASTIKA”

“I do not like the use of the word Svastika outside India. It is a word of Indian origin, and has its history and definite meaning in India. I know the temptation is great to transfer names, with which we are familiar, to similar objects which come before us in the course of our researches. But it is a temptation which the true student ought to resist, except, it may be, for the sake of illustration. The mischief arising from the promiscuous use of technical terms is very great.” ...the occurrence of such crosses in different parts of the world may or may not point to a common origin. But, if they are once called [Swastika], the vulgus profanum [common masses] will at one jump to the conclusion that they all come from India, and it will take some time to weed out such a prejudice.”

Philologist Max Mueller, 1880, writing in a letter warning German archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann not to associate the Swastika with the latter's findings of an ancient symbol at Troy.



Max Mueller

Despite a clear warning of the dangers of misuse, Schliemann and others decided to use “Swastika” for ancient symbols unearthed in Troy and connected them to German origins.

LET'S COMPARE A POPULAR QUOTE

UNITED STATES
HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
MUSEUM

HOLOCAUST
ENCYCLOPEDIA

CITE

SHARE

PRINT

TAGS


swastika

culture

Third Reich

Nazi Party

propaganda



Nazi propaganda postcard featuring Adolf Hitler, a swastika flag, and a member of the SA

Nazi propaganda postcard showing a crowd of saluting Germans superimposed on an enlarged image of Adolf Hitler with a member of the SA (Storm Trooper) who holds a swastika flag. Munich, Germany, ca. 1932.

US Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of James Sanders

In *Mein Kampf*, Adolf Hitler wrote:

"I myself, meanwhile, after innumerable attempts, had laid down a final form; a flag with a red background, a white disk, and a black **swastika** in the middle. After long trials I also found a definite proportion between the size of the flag and the size of the white disk, as well as the shape and thickness of the **swastika**."

Notice use of "Swastika" twice in the English translation, while the German text uses the word "Hakenkreuz"

"Ich selbst hatte unterdes nach unzähligen Versuchen eine endgültige Form niedergelegt; eine Fahne aus rotem Grundtuch mit einer weißen Scheibe und in deren Mitte ein schwarzes **Hakenkreuz**. Nach langen Versuchen fand ich auch ein bestimmtes Verhältnis zwischen der Größe der Fahne und der Größe der weißen Scheibe sowie der Form und Stärke des **Hakenkreuzes**."

NEW YORK TIMES NARRATIVE CHANGE

March 19, 1933, the first time, a major newspaper decides to suddenly call “Hooked Cross” an old foreign symbol called “Swastika,” amplifying major misinformation about the Swastika vs Hitler’s Hakenkreuz



IMPACT OF MISINFORMATION AND DISINFORMATION

St. Joseph Gazette

ST. JOSEPH, MISSOURI, MONDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 25, 1940

Indians Denounce Nazis, Forego Use of Swastika

TUCSON, Ariz., Feb. 25.—(AP)—In a solemn noonday ceremony, representatives of four Arizona Indian tribes, the Navajos, Papagos, Apaches and Hopis, resentful at Nazi "acts of oppression," forswore today use of the swastika design in native basket weaving and blanket making.

The proclamation, roughly hand-lettered on an imposing piece of parchment, carried the signatures of four tribal chiefs, Ramon Pancero, Papago; Charles de Courcy, Navajo; Joe Joesicki, Hopi, and Miguel Flores, Apache.

The text read:

"Because the ornament which has been a symbol of friendship among our forefathers for many centuries has been desecrated recently by another nation of peoples:

"Therefore, it is resolved that henceforth from this date and forevermore, our tribes renounce the use of the emblem commonly known as swastika, or fylfot, on

SEES A G. O. P. VICTORY IN FALL

Mrs. John Wyeth, Back From
Washington Meeting,
Is Optimistic

Sparked with enthusiasm after talking with party members from every state, Mrs. John Wyeth, Re-



The Salt Lake Tribune

A group of protesters demand that a Native American swastika removed from an SLC market were they right?



I received a disturbing message yesterday during the Urban Flea market. The message said that one of our vendors had a Nazi memorabilia at the flea market. I am not sure if this is true or not.

Hindu symbol defaced by delivery man after being mistaken for Nazi swastika

An Adelaide man has asked for greater awareness after a delivery man was caught kicking an intricate piece of Hindu art.

George Washington University: Jewish Student Suspended for Displaying Souvenir Indian Swastika

Category: [Free Speech](#)

Schools: [George Washington University](#)

On March 18, 2015, George Washington University (GWU) suspended a student, temporarily evicted him from university housing, and banned him from campus in response to his posting of a small souvenir swastika purchased in India on his residence hall's bulletin board. The student, who is Jewish, had wanted to teach other residents about the cultural heritage of the swastika as a symbol of good luck, and stayed by the bulletin board in International House, which had recently been vandalized with drawn swastikas, to



INDIAN AMERICAN

Indian American Student Accused Of Anti-Semitism After Encouraging Inclusion Of Hindu Swastika In School Curricula



StopAntisemitism.org @StopAntisemites · Jul 23

.@BrandeisU Student Union President, Simran Tatuskar, wants to re-invent the swastika's reputation in the school's curriculum and present it as a peaceful symbol.

And nope, she's NOT Jewish.

But she IS trying to normalize the largest symbol of hate in America.

**Brandeis University Student Union
President Simran Tatuskar**



Brandeis University and 4 others

213

190

160



northjersey.com

COMMUNITY

Symbol of luck mistaken for Nazi emblem in Clifton

Tony Gicas Clifton Journal
Published 12:00 a.m. ET Sept. 16, 2016

[View Comments](#)



CLIFTON - A cultural misunderstanding led some Middle Village residents to believe a neighbor had posted Nazi emblems on his door when, in fact, the symbol has signified brotherhood and good will in other cultures for centuries.

For the last two years, the front entrance to the Patel house on Luddington Avenue has been adorned with red swastikas.

While walking by the Luddington Avenue home last week, one City native was "shocked" when he spotted the symbols a few blocks from his home.

"This is hate speech," the neighbor said. "I was horrified and saddened to think somebody in the neighborhood would be so brazen to display such images of hate. And I was even more concerned to know somebody actually harbored that hate."

Further troubling the resident was his realization that the home is located about 100 feet from the Clifton Jewish Center, a religious landmark which has called Delaware Street home for nearly 70 years and has a history of vandalism.

news12
NEW JERSEY

Owner: Gas station swastika about Hinduism, not hate

Nov 13, 2015, 1:04am • Updated on Nov 13, 2015

By: **News 12 Staff**

Employees at a gas station in Manalapan are explaining why swastikas were painted on the floor inside the shop.

A customer called **News 12 New Jersey** because they were upset over seeing the symbols painted on the floor of the Gulf Station on Route 9. When **News 12** went over to investigate, employees at the station said that the owner painted them and added rice on top as symbols of prosperity and goodwill for Diwali, the Indian celebration of the New Year.

RACE ➞

Bay Area Camp Suddenly Closes After Staffers Quit Over Swastika Scandal

'HEART-WRENCHING'

Brooke Leigh Howard
Reporter

Updated Jun. 09, 2022 4:07PM ET
Published Jun. 09, 2022 3:21PM ET



📷 NUTAN

A California camp known for being socially and environmentally conscious was abruptly canceled for the entire summer after several staff members quit due to alleged structural racism.

THE NATURAL OUTCOME OF “ESTABLISHED” WISDOM

 **Mehdi Hasan**  @mehdirhasan · 13h

Putin. Orban. Le Pen. We talk a lot in the West about the rise of far-right authoritarians & yet we never mention India's Narendra Modi and his BJP.

On the @MehdiHasanShow, I did a deep-dive into India under Modi & new warnings of an anti-Muslim genocide:



Dr. Audrey Truschke  @AudreyTr... · 7h ...

One other development is that Nazism also inspired early Hindu nationalists. So, at times, the swastika is used in India in a somewhat ambiguous sense.

But, most of the time, the Indian swastika = positive symbol.

WHAT WILL FURTHER EMBELLISHMENTS LOOK LIKE?



Recent banners in Atlanta

The symbol itself has now been removed, leaving only the mis-appropriated word, sacred to Dharmic communities



Author

Mack Major

When Hitler and the Nazis needed a spiritual paradigm in order to bewitch the minds of the German people to go along with their plan of exterminating the Jews, they didn't go to Vatican City to find one.

They didn't dig into the Bible at all. Instead, they looked towards India and the Hindu faith.

It was from the Vedic texts that Hitler and company came up with the concept of being part of some master race with a grand purpose of ruling the world. His Thule Society occult group was filled with references and excerpts from Hinduism.

Even their symbol of the swastika was taken from Hinduism! This is 100% factual and beyond dispute.

SWASTIKA LEGISLATIONS IN THE WEST

A California hate crimes bill separates Nazi symbols from Hindu swastikas (Sep-18-2022)

Reference :

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB2282

“This bill would state the intent of the Legislature is to criminalize, for the purpose of terrorizing a person, the display or placement of the Nazi swastika and not swastikas associated with Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism.”



Courtesy of JTA. Photo credit: Creative Touch Imaging Ltd./NurPhoto via Getty Images

Diyas (lamps) in a swastika pattern by a shrine to the Goddess Lakshmi during the festival of Diwali at a Hindu temple in Toronto, Nov. 7, 2018

Ban is on Nazi Symbol Hakenkreuz, not Swastika:

The Government will deliver a community education campaign to:

raise awareness of the origins of the religious and cultural swastika (Dec-29-2022)

Reference : <https://www.vic.gov.au/fact-sheet-nazi-symbol-prohibition#4-is-the-public-display-of-the-religious-and-cultural-swastika-banned>



4. Is the public display of the religious and cultural swastika banned?

The offence does not ban the public display of the swastika for genuine religious or cultural purposes.

The Victorian Government recognises the cultural and historical significance of the swastika for the Buddhist, Hindu, Jain, and other faith communities as an ancient and sacred symbol of peace and good fortune. The Government will deliver a community education campaign to:

- raise awareness of the origins of the religious and cultural swastika
- recognise its importance to the Buddhist, Hindu and Jain communities, and
- explain its distinction from the Hakenkreuz.

Photo Courtesy of OPIndia . <https://www.opindia.com/2022/05/australias-victoria-state-to-ban-nazi-hakenkreuz-will-allow-hindu-swastika/>

FINAL THOUGHTS

CONTEXT MATTERS!



Sacred Symbols

- Can you distinguish between the sacred Christian cross versus the hateful burning cross?
- If so, then one can be trained to properly distinguish between the Nazi Hakenkreuz (hooked cross) and the sacred Swastika to ensure the rights and sacred practices of minority cultures are protected



Symbols of Hate

KEY TAKEAWAYS FOR THE COMMUNITY

- Words and context matter. Let's be disciplined and insist on the correct usage
- The symbol we know as Swastika has been widely used globally thru history and today, under different terms
- Hitler used the term Hakenkreuz (hooked cross). He never used the term Swastika. If you wish to tackle hate, tackle the term he and the Nazis used
- A plethora of scholarship exists to show Hitler and the Nazis drew from their Christian heritage and its long history of antisemitism
- Just like people distinguish between the sacred cross and the burning cross, they need to distinguish between Swastika and the Hakenkreuz
- Using Swastika to describe Hitler's symbol and current day hate, advances Hinduphobia

KEY RESOURCES FOR THE COMMUNITY

- Main Website for Resources on Swastika - www.cohna.org/swastika
- Information Booklet on Swastika – <https://cozna.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Swastika-Booklet-Web-Quality-Final.pdf>
- Article - *Wrongfully Accused: The Swastika is not Hitler's Hakenkreuz* - <https://cozna.org/swastika-is-not-hakenkreuz/>
- Academic Paper by Jewish Holocaust Studies Researcher - Jeff Kelman: ***The Hakenkreuz, Swastika, and the Christian Cross***, MA Thesis, Gratz College, Spring 2021
- Dr. Daniel Rancour-Laferriere: ***The Sign of the Cross: From Golgotha to Genocide***. 2017, Routledge
- Dr. T.K. Nakagaki: ***The Buddhist Swastika and Hitler's Cross: Rescuing a Symbol of Peace from the Forces of Hate***. 2018, Stone Bridge Press



CoHNA
Coalition of Hindus of North America



@coznaofficial