

Swastika

The twisted cross, which served as the symbol of the Nazi Party.

An ancient symbol, the swastika has been discovered by archeologists in the ruins of Egypt, Troy, China, and India. It was even used as a decoration in the synagogues of ancient Israel. The name swastika comes from the Sanskrit language of India, where the symbol was used as a sign of fertility. German *volkist* activists regarded the swastika as a symbol of the Germanic past.

The idea of taking on the swastika as the symbol of the Nazis came from Adolf Hitler himself. In fact, as a representative symbol, the swastika wielded a huge amount of power throughout Europe and all over the world: it roused and galvanized the masses of Nazi followers, and terrified both the Nazis' victims and the innocent bystanders of the world.