

# Reading Swastika: Understanding Symbolic Contestations and

## Other Symbols Perceived to Signify Hatred

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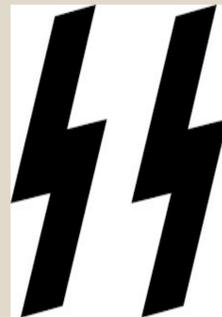
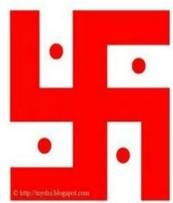
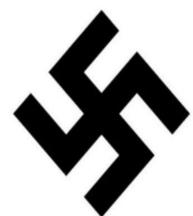
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### Background

- The swastika is an ancient symbol in the form of an equal-armed cross with each arm continued at a right angle.
- The swastika has been used for thousands of years in different cultures. Historically, it has been used as a symbol of good fortune in most cultures. Even today, it is still used as a symbol of good in many Asian countries
- In the western world, the swastika is synonymous with fascism.
- Due to the use of the swastika during World War 2 by the Nazis, it has held a negative connotation. If the swastika is used as a symbol of well-being in other parts of the world, why are people focused on the way the Nazis used it?
- The burning cross is the strongest symbol perceived to signify hate in the United States, it is associated with racial intimidation. It was a practice associated with the Ku Klux Klan. It was practice before the the Ku Klux Klan, used to protest the veneration of crosses.
- The SS Bolts are a common white supremacist/neo-Nazi symbol derived from Schutzstaffel (SS) of Nazi Germany.

**The purpose of this study is to explore the swastika and other antisemitic symbols, such as the burning cross and SS bolt, and see how people react to them.**



### Methods

- To further proceed with this research, we started with collecting and deciphering research done by previous researchers.
- The research we are working on is based on people's interactions and reactions to the swastika and other symbols perceived to signify hatred.
- Every week, I found 5 new articles that relate to iconography perceived to signify hatred. To find articles for this research, I searched up keywords, such as “forms of the swastika” “burning cross” “bullying from hate symbols” “history of the swastika” “Nazis and the swastika” etc. After finding the article, I would read through it and find the author, year, study purpose, methods, and results of each article.

### Conclusion

As this study continues, we will gather an understanding of the relations of symbols perceived to signify hatred and cultural backgrounds. The cultural view of a person deeply affects how a symbol is portrayed.

### Acknowledgments

This research is made possible with support from our study team member, Dr. Jessica Wendorf Muhamad – who is Assistant Professor at FSU-CCI and Director of the PEAKS Lab.

### Literature Review

- Iconography provides insight into the cultural and historical context of a symbol
- The main focus of the study is the swastika and how the meaning of this symbol has expanded and changed.
- In our study, each symbol was analyzed to see if people's reaction to the symbols was based on a cultural or religious standpoint.
- The Swastika had the most negative reaction because it was related to the Nazis.
- The Burning cross was mostly used as a tactic to spread awareness and express people's political views, so it was not much of a threat symbol.
- Burning a cross is symbolic speech that carries a message in an effective and dramatic manner.
- The SS bolt is used as a symbol of white supremacy. From this we found it was based on a cultural aspect.

### Reference

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