



## *Swastika—Symbol of Hate*

Produced by Deborah L. Coltin

Release Date: April 18, 2023

Time: 7 minutes 45 seconds

Primary Audience: Middle School Students and Older

### **SYNOPSIS**

The swastika is recognized as a major symbol of the Holocaust. [\*Swastika—Symbol of Hate\*](#) is a short film that explains: (1) the origins of the swastika as a symbol of peace and goodwill; and (2) how Hitler hijacked it to use as a symbol of the Nazi party. The film briefly explores the horrific events that took place during the Holocaust under Hitler's reign. Short interviews with Holocaust survivors Magda Bader and Dr. Hans Fisher reflecting on what the swastika symbol means to them are thought-provoking, serving as a starting point for conversations with students about what the swastika represents. The film is geared toward students in grades 6 and above. The film can be especially powerful when a swastika shows up in a school or in a community.

### **INTRODUCING THE FILM**

If the film is being shown in response to the appearance of swastika graffiti at a school or in a community, that should be acknowledged. It may be helpful to review these definitions prior to watching the film:

### **DEFINITIONS**

- **Antisemitism** – hatred of Jews
- **Auschwitz** – Largest death camp where more than one million Jewish people were murdered mostly by being gassed
- **Genocide** – the deliberate killing of a large number of people from a particular nation or ethnic group with the aim of destroying that nation or group
- **holocaust** (lower case “h”) – destruction or slaughter on a mass scale, especially caused by fire or nuclear war



- **Holocaust** (Upper case “H”) – The Holocaust was the systematic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of more than six million European Jews, including 1.5 million Jewish children, by the Nazi regime and its allies and collaborators. Other groups persecuted by the Nazis included: individuals with disabilities; homosexuals; Roma and Sinti; Jehovah’s Witnesses; Black people; political opponents; and others. The Holocaust began with Hitler’s rise to power in 1933 and ended in 1945 with the end of WWII.
- **Jude** – Jew
- **Nazi Party** – The National Socialist German Workers’ Party-was the far-right racist and antisemitic political party led by Adolf Hitler.

## **DISCUSSING THE FILM**

Using the questions at the conclusion of the film will initiate discussion.

Additional questions for discussion following the film:

1. Why do you think Hitler chose the swastika as a symbol of the Nazi party?
2. What is something new or surprising you learned from watching the film?
3. Did you find the film helpful to better understand why it is upsetting when a swastika appears?
4. What are you left wondering about?

## **FOR TEACHERS WHO NEED AN INTRODUCTION TO THE HOLOCAUST**

[\*The Path to Nazi Genocide\*](#) is an excellent film for teachers who want to learn more about the Holocaust. It explains the *who, what, when, where, why* and *how* the Holocaust happened.

## **TESTIMONIALS – LEARN MORE ABOUT MAGDA BADER AND DR. HANS FISHER, SURVIVORS WHO ARE FEATURED IN THE FILM**

- [Magda Bader](#)
- [Dr. Hans Fisher](#)



## **LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SWASTIKA**

- [Understanding Nazi Symbols](#)
- [Swastikas and Other Hate Symbols](#)
- [The Swastika: A Sign of Good Luck Becomes a Symbol of Evil](#)



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