

# Introduction

Recognizing and understanding symbols and codes of the extreme right is not only useful but, in some cases, very helpful. Such signs are often used subtly or in a concealed manner, yet they are part of a deliberate communication intended to promote far-right ideologies and appeal to like-minded individuals. This overview is designed as an initial guide to help categorize some symbols, numerical codes, and abbreviations of the far-right scene and to decode their meanings.

## NS (Nazi) Symbolism



### *Punishable*

The

**swastika** as the official symbol of the Nazi Party (NSDAP) is punishable by law as a sign of a prohibited organization (this is the official explanation that is given). This includes its use alone or in any of its various forms (flags, armbands, badges, etc.).



*Punishable*  
**Nazi War Flag**



*Not punishable*

The

**Imperial War Flag up to 1921**, which served as a “placeholder” for the Nazi War Flag, is very popular within the far-right scene. The Imperial War Flag exists in several versions. The far-right scene primarily uses the early versions from the German Empire, the display of which is not punishable. However, the version of the Imperial War Flag from the Nazi era, which features a swastika in the center, is banned.



*Punishable*

**Nazi Gau Triangle** and reproductions. Gau triangles indicated the regional district (Gau) of the Nazi Party or Hitler Youth. Even Gau triangles with Gau names that did not originally exist (e.g., Berlin) are considered Nazi symbols and are therefore punishable.



*Punishable*

**Death's Head Emblem** and **Double Sig Rune** (Double Lightning Bolt) of the SS. The single Sig Rune, as a symbol of the "German Young People" organization, is also punishable.

## Additions under Civilian Badges of the SA



*Partially Punishable*

**Hammer and Sword:** This symbol represents a people's community of soldiers and workers and originates from Gregor and Otto Strasser, who led the "national-revolutionary" wing of the Nazi Party (NSDAP). In 1929, it served as a field insignia of the Hitler Youth (HJ), and in 1992, it was adopted by the "National Offensive" (NO), which was banned that same year. In the 1990s, it was interpreted in the neo-Nazi scene as the "Symbol of the National Revolution" and is still used publicly as a symbol today.



*Punishable*

**Civilian Badge of the SA:** The letters "SA" encircled by a ring, with an "S" shaped as a Sig Rune ending in a lightning bolt and followed by an "A." This symbol was used by the so-called Sturmabteilung (SA), a paramilitary fighting force within the Nazi Party (NSDAP), which served as security at NSDAP events to guard against political opponents.



*Partially Punishable*

**Reich Eagle:** A stylized depiction of the Nazi-era national emblem, still used within the far-right scene today. Due to legal restrictions, the swastika originally held in its talons is often replaced with other symbols or left blank.

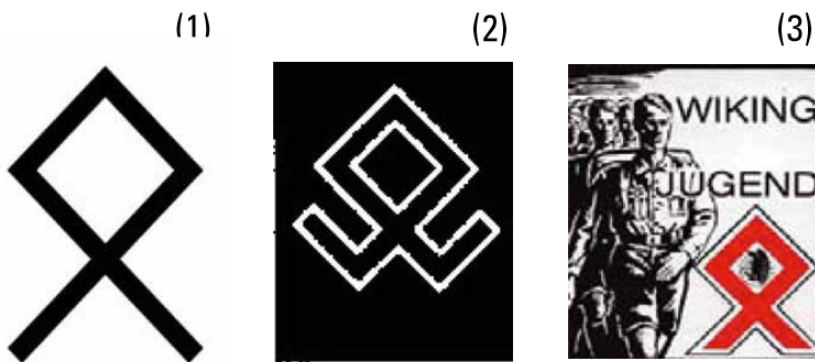


*Partially Punishable*

**Iron Cross:** The Iron Cross is perhaps the best-known military symbol. It was first awarded in 1813 during Prussia's "Wars of Liberation" against Napoleonic rule. In 1939, it was modified to become the most prominent award of the Third Reich. The Iron Cross enjoys widespread use as a motif across various right-wing movements. Within the far-right scene, it is sometimes used as a substitute for the swastika, though it is not necessarily interpreted with extremist meaning. Since March 6, 2008, the Iron Cross has been reissued by the Bundeswehr for acts of

"extraordinary bravery." It is also frequently used in youth subcultures, especially in the heavy metal, black metal, rocker, and hardcore scenes.

## Runes and Symbols of Germanic/Celtic Origin



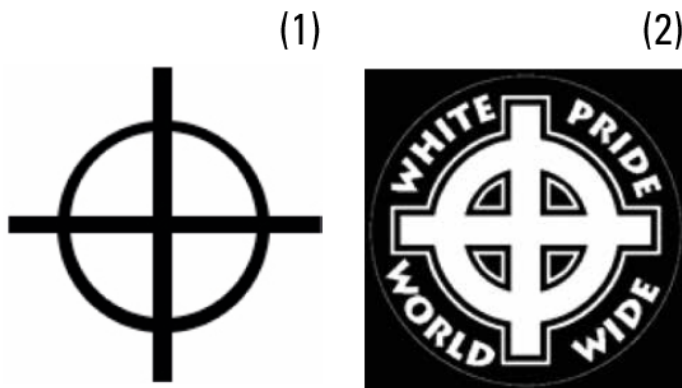
### *Partially Punishable*

**Odal Rune:** Symbol used by the SS Division "Prinz Eugen," the Hitler Youth (HJ), and other Nazi organizations. It was also a symbol of the Federation of National Students and the Viking Youth (banned in 1961 and 1994, respectively). It is also used outside the far-right scene, such as by the Bundeswehr. Therefore, its prohibition is limited to contexts associated with the named organizations.



### *Not Punishable*

**Black Sun** (also called twelve-armed swastika or twelvefold Sig Rune): Used as a spiritual symbol by the SS, although it was not an official Nazi emblem. This symbol is popular in far-right circles and adjacent subcultures, such as NS Black Metal.



*Punishable*

**Celtic Cross:** Associated with the banned far-right organization "People's Socialist Movement of Germany" and, since October 2008, punishable as an isolated symbol (without organizational context) unless there are clear indications of a non-extremist usage. It is especially common as a symbol of "white racial supremacy," sometimes accompanied by the phrase "White Pride Worldwide."



*Punishable*

**Tiwaz or Tyr Rune:** Used as the emblem of an SS volunteer division, identification for the Hitler Youth, and insignia of SA leadership schools, making it punishable,

even if displayed in different colors.



### *Partially Punishable*

**Triskele:** Used by the 27th SS Division Langemarck and the Blood & Honour network (banned in Germany since 2000). It is only punishable if the Triskele could reasonably be perceived by an uninformed person as representing one of these organizations.



### *Not Punishable*

**Life and Death Runes:** Derived from the Germanic Elhaz Rune and used by the Nazis to signify life and death. Commonly used within and outside far-right circles.





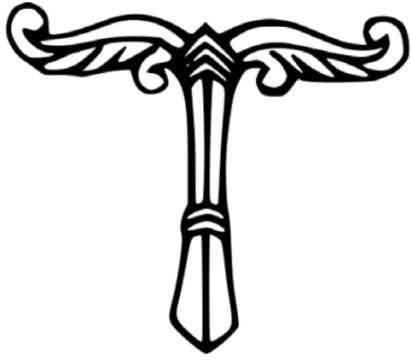
*Partially Punishable*

**Wolfsangel:** Symbol of the organization "Junge Front" (banned in 1982) and punishable in that context. It is also used outside the far-right scene, including by the Bundeswehr and in various coats of arms.



*Not Punishable*

**Thor's Hammer:** Hammer of the Norse god Thor. In far-right contexts, it symbolizes "ethnic solidarity" or "resistance to foreign religions." It appears frequently on clothing, especially as a necklace pendant, and is also widely popular outside far-right circles.



*Not Punishable*

**Irmingsul:** An ancient Saxon holy symbol, thought to represent a large oak, fir tree, or wooden pillar. It likely symbolized the world tree in Germanic mythology, comparable to Yggdrasil in Norse lore. It is often associated with symbols of the so-called "ancestral community" and Germanic mysticism.

## Symbols of Far-Right Organizations



*Not punishable*

**National Democratic Party of Germany (NPD)** and its youth organization, the **Young National Democrats (JN)**.



*Not punishable*

Founded in June 2012 as a splinter group from the DVU, which merged with the NPD.



*Not punishable*

**The Third Path (Der Dritte Weg):** Established in 2013 by former members of the NPD Rhineland-Palatinate. The party identifies ideologically as "national revolutionary." Since its founding, the party's ties with the neo-Nazi scene have intensified.



*Not punishable*

**Identitarian Movement:** The "Identitarian Movement" comprises a network of loosely connected groups that draw on the "New Right" ideas of ethnopluralism. These groups seek to maintain an alleged "identity" that they see as threatened by perceived "Islamization."



*Not punishable*

Symbol of the **Free Forces**, i.e., non-party-affiliated far-right groups, associations, and action groups. The black flag is sometimes seen as a "symbol of the oppressed" in relation to historical uprisings, or as a "blank flag," representing a placeholder for the swastika flag of the "Third Reich." The inscription can vary; here, it reads "National Socialists Germany."



Not punishable

Symbol of the **Autonomous Nationalists**, a national socialist movement within the far-right association scene, which deliberately adopts symbols and behaviors from the leftist autonomous scene. This symbol is especially appealing to younger individuals due to its strong focus on activism. It is a variation of the "Antifascist Action" logo (below), with differences in the inscription (here: "National Socialists Nationwide Action") and flag order (with the red flag in the background – referencing the banned swastika flag).

---

### Attention: Possibility of Confusion



*Not far-right, not punishable!*

Logo of the independent **Antifascist Action**, founded in 1932 in response to the street and venue violence of the SA. Today, it is the symbol of leftist, independent antifascist groups. Inscription: "Antifascist Action." Red flag in the foreground.

---

## Symbols of Far-Right Organizations



### *Punishable*

The **Blood & Honour** text and symbol. Blood & Honour is an international network of far-right skinheads primarily active in the production of right-wing extremist music. B&H was banned in Germany in 2000. Some attempts to continue activities as "Division 28" have been noted (using the number code 28).



### *Partially punishable*

**Combat 18** ("Fighting Unit Adolf Hitler") is considered the "armed wing" of Blood & Honour, with a focus in Scandinavia. Using the symbol and code does not necessarily indicate membership in the organization, but it implies approval of

violence against political opponents. The SS skull symbol is punishable, but the code "C18" is not.



*Not punishable*

The **Hammerskins** are an elite group of far-right skinheads with chapters in various countries. The hammers symbolize the "white" working class, often with a gear background.



*Punishable*

The **Loyal German Youth (HdJ)** is a far-right organization focused on youth activities, including leisure events, political training, and organization. The organization was banned on March 31, 2009, making the public use of its symbol punishable.



*Not punishable*

**White Power:** Symbol of a movement of far-right extremists and racists who advocate for the "superiority of whites" over people of colour. The white fist symbolizes readiness for violence.



*Not punishable*

Similar to the profile of the HdJ, the **Sturmvogel** association provides activities for children and youth, such as camps and solstice celebrations. The association tries to conceal connections with far-right circles, but it is considered a "radical offshoot of the banned Viking Youth (Wiking-Jugend) of 1994" with "numerous personal overlaps with the far-right scene."





*Not punishable*

The **Ku Klux Klan** is a racist secret society originating in the Southern United States. Several groups in Europe operate under the name "European White Knights," aligning with the KKK's tradition.



*Not punishable*

Under the names **HoGeSa (Hooligans Against Salafists)** or **GESIWISTA (Together We Are Strong)**, groups mainly from the hooligan scene have come together. They claim to oppose the spread of "Salafism" in Germany. However, many members are linked to or close to the far-right scene.



*Not punishable*

The **Christian Fish** symbol is widely recognized as a symbol of Christian faith. The eagle holding the Christian Fish in its claws symbolizes aggressive rejection of Christianity using ethnic-pagan symbolism. This symbol is mainly used by the far-right, neo-pagan "Artgemeinschaft," but it has also gained popularity, appearing on textiles from brands like Thor Steinar.



*Punishable*

**Flaming Torch:** Symbol of the National Collection. The National Collection was a German far-right organization attempting to create a national-socialist alternative, advocating typical Nazi demands.



*Punishable*

**National List:** Insignia of a subdivision of the banned Freedom German Workers' Party (FAP).



*Punishable*

**VSBD/PdA:** Symbol of the **People's Socialist Movement of Germany/Party of Labor** (VSBD/PdA), which was banned by the Federal Administrative Court in 1986. It depicts an eagle, the emblem of the Nazi German Reich, perched on a diamond with a Celtic cross. Originally, the Nazi German Reich emblem displayed a swastika encircled by a laurel wreath held by a right-facing eagle. Replacing the swastika with the Celtic cross allowed far-right groups to use it as a substitute symbol.

## Codes

Due to law enforcement and pressure from civil society, a number of far-right expressions and greetings have been coded. However, it cannot be automatically concluded that certain numbers or letter combinations are inherently far-right.

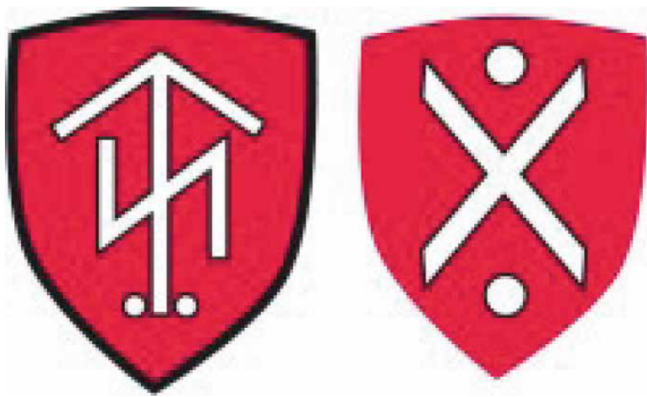
- **14:** "14 words" — a belief among white supremacists: "We must secure the existence of our people and a future for white children."
- **18:** Abbreviation for Adolf Hitler; often seen in combinations, e.g., the far-right terrorist network "Combat 18" (C18 = Combat Unit Adolf Hitler).
- **19/8:** Represents the letters S and H in the alphabet, standing for "Sieg Heil."
- **28:** "BH" (2nd and 8th letters of the alphabet), acronym of the far-right music network "Blood & Honour"; status: "Blood & Honour Division Germany" has been banned in Germany since 2000.
- **84:** Used as a greeting and stands for the letters H and D, meaning "Heil Deutschland."
- **88:** "HH" (the 8th letter of the alphabet repeated twice), abbreviation for the banned phrase "Heil Hitler."
- **168:1:** In 1995, the American neo-Nazi Timothy McVeigh killed 168 people in a bombing in Oklahoma City. In 2001, he was sentenced to death and executed. The number "168:1" reflects the "outcome."
- **444:** Triple D, used to convey "Germany for the Germans."
- **1488:** Combination of "14 words" and "88."
- **1919:** Stands for "SS."
- **2yt4u:** "Too white for you."
- **A.J.A.B.:** A modified form of the slogan ACAB — "All Cops are Bastards," here: "All Jews are Bastards."
- **GNLS:** "Good night left side!" A call for violence against leftists.
- **NSBM:** "National Socialist Black Metal," a neo-Nazi trend within black metal music. In hardcore music, this is referred to as NSHC — "National Socialist Hate Core."
- **NSHC - RaHoWa:** "Racial Holy War," referring to a notion promoted by the "World Church of the Creator" about a conflict between the "white Aryan

race" and Jews and other groups deemed "inferior."

- **WP/WAP:** "White (Aryan) Power," an international racist network.
  - **ZOG/ JOG:** "Zionist/Jewish Occupied Government," a reference to anti-Semitic conspiracy theories; status: Not banned.
- 

## Lifestyle Products

Certain clothing brands are more or less characteristic of the far-right scene. To assess specific brands, the following criteria can help: Does the product have an explicit/ambiguous ideological connection to the far-right scene? Is the production commercially or ideologically focused on supporting the far-right scene? Is the brand distributed only through far-right stores and online shops, or is it widely available? How popular is the brand in the far-right scene, and is there any criticism of it? Does the brand have use beyond the far-right scene?



**Thor Steinar:** Designs allow for "positive interpretations concerning Nordic-pagan mythology, colonialism, and national socialist ideology." Thor Steinar is one of the most legally and politically contentious brands. The old symbol (left) was considered a combination of Nazi symbols and was thus banned in some German states. The new logo (right) is not prosecutable. Thor Steinar is available through specific and general retailers, and it's the "most-worn brand in the far-right movement" as well as widely used beyond.



**Erik and Sons:** The brand has connections to Viking and Norse mythology, tying into far-right ideological ideas. It originated directly from the Thor Steinar environment, with the brand owner described as being part of neo-Nazi circles. The brand is distributed through both commercial and movement-related stores and has established itself within and beyond the far-right movement.



**Ansgar Aryan:** Similar to Thor Steinar, Ansgar Aryan sells quality goods with links to Nordic mysticism and symbolism, which don't always have explicit far-right connections. The brand name combines "Ansgar," an ancient form of Oskar, and "Aryan." Ansgar derives from Germanic roots: "ans" (god) and "gari" (spear). Prints like "Volksgemeinschaft statt New World Order" (Community instead of New World Order) or "Aryan Resistance" are notable. The company allegedly

donates to the far-right "Help Organization for National Prisoners" (HNG). The brand is available on both politically neutral platforms and far-right online stores.



**Masterrace Europe:** Ideological link to far-right ideology ("Master race Europe"), exclusively distributed through neo-Nazi shops and stores, highly popular in the far-right scene.



**Consdaple:** Due to "NSDAP" in the name, the brand is seen as referencing far-right ideology, available only in far-right shops and online stores; popular in the far-right scene but rarely used outside it. Status: Banned if "NSDAP" is solely visible.



**Werwolf Germany:** References to the SS "Werewolf" units; distributed through far-right stores, mainly popular within the far-right scene.



**Div. MaxH8 or MH8:** Division Max Hate can reference "hate crimes" and the far-right "hatecore" music scene. Operated by active far-right scene members and almost exclusively distributed through neo-Nazi shops and online stores.





**Nordmann:** A brand by and for the far-right scene, partly with far-right symbolism, available almost exclusively in far-right shops.



**H8wear:** The brand name may refer to "hate crimes" and the far-right "hatecore" music scene (see "Codes"). Distributed through far-right shops and also by general providers.



**Reconquista:** Abbreviated rcqt, known as a model brand for the New Right. Far-right references are less prominent; designs package right-wing agitation through allusions (e.g., "Return Trip" as a euphemism for deportations or "Neukölln instead of the Hindu Kush" on possible Bundeswehr deployment areas). Products were available directly; distribution may be discontinued or shifted.



**Dobermann:** A commercial brand almost exclusively available through far-right stores, popular among far-right circles, sometimes with overtly right-wing symbolism.



**Pro Violence:** This brand, which targets sports and leisure, emphasizes themes of combat sports, particularly in the "Free Fight" and hooligan milieu, reinforced by slogans like "Everyone against everyone — sport free." Symbols such as "88" (interpreted as "Hooligans Heaven") may be ambiguously presented, leaving interpretation up to the observer. The brand's connections to the far-right scene are not definitive, even if available through far-right retailers and finding acceptance within the far-right scene.

## Lifestyle Products (not far-right)

Brands that are popular in far-right scenes but are **not "explicitly far-right."** Determining whether a brand is far-right can be difficult. Many brands popular in

far-right scenes are also associated with youth cultures, like work and sports clothing favored by skinheads and other youth cultures.



The **Lonsdale** brand, founded in London in 1960, is a well-known sportswear brand in boxing. After ending sales to far-right retailers and launching an anti-racist campaign, "Lonsdale loves all colours," far-right groups began creating their own brands.

**Fred Perry**, a brand founded by the famous tennis player, has also been appropriated by some far-right groups due to the laurel wreath logo. Other brands like New Balance, Alpha Industries, and Helly Hansen have also been similarly co-opted, though they are not inherently connected to the far-right scene.

---

## Conclusion:

Understanding far-right symbols and codes is essential in addressing far-right ideology. By identifying these expressions, society is better equipped to counter the spread of these messages and foster a more informed, critical attitude.