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swas·ti·ka  (swŏs tĭ-kə)

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n.

1. An ancient cosmic or religious symbol formed by a Greek cross with the ends of the arms bent at right angles in either a clockwise or a counterclockwise direction.
2. Such a symbol with a clockwise bend to the arms, used as the emblem of the Nazi party and of the German state under Adolf Hitler, officially adopted in 1935.

[Sanskrit *svastikaḥ*, sign of good luck, *swastika*, from *svasti*, well-being; see (e)su- [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]



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swastika

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

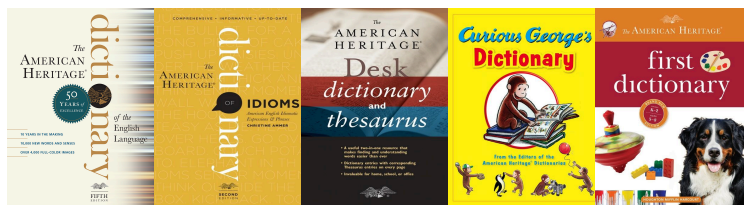
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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