The word "swastika" comes from the Sanskrit svastika - "su" meaning "good," "asti" meaning "to be," and "ka" as a suffix.

Until the Nazis used this symbol, the swastika was used by many cultures throughout the past 3,000 years to represent life, sun, power, strength, and good luck.

Even in the early twentieth century, the swastika was still a symbol with positive connotations.

For instance, the swastika was a common decoration that often adorned cigarette cases, postcards, coins, and buildings. During World War I, the swastika could even be found on the shoulder patches of the U.S. Army 45th Division and on the Finnish Air Force until after World War II.
The Rise of Adolf Hitler

I. EARLY LIFE

A. Born April 20, 1889 in Braunau, Austria
   1. Moved frequently as a child, once living in a Benedictine monastery, who's coat of arms included a swastika. Representing life, sun, power, strength, and good luck.
   2. Dreamed of becoming a priest as a child

B. In his teens developed artistic talent, however not good enough to enter art school.

C. Father died in 1903 (14 yrs old) and mother died in 1907 (18 yrs old)

D. Was homeless within 2 years of his mothers death, living in various shelters in Vienna
   1. Had very close friends who were Jewish and admired their art
   2. Vienna was a center of Anti-Semitism and Hitler looking for a sense of purpose and belonging began to accept these beliefs

E. In 1913 was expected to join the army however he was found “too weak... and unable to bear arms.”

Copy only what is underlined
The Rise of Adolf Hitler

II. *WORLD WAR I*

A. Requested to join Bavarian army
B. Had less than 2 months training
C. Sent to Ypres against British and Belgians
D. Awarded two Iron Crosses for bravery
E. Rose to the rank of lance corporal (E3)
F. October 1916 wounded yet returned however he was temporarily blinded by a mustard gas attack in Belgium in Oct 1918
G. Hatred grew for communists and Jews who supported them

III. *RISE OF NAZI PARTY*

A. “Free Corps” – German paramilitary organization of vigilante war veterans who banded together to fight against the Communists insurgents. It crushed the insurgency. Its members were known as the “Brown-shirts”, later to form the nucleus of the Nazi party.

B. Weimar Republic
   1. Created at end of WWI – President, National Assembly, constitution
   2. Stripped of power, military strength, and territories

Copy only what is underlined
III. B. 3. This was a rally points for German nationalists

C. German Worker's Party – renamed Nazi Party
   a. Hitler joined the German Worker's Party and rose in leadership
   b. On October 16, 1919 at a Party meeting he made an emotional speech that launched Hitler into the national spotlight and made the Worker’s Party a national movement of Anti-Semitism
   c. Munich Beer Hall – declared a revolution on Nov 8, 1923
   d. 2000 “brown-shirts” attempt to take over gov’t. on Nov 9th
   e. Hitler arrested and sentenced to 5 years in jail (served 9 mth)

IV. *MEIN KAMPF – “My Struggle”

A. Part autobiography, part future of German people, part vicious hatred of certain groups
B. Primarily it built Hitler up as the one who could lead the German people
C. Also blamed Jews for Germany's defeat in WWI, the rise of communism and democracies. Jews were the real enemy!
D. Could only stop the Jews by eliminating them
E. Popular among young Germans (5 million copies sold in 10 years)
F. Largely discredited by western democracies
The Rise of Adolf Hitler

V. *LAUNCH OF THE THIRD REICH*

A. After release from jail, he decided to use political force rather than military force to gain control

B. Called for the Holy Romanise of the Third Reich (German world domination)
   1. First Reich n Empire
   2. Second Reich – Otto von Bismark – 1880’s
   3. Third Reich – 1,000 year reign beginning in 1930

C. 1932 received 30% for vote for President tied with current president
   1. Appointed Chancellor in compromise – January 1933
   2. Eventually held complete control
   3. Built up industry and military, economic success
   4. By 1937 was ready to launch his master plan as outlined in Mein Kampf

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VI. End of Adolf Hitler’s Life

A. 1939-1941 – Nothing but Victory controlled all of Europe

B. 1941 – Defeat in England
   1. “London Blitzkreig” is unsuccessful in bringing GB to her knees
   2. Hitler gives up in October to concentrate on Russian offensive

C. 1941-45 Invasion & Defeat in Russia
   1. Invasion of Russia ends with millions dead on both sides

D. April 1945
   1. Russians & USA closing in on Berlin
   2. April 29 – Hitler and Eva Braun get married
   3. April 30 – Hitler and Eva commit suicide
      1. Eva takes cyanide and dies
      2. Hitler takes cyanide and supposedly shoots himself in the head

E. May 8, 1945 – Germany surrenders to Allied forces

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