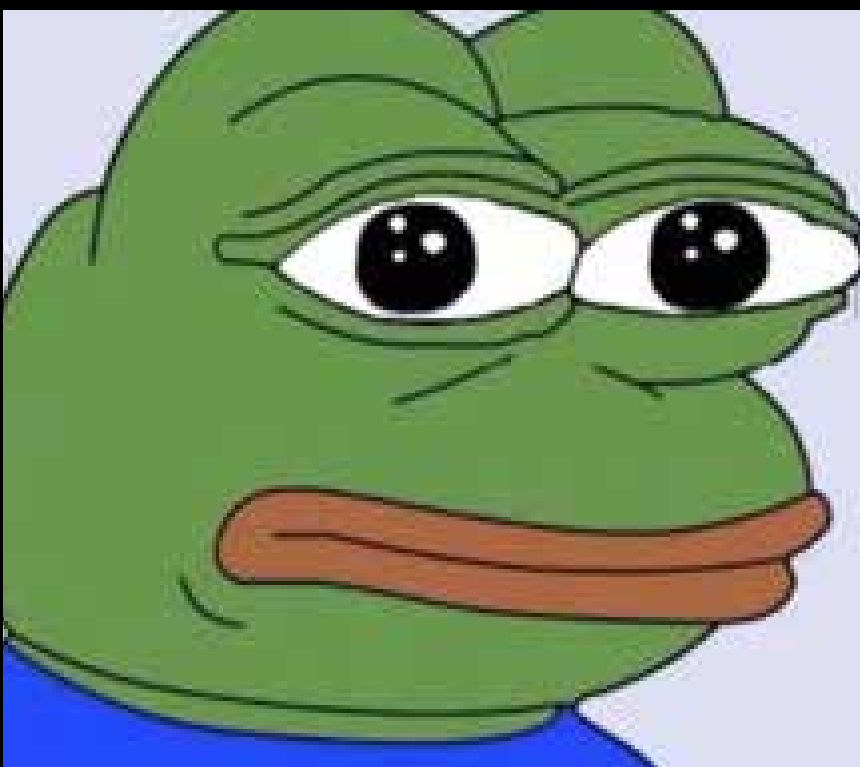


# DECODING HATE

≡≡≡ A short guide to e-representations, symbols + images ≡≡≡



## DECODING HATE

Extremists have long utilized codes and symbols to spread their messages to followers. Often these codes are used in place of language and images that might draw more negative attention from mainstream audiences. The codes, symbols and images below have become popular on social media to promote extremist beliefs or ideologies. They can be found as images, emojis, usernames, profile pictures and more. Sometimes the codes and symbols are used by young people (and others) who do not understand the implication behind the content, or can be misinterpreted without the relevant context.

This short guide serves as a brief introduction to building better comprehension of the hateful origins and implications of this material.

### 14 WORDS

The phrase "secure the existence of our people and a future for their children." This phrase's premises were first coined by American neo-Nazi David Lane in the 1990s. It is often referred to as the "14 Words" or simply "14" in extremist circles.

### HEIL HITLER

The Nazi greeting "Heil Hitler" is often abbreviated to "188". "H" is the 8th letter of the alphabet, so saying "188" twice references his Nazi greeting.

### 14/88

This code is often used to promote white supremacy and neo-Nazism, referring to both the "14 words" and "Heil Hitler" at the same time. This code is a popular acronym, both online is often used as a hashtag or in a username to highlight support for his far-right beliefs and ideas.



## CELTIC CROSS

The Celtic Cross is a symbol that dates back to ancient Europe, used often in Christianity and in Irish culture. One of the uses of this symbol is important, and other historical symbols and codes are used in conjunction to indicate a message. A simplified version seen below is shared by the Whitechapel Road to the Homeless.



## GROYPER

After Pepe the Frog became recognized as a hate symbol, an alternative road-like variation known as Groper became popular. Followers of Nick Fuentes, an American far-right white nationalist, are sometimes referred to as Groopers. This image is often used in memes, profiles and on forums.



## HAPPY MERCHANT

An anti-Semitic caricature has existed for centuries, but this particular version, known as the Happy Merchant, is idealized online to spread anti-Semitism.



## IRON CROSS

The Iron Cross is a historic German military medal dating back to the 19th century. The Nazis incorporated it into their ideology as a symbol of honor. Since the Second World War ended, neo-Nazis and their premises have continued to use both versions as a symbol of hate.



## LIGHTNING BOLTS

The SS lightning bolt is a symbol of endorsement by neo-Nazis and their premises. The lightning bolts were part of the uniform of Nazis in SS soldiers. Often the SS lightning bolts are used to show support for hateful beliefs and ideologies. It reminds us of some times the lightning bolt emojis ( ) to evade detection by moderation systems on social media platforms. This tactic is commonplace

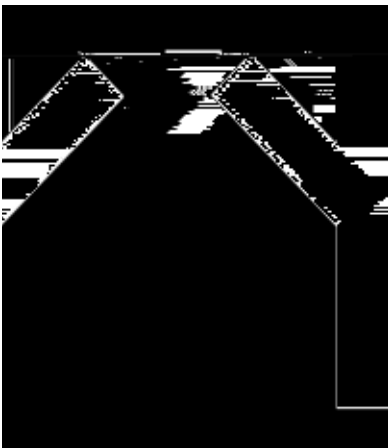
## PEPE THE FROG

Pepe the Frog is a cartoon character created by Matt Furie. He became a popular meme in the early 2000s. In 2016, the character was hijacked by the white supremacist movement and used as a mascot. Pepe's creator attempted to kill the character to stop it from being misappropriated. Pepe remains a popular meme often used to spread hateful and bigoted beliefs, and comes in a multitude of different outfits. The noose can also be used as a hate symbol, as seen below.



## RUNIC SYMBOLS

The Runic alphabet was common to the Norse, Teutonic and Celtic peoples. It has been embraced by white supremacists who believe that these ancient groups are the forbearers of the white race. The Runic alphabet was also utilized by the Nazis. Life and death runes were found on the graves of SS members.



LIFE RUNE



ODAL RUNE

## SKULL MASK

The skull mask has popularized by followers of IronMarch, a neo-Nazi forum has spawned the neo-Nazi group, Atom Affen Division, responsible for at least 17 murders in the USA. The skull mask, sometimes referred to as a 'siege mask', is often used by individuals online and offline to disguise their identity. The skull mask can be an indicator of support for fascism, white supremacy and neo-Nazi ideologies.



## SUNWHEEL

In countries such as Germany, where the Swastika is banned, symbols such as the sun wheel (black sun/sonnenrad) became a popular alternative to show support for white supremacy and neo-Nazism. The sun wheel is one of several ancient symbols misappropriated by the Nazis, alongside the Swastika. The sun wheel is often used as an image for profiles across social media, as well as on the cover of the New Zealand mosque attacker's manifesto.



## SWASTIKA

The swastika is an ancient symbol, held sacred in many cultures including Hinduism and Buddhism.



## NOTES

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