

SWASTIKA: IN THE LIGHT OF FACTS

History

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ABSTRACT

As every one know about a historical and traditional symbol of Swastika. It is being used throughout world from thousands years to date. According to Indians, Germans and other Arian races, that this is their traditional, national, military and cultural symbol. Remember, the Arians occupied the northern India, Punjab and Sindh during 16th and 15th centuries B.C., they also entered in Balochistan during above mentioned period. Arians mostly used it for military purpose, but nowadays this is a religious symbol in India. During 2nd world war the German Nazis used it as a military symbol on their uniforms. The objectives behind this study are to research the real fact of Swastika and to find out the solution of this question, that, is Swastika an Arian symbol or the fact is some thing else? The study is descriptive in nature and archaeological objects, primary and secondary resources will be helpful for the purpose.

KEY WORDS:

Africa, Arabs, Arians, Asia, Baloch, Balochistan, Bolan (pass + river), Brahvi, Buddhism, Dravidians, Europe, Germany, Hinduism, Hitler, India (north+south) , Jainism, Khuzdar (Soneejee), Lasbela, Mehrgarh, Mein Kamph, Nazi (ism+party+symbol), Persia, Punjab, Rakkh (Protection), Saph Sindu, Sasanids, Sindh, Swastika

INTRODUCTION:

Commonly which country called Balochistan, covers a huge area, nearly 340,000 square miles. (**Baloch: 1987**) This is divided among three countries Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan, (**Baloch: 1987**) but every part separately called Balochistan. The Pakistani part of Balochistan consists on 1,

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34050 sq. miles, **(Iqbal Ahmed: 1992)** which is two fifth of the whole Pakistan. **(Iqbal Ahmed: 1992)** Balochistan is like a piece of earth, which has every kind resource. It is full of mineral resources, which is necessary for country wealth. It has every season fruits and vegetables and different kind agriculture resources. It is a mostly mountainous area, like upper highland and lower highland. It has plain and deserts too. It has also natural parks for example, Hazarganji, Dureji, Zarghoon and Hingol, and a long sea shore nearly 470 miles. **(Iqbal Ahmed: 1992)** The water resources are scanty, but these are enough for a small population. There are many rivers in the area, like Bolan, Moola, Hingol, Bado, Rakhshan, Hub, Pub, Porali, Koshk, Kech Khaur, Shadi Khaur, Narri, and many others. But, some of them are favorite for Agriculture and drinking, and mostly rivers flow during rainy seasons. According to 1981 censuses, population of Balochistan is nearly 4.4 millions. **(Government of Balochistan, Housing and Population Censuses of Pakistan 1980-81: 1982)** the majority of population are settled in valleys and villages. The all big cities are situated in the valleys like, Quetta, Mastung, Kalat, Soorab, Khuzdar, Panjgoor, and Kech Turbat. Balochistan has a big pre-historic and historical background, which is described in many historical and anthropological books.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:

Balochistan is the mother land of ancient civilizations. The world most ancient archaeological site “MEHRGARH” is situated here near the Bolan River in the end of Bolan Pass. According to experts these are nearly 9000 to 11000 years old ruins. **(Jarriage: 1974-85, George Weber: article)** it was a most develop settlement of its time. They were farmers’ industrialists and traders. Not only in Bolan or Kachhi Districts, while other areas of Balochistan are also having a big heritage. Thousands of mounds which are nearly 7000 to 3000 BC old are situated in the different parts of the area of Balochistan. Some of them are very famous and excavated by the experts, like, mound of Killi Gul Mohammad, Pir Syed Balo, Kechi Baig and Damb-e-Sadat in Quetta, mound of Sampur , Sped Bulandi and Damb-e-Belman in Mastung, Pariano Ghundi in Zhob, Dabar Kot and Soor Jungle in Loralai, Sia Damb, Nighar Damb, Meeri Kalat and other sites in Kalat and Soorab. Shahi Tump, Meeri Kalat and many other sites in Makran, Bala Kot and other sites in Lasbela. As like above sites the other areas of Balochistan have also big number of mounds, like Khuzdar, Kharan, Kachhi etc. in short, the Balochistan is the most richest area for archaeology in the world and very attractive for archaeologists.

These mounds and ruins explain the pre-historic Balochistan and

prove it, that the area of Balochistan was the home land of ancient primary settlement of mankind. These mounds are also described the social, political, fiscal, religious, cultural and anthropological information about the ancient society of the area. Any big city like Harrapa and Mohenjodaro in Punjab and Sindh not discovered here, but all mounds are correspondent the ancient and beginning village system. No doubt the village system began from Balochistan, than extended in other countries. Moreover, there are some other kind archaeological sites are present like, forts castles, dams' graveyards, Karezes (underground water channels), tombs, shrines, sculptures, and more.

SOCIETY AND CULTURE OF PRE-HISTORIC BALOCHISTAN

The pre-historic ruins explained a long story, but this story is not well defined by the experts, because the lack of resources. In other countries the ruins of big cities with a large number of objects have discovered in which all the society defined very well. So, every one has all information about them, like ruins of Mohenjodaro, Harrappa, Kali Bhangon, (**Wheeler: 1997**) ruins of ancient Byblonia, ruins of Jordan and many other international sites. But the information about the mostly ruins of Balochistan are scanty, because of many reasons, like,

- i. These ruins are most ancient than neighbor countries
- ii. The lack of research and excavation
- iii. The all research done by foreign experts
- iv. On national and regional basis people have no information about these, and many other reasons

So, in the light of above facts, it is not possible to define the pre-historic Balochistan. But, there are some informative resources in which pre-historic Balochistan's society and culture has been explained. In the light of these resources, the society and culture of Balochistan was the developed society of its time. The people were lived in mud houses and some times in bricks and stone made houses. They had their own industry and agriculture systems. Their pottery industry was most developed industry, which they export out side from their dynasty. They introduced import export trade and made their life more comfortable. They were live together in the combined family system. They had live stock and had large number of sheep, goats and other pets. They had their tribal, social and political and also had their religious thoughts (**George Weber: article**).The Medical Science of the MehrGARH was surprisingly developed. According to George Weber,

“MehrGARH farmers of Period 3 could have their dental problems treated by experimental dentists with drills as early as 6000 years before the present. One hopes that the earliest dentists used herbal drugs to reduce the

suffering of their patients. Mehrgarh dental technology has been used on only 11 teeth out of a total of 3880 examined. The experiment was abandoned around 6500 years ago.” **George Weber: Article**)

These ruins defined pre-historic society of Balochistan very well, but the lack of research many facts are still in dark, because of the lack of research and awareness.

According to experts and archaeologists the ancient society of Balochistan was formed a political state and government and they were ruled on a huge area. **(Dehwar: ND)** They had their own language and written skills **(Dehwar: ND)**, and in large number of stamps and talismans prove it, which discovered from the different archaeological sites of the area. But still their language and the meaning and purpose of these stamps and their language are unknown. May be these are not only stamps. They can be other things like “talisman”. Because, this kind talisman are still use in the tribal areas and nomad tribes. These stamps and talisman were made by mud, stone, wood and copper. **(Dehwar: ND)** Some of these have whole, which are the place of thread entering. These wholes prove it that these are talisman, and not stamps and these were used for religious and spiritual purpose.

Mehrgarh is the main site, which is excavated by the French archaeologist, ‘Professor Jean Francuis Jarriage and his team. Mehrgarh is situated in the start of Bolan Pass from Sibi side near the same name river, 10 miles from the town of Dhadar on Sunny Shoran road. Professor Jarriage and his team started excavation in 1974 and they spent 11 years on the field. This is the longest work in Balochistan in the field of archaeology. They work in a big area and discovered many more mounds. They found many kind objects from these sites. In which the different kind potteries, statues, dead bodies, constructions, different kind of seeds, toys, animal statues, expensive stones, weapons, different kind instruments, jewelry, stamps, talisman and many other objects are include. **(Jarriage: 1974-85)** These objects are 7000 BC to 3000 BC ancient, because according to historians and experts mostly mounds (ancient settlements) of Balochistan perished out after 3000 BC. In a small number of mounds were remains during the Arian’s invasion. And some towns and villages were alive during the Sasanid of Iran and Arab periods. But, this is true that the Arians did not stay here because the lack of resources. So, they moved forward into the dynasties of Sindh, Punjab and northern India, because these areas were most greenish and had rivers and other water resources. In Balochistan they had not such like facilities and water resources, so, they just used this dynasty as a cross road between east and west.

The settlement of Mehrgarh was ended during 3000 BC to 2000 BC

(Dehwar: 1990) then the town of Mehrgarh changed into ruins slowly, and Arians entered in this dynasty during 1600 BC and 1500 BC.,1500 to 2000 years after the death of ancient Mehrgarh.

Which stamps found from Mehrgarh have some amazing pictures and symbols, and these are also present on some potteries. These very famous symbols and pictures are dancing girls with wearing a round shape dress, rising sun, wild animals, pets, fishes and very famous and historical symbol of Swastika.

WHAT IS SWASTIKA?

Swastika is known as a military and religious symbol of ancient Arian tribes. According to Holocaust Encyclopedia through internet resources,

“The swastika has an extensive history. It was used at least 5,000 years before Adolph Hitler designed the Nazi flag. The word swastika comes from the Sanskrit swastika, which means “good fortune” or “well-being.” The motif (a hooked cross) appears to have first been used in Neolithic Eurasia, perhaps representing the movement of the sun through the sky. To this day it is a sacred symbol in Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and Odinism. It is a common sight on temples or houses in India or Indonesia. Swastikas also have an ancient history in Europe, appearing on artifacts from pre-Christian European cultures” (<http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article>)

This source of internet more define, that,

“The symbol experienced resurgence in the late nineteenth century, following extensive archeological work such as that of the famous archeologist Heinrich Schliemann. Schliemann discovered the hooked cross on the site of ancient Troy. He connected it with similar shapes found on pottery in Germany and speculated that it was a “significant religious symbol of our remote ancestors.”

In the beginning of the twentieth century the swastika was widely used in Europe. It had numerous meanings, the most common being a symbol of good luck and auspiciousness. However, the work of Schliemann soon was taken up by völkisch movements, for whom the swastika was a symbol of “Aryan identity” and German nationalist pride.

This conjecture of Aryan cultural descent of the German people is likely one of the main reasons why the Nazi party formally adopted the swastika or Hakenkreuz (Ger., hooked cross) as its symbol in 1920.

The Nazi party, however, was not the only party to use the swastika in Germany. After World War I, a number of far-right nationalist movements adopted the swastika. As a symbol, it became associated with the idea of a racially “pure” state. By the time the Nazis gained control of Germany, the

connotations of the swastika had forever changed.

In *Mein Kampf*, Adolf Hitler wrote: "I myself, meanwhile, after innumerable attempts, had laid down a final form; a flag with a red background, a white disk, and a black swastika in the middle. After long trials I also found a definite proportion between the size of the flag and the size of the white disk, as well as the shape and thickness of the swastika."

The swastika would become the most recognizable icon of Nazi propaganda, appearing on the flag referred to by Hitler in *Mein Kampf* as well as on election posters, arm bands, medallions, and badges for military and other organizations. A potent symbol intended to elicit pride among Aryans; the swastika also struck terror into Jews and others deemed enemies of Nazi Germany.

Despite its origins, the swastika have become so widely associated with Nazi Germany that contemporary uses frequently incite controversy". (<http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article>)

According to historians, the Arian tribes entered in Balochistan during 1600 and 1500 BC., (**District Gazetteer of Balochistan (Bolan): 1997**), they left Afghanistan and central Asia after 2000 BC. (**Dehwar: 1990, E.Morsden:2006 & Chankia: 1991**) and destroyed the remaining settlement of Balochistan and, moved to Sindh, Punjab and northern India. In the west they attacked upon Persia (Iran). They defeated ancient kingdom of Persia and occupied the all their territories. (**Mohammad Hayat: 1994**) The historians say that, these tribes migrated from Syberia, (**Mohammad Hayat: 1994**) which they called Aria Varzth in their literature. (**Dehwar: 1990**) According to historians, these tribes continued their journey towards east and west for many centuries, (**Dehwar:1990**) and million of people entered in above said areas. History says these tribes occupies northern India, Plains of Punjab and Sindh and province of Khyber Pakhtoon Khwa (KPK) and gave this huge area the name of "Sapth Sindhu" (**Dehwar:1990**) or the land of seven rivers. The Balochistan was not the part of this dynasty. So, it's proved that the Arians did not stay here for a long time; they just used Balochistan, and especially the Bolan Pass as a cross road lead to east. History says that they were barbarians and horsemen, they had many kinds' weapons and they were great warriors. They destroyed the all ancient civilizations of the all areas. Than they stable their governments and kingdoms in the east and west. After a long time when the Arians of Persia conquered a huge area of Asia, Africa, Mid East and Europe, Balochistan became a part of Persian Empire. This dynast was mostly internally independent and was a trade and military route among east, west, north and south.

According to historians, the Arians used this mark or symbol of Swastika, as a military and religious symbol. Historians, anthropologists, religious and secular scholars, archaeologists even every educated person dedicated this mark to the Arians. Still, this mark use in Hindu Mandir, and during World War II the German Nazis used it as their ethnic and military symbol. (<http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article>)

According to internet resources:

“The swastika (Sanskrit: स्वस्तिक) is an equilateral cross with its arms bent at right angles, in either right-facing (卐) form or its mirrored left-facing (卍) form. Earliest archaeological evidence of swastika-shaped ornaments dates back to the Indus Valley Civilization of Ancient India as well as Classical Antiquity. Swastikas have also been used in other various ancient civilizations around the world. It remains widely used in Indian religions, specifically in Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism, primarily as a sacred symbol of good luck.

Following a brief surge of popularity in Western culture, the swastika was adopted as a symbol of the Nazi Party of Germany in 1920. After Adolf Hitler’s rise to power in the 1930s, a swastika was incorporated into the Nazi party flag, which was made the State Flag of Germany. As a result, the Swastika became strongly associated with Nazism and related ideologies such as Fascism and White Supremacism since the 1930s in the Western world and is now largely stigmatized. It has notably been outlawed in Germany if used as a symbol of Nazism. Many modern political extremists and Neo-Nazi groups such as the Russian National Unity use stylized swastikas or similar symbols”. ([http:// en/ wikipedia.org/wiki/cross-symbol](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/cross-symbol))

SWASTIKA IN BALOCHISTAN:

As described in above pages the historians dedicated this symbol of Swastika to the Arians, but it is very amazing that this symbol is present in Balochistan before the Arians invasion. History says that the Arians left their birth place (Aria Verzth) after 2000 BC. (**Chankia: 1990**) and across this dynasty during 15th and 16th centuries B.C. (**Chankia: 1990**), a major part of ancient civilization of Balochistan was mostly perished and Sindh Punjab culture was on peak before Arian invasion. (**Wheeler: 1997**) The city of Mehrgarh was ended during the time of Arians.

The civilization of Balochistan before Arians was a developed and advanced society of its time. Thousands years before Christ the

civilization and industry of this area ruled upon a huge dynasty. Historians say that many potteries and statues found from the ruins of Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, Iran and Mesopotamia (Iraq), were imported from Balochistan. **(Yahya Amjab: 1989)** The ancient society of the area had a compact system of government. They had their socio-political, cultural, religious and traditional institutes. In short, that they were on peak of their time and had every facility of life.

As mentioned in above pages that, many kind archaeological sites and objects are discovered from Balochistan, with the symbol of Swastika. This symbol can see on the potteries, stamps and talisman which found from the site of MehrGARH, **(Jarriage: 1974-85)** these are most ancient then Arian's invasion, and belong to the era of 3000 BC to 7000 BC. For Sketehes, Photos and further details contact with the book, "MEHRGARH" excavation and reports from 1974 to 1985 by Prof Dr. Jean Francuis Jarriage, Mrs. Catherine Jarriage, published by Department of Tourism, Government of Sindh-Pakistan and French Foreign Department, Karachi, ND -pages, 121-31, 147-172, 226-27, 267, 349-60,393-404.

This symbol is also present in other parts of Balochistan near Pub Naka, Lasbela district; this symbol is present on stone in written shape. These are many words in which Swastika is included. A historian says that, these are Greek words. **(Shahwani: 1983)** but he does not give any reference when he dedicated them to the Greeks. These words are copied by many authors. From the book of A. W Hughes, these are given as under:-

“” **(Hughes: 2002)**

He says, “These he believed to be curious and supposed them to be Buddhist symbol. The first character of the left he considered was the Swastika, or sanctified cross, but what the others referred to he was unable to tell, but thought they might possibly be literal combinations of mystical or secular import”. **(Hughes: 2002)**

Moreover, a piece of pottery with a symbol of Swastika found from the mound of Sonijee, a town of Khuzdar, by the research team of Balochistan Study Center, University of Balochistan, Quetta. This small piece of pottery is preserve in the museum of Balochistan Study Center, University of Balochistan, Quetta. This symbol may be available in other pre-historic sites of Balochistan, but it depends on more research and excavation.

These strong arguments prove it that, the symbol of Swastika was in use in the pre-historic settlement of Balochistan from thousands years before the invasion of Arians.

Moreover, there is another solid and strong argument it may be prove that this symbol is belonging to the pre-historic civilization of Balochistan. Baloch Brahvi tribes of Balochistan have a traditional symbol which especially use during the birth of a child for spiritual purpose. Its shape is some like this . It's a cross with four dots. In native language Balochi and Brahvi, it's called "Rakkh", mean protection, or "Rad-e-Bala". As described in above lines that this symbol uses during the birth of a child for forty days especially, the objective of this symbol is to protect the mother and baby from evils and monsters. According to Sir Bray,

"There is a deal of fuss made over the mother and babe in the birth chamber. As soon as the child in born, they paint a mark in indigo on all four walls after this fashion  that on evil spirit may venture nigh" (Bray: 1982)

The tribes believe that this symbol can protect the mother and his baby, and when baby born a senior and old lady made this symbol on four sides on the walls of a room in which mother and baby stay.

This symbolic cross and such kind more symbols use in nomad and rural tribes of Balochistan yet for spiritual purposes. These can see commonly in nomad and rural tribes. The above argument proves it the symbol of Swastika was belonging to the ancient culture of Balochistan. And it was traditional symbol of the ancient tribes of the area, and was their most holy spiritual and religious symbol. The time of use of this symbol in Balochistan was before the Arian's invasion. When Arians captured this area and moved to east than they may be theft this symbol from this area.

CONCLUSION:

As discussed about Swastika in above pages, the historians dedicated it to the Arians, which they were mostly used for military and religious purpose. But, the evidence and arguments proved that, it is not an Arian symbol. The discovered archaeological objects of Balochistan describe another interesting story about this symbol. As described in above pages that the ancient civilization of Balochistan perished out after 3000 BC, except some areas. But, the remaining parts of past culture were not on such condition that they stopped or resist against any invader. During 1700 BC the ancient culture destroyed by the Jhukkar culture of Sindh, but after a short time Arians conquered the remarkable area of sub-continent. So, the ancient civilization and pre-historic culture of this area was ended, but, history says that the civilization of Balochistan was alive in many areas up to the advent of Islam

Now, the interesting question is this that, if it is an Arian symbol, so,

- i. How it's found from Mehrgarh?
- ii. How it's found from Sonijee Khuzdar?
- iii. Why it is still used in the Baloch and Brahvi tribes of the area?

Remember, the Arians entered in this dynasty after 1600 BC., while the major part of ancient culture of Balochistan was ended, and up to 1700 BC the remaining part were destroyed by Jhukkars of Sindh. And which objects found from the site of Mehrgarh, are 5000 to 9000 years ancient, so, in the light of these facts, how it can be possible that this is an Arian symbol?

The other question is this that, is it a symbol or a word?

It may be a word with a conceptual meaning. In Baloch tribes it has a big meaning. They think this is a shelter of God against evils, and it can protect them against every kind evil. This symbol also use in Baloch nomads and rural tribes as talisman in above meaning.

Those objects which have symbol of Swastika, found from Mehrgarh, are potteries, stamps and talisman. May be this symbol was use in Mehrgarh for religious and spiritual purposes, and may be its meaning is "God". Because, the shape of Swastika is like a wheel moved in a circle and can see the four sides and it also can true that the rising sun is the most develop shape of swastika, it can see in the different objects of Mehrgarh.

The arguments, evidence, research excavated objects prove it that; it was a holy symbol of pre-historic Balochistan, which had a top value in the religious, culture and the all activities of life. May be the Arians adopted it from here during their invasion towards sub-continent,.

As a researcher in my opinion, that this symbol was used in the society of pre-Arian Balochistan. About those people who were living in Balochistan before Arians entry in sub-continent, mostly experts, historians, archaeologists and anthropologists used the word Dravidian. The Dravidians live in Southern India and Sri Lanka and still they use this symbol for holy and religious purpose. According to many authors, including Sir Danes Bray and George Weber, the clans of Brahvi in Baloch nation belong to the Dravidian family.

This important question needs more research on true basis. May be the research highlight some other facts about Swastika?

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