



## SYMBOLS OF CONFEDERACY

*In order to better understand the context in which Confederate monuments and symbols were created and are publicly displayed even today, we thought we would share some significant facts with everyone.*

- ◆ From the 1880's-1890's Southern states adopted Jim Crow laws instituting segregation and disenfranchising black voters.
- ◆ In 1896, in the Plessy v. Ferguson decision, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld segregation.
- ◆ In 1915, The Birth of a Nation was released, a film that vilifies abolitionists, depicts blacks as inferior, and glorifies the Confederate cause and the Ku Klux Klan.
- ◆ Most Confederate memorials were erected during the same period that Southern states were adopting Jim Crow laws, roughly from 1880 through the 1920s, when African Americans were denied equal rights through legal restrictions and vigilante acts of terror.
- ◆ In the 1940s and 1950s, the battle flag became popular as a banner of segregationists who opposed the growing African-American civil rights movement.
- ◆ The debate heightened in 2015 after a gunman who posted photographs of himself posing with the Confederate flag shot and killed nine people in a black church in Charleston, South Carolina.
- ◆ Because of its previous use and intent, the Confederate flag has actually become a swastika substitute among neo-Nazis and Skinheads in Germany, where the swastika is banned by law.

*All information drawn from <https://libguides.jeffco.edu/monumentsandsymbols>*



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