


# Organized Hate – Part 3

## Skinheads




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### Skinheads - Origins



- Originated in England in the early 60s with the “mods” as a music/cultural movement
- *Hard mods* broke away from the mod movement; had shorter hair and working class image/dress
  - Became known as “skinheads” around 1968
  - Heavily influenced by black Jamaican gangs known as *rude boys*
- Often engaged in violent street fighting, football (soccer) hooliganism, and attacks on immigrants
  - “Paki-bashing”

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### Skinheads – Transformation



- Skinhead movement began to fade in the early 70s, but was revived again with the punk rock movement in the late 70s
  - The punks had a fascination with Nazism
- Skinheads developed their own kind of music called Oi!
  - Mixture of heavy metal and punk that often had overtly racist and white nationalist lyrics
- White power skinhead groups developed as a separate skinhead subculture in England in the early 80s

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## Skinheads – United States



- In the early 80s, skinheads spread across Europe and became extremely violent
  - 70K attacks in the UK per year
- 1982: Racist skinhead groups began to appear in the US in significant numbers
- 1986:
  - Romantic Violence, aka CASH (Chicago Area Skinheads), took form as one of the first true racist skinhead groups in the US
  - Followed by the Confederate Hammerskins in Dallas, TX
  - Tom Metzger formed Aryan Youth Movement (AYM)

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## Skinheads – United States



- 1988: John and Tom Metzger organized the first hate rock festival, Aryan Fest, in OK
- 1991: More than 60 Aryan National Front (ANF) skinheads and Klansman marched through downtown Birmingham, AL
- 1994: Skinhead leader Randal Lee Krager formed Volksfront in Oregon and aligned with Hammerskin Nation

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## Skinheads – United States

- 1999: Hammerskin Nation held first "Hammerfest" in Bremen, GA; more than 600 skinheads attended



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## Skinheads – United States



- Majority of skinheads are in their late teens to early 20s
  - Older skinhead groups, such as the Hammerskins, have members in their forties
- Group membership can be from five to over 100
- Most skinheads are unaffiliated

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## Skinheads – Women



- Women comprise 30-40% of racist skinheads
- Refer to themselves as:
  - *Skinbyrds*
  - *Skingirls*
  - *Chelseas*
  - *Featherwoods*



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## Skinheads – United States



- Dress and appearance are a significant part of the skinhead culture
  - Shaved heads
  - Racist/Nazi tattoos
  - Doc Marten/combat boots
  - Bomber jackets
  - Levi or Lee jeans/cammies
  - Braces (suspenders)



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## Skinheads – *United States*



### ■ Areas with high levels of skinhead activity:

- California
- Arizona
- The Midwest
- Pennsylvania
- New Jersey
- Connecticut
- Oregon and Washington



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## Skinheads – *New England*



### ■ NH

- East Coast Aryan Brotherhood
- North East White Pride
- Unaffiliated Skinheads

### ■ MA

- East Coast Aryan Brotherhood
- East Coast White Unity
- Volksfront
- Unaffiliated Skinheads



### ■ CT

- White Wolves

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## Skinheads – *Non-racist/Anti-racist*

### ■ Not all skinheads are racist

- Skinheads Against Racial Prejudice (SHARP)
- Anti-Racist Action (ARA)



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## Skinheads – White Power Music



- White Power skinheads developed a separate musical culture known as Rock against Communism (RAC)
  - *Skrewdriver*
  - *Brutal Attack*
  - *Bound for Glory*
- Started as musically similar to punk and Oi! and has adopted heavy metal and rock influences



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## Skinheads – White Power Music

- Transformed into “hatecore”
- According to Interpol, more profitable underground trade than hashish
- Panzerfaust Records (now defunct)
- Resistance Records
  - Reportedly makes over \$1 million a year in sales

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## Skinheads – Eruption of Violence



- 1988: Skinhead violence erupted across the US
  - Members of Confederate Hammerskins patrolled Robert E. Lee Park in Dallas, beating any non-whites they come across
    - Police foiled a plot by armed Hammerskins to destroy Jewish businesses on anniversary of Kristallnacht
    - Gang is ultimately linked to over 40 crimes
  - Mulugeta Seraw killed in Portland, OR by members of East Side White Pride

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## Skinheads – *Eruption of Violence*



- 1990: Two 18 yr old skinheads stomped a 15 yr old Vietnamese boy to death in Houston, TX
- 1991:
  - Three 16 year old members of the Confederate Hammerskins murdered a black man as he sat in a truck with two whites in Arlington, TX
  - Members of ANF murdered a homeless black man in Birmingham, AL
- 1995: Southern CA skinhead Randall Rojas beat a homeless black man to death behind a fast food restaurant

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## Skinheads – *Eruption of Violence*



VanderJagt

- 1997:
  - Bruce VanderJagt became the first US police officer killed by a racist skinhead
    - Gunned down by 25 year old Matthaues Jaehning following a high speed pursuit
    - Jaehning later killed himself in a shootout with Denver SWAT
    - A week after VanderJagt was killed, someone left a dead pig, with the officer's name written on it, in front of the station where he had worked

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## Skinheads – *Eruption of Violence*

- 1997:
  - Denver skinheads Nathan Thill and Jeremiah Barnum murdered Oumar Dia
    - Also shot and wounded Jean VanVelkinburg after she tried to help Dia, paralyzing her from the waist down



Dia



Thill

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## Skinheads – *Eruption of Violence*



Butler

- 1998: Independent Nazi Skins gang leader John “Polar Bear” Butler ambushed and killed two Anti-Racist Action (ARA) members outside Las Vegas
- 1999:
  - FL skinheads attacked interracial couples, killing a woman and a child in two separate incidents
  - Six Western Hammerskins beat and stabbed a black man in Temecula, CA

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## Skinheads – *Eruption of Violence*



Monshke

- 2001: Midland Hammerskin Shane McCormick stabbed a black man in a MI restaurant
- 2002: Skinhead Kevin A. Johnson beat a man to death outside of a diner in St. Louis while yelling anti-Semitic epithets (victim isn't Jewish)
- 2004: Kurtis William Monshke, head of the Washington state chapter of Volksfront, helped three other skinheads beat a homeless white man to death with baseball bats and rocks

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## The Hammerskin Nation



- Founded: Late 80s in Dallas, TX
- Ideology: White supremacy
- Media: Hate rock concerts, online bulletin boards, e-mail mailing lists
- Connections: KKK, WAR, Aryan Nations, National Alliance, World Church of the Creator, Panzerfaust Records
  - The Hammerskin Nation website lists chapters in several other countries to include Canada, England, France, The Netherlands, and Germany

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## The Hammerskin Nation



- Most violent and best-organized skinhead group in US
- Name and symbol comes from the 1979 Pink Floyd movie, *The Wall*



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## The Hammerskin Nation



- First group was the Confederate Hammerskins
  - Soon followed by local and regional groups, all united under one Hammerskin Nation
    - Eastern Hammerskins
    - Northern Hammerskins
    - Arizona Hammerskins



Northern Hammerskins



Western Hammerskins



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## The Hammerskin Nation – White Power Music



- Uses White Power music to unite various skinhead groups and as a recruitment tool
  - *"Music is number one. It's the best way to reach people. Through music, people can start getting into the scene, then you can start educating them. Politics through music."*
    - Ed Wolbank – member, hate rock group "Bound for Glory"
- Worked in partnership with Panzerfaust Records, a hate music producer and distributor

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## The Hammerskin Nation – *White Power Music*



- Hammerskin Nation uses hate rock groups as contact points throughout the US
  - *The Brawlers* – Witicha, KS
  - *Max Resist* – Rochester Michigan
  - *Intimidation One* – Clackamas, OR
  - *H8Machine* – Harrison, NJ

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## The Hammerskin Nation – *White Power Music*



- 1999: Eastern Hammerskins hosted a concert attended by 200 people featuring:
  - *Vinland Warriors*
  - *White Wash*
  - *Dying Breed*
  - *Max Resist*
  - *Intimidation One*
  - *Bulldog Breed*
  - *Bully Boys*
  - *Midtown Boots*

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## The Hammerskin Nation - *The Decline Begins*



- Mid-1999:
  - Hammerskin Nation peaked with 600 members across five regional divisions
  - Five Northern Hammerskins are kicked out of Hammerskin Nation for using extreme violence in disciplining a member
    - Eight others quit, and together they formed the Outlaw Hammerskins
    - Within a few months they had chapters across Indiana and Wisconsin

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## The Hammerskin Nation - *The Decline*



- 2000: Outlaw Hammerskins showed up at Hammerskin Nation events in a direct challenge to their leadership and elitist attitude
  - Hammerskin Nation membership declined
  - Lawsuits are filed against Hammerskin Nation by crime victims
  - Rise of Outlaw Hammerskins sparked a surge of independent regional crews
  - Panzerfaust Records collapsed

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## Hammerskin Nation – *The Decline*



- 2003: Number of skinhead chapters nationwide more than doubled due to increase in independent, regional skinhead crews
  - Tom Metzger presented plan for “revolutionary action” at a White Unity festival in Osceola, IN
    - “Lone Wolf” tactics
    - Silent operations
    - Blending with the community
    - Acquisition of professional jobs
    - Identification of informants
    - Commitment to action
    - “Five words”

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## The Hammerskin Nation - *The Decline*



- 2002: Infighting caused Outlaw Hammerskins to collapse
- 2003: Former Outlaw Hammerskins Brian James and Eric Fairbairn formed the Hoosier State Skinheads
  - Other former Outlaw Hammerskins formed the Ohio State Skinheads

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## Skinheads – Recent Activity



- The largest statewide crew now active is the Keystone State Skinheads (now known as Keystone United)
  - One of its five founders, Steven Smith, is a former Aryan Nations member
  - Nine chapters across the state
- Fastest growing chapter is the Maryland Skins

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## Skinheads – Recent Activity

- 2004: Members of Hoosier State Skins and Ohio State Skinheads formed Vinlander Social Club ([www.vinlanders.com](http://www.vinlanders.com))
  - Differs from past Hammerskin Nation practice in that it encourages dual membership



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## Skinheads – Recent Activity



- 2005: Vinlanders hosted first official Blood and Honour Council, aka Council of 28, a unity meeting of regional skinheads
  - Attended by at least 60 members of more than a dozen white supremacist groups including IKA and NA
  - Designated NA as their official “political outlet”
  - Hammerskin Nation/Volksfront reps not in attendance



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## Skinheads – *Recent Activity*



- Hammerskin Nation membership now estimated at ~150
- ADL reports at least 83 criminal incidents in the past several years, to include 17 incidents involving murder, attempted murder, or manslaughter
- Blood and Honour Council alignment with National Alliance means access to finances and networking with other White Supremacist/neo-Nazi groups

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