**Case Study: Examining the town of Swastika**

The Case: In the province of Ontario, there is a small town that has sparked a national debate. The town is called Swastika. The residents of Swastika Ontario are aware of the negative connotations associated with their town’s name. However, most residents are refusing to have the town’s name changed. According to the National Post, the inhabitants of Swastika are resisting a name change because “they thought of their name before Hitler, and they’ve never had anything to do with Nazis.” Carolyn O’Neil, a town historian, argues, “You don’t write off history just because one person uses something wrong.” The town was created in 1906 and was named Swastika because the Swastika was the name of an ancient symbol associated with good luck.

Questions:

1. Using the chart, identify the pros and cons of not changing the name of the town of Swastika.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Pros | Cons |
|  |  |

1. Identify the pros and cons of changing the name of the town of Swastika.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Pros | Cons |
|  |  |

1. When World War One began, “Canada had gone on a name-changing spree. Berlin, Ont., became Kitchener. Kaiser, Sask., became Peebles.” In your opinion, should cities, towns, and public buildings be renamed if they remind people of negative people and events in history? Explain in a paragraph.
2. It has been suggested that Swastika be named Winston, after the former British Prime Minister. Do you agree with this proposal? Is there another name you think would be more fitting? Explain.