

## Figure 4.1 Palm-Out V Gesture



The “V for victory” sign made popular during World War II by Winston Churchill is appropriately made by showing the palm. In the United States in the late 1960s, the same gesture became a symbol for peace (Dresser, 1996). When former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher made a “V for victory” sign during an election campaign, she showed the back of her hand. That gesture signifies at least nine different obscenities!

U.S. soldiers were warned against using the “V for victory” or peace sign in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The V sign was widely used by the Bosnians and Croats as a victory/defiance sign. For Croats it represents bravery and hope. Serbs used the three-finger salute, which was originally associated with the Christian Trinity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Serb forces often used it after military operations as a nationalist provocation. Serbian athletes also displayed the gesture as a sign of pride.