

# The history of the Volkswagen

**The history of the Volkswagen brand began with the “Käfer”; development work on this Nazi prestige project began in 1934. On May 28, 1937, the “Gesellschaft zur Vorbereitung des Deutschen Volkswagens mbH” (Company for the Preparation of the German Volkswagen Ltd.) was formally established. The name was changed to “Volkswagenwerk GmbH” in 1938, and the company built its main plant in what has become Wolfsburg. However, the outbreak of war and integration in the arms industry prevented mass production of the Volkswagen (“people’s car”) – instead, military vehicles and other armaments were produced using forced labor.**

After the war, the British instructed Volkswagen to build the Volkswagen saloon at the end of 1945. With the Type 1 (Käfer) model, and the Type 2 (Transporter) model added in 1950, Volkswagen became a symbol of Germany’s economic miracle, above all as a result of the strong export orientation on the part of the company converted into a joint stock corporation in 1960. Innovative and flexible manufacturing systems made an appearance in the 1970s and led to the birth of a new generation of Volkswagens with the Passat, Scirocco, Golf and Polo models. Growth was boosted in the 1980s through advances in vehicle technology, flexible production, and forward-looking international cooperation.

As its globalization advances, Volkswagen is emerging as one of the world’s most successful volume car manufacturers, and today offers cutting-edge solutions for future issues such as e-mobility and digitalization.