

# Ku Klux Klan



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i Though not a **stub** by pure word count, this article lacks depth of content.



Mannequin or living person under the hood — still just one big dummy, regardless.

“ **[Notices approaching KKK lynch mob in rear-view mirror]** Holy crap! Do you see what I see?! ...We're being chased by [ghosts](#)! ”

—Peter Griffin, *Family Guy*<sup>[1]</sup>

The **Ku Klux Klan** (abbreviated "KKK"<sup>[note 1]</sup>) is the name given to a series of [American racist](#) hate groups, known for their terrorist activities including [lynching](#) (in earlier iterations), their sinister robes and pointy hoods (to hide identity),<sup>[note 2]</sup> and other trademarks such as burning crosses. Alongside basic racism, they also advocate for [reactionary](#) positions like [antisemitism](#), anti-black hatred, Hispanophobia, [white nationalism](#), [white supremacy](#), [homophobia](#) and anti-immigration. Historically the organization had a very [anti-Catholicism](#) position but these days they have abandoned it in favor of embracing Catholics.

Historically, there were three distinct iterations of the Klan, one beginning during [Reconstruction](#), one which peaked

The colorful pseudoscience

## Racism



**Hating thy neighbour**

- [Racism](#)
- [Racial pride](#)
- [Nationalism](#)

**Divide and conquer**

- [Christian Identity](#)
- [Danish People's Party](#)
- [Document.no](#)
- [Eurabia](#)
- [White nationalism](#)

**Dog-whistlers**

- [Halvor Fosli](#)
- [No Bullshit](#)
- [Paul Ramsey](#)
- [Ryke Geerd Hamer](#)
- [Tony Abbott](#)

during the 1920's, and one which began in response to the [Civil Rights](#) and still exists in a weak form to this day.

Oh, and [guess who](#) their official paper *The Crusader* endorsed for president in 2016.<sup>[2]</sup>

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## The Original Klan [edit]

The first Klan was started after the [American Civil War](#) by six former [Confederate](#) officers who formed a social club to screw around at night wearing costumes.<sup>[3]</sup> Once those assclowns figured out that they could terrorize the local freed slaves, the movement took off. During a meeting in 1867, the group elected their first Grand Wizard, former Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest,<sup>[4]</sup> a good and upstanding Southern gentleman who also organized a horrifying massacre of 300 captured black Union soldiers at Fort Pillow.<sup>[5]</sup> Their name was probably derived from the Greek word "kuklos," which means "circle," implying a circle of brothers.<sup>[6]</sup>

Now organized, the first Klan's intentions were to frighten any [African-Americans](#) in [The South](#) who decided to exercise their newly-won [rights](#), as well as Southern "scalawags" and Northern "[carpetbaggers](#)" who were seen as exploiting the Civil War victory.<sup>[7]</sup> A number of similar movements sprang up in the South

Christ died so we may write articles about **Christianity**



#### A multi-chef broth

- Catholicism
- Eastern Orthodox
- Protestantism
- Restorationism

#### Devil's in the details

- Ancient Aliens Debunked
- Georgia Christian University
- John the Baptist
- Progressive Christianity
- Purgatory
- TRACS
- The Dark Side of the Supernatural: What is God and What Isn't
- Witness Lee

#### The pearly gates

- [Christianity portal](#)

during this era, adopting Klan tactics and sometimes insignia. Even the Jesse James gang, bandits who regarded themselves as [Confederate](#) loyalist [guerrillas](#), wore Klan robes and hoods during a train robbery in 1873.

The original Klan of this period was like a Christian version of [ISIS/Al-Qaeda/Taliban](#) where it terrorized certain groups such as African-Americans, Southern scalawags, and Northern carpetbaggers.

During the 1870s, the Klan and its allies spearheaded the insurrection that helped to end [Reconstruction](#). By then, the Klan had evolved into a powerful terrorist organization, growing stronger in an atmosphere of toxic race relations punctuated by uncontrollable riots (aided by white police) which often killed dozens of black Americans.<sup>[8]</sup> Its members began referring to it as the "Invisible Empire of the South."<sup>[9]</sup> They engaged in a variety of violent activities, including beating schoolteachers who taught blacks and burning their buildings, murdering Republican Party officials and voters, and instigating lynchings and riots. Leading up to the 1868 election between Ulysses Grant and Horatio Seymour, the Klan killed thousands of people across multiple states.<sup>[10]</sup> Although this violence backfired on them with the Northerners passing further civil rights laws and cracking down on Klan members, Reconstruction would still eventually collapse, especially after the North became distracted by the Panic of '73.

In Margaret Mitchell's epic Civil War novel *Gone With the Wind*, some of the story's heroes participate in the Ku Klux Klan after the war, even riding out in Klan robes to take retaliation on a Yankee shantytown. In the [movie adaptation](#), all mention of the Klan was omitted and the raid was made in plain clothes.

After Reconstruction ended, so did the original Ku Klux Klan. One pernicious rumour claims the Klan became the [National Rifle Association](#) (implied in the [Michael Moore](#) piece *Bowling For Columbine*). This is not only untrue, but the exact *opposite* of the truth: the NRA was set up by Unionists,<sup>[11]</sup> and its eighth president was [Ulysses S. Grant](#), probably the greatest enemy the Klan ever had: his successor was General Philip Sheridan, also no friend of the Klan.

## The Klan version Two: Racism Boogaloo [\[edit\]](#)

From the end of Reconstruction until the 1920s, the KKK was mostly dormant. Older members would occasionally don the costume in an effort to get together a [lynch mob](#), but it did not act as an organized force. However, around 1915 some leaders, at least partly inspired by the silent [film](#) *The Birth of a Nation*,<sup>W</sup> which

glorified the original Klan,<sup>[12]</sup> came together and launched the second Klan. They expanded their ambitions and became a force across the United States (In fact, many of the most important chapters were in the Midwest rather than the South). In many states, one could not be elected to the state house or the governor's mansion without at least the tacit endorsement of the KKK.<sup>[13]</sup> On top of this, they also expanded the targets of their hate. Rather than solely focusing on African-Americans, as they had in the past, they also targeted [organized labor](#), [Catholics](#), [immigrants](#), [Jews](#) and [feminists](#)<sup>[14]</sup> much as did European [fascists](#). With America, especially after [WWI](#), swamped with newly-arrived European immigrants, their message caught fire, and they had *millions* of members by 1921 (and it should also be noted that millions more were not members, but sympathizers).<sup>[15]</sup>

The revived Klan differed from the original in other ways as well. The old Klan was genuinely clandestine; the revived Klan was a public entity parading in the streets, one that bigots could join by mail-order.<sup>[16]</sup> The



old Klan was Southern and Democratic; the revived Klan was Midwestern and Republican, and managed to politically dominate several states, most notably Indiana in the early 1920s. In fact, the Klan became so mainstream they openly sponsored festivals, weddings, baby christenings, political rallies, and even baseball teams.<sup>[17]</sup> They even managed to organize a nation-wide boycott against Jewish, black, and immigrant shop-owners.<sup>[18]</sup> This is also the Klan iteration which created the KKK symbol of the burning cross;<sup>[19]</sup> the first Klan had never used it.

The anti-Catholic nature of the Klan should not be understated; indeed, the Klan's primary targets were Catholic immigrants from Europe, who the Klan believed to be unpatriotic and more beholden to the [Pope](#) than to the United States.<sup>[20]</sup> They believed the unholy Catholic Church was guilty of devising horrible conspiracies to destroy Protestant America. They worried about Eastern Europeans, who they suspected of being Communists. However, blacks were still targeted by the Klan, and the mere mention of the name would spread fear and anguish through their communities.

The greatest success of the second Klan was its ability to market itself as a patriotic and family-oriented organization,<sup>[21]</sup> convincing millions of middle-class white Americans that their noxious hatred was really pure and wholesome. They presented themselves as the guardians of morality, even patrolling the streets and beating young men and women caught alone in cars with each other.<sup>[22]</sup> Their friendly public face allowed whites to express racist ideas in socially acceptable ways without needing to think of themselves as being hateful. However, this was still a front. The Klan was built on beatings, whippings, and murders.

After the [1929 stock market crash](#), being nailed for blatant tax evasion, and several public scandals involving the KKK, including one in which a Grand Dragon was convicted of rape and murder,<sup>[23]</sup> membership imploded and the second Klan was near defunct by 1930. It finally disbanded in 1944, never having gotten the opportunity to commit large-scale [genocide](#) as did other fascists.

## The Third Klan: Threequels Always Suck [\[edit\]](#)

Like a terrible but popular movie franchise, the Klan just wouldn't fucking die.

The third version Klan started up in the 1950s in response to the [civil rights](#) movement. This iteration of the Klan, while nowhere near as large as the 1920s version, carried out many [lynchings](#), bombings, murders, and other acts in opposition to desegregation and voting rights in the South.<sup>[24]</sup> Having spent most of the decades between the Twenties and the aftermath of [WWII](#) as a fragmented and scorned movement, the KKK mobilized itself once more in response to the Supreme Court's *Brown v. Board* decision,<sup>[25]</sup> which desegregated public schools. This Klan's attacks were primarily focused on outspoken black Americans and white supporters of the Civil Rights movement. Their tactics included firebombing homes and churches, tracking down and murdering individuals, and instigating riots. It is estimated that more than 40 black families were bombed just between 1951 and 1952.<sup>[26]</sup>

On a brighter note, this Klan finally ran into negative public opinion, facing high levels of resistance and negative press. In 1953, two newspaper publishers won the Pulitzer for Public Service, citing their "successful campaign against the Ku Klux Klan, waged on their own doorstep at the risk of economic loss and personal danger, culminating in the conviction of over one hundred Klansmen and an end to terrorism in their communities."<sup>[27]</sup> They also began meeting armed resistance, such as at the [Battle of Hayes Pond](#).<sup>W</sup>

This version also became fodder for the [FBI's COINTELPRO](#) program<sup>[28]</sup> and for the *Superman* radio show, when moles within the organization began to submit private information to the FBI (as well as leaking the most ridiculous information to the media (think of it as the grand-father to websites such as [Fundies Say the Darndest Things](#))). By the late 1960s the Klan was again on life support and probably would have disappeared entirely if not for one [David Duke](#), who together with a few other Klan leaders tried reviving the Klan during the 1970s by shedding the ghost costumes and putting on suits and ties.

## More recently [\[edit\]](#)



The KKK imagines this is meaningful [\[edit\]](#)  
(not to be confused with [Burning Man](#)<sup>W</sup>)

The era of the organized Klan is over. There are many smaller groups who now claim to be the "true" KKK, but few have any power. Occasionally, members of these smaller groups will engage in either hate-spewing or even violence, but this is nothing like the hold that the KKK

held on the South in the late 1800s or the whole nation in the early 1900s.

The small groups today sometimes use the term "fifth era Klan," which is dubious at best. This is in reference to the first era (Reconstruction), second era (1920s), and third era (1950s-60s), but whether there is an actual "fourth" and "fifth" era (as distinct from merely the pathetic remains of the third era limping along on life support) is questionable. Usually their claim is the period when David Duke tried resuscitating the Klan during the 1970s is the "fourth era," and the "fifth era" started in the early 1980s when the Klan adopted [Khristian Identity](#) and became part of the extreme right aligned with [neo-Nazi](#) groups like the [Aryan Nations](#). To give some idea: Klan membership in 1926 at the peak of the second era stood at about 6,000,000. In 1980 ("fourth era"), it stood at about 5,000. Today it is about 3,000.

The modern Klan has been trying to distance itself from its lynching past in order to get a shot at political power, claiming that they "are not about hate" but rather about [personal racial pride](#). The argument goes something like this: "[We don't hate other groups, we just love our own group...](#) Black people get to have black pride, so why don't we get to have white pride?" Instead of endorsing assault and/or murder of minorities, they have washed

their hands of the supremacists who profess belief in those crimes (at least *out loud*). They now identify as merely [racial and cultural separatists](#). *Merely*.

Some Klan groups are now claiming a "sixth era" which presumably has something to do with the [internet](#) and the rise of the [alt-right](#). The Klan and other hate groups have certainly been getting a lot of media attention during and after the [2016 U.S. presidential election](#), including articles humouring their talking points such as their claims not to be white supremacists.<sup>[29]</sup>

### **List of Ku Klux Klan organizations/groups** [\[edit\]](#)

As mentioned before the Klan is not a singular organization but rather it is a collection of affiliated groups part of a larger network. Here is a list of all known KKK groups/organizations according to the [SPLC](#):

#### [United States:](#)

- Christian American Knights of the Ku Klux Klan
- Church of the National Knights of the Ku Klux Klan
- Confederate White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan
- East Coast Knights of the True Invisible Empire
- Georgia Knight Riders of the Ku Klux Klan
- Great Lakes Knights of the Ku Klux Klan
- Imperial Klans of America
- International Keystone Knights of the Ku Klux Klan
- Knights of the Ku Klux Klan
- Knights of the White Disciples
- Ku Klos Knights of the Ku Klux Klan
- Loyal White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan
- Militant Knights of the Ku Klux Klan
- Nordic Order Knights of the Ku Klux Klan
- North Mississippi White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan
- Old Dominion Knights of the Ku Klux Klan
- Old Glory Knights of the Ku Klux Klan
- Original Knight Riders Knights of the Ku Klux Klan
- Outlaw Knights of the Ku Klux Klan
- Pacific Coast Knights of the Ku Klux Klan
- Patriotic Brigade Knights of the Ku Klux Klan
- Rebel Bridge Knights of the Ku Klux Klan
- Southern Ohio Knights of the Ku Klux Klan
- Texas Rebel Knights of the Ku Klux Klan
- Traditionalist American Knights of the Ku Klux Klan
- United Dixie White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan
- United Klans of America
- United Northern and Southern Knights of the Ku Klux Klan

- United White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan
- White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of America

In addition to its American branches the KKK also has a few international branches as well which include:

#### Canada:

- Ku Klux Klan Kanada

#### United Kingdom:

- Imperial Klans of England

#### Europe/Germany:

- European White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan
- European White Knights of the Burning Cross

#### Australia:

- Ku Klux Klan Australia

#### South Africa:

- Imperial Klans of South Africa

#### Brazil:

- Imperial Klans of Brazil (defunct)

## Public officials and the Klan [[edit](#)]

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There has been one Klan member on the [Supreme Court](#). Justice Hugo Black was both a member and appointed during the heyday of the Second Klan. However, he later came to regret his association and became a consistent voice for civil rights.

Also, one former Klan member has been elected to the [Senate](#), [Democrat Robert Byrd](#) of [West Virginia](#). Even more so than Black, however, Byrd publicly and repeatedly repented, sponsored a great deal of the US's civil rights legislation, and even publicly endorsed [a black man](#) for United States President. He was also the longest serving Senator ever, beating [Ted Kennedy](#).

A well-known member is [David Duke](#), who won a seat on the [Louisiana](#) state legislature back in 1989, even though the [Republican Party](#)'s biggest names threw their support to his opponent<sup>[30]</sup> (which doesn't really enhance Louisiana's reputation). Donald Trump famously failed to denounce him due to ~~not wanting to lose voters~~ a 'faulty earpiece'.

## The Klan and pop culture [[edit](#)]

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Most often in pop [culture](#), the Klan is depicted as generic villains, of the sort that few people could really identify with. However, there are several appearances of the Klan in pop culture that are more



interesting.

## The serious [\[edit\]](#)

- The KKK feature as a murderous [secret society](#) in Sir Arthur Conan-Doyle's tale of "The Five Orange Pips" (1891). The "pips" (seeds) were sent as a warning to the recipient, often of sentence of death. The mystery was solved by Sherlock Holmes.<sup>[note 3]</sup> This portrayal is interesting not only because it was so early, but also because the Klan - while portrayed negatively - appears as a dangerous adversary<sup>[note 4]</sup> that murders with impunity and cannot even be stopped entirely by the likes of Sherlock Holmes<sup>[note 5]</sup>
- In *The Birth of a Nation*<sup>W</sup> (1915) by D. W. Griffith, a young white woman was [kidnapped by freed slaves](#) in the South under Reconstruction, and rescued by the Knights of the KKK. This was intended as an allegory of what happened to the South under Reconstruction. The film was a smash success, in part because of the message but also because it was a revolution in cinematography. President [Woodrow Wilson](#) publicly praised the film as an important message to the generations. However, this praise is often overemphasized, as it is commonly accepted among historians that Wilson was [tricked](#), and his lesser-known dislike for the KKK was often kept quiet and under wraps, such as a letter he wrote to Senator Morris Sheppard of [Texas](#), stating that "no more obnoxious or harmful organization has ever shown itself in our affairs".<sup>[31]</sup> The movie is considered to have been a large part of the impetus for reforming the Klan in the 1920s.
- In 1937, when the Klan was still popular and powerful in a few areas of the United States, Warner Brothers made *Black Legion*<sup>W</sup> starring Humphrey Bogart. The film is a thinly disguised [cautionary tale](#) of the Klan and its recruiting methods. It was one of the few anti-[bigotry](#) movies<sup>[note 6]</sup> to emerge during the height of the studio era. Jack Warner had the studio alter as many references to the Klan as possible<sup>[note 7]</sup> because the studio's lawyers were concerned that the Klan might sue for defamation.
- The Ku Klux Klan also appeared positively (or at least neutrally) in *Gone with the Wind*,<sup>W</sup> Margaret Mitchell's epic novel about the Civil War and Reconstruction, published in 1936. After Scarlett O'Hara is attacked by shantytown-dwellers, some of the boys ride out in Klan robes and hoods to take revenge and end up fighting Union soldiers instead. The 1939 film adaptation whitewashed over the Klan reference, including the same scene but minus the white robes.
- In the 1950s, the makers of the Superman radio serials were

approached by a man who had infiltrated the KKK. He asked them to create a long running series where Superman fought the KKK, and he offered up all of the secrets of the Klan for use by the writers. The writers, tired of writing about [Nazis](#) and [Communists](#), took him up on it. Secret Klan members were horrified to hear their kids talking about beating up the Klan. Others were just horrified to hear people snickering over the stupid code-words used within the Klan.<sup>[note 8]</sup> Some consider this the final blow that destroyed the Second Klan.

- *The FBI Story*<sup>W</sup> (1959), whose script was vetted personally by [J. Edgar Hoover](#), also had a sequence about investigations into Klan activities.
- *Mississippi Burning*<sup>W</sup> (1988) depicts the [FBI's](#) investigation into the Klan killings of three civil rights workers in 1964 [Mississippi](#).
- The HBO vampire series *True Blood*<sup>W</sup> (based on [Charlaine Harris'](#)<sup>W</sup> *Southern Vampire Mysteries*<sup>W</sup> series) features the Ku Klux Klan in a cameo appearance in the intro with a young Klan boy standing out among the crowd in photos highlighting the past.
- *Mafia III*<sup>W</sup> (2016), while not exactly featuring the KKK, a similar organization does show up and it's called the **Southern Union** with similar hoods, burning crosses, and Confederate imagery. They are directly affiliated with the Marcano crime family in the game.
- *Wolfenstein: The New Colossus* (2017), features the KKK in a minor antagonist role where they are collaborators for the Nazi regime in the American Territories (the New Order/New Colossus universe's America) thanks to their shared hatred of Jews and in the Roswell level you can spot two Klansmen talking to a German Oberkommando as well as practicing the German language.

## The humorous [\[edit\]](#)

- In *Blazing Saddles* (1974), Sheriff Bart and the Waco Kid encounter two Klan members. "Lookee what I got here," the Kid says. Bart then says "Where the white women at?" The Klan members then follow Bart and the Kid behind a boulder where the two men beat them up and steal their Klan robes.<sup>[32]</sup>
- The Ramones sang *The KKK Took My Baby Away* on their 1981 album *Pleasant Dreams*.
- In *Smokey and the Bandit Part 3* (1983), a group of Klansmen in a pickup truck harass a black man driving down the highway. They are eventually tarred and feathered.
- In *Forrest Gump* (1994), Gump tells that his namesake ancestor<sup>[33]</sup> helped create the 19th century Klan.
- In *South Park* (Episode *Chef Goes Nanners*, 2000), Uncle Jimbo

and his pal Ned attend a KKK meeting, to convince them to vote for the other side of a debate so that their side will win. The Klansman go on to play Who Has the Silliest Thing Under Their Robes.

- In *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* (2000) there is a segment involving lots of sheet wearers.
- In *Harold and Kumar Escape from Guantanamo Bay* (2008), the Klan is depicted as a group of drunken rednecks. One of them even lights himself on fire.
- In *Django Unchained* (2013) there is a section involving a proto-KKK. They are seen arguing over the effectiveness and practicality of wearing white hoods, in this case, 30 white bags with eye-holes cut in them, made by one of the members' wives. The member in question storms off due to the criticism leveled at the result of his wife's hard work.
- [Stephen Colbert](#) aired the animated short *Laser Klan*, based off a real incident of Klan members who tried to sell a portable x-ray weapon to Jewish groups, in order to kill Muslims. <sup>[34]</sup>

## KKK and religion <sup>[edit]</sup>

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The early KKK, up until around the 1930s, adhered to anationalist brand of [Protestantism](#),<sup>[35]</sup> which led them to target [Jews](#) and [Catholics](#). During the Depression-era, however, [Christian Identity](#), a fringe sect derived from [British Israelism](#) that uses Biblical quotes to justify white supremacy, began to be imported into the US. The Klan has been heavily entangled with Christian Identity since this period, especially since the 1970s and '80s, and has put more emphasis on [anti-Semitism](#) due to Identity's obsession with a supposed [race war](#) and view of the Jews as a [force conspiring to wipe out and/or enslave the white race](#).<sup>[36]</sup> The vast majority of mainstream [Christian](#) groups regard the KKK as a [kult](#).

## See also <sup>[edit]</sup>

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- [Anti-Catholicism](#)
- [Anti-Semitism](#)
- [Christian Identity](#)
- [Lost Cause of the South](#)
- [Neo-Confederate](#), Klan founders can draw their history to the [Confederacy](#) and the modern KKK does co-opt and appropriate Confederate imagery
- [Neo-Nazism](#), the modern KKK has directly worked with Neo-Nazi groups
- [Racialism](#)
- [White nationalism](#)
- [White supremacism](#)

- [White genocide](#)
- [Lynch mob](#), the original Klan was like this
- [Vigrid](#), a monotheistic, pseudo-pagan Norwegian version of the KKK
- [Fred Trump](#) — [Donald Trump](#)'s Klansman father
- [Unite the Right](#) — a 2017 rally in Charlottesville, Virginia that attempted to bring together various fascist elements that included the Klan and resulted in one murder and several arrests

## External links [[edit](#)]

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- [How Women In The KKK Were Instrumental To Its Rise](#)

## Notes [[edit](#)]

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1. ↑ Not to be konfused with the [German](#) turbine manufacturer (among [other things](#)<sup>W</sup> - except possibly [Kinder](#), [Küche](#), [Kirche](#)).
2. ↑ And possibly to fit the shapes of their heads.
3. ↑ No shit!
4. ↑ rather than incompetent fools
5. ↑ Doyle in general held remarkably progressive views on race for his time. In another Sherlock Holmes story. "The Yellow Face", a mixed race relationship that lies at the heart of the case is portrayed with nothing but sympathy
6. ↑ Nearly all of which came from Warner Bros.
7. ↑ i.e., the white robes of the Klan became the black robes of the legion
8. ↑ For example, the secret book of rituals was called a *Kloran*. Seriously.

## References [[edit](#)]

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1. ↑ [https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_detailpage&v=96-R--5rR28#t=29](https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=96-R--5rR28#t=29)
2. ↑ [Tito Ojo-Medubi, "Is Donald Trump in the KKK? The Crusader newspaper endorses him for president", \*Inquisitr\*](#)
3. ↑ [Ku Klux Klan History](#) *Anti-Defamation League* archived.
4. ↑ [Nathan Beford Forrest Joins the Klan](#)
5. ↑ [The Fort Pillow Massacre](#) *History Channel*. ND.
6. ↑ [Ku Klux Klan in the Reconstruction Era](#) *New Georgia Encyclopedia*. October 3, 2002.
7. ↑ *New Georgia Encyclopedia*. October 3, 2002.
8. ↑ [Grant, Reconstruction and the KKK](#) *PBS*. Collection: "The Presidents". ND.
9. ↑ *PBS*. ND.
10. ↑ *PBS*. ND.
11. ↑ [The Original Reason the NRA Was Founded](#) *Time* Lily Rothman November 17, 2015
12. ↑ [Ku Klux Klan History](#) *Anti-Defamation League* archived.

13. ↑ [ADL ND](#).
14. ↑ [ADL ND](#).
15. ↑ [When the Ku Klux Klan was Mainstream](#) [NPR](#). Linton Weeks. March 19, 2015.
16. ↑ [NPR](#). March 2015.
17. ↑ [NPR](#). March 2015.
18. ↑ [Klan Starts Nation Wide Boycott Against Jews](#) [NPR](#)
19. ↑ [The Ku Klux Klan in Coolidge's America](#) [Jerry L. Wallace](#). *Coolidge Foundation* July 14, 2014
20. ↑ J.L. Wallace. *Coolidge Foundation* July 2014.
21. ↑ [When Bigotry Paraded Through the Streets](#) [The Atlantic](#), JOSHUA ROTHMAN DEC 4, 2016
22. ↑ [The Atlantic](#). December 2016.
23. ↑ See the [Wikipedia](#) article on [D. C. Stephenson](#).
24. ↑ [Ku Klux Klan](#) [Southern Poverty Law Center](#).
25. ↑ [New Georgia Encyclopedia](#). October 3, 2002
26. ↑ Egerton, John (1994). *Speak Now Against the Day: The Generation Before the Civil Rights Movement in the South*. Alfred and Knopf Inc.
27. ↑ [Pulitzer Winners, Whiteville News Reporter and Tabor City Tribune](#) [Tribune](#)
28. ↑ McWhorter, Diane (2001). *Carry Me Home: Birmingham, Alabama, The Climactic Battle of the Civil Rights Revolution*. New York: Simon & Schuster.
29. ↑ See examples from the [New York Times](#) [and Times of Israel](#) [Times of Israel](#)
30. ↑ "GOP Condemns Duke" *Newsday*. Long Island, N.Y.: Feb 25, 1989. pg. 09
31. ↑ Arthur S. Link, *Papers of Woodrow Wilson* 68:298
32. ↑ ["Have a nice day:-\)"](#) [NPR](#)
33. ↑ See the [Wikipedia](#) article on [Nathan Bedford Forrest](#).
34. ↑ [Stephen Colbert unleashes 'Laser Klan' on the world](#) [NPR](#)
35. ↑ [Remembering When the Klan Tried to March Through Town: Kelly J. Baker's Gospel According to the Klan](#) [Michael J. Altman](#)
36. ↑ See Michael Barkun's [Religion and the Racist Right](#) [NPR](#)

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# Ku Klux Klan

The **Ku Klux Klan** (/ˈkuːˈklʌks ˈklæn, ˈkjuː/<sup>[a]</sup> commonly called the **KKK** or simply the **Klan**, refers to three distinct secret movements at different points in time in the history of the United States. Each has advocated extremist reactionary positions such as white supremacy, white nationalism, anti-immigration and—especially in later iterations—Nordicism<sup>[7][8]</sup> and anti-Catholicism. Historically, the KKK used terrorism—both physical assault and murder—against groups or individuals whom they opposed.<sup>[9]</sup> All three movements have called for the "purification" of American society and all are considered right-wing extremist organizations.<sup>[10][11][12][13]</sup> In each era, membership was secret and estimates of the total were highly exaggerated by both the friends and enemies.

The first Klan flourished in the Southern United States in the late 1860s, then died out by the early 1870s. It sought to overthrow the Republican state governments in the South during the Reconstruction Era, especially by using violence against African-American leaders. With numerous autonomous chapters across the South, it was suppressed around 1871, through federal law enforcement. Members made their own, often colorful, costumes: robes, masks and conical hats, designed to be terrifying and to hide their identities.<sup>[14][15]</sup>

The second group was founded in the South in 1915 and it flourished nationwide in the early and mid-1920s, including urban areas of the Midwest and West. Taking inspiration from D. W. Griffith's 1915 silent film *The Birth of a Nation*, which mythologized the founding of the first Klan, it employed marketing techniques and a popular fraternal organization structure. Rooted in local Protestant communities, it sought to maintain white supremacy, often took a pro-prohibition stance, and it opposed Catholics and Jews, while also stressing its opposition to the Catholic Church at a time of high immigration from the mostly Catholic nations of Central Europe and Southern Europe.<sup>[6]</sup> This second organization was funded by selling its members a standard white costume. It used K-words which were similar to those used by the first Klan, while adding cross burnings and mass parades to intimidate others. It rapidly declined in the later half of the 1920s.

The third and current manifestation of the KKK emerged after 1950, in the form of localized and isolated groups that use the KKK name. They have focused on opposition to the civil rights movement, often using violence and murder to suppress activists. It is classified as a hate group by the Anti-Defamation League and the Southern Poverty Law Center.<sup>[16]</sup> As of 2016, the Anti-Defamation League puts total Klan membership nationwide at around 3,000, while the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) puts it at 6,000 members total.<sup>[17]</sup>

The second and third incarnations of the Ku Klux Klan made frequent references to America's "Anglo-Saxon" blood, hearkening back to 19th-century nativism.<sup>[18]</sup> Although members of the KKK swear to uphold Christian morality, virtually every Christian denomination has officially denounced the KKK.<sup>[19]</sup>

## Ku Klux Klan



Ku Klux Klan emblem

In existence	
<b>1st Klan</b>	1865–1871
<b>2nd Klan</b>	1915–1944
<b>3rd Klan</b>	1946–present
Members	
<b>1st Klan</b>	Unknown
<b>2nd Klan</b>	3,000,000–6,000,000 <sup>[1]</sup> (peaked in 1924–1925)
<b>3rd Klan</b>	5,000–8,000 <sup>[2]</sup>
Properties	
<b>Political ideologies</b>	Neo-Confederate (first KKK; third KKK) White supremacy White nationalism Nativism <sup>[3]</sup> Anti-immigration Anti-communism Christian terrorism <sup>[4][5]</sup> Anti-Catholicism Antisemitism Christian Identity Anti-Europeanism Neo-fascism (third Klan) Neo-Nazism (third Klan) Anti-Islam (third Klan)
<b>Political position</b>	Far-right
<b>Espoused</b>	Protestantism <sup>[6]</sup>

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# Overview: Three Klans

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## First KKK

The first Klan was founded in Pulaski, Tennessee, sometime between December 1865 and August 1866 by six former officers of the Confederate army<sup>[20]</sup> as a fraternal social club inspired at least in part by the then largely defunct Sons of Malta. It borrowed parts of the initiation ceremony from that group, with the same purpose: "ludicrous initiations, the baffling of public curiosity, and the amusement for members were the only objects of the Klan", according to Albert Stevens in 1907.<sup>[21]</sup> The name is probably derived from the Greek word *kuklos* (κύκλος) which means circle;<sup>[22]</sup> the word had previously been used for other fraternal organizations in the South such as Kuklos Adelphon. The manual of rituals was printed by Laps D. McCord of Pulaski.<sup>[23]</sup>

According to *The Cyclopædia of Fraternities* (1907), "Beginning in April, 1867, there was a gradual transformation ... The members had conjured up a veritable Frankenstein. They had played with an engine of power and mystery, though organized on entirely innocent lines, and found themselves overcome by a belief that something must lie behind it all — that there was, after all, a serious purpose, a work for the Klan to do."<sup>[21]</sup>

Although there was little organizational structure above the local level, similar groups rose across the South and adopted the same name and methods.<sup>[24]</sup> Klan groups spread throughout the South as an insurgent movement promoting resistance and white supremacy during the Reconstruction Era. For example, Confederate veteran John W. Morton founded a chapter in Nashville, Tennessee.<sup>[25]</sup> As a secret vigilante group, the Klan targeted freedmen and their allies; it sought to restore white supremacy by threats and violence, including murder, against black and white Republicans. In 1870 and 1871, the federal government passed the Enforcement Acts which were intended to prosecute and suppress Klan crimes.<sup>[26]</sup>

The first Klan had mixed results in terms of achieving its objectives. It seriously weakened the black political establishment through its use of assassinations and threats of violence; it drove some people out of politics. On the other hand, it caused a sharp backlash, with passage of federal laws that historian Eric Foner says were a success in terms of "restoring order, reinvigorating the morale of Southern Republicans, and enabling blacks to exercise their rights as citizens".<sup>[27]</sup> Historian George C. Rable argues that the Klan was a political failure and therefore was discarded by the Democratic leaders of the South. He says:

the Klan declined in strength in part because of internal weaknesses; its lack of central organization and the failure of its leaders to control criminal elements and sadists. More fundamentally, it declined because it failed to achieve its central objective – the overthrow of Republican state governments in the South.<sup>[28]</sup>

After the Klan was suppressed, similar insurgent paramilitary groups arose that were explicitly directed at suppressing Republican voting and turning Republicans out of office: the White League, which started in Louisiana in 1874; and the Red Shirts, which started in Mississippi and developed chapters in the Carolinas. For instance, the Red Shirts are credited with helping elect Wade Hampton as governor in South Carolina. They were described as acting as the military arm of the Democratic Party and are attributed with helping white Democrats regain control of state legislatures throughout the South.<sup>[29]</sup> In addition, there were thousands of Confederate veterans in what were called rifle clubs.

## Second KKK

In 1915, the second Klan was founded in Atlanta, Georgia by William Joseph Simmons. While Simmons relied on documents from the original Klan and memories of some surviving elders, the revived Klan was based significantly on the wildly popular film, The Birth of a Nation. The earlier Klan hadn't worn the white costumes or burned crosses; these were aspects introduced in the film. When the film was shown in Atlanta in December of that year, Simmons and his new klansmen paraded to the theater in robes and pointed hoods – many on robed horses – just like in the movie. These mass parades would become another hallmark of the new Klan that had not existed in the original Reconstruction-era organization.<sup>[30]</sup>

Beginning in 1921, it adopted a modern business system of using full-time paid recruiters and appealed to new members as a fraternal organization, of which many examples were flourishing at the time. The national headquarters made its profit through a monopoly of costume sales, while the organizers were paid through initiation fees. It grew rapidly nationwide at a time of prosperity. Reflecting the social tensions pitting urban versus rural America, it spread to every state and was prominent in many cities. The second KKK preached "One Hundred Percent Americanism" and demanded the purification of politics, calling for strict morality and better enforcement of prohibition. Its official rhetoric focused on the threat of the Catholic Church, using anti-Catholicism and nativism.<sup>[3]</sup> Its appeal was directed exclusively at white Protestants; it opposed Jews, blacks, Catholics, and newly arriving Southern European immigrants such as Italians.<sup>[31]</sup> Some local groups threatened violence against rum runners and notorious sinners; the violent episodes generally took place in the South.<sup>[32]</sup> The Red Knights were a militant group organized in opposition to the KKK and responded violently to KKK provocations on several occasions.<sup>[33]</sup>



KKK night rally in Chicago, c. 1920

The second Klan was a formal fraternal organization, with a national and state structure. During the resurgence of the second Klan during the 1920s, its publicity was handled by the Southern Publicity Association—within the first six months of the Association's national recruitment campaign, Klan membership had increased by 85,000.<sup>[34]</sup> At its peak in the mid-1920s, the organization claimed to include about 15% of the nation's eligible population, approximately 4–5 million men. Internal divisions, criminal behavior by leaders, and external opposition brought about a collapse in membership, which had dropped to about 30,000 by 1930. It finally faded away in the 1940s.<sup>[35]</sup> Klan organizers also operated in Canada, especially in Saskatchewan in 1926–28, where Klansmen denounced immigrants from Eastern Europe as a threat to Canada's British heritage.<sup>[36][37]</sup>

## Third KKK

The "Ku Klux Klan" name was used by numerous independent local groups opposing the civil rights movement and desegregation, especially in the 1950s and 1960s. During this period, they often forged alliances with Southern police departments, as in Birmingham, Alabama or with governor's offices, as with George Wallace of Alabama.<sup>[38]</sup> Several members of KKK groups were convicted of murder in the deaths of civil rights workers in Mississippi in 1964 and children in the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham in 1963.

As of 2016, researchers estimate that there are just over 30 active Klan groups exist in the United States,<sup>[39]</sup> with about 130 chapters.<sup>[40]</sup> Estimates of total collective membership range from about 3,000<sup>[39]</sup> to between 5,000–8,000.<sup>[40]</sup> In addition to its active membership, the Klan has an "unknown number of associates and supporters."<sup>[39]</sup>

Today, many sources classify the Klan as a "subversive or terrorist organization".<sup>[41][42][43][44]</sup> In April 1997, FBI agents arrested four members of the True Knights of the Ku Klux Klan in Dallas for conspiracy to commit robbery and for conspiring to blow up a natural gas processing plant.<sup>[45]</sup> In 1999, the city council of Charleston, South Carolina passed a resolution declaring the Klan a terrorist organization.<sup>[46]</sup> In 2004, a professor at the University of Louisville began a campaign to have the Klan declared a terrorist organization in order to ban it from campus.<sup>[47]</sup>

## First Klan: 1865–1871

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### Creation and naming

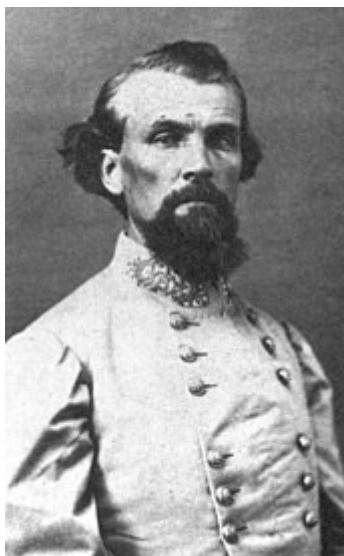
Six Confederate veterans from Pulaski, Tennessee created the original Ku Klux Klan on December 24, 1865, during the Reconstruction of the South after the Civil War.<sup>[49][50]</sup> The name was formed by combining the Greek *kyklos* (κύκλος, *circle*) with clan.<sup>[51]</sup> The group was known for a short time as the "Kuklux Clan". The Ku Klux Klan was one of a number of secret, oath-bound organizations using violence, which included the Southern Cross in New Orleans (1865) and the Knights of the White Camelia (1867) in Louisiana.<sup>[52]</sup>

Historians generally classify the KKK as part of the post-Civil War insurgent violence related not only to the high number of veterans in the population, but also to their effort to control the dramatically changed social situation by using extrajudicial means to restore white supremacy. In 1866, Mississippi Governor William L. Sharkey reported that disorder, lack of control, and lawlessness were widespread; in some states armed bands of Confederate soldiers roamed at will. The Klan used public violence against black people and their allies as intimidation. They burned houses and attacked and killed black people, leaving their bodies on the roads.<sup>[53]</sup>

At an 1867 meeting in Nashville, Tennessee, Klan members gathered to try to create a hierarchical organization with local chapters eventually reporting to a national headquarters. Since most of the Klan's members were veterans, they were used to such military hierarchy, but the Klan never operated under this centralized structure. Local chapters and bands were highly independent.

Former Confederate Brigadier General George Gordon developed the *Prescript*, which espoused white supremacist belief. For instance, an applicant should be asked if he was in favor of "a white man's government", "the reenfranchisement and

emancipation of the white men of the South, and the restitution of the Southern people to all their rights."<sup>[54]</sup> The latter is a reference to the Ironclad Oath, which stripped the vote from white persons who refused to swear that they had not borne arms against the Union.



Nathan Bedford Forrest

Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest was elected the first Grand Wizard, and claimed to be the Klan's national leader.<sup>[20][55]</sup> In an 1868 newspaper interview, Forrest stated that the Klan's primary opposition was to the Loyal Leagues, Republican state governments, people such as Tennessee governor William Gannaway Brownlow, and other "carpetbaggers" and "scalawags".<sup>[56]</sup> He

argued that many southerners believed that blacks were voting for the Republican Party because they were being hoodwinked by the Loyal Leagues.<sup>[57]</sup> One Alabama newspaper editor declared "The League is nothing more than a nigger Ku Klux Klan."<sup>[58]</sup>

Despite Gordon's and Forrest's work, local Klan units never accepted the Prescript and continued to operate autonomously. There were never hierarchical levels or state headquarters. Klan members used violence to settle old personal feuds and local grudges, as they worked to restore general white dominance in the disrupted postwar society. The historian Elaine Frantz Parsons describes the membership:

Lifting the Klan mask revealed a chaotic multitude of antiblack vigilante groups, disgruntled poor white farmers, wartime guerrilla bands, displaced Democratic politicians, illegal whiskey distillers, coercive moral reformers, sadists, rapists, white workmen fearful of black competition, employers trying to enforce labor discipline, common thieves, neighbors with decades-old grudges, and even a few freedmen and white Republicans who allied with Democratic whites or had criminal agendas of their own. Indeed, all they had in common, besides being overwhelmingly white, southern, and Democratic, was that they called themselves, or were called, Klansmen.<sup>[59]</sup>



A cartoon threatening that the KKK will lynch scalawags (left) and carpetbaggers (right) on March 4, 1869, the day President Grant takes office. Tuscaloosa, Alabama, *Independent Monitor*, September 1, 1868. A full-scale scholarly history analyzes the cartoon Guy W. Hubbs, *Searching for Freedom after the Civil War: Klansman, Carpetbagger Scalawag, and Freedman* (2015).<sup>[48]</sup>



A political cartoon depicting the KKK and the Democratic Party as continuations of the Confederacy

Historian Eric Foner observed: "In effect, the Klan was a military force serving the interests of the Democratic party, the planter class, and all those who desired restoration of white supremacy. Its purposes were political, but political in the broadest sense, for it sought to affect power relations, both public and private, throughout Southern society. It aimed to reverse the interlocking changes sweeping over the South during Reconstruction: to destroy the Republican party's infrastructure, undermine the Reconstruction state, reestablish control of the black labor force, and restore racial subordination in every aspect of Southern life.<sup>[60]</sup> To that end they worked to curb the education, economic advancement, voting rights, and right to keep and bear arms of blacks.<sup>[60]</sup> The Klan soon spread into nearly every southern state, launching a reign of terror against Republican leaders both black and white. Those political leaders assassinated during the campaign included Arkansas Congressman James M. Hinds, three members of the South Carolina legislature, and several men who served in constitutional conventions.<sup>[61]</sup>

## Activities

Klan members adopted masks and robes that hid their identities and added to the drama of their night rides, their chosen time for attacks. Many of them operated in small towns and rural areas where people otherwise knew each other's faces, and sometimes still recognized the attackers by voice and mannerisms. "The kind of thing that men are afraid or ashamed to do openly, and by day, they accomplish secretly, masked, and at night."<sup>[63]</sup> The KKK night riders "sometimes claimed to be ghosts of Confederate soldiers so, as they claimed, to frighten superstitious blacks. Few freedmen took such nonsense seriously."<sup>[64]</sup>

The Klan attacked black members of the Loyal Leagues and intimidated southern Republicans and Freedmen's Bureau workers. When they killed black political leaders, they also took heads of families, along with the leaders of churches and community groups, because these people had many roles in society. Agents of the Freedmen's Bureau reported weekly assaults and murders of blacks.

"Armed guerrilla warfare killed thousands of Negroes; political riots were staged; their causes or occasions were always obscure, their results always certain: ten to one hundred times as many Negroes were killed as whites." Masked men shot into houses and burned them, sometimes with the occupants still inside. They drove successful black farmers off their land. "Generally, it can be reported that in North and South Carolina, in 18 months ending in June 1867, there were 197 murders and 548 cases of aggravated assault."<sup>[65]</sup>

Klan violence worked to suppress black voting, and campaign seasons were deadly. More than 2,000 people were killed, wounded, or otherwise injured in Louisiana within a few weeks prior to the Presidential election of November 1868. Although St. Landry Parish had a registered Republican majority of 1,071, after the murders, no Republicans voted in the fall elections. White Democrats cast the full vote of the parish for President Grant's opponent. The KKK killed and wounded more than 200 black Republicans, hunting and chasing them through the woods. Thirteen captives were taken from jail and shot; a half-buried pile of 25 bodies was found in the woods. The KKK made people vote Democratic and gave them certificates of the fact.<sup>[66]</sup>

In the April 1868 Georgia gubernatorial election, Columbia County cast 1,222 votes for Republican Rufus Bullock. By the November presidential election, Klan intimidation led to suppression of the Republican vote and only one person voted for Ulysses S. Grant.<sup>[67]</sup>



Three Ku Klux Klan members arrested in Tishomingo County, Mississippi, September 1871, for the attempted murder of an entire family<sup>[62]</sup>



George W. Ashburn was assassinated for his pro-black sentiments.

Klansmen killed more than 150 African Americans in a county in Florida, and hundreds more in other counties. Florida Freedmen's Bureau records provided a detailed recounting of Klansmen's beatings and murders of freedmen and their white allies.<sup>[68]</sup>

Milder encounters also occurred. In Mississippi, according to the Congressional inquiry:<sup>[69]</sup>

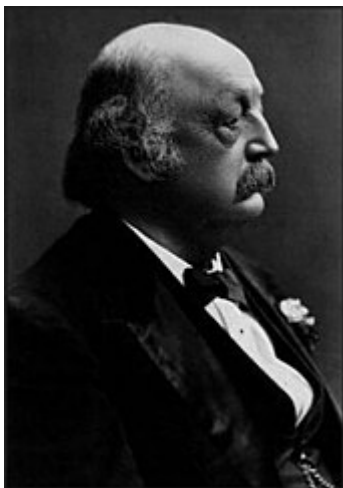
One of these teachers (Miss Allen of Illinois), whose school was at Cotton Gin Port in Monroe County, was visited ... between one and two o'clock in the morning on March 1871, by about fifty men mounted and disguised. Each man wore a long white robe and his face was covered by a loose mask with scarlet stripes. She was ordered to get up and dress which she did at once and then admitted to her room the captain and lieutenant who in addition to the usual disguise had long horns on their heads and a sort of device in front. The lieutenant had a pistol in his hand and he and the captain sat down while eight or ten men stood inside the door and the porch was full. They treated her "gentlemanly and quietly" but complained of the heavy school-tax, said she must stop teaching and go away and warned her that they never gave a second notice. She heeded the warning and left the county

By 1868, two years after the Klan's creation, its activity was beginning to decrease.<sup>[70]</sup> Members were hiding behind Klan masks and robes as a way to avoid prosecution for freelance violence. Many influential southern Democrats feared that Klan lawlessness provided an excuse for the federal government to retain its power over the South, and they began to turn against it.<sup>[71]</sup> There were outlandish claims made, such as Georgian B. H. Hill stating "that some of these outrages were actually perpetrated by the political friends of the parties slain."<sup>[70]</sup>

## Resistance

Union Army veterans in mountainous Blount County, Alabama organized "the anti-Ku Klux". They put an end to violence by threatening Klansmen with reprisals unless they stopped whipping Unionists and burning black churches and schools. Armed blacks formed their own defense in Bennettsville, South Carolina and patrolled the streets to protect their homes.<sup>[72]</sup>

National sentiment gathered to crack down on the Klan, even though some Democrats at the national level questioned whether the Klan really existed, or believed that it was a creation of nervous Southern Republican governors.<sup>[73]</sup> Many southern states began to pass anti-Klan legislation!<sup>[74]</sup>



Benjamin Franklin Butler wrote the Civil Rights Act of 1871

In January 1871, Pennsylvania Republican Senator John Scott convened a Congressional committee which took testimony from 52 witnesses about Klan atrocities, accumulating 12 volumes. In February, former Union General and Congressman Benjamin Franklin Butler of Massachusetts introduced the Civil Rights Act of 1871 (Ku Klux Klan Act). This added to the enmity that southern white Democrats bore toward him.<sup>[75]</sup> While the bill was being considered, further violence in the South swung support for its passage. The Governor of South Carolina appealed for federal troops to assist his efforts in keeping control of the state. A riot and massacre occurred in a Meridian, Mississippi courthouse, from which a black state representative escaped by fleeing to the woods.<sup>[76]</sup> The 1871 Civil Rights Act allowed the President to suspend habeas corpus.<sup>[77]</sup>

In 1871, President Ulysses S. Grant signed Butler's legislation. The Ku Klux Klan Act and the Enforcement Act of 1870 were used by the federal government to enforce the civil rights provisions for individuals under the constitution. The Klan refused to voluntarily dissolve after the 1871 Klan Act, so President Grant issued a suspension of habeas corpus and stationed Federal troops in nine South Carolina counties. The Klansmen were apprehended and prosecuted in federal court. Judges Hugh Lennox Bond and George S. Bryan presided over the trial of KKK members in Columbia, South Carolina during December 1871.<sup>[78]</sup> The defendants were given from three months to five years of incarceration with fines.<sup>[79]</sup> More blacks served on juries in Federal court than on local or state juries, so they had a chance to participate in the process.<sup>[77][80]</sup> Hundreds of Klan members were fined or imprisoned during the crackdown.

## End of the first Klan

Klan leader Nathan Bedford Forrest boasted that the Klan was a nationwide organization of 550,000 men and that he could muster 40,000 Klansmen within five days notice. However, the Klan had no membership rosters, no chapters, and no local officers, so it was difficult for observers to judge its membership.<sup>[81]</sup> It had created a sensation by the dramatic nature of its masked forays and because of its many murders.

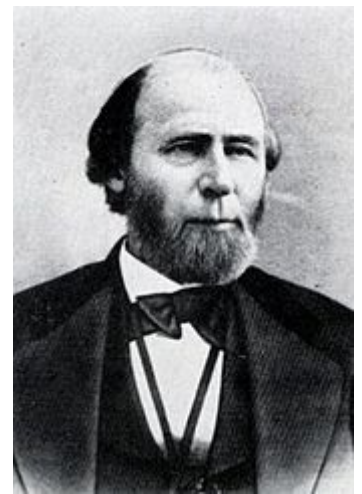
In 1870, a federal grand jury determined that the Klan was a "terrorist organization"<sup>[82]</sup> and issued hundreds of indictments for crimes of violence and terrorism. Klan members were prosecuted, and many fled from areas that were under federal government jurisdiction, particularly in South Carolina.<sup>[83]</sup> Many people not formally inducted into the Klan had used the Klan's costume to hide their identities when carrying out independent acts of violence. Forrest called for the Klan to disband in 1869, arguing that it was "being perverted from its original honorable and patriotic purposes, becoming injurious instead of subservient to the public peace".<sup>[84]</sup> Historian Stanley Horn argues that "generally speaking, the Klan's end was more in the form of spotty, slow, and gradual disintegration than a formal and decisive disbandment".<sup>[85]</sup> A Georgia-based reporter wrote in 1870: "A true statement of the case is not that the Ku Klux are an organized band of licensed criminals, but that men who commit crimes call themselves Ku Klux."<sup>[86]</sup>

In many states, officials were reluctant to use black militia against the Klan out of fear that racial tensions would be raised.<sup>[80]</sup> Republican Governor of North Carolina William Woods Holden called out the militia against the Klan in 1870, adding to his unpopularity. This and extensive violence and fraud at the polls caused the Republicans to lose their majority in the state legislature. Disaffection with Holden's actions led to white Democratic legislators' impeaching him and removing him from office, but their reasons were numerous.<sup>[87]</sup>

Klan operations ended in South Carolina<sup>[88]</sup> and gradually withered away throughout the rest of the South. Attorney General Amos Tappan Ackerman led the prosecutions.<sup>[89]</sup>

Foner argues that:

By 1872, the federal government's evident willingness to bring its legal and coercive authority to bear had broken the Klan's back and produced a dramatic decline in violence throughout the South. So ended the Reconstruction career of the Ku Klux Klan.<sup>[90]</sup>



Gov. William Holden of North Carolina.

New groups of insurgents emerged in the mid-1870s, local paramilitary organizations such as the White League, Red Shirts, saber clubs, and rifle clubs, that intimidated and murdered black political leaders.<sup>[91]</sup> The White League and Red Shirts were distinguished by their willingness to cultivate publicity working directly to overturn Republican officeholders and regain control of politics.

In 1882, the Supreme Court ruled in United States v. Harris that the Klan Act was partially unconstitutional. It ruled that Congress's power under the Fourteenth Amendment did not include the right to regulate against private conspiracies. It recommended that persons who had been victimized should seek relief in state courts, which were entirely unsympathetic to such appeals.<sup>[82]</sup>

Klan costumes, also called "regalia", disappeared from use by the early 1870s,<sup>[93]</sup> and it was broken as an organization by 1872.<sup>[94]</sup> In 1915, William Joseph Simmons held a meeting to revive the Klan in Georgia; he attracted two aging former members, and all other members were new.<sup>[95]</sup>

## Second Klan: 1915–1944

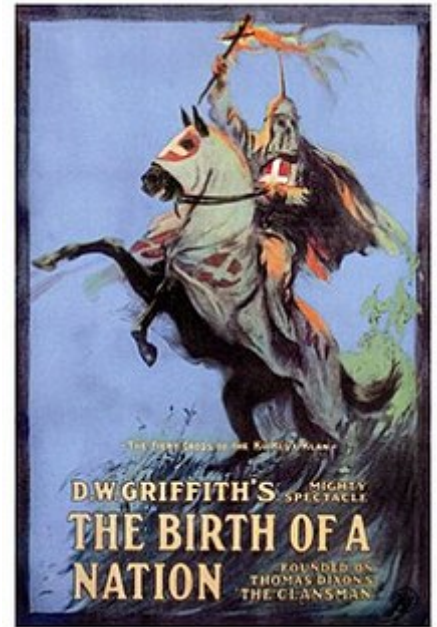
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### Refounding in 1915

In 1915 the film *The Birth of a Nation* was released, mythologizing and glorifying the first Klan and its endeavors. The second Ku Klux Klan was founded in 1915 by William Joseph Simmons at Stone Mountain, outside Atlanta, with fifteen "charter members".<sup>[96]</sup> Its growth was based on a new anti-immigrant, Anti-Catholic, prohibitionist and anti-Semitic agenda, which reflected contemporary social tensions, particularly recent immigration. The new organization and chapters adopted regalia featured in *The Birth of a Nation*; membership was kept secret by wearing masks in public.

### ***The Birth of a Nation***

Director D. W. Griffith's *The Birth of a Nation* glorified the original Klan. The film was based on the book and play *The Clansman: A Historical Romance of the Ku Klux Klan*, as well as the book *The Leopard's Spots*, both by Thomas Dixon Jr. Much of the modern Klan's iconography is derived from it, including the standardized white costume and the lighted cross. Its imagery was based on Dixon's romanticized concept of old England and Scotland, as portrayed in the novels and poetry of Sir Walter Scott. The film's influence was enhanced by a false claim of endorsement by President Woodrow Wilson. Dixon was an old friend of Wilson and before its release, there was a private showing of the film at the White House. A publicist claimed that Wilson said, "It is like writing history with lightning, and my only regret is that it is all so terribly true." Wilson strongly disliked the film and felt he had been tricked by Dixon. The White House issued a denial of the "lightning" quote, saying that he was entirely unaware of the nature of the film and at no time had expressed his approbation of it.<sup>[97]</sup>



Movie poster for *The Birth of a Nation*. It has been widely noted for inspiring the revival of the Ku Klux Klan.

### **Goals**

The Second Klan saw threats from every direction. According to historian Brian R. Farmer, "two-thirds of the national Klan lecturers were Protestant ministers".<sup>[98]</sup> Much of the Klan's energy went into guarding the home, and historian Kathleen Blee says that its members wanted to protect "the interests of white womanhood".<sup>[99]</sup> Joseph Simmons published the pamphlet *ABC of the Invisible Empire* in Atlanta in 1917; in it, he identified the Klan's goals as "to shield the sanctity of the home and the chastity of womanhood; to maintain white supremacy; to teach and faithfully inculcate a high spiritual philosophy through an exalted ritualism; and by a practical devotedness to conserve, protect and maintain the distinctive institutions, rights, privileges, principles and ideals of a pure Americanism".<sup>[100]</sup> Such moral-sounding purpose underlay its appeal as a fraternal organization, recruiting members with a promise of aid in settling in the new urban societies of rapidly growing cities such as Dallas and Detroit.<sup>[101]</sup>



Three Ku Klux Klan members standing at a 1922 parade.

### **Organization**

New Klan founder William J. Simmons joined 12 different fraternal organizations and recruited for the Klan with his chest covered with fraternal badges, consciously modeling the Klan after fraternal organizations.<sup>[102]</sup> Klan organizers called "Kleagles" signed up hundreds of new members, who paid initiation fees and received KKK costumes in return. The organizer kept half the money and sent the rest to state or national officials. When the organizer was done with an area, he organized a rally, often with burning crosses, and perhaps presented a Bible to a local Protestant preacher. He left town with the money collected. The local units operated like many fraternal organizations and occasionally brought in speakers.

Simmons initially met with little success in either recruiting members or in raising money, and the Klan remained a small operation in the Atlanta area until 1920. The group produced publications for national circulation from its headquarters in Atlanta: *Searchlight* (1919–24), *Imperial Night-Hawk* (1923–24), and *The Courier*.<sup>[103][104][105]</sup>

## Perceived moral threats

The second Klan grew primarily in response to issues of declining morality typified by divorce, adultery, defiance of prohibition, and criminal gangs in the news every day.<sup>[106]</sup> It was also a response to the growing power of Catholics and American Jews and the accompanying proliferation of non-Protestant cultural values. The Klan had a nationwide reach by the mid-1920s, with its densest per capita membership in Indiana. It became most prominent in cities with high growth rates between 1910 and 1930, as rural Protestants flocked to jobs in Detroit and Dayton in the Midwest, and Atlanta, Dallas, Memphis, and Houston in the South. Close to half of Michigan's 80,000 Klansmen lived in Detroit.<sup>[107]</sup>

Members of the KKK swore to uphold American values and Christian morality, and some Protestant ministers became involved at the local level. However, no Protestant denomination officially endorsed the KKK;<sup>[108]</sup> indeed, the Klan was repeatedly denounced by the major Protestant magazines, as well as by all major secular newspapers. Historian Robert Moats Miller reports that "not a single endorsement of the Klan was found by the present writer in the Methodist press, while many of the attacks on the Klan were quite savage ... the Southern Baptist press condoned the aims but condemned the methods of the Klan." National denominational organizations never endorsed the Klan, but they rarely condemned it by name. Many nationally and regionally prominent churchmen did condemn it by name, and none endorsed it.<sup>[109]</sup>

## Rapid growth

In 1920 Simmons handed the day-to-day activities of the national office over to two professional publicists, Elizabeth Tyler and Edward Young Clarke.<sup>[110]</sup> The new leadership invigorated the Klan and it grew rapidly. It appealed to new members based on current social tensions, and stressed responses to fears raised by defiance of prohibition and new sexual freedoms. It emphasized anti-Jewish, anti-Catholic, anti-immigrant and later anti-Communist positions. It presented itself as a fraternal, nativist and strenuously patriotic organization; and its leaders emphasized support for vigorous enforcement of prohibition laws. It expanded membership dramatically to a 1924 peak of 1.5 million to 4 million, which was between 4-15% of the eligible population.<sup>[111]</sup>

By the 1920s, most of its members lived in the Midwest and West. Nearly one in five of the eligible Indiana population were members.<sup>[111]</sup> It had a national base by 1925. In the South, where the great majority of whites were Democrats, the Klansmen were Democrats. In the rest of the country, the membership comprised both Republicans and Democrats, as well as independents. Klan leaders tried to infiltrate political parties; as Cummings notes, "it was non-partisan in the sense that it pressed its nativist issues to both parties."<sup>[112]</sup> Sociologist Rory McVeigh has explained the Klan's strategy in appealing to members of both parties:

Klan leaders hope to have all major candidates competing to win the movement's endorsement. ... The Klan's leadership wanted to keep their options open and repeatedly announced that the movement was not aligned with any political party. This non-alliance strategy was also valuable as a recruiting tool. The Klan drew its members from Democratic as well as Republican voters. If the movement had aligned itself with a single political party, it would have substantially narrowed its pool of potential recruits.<sup>[113]</sup>



In this 1926 cartoon, the Ku Klux Klan chases the Roman Catholic Church, personified by St. Patrick, from the shores of America. Among the "snakes" are various supposed negative attributes of the Church, including superstition, the union of church and state, control of public schools, and intolerance.



Religion was a major selling point. Baker argues that Klansmen seriously embraced Protestantism as an essential component of their white supremacist, anti-Catholic, and paternalistic formulation of American democracy and national culture. Their cross was a religious symbol, and their ritual honored Bibles and local ministers. No nationally prominent religious leader said he was a Klan member.<sup>[114]</sup>

Economists Fryer and Levitt argue that the rapid growth of the Klan in the 1920s was partly the result of an innovative multi-level marketing campaign. They also argue that the Klan leadership focused more intently on monetizing the organization during this period than fulfilling the political goals of the organization. Local leaders profited from expanding their membership.<sup>[111]</sup>

## Prohibition

Historians agree that the Klan's resurgence in the 1920s was aided by the national debate over prohibition.<sup>[115]</sup> The historian Prendergast says that the KKK's "support for Prohibition represented the single most important bond between Klansmen throughout the nation".<sup>[116]</sup> The Klan opposed bootleggers, sometimes with violence. In 1922, two hundred Klan members set fire to saloons in Union County, Arkansas. Membership in the Klan and in other prohibition groups overlapped, and they sometimes coordinated activities.<sup>[117]</sup>

## Urbanization

A significant characteristic of the second Klan was that it was an organization based in urban areas, reflecting the major shifts of population to cities in both the North and the South. In Michigan, for instance, 40,000 members lived in Detroit, where they made up more than half of the state's membership. Most Klansmen were lower-to middle-class whites who were trying to protect their jobs and housing from the waves of newcomers to the industrial cities: immigrants from Southern Europe and Eastern Europe, who were mostly Catholic or Jewish; and black and white migrants from the South. As new populations poured into cities, rapidly changing neighborhoods created social tensions. Because of the rapid pace of population growth in industrializing cities such as Detroit and Chicago, the Klan grew rapidly in the Midwest. The Klan also grew in booming Southern cities such as Dallas and Houston.<sup>[118]</sup>



"The End" Referring to the end of Catholic influence in the US.  
*Klansmen: Guardians of Liberty* 1926

In the medium-size industrial city of Worcester, Massachusetts in the 1920s, the Klan ascended to power quickly but declined as a result of opposition from the Catholic Church. There was no violence and the local newspaper ridiculed Klansmen as "night-shirt knights". Half of the members were Swedish Americans, including some first-generation immigrants. The ethnic and religious conflicts among more recent immigrants contributed to the rise of the Klan in the city. Swedish Protestants were struggling against Irish Catholics, who had been entrenched longer for political and ideological control of the city.<sup>[119]</sup>

In some states, historians have obtained membership rosters of some local units and matched the names against city directory and local records to create statistical profiles of the membership. Big city newspapers were often hostile and ridiculed Klansmen as ignorant farmers. Detailed analysis from Indiana showed that the rural stereotype was false for that state:

Indiana's Klansmen represented a wide cross section of society: they were not disproportionately urban or rural, nor were they significantly more or less likely than other members of society to be from the working class, middle class, or professional ranks. Klansmen were Protestants, of course, but they cannot be described exclusively or even predominantly as fundamentalists. In reality, their religious affiliations mirrored the whole of white Protestant society, including those who did not belong to any church.<sup>[120]</sup>

The Klan attracted people but most of them did not remain in the organization for long. Membership in the Klan turned over rapidly as people found out that it was not the group which they had wanted. Millions joined, and at its peak in the 1920s, the organization claimed numbers that amounted to 15% of the nation's eligible population. The lessening of social tensions contributed to the Klan's decline.

## Costumes and the burning cross

The distinctive white costume permitted large-scale public activities, especially parades and cross-burning ceremonies, while keeping the membership rolls a secret. Sales of the costumes provided the main financing for the national organization, while initiation fees funded local and state organizers.

The second Klan embraced the burning Latin cross as a dramatic display of symbolism, with a tone of intimidation.<sup>[121]</sup> No crosses had been used as a symbol by the first Klan, but it became a symbol of the Klan's quasi-Christian message. Its lighting during meetings was often accompanied by prayer, the singing of hymns, and other overtly religious symbolism.<sup>[122]</sup> In his novel *The Clansman*, Thomas Dixon Jr. borrows the idea that the first Klan had used fiery crosses from 'the call to arms' of the Scottish Clans<sup>[123]</sup>, and film director D.W. Griffith used this image in *The Birth of a Nation*; Simmons adopted the symbol wholesale from the movie, and the symbol and action have been associated with the Klan ever since.<sup>[124]</sup>



Cross burning was introduced by William J. Simmons, the founder of the second Klan in 1915.

## Women

By the 1920s, the KKK developed a women's auxiliary, with chapters in many areas. Its activities included participation in parades, cross lightings, lectures, rallies, and boycotts of local businesses owned by Catholics and Jews. The Women's Klan was active in promoting prohibition, stressing liquor's negative impact on wives and children. Its efforts in public schools included distributing Bibles and petitioning for the dismissal of Roman Catholic teachers. As a result of the Women's Klan's efforts, Texas would not hire Catholic teachers to work in its public schools. As sexual and financial scandals rocked the Klan leadership late in the 1920s, the organization's popularity among both men and women dropped off sharply.<sup>[125]</sup>

## Political role



Sheet music to "We Are All Loyal Klansmen", 1923

The members of the first Klan in the South were exclusively Democrats. The second Klan expanded with new chapters in cities in the Midwest and West, and reached both Republicans and Democrats, as well as men without a party affiliation. The KKK state organizations endorsed candidates from either party that supported its goals. The goal of prohibition in particular helped the Klan and some Republicans to make common cause in the Midwest.

The Klan had numerous members in every part of the United States, but was particularly strong in the South and Midwest. At its peak, claimed Klan membership exceeded four million and comprised 20% of the adult white male population in many broad geographic regions, and 40% in some areas.<sup>[126]</sup> The Klan also moved north into Canada, especially Saskatchewan, where it opposed Catholics.<sup>[127]</sup>

In Indiana, members were American-born, white Protestants and covered a wide range of incomes and social levels. The Indiana Klan was perhaps the most powerful Ku Klux Klan in the nation. It claimed more than 30% of white male Hoosiers as members.<sup>[128]</sup> In 1924 it supported Republican Edward Jackson in his successful campaign for governor.<sup>[129]</sup>

Catholic and liberal Democrats—who were strongest in northeastern cities—decided to make the Klan an issue at the 1924 Democratic National Convention in New York City. Their delegates proposed a resolution indirectly attacking the Klan; it was defeated by one vote out of 1100.<sup>[130]</sup> The leading presidential candidates were William Gibbs McAdoo, a Protestant with a base in the South and West where the Klan was strong, and New York Governor Al Smith, a Catholic with a base in the large cities. After weeks of stalemate and bitter argumentation, both candidates withdrew in favor of a compromise candidate.<sup>[131][132]</sup>

In some states, such as Alabama and California, KKK chapters had worked for political reform. In 1924, Klan members were elected to the city council in Anaheim, California. The city had been controlled by an entrenched commercial-civic elite that was mostly German American. Given their tradition of moderate social drinking, the German Americans did not strongly support prohibition laws — the mayor had been a saloon keeper

Led by the minister of the First Christian Church, the Klan represented a rising group of politically oriented non-ethnic Germans who denounced the elite as corrupt, undemocratic and self-serving. The historian Christopher Cocoltchos says the Klansmen tried to create a model, orderly community. The Klan had about 1200 members in Orange County, California. The economic and occupational profile of the pro and anti-Klan groups shows the two were similar and about equally prosperous. Klan members were Protestants, as were most of their opponents, but the latter also included many Catholic Germans. Individuals who joined the Klan had earlier demonstrated a much higher rate of voting and civic activism than did their opponents. Cocoltchos suggests that many of the individuals in Orange County joined the Klan out of that sense of civic activism. The Klan representatives easily won the local election in Anaheim in April 1924. They fired known city employees who were Catholic and replaced them with Klan appointees. The new city council tried to enforce prohibition. After its victory, the Klan chapter held large rallies and initiation ceremonies over the summer.<sup>[133]</sup>



Two children wearing Ku Klux Klan robes and hoods stand on either side of Dr. Samuel Green, a Ku Klux Klan Grand Dragon, at Stone Mountain, Georgia on July 24, 1948.

The opposition organized, bribed a Klansman for the secret membership list, and exposed the Klansmen running in the state primaries; they defeated most of the candidates. Klan opponents in 1925 took back local government, and succeeded in a special election in recalling the Klansmen who had been elected in April 1924. The Klan in Anaheim quickly collapsed, its newspaper closed after losing a libel suit, and the minister who led the local Klavern moved to Kansas.<sup>[133]</sup>

In the South, Klan members were still Democratic, as it was essentially a one-party region for whites. Klan chapters were closely allied with Democratic police, sheriffs, and other functionaries of local government. Since disfranchisement of most African Americans and many poor whites around the start of the 20th century, the only political activity for whites took place within the Democratic Party.

In Alabama, Klan members advocated better public schools, effective prohibition enforcement, expanded road construction, and other political measures to benefit lower-class white people. By 1925, the Klan was a political force in the state, as leaders such as J. Thomas Heflin, David Bibb Graves, and Hugo Black tried to build political power against the Black Belt wealthy planters, who had long dominated the state.<sup>[134]</sup> In 1926, with Klan support, Bibb Graves won the Alabama governor's office. He was a former Klan chapter head. He pushed for increased education funding, better public health, new highway construction, and pro-labor legislation. Because the Alabama state legislature refused to redistrict until 1972, and then under court order, the Klan was unable to break the planters' and rural areas' hold on legislative power

Scholars and biographers have recently examined Hugo Black's Klan role. Ball finds regarding the KKK that Black "sympathized with the group's economic, nativist, and anti-Catholic beliefs."<sup>[135]</sup> Newman says Black "disliked the Catholic Church as an institution" and gave over 100 anti-Catholic speeches in his 1926 election campaign to KKK meetings across Alabama.<sup>[136]</sup> Black was elected US senator in 1926 as a Democrat. In 1937 President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed Black to the Supreme Court without knowing how active in the Klan he had been in the 1920s. He was confirmed by his fellow Senators before the full KKK connection was known; Justice Black said he left the Klan when he became a senator.<sup>[137]</sup>

## Resistance and decline

Many groups and leaders, including prominent Protestant ministers such as Reinhold Niebuhr in Detroit, spoke out against the Klan, gaining national attention. The Jewish Anti-Defamation League was formed in the early 20th century in response to attacks on Jewish Americans, including the lynching of Leo Frank in Atlanta, and the Klan's campaign to prohibit private schools (which was chiefly aimed at Catholic parochial schools). Opposing groups worked to penetrate the Klan's secrecy. After one civic group in Indiana began to publish Klan membership lists, there was a rapid decline in the number of Klan members. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) launched public education campaigns in order to inform people about Klan activities and lobbied in Congress against Klan abuses. After its peak in 1925, Klan membership in most areas began to decline rapidly.<sup>[118]</sup>

Specific events contributed to the Klan's decline as well. In Indiana, the scandal surrounding the 1925 murder trial of Grand Dragon D. C. Stephenson destroyed the image of the KKK as upholders of law and order. By 1926 the Klan was "crippled and discredited."<sup>[129]</sup> D. C. Stephenson was the Grand Dragon of Indiana and 22 northern states. In 1923 he had led the states under his control in order to break away from the national KKK organization. At his 1925 trial, he was convicted of second-degree murder for his part in the rape, and subsequent death, of Madge Oberholtzer.<sup>[138]</sup> After Stephenson's conviction, the Klan declined dramatically in Indiana.

The historian Leonard Moore says that a failure in leadership caused the Klan's collapse:

Stephenson and the other salesmen and office seekers who maneuvered for control of Indiana's Invisible Empire lacked both the ability and the desire to use the political system to carry out the Klan's stated goals. They were uninterested in, or perhaps even unaware of, grass roots concerns within the movement. For them, the Klan had been nothing more than a means for gaining wealth and power. These marginal men had risen to the top of the hooded order because, until it became a political force, the Klan had never required strong, dedicated leadership. More established and experienced politicians who endorsed the Klan, or who pursued some of the interests of their Klan constituents, also accomplished little. Factionalism created one barrier, but many politicians had supported the Klan simply out of expedience. When charges of crime and corruption began to taint the movement, those concerned about their political futures had even less reason to work on the Klan's behalf.<sup>[139]</sup>



Ku Klux Klan members march down Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C. in 1928

In Alabama, KKK vigilantes launched a wave of physical terror in 1927. They targeted both blacks and whites for violations of racial norms and for perceived moral lapses.<sup>[140]</sup> This led to a strong backlash, beginning in the media. Grover C. Hall, Sr., editor of the Montgomery Advertiser from 1926, wrote a series of editorials and articles that attacked the Klan. (Today the paper says it "waged war on the resurgent [KKK]".)<sup>[141]</sup> Hall won a Pulitzer Prize for the crusade, the 1928 Editorial Writing Pulitzer, citing "his editorials against gangsterism, floggings and racial and religious intolerance."<sup>[142][143]</sup> Other newspapers kept up a steady, loud attack on the Klan, referring to the organization as violent and "un-American". Sheriffs cracked down on activities. In the 1928 presidential election, the state voters overcame their initial opposition to the Catholic candidate Al Smith, and voted the Democratic Party line as usual.

Although in decline, a measure of the Klan's influence was still evident when it staged its march along Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C. in 1928. By 1930 Klan membership in Alabama dropped to less than 6,000. Small independent units continued to be active in the industrial city of Birmingham.



D. C. Stephenson, Grand Dragon of the Indiana Klan. His conviction in 1925 for the murder of Madge Oberholtzer, a white schoolteacher, led to the decline of the Indiana Klan.

KKK units were active through the 1930s in parts of Georgia, with a group of "night riders" in Atlanta enforcing their moral views by flogging people who violated them, whites as well as blacks. In March 1940 they were implicated in the beating murders of a young white couple taken from their car on a lovers lane, and flogged a white barber to death for drinking, both in East Point, a suburb of Atlanta. More than 20 others were "brutally flogged." As the police began to investigate, they found the records of the KKK had disappeared from their East Point office. The cases were reported by the Chicago Tribune<sup>[144]</sup> and the NAACP in its Crisis magazine,<sup>[145]</sup> as well as local papers.

Three lynchings of black men by whites (no KKK affiliation is known) took place in the South that year: Elbert Williams was the first NAACP member known to be killed for civil rights activities: he was murdered in Brownsville, Tennessee for working to register blacks to vote, and several other activists were run out of town; Jesse Thornton was lynched in Luverne, Alabama for a minor social infraction; and 16-year-old Austin Callaway, a suspect in the assault of a white woman, was taken from jail in the middle of the night and killed by six white men in LaGrange, Georgia.<sup>[145]</sup> In January 2017, the police chief and mayor of LaGrange apologized for their offices' failures to protect Callaway at a reconciliation service marking the anniversary of his death.<sup>[146][147]</sup>

### Labor and anti-unionism

In major southern cities such as Birmingham, Alabama Klan members kept control of access to the better-paying industrial jobs and opposed unions. During the 1930s and 1940s, Klan leaders urged members to disrupt the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO), which advocated industrial unions and accepted African-American members, unlike earlier unions. With access to dynamite and using the skills from their jobs in mining and steel, in the late 1940s some Klan members in Birmingham used bombings to destroy houses in order to intimidate upwardly mobile blacks who moved into middle-class neighborhoods. "By mid-1949, there were so many charred house carcasses that the area [College Hills] was informally named Dynamite Hill."<sup>[148]</sup>

Activism by these independent KKK groups in Birmingham increased as a reaction to the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s. Independent Klan groups violently opposed the civil rights movement.<sup>[148]</sup> KKK members were implicated in the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing on a Sunday in September 1963, which killed four African-American girls and injured 22 other people. Members of the Communist Workers' Party came to North Carolina to organize textile workers and pushed back against racial discrimination there, taunting the KKK, resulting in the 1970 Greensboro massacre<sup>[149][150]</sup>

## National changes

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In 1939, after experiencing several years of decline due to the Great Depression, the Imperial Wizard Hiram Wesley Evans sold the national organization to James A. Colescott, an Indiana veterinary physician, and Samuel Green, an Atlanta obstetrician. They could not revive the Klan's declining membership. In 1944, the Internal Revenue Service filed a lien for \$685,000 in back taxes against the Klan, and Colescott dissolved the organization that year. Local Klan groups closed down over the following years.<sup>[151]</sup>

After World War II, the folklorist and author Stetson Kennedy infiltrated the Klan; he provided internal data to media and law enforcement agencies. He also provided secret code words to the writers of the Superman radio program, resulting in episodes in which Superman took on the KKK. Kennedy stripped away the Klan's mystique and trivialized its rituals and code words, which may have contributed to the decline in Klan recruiting and membership.<sup>[152]</sup> In the 1950s, Kennedy wrote a bestselling book about his experiences, which further damaged the Klan.<sup>[153]</sup>

### Membership statistics

The following table shows the change in the Klan's estimated membership over time.<sup>[154][155][156][157][158]</sup>

Year	Membership
1920	4,000,000
1924	6,000,000
1930	30,000
1965	40,000
1968	14,000
1970	3,500
1974	1,500
1975	6,500
1979	10,000
1991	6,000-10,000
2013	5,000-8,000
2016	3,000-6,000
2018	8,000-12,000

## Historiography of the second Klan

The historiography of the second Klan of the 1920s has changed over time. Early histories were based on mainstream sources of the time, and since the late 20th century, other histories have been written drawing from records and analysis of members of the chapters - in social histories.<sup>[159][160][161]</sup>

### Anti-modern interpretations

The KKK was a secret organization; apart from a few top leaders, most members never identified as such and wore masks in public. Investigators in the 1920s used KKK publicity, court cases, exposés by disgruntled Klansmen, newspaper reports, and speculation to write stories about what the Klan was doing. Almost all the major national newspapers and magazines were hostile to its activities. The historian Thomas R. Pegram says that published accounts exaggerated the official viewpoint of the Klan leadership, and repeated the interpretations of hostile newspapers and the Klan's enemies. There was almost no evidence in that time regarding the behavior or beliefs of individual Klansmen. According to Pegram, the resulting popular and scholarly interpretation of the Klan from the 1920s into the mid-20th century, emphasized its Southern roots and the violent vigilante-style actions of the Klan in its efforts to turn back the clock of modernity. Scholars compared it to fascism, which in the 1920s rose as a movement in Italy and in the 1930s in Germany.<sup>[162]</sup> In the years before World War II, the German American Bund, an organization of Americans of German ancestry which sympathized with and propagandized for Nazi Germany in the United States, held a joint rally with the Ku Klux Klan at Camp Nordland in New Jersey on 18 August 1940, with the rally being organized by Alton Milford Young and Arthur Hornbui Bell.<sup>[163]</sup> Camp Nordland was a 204-acre resort facility in Andover Township, New Jersey, owned and operated from 1937 to 1941 by the German American Bund. Pegram says this original interpretation:

Depicted the Klan movement as an irrational rebuke of modernity by undereducated, economically marginal bigots, religious zealots, and dupes willing to be manipulated by the Klan's cynical, mendacious leaders. It was, in this view, a movement of country parsons and



Ku Klux Klan parade in Washington, D.C., September 1926

small-town malcontents who were out of step with the dynamism of twentieth-century urban America."<sup>[164]</sup>

### New social history interpretations

The "social history" revolution in historiography from the 1960s explored history from the bottom up. In terms of the Klan, it developed evidence based on the characteristics, beliefs, and behavior of the typical membership, and downplayed accounts by elite sources.<sup>[165][166]</sup> Historians discovered membership lists and the minutes of local meetings from KKK chapters scattered around the country. They discovered that the original interpretation was largely mistaken about the membership and activities of the Klan. The membership was not anti-modern, rural or rustic. It consisted of fairly well educated middle-class joiners and community activists. Half the members lived in the fast-growing industrial cities of the period: Chicago, Detroit, Philadelphia, Indianapolis, Denver, and Portland, Oregon, were Klan strongholds during the 1920s.<sup>[167]</sup>

Studies developed as social history find that in general, the KKK membership in these cities was from the stable, successful middle classes, with few members drawn from the elite or the working classes. Pegrarn, reviewing the studies, concludes, "the popular Klan of the 1920s, while diverse, was more of a civic exponent of white Protestant social values than a repressive hate group."<sup>[168]</sup>

### Indiana and Alabama

In Indiana, traditional political historians focused on notorious leaders, especially D. C. Stephenson, the Grand Dragon of the Indiana Klan, whose conviction for 1925 kidnap, rape, and murder of Madge Oberholtzer helped destroy the Ku Klux Klan movement nationwide. In his history of 1967, Kenneth Jackson already described the Klan of the 1920s as associated with cities and urbanization, with chapters often acting as a kind of fraternal organization to aid people coming from other areas.<sup>[169]</sup>

Social historian Leonard Moore titled his monograph *Citizen Klansmen* (1997) and contrasted the intolerant rhetoric of the group's leaders with the actions of most of the membership. The Klan was white Protestant, established Americans who were fearful of change: represented by new immigrants and black migrants to the North. They were highly suspicious of Catholics, Jews and blacks, who they believed subverted ideal Protestant moral standards. Violence was uncommon in most chapters. In Indiana, KKK members directed more threats and economic blacklisting primarily against fellow white Protestants for transgressions of community moral standards, such as adultery, wife-beating, gambling and heavy drinking. Up to one third of Indiana's Protestant men joined the order making it, Moore argued, "a kind of interest group for average white Protestants who believed that their values should be dominant in their community and state."<sup>[170]</sup>

Moore says that they joined:

because it stood for the most organized means of resisting the social and economic forces that had transformed community life, undermined traditional values, and made average citizens feel more isolated from one another and more powerless in their relationships with the major institutions that governed their lives.<sup>[171]</sup>

Northern Indiana's industrial cities had attracted a large Catholic population of European immigrants and their descendants. They established the University of Notre Dame, a major Catholic college near South Bend. In May 1924 when the KKK scheduled a regional meeting in the city, Notre Dame students blocked the Klansmen and stole some KKK regalia. The next day the Klansmen counterattacked. Finally the college president and the football coach Knute Rockne kept the students on campus to avert further violence.<sup>[172][173]</sup>

In Alabama, some young white urban activists joined the KKK, such as Hugo Black who was a member for a time; they were reformers fighting against the old guard in state politics. But the Klan in rural Alabama continued to operate to enforce Jim Crow; its members resorted more often to violence against blacks for infringements of the social order of white supremacy.<sup>[174]</sup>

Racial terrorism was used in smaller towns to suppress black political activity; Elbert Williams of Brownsville, Tennessee was lynched in 1940 for trying to organize black residents to register and vote. That year, Jesse Thornton of Luverne, Alabama was lynched for failing to address a police officer as "Mister."<sup>[175]</sup>

# Later Klans: 1950s–present

## 1950s–1960s: post-war opposition to civil rights

After the decline of the national organization, small independent groups adopted the name "Ku Klux Klan," along with variations. They had no formal connection to the second KKK, except for the fact that they copied its terminology and costumes. Beginning in the 1950s, for instance, individual Klan groups in Birmingham, Alabama began to resist social change and blacks' efforts to improve their lives by bombing houses in transitional neighborhoods. The white men worked in mining and steel industries, with access to these materials. There were so many bombings of blacks' homes in Birmingham by Klan groups in the 1950s that the city was nicknamed "Bombingham".<sup>[38]</sup>

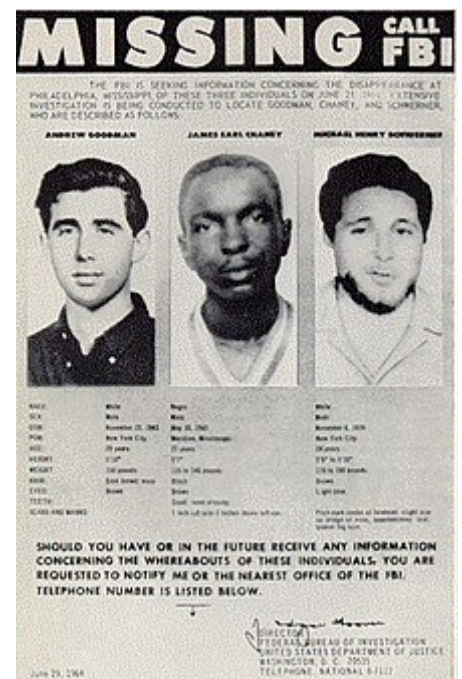
During the tenure of Bull Connor as police commissioner in Birmingham, Klan groups were closely allied with the police and operated with impunity. When the Freedom Riders arrived in Birmingham in 1961, Connor gave Klan members fifteen minutes to attack the riders before sending in the police to quell the attack.<sup>[38]</sup> When local and state authorities failed to protect the Freedom Riders and activists, the federal government began to establish intervention and protection.

In states such as Alabama and Mississippi, Klan members forged alliances with governors' administrations.<sup>[38]</sup> In Birmingham and elsewhere, the KKK groups bombed the houses of civil rights activists. In some cases they used physical violence, intimidation and assassination directly against individuals. Continuing disfranchisement of blacks across the South meant that most could not serve on juries, which were all-white and demonstrably biased verdicts and sentences.

According to a report from the Southern Regional Council in Atlanta, the homes of 40 black Southern families were bombed during 1951 and 1952. Some of the bombing victims were social activists whose work exposed them to danger, but most were either people who refused to bow to racist convention or were innocent bystanders, unsuspecting victims of random violence.<sup>[176]</sup>

Among the more notorious murders by Klan members in the 1950s and 1960s:

- The 1951 Christmas Eve bombing of the home of National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) activists Harry and Harriette Moore in Mims, Florida, resulting in their deaths.<sup>[177]</sup>
- The 1957 murder of Willie Edwards Jr. Klansmen forced Edwards to jump to his death from a bridge into the Alabama River.<sup>[178]</sup>
- The 1963 assassination of NAACP organizer Medgar Evers in Mississippi. In 1994, former Ku Klux Klansman Byron De La Beckwith was convicted.
- The 16th Street Baptist Church bombing in September 1963 in Birmingham, Alabama, which killed four African-American girls and injured 22 people. The perpetrators were Klan members Robert Chambliss, convicted in 1977, Thomas Edwin Blanton Jr and Bobby Frank Cherry, convicted in 2001 and 2002. The fourth suspect Herman Cash, died before he was indicted.
- The 1964 murders of Chaney Goodman, and Schwerner, three civil rights workers, in Mississippi. In June 2005, Klan member Edgar Ray Killen was convicted of manslaughter.<sup>[179]</sup>
- The 1964 murder of two black teenagers, Henry Hezekiah Dee and Charles Eddie Moore in Mississippi. In August 2007, based on the confession of Klansman Charles Marcus Edwards, James Ford Seale, a reputed Ku Klux Klansman, was convicted. Seale was sentenced to serve three life sentences. Seale was a former Mississippi policeman and sheriff's deputy.<sup>[180]</sup>
- The 1965 Alabama murder of Viola Liuzzo. She was a Southern-raised Detroit mother of five who was visiting the state in order to attend a civil rights march. At the time of her murder, Liuzzo was transporting Civil Rights marchers related to the Selma to Montgomery March.
- The 1966 firebombing death of NAACP leader Vernon Dahmer, Sr., 58, in Mississippi. In 1998 former Ku Klux Klan wizard Samuel Bowers was convicted of his murder and sentenced to life. Two other Klan members were indicted with Bowers, but one died before trial, and the other's indictment was dismissed.



Goodman, Chaney, and Schwerner were three civil rights workers abducted and murdered by members of the Ku Klux Klan.



- On July 1966, in Bogalusa, Louisiana a stronghold of Klan activity Clarence Triggs was found murdered<sup>[181]</sup>
- The 1967 multiple bombings in Jackson, Mississippi of the residence of Methodist activist, Robert Kochitzky the synagogue and the residence of Rabbi Perry Nussbaum. These were carried out by Klan member Thomas Albert Tarrants III, who was convicted in 1968. Another Klan bombing was averted in Meridian the same year<sup>[182]</sup>

## Resistance

There was considerable resistance among African Americans and white allies to the Klan. In 1953, newspaper publishers W. Horace Carter (Tabor City, North Carolina), who had campaigned for three years, and Willard Cole (Whiteville, North Carolina) shared the Pulitzer Prize for Public Service citing "their successful campaign against the Ku Klux Klan, waged on their own doorstep at the risk of economic loss and personal danger, culminating in the conviction of over one hundred Klansmen and an end to terrorism in their communities."<sup>[183]</sup> In a 1958 incident in North Carolina, the Klan burned crosses at the homes of two Lumbee Native Americans for associating with white people, and threatened more actions. When the KKK held a nighttime rally nearby, they were quickly surrounded by hundreds of armed Lumbee. Gunfire was exchanged, and the Klan was routed at what became known as the Battle of Hayes Pond<sup>[184]</sup>

While the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) had paid informants in the Klan, for instance in Birmingham in the early 1960s, its relations with local law enforcement agencies and the Klan were often ambiguous. The head of the FBI, J. Edgar Hoover, appeared more concerned about Communist links to civil rights activists than about controlling Klan excesses against citizens. In 1964, the FBI's COINTELPRO program began attempts to infiltrate and disrupt civil rights groups<sup>[38]</sup>

As 20th-century Supreme Court rulings extended federal enforcement of citizens' civil rights, the government revived the Enforcement Acts and the Klan Act from Reconstruction days. Federal prosecutors used these laws as the basis for investigations and indictments in the 1964 murders of Chaney Goodman, and Schwerner<sup>[185]</sup> and the 1965 murder of Viola Liuzzo. They were also the basis for prosecution in 1991 in Bray v. Alexandria Women's Health Clinic

In 1965, the House Un-American Activities Committee started an investigation on the Klan, putting in the public spotlight its front organizations, finances, methods and divisions<sup>[186]</sup>

## 1970s–present

After federal legislation was passed prohibiting legal segregation and authorizing enforcement of protection of voting rights, KKK groups began to oppose court-ordered busing to desegregate schools, affirmative action, and the more open immigration authorized in the 1960s. In 1971, KKK members used bombs to destroy 10 school buses in Pontiac, Michigan By 1975, there were known KKK groups on most college campuses in Louisiana as well as at Vanderbilt University, the University of Georgia, the University of Mississippi, the University of Akron, and the University of Southern California<sup>[187]</sup>

### Massacre of Communist Workers Party protesters

On November 3, 1979, five communist protesters were killed by KKK and American Nazi Party members in Greensboro, North Carolina in what is known as the Greensboro massacre<sup>[188]</sup> The Communist Workers Party had sponsored a rally against the Klan in an effort to organize predominantly black industrial workers in the area.<sup>[149]</sup> Klan members drove up with arms in their car trunks, and attacked marchers.



Violence at a Klan march in Mobile, Alabama, 1977

### Jerry Thompson infiltration

Jerry Thompson, a newspaper reporter who infiltrated the KKK in 1979, reported that the FBI's COINTELPRO efforts were highly successful. Rival KKK factions accused each other's leaders of being FBI informants. William Wilkinson of the Invisible Empire, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, was revealed to have been working for the FBI.<sup>[189]</sup>

Thompson also related that KKK leaders showed great concern about a series of civil lawsuits filed by the Southern Poverty Law Center, claiming damages amounting to millions of dollars. These were filed after KKK members shot into a group of African Americans. Klansmen curtailed their activities in order to conserve money for defense against the lawsuits. The KKK also used lawsuits as tools; they filed a libel suit in order to prevent the publication of a paperback edition of Thompson's book, but were unsuccessful.

### **Tennessee shooting**

In 1980, three KKK members shot four elderly black women (Viola Ellison, Lela Evans, Opal Jackson and Katherine Johnson) in Chattanooga, Tennessee, following a KKK initiation rally. A fifth woman, Fannie Crumsey, was injured by flying glass in the incident. Attempted murder charges were filed against the three KKK members, two of whom—Bill Church and Larry Payne—were acquitted by an all-white jury. The third defendant, Marshall Thrash, was sentenced by the same jury to nine months on lesser charges. He was released after three months.<sup>[190][191][192]</sup> In 1982, a jury awarded the five women \$535,000 in a civil trial.<sup>[193]</sup>

### **Michael Donald lynching**

After Michael Donald was lynched in 1981 in Alabama, the FBI investigated his death. The US Attorney prosecuted the case. Two local KKK members were convicted for his murder, including Henry Francis Hays, who was sentenced to death. With the support of attorneys Morris Dees of the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) and State Senator Michael A. Figures, Donald's mother Beulah Mae Donald sued the KKK in civil court in Alabama. Her lawsuit against the United Klans of America was tried in February 1987.<sup>[194]</sup> After exhausting the appeals process, Hays was executed by electric chair for Donald's death in Alabama on June 6, 1997.<sup>[195]</sup> It was the first time since 1913 that a white man had been executed in Alabama for a crime against an African American.<sup>[196]</sup>

The all-white jury found the Klan responsible for the lynching of Donald and ordered the Klan to pay US\$7 million, but the KKK did not have sufficient funds to pay the fine. They had to sell off their national headquarters building in Tuscaloosa.<sup>[194][196]</sup>

### **Neo-Nazi alliances and Stormfront**

In 1995, Don Black and Chloë Hardin, the ex-wife of the KKK Grand Wizard David Duke, began a small bulletin board system (BBS) called Stormfront. In the 21st century, Stormfront has become a prominent online forum for white nationalism, Neo-Nazism, hate speech, racism, and antisemitism.<sup>[197][198][199]</sup>

Duke has an account on Stormfront which he uses to post articles from his own website. He also polls forum members for opinions and questions, in particular during his internet broadcasts. Duke has worked with Don Black on numerous projects including Operation Red Dog in 1980.<sup>[200][201]</sup>

### **Current developments**

The modern KKK is not one organization; rather it is composed of small independent chapters across the United States.<sup>[202]</sup> According to a 1999 ADL report, the KKK's estimated size then was "No more than a few thousand, organized into slightly more than 100 units."<sup>[203]</sup> In 2017, the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), which monitors extremist groups, estimated that there were "at least 29 separate, rival Klan groups currently active in the United States, and they compete with one another for members, dues, news media attention and the title of being the true heir to the Ku Klux Klan."<sup>[204]</sup> The formation of independent chapters has made KKK groups more difficult to infiltrate, and researchers find it hard to estimate their numbers. Analysts believe that about two-thirds of KKK members are concentrated in the Southern United States, with another third situated primarily in the lower Midwest.<sup>[203][205][206]</sup>

The Klan has expanded its recruitment efforts to white supremacists at the international level.<sup>[207]</sup> For some time, the Klan's numbers have been steadily dropping. This decline has been attributed to the Klan's lack of competence in the use of the Internet, their history of violence, a proliferation of competing hate groups, and a decline in the number of young racist activists who are willing to join groups at all.<sup>[208]</sup>

According to a 2016 analysis by the SPLC, hate groups in general are on the rise in the United States.<sup>[209]</sup> The ADL published a report in 2016 that concluded: "Despite a persistent ability to attract media attention, organized Ku Klux Klan groups are actually continuing a long-term trend of decline. They remain a collection of mostly small, disjointed groups that continually change in name and leadership."<sup>[210]</sup>

In 2015, however, the number of KKK chapters nationwide grew from 72 to 190. The SPLC released a similar report stating that "there were significant increases in Klan as well as black separatist groups."<sup>[209]</sup>

Recent KKK membership campaigns have stimulated people's anxieties about illegal immigration, urban crime, civil unions, and same-sex marriage<sup>[211]</sup> In 2006 J. Keith Akins argued that, "Klan literature and propaganda is rabidly homophobic and encourages violence against gays and lesbians ... Since the late 1970s, the Klan has increasingly focused its ire on this previously ignored population."<sup>[212]</sup>

Many KKK groups have formed strong alliances with other white supremacist groups, such as neo-Nazis. Some KKK groups have become increasingly "nazified", adopting the look and emblems of white power skinheads.<sup>[213]</sup>

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) has provided legal support to various factions of the KKK in defense of their First Amendment rights to hold public rallies, parades, and marches, as well as their right to field political candidates.<sup>[214]</sup>

The Imperial Wizard of the Traditionalist American Knights, Frank Ancona, was fatally shot in Missouri in February 2017, several days after disappearing. The coroner declared his death a homicide. Ancona's wife and stepson were charged with first-degree murder in connection with the killing. The prosecutor in the case believes that the killing "happened because of a marital dispute" and was not connected to Ancona's Klan participation.<sup>[204]</sup> Ancona's group "was not considered the largest or the most influential iteration of the Klan, but he was skilled at attracting the spotlight."<sup>[204]</sup>

## Current Klan organizations

A list is maintained by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL).<sup>[215]</sup>

- Bayou Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, prevalent in Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana and other areas of the Southern U.S.
- Church of the American Knights of the Ku Klux Klan<sup>[203]</sup>
- Imperial Klans of America<sup>[216]</sup>
- Knights of the White Camelia#Legacy<sup>[217]</sup>
- Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, headed by national director and self-claimed pastor Thomas Robb, and based in Zinc, Arkansas<sup>[218]</sup> It claims to be the largest Klan organization in America today
- Loyal White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, a North Carolina-based group headed by Will Quigg<sup>[219]</sup> is currently thought to be the largest KKK chapter.<sup>[220]</sup>
- White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan



The flag of the Knights Party the political branch of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

## Outside the United States

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Aside from Ku Klux Klan in Canada, there have been various attempts to organize KKK chapters outside the United States.

In Australia in the late 1990s, former One Nation member Peter Coleman established branches throughout the country,<sup>[221][222]</sup> and circa 2012 the KKK has attempted to infiltrate other political parties such as Australia First.<sup>[223]</sup>

Recruitment activity has also been reported in the United Kingdom,<sup>[224][225]</sup> dating back to the 1960s when Robert Relf was involved in establishing a British KKK.<sup>[226]</sup>

In Germany a KKK-related group, the European White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, has organised and it gained notoriety in 2012 when it was widely reported in the German media that two police officers who held membership in the organisation would be allowed to keep their jobs.<sup>[227][228][229]</sup>

A KKK group was even established in Fiji in the early 1870s by white settlers, although it was put down by the British who, although not officially established as Fiji's colonial rulers, had played a leading role in establishing a new constitutional monarchy that was being threatened by the Fijian Klan.<sup>[230]</sup>

In São Paulo, Brazil, the website of a group called Imperial Klans of Brazil was shut down in 2003, and the group's leader was arrested.<sup>[231]</sup>

## Titles and vocabulary

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Membership in the Klan is secret. Like many fraternal organizations, the Klan has signs that members can use to recognize one another. In conversation, a member may use the acronym *AYAK* (Are you a Klansman?) to surreptitiously identify himself to another potential member. The response *AKIA* (A Klansman I am) completes the greeting.<sup>[232]</sup>

Throughout its varied history the Klan has coined many words<sup>[233][186]</sup> beginning with "Kl", including:

- **Klabee** — treasurers
- **Klavern** — local organization
- **Imperial Kleagle** — recruiter
- **Klecktoken** — initiation fee
- **Kligrapp** — secretary
- **Klonvokation** — gathering
- **Kloran** — ritual book
- **Kloreroe** — delegate
- **Imperial Kludd** — chaplain

All of the above terminology was created by William Joseph Simmons, as part of his 1915 revival of the Klan.<sup>[234]</sup> The Reconstruction-era Klan used different titles; the only titles to carry over were "Wizard" for the overall leader of the Klan and "Night Hawk" for the official in charge of security.

The Imperial Kludd was the chaplain of the Imperial Klonvokation and he performed "such other duties as may be required by the Imperial Wizard."

The Imperial Kaliff was the second highest position after the Imperial Wizard.<sup>[235]</sup>

## See also

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- Anti-mask laws
- Black Legion (political movement)
- Ethnic violence
- History of the Ku Klux Klan in New Jersey
- Ku Klux Klan in Canada
- Ku Klux Klan in Maine
- Ku Klux Klan members in United States politics
- Ku Klux Klan raid (Inglewood)
- Ku Klux Klan recruitment
- Ku Klux Klan regalia and insignia
- Leaders of the Ku Klux Klan
- List of Ku Klux Klan organizations

- [List of organizations designated by the Southern Poverty Law Center as hate groups](#)
- [List of white nationalist organizations](#)
- [Mass racial violence in the United States](#)
- [Racism in the United States](#)
- [Rosewood massacre](#)
- [Terrorism](#)
- [White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan](#)

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## Notes

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- a. Commonly mispronounced /'klu: 'klʌks 'klæn/.

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## External links

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### Official websites

Because there are multiple Ku Klux Klan organizations, there are multiple official websites. To find a website, try entering the full name of a particular organization into a search engine. Following are third-party lists of such organizations:

- From the Southern Poverty Law Center *Ku Klux Klan*
- From the Anti-Defamation League
  - *Tattered Robes: The State of the Ku Klux Klan in the United States* (2016) — not organized as a list of names but many names appear in this report
  - *Ku Klux Klan - Active Groups (By State)* (2011) — archived list

The following, from the Stormfront forum, is a collection of links that are not necessarily national, as some may be local or peripheral:

- List Your Ku Klux Klan Website Here! — several pages of links that may be added to over time

### Other links

- Prescript of the \* \* first edition of the Klans 1867 prescript
- Revised and Amended Prescript of the Order of the \* \* first edition of the Klans 1868 prescript
- Civil Rights Greensboro



- [The Ku Klux Klan in Washington State, from the Seattle Civil Rights and Labor History Project](#) examines the influence of the second KKK in the State during the 1920s.
- [Buffalo Ku Klux Klan Membership List](#) digitized by the [Buffalo History Museum](#)
- ["Ku Klux Klan", Southern Poverty Law Center](#)
- ["KKK", Anti-Defamation League](#)
- [Video clip of 2014 interview with hooded KKK member](#) by biracial director and filmmaker Mo Asumang for her documentary *The Aryan*
- ["Inside Today's KKK", multimedia, Life magazine, April 13, 2009](#)
- [Interview with Stanley F Horn, author of \*Invisible Empire: The Story of the Ku Klux Klan, 1866–1871\* \(1939\), Forest History Society, Inc., May 1978](#)
- [Booknotes interview with Jack Nelson on \*Terror in the Night: The Klan's Campaign Against the Jews\*, February 7, 1993](#)
- [Icons of Hate at A History of Central Florida Podcast](#) examines the Ku Klux Klan's role in Central Florida in the second quarter of the 20th century
- [FBI file on the Ku Klux Klan](#)
- [1871 Congressional Testimony on the Ku Klux Klan](#)
- [Mapping the Second Ku Klux Klan, 1915–1940](#) VCU Libraries

Retrieved from ['https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Ku\\_Klux\\_Klan&oldid=844293589](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Ku_Klux_Klan&oldid=844293589)

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# κύκλος

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### Greek

- Etymology
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## Ancient Greek

### Etymology

From Proto-Indo-European *\*k<sup>w</sup>ék<sup>w</sup>los* (“circle, wheel”). Cognate with Mycenaean Greek 𐀓𐀓𐀓𐀓 (*ku-ke-re-u*).

### Pronunciation

- (5<sup>th</sup> BCE Attic) IPA<sup>(key)</sup>: /ký.klos/
- (1<sup>st</sup> CE Egyptian) IPA<sup>(key)</sup>: /'ky.klos/
- (4<sup>th</sup> CE Koine) IPA<sup>(key)</sup>: /'ky.klos/
- (10<sup>th</sup> CE Byzantine) IPA<sup>(key)</sup>: /'cy.klos/
- (15<sup>th</sup> CE Constantinopolitan) IPA<sup>(key)</sup>: /'ci.klos/

### Noun

**κύκλος** (kúklos) *m* (genitive **κύκλου**); *second declension*

- circle, ring
- Any circular object, such as awheel
- A crowd of people
- marketplace
- circular movement
- sphere, globe

### Declension

Second declension of <b>ὁ κύκλος; τοῦ κύκλου</b> (Attic)			
Case / #	Singular	Dual	Plural
Nominative	<b>ὁ κύκλος</b> ho kúklos	<b>τὸ κύκλω</b> tō kúklō	<b>οἱ κύκλοι</b> hoi kúkloi
Genitive	<b>τοῦ κύκλου</b> toû kúkλου	<b>τοῖν κύκλοιιν</b> toîn kúkloin	<b>τῶν κύκλων</b> tôn kúklōn

<b>Dative</b>	<u>τῷ κύκλῳ</u> tōi kýklōi	<u>τοῖν κύκλοιν</u> toîn kýkloin	<u>τοῖς κύκλοις</u> toîs kýklois
<b>Accusative</b>	<u>τὸν κύκλον</u> tòn kýklon	<u>τὸ κύκλω</u> tō kýklō	<u>τοὺς κύκλους</u> toùs kýklous
<b>Vocative</b>	<u>κύκλε</u> kúkle	<u>κύκλω</u> kúklo	<u>κύκλοι</u> kúkloi
<b>Notes:</b>	<i>This table gives Attic inflectional endings. For declension in other dialects, see <a href="#">Appendix: Ancient Greek dialectal declension</a> .</i>		

There also exists an irregular plural

<b>Second declension of <u>τᾶ κύκλᾳ</u>; <u>τῶν κύκλων</u> (Attic)</b>	
<b>Case / #</b>	<b>Plural</b>
<b>Nominative</b>	<u>τᾶ κύκλᾳ</u> tà kýkla
<b>Genitive</b>	<u>τῶν κύκλων</u> tôn kýklōn
<b>Dative</b>	<u>τοῖς κύκλοις</u> toîs kýklois
<b>Accusative</b>	<u>τᾶ κύκλᾳ</u> tà kýkla
<b>Vocative</b>	<u>κύκλᾳ</u> kúkla
<b>Notes:</b>	<i>This table gives Attic inflectional endings. For declension in other dialects, see <a href="#">Appendix: Ancient Greek dialectal declension</a> .</i>

#### Descendants

- Latin: cyclus
  - French: cycle
  - Russian: цикл *m* (cikl)

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## Greek

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### Etymology

Inherited from Ancient Greek κύκλος (*kúklos*).

### Noun

κύκλος <sup>ⓘ</sup> (*kýklos*) <sup>Ⓜ</sup> (*plural* κύκλοι)

1. (*geometry*) circle
2. period, cycle
3. series, cycle
4. clique, coterie, circle, set (of people)
5. (*sports*) circuit, course, track
6. (*education*) course
7. (*business*) turnover

### Declension

declension of κύκλος

### Coordinate terms

- see: δακτύλιος <sup>Ⓜ</sup> (*daktýlios*, “circle, ring”) for a list of other rings and circles'

## Derived terms

- γιγάκυκλος (gigákyklos, "gigacycle")
- ημικύκλιο *η* (imikýklio, "semicircle")
- φάυλος κύκλος *η* (fávlos kýklos, "vicious circle")

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