



ABSTRACT

The Ku Klux Klan, or best known as the KKK, is an important part of the USA history since it is considered as the first racist organization founded in the country. The Klan follows the ideology of White Supremacy that states that white race is superior. The KKK first appeared in Reconstruction times as a way to keep order between blacks and whites. This first Klan had a short period of life, however.

It was Sir William Simmons who founded or renamed the Klan as the Invisible Empire of the Ku Klux Klan. He, together with other people raised this new secret organization that remains alive until our days, in spite of its several stages.

As a racist organization, Klan ideology has influenced upon different groups within the United States. Therefore, we can find effects and consequences of this ideology in society.

KEY WORDS: KKK, White Supremacy, Racism.



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THE KU KLUX KLAN AS A REFLECTION OF WHITE SUPREMACY

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ADRIANA



Universidad de Cuenca

DEDICATION

To my mom, for always being with me.

To profe Fany, for helping me when I need her most.

ADRIANA



ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I am deeply grateful to my mother and brother who were always there for me.

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VERONICA



Universidad de Cuenca

DEDICATION

To my mom, brother, grandmother and husband
for all their love and support.

VERONICA



INTRODUCTION

One day we heard in the news that an Ecuadorian man was killed while walking in a street of the United States. He was an immigrant; therefore, he was working there to feed his family in Ecuador. He was an illegal alien, which probably meant that he went through a lot of hardships to get to that country. He was attacked because he was a Latino.

The story above is the case of many people around the world. For some time, it has been common to hear about different crimes related to racism, and the United States is not the exception since it is the favorite place for people who want to improve their economic conditions.

There have been many examples of Latinos mistreated, threatened, or even killed while living in the United States. It is difficult to understand why, but the answer the media gives is racism.

Throughout history, we have heard about different hate groups that fought against the races they considered inferior. One of these groups is the Ku Klux Klan, a secret organization that was created in the south of the United States after the Civil War. The Klan, or KKK, as it is widely known, acts according to a certain philosophy or ideology that justifies its behavior. This ideology is called White Supremacy, which explains the belief of the superiority of one race over the rest.

We will present the Ku Klux Klan as one of the most racist groups in the history of the United States of America due to all the suffering it has caused throughout time. With this investigation, readers will discover how this group and its ideas have done so much damage in society in the past and continue to do so in the present.



In order to better explain these ideas, we have divided this investigation into five chapters. The first chapter explains the origin of White Supremacy, its concept, and the groups derived from it.

The second chapter is about the beginnings of the Klan, how it was created, the reasons its founders had, the rituals, and the constitution until its first disappearance.

In the third chapter, the new Klan is presented, the one that was strong in the nineteen twenties. The KKK's creator, the new policies, the Klansmen, the rituals, the organization, and the different leaders are studied. We also mention the crimes the Invisible Empire executed, the influence it had on politics, its rise, its fall, and its present situation.

Chapter four is about the different branches the Klan has nowadays, some of its symbols, the requirements to become a Klansman.

The last chapter presents the influence the KKK had and has on society, the new groups that in some way follow the Klan's ideology, and the effects they have on people, especially on immigrants.

Finally, we include some conclusions, the learning we have acquired and reflections on our hypothesis. We also share our thoughts about and our reactions to this investigation.



CHAPTER I

WHITE SUPREMACY

1.1 Antecedents

On July 4, 1776, the United States began a new life. As we know, that date reminds us of the Declaration of Independence. This Declaration recognized the right of equality for all men and women; however, that was not true at all. That country adopted the system of slavery in the Southern part of the USA in the 17th century. After the United States' Independence, slaves still existed, contradicting in that way one of the principles of the Declaration. The South depended on slaves and their work because of agriculture. Slaves worked on farms. They were not free to do what they wanted. They did not have the right to have a family because their children, husbands, or wives were sold if their owners wanted to do so. They did not have the possibility to save money and to get a good job. Their only right and their only obligation was to work on their owners' farms. Slaves were, in a great majority, black people brought from Africa.

The history of the country developed little by little with good and bad events. In the Northern States, slavery was abolished slowly until it disappeared. That was not the situation in the South, and because of that, people who wanted slaves to be free began to appear. They were called the "Abolitionists." They helped slaves escape and reach a free territory in order to have a better life. Abolitionists talked with members of Congress to pass laws to rescue slaves, explained to people what was happening with them, and stated slaves had the right to be free.

In 1858, Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas participated in the election for senator in Illinois. There was a debate about whether slavery should be legal or abolished. Douglas said that states were free to keep slaves if they wanted. Lincoln



said that slavery should be abolished. At that time, Douglas won the election. However, Lincoln won sympathizers for his cause.

This was the context in which slavery developed. Some people were in favor, others were not. The environment was not good.

It was time to elect a new president for the United States; Abraham Lincoln won the election and became president on November 6, 1860. As we recall, he opposed slavery. This caused the North and the South to split in two. The Southern States wanted to become an independent nation because they did not agree with Lincoln's ideas. That was the reason that they created the Confederate States in 1861. These Confederate States were formed by South Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Texas. After the first battle of the Civil War on April 12, 1861, Virginia, Arkansas, North Carolina, and Tennessee joined the Confederacy.

Lincoln felt it was his obligation to keep the country together, so in his first speech he invited the Southern States to maintain the original union, saying that he did not want to free the slaves. These words did not convince them, however. The Southern army attacked Fort Sumter, which was a federal stronghold in Charleston, South Carolina. Federal troops, the Northern army, returned fire. In that way, the Civil War started.

At the beginning of the war, people from the North did not agree with the liberation of slaves at all, although there were some white people who fought to get the slaves' freedom. Most white people did not want black people working along with them. Black people or former slaves were not allowed to join the Navy or Army. Freed slaves could not get work or housing easily. It took some time for white people to understand that black people were already free, and that they could have the same opportunities as they did.



There was a great indecision about what to do with escaping slaves. After some discussion, people agreed to allow them to be free if they were contraband: that means that they are in free territory although they are slaves. So, little by little, slaves were gaining their freedom. President Lincoln acted step by step in order to avoid a bigger war. However, he was pressured by the Abolitionists to free slaves, and public opinion agreed with it. Abraham Lincoln presented the Emancipation Proclamation, a document that states that all the slaves are free, on January 1st, 1863. This Proclamation created the 13th amendment of the US-Constitution. With this document, slavery was abolished, but it did not end the war.

There were a few more battles, and The Civil War ended in 1865 when the Southern Army surrendered. President Lincoln was killed on April 14, 1865 by the actor John Wilkes Booth, who supported the Southern cause. From that time until now, black people have fought a lot to obtain their rights. Although they were officially free, they had and still have a hard time keeping their rights. Abraham Lincoln established their freedom, but the South did not accept this situation. There were still some black people in the South who did not know they were free.

Why were Americans reluctant to accept that black people had the same rights as white people? There were some people that said that slaves were very important for the Southern States since they produced a lot and kept this part of the country alive. The Civil War destroyed the South.

The Civil War brought a lot of things to think about. It was not just the fighting or the desire to find out who was stronger. This war created a situation that was real and that affected us all. The Civil War showed us that our world had and still has serious problems. The Civil War allowed us to remember that two centuries ago there was racism. People who were different had to pay the price for being black or poor.



Why racism? Why did these kinds of things have to happen because of racism? Why did human beings have to think some people were superior to others? The idea of being superior is not new. Many people say that racism does not exist anymore. Others say it is incomprehensible to think that in our world full of technology, new discoveries, and development, something like racism still exists. However, there is a group of people who thinks racism is real, something no one can deny.

We are convinced that racism still exists, although many years have passed since The Civil War. Racism has different faces. Racism has many colors, shapes and sizes. One of its forms is called White Supremacy, a tendency that was noticed in America immediately after The Civil War.

1.2 White Supremacy: Concept

White Supremacy is an ideology that professes the superiority of the white race, therefore implying that it is the only race worthy of ruling the world. Why is the white race considered the best in the whole world? Or why do people who sympathize with this idea believe the white race is superior? It is easy to understand since the idea was taken from the family tree of languages. There is a connection between languages and supremacy because the theory of languages derives from a common tongue (Indo-European) which explains that the Indo-Europeans came from a people called the Aryans.

It is supposed that the Aryans were a Nordic race about which we do not know a lot. It is possible that that group conquered some other groups, although the original group of Aryans could not be preserved. Conquest would have served as a way to show and gain power. That explains why superior people dominate the inferior ones. Since the Aryans conquered other tribes, it is normal to think that



they were superior. From this point of view, an Aryan is described as an intelligent person, probably the most intelligent of all the other groups.

White Supremacy defends the white people's right to rule the world since their race is superior. We face this reality when we hear that immigrant people are mistreated because of their skin color and their origin. This is common in the United States, in Europe, even in South America. But White Supremacy has a special power in developed countries. Its members believe that White Supremacy is a matter of power and nothing else.

White Supremacy, as with racial supremacies in general, is rooted in ethnocentrism and a desire for hegemony. It is associated with varying degrees of racism and xenophobia as well as a desire for racial separation. White supremacy has often resulted in anti-black racism and anti-Semitism, although it has also involved prejudice and discrimination against a wide variety of "non-white" groups.¹

White Supremacy is equal to power. But when did this idea begin? As an antecedent, we have the Civil War of the United States. We already mentioned what happened then. We saw that the worst part was experienced by black people. They were the ones that had to work hard without rights, happiness, family and most of all, without freedom. This is a big example of what White Supremacy was and how it acts and lives around us. Slavery was the beginning of this enormous ideology.

¹ www.worldlingo.whitesupremacy.htm



1.3 History

As we said above, the superiority of races began with slavery. Although today we do not have this phenomenon, we cannot say that it has disappeared completely. Slavery has existed since remote times, when people did not know the great things we have today. We refer to the Old Age, (depending on the civilization from IV millennium B.C. until IV – V century A.D.)², when Egypt was a big empire and could build the wonderful pyramids we have today. Those pyramids were not built by the noble class, but by slaves. Other examples of slavery from the past are found in Mesopotamia, India, and China, big nations that used laborers, and servants³. They also used them for commerce, and in agriculture. Other empires such as the pre-Columbians forced slaves to work as farmers or soldiers.

According to Microsoft Encarta, slaves, at that time, were described as merchandise that could be bought, sold, given, or exchanged according to the owner's will. They did not have the right to give an opinion or argue about the owner's decision. Their job was servitude without receiving money or benefits of any sort. Owners obtained the slaves' work by violence and mistreatment. This was common among all the civilizations that kept slaves, although it was a little different in Greece, where the slave did not have freedom but he or she was well treated.

Slavery is very important in this research in order to understand how supremacy acts upon people. Now that we have briefly described how this system worked, let

² "Esclavitud." Microsoft® Encarta® 2009 [DVD]. Microsoft Corporation, 2008.

³ *ibid.*



us explain that—people who became slaves were people who usually lost in wars. According to Encarta, people in jail, who had committed any kind of crime, were taken as slaves. The same happened with people who sold themselves or any member of their family to pay a debt.

With slavery as a part of history, we can prove that supremacy of races has always existed. But the idea of White Supremacy has its own story, although it comes from the same desire and fight for power that the big civilizations before our era had.

In order to understand better how White Supremacy extended its influence all over the world, we have divided it within two periods.

1.4 First Period

If we analyze the actions described above, we will realize that a first period of Supremacy was present while slavery existed, when America was found. That means that people believed in some kind of superiority although it was not known as White Supremacy in this period.

We cannot establish an exact date of this first period, but we can say that this phenomenon began early in the history of the world. Slavery was found, at least in America, with the arrival of European people on our continent. We refer to the discovery of America in 1492. Christopher Columbus reached our land and brought with him all the ideas of superiority and power. Thanks to that, European people could conquer us and rule us as they wanted.

As we know, our conquerors – the Spanish— gave us their ideas, customs, language and religion, among other things, but they also took our gold, culture, language, and religion. They saw themselves as kings so they decided to rule over us, to reduce almost everything we had. They made our native people slaves; inferior people who did not receive any price, money, or significant reward. It is an



important event in South American history because Spaniards took “Indians” to be slaves. People from Spain used this resource to gain power and establish who the strongest ones were.

But this idea did not work at all because the “Indians” were not used to living in slavery, so they began to die quickly, due to lack of nutrition and bad health. The Spanish people had brought strange illnesses that Native people did not know about, so they could not develop the needed defenses to protect themselves. For this reason, Spaniards decided to bring black people to work on our land.

According to the information taken from Encarta, Negroes were stronger than the Indians, so they could work better in the same conditions. Thus, black slaves’ markets began. There were some European countries which bought and imported black people as slaves. One of these countries was Portugal, which needed people to work on its farms. Portugal was the first country that imported black people from African coasts. It started in 1444, and by 1460 it brought more or less 700 to 800 slaves per year.

Then Spain followed the same method, and began to import slaves to America to work in place of the weak Indians. Spain started this practice in the middle of the XV century, and it lasted until the 19th century. Not all the prisoners arrived in America because they died while traveling. During the three centuries slaves were imported from Africa, 15% to 20% died in ships, and at least ten million people were made slaves.⁴

After that, in 1607 the Europeans came to our continent. Let us remember that these people reached America because they wanted freedom, money, and peace.

⁴ Information taken from: "Esclavitud." Microsoft® Encarta® 2009 [DVD]. Microsoft Corporation, 2008.



These were the most important reasons that European people came to live in a land that they did not know or love. They had a hard time in America because they were not prepared for the weather they found there. In spite of that, they survived thanks to the help of some native tribes.

Time went by and the country became the United States of America. People settled not only in the Northern part but also in the South where the land was different. People in the South began to work on plantations; they needed people to take care of them. The number of slaves in the United States began to increase in the middle of the 17th century.

In short, slavery was present in America almost since the arrival of European people for the first time. Little by little, slavery came to an end, and although the United States was one of the first countries in abolishing it, it took several years and a war to finish with it. However, slavery is an important argument that supports that White Supremacy has been present since America was founded.

Another important aspect of this first period of White Supremacy refers to the mixing of races. As we know, Spanish people mixed with native women. They had the power to do that because they were the conquerors. They did not respect our women, so they mixed our races, thus creating the half-blood race, a general characteristic of Latin America. Children who were born from those unions did not have special treatment.

Then, if we analyze the period of conquest in North America, we will see that they used a different strategy. They avoided mixing with the people who already lived there. They wanted to keep their blood, their ideas, their freedom and their superiority. Because of that, people who came from Europe to what is the USA today, forced them to move native people, and took their land, their animals, and their food.



But that does not mean that European people who arrived in North America were not cruel. They also killed native people, not only through wars and weapons but also with sicknesses they brought along. As in Latin America, Europeans used and eliminated the resources native people had. Without food, health, and land, they disappeared little by little until just a few Reservations survived.

Race and slavery were important factors for the development of White Supremacy. Although the mixture of race was different in the North and the rest of America, slavery was as hard in both parts. After black people in the USA obtained their freedom, and people in Latin America got rid of the Spanish, a new era began an event that gave way to the second period of White Supremacy.

1.5 Second Period

The United States had solved their problem of Reconstruction. The South was producing again and the country had become a powerful one. In this context, there was no need for hatred. However, modernity brought with it a lot of discoveries, new ideas, new light, among other things. These successes caused people to develop themselves in different ways. In modernity, people began to think about themselves, about the importance of reason and all the bad things religious people did. Here, mind, reason, and human beings were real things. Somewhere in this paragraph you need to specify a date or make a time reference

The second period of White Supremacy was born when people began to think once more about the questions men had not solved yet. That is, where did the world come from? Who was man? What did man do in the world? Among these philosophical questions, there was one that is very interesting to consider. The question was: Why were there so many races around the world? And of course, the question brought more questions: Was there a superior race? Were all races the same? Why were some human beings so different from others?



People began to reflect on those questions when the Modern Period (around 1500 to 1800)⁵ had passed and the Contemporary Age had started. That was in the 19th century. Although the practice of the ideology of White Supremacy has been present through history, as we have seen, it was not until this century that people began to give a name to this way of thinking. There were some people, not exactly philosophers, who wrote and thought about the race issue.

1.5.1 Joseph Arthur De Gobineau

PICTURE # 1

Joseph Arthur de Gobineau



http://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Arthur_de_Gobineau

Joseph Arthur de Gobineau was born in 1816 in France. He came from a family who descended from the Normandy lineage, so he was proud of his origins. He studied in Switzerland, where he learned German. Some years later, he traveled to

⁵ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Early_modern_period



Paris where he worked as a journalist and a writer. Thanks to the friendship of Tocqueville, a philosopher, writer and politician from France, Gobineau worked as a politician in different jobs until he retired in 1877. In that year he met Richard Wagner, a famous composer who shared Gobineau's ideas.

Thanks to Wagner, Gobineau became famous. Wagner admired him, and when Joseph died suddenly in 1882, Wagner expanded his ideas through a magazine which he directed.

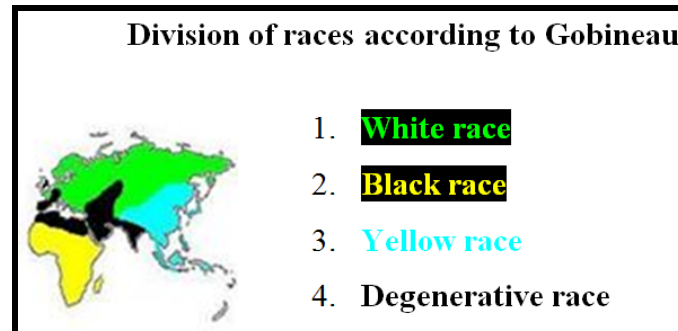
Gobineau's most famous work is called *Essay of the Inequality of Human Races* written between 1853 and 1855. In this essay he explained that one race should be superior to the others because events along history demonstrated that. His theory said that there was a race that is superior over all. That race should avoid mixing with the others because it caused degeneration in its superiority.

He showed that by analyzing the rise and fall of the different major civilizations that have existed throughout history. He said that the fall of those civilizations was due to the mixing of races. When a superior race mixed with an inferior one it became bad, damaged, and led to chaos. Gobineau believed that race created culture, so when it was mixed it would break the frontiers that there were among races, and everything would end terribly.

This author made a division of races. For him there were three main races: the blacks, yellows, and whites. He said that each race had its own characteristics, but one was always the superior: the white. Besides that, he considered the mixed races to be degenerative because they were not kept "pure." The degenerative people were the people of [Spain](#), southern [France](#), southern and western [Iran](#), most of [Italy](#), and a large part of [Britain](#). This classification did not include America.



MAP # 1



http://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Arthur_de_Gobineau

This map shows the racial classification scheme of the anthropologist Joseph Arthur Comte de Gobineau.

Gobineau considered the white race superior because it was supposed that the ancient Europeans came from the Aryans, and they, together with the Germans, had to give birth again to the superior race. For him, there have been ten great civilizations, and all of them were started by the whites:

1. The Indian civilization—built by white Aryans.
2. The Egyptian civilization—founded by an Aryan branch from India.
3. The Assyrians—to which are attached other civilizations such as the Jewish and the Phoenician. According to Gobineau, these were Hamites and Semites. Gobineau places the Iranian civilizations here, but mentions that they are Aryans.
4. The Greeks—originally Aryans, but with Semitic elements.



5. The Chinese civilization—like the Egyptian, founded by an Aryan colony from India.
6. The old civilization of the Italian Peninsula became a mosaic of Celts, Iberians, Aryans, and Semites.
7. The Germanic races (which) transformed in the fifth century the western spirit—they were Aryans.
8. The Alleghanian civilizations in America.
9. The Mexican civilizations in America.
10. The Peruvian civilization in America.⁶

Although Gobineau believed that the white was the superior race, he thought that fight for race would destroy humanity. As we said before, he thought race-mixing was the fall of big civilizations. He was not optimistic about the future of humanity

This was the first racist who believed in White Supremacy as it is known today. But he was not the only one. There were some other thinkers who supported Gobineau's ideas. Among those people was Richard Wagner, who was Gobineau's very close friend.

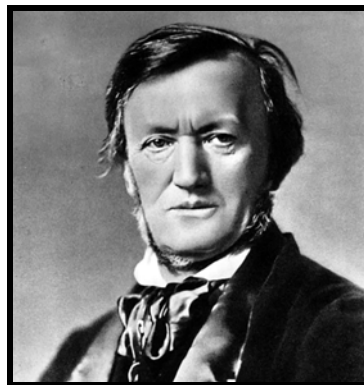
⁶ http://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Arthur_de_Gobineau



1.5.2 Richard Wagner

Picture # 2

Richard Wagner



http://2.bp.blogspot.com/_ADom8ach2mM/SuHCOMrOvNI/AAAAAAAAABDM/wvIRzkPQbQU/s1600/RICHARD+WAGNER.jpg

Richard Wagner was born in 1813 in Germany. He was better known as an opera composer than a writer. He believed that drama and music were equally important. He was considered an innovator within the field of music.

In addition to this, he had a strong influence upon the political thoughts of his era. He was in favor of Nationalism, so he was considered anti- Semitic. In his works that did not refer to music, he expressed his ideas about a superior race. He read Gobineau's works, and he liked his ideas. He found in Gobineau's ideas an alma mater which explained his exact thoughts.

Wagner admired Gobineau. He met him in Paris, where they became excellent friends until Joseph's death. Wagner expanded his friend's thoughts by translating



and publicizing them in his magazine, *Bayreuther Blätter*. This magazine continued in spite of Gobineau's and Wagner's deaths.

Within literature, Wagner is known for his *Heroism and Christianity*, where he exposed the same ideas as Gobineau but with a different tone. Gobineau believed that race-mixing was the end of humanity. Wagner was optimistic. He believed in the degeneration of races.

He thought that races were unequal; that a superior race could dominate, and that race-mixing did not permit an inferior race to improve to become a noble one. If a superior race mixed with an inferior one, the superior would lose its power and purity. He agreed with Gobineau when he said that race-mixing would end the noble ideals of humanity because half-blood people would not be appreciative to art.

But Wagner found a solution in order to avoid the complete degeneration of races. They, as the superior race, should help the inferior ones to understand that only by being conscious of pain, human beings could acquire a high morality. High morality would prevent the ruin of the world. Wagner wrote that the Aryan race should soften humanity's pain through arts and sensitivity.

This idea, however, did not mean that the superior race should dominate nor submit to the inferior races. He said that it was necessary to recognize who had superiority of conscience (white race), this in order to not mix the race. He looked for a moral conscience which saw the human quality in spite of race. He affirmed that there was not equality in mind or culture, but that people should build a sense of moral humanity that avoided the abuse of exploitation and dominion.

Gobineau and Wagner put on paper a theory that for so long people have been practicing. They were considered racists because they excluded races that were



not equal to them. Sometime after their writings appeared, there came an important person who took those ideas, and used them to kill people because he considered them as undeserving of life for being “inferior.” That person created commotion around the world.

We refer to World War II, more specifically to the persecution Adolph Hitler brought against Jewish people. From there, ideas about superiority and “cleanness” expanded around the whole world, and he fought to that purpose. He believed very strongly that a superior race should rule, so he had to find the inferior race to oppress. To him, the Jewish race perfectly modeled what he considered “inferior”.

1.5.3 Adolph Hitler

Picture # 3

Adolph Hitler



Hulton Deutsch, Microsoft® Encarta® 2009 [DVD]. Microsoft Corporation,
2008

Adolph Hitler was born in 1889 in Austria. He was one of the strongest dictators in Germany's history.



We consider Hitler part of the philosophy of White Supremacy because he was its biggest performer. According to Nietzsche's ideas, Hitler was what that philosopher called a "superman."

It is important to remember that Hitler read authors that had his same ideas (Gobineau, Wagner, Nietzsche, etc.), and he applied these ideas before and during World War II.

Adolph Hitler was considered a very strong anti-Semitic who believed that only a superior race could rule the world. For him, the superior race was German because of its superiority in mind, arts, and actions. This was contradictory since history considers him a descendant of Jews, the people he hated most.

Conscious of what he was doing, he led Germany to a complete defeat. Hitler was a clear example of the "will of power" that says that all things men do are because they want to obtain power. In order to fulfill this, he forgot the traditional values by which our society is ruled, and created a new people without conscience, values, or morality.

From this point of view, Hitler possessed all the elements a white supremacist should have. He hated all the people who he believed were not equal to him. He worked more than any other man to eliminate the ones who were undesirable, and to build a country where only noble men would live and dominate. Unfortunately for him, but luckily for the world, he did not fulfill his goals. He committed suicide in 1945, when Germany did not have any possibility of winning the war.

There were just a few people who exposed their ideas about White Supremacy and gained followers. From the time this theory has appeared in writing, many people have reflected on it. There were a lot of people who found the theory acceptable because the arguments were strong. On the other hand, there were other people



who explained that the theory about superiority of races was unsustainable since all human beings were equal.

Among the writings that support White Supremacy there was an article called: “La mezcla de razas” by Mojlir (a Spanish author) who explained that a half-blood person or country was unstable and produced division. The author talked about the South American countries that have lived for a long time in continuous political, social, economic, and spiritual crises.

Mojlir stated that countries that have been mixed with superior races were the reason for the existence of vices such as alcohol, tobacco, and sexual immorality. He defined, as had his predecessors, that only the purity of races would save humanity from chaos.

This interesting point of view explained how foreign people saw people from the rest of the world. The idea was controversial since the mixing began thanks to the sexual desire of those who were considered the “pure” race.

People, writers and philosophers like Mojlir, thought they had the right to ignore other people’s rights just because of the strange idea of a superior race. We saw this when we talked about slavery and the Civil War in the United States. Those events were like a lamp that illuminated the path of a racial ideology. A path has grown in the whole world. Today, there are many groups that think that the racial issue is the salvation for the world.

These groups have planted hatred, prejudice, and unhappiness in a world they said they loved. And now we can see the consequences. Poverty, hunger, insecurity are the result of a world of selfishness, where power and control are the most important things. The world dealt with a crazy man, who killed people using the cruelest means.



History was and will be full of them. Power is control, so power means superiority, money, and success. As an example, and a very clear one, we have the Apartheid in South Africa that minimized Black people's rights.

1.6 The Apartheid

Following the line of White Supremacy, we will refer to South Africa, where the majority of the population is black. Throughout South Africa's history, the Negroes have been mistreated due to their skin color.

South Africa has possessed a small white population since the country was a colony. This white population comes from Great Britain, Germany, and France⁷. From the beginning, white people have oppressed native people by denying them their rights. In 1948 the National Party (NP) of South Africa legalized a system that has been practiced since then. The system was called "apartheid," which in Afrikaans language means "segregation".

Their system separated people into three groups: whites, battues or Negroes, and half-blood. Then the Indians were added to the groups a little later. The segregation also consisted of classifying the places where these different groups could settle, the kind of jobs they could have, the type of education they would receive, and the kind of friends they could have because segregation prevented inter-relations among the different social groups. Of course, a non-white would not participate in politics.

The appearance of the Apartheid in South Africa affected the lifestyle of people in great measure. The Apartheid, like slavery, caused the separation of families because if the wife worked in a white place, the husband could not visit her. This

⁷ "Sudáfrica." Microsoft® Encarta® 2009 [DVD]. Microsoft Corporation, 2008.



program caused controversy in international politics, but the UN could not interfere in the internal affairs of South Africa.

Then, in 1960, white people tried to make of the Apartheid a “separated development” where black people acquired poor pieces of land called *Bantustans* which were designated to be separate states. Meanwhile, white people kept 80% of the land. This situation instigated strikes, violence, and boycotts, so the new idea did not improve things.

Little by little, black people gained power in politics. In 1990 president Frederik Willem de Klerk ended Apartheid by giving freedom to Nelson Mandela and legalizing political organizations of black people. In 1994 Nelson Mandela became the first black president of the Republic of South Africa.

Picture # 4

Mandela and De Klerk



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Although blacks obtained a “happy ending” by recovering a little power, that did not mean that racism has disappeared. Authorities have been working hard to introduce a change in people’s mind, but that has not been an easy issue since blacks believed they were still inferior to whites. So, the Apartheid gives us a better idea of what White Supremacy is, and what can come of it.

When white people obtained power, they did everything possible to neutralize blacks. The benefits of rich people were more important than the rights and benefits of the majority of people who lived there. The Apartheid showed us how White Supremacy worked.

Apartheid is an example from faraway lands which reflects racism. Racism exists not only there, but in places that are very close to us. This is an example from Africa, but White Supremacy is present on our continent, too. There are many individuals and groups who follow that doctrine, but for now, let us focus on the United States where there are big and important groups that practice white superiority.

There are a lot of groups, ideologies, and people that belong –in some way or another – to this movement. There is one group in particular that reflects the attitude of White Supremacy very well. This group did a lot of damage to the United States and, for us, it is a matter of great interest. We refer to the Ku Klux Klan, which has been active since the Civil War.

Before we start studying the history of the Ku Klux Klan, let us say some things regarding this group. It is important to know that this organization defends primarily White Supremacy but that is not the only principle this organization has. As a white supremacist institution, it professes nativism, too. Although its facts and ideologies do not demonstrate this, the KKK is a “Christian” organization that defends the Bible’s principals and values. The KKK does not recognize that they are a terrorist



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organization, but actions speak for themselves. In addition to this, the Ku Klux Klan belongs to the groups that in history have been called Secret Organizations.

Why do we study the Ku Klux Klan and its history? We do it in order to demonstrate that this organization is clear proof of White Supremacy and racism, and that the KKK has influenced a lot of racial organizations in existence today.



CHAPTER II

BEGINNINGS OF THE KKK

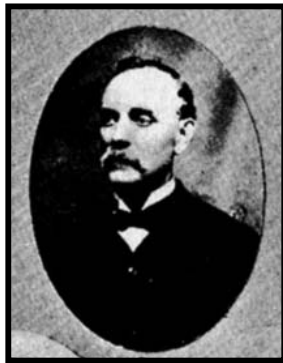
The Ku Klux Klan was born after the Civil War in 1865 during the Reconstruction Period. The Civil War left a great deal of destruction in the southern states. Before the war, Southerners were against the freedom of slaves; for Southerners this meant that their social and economic ways of life were threatened. White Southerners considered blacks to be less than them. Consequently, after the Civil War, even though slaves were free, they still existed as inferior components of society. Ex-slaves were discriminated against and most of them still carried out the same labors that they had before the war. All these feelings and thoughts of white superiority lead to hatred towards blacks.

After the war ended, six young men who had escaped death on the battle field returned to their hometown, Pulaski, Tennessee. They were Captain John C. Lester, Major James R. Crowe, John D. Kennedy, Calvin Jones, Richard R. Reed and Frank O. McCord. They had all fought on the Confederate side. John Kennedy, who was twenty-five years old, had been wounded three times and had been imprisoned at Camp Douglas. James Crowe, who was twenty-eight years old, had served as a major with the Fourth Alabama Volunteers and had been wounded in the first battle of Manassas.⁸

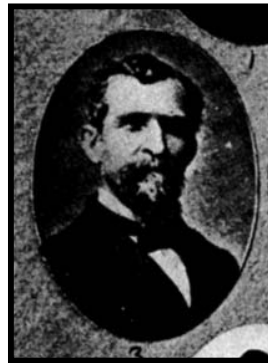
⁸ Wade Craig, Wyn. *The Ku KluxKlan in America: The Fiery Cross*. New York; Oxford University Press. 1987.



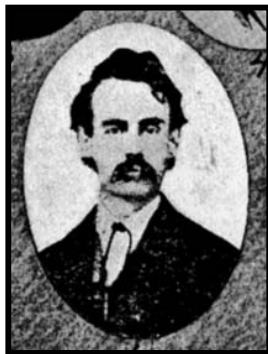
Picture # 5
Ku Klux Klan's Founders



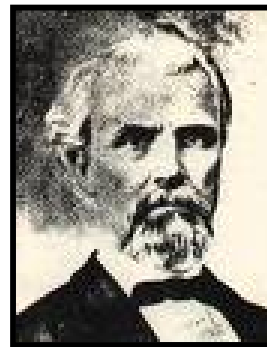
Major J.R. Crowe



John C. Lester



Calvin Jones



John D. Kennedy





Richard R. Reed

Frank O. McCord

<http://www.kkklan.com/wall.htm>

2.1 Creation of the Name

After the Civil War these six confederate soldiers, known as the "immortal six", found themselves bored and with nothing to do. Tennessee was under tight military control. There were no jobs and the townspeople were sullen. Southerners were experiencing extreme monotony. The night of December 24, 1865, the six Confederate soldiers gathered around a fireplace and tried to find a way to amuse themselves, John Lester suggested they form a secret club, and the rest thought it was a great idea. As they discussed the idea, they decided to split up into two groups. The first committee was responsible for creating a name for the secret organization, while the other group was in charge of creating a formal set of rules.

During the second meeting, the first committee had come up with the name "the circle." John Kennedy proposed to translate it into the Greek Kuklos. This way nobody would know its meaning. Also, Kennedy suggested adding Klan to the name since they were Scotch-Irish descents. This addition gave the name, according to Kennedy, a sound similar to "bones rattling together." Encouraged by their ghostly name, they all dressed up with sheets, and they put pillow cases on their heads. They rode through the town scaring people.

Gradually they changed their sheets and pillow cases into more elaborate outfits. They wore white gowns belted at the waist and tall conical witches' hats. These hats covered their heads completely, and they had an eyehole to allow them to see. Additionally, the members competed to see who could come up with the best outfit of all.



2.2 The Original Purpose of Ku Klux Klan

As for the rules, the second committee came up with a chain of command for six mystical officers, one for each of the members. In the first scale of command was the Grand Cyclops (McCord), who was the president, and the Grand Magi (Kennedy), who was the Vice President. Crowe became the first Grand Turk, who was an adjutant to the Grand Cyclops. Lester and Jones served as Night Hawks, who were in charge of protecting their meetings from any intruder. As for Reed, he was a Lictor, in charge of keeping order within the meetings.⁹

At that time the Klan did not have an established purpose except to just have fun, make mischief, and play pranks on the public. The townspeople were delighted with the Klan's marches at barbecues or outdoor events. Therefore, the Klan was seen as a social group for amusement and nothing more.

2.3 The Ku Klux Klan's Ritual and Oath

Soon the Ku Klux Klan became so popular that they started to take applications for membership. No member of the Klan was allowed to reveal his identity. Instead, a Klansman would express his desire to unite an outsider, and if that person shared the same desire, the Klansman would then say, "Well, I think I know how to get in. Meet me at such a place, on such a night, at such an hour, and we will join together." (Fry: 66)

⁹ Fry, Henry P. *The Modern Ku Klux Klan*. Honolulu, Hawaii, University Press of the Pacific, 1922.



Once the applicant was at the determined place, Klan members dressed up as horsemen would blindfold him and take him to the outskirts of the town. As they approached the hideout, the Lictor would question him to assure that his desire to join the Klan was real. He used the following questions:

1. Is the motive prompting your ambition to be a Klansman serious and unselfish?
2. Are you a native born, white, Gentile American citizen?
3. Are you absolutely opposed to and free of any allegiance of any nature to any cause, government, people, sect or ruler that is foreign to the United States of America?
4. Do you believe in the tenets of the Christian religion?
5. Do you esteem the United States of America and its institutions above any other government, civil, political or ecclesiastical, in the whole world?
6. Will you without mental reservation, take a solemn oath to defend, preserve and enforce same?
7. Do you believe in clannishness and will you faithfully practice same toward Klansmen?
8. Do you believe in and will you faithfully strive for the eternal maintenance of white supremacy?
9. Will you faithfully obey our constitution and laws, and conform willing to all pur usages, requirements and regulations?
10. Can you always be depended on? (Fry: 69)

After answering the questions satisfactorily, the candidate, who was under the impression that his buddy was receiving the same treatment, was conducted around the room with several obstacles in his path. They placed him before the Grand Cyclops, who would question him one last time before he could wear the



“regal crow.” The “regal crow” was a huge hat decorated with large donkey ears on the sides. Later, he was taken to the “royal altar” which was a large dressing mirror. There he would have to recite the popular poem by Robert Burns:

O wad some power the giftie gie us

To see oursels as ithers see us (Fry: 71)

As he pronounced the last words, the Grand Turk would remove the blindfold. The candidate would see his reflection in the mirror and would realize the fool he had made of himself. While the aspirant turned around, he would see himself surround by men dressed up in ugly clothing and wearing dreadful masks laughing at him. The masks would help the Klansmen protect their secret identity. All these procedures were taken from the initiation ritual of college fraternities of those days. From its beginning the Klan was very careful with the men who were admitted since they wanted to maintain their secrecy. Men who were imprudent or addicted to some sort of narcotic were not accepted. At least in this first period, the Klan was composed of men with great character and good habits.

On some occasions, the Klan would have very persistent candidates who would not give up. They were so determined to join the Klan that they become annoying. On occasion, the Klan would have to use more emphatic methods with them. On one occasion, a young man wanted to join the Klan in order to become popular. They set up an initiation ritual at the top of a mountain. Once he was questioned and blindfolded, they put him in an empty barrel and send him down hill. These measures were quite extreme but they worked pretty well on persistent aspirants.



2.4 Anti-Negro

The popularity of the Klan expanded fast. Although its first objective was only to have fun, it lost this perspective. The first sign can be seen in the questions asked during the initiation. The questions emphasized the importance of being white and protecting the United States of America above all. They also mention the value of believing in white supremacy.

While the Klan continued with their pranks, blacks began to fear them. The freed men thought they were being haunted by the spirits of the Confederate soldiers who had died in the Civil War. They believed the spirits returned to life to seek revenge upon them. The Klan took advantage of this situation. Their pranks began to focus only on blacks.

Some Klan pranks became legends. One of them involved a skeleton arm which was hidden in the sleeve of the robe. When the terrorized freedman was asked to shake the Klansman's hand, the false arm would be left in his grip. Another legend tells that a Klansman would cover his head with his robe and on top he would put on a fake head. When he reached a black man, he would ask him to hold his head for a minute. The poor freedman would run away terrified. These little pranks were the beginning of countless acts against blacks.

Local newspapers enjoyed publishing these pranks, since they demonstrated the white man's mental superiority. Even though blacks were terrified, they were never hurt by any Klansmen. It was not until late 1866 and mid 1867 that the report of the first acts of anger and violence appeared.

2.5 The Ku Klux Klan Reign Of Terror 1868



During this year, the Ku Klux Klan started to terrorize the black community by whipping, beating, and intimidating them. The Klan would take away their guns and break up religious gatherings. According to Wyn Wade, author of *The Ku Klux Klan in America: The Fiery Cross*, one of the first terrorist acts against blacks happened on a Christmas Eve in Chatham County, North Carolina. Essic Harris, a former slave, was sleeping with his family in a small cabin when his wife woke up to a sound in the middle of the night. Essic got up to check when suddenly the door burst open and a band of fifteen men came into the room. They asked Essic if he had ever seen the Ku Klux Klan. The frightened man replied “No;” but the Klansmen began to search the cabin for Essic’s gun. Once they found the gun and the powder they left them.

Harris was a hard working family man. He lived on a farmer named Finch’s farm, where he raised good crops. In addition, he had a part-time job at a railroad yard. He also joined the Union League and became an active Republican. All his hard work allowed him to send his two older kids to school. However, for North Carolina Klansman, Harris was just an insolent nigger. He was insolent enough to buy another gun since the masked intruders had stolen his first one.

A week later, close to New Year’s Day, Harris had come back from a hard day’s work and had fallen asleep in a sitting position on the floor in front of the fire. This always bothered his wife, Ann. “Essic!” she said to wake him up, “you’d better go to bed instead of sitting here by the fire in everybody’s way.” Both of them went to bed and Ann, as usual, took the baby to bed with them. As they fell asleep, the dog started to bark. The hound had never barked at anything before, except on the day the KKK took away Harris’ gun. Ann woke up and cried, “Essic! The Ku Klux is coming!”



Harris jumped out of bed, and looked out into the yard. He saw nearly thirty robed men on horseback. Essic poured a buck of water on the fire and rushed to the head of the bed where he kept his shotgun, but simultaneously several gunshots smashed through the window. Ann screamed and held the baby close to her bosom and leaped between the bed tick and mat while Harris ducked under the window.

The gunshots woke up Mr. Finch. He went down in his nightgown and began to walk towards the Klansmen. "Let this nigger alone. He has a family and is hard-working nigger and doesn't bother anybody. Please let him alone." Ned Finch went to each and every one of the Klansmen while they kept firing at Essic's cabin. Soon the Klansmen got annoyed by Ned's persistence and threatened to "take care" of him after they finished up with Harris. Eventually, Mr. Finch turned away frightened.¹⁰

In the meantime, Harris was helpless in his cabin hoping everything would soon be over. The Klansmen began to bang on the door. They tried to open it but they couldn't get through because Harris had blocked it with bags of corn. They managed to open the door enough to fire a deafening hit into the room. A Klansmen suggested they should go into the cabin in order to kill Harris; however, no one had the courage to do so. Thus they started to fire at whatever they saw.

Harris was seriously injured. He glanced around the room and saw his children and nephew piled immobile under a blanket. Harris thought they were dead and that Ann had been shot, too. Full of anger, he lifted his shotgun and fired. The detonation lit up the room and Harris was able to recognize two Klansmen. They

¹⁰ Information taken from: Wade Craig, Wyn. *The Ku Klux Klan in America: The Fiery Cross*. New York; Oxford University Press. 1987



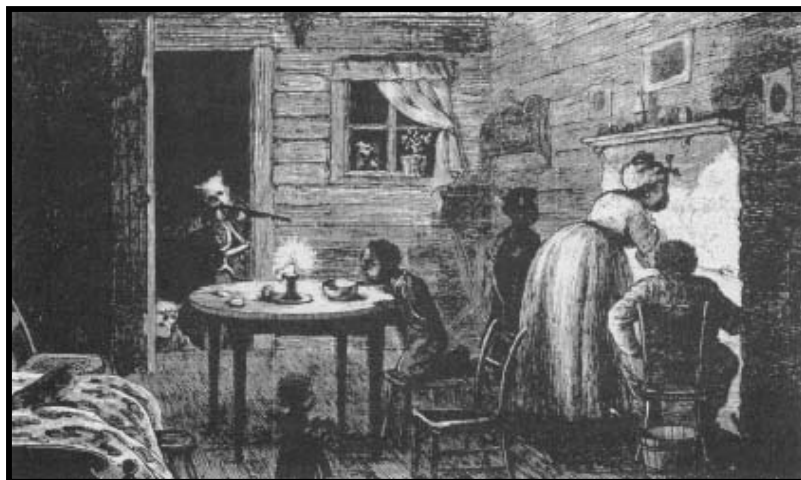
were Joe Clark, the tavern keeper, and Barney Burgess, the grocer. Harris wondered what they could have against him.

Clark and Burgess were seriously wounded. The other Klansmen were scared and confused. Harris took advantage of the confusion and yelled "Boy! Bring me my five-shooter." Of course Harris did not have such weapon, but the Klansmen believed him. Several of them even got on their horses and rode away and only a few stayed behind. While Harris started to recharge his weapon, the men outside heard him and rode away. (Wade: 88)

Mr. Finch returned to see if the family was alive. Fortunately, Harris' attack had a happy ending. No one but Harris was shot. This was a typical violent attack by the KKK between 1868 and 1871; however, only some were lucky enough to survive it.

Picture # 6

A Ku Klux Klan's attack on a black cabin, similar to the one on Harris' family.



<http://www.1st-art-gallery.com/thumbnail/104738/1/Ku-Klux-Klan-Attack-On-An-African-American-Family,-1879.jpg>



The Ku Klux Klan's popularity continued to spread. "The Klan appeared in the Kentucky bluegrass region, southern Missouri, southeastern West Virginia, and tidewater Maryland. In deep south the Klan was concentrated in the Piedmont plateau and Appalachian Highlands: western North Carolina and northern south Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi." (Wade: 89) The KKK's power grew in these areas since they had a small number of blacks. Occasionally the Klan's strength could be found in areas where the number of blacks and whites was equal, particularly where they could use their power to intimidate enough Republicans, who tended to be more sympathetic to blacks, to change the region back into a Democratic region.

Political affiliation was a crucial factor of Klan membership. Judges, clerks, sheriffs, magistrates, jurors, legislators, lawyers, doctors, and university professors could be found amongst the ranks of the Klan. These members often participated behind the scenes in a more supportive role. Once the Klan became exaggeratedly violent, these members would generally find a way to drop out of the Klan.

Gradually, the Ku Klux Klan started to attack not only blacks, but also members of the Freeman's Bureau, which was the institution to regulate the Klan's actions against blacks. Due to the violent acts committed by the Klan, the Congress decided to stop the organization formally; therefore, the Grand Wizard ordered it to disband in 1869. In spite of this, local groups remained active.

Because local law enforcement officials were unable or unwilling to stop the Klan, Congress passed the Force Bill in 1871, giving the federal government the power to prosecute the Klan. Dedicated prosecutors managed to win convictions and break up Klan activity. Although relatively few people were punished, federal action did put an end to most Klan activities.



But this was not the end of the KKK. As time passed, some secret organizations continued in the country but nothing as strong as the Klan would be in future days. Some years after the official death of the KKK, a new character appeared to give new life to this violent and unnecessary organization

CHAPTER III:

THE MODERN KLAN

3.1 Reformation

Picture # 7

W. F. Griffith



<http://www.filmsite.org/birt.html>

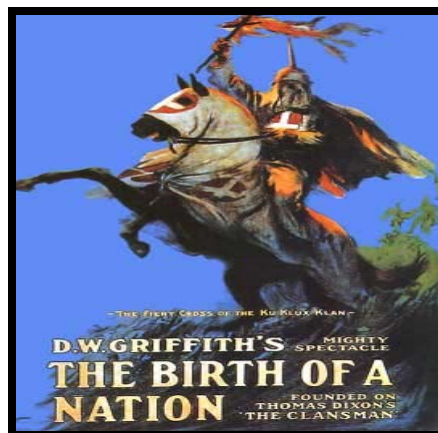
After the first rise of the Klan, after its creation, its initial reasons for being, the development of its oath and rituals, and after its first decline, a new stage began to unfold for this group. The Klan's first years might have been justified on some level, but this second stage resulted in a new and different Klan.



The excuse to reform the Klan can be found in a movie directed by W. F. Griffith called *The Birth of a Nation*. The idea was taken from Reverend Dixon, who wrote a book named *The Clansman, a Historic Romance of the Ku Klux Klan*¹¹. The book, as well as the movie, showed the KKK as a heroic organization that had saved the South from the Negroes' hands.

Picture # 8

Advertisement for the movie *The Birth of a Nation*



<http://www.filmsite.org/birt.html>

This movie had a special effect upon Sir William Simmons, who wanted to found a group that professed fraternity in terms of “comprehensive Americanism.”

3.2 Sir William Simmons

¹¹ Chalmers, David M.; Hooded Americanism, The history of the Ku Klux Klan; New York; 1991; page 22 -27



Picture # 9

Sir William Simmons



<http://www.kkk.bz/>

William J. Simmons was born in Alabama in 1880. He was the son of a farmer who had died when William was still young. Sir Simmons loved his country, and his state. He had the shadow of the Ku Klux Klan upon him because his father had been a member of the order. His family told him stories about the Negroes and he was fascinated. After a while, he enlisted in the army to fight against the Spaniards. He did not last long there, however. Poor as he was, he decided to become a minister, a career that would allow him to develop his talents. He worked twelve years as a minister, but then he was expelled because of inefficiency. He tried other jobs but none of them gave him satisfaction. His climb to success began with a car accident, and the presentation of *The Birth of a Nation* in Atlanta.

Because of the accident he had plenty of time to develop his idea for an order based upon the ideals of the Ku Klux Klan of Reconstruction times. He called people from different groups in order to achieve his aim. Among these people were



two former members of the original Klan. The group came to an agreement and the formal ceremonies took place on Thanksgiving Eve. Sir Simmons and his partners raised a cross as the sign of the revival of the Klan. Little by little the order became bigger. At first, the Klan kept the idea of fraternity. David M. Chalmers said the following:

In its initial stages, the Klan was not a night-riding organization but merely a fraternal one which stressed 100 per cent Americanism and the supremacy of the Caucasian race. It was Protestant rather than anti-Catholic, and to favor "keeping the Negro in his place" was little more than the meaning of the term, Caucasian. (Chalmers: 1991)

This idea of fraternity demonstrated once again that this group defended the philosophy of White Supremacy or the superiority of races more than any other group. The Klan, this new Klan, was founded to defend Americanism, to defend a color of skin, to defend the Caucasian race.

The Klan saw a new chance to get involved in the matters of the country when World War I began, but especially when the United States took part in it. Sir Simmons and his followers planned an objective and a role: "The nation had to be defended against alien enemies, slackers, idlers, strike leaders, and immoral women, lest victory be endangered." (Chalmers: 31)

This was what they did after deciding on their work:

Klansmen in Georgia and Alabama secretly kept tabs on local goings on and reported back. It was all very exciting. Warnings against evil-doing were posted. Robed Klansmen intervened in a shipyard strike in Mobile, hunted draft dodgers, and occasionally marched in patriotic parades. Public sentiment seemed favorable. (Chalmers: 31)



The Klan gained more followers. By 1919 the organization numbered several thousand members, but several thousand were not enough for Simmons. He continued working, and he continued maintaining the organization. But the real strike of luck for Simmons came in the form of an interesting couple.

3.3 The Southern Publicity Association

Edward Young Clarke and Mrs. Elizabeth Tyler formed the Southern Publicity Association. This couple had had some interesting experiences before joining Simmons. Clarke was a professional propagandist. He had worked raising money for the Anti-Saloon League and the Salvation Army. He looked cultured and intellectual. On the other hand, Bessie Tyler had a decisive manner of speech which gave her an air of forcefulness. She was Clarke's chief assistant and follower, and was in charge of the Southern Publicity Bureau. The couple soon saw the advantages of capitalizing on the name "Ku Klux".

The Southern Publicity Association talked with Colonel Simmons. Simmons wanted to form an even bigger organization. He wanted money, but he recognized that he did not have the gift of attracting people the way he desired. Because of this, Clarke and Simmons came into an agreement and in June of 1920 they signed a contract.

By the time Clarke and Tyler began working with the Klan, the organization already had a kind of fame. The KKK reorganized by Simmons was supposed to be secret, which was why the new KKK was called the "Invisible Empire." The Invisible Empire had an emperor which, obviously, was Colonel Simmons. It worked as a fraternal order under the name of Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Inc.,* and as a fraternal and charity order they did not have to pay any taxes.



When Clarke and his partner began to work with the Klan they were able to make a lot of money because the contract said Clarke would receive \$ 8 for each new member he himself recruited and \$ 2 for each new member subordinate Klansmen got to join. At first, the recruitment was driven toward the South, but, little by little, the field of action became even bigger. The success the Klan had was a surprise for everybody, so they decided to explore not only fraternity, secrecy, and white supremacy, but also to defend one-hundred-per-cent Americanism. That meant that the Klan would move against all non –white foreigners, and against all non-Protestant people.

3.4 The Klan’s Organization

To fulfill the new objectives of the Klan it was necessary to create some kind of organization within the organization. Henry P. Fry, in his book *The Modern Ku Klux Klan*, said that “the organization is ‘military in character’ (because) the propagation department functions in pretty much the same manner as the army handles its business” (Fry: 44).

The new Klan was formed as follows:

First of all, there was the Imperial Wizard (president) who was Sir William Simmons. This title would last until his death or when, unanimously, the Klan decided to remove Simmons from the position.

Then came the Imperial Kleagle, or Chief of Staff. Edward Y. Clarke had this charge. The Imperial Kleagle had “a small army of recruiters fanning out across the country” (Chalmers: 33). In that way, the country could be divided into regional districts, or Domains. Each Domain was controlled by a “Grand Goblin.” The Domains were divided into Realms, headed by King Kleagles. The last level of this



organization consisted of the Kleagles who were under the domain of King Kleagles.

According to Fry, there were ten domains throughout the country by July 1921. These domains were the following:

1. Domain of the Southeast, composed of Georgia, Tennessee, Virginia, Alabama, Mississippi and the two Carolinas.
2. Western Domain, composed of Arizona, Arkansas, Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, Wyoming and Montana.
3. Domain of the East, formed by the State of New York.
4. Domain of the Great Lakes: Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, Minnesota and Michigan.
5. Domain of the Mississippi Valley, composed of Nebraska, Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Minnesota, South Dakota and North Dakota.
6. Domain of the Pacific Coast: California, Washington, Nevada, Oregon and Idaho.
7. Domain of the Northwest, consolidated with the former Southwestern Domain and now part of the new Western Domain.
8. Capitol Domain: Washington D.C., and comprising the District of Columbia.
9. Atlantic Domain, composed of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland.



10. New England Domain, composed of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts and Connecticut. (Fry: 45-46)

In addition to this, the Klan also had “a Supreme Legislative Body or ‘Imperial Klonvokation’ composed of the Supreme Officers and ‘Kloppers’ (delegates selected by the Kloro (State Convention) of the Several Realms (subordinate jurisdiction)...” (Fry: 33), this quote is not correct – the parentheses are wrong, please revise and as a serious organization, the Klan possessed an ‘Imperial Kloncilium’, which was a Supreme Executive Committee.

All this was directed towards a single and very big objective: to make money by expanding the Klan all over the country. As we saw before, the Klan was divided into domains, which was the manner in which the Imperial Wizard and his helpers attracted people. Little by little the Klan gained followers. They used propaganda that sold prejudices of all kind. The Klan lost its original purpose as a fraternal order; instead it became an organization that, under the pretense of “preservation of morality and American values” came to take part in all kinds of crimes.

The Klan also had its own constitution, which was a secret document. According to Fry, this document contained the oath each member had to take before being a Ku Kluxer. This contributed to affirm that the Klan was a secret organization which, hidden under robes, acted as it wanted against people it did not like.

3.5 Simmons Vs Evans

Picture # 10

Hiram W. Evans



<http://search.intelius.com/Hiram-Wesley-Evans/pictures>

Besides the highly publicized Klan actions, there were some internal problems with the Klan. The most important one was the change of Imperial Wizard in 1922.

The wave of crime and lawlessness had given the Klan bad reputation. In most cases, when a crime was denounced and investigated, the Klan was not declared guilty; in some way or another, Sir Simmons usually found a way to disconnect the Klan from the accusations. This was prejudicial to the KKK because eventually people stopped trusting them.

Klansmen were tired of this situation, and when Sir Simmons returned to his desk after a six-month vacation to call the first annual Klonvocation of the Klan, conspirators appeared.

To better understand, consider the following:

To a group of the bright young men in the Klan ranks, several things were clear. In Simmons' weak hands and Clarke's greedy ones, violence and



scandal were hurting the Klan. Both men would have to go! The young Turks met in Atlanta's Piedmont Hotel, the night before the opening of the convention. The conspirators were Hiram W. Evans, Klan investigator Fred Savage, Louisiana's H. C. Ramsey, and the Texas and Arkansas Grand Dragons McCall and Comer. An investigator was sent over to the private railroad car of David Stephenson, asking the rising light of the Northern Klan to join them. Here was a group of ambitious men, men on the make, and the new territorial magnates of the Klan. (Chalmers: 101)

After the decision to replace Emperor Simmons, this group forced him to resign and to propose Hiram Evans as the new Emperor. Simmons was frightened but he still had power. He decided to accept Evans as temporary Emperor, but little by little things became worse. Evans assumed the power and left Simmons outside the Klan. Simmons went to court to defend his right as lifelong Emperor, but he found the constitution had changed. Instead, he claimed his copyrights, since the name of the Klan, the ritual, the regalia, the constitution and the charter belonged to him. Evans tried to solve this problem by paying him a thousand dollars a month as a pension for life, and after his death his wife would continue receiving the money. But this was not enough for Simmons and, together with Edward Clarke, he tried to destroy Evans by saying that he was squandering Klan's money.

Evans was tired of all of this so he "banished Simmons and Clarke for their treasonable activities" (Chalmers: 107) and Simmons was asked "to exchange his monthly \$1000 for a lump sum of \$146,500" (Chalmers: 107). This was the end of Sir Simmons and Ed Clarke within the Klan. Sir Simmons died in 1946 in Alabama.

Although the Emperor had changed, things inside the Klan did not change much. Crime and abuse of power were present each day in each realm. The Klan continued vending prejudices. The Klan also continued defending its ideal of



“morality” and White Supremacy,” but overall, the Klan was not able to recover its good fame.

The people who guided the Klan were ministers, primarily. It is said that “in St. Louis, where the Invisible Empire claimed great support from local ministers, a sermon on the questions ‘What would Jesus say about the Ku Klux Klan? Would he accept their gifts?’ concluded that he would have been a Klansman.” (Chalmers: 136)

Thanks to this ideology, the Klan could survive a little longer, and, in a certain way, it was able to justify its actions. But as always happens with great empires, this one also began to fall.

3.6 Some Klan Crimes

The philosophy of crime and abuse was successful in the twenties. There was one Klan, at the very least, in each state. In some states they were welcome, but in others they were not accepted. That was due to the actions of the members of the Klan.

David M. Chalmers very thoroughly documented the existence of the Klan in the different states. He recounted some of the crimes this organization committed.

3.6.1 Case One

In Denton, for example, the Klan took two Negroes from jail and flogged them. A Negro bellhop in Dallas was flogged, KKK was branded on his forehead with acid, and he was dumped in front of the hotel. A warning, signed KKK, sent striking Negroes back to the cotton fields of Corsicana at the old rate of fifty cents a hundred pounds. When a Negro dentist was kidnapped and whipped, the resulting rumors of retaliation and racial



warfare brought the Klan out, armed and badged, to patrol the streets of Houston. (Chalmers: 41)

But the actions of the Klan did not just focus upon Negroes. They were interested in "... protect(ing) God, Country, Home, Womanhood, the South and White Supremacy" (Chalmers: 41). Accordingly, Klansmen punished people who went against these principles, and this included white people who got divorced, remarried, or had some kind of relationship with blacks, Catholics or immoral women.

3.6.2 Case Two

Another crime that was very famous at the same time the Klan rose to power was one committed by "The Old Man", or David Clarke Stephenson, Grand Dragon in Indiana. He was born in 1891 in Texas, did not finish school, and held several jobs in his life. He participated in the army, where he learned he could do whatever he wanted if he joined a body of men. Of course, he wanted power. At some point he found himself, and discovered he was a salesman. For him, businesses were a matter of appearance, and he was successful. People trusted him, and he began to speak as a politician.

Picture # 11

David Clarke Stephenson



<http://law.jrank.org/pages/2859/D-C-Stephenson-Trial-1925--I-Am-Law-in-Indiana.html>

Stephenson was a very important figure for the Klan because he recruited thousands of followers for the organization. He was a very fluent orator, so he won a lot of people over. He was an ambitious man; he had helped Hiram Evans to remove Sir William Simmons as the Imperial Wizard. They were successful, so in compensation Evans named Steve as the new Grand Dragon in Indiana and in 22 other northern states. It was the early twenties; he was a multimillionaire, so he had power and called himself “the law in Indiana.”

With his fame, he aspired to get to the White House, and he was pretty close to reaching it, but the disagreements he had with Evans, (he had formed a new KKK that was called “the second wave”) and his desire for a woman, stopped his career. He was called “The Old Man” because in his thirties he had traveled more than



other people in his situation, in addition to the fact that he was successful at attracting people.

Stephenson fell in love with Madge Oberholtzer, a not particularly attractive woman, according to some pictures of her. She was twenty eight years old, weighted 145 pounds, and was single. She was in charge of a program to stop illiteracy. They met at a political meeting and they attracted each other. They had a relationship but when Madge found out Steve was a ku kluxer, she decided to break up with him.

It was March, 1925. One night Stephenson called on her but she was not at home. When she arrived, she was notified that he was looking for her. She returned the call and she was asked to go to Stephenson's Irvington house. When she went, escorted by a body-guard, she was forced to drink with Stephenson, who was already drunk. Then, Steve's people took her "aboard his drawing room on the train to Chicago. She was unsteady from her drinks and he pulled off her clothes and pushed her on to the berth. He attacked her and then began chewing all over her body." (Chalmers: 171)

Picture # 12

Madge Oberholtzer



<http://law.jrank.org/pages/2859/D-C-Stephenson-Trial-1925--I-Am-Law-in-Indiana.html>

The next day they got off the train at Hammond. Madge received money from Steve to buy a hat, but instead she bought mercuric chloride tablets and took them in an attempt to commit suicide. Steve was afraid; however, he tried to take advantages of this situation. He proposed to take her to a hospital only if she agreed to marry him. She refused, and while Steve and his people returned to Indianapolis she was in agony, but they would not stop and look for a doctor.

A day passed; Madge was still alive, but without a doctor because she continued to refuse Steve's proposal. Madge was taken to her home, where she died ten days later. Her father charged D. C. Stephenson with murder.

During the trial Steve's lawyers tried to defend him by saying that Madge had died by her own hand, but the other side argued that she could die only because of the bites. Besides, Stephenson did not take her to a doctor, which meant that he did



not prevent Madge's death. Steve went to prison for life, accused of second-degree murder.

This murder, together with the publicity caused by the trial, led to the decline of the Klan. The KKK had won a bad reputation despite Evans' attempts to deny everything.

3.7 "One Hundred Percent Americanism"

As a racist group, the KKK adopted the slogan "a hundred percent Americanism" which meant that just people who had been born in the United States, were Protestants, and had noble descendants, could live there. Understood in that way, the slogan meant "Nativism." It is interesting to analyze the terms the Klan used to defend its nativism. For example, what was the meaning of Americanism for a Klansman? This is one definition:

Americanism as it falls from the lips of the Klansman is synonymous with Nativism. That is to say, one hundred per cent Americanism is identified in the mind of a Klansman with a body of religious, political, economic, and social traditions indigenous to the original American stock and their descendants.¹²

The term "Americanism" means opposition to immigration, and, in order to reach this objective, to work to prevent foreign people from entering into the United States. The idea of Americanism is not new, since it has existed in different stages of the history of the country.

Nativism or Native Americanism is a movement which has manifested itself in varying forms and with varying intensity for almost one hundred years. It

¹² Moffatt Mecklin, John; *The Ku Klux Klan: A Study of the American Mind*; Russell&Russell, Inc.; 1924; United States; pag. 127.



originated as a movement of self-defense on the part of the older native stock threatened with submergence by the recurrent waves of immigration. (Mecklin: 128-129)

As we know, people from all over the world have come to the United States looking for opportunities for a better life. Some studies have shown that there have been four waves of immigration without taking into account the most recent ones in the eighties.

According to John Mecklin, there were four major waves of immigration:

1. From 1831 to 1861.
2. From 1862 to 1877
3. From 1878 to 1897
4. From 1898 to the breaking of the World War I

All these waves have had a peak, and the United States has received people from the whole world. In the first and second wave came people from the British Isles and from Germany. In the third wave people from British, Germany, Italy, Austria-Hungary, and Russia arrived in the United States, and in the last one, the country saw people from Italy, Austria-Hungary, and Russia.

Another important thing about immigration is the fact that most people who came to the country were Roman Catholics. People living in the United States saw this as a dangerous situation for them because the foreign people were loyal to the Pope. This, they thought, went against the Constitution of the United States.

Therefore, considering this, secret anti-immigration orders began to appear, especially in the 1850s. A famous order from that time is the Know Nothings. They



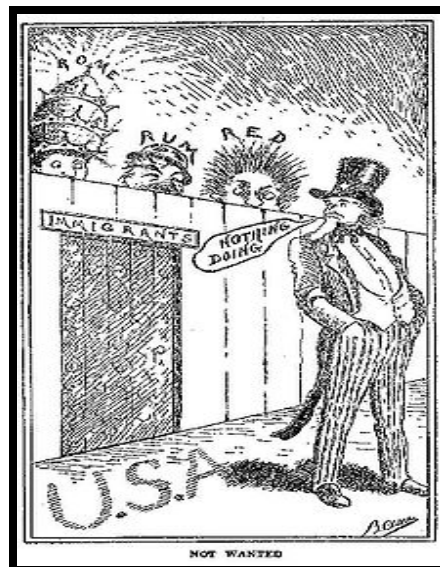
were referred to in this way because when people who did not belong to the order asked about it, they only answered “I know nothing.” The Know Nothings can be considered the antecedent of the KKK since it was a secret order that had an oath, a grip, passwords and rituals. Besides this, they soon gained sympathizers and the group expanded along the United States. It participated in politics, the same as the Klan.

But what was the objective of the Anti- immigration groups?

(They) sought to inculcate pure Americanism by opposing all foreign influence, by insisting upon the separation of church and state, by keeping public schools free from ecclesiastical influence and by requiring longer residence of foreigners before admission to citizenship. (Mecklin: 130)

Picture # 13

Cartoon about the Know Nothings (1928)



[http://en.wikipedia.org/Nativism_\(politics\).htm](http://en.wikipedia.org/Nativism_(politics).htm)



This was the general idea among the orders that appeared in order to prevent immigration. They said that people who had not been born in the country were not qualified to live there because their culture and language were different. Among other important arguments were these:

- Government expense: Government expenses may exceed tax revenue relating to new immigrants.
- Language: Isolate themselves in their own communities and refuse to learn the local language.
- Employment: Acquire jobs which would have otherwise been available to native citizens, and cause a suppression of wages.
- Patriotism: Damage a sense of community and nationality.
- Consumption: Increase the consumption of scarce resources.
- Welfare: Make heavy use of social welfare systems.
- Overpopulation: May sometimes overpopulate countries.
- Culture: Can swamp a native population and replace its culture with their own.
- Increase housing costs: Migrant families can reduce vacancies and cause rent increases.¹³

The Know Nothings worked to pass restrictions on immigration laws in the same manner as the new groups. In 1873, Republicans and Democrats defended Nativism; Republicans suggested that there should be a “Constitutional amendment preventing the use of public funds or property in support of sectarian schools.” (Mecklin: 131)

¹³ [http://wikipedia/Nativism_\(politics\).htm](http://wikipedia/Nativism_(politics).htm)



After the Know Nothings came groups like the American Protective Association, (A.P.A), the National League for the Protection of American Institutions, the Immigration Restriction League, the Anti-Asian Movements, and the Gentlemen's Agreement of 1907, among others.

But what happened to the KKK? The organization followed in the steps of the Know Nothings as was mentioned previously. The Klan was an organization that did not accept foreign people because, according to the KKK, they were not smart. Immigrants could not absorb the "American culture, faith, or language." The KKK used the Know Nothings' literature to defend its ideas.

Today, "America for the Americans," means a lot of things. Let us remember that politicians in the USA depend a great deal on the immigrants' votes. So, they look for programs that include immigrants' rights in some way. People that belonged to the Klan, in addition to its sympathizers, thought that immigrants should not be allowed to elect anyone because they were ignorant, illiterate, and did not understand "American" life.

Besides this, what is America for them? Who are the Americans? What are their conceptions? These are interesting questions that are worthy of consideration.

Let us remember that according to people who live in USA, there are seven continents: North America, South America, Africa, Australia, Asia, Europe, and



Antarctic.¹⁴ For them, America is two continents not one. Thus it is clear why the Klan uses the slogan “America for the Americans.”¹⁵

This is an argument to say that the KKK defends Nativism although the group was posterior to the other ones mentioned above. Klansmen used the same sources as the Know Nothings, their literature and laws.

When people from Mexico and Latin America began to arrive, illegally or legally, in the USA, the Klan and its sympathizers tried to prevent it. They said that immigrants would destroy the American society because their values were not the same as the conservative people living in the country. Besides, they would not learn English, nor would they adopt the new culture, and they would take American people's jobs.

To prevent this, the Klan suggested that “Mexicans and Greeks should also be sent back to where they came from, (...) in order that white supremacy and the purity of Americans be defended.” (Chalmers: 218). In addition, they were in favor of eliminating Columbus' Day as a national holiday. Many laws stopping immigrants were proposed.

The idea of Nativism in the Klan did not come from the beginning of the organization since it was Simmons together, with Clarke and Tyler, who sold the

¹⁴ Silva A., Gustavo; *America for the Americans*: Las consecuencias que una visión geocéntrica tiene para la traducción; pag. 10

¹⁵ Ideas taken from: www.uclm.es/.../congresos/.../Silva%20-%20texto%20definitivo.rtf - Silva A., Gustavo; *America for the Americans*: Las consecuencias que una visión geocéntrica tiene para la traducción; pag. 10



idea. But Nativism not only referred to immigrants themselves, but to their religion, too.

3.8 Anti-Catholics

Since Klansmen were Protestant, as all good American citizens should be, they had to repulse the enemy: the Roman Catholics and their leader, the Pope. The strategies the secret organization used were the same as the Know Nothings because Protestantism was the “real” religion of Americanism.

Protestantism preached that religion and state should remain separate, while the Catholic Church stated that those two elements should be one. This was “a menace to the spiritual and moral integrity of America,” (Mecklin: 158) according to the KKK.

They used false propaganda, documents and letters in which the Pope said that the United States should be dominated by the Catholic religion. The Anti-Catholic propaganda gave the Klan one of the biggest waves of members during its peak in the twenties.

The Klan acted when it could to eliminate marks of Catholicism in the United States. Consider the actions of the Klan against non-protestant people:

The primary role of the Klan was the defense of state and society against the menace of Roman Catholicism. There were not many Catholics about but the very scarcity seemed to emphasize the subterranean nature of the peril. (...). Catholics lost their jobs, saw their business boycotted and their elections opposed. (Chalmers: 67)



But that was not enough. Klansmen saw in Catholic education a danger to American values. They demanded that it should be prohibited in public education, and threatened teachers in order to prevent their teaching of that doctrine:

A Klan parade in Columbus warned against loafing, thieving, and prowling by either black or white. Lebanese and Syrians were ordered to leave Marietta. Members of the Atlanta Board of Education, who opposed firing all Roman Catholic teachers, received warning letters. In Columbus the mayor's home was dynamited when he refused to remove his "bluebellied Yankee" city manager, but after a beating at the hands of "persons unknown", the city manager got the message and left town. (Chalmers: 71)

As we can see, the Klan worked hard to oppose Catholicism, among other groups, even though it was not particularly widespread.

3.9 Politics

Another interesting aspect of the Klan was politics. The Klan was famous, and powerful too. That is because one of the strongest fields in which they participated was politics. The Klan was extremely politically active. They proposed candidates they liked, and who shared their same ideals. This was not difficult to find, because in many places the most important people in a city were Klansmen. The Klan had "friends" everywhere allowing them to choose people who suited them. With powerful people inside the government, the Klan could act without fear.

An example of this power is the Anti-Catholic Education Bill of 1922. The idea of forbidding private schools began in Oregon, and then it became popular within the Klan. Students from 7 to 16 years of age were supposed to assist public schools in order to fulfill with the prohibition. The Klan did all they could to get this bill



approved. When this petition arrived in Congress, there was a debate about whether or not the idea was correct.

Some of the arguments against the petition were that the bill would be unconstitutional because it would deny the right of parents to elect the class of education they wanted for their children. Besides, such a law would refuse the right of free worship established in the Declaration of Independence of the United States.

Other arguments were that it would cost a lot of money to the State to incorporate new public schools, teachers, materials, etc., since all of the private schools would be closed. In addition, children who attended private schools received a better education, or at least, a more personalized education.

They were strong arguments, but they were not enough to prevent the passing of the Bill. At that time, the Klan won. The Oregon Klan, together with people who supported the idea, said that the control that parochial and private schools had was eliminating traditional American values. This worked, since the majority of the population there were Protestant.

The petition to prevent private and parochial education arrived in Congress. It was approved in November 1922, and was applied in 1926. Catholic and private schools began to be closed, and the children were moved to public schools.

Although the Bill had passed, it lasted a short period of time because people were not happy. First, they had to pay more taxes in order to afford the public schools' needs. Second, people moved to other states looking for freedom. Third, it was unconstitutional. Judges citing these reasons and more sent the Bill to the United States Supreme Court for revision. The Supreme Court declared the Bill unconstitutional.



In spite of this, the success the Klan had by passing such a Bill motivated them to expand the idea throughout the country. It began in Oregon, and then Klansmen tried to carry it to Washington and so on. Although they were not successful with the Bill in other states, it was important for the Klan new members.

This is just one example of the influence the Klan had in the first part of the twenties, but it is not the only one. If we review a list of US politicians, we will find that many of them have been Klansmen, including two presidents, Harry S. Truman and Calvin Coolidge, in addition to other important characters. While the Klan was powerful, there were people who joined them just because the Klan gave a certain kind of security. One of them was triumph in elections. But as time passed, the Klan lost its strength; it did not have the same influence anymore, although sometimes it got its candidates elected.

3.10 Anti-Mask Law

On many occasions anti-klan organizations and individual people worked to stop the Klan, but they were not successful because the government protected the Klan. One of the actions these organizations took was to prohibit the use of masks except for on special occasions like Halloween. But was this law respected? The facts showed that it was not possible. The Klan continued wearing masks to perform its misdeeds.

Chalmers states:

The response in Birmingham was an outburst of protest. The better citizens, led by their ministers, merchants, and the local bar association, pressed for an anti-mask ordinance, and a defensive "Law Enforcement League" was temporarily formed. Although the city commission passed an anti-kidnapping law, it refused to make it unlawful for masked men to gather in public places.



The reason was quite apparent. (...). Local political leaders were not interested in opposing so powerful an organization... (Chalmers: 79)

Anti- Klan institutions, judges, and citizens tried more than once to ban the use of masks. It was not possible while the Klan remained in power, but once the Invisible Empire was left in ruins, people won the courage and insisted that the law be respected. This was possible thanks to the fact that the police, sheriffs, and people in some important positions worked together.

The anti-mask law was not approved just in Birmingham but in other states against the era of hatred and racism extended by the Klan as well. It was a difficult fight, but to wear a mask in public events parades was punished with prison. Therefore, some Klansmen who did not respect the law went to prison for a while.

3.11 The Washington Parade

Picture #14

1920's March in Washington, DC



Picture # 15

1920's at the Capitol



<http://www.pointsouth.com/>



One of the most important memories people may have about the Klan, besides its reign of crime, was its parade. Parades were common among people of the Klan although this story was, in a way, interesting.

It was not usual that the whole Klan join together, but it had to happen sometime. It was 1926; the Klan had political and economical power, but not in the same measure as it had had some years before because its history of lawlessness, injustice and crimes had affected the Klan badly.

It was summer when the Klan decided to do a parade, but the main objective of this event was to raise the Klansmen's spirits and to let it be known that the Klan was still alive.

The parade took place on August 7th, when "endless caravans of dusty cars were pouring into the city,(...) The streets of Washington were alive with crawling, swarming vehicles, flying the American flag, or carrying signs, painted or chalked on their sides" (Chalmers: 286). That night there was no space for all the people who had come to the meeting. There were some people who camped, slept in their cars, or just fell asleep behind a tree. Hotels were full that night.

Chalmers described that parade as follows:

From midafternoon until dusk on Saturday, a great avalanche rumbled through the Washington streets, channeled by walls of spectators as some forty thousand uniformed Klansmen and –women paraded down Pennsylvania Avenue to Fifteenth Street, where they wheeled left to the grounds of the Washington monument. (Chalmers: 287)

The parade was diverse and colorful although most Klansmen wore the typical white robe with the hood upon their shoulders. They did not march covered because the only condition to get permission for the parade was to do it without the



mask. Also, there were some people wearing bright capes, uniforms, or special American heroes' costumes.

How was this parade organized?

Leading the parade were a masked horse and rider carrying the national emblem, then the male and female color guard, the police, and the potentates of the Invisible Empire. The Imperial Wizard, Hiram Evans, wearing a flowing royal-purple robe, trimmed in gold, and surrounded by the rich-colored garments of his Dragons, Klokards, and Kleagles, bowed continuously to applause from the crowd. After him marched the small flag-carrying District of Columbia delegation, followed by a token representation from the Lone Star realm. Then, (...) the Pennsylvania Klansmen and – women passed in review. (Chalmers: 287)

Then it was Pittsburgh and Philadelphia contingents, the Altoona ladies, the Montgomery County Klansmen, New Jersey, New York, Long Island, Akron, Ohio, Florida, North Carolina, West Virginia, and Kentucky. From time to time, these delegations sang "Onward Christian Soldiers" or "Adeste Fideles". A banner caught the eye on which was written a verse, "to Revelation, Chapter 7, wherein the Bible told of the white-robed of all nations standing before the throne of God" (Chalmers: 288).

This first national parade was a success. The Klan members were so happy that they purposed to make it an annual event. The next year, however, when the Klan joined together once more, its numbers were far less than they had been the year before. One important point that is worth notice here is that, in spite of the problems the Klan was having, the number of women within the organization was growing. Nevertheless, this fact did not reduce the overall decrease in membership.



3.12 The Klan around the World

Due to the power the Klan had acquired during the twenties, it attempted to gain new members and establish “domains” in different parts of the world. These special parts of the world were not elected at random. Clarke’s idea was to expand the Klan to all Anglo-Saxon, Germanic, and Scandinavian portions of the globe, but the organization was not successful.

The Klan was able to expand to Alaska, the Canal Zone, Germany, and Canada. In addition, there were some rumors that there were Klan branches in Hawaii, New Zealand, Shanghai, Lithuania, Czechoslovakia, England, Cuba, and Mexico. According to Chalmers, it was not possible to investigate whether the rumors were true, and even if those new domains existed, they did not last long because there were no members in charge of them.

The Klan in Germany was a fraud. This branch was formed by some naturalized Americans who had returned to their country in 1925. They created the *Der Deutsche Orden des Feurigen Kreuzers* in Berlin. Its members were mechanics, merchants, clerks, and laborers. But it soon disappeared because it had Klan-like conflicts within the order.

The Klan in Canada was a little luckier. The Riders of the Red Canadians was the name of the order the KKK had created for those naturalized people who wanted to join the Klan. The candidates to enter the order had to be naturalized, eligible, and right-thinking people. The actions that were taken by this branch were mostly burnings. The Klan in Canada was blamed for burning Catholic churches, including the Quebec Cathedral, but Evans did not say a word referring to this; he disclaimed any connection with the Klan in the United States.



3.13 Klan's Decline

In the mid twenties, the Klan had approximately three million subjects; it was a huge organization. However, by the end of the decade, the Klan was an organization with only several thousand people.

The Klan could see they were not a mighty organization anymore because in 1928 a Roman Catholic was running for president; they could not prevent it, even though they used all the sources and friends they had within and outside of Congress. They were upset -- how was this possible?

The answer can be found in history, and in the facts and actions taken by the Klan. Chalmers explains it best:

In part klannish power declined because many of the fears which it represented had faded. "That dago of the Tiber," as Klan periodicals liked to call the Pope, had been a symbolization of all the things that distressed a considerable portion of the American people. By the late twenties, most Americans had settled down from the restlessness and disappointment that the war and its uncertain peace had bred. No Negro rebellion had taken place on the cotton farm or in the urban ghetto. The gates had been closed to the immigrant hordes...

Along with nativism and the vigilante use of force to preserve the status quo, fraternalism was a third part of the complex of attitudes which made the Klan possible. America has long been a nation of joiners, of men bound together for companionship and community purposes. (Chalmers: 292)

These are some of the reasons for the Klan's decline, but besides this, it is important to mention the role the press had in the downfall of the Klan. The press contributed to the decline because newspapers offered just a part of the story.



Some were sensationalist, others were prudent or simply did not mention anything. Be that as it may, the press played an important role respecting the Klan.

But, if we look for the real guilty one, it is the Klan itself. The Klan acted as a secret, terrorist organization that did not inspire respect or fear. The path the Klan followed was not the right one. Although at the beginning the organizations had many followers and members, little by little its ideals were changing or being misinterpreted and this affected people who looked for something good to believe in. The Klan lost its north, and it became a violent organization that fought against violence with violence and lawlessness.

Nowadays we cannot know how many people were victims to the Klan because they acted silently, secretly, and they moved through threats and fear: "And so it threatened, boycotted, banished, tarred and feathered, flogged, mutilated, and on occasion murdered." (Chalmers: 297). The Klan used its resources poorly because its leaders were worried about money and power and acted without respect.

3.14 The Klan in the Depression Era

After the rise of the Klan with Sir Simmons and his magnificent idea to make of his Empire a moneymaking machine, and after the Hiram Evans' period, the Klan came to face the Depression era, which lasted from 1929 to 1939. Naturally, the Klan lost members in this period since there was not enough money to afford such membership.

The activity of the Klan was centered especially in ceremonies and socials, which meant that the organization kept away from the public eye. However, from time to time, some occasional parades on July 4, or picnics were heard of.

The Invisible Empire survived in different states: New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Wisconsin, Illinois, Kentucky, California,



Virginia, Florida, and Georgia (Chalmers: 305). From 1930, the Klan, with its different sections, was a social organization that aimed at fraternalism, the same as it had in its better years during the twenties.

Although the Klan was still alive, it did not have a plan to face the years of Depression; the Invisible Empire had some things clear, however. The first one was that all foreign people had to leave the country in order to preserve Americans' jobs. No one could be accepted into the country. Frontiers should be closed to everybody.

The second thing was that Klansmen should be as patriotic as they could. Some groups of the Empire wanted to assist the victims of the Depression by inviting them to enormous meat and bean soup dinners, but they could not do this because Ohio's Grand Dragon, James Colescott, warned them not to commit "such lawlessness" and instead asked them to cooperate with the Red Cross.

But this did not mean that the Klan stopped involving themselves in politics, nor did they stop working against Negroes, Jews, and Catholics. They were vigilant, observing, listening, planning actions. At that time (the Depression), the major menace seemed to be Communism. Hiram Evans, in 1934, "called upon Klansmen to help preserve constitutional government from Soviets, communism, fascism, and all other isms..." (Chalmers: 307). The Imperial Wizard took this posture because Franklin Roosevelt was in charge of the United States. At first, the Klan was very happy with him as president, but members changed their idea when they discovered that Jim Farley, Roosevelt's campaign manager, was a Roman Catholic. Their discontent increased when the president named him as the Postmaster General. Why? According to the Klan, Farley began to bring "too many Jews and Catholics" into Washington. To the KKK, this meant that President Roosevelt's government was communist.



In spite of all this, the Klan gained the public's attention once more. This time it was because the country heard about the Black Legion, which in a certain way was linked with the Klan:

The Black Legion had apparently grown up from a small self-help, social club among the marginal workers in Detroit in the early 1930s. (...) They were, for the most part, ill-adjusted to the monotony and the discipline of factory life, and were too uneducated and too unskilled to hope for anything other than insecure, low paid seasonal employment. The Legion had been organized as a good-time club and as a place where the members could exchange on jobs. (Chalmers: 308 - 309)

How was this Legion linked with the Klan? The answer is found in a crime committed near Detroit. In the spring of 1936, Charles Poole, a young WPA worker, was found shot in the head. The detectives discovered that the assassination had been carried out by "The Wolverine Republican Club" that was part of a Klan-like organization named the Black Legion.

It was not surprising that soon this organization became violent like the Klan. Unofficially, it was reported that the Black Legion had been formed by ex-Klan members. They worked in former Klan territories with the same dynamics of the Klan. They asked for money to become part of the organization although the fee was cheaper than that of the Klan. Mostly, their members were factory workers, public employees and ambitious politicians.

Like the Klan, the Legion was anti- Catholic, anti-Negro, anti-Jew. They used the same methods as their mother organization: they flogged, beat, murdered, had night meetings, and worked inside politics. Little by little, they gained power; they wanted a better Michigan, so they looked for perfect or acceptable candidates to rule.



Their first success using violence came when two of the members were dismissed from their job and they took their former boss to a Black Legion reunion in order to threaten him with flogging or execution if he would not rehire them. The crime for which they were known occurred because Poole opposed the candidate they wanted to be elected. But what did Hiram Evans say about it?

The Imperial Wizard did not recognize the organization as part of the Klan, and when Warner Brothers produced a movie called the *Black Legion* using Klan insignia, the Imperial Wizard sued the company for damages.

Another important event related to the Klan in this period was Hiram Evans' retirement. When Evans was re-elected in 1937, he told his fellows that that would be the last term he was in charge.. The Imperial Wizard had gotten an imposing house and some extra money by means of some businesses transactions. In 1939 he retired and James A. Colescott took the throne.

3.15 Colescott in the Klan

James A. Colescott, according to David Chalmers "was a short, stocky man, bald and round-faced, who gave the impression that he did not deny himself at the table." He did not have the qualities Simmons had nor the friendliness Evans possessed. However, Colescott was an able organizer. He had worked inside the Klan for two decades as a dependable lieutenant.

The politics of the new Grand Wizard were to recruit people through newspaper advertisements, and claims were made of substantial membership increases. But the general actions of the organization did not change. During the Colescott period it was still common to hear about racist crimes against the KKK's enemies. That meant that Negroes who dared to vote were threatened, along with as Jewish and



Catholic people. The Klan, especially in Georgia where it was stronger, made some night rides flogging Negroes and “immoral” people.

James Colescott is not remembered for this, however, but rather for the German – American Bund. Dale Reusch, a former Klansman, remembered Colescott as follows:

A latter Ohio Grand Dragon, James A. Colescott, climbed to the Imperial Wizardship in the late thirties, but even he came to a bad end when word of a tie between some Klansmen and the German-American Bund leaked out and when the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS) filed a lien against the Klan for more than \$ 685,000 in back taxes (Sims: 24).

In that way, Colescott was in the news, as was the Klan itself. There were some filtrations between the Klan and certain fascist organizations. Let us remember that Colescott ruled the Klan in World War II time, so Nazis and their ideas were popular at that stage. It was George Deatherage, founder of the Knights of the White Camelia, who said that “the Nazis had copied their anti-Jewish policy and their salute from the Klan and who suggested to his followers that they now shift to burning swastikas” (Chalmers: 322).

There were many people inside the Klan who agreed with Hitler’s policy, so they did not have any problem when they shared the grounds of the Bund’s Camp Nordlund for a patriotic meeting where members of the Bund, a [...] a German-American group of Nazi sympathizers in the United States in the 1930s and 1940s¹⁶, and Klansmen grasped hands. This meeting was in 1940; there were some speeches from both parties involved (the Bund and the Klan), when the

¹⁶ Microsoft® Encarta® 2009. © 1993-2008 Microsoft Corporation. Reservados todos los derechos.



leader of the Bundsmen said that their principles and the ones of the Klan were the same. After the scene of fraternalism there was a weeding under a burning cross and “when the neighboring residents gathered outside the fence chanting ‘put Hitler on the cross’ and singing the ‘Star-Spangled Banner’, the Bund band struck up and drowned them out” (Chalmers: 323).

This event caused a lot of problems for Colescott who, at the end, was not happy with the results and repudiated the meeting. But the Colescott era came to an end when, in 1944, the IRS fined the Klan over \$685,000 on profits earned during the 1920s. Of course, the Grand Wizard did not have enough money to pay those taxes so the Klan had to sell its assets, and go out of business. Colescott went into retirement in Miami until he died some years later.

3.16 Dr. Samuel Green

The position of Grand Wizard next fell to Dr. Samuel Green, a smart and clever organizer who had been Grand Dragon of Georgia and Colescott’s right hand. Chalmers described him as “a mild-appearing, bespectacled, fifty-five-year-old Atlanta obstetrician with a small, sandy, toothbrush mustache” (Chalmers: 325). He was the newest character who would fight against the enemies of America.

But before continuing, let us clarify that immediately after Mr. Colescott’s period, there had not been a new Grand Wizard because the Simmons’ Klan disappeared for a while. Dr. Samuel Green is the creator of THE ASSOCIATION OF GEORGIA KLANS, which is an informal association of local Klans in Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee, Florida, and Alabama.



As usual, this association worked against Negroes, Catholics, Jews, and other enemies. The Klan focused on developing character and klannishness, understood, at that time, as the union of those who had the same ideas. In that way they would protect the home, the chastity of white womanhood, the Constitution of the United States, and the flag.

As mentioned, the Georgia Klan was the strongest of all of those that existed. Dr. Green was lucky because he got some new members, most often when black people did something against Klan ideas. This period of the Invisible Empire was marked, as was the former one, by the presence of neo-Nazi terrorist organizations which were linked with it. The most famous one was the Columbians, operating in Atlanta, whose leader was Dan Duke. The Columbians were persecuted and declared guilty of all charges (night rides, murder, floggings, etc.)

Officially and unofficially the Klan kept up with its warning night rides and floggings, parades and cross burnings, Klonvocations and mystic initiations on Stone Mountain. In spite of this, the after-war Klan had two major defining characteristics. The first one “was the open pattern of resistance in numerous communities where the Klan was active. The second was that while the Klan could still commit violence and inspire terror, the organization itself gained little prestige.” (Chalmers: 334)

An important innovation within the violent methods the Klan used besides flogging, beating, and more, was the use of bombs against Jews and Catholics. In 1951, on Christmas Eve, a dynamite explosion killed Harry Moore and his wife. Moore was the leader of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). A Jewish school and a synagogue were destroyed with bombs of dynamite, and sticks of dynamite were found on the steps of a Catholic church.



Charles Klein, a Klan member, went to prison after dynamiting the home of an Atlanta Negro. The FBI acted in this period to stop the Klan as never before.

Dr. Samuel Green died in 1949. With his death, the Klan split into different branches throughout the United States. Of course the Klan remained strong in Georgia, although it kept silent for a while.

3.17 The Klan in the Fifties

The Klan stayed quiet or, at least less active, with Green's death, but the Klan emerged again when the Supreme Court decided to stop segregation in public schools. It was 1954 and old Klans, together with new ones, were ready to take action. The Georgia Klan had the most numerous membership, so it was the most active. In Georgia, Eldon Edwards revitalized the Klan, working with Sam Green Jr., Dr. Green's son, who was a lawyer. In this stage the Klan appeared as the "U.S. Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan." Eldon Edwards' Klan had to compete with other would-be Klans, but the U. S. Klan won membership of between twelve thousand and fifteen thousand by 1958.

Eldon Edwards tried to keep his followers satisfied with strong talk and minimal night rides. However, there were some Klansmen who wanted to do the real thing. They were not happy just with cross burnings, parades, motorcades, and verbal violence. Hitler's ideas were popular with some members of the Klan, so the organization remained Anti-Semitic, sometimes following Hitler's influence. Among these special members was Asa Carter or "Ace," an Alabama farm boy who had gone to the Navy and, unlike the majority of the Klan members, had studied journalism at the university. He worked as a radio announcer where he made comments about Jews. He was the founder of the "Ku Klux Klan of the Confederacy."



Contrary to the politics of Edwards' Klan, Ace invited his followers to act:

One of his boys hit the headlines and the police blotters by leaping up on the stage of the Birmingham Municipal Auditorium to assault singer Nat "King" Cole, while four others had got twenty years in jail for the turpentine-soaked castration of a helpless Negro kidnapped for a sacrificial initiation ceremony. (Chalmers: 345)

In addition to this, at this time a new group appeared for the Klan to fight against. It was the Lumbee Indians. The Lumbees were of the few Indians that have not lived a Reservation life. That is because many people believed they were descendants of the lost colonists of Roanoke. Mostly, they were farmers, but some of them also worked in businesses or served in city office. They were located among the population of Robeson County; they enjoyed a second-class status so they did not mix with Negroes, but this did not keep them from being segregated the same as the black people.

The Lumbees began to receive flaming crosses warning them to not mix with whites. The author of this act was Reverend James W. Cole, an Edwards Klan member. Eldon had asked him to organize North Carolina, but Cole did not want to share power so he did what he thought was right for him. Cole incited Lumbees to a riot on January 1959 in which people made fun of the Klan.

At eight thirty when the meeting was supposed to begin, the Lumbees converged on the Klansmen who clustered fearfully beneath a single light bulb suspended from a pole. The few bits of Klan regalia were quickly shucked by their owners. An enormous Indian reached out and broke the bulb with the barrel of his rifle. The darkness was immediately lit by repeated burst of light as Indians fired their guns in the air and the photographers



flashed away. The Klansmen trusting to wisdom rather than valor, fled.
(Chalmers: 348)

After this, Reverend Cole was extradited to North Carolina and went to jail for incitement to riot. While this happened, the press, magazines, and public in general laughed at the Klan. For these and other reasons the Klan did not prosper. But when the Friends' Service Committee, National Council of Churches of Christ, and the Southern Regional Council published a report of the four first years after the Supreme Court's decision to stop segregation, 53 cases of "racial violence, reprisal, and intimidation were found." Not all of those cases were executed by the Klan, just a few.

The fact that the Klan did not participate in all the violent cases related above did not mean that the organization had stopped. Once more, the use of dynamite in this period was present. It was Klan's new weapon. From 1956 to 1963, at least one hundred and thirty eight explosions of dynamite were reported, although this did not affect society much because the attacks were mostly in rural areas. The bombing attacks included Catholic churches, black's houses and, of course, synagogues.

It was this last element that caught the eye of the Klan. During this period, the Klan in all its branches became extremely Anti-Semitic. They thought Hitler had had the right idea, so the Klan began to use Anti-Semitic literature overall because the organization did not have enough money to afford its own propaganda. They also adopted a Nazi-like salute, applied especially in South Carolina rallies. This new way of seeing things was successful within the Klan because it was a manner of avoiding or denying Klansmen's fears: racial mixing, financial and social insecurity, and foreigners.



3.18 The Sixties

The sixties arrived and with them came the Klan, once more with problems, crime, and the desire to gain power. Besides the Georgia Klan, which had been the strongest throughout the KKK story, it was the Florida Klan that was popular in the sixties. This time, the strategy was to create the ghost of a Negro menace, which had worked well in former years. For a while the method worked because the Klan got new members, but it soon stopped thanks to the revival of old disputes and Eldon Edwards' death in 1960.

Soon, within the Klan there arose a competition to win the throne, money, and all the benefits that power gives. Edwards died of a heart attack. Robert M. Shelton proclaimed himself to be Edwards' successor, and in a way he was, but in his own Klan. He was a man of action, with friends in high places; he was also a good organizer, and a man of luck.

In addition, we have Robert Lee "Wild Bill" Davidson, who was Eldon's protégé, and the person who took the leadership after Edwards' death. Davidson was not prepared to assume control of an organization like the Klan because he was too nervous and high strung, so his period was a copy of his former protector.

Things were like that inside the Klan; it was split all over the country and it was strongest in Georgia. In that position, the Klan was not prepared at all to receive the Negro-rights Movements that were rising in the sixties. In this period Martin Luther King Jr. appeared as the new black leader and tried to perform a wave of change in the country.

Negroes entered the colleges of South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi; public school integration ground inexorably on its laggard way, Negro voting registration increased, and Negro demonstration put pressure



on the segregated public facilities and life all over the South. (Chalmers: 370)

Negroes began to ask for their rights, guided by King; as it is well remembered, Martin Luther King's protest was pacific. What was the solution that Klan chose in order to face this situation? An easy one: imitation. That meant that the Klan tried to be "nonviolent," and do the same things that the Negroes did.

But this new "nonviolent" policy did not last long on the Klan's part. By the spring of 1964, the Klan decided that it was not possible to live in an integrated world. The new strategy was to speak and ask all white men not to hire Negroes in their homes or businesses. This did not work at all because most of the people who listened to Klan's leaders could not have one working for them anyway because they did not have enough money.

Then, Bob Shelton created a new way to avoid mixing with Negroes. It consisted of creating "a racially private world of its own. Incorporated Caucasian communities with their own houses, schools, churches, and businesses organizations would enable the faithful to escape court-ordered contamination" (Chalmers: 375). Of course, this solution did not work, either.

It was characteristic at this stage to witness the marches and protest of Negro Rights Movements. The Klan could not do much to avoid it thanks to the action of the FBI, the police, and some people inside the government. The Klan continued with night rides, threats, etc., although they were illegal at that time. The organization "could create fear and produce isolated pockets of violence and murder, but it could not halt the much more extensive revolution that was taking place." (Chalmers: 386)



An example of the fact that the Klan could scare but not stop anything was the brutal murders of three young civil rights workers in Mississippi. This story began when Michael Schwerner and his wife arrived in Meridian, Mississippi in 1964. They tried to make jobs accessible for Negroes, and to get the voter rolls for Mississippi. Schwerner was white, a New Yorker, and a Jew, the kind of person who would not have any protection if some Klansmen wanted to hurt him.

Sam Holloway Bowers, Imperial Wizard of Mississippi's White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, decided to kill Michael. It was June 21. Schwerner, along with James Chaney (a young Meridian Negro), and Andrew Goodman (a white New York college student) went to Nashoba County to see the ruins of a Negro church that had been burned by the Klan. Cecil Price, the sheriff from the county seat of Philadelphia, arrested Chaney for driving over the speed limit, and the other two for "investigation." Price took them to prison until it was dark, and after the deputy permitted them to leave on bail they were stopped once more outside town by the sheriff; they were then taken to the group of Klansmen, who shot them. After that, the bodies were buried in an earthen dam. Two days after the murders, a group of Indians from the Choctaw reservation found the charred remains of their blue Ford station wagon and reported it.

Police, the FBI, and some sailors from the Meridian Naval Auxiliary Air Station looked for them. The FBI found their bodies after forty-four days of searching. However, the corresponding trial was not held for three years. When the jury finally came to a verdict, it declared Sam Bowers, Cecil Price, and five more Klansmen who had been involved in the murders guilty.

Although this crime demonstrated that the Klan continued to be violent and brutal, it also showed that the Klan did not have the same influence and strength as it had in former years. This fact also permits us see that when black people were



unprotected, the Klan could do whatever it wanted. However, times had changed and the role of the Invisible Empire was beyond recall.

3.19 The Klan and the Seventies

The situation for the Klan in this period was more or less the same as in the sixties. The Klan had lost their north; it was not possible to attack the Klan's enemies like before because black people had reacted and acted. Even the police, and especially the FBI, took measures against the Klan.

Integration was, little by little, taking place in spite of the Klan's will to the contrary. The seventies were a bad time for the Klan because it did not gain a lot of new members, and because many of the former crimes, like burnings, and floggings, were being punished thanks to the action of the FBI and its informants. The Klan's lines survived, although there were few members. People heard about burning crosses, some parades, etc., but they became less common.

That was the condition of the Klan during almost all of the seventies, but in 1978 something happened. An increase of cross-burnings, confrontations, rallies, marches, and shootings was reported.

The Anti Defamation League, an anti-Klan institution, announced that Klan's ranks had increased. It was said that at the beginning of the seventies the Klan had more or less 6,500 members, but at the end of the period, it had acquired 10000 members. This was called "The Klan Revival," "The New Klan," and "the amazing rebirth," and in a way, it was.

It was true that the Invisible Empire had gained some new members; however, this situation did not last long. As usual in the Klan, desires for money and power were also present during this "amazing rebirth." Therefore, the Klan did not consolidate but remained weak due to the different divisions and competitions within.



As it can be supposed, the Klan revival was stronger in the South, particularly in smaller Southern industrial cities. Bill Wilkinson was the new Grand Wizard of the Invisible Empire, and his Klan was the most militant. But why did the Klan appear again?

The explanation is a little ironic, because the Klan revival was due to the police. Black people were working to defend their rights, the Klan had lessened, to a degree, in its actions, and society was assimilating the changes the government had produced. It could be said that the scene was quiet.

But in the middle of this, the police took a new role. It was not the Klan which scared black people; it was the time for the police.

Police violence and questions about the quality of justice meted out to black people would produce a protest, which would grow to include issues of jobs and poverty. An organization would then be formed and its members would take to the streets to march on City Hall and perhaps boycott downtown merchants. (Chalmers: 407)

This decision provoked the Imperial Wizard Wilkinson to encourage his Klansmen to resist and to recruit more members. Thus, when black people marched, the Klan also did its demonstrations; blacks and whites met each other in the streets. The Klan burnt crosses and executed Nighttime rallies, which signified new spectators and members. This situation, however, damaged businesses in Okolona and Tupelo (Mississippi), most of all because the United League asked that more black people be hired.

A law prohibiting firearms was passed in the state of Alabama, so in 1979, when the Klan wanted to repeat Martin Luther King's famous march from Selma to Montgomery, they were asked for their guns. The next day, when they arrived in



the city, Klan weapons were mace, knives, and the ax handles on which they had placed their posters. They were arrested for marching without permission. But what was the objective of the march? Imperial Wizard Wilkinson said it was to protect the civil rights of white people.

It was curious that the Klan was not free to parade while Martin Luther King's group had been. This produced a feeling of inferiority within the ranks of the Klan because black people were gaining jobs, politicians, and power. Members of the Klan wanted to preserve their rights as native and white citizens, so it was logical that the "new Klan" receive new followers.

3.20 David Duke

Imperial Wizard Bill Wilkinson was just a part of the Klan; but with him was David Duke, an interesting character within the ranks and people of the Klan. Wilkinson had worked with David Duke, who was the editor of *Crusader*. Wilkinson was an apprentice when they separated in 1975.

David Duke founded his own Klan, called Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, which competed with Wilkinson's Invisible Empire and Robert Shelton's United Klans. David Duke was different from many or most Klansmen. He was a reader, so he was a new kind of Klansmen. He wanted to form a Klan where a more educated middle-class participated. He had convictions. When he was a boy, he had read about Hitler and his actions. He admired him so Adolph Hitler had a great influence upon him. Duke believed, as most within the Klan, that Jews and communism were the real menaces.

In the media, Duke was a celebrity because he was an excellent orator: poised, articulate, and sincere. He was paid to speak on college campuses, and he was not refused on radio programs or TV shows. When he ran for the Louisiana



Senate, he got one-third of the votes. On one occasion, he said that he was not against any race; he was in favor of white race, that was all.

But what was David Duke's role within the Klan? He aimed to recruit as many white high school students as possible. He distributed pamphlets in order to call young students to fight against "the black, Chicano, and Yang criminals who break into your lockers and steal your clothes and wallets" (Chalmers: 414). He also called upon men in the armed services. His effort was huge, but he got only a handful of followers.

Duke was also famous within his Klan because he wanted to reform it. When he was named Imperial Wizard, he preferred to call himself the National Director. He changed the typical dress of a Wizard by using the Nazi uniform when Hitler's birthday was celebrated. While he was the "national director," he accepted women and Catholics into the Klan. In addition to this, he formed the National Association for the Advancement of White People or NAAWP, which is an anti-Semitic organization that defended whites' rights.

Although the Klan tried and tried to stay alive and strong, it did not have the same power as it had had in the twenties anymore. Once the black people got some of their rights, "white politicians toned down their rhetoric, white sheriffs began to be somewhat more restrained, and some black legislators, policemen, and sheriffs began to appear among the white ones" (Chalmers: 417).



Picture # 16

Klan's Wizards



Col. William J. Simmons
Colescott

Imperial Wizard 1915-23
1939-44



Dr. Hiram W. Evans

Imperial Wizard 1923-39



Dr. James A.

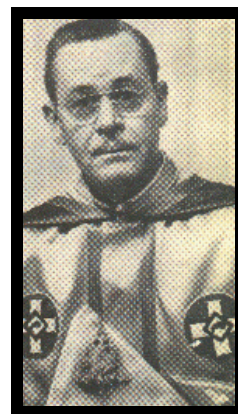
Imperial Wizard



Dr. Samuel Green
Eldon Edwards



Police Chief Samuel Roper



Auto Worker



Grand Dragon 1946-49
Wizard 1950-60

Imperial Wizard 1949-50

Imperial



Robert M. Shelton
Samuel H. Bowers

James R. Venable, Esq.

Imperial Wizard 1960-87
dates pending

Imperial Wizard 1963-1993

I.W.



William M. Chaney

William Wilkinson

David Duke

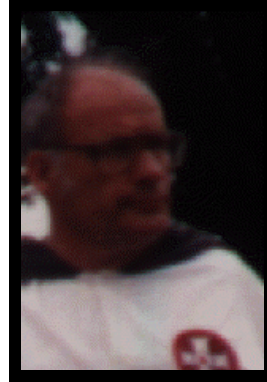
1970's Imperial Wizard
Wizard 1975-79

Imperial Wizard 1975-83

Grand



Universidad de Cuenca



I.W. Keith Smith
Griffin

I.W. Dale Ruesch

I.W. Virgil



I.W. Richard Ford
Wizard

Hon. Charles Holland

Today's Grand



<http://www.kkkklan.com/wall.htm>

3.21 Comparison of old and new Klans

In the previous pages, it was possible to see that the old Klan and the new one were different. That is true since the Klans had different goals and reasons to appear and to act. Let us analyze some of these organizations using as reference Henry P. Fry's book, *The Modern Ku Klux Klan*.

First of all, let us remember that the Old Klan and the Modern Klan were both political and military organizations since they had a similar structure to control their development. However, the original Klan acted in a country that was devastated. The original Klan tried to protect orphans and widows. The social context where this first Klan developed was one of chaos.

The new Klan, on the other hand, almost never involved itself with charity works, and when they did something to help unprotected people, they sought a lot of publicity and acknowledgement. The idea of "fraternal and charity order" was never taken seriously.

As a second point, we find that both Klans were responsible for violent acts. Although the first organization tried to control its members, it was not possible at all because within the Klan there were unwise and selfish people who did not respect the established rules. The new Klan, however, did not intend to control its members. In a certain way, the use of violence was permitted as a way of punishing immoral or daring people.

Another point in which these two organizations coincided is the fact that both used disguises to act. This brought some problems to both institutions since it is said that some crimes attributed to the Klan were not committed by Klansmen, but by



people who used this medium to hurt other people. But neither worked to avoid this situation.

But the principal point of discussion is this question: Is an organization like the KKK really necessary?

As we recall, the original Klan appeared after the Civil War ended as a way to escape boredom and routine.

The modern Klan appeared at a time where laws and rules were already in existence. There was a Constitution and people who respected it. The society of the United States was already established and formed by people who came from different parts of the world, not just "Caucasian" people.

Besides this, in the old Klan, the Grand Wizard or Emperor could be elected freely and removed from his position if Klansmen wanted to. In the new organization, the Imperial Wizard should hold his office for life, and he could be removed only if all members of the Imperial Klonscilium agreed unanimously.

Another thing to consider is the personality of the leaders the Klan has had throughout its history. General Nathan Bedford Forrest, who was the first Emperor of the organization, had the real and disinterested desire to protect Southern people. He was a skillful and intelligent man and he did not receive a penny for his job. But if we talk about Sir William Simmons, we find that his curriculum is not a clear one. He was called "Colonel," not because of his service in the army but because his friends called him that. He had different jobs throughout his life, but he did not have good experience. He failed often. He created his Klan as a way to obtain easy money and power. He never wanted to serve American people in spite of Klan literature which affirmed that it did.



With respect to the admission of future Klansmen, it is easy to note that there were less restrictions limiting membership in the Klan of Reformation times. The new Klan, however, elaborated rules and requirements that restricted the entrance to the secret organization.

We find another difference when talking about the Klan's constitution. In the original Klan all members could read the constitution; heads of the Klan had the duty to show and read it to their members. In the new Klan, the constitution is a secret document which can be read only by the most important people within the Klan.

Another point of divergence is the objective each Klan had. The original Klan had a concrete goal and once it was fulfilled, the Klan disappeared. The original purpose of Forrest's Klan was to keep order between black and white people. On the other hand, Simmons' Klan did not have a real established goal. Simmons, along with his fellows, wanted to gain money, and they used all kind of illegal acts to obtain it. Although they pretended to control "law and order," they made the Klan into an institution with a bad reputation, one full of hatred and of people who were resented.

Besides this, another big difference between the Reconstruction Klan and Simmons's is that the "Modern Klan" spread all over the country while the first one was kept alive in the South.

3.22 Anti-Klan Organizations

Throughout history there have been some organizations which have tried to stop the Klan. Some have been more successful than others; however, pro-Klan and anti-Klan people and organizations have always existed. Although anti-Klans were not popular while it was strong, there are currently several, especially those



created by the groups the Klan persecuted. One of them is the Anti Defamation League, or ADL, which is a Jewish institution that works for Jewish rights.

3.22.1 The Anti- Defamation League (ADL)

Chart # 1

ADL's Symbol



<http://www.adl.org/about.asp?s=topmenu>

The ADL appeared in response to anti-Semitism sponsored by the Klan and other similar ideologies. It was created in 1913 "to stop the defamation of the Jewish people and to secure justice and fair treatment to all." Now the nation's premier civil rights/human relations agency, ADL fights anti-Semitism and all forms of bigotry, defends democratic ideals and protects civil rights for all."¹⁷

The ADL is a big institution that has more or less 30 offices throughout the United States. Although it defends primarily Jews' rights, that does not mean that people who suffer racial or religious persecution cannot look for help there. Among the activities this organization is responsible for are the following:

- Scrutinizes and exposes extremists and hate groups.
- Monitors hate on the Internet.
- Provides expertise on domestic and international terrorism.

¹⁷ <http://www.adl.org/>



- Probes the roots of hatred.
- Develops and delivers educational programs.
- Fosters interfaith/intergroup relations.
- Mobilizes communities to stand up against bigotry.
- Defends the security of Israel and Jews worldwide.
- Maintains a comprehensive and up-to-date Web site:

<http://www.adl.org/>.¹⁸

Because the group defends Jews, anti-Semitic groups believe it to be “America’s most powerful hate group.” The arguments state that the group is a secret racist organization which accepts only people who have an idea of racial superiority; in this case, the Jews as superiors. Besides this, opponents say that ADL receives money from people who sell and use drugs, as well as pornography.

Be that as it may, the ADL is an organization that constantly monitors Klan activities and tries to stop anti-Semitic groups by publicizing their misdeeds. It also tries to regulate the laws that guarantee equal rights for everyone. The ADL frequently informs about anti-Semitic sentiments.

3.22.2 The FBI

Perhaps the most important institution that worked against the Klan is the FBI, or the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which used several methods to uncover the Invisible Empire.

The history of FBI involvement in Klan issues was, at some point, funny and confusing. The Federal Bureau of Investigation began to research the Klan in the 1960s, when the Klan had declined and was not strong. In spite of this, the FBI

¹⁸ <http://www.adl.org/>



was able to protect the Klan's victims and obtain some important testimonies against the Klan. Another interesting thing about this anti-Klan institution was that it also tried to stop Martin Luther King, Jr., and the women's liberation movement.

As mentioned before, the FBI applied different techniques in order to uncover the Klan. It used informers and theft of Klan records, and planted newspaper stories, rumors, and anonymous letters and postcards revealing Klan membership. The name of the program they used was COUNTERINTELPRO, which meant Internal Security Counterintelligence Program.

Although the program was efficient and successful, it had to be closed in the seventies because Director Hoover was afraid of being discovered since the methods applied were not legal. Nevertheless, the FBI did a good job because since the institution was active, Klansmen suspicious and have not acted out the same as they did before; they have been more careful in doing illegal things.

3.23.3 The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)

These were just a few of the different groups that were against the ideology of the Klan. In each state, and in different eras, anti-Klan associations have acted. The NAACP appeared in 1905 when a group of 32 Afro-Americans decided to fight against discrimination. At the beginning, this group was known as the Niagara Movement because its first meeting was on the Canadian side of Niagara Falls. The Niagara Movement became the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People on May, 10, 1910.

Its principal job "is to ensure the political, educational, social and economic equality of minority group citizens of United States and eliminate race prejudice. The



NAACP seeks to remove all barriers of racial discrimination through the democratic processes.”¹⁹

Among the things the NAACP has achieved is the

30-year campaign against lynching (...) the NAACP strongly supported the federal Dyer Bill, which would have punished those who participated in or failed to prosecute lynch mobs. Though the bill would pass the U.S. House of Representatives, the Senate never passed the bill, or any other anti-lynching legislation. Most credit the resulting public debate-fueled by the NAACP report "Thirty Years of Lynching in the United States, 1889-1919"-with drastically decreasing the incidence of lynching.²⁰

In addition, the movement began to focus on economic justice during the Great Depression in the thirties. Another victory over discrimination is the following:

By the 1950s the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, secured Education (1954), which outlawed segregation in public schools. The NAACP's Washington, D.C., bureau, led by lobbyist Clarence M. Mitchell Jr., helped advance not only integration of the armed forces in 1948 but also passage of the Civil Rights Acts of 1957, 1964, and 1968, as well as the Voting Rights Act of 1965.²¹

Since the NAACP is a civil rights movement, it works against the KKK. These organizations are just a few examples of the fight.

¹⁹ <http://www.naacp.org/pages/naacp-history>

²⁰ *Ibíd.*

²¹ <http://www.naacp.org/pages/naacp-history>



CHAPTER IV

THE KLAN TODAY

According to the ADL, the Klan still exists, although it does not have the same power as before. As we know, there is not just one KKK but several branches expanding throughout the whole United States, with strong activities in the South and Midwest. Since the Klan does not have a principal Imperial Wizard, union among them is not possible.

But what does the Klan do today? Taking as reference the reports of the ADL, the KKK defends the same principles as when it was re-formed in the twenties, although the list has increased. Today, the Klan is not only Nativist, Anti-Catholic, Anti-Negro, and Anti-Jew; today the Klan also works against homosexuals and Hispanic immigrants.

It is said that the Klan gets new members each time there is a polemic event related to immigration. That is because there are many people who do not agree with immigration policies and try to find a solution. In this case, the solution is to join to the Klan. Besides this, the Klan has changed its ideology a little since it sympathizes with neo-Nazi groups and works with them.

How many KKK branches exist today? The ADL reports

More than 40 different Klan groups exist, many having multiple chapters, or "klaverns," including a few that boast a presence in a large number of states. There are over a hundred different Klan chapters around the country, with a



combined strength of members and associates that may total around 5,000.²²

4.1 Actual Klan's Groups

According to the Anti Defamation League, nowadays some Klan ramifications exist throughout the country. This information is taken from its web page http://www.adl.org/learn/ext_us/kkk/active_group_2006.asp?LEARN_Cat=Extremism&LEARN_SubCat=Extremism_in_America&xpicked=4&item=kkk

4.1.1 Alabama

1.- **ORION (Our Race Is Our Nation) Knights of the Ku Klux Klan** - Once a large and active group, the ORION Knights have mostly disappeared, with a remnant in Alabama.

2.-**White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan** - A small Alabama Klan group.

4.1.2 Arkansas

3. - **Bayou Knights of the Ku Klux Klan** - An active regional Klan group, with a presence primarily in Louisiana, Arkansas, Texas, and Oklahoma.

4. - **International Keystone Knights of the Ku Klux Klan** - Once a larger

²²http://www.adl.org/learn/ext_us/kkk/active_group_2006.asp?LEARN_Cat=Extremism&LEARN_SubCat=Extremism_in_America&xpicked=4&item=kkk



group, the Keystone Knights are much smaller today, with active members in Pennsylvania and Arkansas.

5. - Knights of the Ku Klux Klan - An Arkansas-based Klan group with chapters in around seven states.

6. - Ku Klux Klan, LLC - A small Arkansas Klan group.

7. - Southern Arkansas Knights of the Ku Klux Klan - A small Klan group based in Smackover.

4.1.3 California

8. - Kalifornia Knights of the Ku Klux Klan - A small California Klan group.

9.-White Legion Knights of the Ku Klux Klan- A small southern California Klan group.

4.1. 4 Florida

10. - Empire Knights of the Ku Klux Klan - A growing Klan group based in Florida, claiming chapters in some 18 states, mostly in the South, the Northeast, and the West Coast.

11. - National Aryan Knights of the Ku Klux Klan - A small Klan group with chapters in Florida and Louisiana.



12. - United White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan - A small Florida Klan group.

4.1.5 Georgia

13. - American White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan - A small Klan group with chapters in Georgia and Texas.

14. - Georgia Knight Riders of the Ku Klux Klan - A Georgia-based Klan group.

15. - North Georgia White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan - A Georgia-based Klan group.

4.1.6 Indiana

16. - American Knights of the Ku Klux Klan - Possibly the most active Klan group in the 1990s, the American Knights are now nearly dead, with only a few members in Indiana.

17. - Church of the National Knights of the Ku Klux Klan - Headquartered near South Bend, Indiana. It claims chapters in around 20 different states, in all parts of the country.

18. - United Knights of the Ku Klux Klan - A small Indiana Klan group.



4.1.7 Iowa

19.-Fraternal White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan- A small Iowa Klan group.

4.1.8 Kentucky

20. - Imperial Klans of America - A prominent Klan group based in Kentucky with chapters in eight states.

21. - White Mountain Knights of the Ku Klux Klan - A small Kentucky Klan group.

4.1.9 Louisiana

22. - Bayou Knights of the Ku Klux Klan - An active regional Klan group, with a presence primarily in Louisiana, Arkansas, Texas, and Oklahoma.

23. - Louisiana White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan - A Louisiana Klan group.

24. - National Aryan Knights of the Ku Klux Klan - A small Klan group with chapters in Florida and Louisiana.

25. - Southern White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan- A small Louisiana Klan group.



4.1.10 Michigan

26. - United Northern and Southern Knights of the Ku Klux Klan - A Klan group with chapters in nine states, mostly in the Midwest. It is based in Michigan.

4.1.11 Mississippi

27. - Mississippi White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan: A Klan group with a number of chapters in Mississippi.

4.1.12 New Jersey

28. - Confederate Knights of the Ku Klux Klan - A small New Jersey Klan group headquartered in Millville.

4.1.13 North Carolina

29. - Cleveland Knights of the Ku Klux Klan - A small North Carolina Klan group.

4.1.14 Ohio

30. - Brotherhood of Klans - One of the larger and more active Klan groups in 2006, headquartered in Tennessee until the late 2006 death of its leader. It appears its new headquarters will be in Marion, Ohio. It claims chapters in some 15 states, from all around the country.



31. - Mystic Knights of the Ku Klux Klan - An Ohio-based Klan group that claims to be active in eight states, mostly in the Midwest, although it lost much of its membership to the United Northern & Southern Knights.

4.1.15 Oklahoma

32. - Bayou Knights of the Ku Klux Klan - An active regional Klan group, with a presence primarily in Louisiana, Arkansas, Texas, and Oklahoma.

4.1.16 Pennsylvania

33. - International Keystone Knights of the Ku Klux Klan- Once a larger group, the Keystone Knights are much smaller today, with active members in Pennsylvania and Arkansas.

4.1.17 South Carolina

34. - International Knights of the Ku Klux Klan - A small South Carolina Klan group.

4.1.18 Tennessee

35. - Great Tennessee Knights of the Ku Klux Klan - A small Tennessee Klan group.

36. - Knights of Bedford Forest - A small Tennessee Klan group.



37. - Knights of the Golden Circle - A small Tennessee Klan group.

38. - Knights of Yahweh - A small Klan group based in Dandridge, Tennessee.

4.1.19 Texas

39. - American White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan - A small Klan group with chapters in Georgia and Texas.

40. - Bayou Knights of the Ku Klux Klan - An active regional Klan group, with a presence primarily in Louisiana, Arkansas, Texas, and Oklahoma.

41. - White Camelia Knights of the Ku Klux Klan- A Texas Klan group based in Cleveland, Texas.

4.1.20 Virginia

42. - Victory Knights of the Ku Klux Klan- A small Virginia Klan group.

43. - Virginia Knights of the Ku Klux Klan - A small Virginia Klan group.

4.1.21 West Virginia

44. - Knight Riders of the Ku Klux Klan - A small West Virginia Klan group.



4.2 The Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Or KKKK

Nowadays there are different KKKs throughout the United States, but as always, there is one that is bigger and more powerful than the others. In this case, we refer to David Duke's Klan, which is presented here.

The Knights of the Ku Klux Klan was formed in Louisiana in 1956. They have had many notable people as Grand Wizard. David Duke, former Louisiana State representative, was the first one. Tom Metzger, who now leads a white supremacy group called the White Aryan Resistance, was another Grand dragon. Nowadays the KKKK's Grand Dragon is Pastor Thomas Robb.

The Knights of the Ku Klux Klan claim they are not a racist group. They describe themselves as "racialist." This means they do not hate one particular race based on skin color, but they love the white race and have "white pride." They promote a white Christian civilization. In order to accomplish this goal, the United States should have only white people living in it and there should be absolutely no integration.

On top of that, the KKKK stands for "America first." This policy means that the interests of the United States should be put over any other nation. It is on the whole a policy of protectionism. They also believe that there should be a policy that will prevent the United States from interfering in war conflicts of foreign countries. The KKKK primarily does not want to get involved with anything that is non-American.

Their "America first" policy also influences their stand on foreign aid and trade. The KKKK believes that foreign aid should stop immediately. They think that United States' tax dollars are being spent on other countries while Americans are in need



of that money themselves. They strongly believe that American money should stay within the country and be used in favor of Americans' Social Security and Medicare.

As mentioned before, they promote not only a White Nation but also a Christian nation. Christianity is very important for the KKKK. Their view on abortion and homosexuality is based on what is written in the Bible. Therefore, they are against both. For them abortion can only be allowed or accepted if the mother's life is in danger, or if she was raped or victim of incest. As for homosexuality, they think there should be a law against it. In addition, the KKKK believes that the state and the church should be one. Since they want to give their children an education based on Christian beliefs, they believe prayer in schools should be legal.

The Knights of the Ku Klux Klan believe the white race is in danger. When the government gives jobs or college education to non-white minorities they are discriminating against Americans. These opportunities are considered special privileges given to people who are not American.

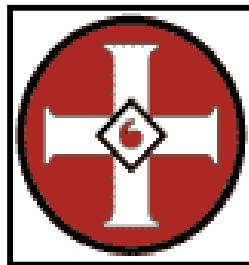


4.3 Klan's Symbolology

4.3.1 The Blood Drop

Picture # 17

The Blood Drop



http://www.adl.org/learn/ext_us/kkk/default.asp?LEARN_Cat=Extremism&LEARN_SubCat=Extremism_in_America&xpicked=4&item=kkk

The discussion of symbology within the Klan is very interesting. The most representative symbol is the cross with a drop of blood in the center as we can see in the picture. It is called "the Blood Drop." According to Klan tradition, the cross means Jesus Christ.

4.3.2 The Cross-Wheel

Picture # 18

The Cross-Wheel



Autores: Adriana Chica Guerrero
Verónica Herrera Caldas



<http://www.propaganda.net/skoleside/?stil=9304>

The cross-wheel design is the symbol of the Klan and the Brotherhood of Klans. It is simply a cross within a circle. It is directly derived from the Klan's name and from white history, as the cross-wheel is found in every white civilization. In the cross-wheel we see the cross of Jesus Christ, the wheel of creativity, the circle of unity, motion, and also the ancient Aryan symbol of the sun or light. Through the centuries, no symbol has come to represent the totality of the white race better than the cross-wheel.

As do many of the secret organizations throughout the world, the Klan has its own symbology. According to "The Fraternal White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan", one of the several branches of the original Klan, it possesses seven symbols. They use symbols in order to teach a great legacy and to teach Klan principles.

They are the following:

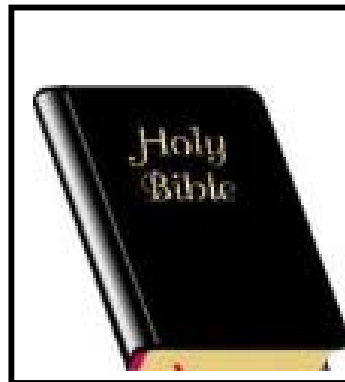
1. The Bible
2. The Cross
3. The Flag
4. The Sword
5. The Water
6. The Robe
7. The Mask



4.3.3 The Bible:

Picture # 19

The Bible



<http://truereligiondebate.files.wordpress.com/2008/03/bible3.gif>

This explains that the first thing a Klansman has to think of is God. They recognize the Bible as the “supreme book”. They say, “It is a constant reminder that God is our Father, life is our opportunity, and Heaven is our home. It reveals the way of life and the cause of death.”²³

Romans: 12 is a special chapter that reminds them of their mission. This chapter is the most important and complete from the whole Bible because

It is a constant reminder of the tenets of the Christian religion, and is a Klansman’s Law of Life. Every Klansman should read it the first thing every

²³ <http://www.fraternalwhiteknights.com/>



morning and endeavor to live by it during the day. "I beseech you, therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God" that you follow its teachings.²⁴

5.3.4. - The Cross:

Picture # 20

The Fiery Cross



<http://www.knightsskkk.com/whyBOK.html>

It acts as a symbol of sacrifice and service. Each Klansman has to have one in their homes as a remembrance of the holy love Jesus Christ has and gives us. The cross, for the Klansmen, is "a constant reminder that Christ is our criterion of character and His teachings of our rule of life --- blood-bought, holy, sanctified, and sublime."²⁵

Besides this, they add a light or a fire to mean that Christ is the true light that makes the darkness go away.

²⁴ <http://www.fraternalwhiteknights.com/>

²⁵ *Ibíd.*



As fire purifies gold, silver, and precious stones, but destroys the dross, wood, hay, and stubble, so by the fire of Calvary's cross we mean to purify and cleanse our virtues by burning out our vices by the fire of His word.²⁶

5.3.5. - The Flag

Picture # 21

The US Flag



<http://www.united-states-flag.org/united-states-flag-640.jpg>

As in many countries, the flag for the Klan represents the death of heroes, the ones that fought to preserve the rights of the Constitution: freedom of press, speech, school, and worship, in addition to the other laws the document holds.

[The land] was purchased by the blood and sacrifice of our fathers, and we have most sacredly vowed that we will uphold and defend it with our sacred honor, our posterity, our blood, and our lives. The KU KLUX KLAN, Inc., will forever defend the principles of pure Americanism, and thus perpetuate the sacred memory of our venerable and heroic dead.²⁷

²⁶ <http://www.fraternalwhiteknights.com/>

²⁷ Ibid.



4.3.6. - The Sword:

Picture # 22

The sword and the KKK



http://3.bp.blogspot.com/_6gAV_7mSpf8/SwhrZFGAmil/AAAAAAAAAas/62zcb_oENi6Y/s1600/bnp_lyndamiller_kkk.jpg

This piece of steel represents law enforcement. They use it as a way to protect their nation from illegal acts. It does not matter the methods they use to achieve that. They will defend and protect “all rights and privileges of all citizens.” The sword is the clearest symbol that defends their ideology. It is a constant reminder of “America for the Americans.”²⁸

It represents the military, or enforcement power of our government, from the President down to the constable. Its presence on our sacred alter signifies that we, as an organization, are solidly behind every law enforcement officer

²⁸ <http://www.fraternalwhiteknights.com/>



in the land to “help, aid, and assist the proper performance of their legal duties.”²⁹

4.3.7. - Water:

Picture # 23

Water



<http://portal.sochipe.cl/subidos/noticias/fotos/water.large.jpg>

For them, water is sign of unity, usefulness and purity. Their purpose is to

Dedicate and set apart, in body, in mind, in spirit, and in life to the sacred, sublime, and holy principles of Klan Kraft³⁰. In this dedicatory service we are solemnly admonished to keep our character as transparent and as clear and clean as the liquid in this glass. A drop of liquid or blood in this crystal fluid will have the same effect as sin in our lives.³¹

²⁹ <http://www.fraternalwhiteknights.com/>

³⁰ The Klan Kraft are all the rules a Klansman should follow. This according to <http://www.fraternalwhiteknights.com/>

³¹ <http://www.fraternalwhiteknights.com/>



4.3.8. - The Robe:

Picture # 24

KKK's Robe



<http://www.snyderstreasures.com/pages/kkk.htm>

People who participate in the Klan wear a robe in order to conceal their identity and their social class. To wear the robe means to treat everybody in the same way.

Another reason to wear a robe is because of the righteousness a Klansman should have. They look to imitate the life of those who were saints because only they could go the land "Yet-to-come." For them, the robe is a requirement to enter into that place.

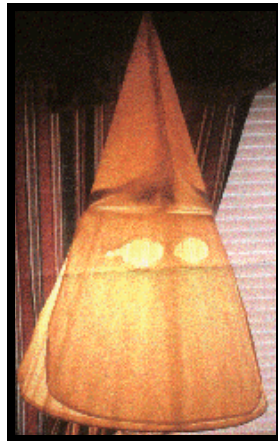
It also emphasizes that a Klansman will be always a Klansman, even when he or she does not wear a robe, because clanship is worn in the heart.



4.3.9. - The Mask:

Picture # 25

The KKK's Mask



<http://www.kukluxklan.bz/>

The mask in Klan Kraft means unselfishness. It is the symbol of service and community.

With the mask we hide our individuality and sink ourselves into the great sea of Klan Kraft. Not as individuals, but as Klansmen, "We sacrifice to serve," our motto is, Non Silba Sed Anthar --- "Not for self but for others." Therefore, we hide self behind the mask that we may be unselfish in our service.³²

With all these symbols they seek to "emphasize and impress the sacred, sublime, and holy principles of Klan Kraft, With God as our Father, Christ as our criterion, the Bible as our guide, the cross our inspiration, and the flag as our protection..."³³

³² <http://www.fraternalwhiteknights.com/>

³³ *Ibíd.*



4.4 How to Become a Member of the KKK

Even though the Klan does not have the same popularity as it did before it has not completely disappeared. On its web page <http://www.kukluxklan.bz/how-to-join.html> new members can join.

1. You must be a free white male or female of European descent, at least 18 years of age. (We do verify age)
2. You must be able to profess faith in Jesus Christ as personal Savior.
3. You must not be married to or date people of other races, nor have mixed race dependants, this includes adopted children.
4. You must agree to conform to the rules of this order, and be willing to swear you will NOT conspire to commit any crime while a member.
5. You must not join us with mercenary intent, or under secret evasion of any sort
6. Under NO circumstances will we accept for associate ship: homosexuals, atheists, or those who have been found mentally insane. We will not accept candidates that have been convicted of treason, or espionage against the United States of America.
7. You must be a U.S. citizen and have a U.S. address. We do not accept foreign nationals, nor have foreign associates.
8. You must not be on probation, or parole. (Those on probation or parole are NOT free men).



CHAPTER V

EFFECTS ON SOCIETY

Before we start talking about the effects the KKK has had in society, let us mention the effects White Supremacy has had through history. We think one of the most important proofs of this ideology is World War II because of the impact it had around the world.

As we know, World War II began as a consequence of World War I. When Germany lost the war against the Allies, many things changed. The European map had changed thanks to the Treaty of Versailles, which removed more or less 13% of the European territory. The situation had changed, but the desire for power did not. It was a very difficult time in history and in Europe. World War II began on September 1, 1939, when Germany attacked Poland. Two days after that, the British Empire and France declared war on Germany.

The context for the development of World War II was interesting. Benito Mussolini, the father of Fascism in Italy, professed an ideology known as authoritarianism, or totalitarianism, which meant that people were not free to do what they wanted. Mussolini started the idea of nationalism. Although Italy was one of the countries that won in World War I, the country was not happy. There were many people who did not have jobs, food, or homes. Mussolini's idea was to recover the country by eliminating all possible intervention by democracy. He was the almighty; he believed that only nationalism could save the country.

While Mussolini worked to spread his ideas, another important figure appeared. It was Adolf Hitler, a man who believed the Aryan race to be superior.³⁴ Hitler was

³⁴ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adolf_Hitler.htm



influenced by Benito Mussolini's ideas. He was also influenced by Frederic Nietzsche, who wrote that man should be a super man and break the established values. Hitler saw himself as a superman, the kind of man Frederic Nietzsche proposed. This man saw that Jewish people were everywhere. Hitler believed the Jews had destroyed Germany because they lived and worked there. He had convinced himself that Jews had stolen the money that belonged to Germany.³⁵

Hitler was born in Austro – Hungary; however, he decided to be a German. He did not have a good life or money, but he learned to work hard.

Besides this, he began to read great authors and took some of their ideas to form his own ideology. In a world where everything was changing, he had the opportunity to choose whatever he wanted. The problem was that he did not respect other people's ideas, and he did not respect other people's lives. He, in his climb to popularity, started to conquer his superiors' mind. Hitler gained support because he began to promote German nationalism, anti-Semitism and anti-communism. He was a very good orator and his charisma made him powerful.

Little by little he became the leader of the Third Reich, a dictatorship that professed the totalitarian and autocratic ideas of National Socialism. Thus he became the leader of Nazi Germany, the nation which took the first step towards World War II, and the one which, along with Poland, lost the most in the end.

Hitler and his party suppressed important civil rights like freedom of the press, freedom of assembly, and freedom of expression, as well as the right to privacy. Opponents of the Nazis were terrorized, beaten, or sent to one of the [concentration camps](#) the Germans built to incarcerate them.

³⁵ Information according to: "Adolf Hitler." Microsoft® Encarta® 2009 [DVD]. Microsoft Corporation, 2008.



Hitler's first idea, and the most important one, was war. He wanted Germany to be the only nation to be able to rule the world. He firmly believed that the Aryan race was pure. Because of that, he and his partners in ideals began to cleanse the country of all "impure" people. Nazis thought Jewish people were cowardly and evil beings. They accused the Jews to be of being the cause of all the problems in Germany, so they began to exclude them.

Among the steps Nazis took against Jews, they used some propaganda that portrayed Jews as horrible people without soul, mind or the right to be happy. The following information can help us better understand

A major tool of the Nazis' propaganda assault was the weekly Nazi newspaper *Der Stürmer* (The Attacker). At the bottom of the front page of each issue, in bold letters, the paper proclaimed, "The Jews are our misfortune!" *Der Stürmer* also regularly featured cartoons of Jews in which they were caricatured as hooked-nosed and apelike. The influence of the newspaper was far-reaching: by 1938 about a half million copies were distributed weekly.³⁶

There were other tools, too, such as "racial hygiene." This project supposedly made possible the selection of superiors and inferiors in race. Professionals involved in the project utilized the following method.

Reform-minded proponents of eugenics worldwide offered biological solutions to social problems common to societies experiencing urbanization and industrialization. After classifying individuals into labeled groups using the scientific methods of the day—observation, family genealogies, physical measurements, and intelligence tests—they ranked the groupings from

³⁶ <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/holo.html>



“superior” to “inferior.” When perfected, surgical sterilization became the most common proposal for preventing unproductive “inferiors” from reproducing and for saving on costs of special care and education.³⁷

“Racial hygiene” was very common from 1933 to 1945, the time when Hitler was ruling Germany. Citizens that were not superiors were kept from reproducing amongst themselves. A process of sterilization was begun that condemned men and women not to have children. Hitler’s government used “vasectomy as the usual sterilization method for men, and for women, tubal ligation, and an invasive procedure that resulted in the deaths of hundreds of women.”³⁸

The Law for the Prevention of Genetically Diseased Offspring was passed on July 14, 1933. This law permitted the sterilization of those people who were not pure or superior. They were chosen out in the following way.

Individuals who were subject to the law were those men and women who “suffered” from any of nine conditions assumed to be hereditary: feeble-mindedness, schizophrenia, manic-depressive disorder, genetic epilepsy, Huntington’s chorea (a fatal form of dementia), genetic blindness, genetic deafness, severe physical deformity, and chronic alcoholism.³⁹

This kind of measure to keep pureness of blood led to a risk of decreasing the general population, so the government decided that superior people who had few children should be killed if they did not produce more. Marriage among Jews and inferior people were prohibited, but the “good race” had the duty to procreate more children even if they did not want to.

³⁷ *Ibíd*

³⁸ <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/holo.html>

³⁹ *Ibíd*.



In addition, Hitler's government began a genocide, this under the name of "euthanasia," which meant all children who were born with a physical defect had to be killed.

The first victims were German infants and children. The Reich Ministry of the Interior instructed midwives and physicians to register all children born with severe birth defects. Three expert physicians evaluated each case and, usually without seeing the potential victims, selected those to be killed. Officials deceived the children's families by providing falsified causes of death. From 1939 to 1945, more than 5,000 boys and girls were killed in some 30 special children's wards established at state hospitals and clinics.⁴⁰

In this way, many children and newborn were assassinated. Then the idea extended to adults in 1939. The "Operation T-4" became famous because this operation killed the chosen people by using carbon monoxide poisoning in gas chambers disguised as showers. But this method was not the only one. When people realized what was happening, Hitler had to stop using the chambers. Still, people under his rule "killed by means of starvation diets and overdoses of medication in hospitals and mental institutions throughout the country. From 1939 to 1945, an estimated 200,000 persons were killed in the various euthanasia programs."⁴¹

Not yet content with only this, Hitler killed Jews in order to achieve his eternal goal. He ordered the construction of concentration camps meant to make Jews disappear. They were forced to wear badges that identified them as Jews. Then they were transported to killing centers or places built specially for them, the

⁴⁰ <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Holocaust/deadmed.html>

⁴¹ *ibíd.*



undesirable ones. This took place mostly in Poland, where the most well-known ghetto was located.

A ghetto was an area where all Jews were conducted to be murdered or to work as slaves. These areas were poor and were built where there was a great concentration of Jewish people. The ghettos were surrounded by fences and, of course, they were overcrowded. Auschwitz (Poland) is the most famous one. In that place, more or less one million Jews were taken to be murdered. Chief [Heinrich Himmler](#) killed them by applying the T-4 method. He saw the need to do that because it was too hard to murder them by shooting them face to face, although one million Jews died like that, as well. ⁴²

Jewish people who were able to work could keep their lives, although not for long. Children, women, and men were joined together in a single camp. Some of them worked. They also dug their own graves, because after everything else they had to die. Forced labor was used frequently, especially in 1942 – 1943 when the Battle of Stalingrad took place, because Germany did not have enough money to afford the price of war. Germany had lost in Russia, so the people who were ruling it had to look for possible solutions.

Like Hitler, there are many people who think that skin color, or race, is more important than the intelligence or feelings a person, or a group of people, can have.

Hitler created Nazism, Mussolini founded Fascism. After those, there emerged other groups based on those same ideologies. It was in that way that the world was introduced to the Skin Heads, a racist group that, just as these others, believed there is just one race that is superior, the white one. They acquired their name thanks to the way they wear their hair.

⁴² Information according to <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Holocaust/deadmed.html>



And what about the Neo-Nazis, which are the rebirth of Hitler's ideals and dreams? Within the category of White Supremacy, we also find some urban tribes that hurt people because of their skin color or creed.

5.1 Some Like-Klan Groups

As we have seen, the actions of the Klan damaged many people and many lives, but it also gave people reasons to think and act like Klansmen. Examples of this can be found in different streets around the whole world, where not only graffiti suggests it, but also the crimes and assassinations we hear of daily in the news.

For clearer examples, let us consider some groups that have been directly or indirectly influenced by the Klan within the borders of the USA.

5.1.1 The Tea Party

Picture # 26
Tea Party Flag



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Gadsden_flag.svg

As a result of Obama's election, a new group appeared in the history of the United States. It was called "the Tea Party." The story of this group began in 2009, when



Dale Robertson decided to protest against the new policies enacted by the government.

Like the “Boston Tea Party” from 1773, what Robertson sought was the reduction of taxes, since Obama wanted to increase them, especially for the richest people in the country. Robertson adopted this name in order to remind the nation of an important event in the life of the country: the protest against taxes brought from England in former years.

This is what this man said about his motives for the protest:

The urgency of my protest was due to the befuddled politicians gathering votes on the floor of the Senate and then on the floor of the House of Representatives. Their sightless determination to force an Unconstitutional Stimulus package through the Senate and then the House of Representatives, to me, was a death pill to all I hold dear, and I knew millions of Americans felt the same way.⁴³

Robertson affirmed that the Party was born without premeditation. It was a spontaneous answer to the feelings of many people who thought the same as he. That was why the TP enjoyed instant success.

Now it is an important and prestigious movement in the country, and their members define themselves as follows:

⁴³ <http://teaparty.org/about.php>



The Tea Party is a grassroots movement that calls awareness to any issue that challenges the security, sovereignty, or domestic tranquility of our beloved nation, the United States of America.

From our founding, the Tea Party is the voice of the true owners of the United States, WE THE PEOPLE.⁴⁴

The TP defends the United States of America, the same as the KKK, but it has some differences. Let us consider the requirements for belonging to this Party:

The Tea Party's dream includes all who possess a strong belief in the foundational Judaic/Christian values embedded in our great founding documents. He believes the responsibility of our beloved nation is entrenched within the hearts of true American Patriots from all walks of life, every race, religion and national origin, all sharing a common belief in the values which made and keep our beloved nation great. This belief led to the creation of the Modern Day Tea Party. Many Republicans, Democrats, Libertarians, Green and Independent Citizens identify with the premises set forth by the newly founded Tea Party movement, striking a chord and ringing true with the American Spirit.⁴⁵

Although the party said in its regulations that it was open to everybody, regardless of race, color or education, many people claim that the TP is a racist movement that uses people to obtain their interests.

⁴⁴ <http://teaparty.org/about.php>

⁴⁵ *Ibíd.*



The web site of El País newspaper (elpais.org) said in one of its articles that the TP was formed by middle- class white men who were in panic due to the economic crisis. The arrival of a black man in the Executive seat frightened them, and they considered this to be a threat to the country. The writer of the article believes that the members of the TP are racist, even though they deny it.

For more proof, it is necessary to understand what they consider “non-negotiable core beliefs” for anyone who considers himself or herself a true American.

Illegal Aliens Are Here Illegally.
Pro-Domestic Employment Is Indispensable.
Stronger Military Is Essential.
Special Interests Eliminated.
Gun Ownership Is Sacred.
Government Must Be Downsized.
National Budget Must Be Balanced.
Deficit Spending Will End.
Bail-out And Stimulus Plans Are Illegal.
Reduce Personal Income Taxes A Must.
Reduce Business Income Taxes Is Mandatory.
Political Offices Available To Average Citizens.
Intrusive Government Stopped.
English As Core Language Is Required.
Traditional Family Values Are Encouraged.
Common Sense Constitutional
Conservative Self-Governance⁴⁶

⁴⁶ <http://teaparty.org/about.php>



5.1.2 The Creativity Movement

Another movement related to the KKK was the Creativity Movement. It would seem that the Klan's racist ideas were enough for a daily-changing world, but they were not. If we thought the Invisible Empire was the worst, let us consider what this Creativity Movement does and thinks.

According to its web page (<http://creativitymovement.net/contacts.html>), the Creativity Movement is the most racist group around the world. It was founded in 1973 by Ben Klassen under the name of World Church of the Creator. It was not a religious movement, however. Their creed was based on white race. The following information was taken from the ADL page.

WCOTC is a white supremacist group that considers itself a religion founded on the proposition that the white race is "nature's highest creation" and that "white people are the creators of all worthwhile culture and civilization." Followers of the WCOTC do not believe in God, heaven, hell or eternal life. They consider Jews and nonwhites, whom they refer to as "mud races," to be the "natural enemies" of the white race.⁴⁷

The movement was formed principally by young white males. Nowadays, this group is considered to be one of the most violent movements in the country, since its creed permits killing undesirable people and treating them worse than dogs.

As a well organized movement, it has some commandments, all of which refer to White Supremacy and the preservation of the white race. These are some of the sixteen commandments they profess:

⁴⁷ http://www.adl.org/learn/ext_us/wcotc.asp



I.- It is the avowed duty and holy responsibility of each generation to assure and secure for all time the existence of the White Race upon the face of this planet.

II.- Be fruitful and multiply. Do your part to populate the world with your own kind. It is our sacred goal to populate the lands of this earth with White people exclusively.

III.- Remember that the inferior mud races are our deadly enemies, and the most dangerous of all is the Jewish race. It is our immediate objective to relentlessly expand the White Race, and keep shrinking our enemies.

IV.- The guiding principle of all your actions shall be: What is best for the White Race?

V.- You shall keep your race pure. Pollution of the White Race is a heinous crime against Nature and against your own race.

VI.- Your first loyalty belongs to the White Race.

VIII.- Destroy and banish all Jewish thought and influence from society. Work hard to bring about a White world as soon as possible.

XV.- As a proud member of the White Race, think and act positively, be courageous, confident, and aggressive. Utilize constructively your creative ability.



XVI.- We, the Racial Comrades of the White Race, are determined to regain complete and unconditional control of our destiny.⁴⁸

They are extremely racist and they admit they will live according to that. Those commandments are the clearest proof the Creativity Movement followed the Klan's ideology, at least in one sense.

Besides the commandments, they have their beliefs. This was what they say people need to do in order to be a good creator:

To be memorized and repeated as a sacred religious ritual by every Creator five times a day.

Based on the Eternal Laws of Nature, History, Logic and Common Sense, we Creators believe:

1. WE BELIEVE that our Race is our Religion.
2. WE BELIEVE that the White Race is Nature's Finest.
3. WE BELIEVE that racial loyalty is the greatest of all honors, and racial treason is the worst of all crimes.
4. WE BELIEVE that what is good for the White Race is the highest virtue, and what is bad for the White Race is the ultimate sin.
5. WE BELIEVE that the one and only, true and revolutionary White Racial Religion - Creativity - is the only salvation for the White Race.

To the fulfillment of these religious beliefs, we Creators forever pledge our Lives, our Sacred Honor, and our Religious Zeal.⁴⁹

⁴⁸ <http://creativitymovement.net/index1.html>

⁴⁹ <http://creativitymovement.net/index1.html>



Picture # 27

Ben Klassen



<http://creativitymovement.net/time.html>

As mentioned, the WCOTC was created by Klassen, who also wrote the White Man's Bible, which held all the principles and values the movement professed. He committed suicide in 1993. The organization became disorganized in the 90s due to the criminal convictions of several of its members, and a successful lawsuit brought by the family of a Gulf War veteran murdered in 1991 by a WCOTC member, among other things.

The movement came to life once more in 1996 with Matt Hale, who was a law school graduate. For some years he was its leader. He tried to get his license to work, but it was impossible because a jury declared that he was ineligible to be a lawyer due to his way of thinking.

Although at the beginning of the movement it was called the World Church of the Creator, in later years it had to change its name because the Te-Ta-Ma Truth



Foundation had the copyright of the name. In November 2002, a federal judge ordered the WCOTC to stop using its name, to give up its Web addresses, and to turn over all printed material bearing its name.

Hale refused to fulfill the order and the next year he was arrested for soliciting the judge's murder. He remained in jail awaiting trial as members of the WCOTC and other white supremacist groups rallied behind him.

In addition, the movement has its own symbol and motto. Its motto is RaHoWa! That means Racial Holy War, since they believe in one superior race. In its literature we can also find statements like "in Klassen we trust".

Picture # 28

The Simulacrum Candidus: The White Emblem.



http://creativitymovement.net/ar_faq.html#16c

Its symbol is called *The Simulacrum Candidus*, or The White Emblem. This is what they say about the significance of the identification:



The "W" of our Emblem stands, of course, for the WHITE RACE, which we regard as the most precious treasure on the face of the earth. The Crown signifies our Aristocratic position in Nature's scheme of things, indicating that we are the ELITE. The Halo indicates that we regard our race as being UNIQUE and SACRED above all other values.⁵⁰

Like the KKK, the founders are famous for the crimes they have committed. For them, to be in prison means pride; since they are fighting against the destruction of the world, they were defending their truth. Within the group they are martyrs because they are giving their life to save the race. Following their thinking, to kill or to hit people is not a sin because humans that are not white deserve to die due to their status as a "mud race."

The Creativity Movement is known around the world since it had several branches on other continents. Thanks to the information we find in its web page <http://creativitymovement.net/contacts.html>, we have learned a great deal about them. For them it is very important to fight for their race so they have provided a list with the necessary information in order to contact the person who is in charge in the different parts of the world. Here is the list.

5.1.3 USA

1. Rev. James Logsdon -TCM USA-
2. TCM Montana
3. TCM Ohio

⁵⁰ http://creativitymovement.net/ar_faq.html#16c



4. TCM Connecticut
5. TCM Colorado
6. TCM Wyoming
7. TCM Texas
8. TCM Illinois
9. TCM Wisconsin

5.1.4 Europe

1. Rev. Olivier Devalez -Custos Fidei -Legatus Galliae-
2. Creativity Movement Slovakia
3. Creativity Movement Croatia
4. Rev. Skuli Jakobsson -Iceland-
5. Brother Thomas -Eastern Germany-
6. Creativity Movement England
7. Creativity Movement Poland

5.1.5 Australia

1. Rev. Patrick O'Sullivan

Since the KKK, the Creativity Movement has been the most representative organization of White Supremacy. The KKK was almighty during the XX century. In this XXI century, the Creativity Movement apparently has what is necessary to be the new racist group of the moment.

5.2 Effects of the KK Ideology

5.2.1 Arizona Law



On April 23, 2010, Arizona's State Senate voted 17-11, approving Arizona's most controversial immigration law. SB 1070 orders immigrants to carry their papers at all times to demonstrate that they are legal in the United States. Additionally, police officers can question anyone whom they think are illegal immigrants. This bill also makes it illegal to hire illegal immigrant laborers or intentionally transport them.

Even though Arizona's immigration law has been highly catalyzed as racist and violent, according to Byron York in his article "A carefully crafted immigration law in Arizona" SB 1070 is a reasonable, limited, carefully-crafted measure designed to help law enforcement deal with a serious problem in Arizona.⁵¹

In the Second Section of this law it states:

For any lawful contact made by a law enforcement official or agency of this state or a county, city, town or other political subdivision of this state where reasonable suspicion exists that the person is an alien who is unlawfully present in the United States, a reasonable attempt shall be made, when practicable, to determine the immigration status of the person. The person's immigration status shall be verified with the federal government pursuant to 8 United States code section⁵²

According to York, critics focused only on the term "reasonable suspicion", which was interpreted as giving the police officer the right to pick anyone out of the crowd and force them to prove that they were in the United States legally. What fewer people have noticed was the expression "lawful contact", which meant that in order

⁵¹<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/columns/Byron-York/A-carefully-crafted-immigration-law-in-Arizona-92136104.html#ixzz11LcSnbSz>

⁵² *Ibíd.*



for the police to question a Hispanic, he had to be involved in the violation of another law.

Although this phrase prevented policemen from stopping just anyone, nothing could assure that they would obey this term. We have to admit that there are many racist people who will probably use this law to harass Latinos, but only time will tell us if the law will benefit the majority.

For the time being we can only base our conclusions on the effects it has caused until now. Let us consider the 6 most curious observations:

5.2.1.1 Experts are predicting that Arizona will turn Blue

Until now, the state's Hispanics have been far more receptive to Republicans than Hispanics nationwide. In 2008, John McCain won 41 percent of Arizona's Latino vote (compared with only 23 percent of the national Hispanic vote). Now, in the wake of SB 1070, the Daily Kos is warning that anti-GOP feeling amongst Latinos could shift the state's political leanings: "Within a decade, Arizona will be as reliably Democratic as California is today."

5.2.1.2 Republicans may get a national boost

Even if the GOP loses Arizona in the long term as a result of the bill, it could see short-term gains. A small majority (51 percent) of Americans approve of the bill, according to a Gallup poll, with three of four Republicans saying they back the measure. "Most Americans have heard about Arizona's tough new immigration law, and they support it," says Gallup's Jeffrey M. Jones.



5.2.1.3 Baseball fans plan to boycott the Arizona Diamondbacks

Arizona's Major League Baseball team has a high number of Latino players. Therefore its games have turned into a possible boycott target. Activists hope to persuade the state to change its divisive law through economic boycotts.

5.2.1.4 Critics are (unfairly) vilifying an iced tea company

Some people who are against the bill are planning not only a local but widespread boycott against all products made in Arizona. This has the makers of Arizona Iced Tea worried since their mixture is prepared in New York and not in Arizona. This company would suffer the consequences of the boycott due to their name which pays tribute to a south-western inspired house in Queens.

5.2.1.5 Concerned citizens can buy "Relax, I'm legal" tees

"Where there's controversy, there's t-shirts," says Aylin Zafar at *The Atlantic*. Clever marketers are using this controversy to create political outerwear. Opponents of the bill can buy a "Relax. I'm legal" shirt, while supporters can wear the message: "Arizona: Doing the job the Feds won't do."

5.3 Illegal Immigrants

5.3.1 Arizona's Immigration Law



According to the article “**Killing of Arizona Latinos Blamed on Hate and SB 1070**” written by Alex DiBranco, this law has resulted in the murder of at least one Arizona Latino. Juan Varela was shot dead after an argument with a white neighbor, Gary Thomas Kelley, over Arizona's harsh new anti-immigrant law. Even though Varela was a U.S. citizen, Kelley yelled before shooting Varela, "You fucking wetback! Go back to Mexico!" Varela's family blamed the approval of SB 1070 for the death of their loved one.⁵³

We cannot help but to compare this attack to the ones carried out by the Ku Klux Klan, except this time they no longer need a hood or a robe to do so. Arizona's law of course does not legalize the assassination of Latinos, but it promotes hatred towards them. Arizona's Latinos have started to leave the state, in an attempt to protect their lives. In the following picture we can see Silvia Arias, 49, comforting Claudia Suriano, 28, who gets emotional as they talk about leaving the state because of the new Arizona immigration law during a final yard sale June 5 in front of their homes in Phoenix. Arias and Suriano are both illegal immigrants.

Picture # 29

Silvia Arias



⁵³http://www.huffingtonpost.com/s_n_544864.html#s86807

on-law-



http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2010/04/20/arizona-immigration-law-s_n_544864.html#s86807

5.3.2 Education

This law has brought much fear which has reflected upon decisions people have made. Robert Shelton president of Arizona's University said the college has lost several students due to the state's new immigration law. He wrote:

We have already begun to feel an impact from SB1070. The families of a number of out-of-state students (to date all of them honors students) have told us that they are changing their plans and will be sending their children to universities in other states. This should sadden anyone who cares about attracting the best and brightest students to Arizona.

Additionally, large numbers of UA students, faculty, staff and appointed professionals have expressed concerns that they or members of their families or their friends may now be subject to unwarranted detainment by police. Many of these individuals are from families that have been residents of Arizona for generations. While I am completely confident that no one need fear the way that UAPD will approach the application of this law, I nevertheless appreciate the anxiety that friends and colleagues are feeling. It is a concern and fear that no one should have to harbor.⁵⁴

⁵⁴http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2010/04/20/arizona-immigration-law-s_n_544864.html#s86807



This letter demonstrates that Arizona's law has frightened citizens all over the United States. There are many Latinos who have worked very hard to be accepted into excellent colleges and being so close to their goal they have pulled out, fearing harassment by cops who are now immigration police. Moreover the withdrawal of these students also brings negative economic effects to Arizona's Universities.

5.3.3 Health

According to Roger Hughes, executive director of *St. Luke's Health Initiatives*, neighborhood projects have received several reports that Hispanic families have been refusing to go to community clinics because they are afraid of being deported. When their situation gets really bad and they finally go to the clinic it is often to the emergency room for something that could have been prevented earlier.⁵⁵

This is a very worrying situation since Hispanics, illegal or not, can no longer look for health care, since they are afraid of being deported. This is not a joking matter; health care involves situations of life and death. We should remember that not all Hispanics are delinquents and that most of them contributed to the progress of the state. Consequently they should be able to go to a hospital. It is better to have healthy citizens than sick and weak ones who will infect the rest.

⁵⁵ <http://healthaffairs.org/blog/2010/04/30/arizonas-immigration-law-bad-for-health/>



5.3.4 Protests

Arizona has witnessed several protests since SB 1070 was passed. On April 25th, 2010 hundreds of people protested outside Arizona's Capitol building against the state's harsh new immigration law. They had signs that read "We have rights" and "We are human" and they chanted, "Yes we can". The following are pictures of the protest.

Picture # 30

People in the Protest



Picture # 31

People in the Protest



http://articles.cnn.com/2010-04-25/politics/arizona.immigration.protest_1_immigration-law-profiling-state-courts?_s=PM:POLITICS

The Arizona Law is just an example of the variety we have in society. With this law, the ones who have the worst part are the immigrants who now have to look for other options since they are persecuted, fair or unfairly.



They are the direct effects an ideology like the Klan can create and provoke. Let us remember that society has different fields in which it is developed. We have just talked about the social impact among people, but we should not forget about Literature, for instance.

Within the United States there have been several authors that have talked about the KKK in their works, directly or indirectly. Let us take as a reference Tennessee Williams, a theater writer who, through his plays, reminds us of the KKK's presence throughout US history. He mentions the KKK in one of his most famous works called *The Crystal Zoo*, although the organization is not the central theme.

As we saw earlier in our investigation, what caused the rebirth of the Klan was a movie based on the life of the KKK of Reconstruction days. Recall that the idea for the movie was taken from a literature book called *The Clansman: An Historical Romance Of The Ku Klux Klan*, by Thomas Dixon. It was from this book that *The Birth of a Nation* originated, and of course the new appearance of the Invisible Empire of the Ku Klux Klan.

The KKK also takes part in music, where singers denounce its crimes, racism, and cruelty. We find this in a song interpreted by The Ramones called *The KKK took my baby away* in which the author talks about the disappearance of a girl, and how it was impossible to do anything about it since the Klan had people working inside politics.



Picture # 33

Black Eyed Peas



http://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_E.N.D.

Another sample in music is the song *Where is the love?* presented by Black Eyed Peas, a famous hip hop group in the United States. Let us read a part of the lyric:

*I think the whole world's addicted to the drama
Only attracted to the things that bring you trauma
Overseas yeah we trying to stop terrorism
But we still got terrorists here living
In the USA the big CIA the Bloodz and the Crips and the KKK
But if you only have love for your own race
Then you only leave space to discriminate
And to discriminate only generates hate
And if you hating you're bound to get irate
Yeah madness is what you demonstrate...⁵⁶*

The group became famous with this song since it is a protest against terrorism, discrimination and hate. Again, with the polemic Arizona law, the group, or at least

⁵⁶ <http://www.blackeyedpeas.com/>



one of its integrants, sang to stop it. The Klan and its actions move people in favor or against the White Supremacy ideology, and we can see the effects.

In addition to this, there are many books that recount the history of the KKK, books which talk about its life, its development, and its fall, among other things. It is obviously an important group since it has created controversy in general. We have reviewed just some editions of them, all of them very interesting, useful, and well documented.

It is redundant to mention that the Klan also had its influence and effects upon politics since it was a political group for some years. And if we talk about education, we cannot deny that even now Klan's ideas are present in the classrooms of schools, and universities that fight for getting a place free of colored people.

There is no doubt. The KKK did its work well while it lasted, and emerged as a big phenomenon in society. Today the Klan is still alive, but its work, and its presence, are just noticed when they decide to do a little protest, parade, or celebration. It does not inspire the same fear as some years ago. However, we can still feel its existence among us through the new racist ideologies that appear from day to day.



CONCLUSIONS

We wanted to research about the Ku Klux Klan and White Supremacy in order to show that discrimination still exists in spite of the level of development our civilization has reached nowadays. It does not matter how much time has passed; the biggest issues human beings worry about have not been solved yet.

This topic was inspired by the difficult moments that many people have lived throughout history. The Ku Klux Klan appeared as a consequence of the Civil War and its effects on slavery. We were interested in doing some research about this subject because we could not believe that human beings would act as savages, like the members of this Klan have done.

Slavery or racism is not an easy issue to talk about; however, we learned that they are part of life and a terrible part of history as well. We cannot deny the fact that racism is alive today. It is present, and it still hurts many people on the whole planet.

Let us remember that the KKK started as a way to kill boredom after the Civil War. We learned that the Klan was the first racist group in the United States, but it was a surprise to discover that the first Klan was not as violent as the one reformed by Sir William Simmons some years later.

In spite of this, the creation of the Klan did not answer a real need within society. At the beginning the KKK was a game or a form of entertainment; however, their behavior does not justify the crimes its members committed some time later. Clearly, a desire for power was present in those men who decided to frighten black people.

As time passed, little by little, the United States became a strong and wealthy nation. Things were better than ever before. People had jobs, children had a good



education, and a lot of foreigners started to consider this country as the best place to move to in order to improve their living conditions.

Then an ambitious man appeared. He wanted to build an empire, so he took some ideas from the original Klan and created once more a secret organization based on the principle that the white race should rule the world. This man was Sir William Simmons, the man who said his organization, the Invisible Empire of the Ku Klux Klan Inc., would be a fraternal group based on the Bible.

The first years of the new Klan were the best ones because it would not see the same success for very long.

Simmons felt the obligation to rescue the country from a false threat called immigration. He forgot that the founders of the United States of America were also immigrants, people who came to the new world looking for wealth, religious conversion, and political and religious freedom; in other words, they came to America in order to have a better life.

Simmons fought against immigrants; therefore, he violated the Constitution he claimed to defend. Besides, the fact that the Klan acquired thousands of members by selling its hate literature shows that racism was present in several ways and for different reasons in each member of the Invisible Empire.

Klansmen had the opportunity to take part in politics. They manipulated laws as they wanted. In that way they preserved the principle of superiority by denying the laws that could favor non-white or non-Protestant people. Once more, White Supremacy was present in the pages of North American history.

Another reason to affirm that the Klan belongs to the ideology of White Supremacy is the fact that all the crimes they committed took place while they were in



authority, and no one dared to touch or denounce such a powerful and dangerous organization.

A strong argument that supports our thesis is the consequences the Klan had and has on society. For some time, non-white and non-protestant people lived in fear because of the KKK. Many people had to move to other states to avoid the menaces and bad treatment given by Klansmen. Education also changed when the Klan decided to prohibit the creation of Catholic or private schools in different places.

There are also the several groups that appeared after the Klan, following the same ideology, which pretended to defend the country of a foreign threat, the same as the KKK did in earlier years. For example, the Arizona law that aims to eliminate immigrants from all parts of the state.

Finally, we believe that there are enough reasons to state that the KKK is a reflection of White Supremacy in our continent. We do not understand why people in the United States call themselves Americans as if they were the only ones living here. The same reason you call yourselves Ecuadorians, even though there are people all around the world who live on the Equator... it's the name of the country... Therefore, Nativism is another reason to support our investigation.

We hope people can be aware of this phenomenon, so they can become active members of our society, working together to defend and protect our rights and our future.



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