

KU KLUX KLAN – A BUNCH OF CHRISTIAN SOUTHERN BOYS!

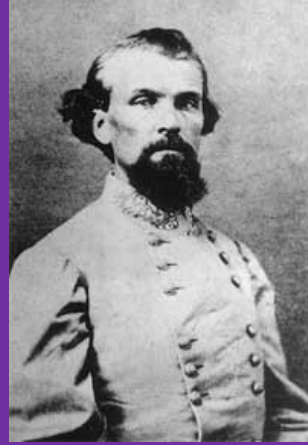
By Joy Dei and Oleg Dei



Ku Klux Klan (KKK) is the name of an organization in the United States that has advocated white supremacy, anti-Semitism, anti-Catholicism, racism, homophobia, and anti-Communism. This organization has often used terrorism, violence, and acts of intimidation, such as cross burning and lynching, to oppress African Americans and other social or ethnic groups. The Klan began in 1866. Founded by veterans of the Confederate Army, its main purpose was to resist Reconstruction. It focused on putting down the freed slaves. The KKK quickly adopted violent methods. The Klan's leadership disowned violence as Southern elites saw the Klan as an excuse for federal troops to continue their activities in the South. The organization declined from 1868 to 1870 and was destroyed in the early 1870s by President Ulysses S. Grant's vigorous action under the Civil Rights Act of 1871 also known as the Ku Klux Klan Act. In 1915, a second distinct group was founded using the same name. It grew against social fears aroused by rapid changes in many major cities as they absorbed new immigrants from southern and eastern Europe, Southern blacks of the Great Migration and whites from rural areas. Mass media sensationalized events that helped spark the Klan, such as the film The Birth of a Nation and inflammatory newspaper coverage of the trial, conviction and lynching of Leo Frank in Atlanta. The second KKK was a formal fraternal organization, with a national and state structure, that paid thousands of men to organize local chapters all over the country.

At its peak in the early 1920s, the organization included about 15% of the nation's eligible population, approximately 4–5 million men. The second KKK typically preached **racism**, anti-Catholicism, **anti-Communism**, and anti-Semitism. Some local groups took part in lynchings and other violent activities. Violence occurred mostly in the South, which already had a tradition of lawlessness. Its popularity fell during the **Great Depression**, and membership fell further during **World War II** because of scandals resulting from prominent members' crimes and its support of the **Nazis**. Several members of the KKK were eventually convicted of murder and manslaughter in the deaths of civil rights workers and children in Alabama and Mississippi (as in the **bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Alabama**, the assassination of **NAACP** organizer **Medgar Evers**, and the murders of three **civil rights workers**). Today, researchers estimate that there are as many as 150 Klan chapters with up to 8,000 members nationwide. The government classifies these groups as extreme **hate groups**. The modern KKK has been repudiated by all mainstream media, **political** and **religious** leaders.

Creation - The original Ku Klux Klan was created after the end of the **American Civil War** on **December 24, 1865**, by six educated, middle-class **Confederate** veterans from **Pulaski, Tennessee**, who were bored with postwar routine. The name was constructed by combining the **Greek** "kyklos" (circle) with "**clan**." The Ku Klux Klan soon spread into nearly every southern state, launching a "reign of terror" against both black and white Republican leaders. Those assassinated during the campaign included **Arkansas** Congressman **James M. Hinds**, three members of the **South Carolina** legislature, and several men who had served in constitutional conventions. Nathan Bedford Forrest was selected as **Grand Wizard**, the Klan's national leader. In later interviews, however, Forrest denied the leadership role and stated he never had any effective control over the cells.



Nathan Bedford Forrest

PAGE 2

Activities

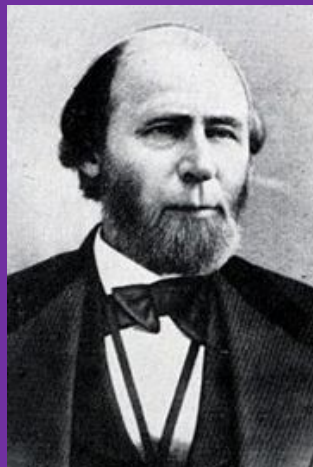
The Klan sought to control the political and social status of the freed slaves. Specifically, it attempted to curb black education, economic advancement, **voting rights**, and the **right to bear arms**. However, although the Klan's focus was mainly African Americans, Southern Republicans also became the target of vicious intimidation tactics. The violence achieved its purpose. For example, in the April 1868 **Georgia** gubernatorial election, **Columbia County** cast 1,222 votes for Republican **Rufus Bullock**, but in the **November presidential election**, the county cast only one vote for Republican candidate Ulysses Grant. Klan intimidation often targeted schoolteachers and operatives of the federal **Freedmen's Bureau**. Black members of the Loyal Leagues were frequent targets of Klan raids. In **Mississippi**, according to the Congressional inquiry Klansmen killed more than 150 African Americans in a single county in **Florida**, and hundreds more in other counties. An 1868 proclamation by Gordon demonstrates several issues surrounding Klan activities. A federal grand jury in 1869 determined that the Klan was a "terrorist organization." Hundreds of indictments for crimes of violence and terrorism were issued. Klan members

were prosecuted, and many fled jurisdiction, particularly in South Carolina. Gordon warned some people had been carrying out violent acts in the name of the Klan. It was true many people not formally inducted into the Klan found the Klan's uniform to be a convenient way to hide their identities when carrying out acts of violence.

By 1868, two years after the Klan's creation, its activity was beginning to decrease and as Gordon's proclamation shows, to become less political and more simply a way of avoiding prosecution for violence. Many influential southern Democrats were beginning to see it as a liability, an excuse for the federal government to retain its power over the South. In an 1868 newspaper interview, Forrest boasted the Klan was a nationwide organization of 550,000 men, and although he was not a member, he was "in sympathy" and would "cooperate" with them, and he could muster 40,000 Klansmen with five days' notice. He stated the Klan did not see blacks as its enemy so much the Loyal Leagues, Republican state governments like Tennessee governor [Brownlow's](#), and other carpetbaggers and scalawags. This was a half truth since one of the main reasons for targeting these white groups was they were impediments to efforts against the former slaves. The Klan went after white members of these groups, especially the schoolteachers brought south by the Freedmen's Bureau, many of whom had before the war been [abolitionists](#) or active in the [underground railroad](#). Many white southerners believed blacks were voting for the Republican Party only because they had been hoodwinked by the Loyal

PAGE 3

Leagues. Black members of the Loyal Leagues were also the frequent targets of Klan raids. One Alabama newspaper editor declared that "The League is nothing more than a nigger Ku Klux Klan. The first Klan was never centrally organized. As a secret or "[invisible](#)" group, it had no membership rosters, no dues, no newspapers, no spokesmen, no chapters, no local officers, no state or national officials. Its popularity came from its reputation, which was greatly enhanced by its outlandish costumes and its wild and threatening theatrics.

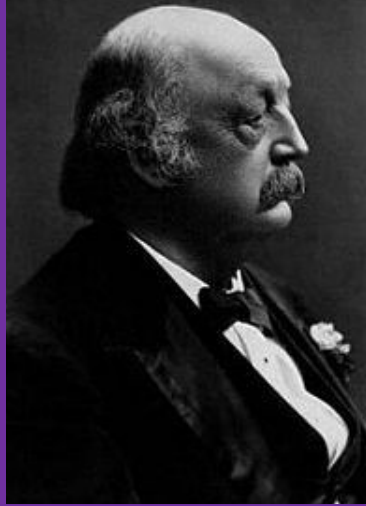


Gov. William Holden of North Carolina

Gov. William Holden of North Carolina attempted to use the state militia against the Klan and was removed from office. Although the Klan was being used more often as a mask for nonpolitical crimes, state and local governments seldom acted against it. In lynching cases, whites were almost never indicted by all-white coroner's juries, and even when there was an indictment, all-white trial juries were unlikely to vote for conviction. In many states, there were fears that the use of black militiamen would ignite a race war. When Republican Governor of North Carolina William Woods Holden called out the militia against the Klan in 1870, the result was a backlash that led to Republicans losing their majority in the legislature, and ultimately, to his own impeachment and removal from office. Despite its power, there was resistance to Klan terror. "Occasionally, organized groups successfully confronted the Klan. White Union Army veterans in mountainous Blount County, Alabama, organized 'the anti-Ku Klux,' which put an end to violence by threatening Klansmen with reprisals unless they stopped whipping Unionists and burning black churches and schools. Armed blacks patrolled the streets of Bennettsville, South Carolina, to prevent Klan assaults." There was also a national movement to crack down on the Klan, even though many Democrats at the national level questioned whether the Klan even existed or was just a creation of nervous Republican governors in the South. In January 1871, Pennsylvania Republican Senator John Scott convened a committee which took testimony from 52

PAGE 4

witnesses about Klan atrocities. Many southern states had already passed anti-Klan legislation, and in February Congressman (and former Union General) Benjamin Franklin Butler of Massachusetts (who was widely reviled by Southern whites) introduced federal legislation modeled on it. The tide was turned in favor of the bill by the Governor of South Carolina's appeal for federal troops, and by reports of a riot and massacre in a Meridian, Mississippi, courthouse, from which a black state representative escaped only by taking to the woods.



Benjamin Franklin Butler wrote the 1871 Klan Act

In 1871, President Ulysses S. Grant signed Butler's legislation, the Ku Klux Klan Act, which was used along with the 1870 Force Act to enforce the civil rights provisions of the constitution. Under the Klan Act, federal troops were used rather than state militias, and Klansmen were prosecuted in federal court, where juries were often predominantly black. Hundreds of Klan members were fined or imprisoned, and *habeas corpus* was suspended in nine counties in South Carolina. These efforts were so successful that the Klan was destroyed in South Carolina and decimated throughout the rest of the country, where it had already been in decline for several years. Prosecutions were led by Attorney General **Amos Tappan Akerman**. The tapering off of the federal government's actions under the Klan Act, ca. 1871–74, went along with the final extinction of the Klan, although in some areas similar activities, including intimidation and murder of black voters, continued under the auspices of local organizations such as the White League, Red Shirts, saber clubs, and rifle clubs. Even though the Klan no longer existed, it had achieved many of its goals, such as denying voting rights to Southern blacks. However, it took several more years for all Klan elements to be destroyed. On Easter Sunday, 1873, the bloodiest single instance of racial violence in the Reconstruction era happened during the **Colfax massacre**. The massacre began when black citizens fought back against

PAGE 5

the Klan and its allies in the White League. As Louisiana black teacher and legislator John G. Lewis later remarked, "They attempted (armed self-defense) in Colfax. The result was that on Easter Sunday of 1873, when the sun went down that night, it went down on the corpses of two hundred and eighty negroes".

The Second Klan

In the four and a half decades after the suppression of the first Ku Klux Klan, race relations in the United States remained very bad, especially in the South, as paramilitary groups operated in the 1870s to repress African-American leaders and voting. According to [Tuskegee Institute](#), the 1890s was the **peak decade** for lynchings, with most of them directed against African Americans in the South. founding of the second Ku Klux Klan in 1915 demonstrated the new power of modern mass media. Three closely related events sparked the resurgence. The chief causes, however, were the rapid pace of change in cities and society due to urbanization and industrialization, massive new immigration from eastern and southern rural cultures of Europe, plus the start of the **Great Migration of African Americans** to the North, as well as the migration of African Americans and whites from rural areas to Southern cities. People were fearful of change and joined the Klan as a fraternal organization. The Klan grew most in those cities which had high growth rates between 1910 and 1930, such as Detroit, Memphis, Dayton, Atlanta, Dallas and Houston. It was weak in other areas and cities that did not have such high growth rates. The second Ku Klux Klan was founded in Atlanta with a new anti-immigrant, anti-Catholic, and anti-Semitic agenda. The bulk of the founders were from an Atlanta-area organization calling itself the Knights of Mary Phagan that had organized around the Frank trial. The new organization emulated the fictionalized version of the Klan presented in *The Birth of a Nation*. *The Birth of a Nation* includes extensive quotations from Woodrow Wilson's *History of the American People*, for example, "The white men were roused by a mere instinct of self-preservation ... until at last there had sprung into existence a great Ku Klux Klan, a veritable empire of the South, to protect the Southern country." Wilson, on seeing the film in a special **White House** screening on **February 18, 1915**, exclaimed, "It is like writing history with lightning, and my only regret is that it is all so terribly true." Given the film's strong Democratic partisan message and Wilson's documented views on race and the Klan, his statement was seen as supporting the Klan, and the word "regret" as referring to the film's depiction of **Radical Republican** Reconstruction. Later correspondence with Griffith, the film's director, confirms Wilson's enthusiasm about the film. Wilson's remarks were widely reported and immediately became controversial. Wilson tried to remain aloof from the controversy.

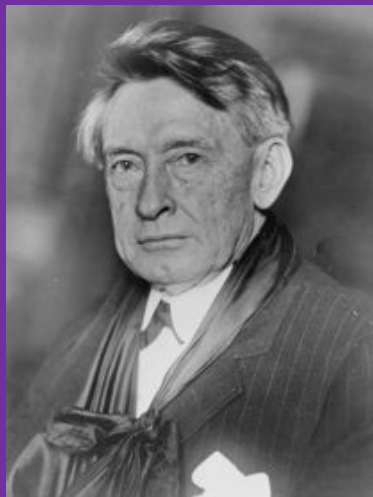
PAGE 6

His endorsement of the film greatly enhanced its popularity and influence, and helped Griffith to defend it against legal attack by the **NAACP**. The film, in turn, was a major factor leading to the creation of the second Klan in the same year.



The lynching of Leo Frank

In the same year, an important event in the coalescence of the second Klan was the trial, conviction and lynching of Leo Frank, a Jewish factory manager. In sensational newspaper accounts, Frank was accused of sexual crimes and of the murder of Mary Phagan, a girl employed at his factory. He was convicted of murder after a questionable trial in Georgia. The judge asked that Frank and his counsel not be present when the verdict was announced because of the violent mob of people surrounding the court house. Frank's appeals failed. Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes dissented, condemning the intimidation of the jury as failing to provide due process of law. After the governor commuted his sentence to life imprisonment, a mob calling itself the Knights of Mary Phagan kidnapped Frank from the prison farm and lynched him.



Thomas E. Watson

The Frank trial was used skillfully by Georgia politician and publisher

the editor for *The Jeffersonian* magazine. He was a leader in the reorganization of the Klan and was later elected to the U.S. Senate. The new Klan was inaugurated in 1915 at a meeting led by William J. Simmons on top of Stone Mountain. It was attended by a few aging members of the original Klan,

along with members of the Knights of Mary Phagan. Simmons used the original Klan's "Prescripts," written in 1867 by George Gordon in an attempt to give the original Klan national organization. The Prescript states as the Klan's purposes: First: To protect the weak, the innocent, and the defenseless from the indignities, wrongs and outrages of the lawless, the violent and the brutal; to relieve the injured and oppressed; to succor the suffering and unfortunate, and especially the widows and orphans of the Confederate soldiers. Second: To protect and defend the Constitution of the United States ... Third: To aid and assist in the execution of all constitutional laws, and to protect the people from unlawful seizure, and from trial except by their peers in conformity with the laws of the land. "The Klan's resurgence in the 1920s partially stemmed from the extreme militant wing of the temperance movement. In Arkansas, as elsewhere, the newly formed Ku Klux Klan marked bootleggers as one of the groups that needed to be purged from a morally upright community. In 1922, 200 Klansmen torched saloons that had sprung up in Union County in the wake of the oil discovery boom.



William Joseph Simmons **founded the second Ku Klux Klan in 1915**

The Klan was successful in recruiting throughout the country, but the membership turned over rapidly. Still, millions joined, and at its peak in the 1920s the organization included about 15% of the nation's eligible population and had chapters across the United States. There were clans founded in Canada, most notably in Saskatchewan, where there was a large clan movement against Catholic immigrants. This Klan was operated as a profit-making venture by its leaders, and it participated in the boom in fraternal organizations at the time. Organizers signed up hundreds of new members, who paid initiation fees and bought KKK costumes. The organizer kept half the

PAGE 7

money and sent the rest to state or national officials. When the organizer was done with an area, he organized a huge rally, often with burning crosses and perhaps a ceremonial presentation of a Bible to a local Protestant minister. He left town with all the money. The local units operated like many fraternal

organizations, occasionally bringing in speakers. The state and national officials had little or no control over the locals and rarely attempted to forge them into political movements.



The burning cross is a symbol used by the Klan to create terror. Cross burning is said to have been introduced by [William J. Simmons](#), the founder of the second Klan in 1915. In keeping with nativist fears of the waves of new Catholic and Jewish immigration from southern and eastern Europe, the reorganized Klan had an anti-Jewish, anti-Catholic, anti-Communist and [anti-immigrant](#) slant. In addition, because of the staggeringly rapid pace of population growth and change in industrializing cities such as Detroit and Chicago, the new Klan grew rapidly in the U.S. [Midwest](#). It also grew in rapidly changing cities of the South such as Dallas and Houston. Recruiters made effective use of the idea that America's post-war problems were caused by blacks or by Jewish bankers, or by new immigrants. The new Klan differed from the original one as it was influential throughout the United States, with major political influence on politicians in several states. The new Klan was popular as far north as [New England](#), where it engaged in violent activities such as torching an [African American](#) school in [Scituate, Rhode Island](#). In the 1920s and 1930s a faction of the Klan called the [Black Legion](#) was very active in the Midwestern U.S. Rather than wearing white robes, the Legion wore black uniforms reminiscent of [pirates](#). The Black Legion was the most violent and zealous faction of the Klan and were notable for targeting and assassinating [communists](#) and [socialists](#) Klan groups also took part in lynchings, even going so far as to murder Black soldiers returning from [World War I](#) while they were still in their military uniforms. The Klan warned Blacks that they must respect the rights of the white race "in whose country they are permitted to reside."

PAGE 8

Political influence

The second Ku Klux Klan rose to great prominence and spread from the South into the Midwest and Northern states and even into Canada. At its peak, Klan

membership exceeded 4 million and comprised 20% of the adult white male population in many broad geographic regions, as high as 40% in some areas. Most of the membership resided in Midwestern states. Through sympathetic elected officials, the KKK controlled the governments of Tennessee, Indiana, [Oklahoma](#), and [Oregon](#), in addition to some of the Southern legislatures. Klan influence was particularly strong in Indiana, where Republican Klansman [Edward Jackson](#) was elected governor in 1924, and the entire apparatus of state government was riddled with Klansmen. In another well-known example from the same year, the Klan decided to make [Anaheim, California](#), into a model Klan city; it secretly took over the city council but was voted out in a special recall election. There is also evidence that in certain states, such as Alabama, the KKK was not a mere hate group and showed a genuine desire for political and social reform. Because of the elite conservative political structure in Alabama, the state's Klansmen were among the foremost advocates of better public schools, effective [prohibition](#) enforcement, expanded road construction, and other "[progressive](#)" political measures. In many ways these progressive political goals, which benefited ordinary and lower class white people in the state, were the result of the Klan offering these same people their first chance to install their own political champions into office. By 1925, the Klan was a powerful political force in the state, as powerful figures like [J. Thomas Heflin](#), [David Bibb Graves](#), and [Hugo Black](#) manipulated the KKK membership against the power of the "Big Mule" industrialists and Black Belt planters who had long dominated the state. Black was elected senator in 1926 and became a leading supporter of the [New Deal](#). When he was appointed to the Supreme Court in 1937, the revelation that he was a former Klansman shocked the country, but he stayed on the court. In 1926, [Bibb Graves](#), a former chapter head, won the governor's office with KKK members' support. He led one of the most progressive administrations in the state's history, pushing for increased education funding, better public health, new highway construction, and pro-labor legislation. However, as a result of these political victories, KKK vigilantes, thinking they enjoyed governmental protection, launched a wave of physical terror across Alabama in 1927, targeting both blacks and whites. The Klan not only targeted people for violating racial norms but also for perceived moral lapses. In [Birmingham](#), the Klan raided local [brothels](#) and roadhouses. In [Troy, Alabama](#), the Klan reported to parents the names of teenagers they caught making out in cars. One local Klan group also "kidnapped a white divorcee and stripped her to her waist, tied her to a tree, and whipped her savagely." The conservative elite counterattacked. Grover C. Hall, Sr., editor of

PAGE 9

the [Montgomery Advertiser](#), began a series of editorials and articles attacking the Klan for their "racial and religious intolerance." Hall won a [Pulitzer Prize](#) for his crusade. Other newspapers also kept up a steady, loud attack on the Klan

as violent and "un-American." Sheriffs cracked down on Klan violence. The counterattack worked; the state voted for Catholic Al Smith for president in the **1928 election**, and the Klan's official membership in Alabama plunged to under six thousand by 1930. At the peak of the Klan's political power, several highly notable political figures in the U.S. and Canada joined the Klan or flirted with membership. The list includes two Supreme Court justices and, according to evidence which is in some cases contested, possibly two presidents.

Decline

The second Klan collapsed partly as a result of the backlash against their actions and partly as a result of a scandal involving **David Stephenson** (at the time a member of the Republican Party, after previous active membership in the **Socialist Party** and then in the Democratic Party), the Grand Dragon of Indiana and fourteen other states, who was convicted of the rape and murder of **Madge Oberholtzer** in a sensational trial (she was bitten so many times that one man who saw her described her condition as having been "chewed by a **cannibal**"). According to historian Leonard Moore, at the heart of the backlash to the Klan's actions and the resulting scandals was a leadership failure which caused the organization's collapse:

In Alabama, the Klan's political successes caused the group to overstep. KKK vigilantes, thinking they enjoyed governmental protection, launched a wave of physical terror across Alabama in 1927, targeting both blacks and whites, not only for violating racial norms, but also for perceived moral lapses. In **Birmingham**, the Klan raided local **brothels** and roadhouses. In **Troy, Alabama**, the Klan reported to parents the names of teenagers they caught making out in cars. One local Klan group also "kidnapped a white divorcee and stripped her to her waist, tied her to a tree, and whipped her savagely." As a result of these attacks, the state's conservative elite counterattacked. Grover C. Hall, Sr., editor of the *Montgomery Advertiser*, began a series of editorials and articles attacking the Klan for their "racial and religious intolerance." Hall won a **Pulitzer Prize** for his crusade. Other newspapers also kept up a steady, loud attack on the Klan as violent and "un-American." Sheriffs cracked down on Klan violence. The counterattack worked; the state voted for Catholic Al Smith for president in the **1928 election**, and the Klan's official membership in Alabama plunged to under six thousand by 1930.

This trend was repeated across the country as the Klan fell out of public favor in the 1930s and withdrew from political activity. Grand Wizard Hiram Evans

PAGE 10

sold the organization in 1939 to **James Colescott**, an Indiana **veterinarian**, and Samuel Green, an Atlanta **obstetrician**, but they were unable to staunch the exodus of members. The Klan's image was further damaged by Colescott's association with **Nazi**-sympathizer organizations, the Klan's involvement with

the **1943 Detroit Race Riot**, and efforts to disrupt the American war effort during **World War II**. In 1944, the **IRS** filed a lien for \$685,000 in back taxes against the Klan, and Colescott was forced to dissolve the organization in 1944.



Ku Klux Klan members march down Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C. in 1928. Folklorist and author **Stetson Kennedy** infiltrated the Klan after World War II and provided information to media and law enforcement agencies. He also provided secret code words to the writers of the **Superman** radio program, resulting in a series of four episodes in which **Superman** took on the KKK. Kennedy's intention to strip away the Klan's mystique and trivialize the Klan's rituals and code words likely did have a negative impact on Klan recruiting and membership. Kennedy eventually wrote a book based on his experiences, which became a bestseller during the 1950s and further damaged the Klan.

After the breakup of the second Klan, the name "Ku Klux Klan" began to be used by several independent groups. The following table shows the change in the Klan's estimated membership over time. (The years given in the table represent approximate time periods.)

year	membership
1920	4,000,000
1924	6,000,000
1930	30,000
1980	5,000

Beginning in the 1950s, numerous individual Klan groups began to resist the **Civil Rights Movement**. Their actions included bombing of houses in transitional neighborhoods and bombing of houses of activists, as well as physical violence, intimidation and assassination. In Birmingham, Alabama, during the tenure of

Bull Connor, Klan groups were closely allied with police and operated with impunity for years. In states such as Alabama and Mississippi, their alliances reached into the governors' administrations. Among the more notorious murders by Klan members during this period were: The 1957 murder of Willie Edwards, Jr. Klansmen forced Edwards to jump to his death from a bridge into the Alabama River.

The 1963 assassination of NAACP organizer Medgar Evers in Mississippi. In 1994, former Ku Klux Klansman Byron De La Beckwith was convicted of Evers' murder. The 1963 bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, which killed four black girls. Four Klansmen were named as suspects; they were not prosecuted until years later. The Klan members were Robert Chambliss, convicted in 1977, Thomas Blanton and Bobby Frank Cherry, convicted of murder in 2001 and 2002. The fourth suspect, Herman Cash, died before he was indicted. The 1964 murders of three civil rights workers Chaney, Goodman, and Schwerner in Mississippi. In June 2005, Klan member Edgar Ray Killen was convicted of manslaughter in the murders. Klan groups also killed others during this time period. Many of the murders went unreported and were not prosecuted. For example, in 1951 Harry T. Moore, a school teacher and state director of the NAACP in Florida, died with his wife, Harriette, when their house was bombed. The FBI turned up several suspects but no one was prosecuted. "Forty years later, a former Marine and Ku Klux Klansman told NAACP officials that he and other Klansmen had conspired with law enforcement officials to plan and carry out the murder.... According to a subsequent report from the Southern Regional Council in Atlanta, the homes of forty black Southern families were bombed during 1951 and 1952. Some, like Harry Moore, were social activists whose work exposed them to danger, but most were either people who had refused to bow to racist convention or were innocent bystanders, unsuspecting victims of random white terrorism." But while the post-war Klan groups were extremely violent, during this time period the Klan was also successfully pushed back. For example, in a 1958 North Carolina incident, the Klan burned crosses at the homes of two Lumbee Native Americans who had associated with white people, and then held a nighttime rally nearby, only to find themselves surrounded by hundreds of armed Lumbees. Gunfire was exchanged, and the Klan were routed.



Klansman **David Duke** was active in South **Boston** during the school busing crisis of 1974. Duke made efforts to update the Klan's image, urging Klansmen to "get out of the cow pasture and into hotel meeting rooms." Duke was leader of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan from 1974 until he resigned from the Klan in 1978. In 1980, he formed the **National Association for the Advancement of White People**, a **white nationalist** political organization. He was elected to the **Louisiana** State the House of Representatives in 1989 as a Republican, even though the party threw its support to a different candidate. Thompson reported resistance to the Klan became more common. During his brief membership his truck was shot at, he was yelled at by black children, and a Klan rally he attended turned into a riot when black soldiers on an adjacent military base taunted the Klansmen. Attempts by the Klan to march were often met with counter protests, and violence sometimes ensued.

Present



KKK members displaying the **Nazi salute** and advocating **Holocaust denial**. Although often still discussed in contemporary American politics as representing the quintessential "fringe" end of the **far-right** spectrum, today the group only exists in the form of isolated, scattered groups with a total

membership numbering no more than a few thousand. Since late 2006 the Anti-Defamation League has revised its assessment of the Ku Klux Klan, claiming that "The Ku Klux Klan, which just a few years ago seemed static or even moribund [...], has experienced a surprising and troubling resurgence due to the successful exploitation of hot-button issues including immigration, gay marriage and urban crime".



Today the only known former member of the Klan to hold a federal office in the United States is Democratic Senator [Robert Byrd](#) of [West Virginia](#), who says he "deeply regrets" joining the Klan over half a century ago, when he was about 24 years old.



SENATOR ROBERT BYRD – IS HE SALUTING HITLER OR WAVING TO HIS PALS?

Some of the larger KKK organizations currently in operation include: Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, headed by National Director Pastor [Thom Robb](#), and based in [Zinc, Arkansas](#). Claims to be biggest Klan organization in America today. It refers to itself as the "sixth era Klan" and continues to be a racist group. There are also numerous smaller organizations using the Klan name. As of 2005, there were an estimated 3,000 Klan members, divided between estimates of 100 and 158 chapters of a variety of splinter organizations, about two-thirds of which were in former Confederate states.

Welcome to the Ku Klux Klan!

Bringing a Message of Hope and Deliverance to White Christian America! A Message of Love NOT Hate!

Our Entire Group of Sites are Family and Christian Friendly

Observe the following banner it comes from the current KKK website. A White Christian America bringing a message of love! Are they crazy, their whole history has been of cold blooded cowardly murder based on racism and stupidity. What do they expect to do now with anyone who is different? Throw them out of this country. And as the banner proudly states the KKK have always been Bible thumping Christian Fundamentalists who like the Fundamentalists today believe that their message comes directly from God! The traitors of this country who started the civil war or the confederate scum, believed that enslaving the Negroes and treating their fellow humans worse than wild animals were Christian fundamentalists as well. There has been an awful lot of evil done in this country by Bible thumping Evangelical nut jobs including the election of this evil Administration. So I really get sick to my stomach when I hear the idiots proclaim that this is a Christian Nation. So it was a Christian Nation that stole the land from the Indians, killed the majority and put the rest on reservations. It was a Christian Nation that enslaved the Negroes, treated them worse than animals and then started a civil war to defend this sick principal. After the defeat of this Southern trash and the restoration of the United States of America, these Christian Fundamentalists created the evil KKK to terrorize the American Negro. And this is what it means to be a Southern Fundamentalists Christian? And some of these animals like Fundamentalist Presidential Candidate Huckabee is telling southern folks that no one should tell them whether or not they can fly their confederate flag. Well we here at SCLI would like to tell some of these animals where they could put their confederate flag! Below a bunch of good ole Christian boys getting together after church.

