

KKK (Ku Klux Klan)

Name: KKK (Ku Klux Klan)

Type of Organization:

- Criminal
- domestic terrorist
- political party (select branches)
- secret
- violent

Ideologies and Affiliations:

- Anti-immigrant
- anti-Catholic
- anti-miscegenation
- anti-Semitic
- homophobic
- nativist
- racist
- segregationist
- white nationalist
- white pride
- white supremacist
- xenophobic

Place of Origin:

Pulaski, Tennessee

Year of Origin:

1865 (original group)

Founder(s):

John C. Lester, John B. Kennedy, James R. Crowe, Frank O. McCord, Richard R. Reed, J. Calvin Jones (original group)

Places of Operation:

United States, Canada, worldwide

Overview

Executive Summary:

The Ku Klux Klan (“KKK” or “the Klan”), dedicated to white supremacy, is America’s best-known hate group.¹ However, the Klan’s power and standing has declined dramatically in the decades since its peak years of millions-strong membership. In fact, the KKK is no longer a single, cohesive organization, having splintered into at least four main offshoots and dozens of smaller factions, all of which identify as members of “the Klan” and incorporate “Klan” in their group names. However, the Klan’s influence remains significant, especially among U.S. hate groups. The KKK has also attracted “vast numbers of sympathizers”² due to its geographical diffusion across 41 states and historical notoriety, according to the Southern Poverty Law Center.³ It is the oldest hate group in the United States.⁴

The KKK is the oldest and most notorious hate group in the United States.

The KKK has gone through three phases of growth, followed each time by drastic decline. The original Klan was founded by a group of six Confederate army veterans in Tennessee in 1865. Fearing increasing political control by Reconstructionist politicians buoyed by the potential

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electoral power of newly freed male black slaves, the KKK responded by terrorizing black people through physical and psychological intimidation during the Reconstruction era following the Civil War. The KKK adopted costumes evoking the spirits of dead Confederate soldiers, exploiting fear and superstition among the black population. It existed until 1871, when the federal government passed the Ku Klux Klan Act, allowing the prosecution of KKK members as part of a terrorist organization.⁵ The KKK re-emerged in 1915 in Atlanta, Georgia. At the height of the group's power in the mid-1920s, it claimed around 4–5 million members. Numbers collapsed, however, and the organization effectively disbanded before the advent of World War II. In response to the burgeoning civil rights movement, the KKK was formed again during the 1960s and continues to function in limited ways. Today, there are at least four main KKK branches among the 72 active groups operating under the Klan name: the Brotherhood of Klans, the National Knights, the Imperial Klans of America and the Knights Party.⁶

The KKK has returned to the national public consciousness in the last two years. In 2014, Frazier Glenn Cross Jr. (a.k.a. Miller), the founder of the Carolina Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, was arrested for the murder of three people at Jewish community centers in Kansas and Missouri.⁷ On September 8, 2015, a Kansas jury recommended Cross be sentenced to death,⁸ and he was convicted of murder on November 11, 2015. When he was sentenced to death by a Kansas court, Cross responded, “Heil Hitler.”⁹

Heil Hitler. Frazier Glenn Cross Jr., upon sentencing for murdering three at Jewish community centers, 2015.

In 2015, after white supremacist Dylann Roof shot and killed nine African-Americans at a well-known black church in Charleston, South Carolina, the Loyal White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan distributed Klan propaganda with bags of candy to front lawns in Alabama, California, Georgia, Kansas, and Mississippi.¹⁰ On fliers, readers were encouraged to ring a hotline that saluted Roof, which said, “We in the Loyal White Knights would like to say hail victory to ... Dylann S. Roof who decided to do what the bible told him...”¹¹ A spokesperson for the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan (a.k.a. the Knights Party) took a different approach, trying to distance the KKK from Roof's actions by denouncing him. She urged the media to be “courageous” and highlight the denunciation, claiming that the murders would “be used to promote white guilt.”¹²

According to the Southern Poverty Law Center, “the Klan's message of hatred endures, supported by a record of violence and terror unmatched in the history of American extremist groups.”¹³

Doctrine:

The KKK believes in white supremacy, white solidarity, and preservation of the white race.

The KKK's overriding doctrine is white supremacy, white solidarity, and preservation of the white race. The group describes itself as “promoters of White Christian civilization.”¹⁴

In 1975, David Duke, a KKK member and future candidate for president and other high offices, launched the Knights Party, explicitly seeking to soften the Klan's image. According to the Knights Party, the KKK seeks to “secure the existence of our people and a future for white children” and advocates for white self-determination in the U.S.¹⁵ The Knights Party thus describes its ethos as “racialist” rather than “racist”¹⁶ and explicitly rejects charges of racism, claiming, “How disappointed they must be when they find out the Klan does not hate Negroes!”¹⁷ The term racialism as used by the Knights Party describes a simple preference for one race over another, rather than racism, which entails negative discrimination against other races. Other academics also claim differences between racism and racialism, including a Yale Law School professor who states, “[r]acialism is rational, morally neutral, and inevitable in a society with our history of slavery, discrimination, and white-black social differences in so many areas.”¹⁸ According to the Oxford English Dictionary and most dictionaries, however, it is synonymous with racism.¹⁹

Similar to the Knights Party's claim, the Imperial Wizard (leader) of the Traditional American Knights of the Ku Klux Klan Frank Ancona has stated, “We don't hate people because of their race... We want to keep our race the White race... We want to stay White. It's not a hateful thing to want to maintain White Supremacy.”²⁰

The Knights Party also downplays its violent associations—referring to its “alleged ‘violent’ past”²¹ —and explicitly rejects the label of “hate group.” According to the KKK itself, it “is not a hate group, but we are a LOVE group... because we LOVE America and we LOVE our people.” A KKK Chapter called the Traditionalist American Knights of the Ku Klux Klan (TAK) similarly states, “We are a non-violent organization that believes in the preservation of the White race and the United States Constitution as it was originally written...”²²

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Notwithstanding these attempts to disassociate the KKK from its racist foundations, the “same bigoted rhetoric...lurks beneath the veneer,” according to the Southern Poverty Law Center.²³ The KKK “target[s] blacks more often than any other group.” Biracial couples are also “frequent targets of Klan violence,” while anti-Semitism and “rabidly homophobic” literature since the 1970s also form key pillars of the KKK’s ideology. In 1999, homophobic Klan rhetoric reportedly inspired Steven Eric Mullins and Charles Monroe Butler to beat a gay man to death before burning the corpse.²⁴ In April 2014, the founder and former leader of the Carolina Knights of the Ku Klux Klan Glenn Frazier Cross shot and killed a boy and his grandfather at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Kansas City, one day before the Jewish holiday of Passover.²⁵

Organizational Structure:

There are at least four main KKK splinter groups operating today.

The KKK is no longer a single entity run by a sole leader and with central headquarters. The SPLC mentions at least four larger Klan organizations: the Brotherhood of Klans (BOK); the Church of the National Knights of the Ku Klux Klan (National Knights); Imperial Klans of America (IKA); and the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan (KKKK, a.k.a. The Knights Party), which is the largest group. These four main groups are supplemented by dozens of smaller factions, all of which use the “Klan” name.²⁶

The Brotherhood of Klans (BOK)

The Brotherhood of Klans (BOK) was founded in 1996 by Dale Fox. It is a “traditional” Klan and therefore highly secretive. It is nonetheless geographically widespread, and distinguishes itself from other factions as the only Klan to establish a presence outside the United States, “with a sizeable presence in Canada.”²⁷ Its headquarters are believed to be in Henderson, Tennessee.²⁸

The Church of the National Knights of the Ku Klux Klan (National Knights)

Formed in 1960 and now operating out of South Bend, Indiana, the National Knights is one of the most active Klans. The SPLC has pointed to the group’s organizational incompetence, saying it “gained a kind of “Keystone Kops” reputation on the white supremacist scene for its bumbling ways.”²⁹

Imperial Klans of America (IKA)

Like the BOK, the Imperial Klans of America (IKA) is a “traditional” Klan. It was founded by Ron Edwards in Dawson Springs, Kentucky in 1996. It is believed to be the second-largest Klan group after the BOK.³⁰

The Knights of the Ku Klux Klan (KKKK, a.k.a. the Knights Party)

The Knights Party was founded by David Duke in 1975 and purports to represent the modern Klan with a “kindler, gentler” face seeking “white civil rights.” Its head office is in Harrison, Arkansas.³¹

The KKK’s fragmentation and lack of organization has stemmed in large part from internal disputes over ideology, as well as petty squabbling.

³² Generally, cosmetic differences in competence, public relations ability, group size, and structure mark one group as different from another.

³³ Ideological distinctions between these Klan groups are marginal, however, as all are devoted to white supremacy.

The KKK consists of around 160 chapters across 41 states.

The KKK consists of around 160 known active chapters across 41 states, including both national organizations like the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan and local chapters such as the Alabama White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.³⁴ The London-based *Telegraph* estimates total KKK membership at “no more than 8,000,”³⁵ further “split among dozens of different—and often warring—organizations that use the Klan name.”³⁶ According to the Anti-Defamation League, the KKK has more chapters than any other U.S. right-wing group.³⁷ Two-thirds of chapters are located in the South.³⁸

Traditional KKK groups such as the TAK employ a well-developed hierarchical structure characterized by a distinctive Klan lexicon. TAK leader Frank Ancona, for instance, is known as the “Grand Wizard” of the organization. The United Northern and Southern Knights of the Ku Klux Klan (UNSKKKK) also retains the distinctive names of rank such as Klaliff, Kleagle, Kladd, Klexter, Klokard and Klokian.³⁹ The comparatively

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more “modern” Knights Party, by contrast, dispenses with the traditional Klan lexicon. In general, KKK members retain anonymity, apart from higher echelons and some officers.

Financing:

Funding for the KKK is believed to be minimal and primarily secured from membership fees and sales of KKK paraphernalia and merchandise.⁴⁰ The TAK also encourages prospective supporters disinclined to full membership to sign up as “Ghoul Squad” members, thereby “contributing to our unseen, invisible army of supporters” for a fee of \$25 or \$100.⁴¹

Recruitment:

Historically, a Klan group’s “Kleagle” is responsible for recruiting new members, known as “Ghouls.” According to the SPLC the Kleagle – in Klan groups that still adopt the traditional names – “gets a percentage of the initiation fees.”⁴² During the 1940s, membership cost \$10, “plus annual fees of \$6.80” and functioned as a pyramid scheme in which the “national, state, and provincial headquarters each got about a 20 percent slice of the action.”⁴³

The KKK has exploited major attacks, including the June 2015 South Carolina massacre, as an opportunity for recruitment. Through the summer of 2015, the KKK distributed fliers along with bags of candy on residential front yards across Alabama, California, Georgia, Kansas, and Mississippi. The fliers included the website and telephone number of the Loyal White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. According to “Grand Dragon” Robert Jones, “We’re doing this from the East Coast to the West Coast, just to let people know the Klan’s in their community.”⁴⁴ According to the Anti-Defamation League, sections of the KKK’s members are drawn from a “criminal milieu.”⁴⁵

The KKK also recruits through web-based media. Pastor Thomas Robb—a well-known current KKK leader, successor to David Duke, and current head of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan—hosts a show called *This Is The Klan* on his website. On the same site, younger members and prospective recruits are directed to watch *White Youth Focus*, hosted by Billy Graham, “for racially aware young people to get their news.”⁴⁶ Thomas Robb formerly hosted a YouTube show called *The Andrew Show* using the channel name ShowForWhiteKids.⁴⁷ “White women” are catered to in a show called *White Women’s Perspective*, hosted by Rachel Prendergraft and promoted on Pastor Robb’s website.⁴⁸ After taking control of the KKKK, Robb dispensed with the traditional initiation rites “in favor of a simple mail-in fee that earned applicants booklets and tests, allowing them to move through the ranks by paying for promotions.”⁴⁹

In the latter half of 2020 and continuing into early 2021, there were reports around the United States of the distribution of KKK propaganda materials. Various fliers were often distributed in plastic bags and weighted down by rice, bird seed, or rocks.⁵⁰ Some of them displayed the slogan “white lives matter” in protest of the Black Lives Matter movement.⁵¹ The fliers provided websites and post office boxes to contact area KKK chapters.⁵² According to the police chief of Tutelake, California, where such packages were found in December 2020, the offenders could possibly be charged with offensive littering, but KKK advertisements are generally protected under the First Amendment.⁵³

Also Known As:

- Brotherhood of Klans⁵⁴
- Church of the National Knights of the Ku Klux Klan⁵⁵
- Imperial Klans of America⁵⁶
- Knights of the Ku Klux Klan (the Knights Party)⁵⁷
- Ku Klos Knights of the Ku Klux Klan⁵⁸
- Loyal White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan⁵⁹
- National Aryan Knights of the Ku Klux Klan⁶⁰
- Original Knight Riders Knights of the Ku Klux Klan⁶¹
- The Klan⁶²
- Traditionalist American Knights of the Ku Klux Klan⁶³
- United Klans of America⁶⁴
- United Northern and Southern Knights of the Ku Klux Klan⁶⁵

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Key Leaders



Thomas Robb

National Director of the National
Knights of the Ku Klux Klan



Frank Ancona

Imperial Wizard of the Traditional
Knights of the Ku Klux Klan
(deceased)



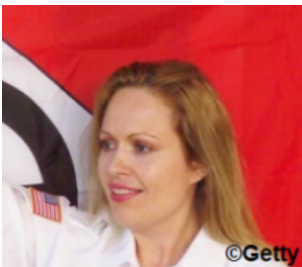
Phil Lawson

Emperor of the United Northern
and Southern Knights of the Ku
Klux Klan



Cole Thornton

Imperial Wizard of the United
Northern and Southern Knights of
the Ku Klux Klan



Rachel Pendergraft

Spokeswoman, National
Membership Coordinator of The
Knights of the Ku Klux Klan a.k.a.
The Knights Party

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History:

- **May 11, 2021:** Federal authorities arrest two current and one former New York Police Department (NYPD) officers—Heather Busch, Robert Hassett, and Robert Smith—on corruption charges.
Smith retired in March 2020. According to the charges, while serving in the NYPD Smith had bragged about committing crimes while in uniform, threatening others, and praising suicides and deaths of other officers. Smith also allegedly expressed support for the KKK. Source: Jonathan Dienst and Joe Valiquette, “3 Current and Former NYPD Cops Arrested on Corruption Charges,” NBC 4 New York, May 11, 2021, <https://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/3-current-and-former-nypd-cops-arrested-on-corruption-charges-sources-say/3048876/>.
- The Atlanta Board of Education in Georgia votes to change the name of the Forrest Hills Academy high school to Hank Aaron New Beginnings Academy after famed Atlanta baseball player Hank Aaron who died earlier that year.
The school is currently named after Ku Klux Klan grand wizard and Confederate general Nathan Bedford Forrest. Source: Vanessa McCray, “Atlanta school honoring Confederate general renamed for Hank Aaron,” *Atlanta-Journal Constitution*, April 13, 2021, <https://www.ajc.com/news/atlanta-news/atlanta-school-honoring-confederate-general-renamed-for-hank-aaron/ZFT3DBFRNCSFGNGEMAANFYF7Q/>.
- KKK fliers in plastic bags with rocks in them are found in residential areas around Huntington Beach, California.
The fliers feature the slogan “white lives do matter,” along with sketches of robed Klansmen. Source: City News Service, “KKK Flyers Found in Huntington Beach Week Ahead of ‘White Lives Matter’ Events,” NBC 4, last updated April 5, 2021, <https://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/kkk-flyers-found-in-huntington-beach-week-ahead-of-white-lives-matter-events/2565835/>.
- **March 2, 2021:** A Michigan prosecutor declines to file charges against a man in Detroit who displayed a KKK flag in his window facing his Black neighbor’s house in the previous month.
According to the prosecutor, the act is abhorrent but does not qualify as ethnic intimidation because the flag was hung inside the man’s own home and there was no direct contact with the neighbor. According to the man’s girlfriend, they hung the flag because they could not afford a curtain. Police switched out the flag without incident. The original incident sparked a rally in support of the neighbor. Source: “No charges after klan flag hangs next to Black family’s home,” Associated Press, March 2, 2021, <https://apnews.com/article/michigan-detroit-c0afc2c3473abef599df76b486455eae>.
- Beginning on January 23, KKK recruitment fliers appear on lawns across several towns in Oklahoma.
The fliers call for people to join the Church of the Ku Klux Klan. Fliers are placed in plastic bags weighted down with stones. On the neo-Nazi website Stormfront, a user called “Texas KKK” posts about a recruitment drive in Oklahoma, claiming the group has chapters across the state. On January 31, Marietta holds a peace rally to counter the KKK’s recruitment. Sources: Nick Alexandrov, “Ku Klux Klan Recruitment Flyers Appear In Several Rural Oklahoma Towns,” KOSU, April 28, 2021, <https://www.kosu.org/local-news/2021-04-28/ku-klux-klan-recruitment-flyers-appear-in-several-rural-oklahoma-towns/>; “More Ku Klux Klan flyers found in Marshall County,” KXII News 12, January 25, 2021, <https://www.kxii.com/2021/01/26/more-ku-klux-klan-flyers-found-in-marshall-county/>.
- Approximately 15 to 20 packages containing KKK fliers and rice are distributed around Tulelake, California, near the Oregon border.
Tulelake Police Chief Tony Ross says the offender could be charged with offensive littering, but KKK advertisements are generally protected under the First Amendment. Source: “Police: Ku Klux Klan flyers dropped at homes,” Associated Press, December 31, 2020, <https://apnews.com/article/california-klamath-falls-oregon-868fb746ecd3bc8a5aa654ffcd0a0e>.
- KKK business cards are plastered over political signs on residential lawns in Shelbyville, Tennessee.
The vandalism appears to largely target signs supporting Democratic candidates Joe Biden and Kamala Harris. According to the Shelbyville Police Department, similar KKK propaganda has been left in area yards for several years. Source: Alexandria Adams, “KKK leaves card at family’s home in response to yard sign,” News 4 Nashville, October 9, 2020, https://www.wsmv.com/news/kkk-leaves-card-at-familys-home-in-response-to-yard-sign/article_67b8f7ce-0a90-11eb-a8fc-8347c628f060.html.
- KKK fliers brandishing anti-Black rhetoric are distributed in residential areas around Greene County, Pennsylvania.
The fliers have a return address and contact information for the “Loyal White Knights,” with a P.O. box in North Carolina. The fliers are placed in plastic bags weighted down with birdseed. The Greene County district attorney’s office opens an investigation. Source: Michele Newell, “Police investigating after flyers for KKK spotted around Greene County, other areas,” WPXI-TV, September 30, 2020, <https://www.wpxi.com/news/top-stories/police-investigating-after-flyers-kkk-spotted-around-greene-county-other-areas/WKPUNJFVUBAGXG7ZPDG6OHVMI/>.
- **July 31, 2020:** Twitter permanently bans the account of former KKK leader David Duke after Duke violated the company’s hateful conduct policy on multiple occasions.
Twitter did not specify the exact actions that warranted Duke’s suspension, but alleged the decision was based in line with the company’s guidance on harmful links. Source: Oliver Effron, “David Duke has been banned from Twitter,” CNN, July 31, 2020, <https://www.cnn.com/2020/07/31/tech/david-duke-twitter-ban/index.html>.
- **June 29, 2020:** In an effort to prohibit the dissemination of hate speech, YouTube announces it will ban supremacist content, shutting down the pages of former KKK Leader David Duke and other prominent white supremacists.
Source: Kaya Yurieff, “YouTube removes Richard Spencer and David Duke a year after saying it would ban supremacists,” CNN, June 29, 2020, <https://www.cnn.com/2020/06/29/tech/white-supremacists-youtube/index.html>.
- **December 3, 2016:** Two KKK leaders—William Hagen and Chris Barker—are arrested in Yanceyville, North Carolina in connection to a stabbing before the “Victory Klavalkade Klan Parade” in Roxboro, North Carolina.
The KKK-sponsored event was to celebrate the election of Donald Trump. Hagen allegedly stabbed a third member, Richard Dillon, for criticizing Hagen in online posts. Hagen, the grand dragon of the Loyal White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, allegedly organized the “white lives matter” rally in February 2016. Hagen was charged with assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill, and Barker, who is the leader of the Loyal White Knights’ North Carolina chapter, was charged with aiding and abetting assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill. The charges were later dropped when Dillon refused to testify in court. Sources: Matt Coker, “OC KKK Leader William Ernest Hagen Reported In Trouble With Law Again,” OC Weekly, April 11, 2017, <https://www.ocweekly.com/kkk-leader-popped-8027781/>; Liam Stack, “Two Klan Leaders Are Charged in a North Carolina Stabbing,” *New York Times*, December 7, 2016, <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/12/07/us/klan-grand-dragon-arrest-stabbing-north-carolina.html>; “Loyal White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan,” Anti-defamation League, <https://www.adl.org/resources/backgrounders/loyal-white-knights-of-the-ku-klux-klan>; Talal Ansari, “The KKK Held A Parade In North Carolina Celebrating Trump’s Win,” BuzzFeed News, December 4, 2016, <https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/talalansari/kkk-nc-trump-parade>.

KKK (Ku Klux Klan)

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- **April 23, 2016:** Over three dozen members of the Loyal White Knights—one of the largest and active Klan groups in the United States—are pictured participating in a rally organized by the neo-Nazi National Socialist Movement in Rome, Georgia.
Source: “Loyal White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan,” Anti-defamation League, <https://www.adl.org/resources/backgrounders/loyal-white-knights-of-the-ku-klux-klan>.
 - **February 27, 2016:** Five people are injured during a KKK rally in Pearson Park in Anaheim, California.
According to the Anaheim Police Department, Klan members stabbed three counter-protesters, one of whom was stabbed using the “decorative end of a flagpole.” The KKK had planned an anti-immigration “white lives matter” rally. Five Klan members, four men and one woman, are arrested on suspicion of assault with a deadly weapon. One day later, all five members are released after Anaheim Police state that the Klan members appeared to act in “self-defense and defense of another.” Police also noted that the clash was initiated by counter-protesters. Source: : Liam Stack, “Three Stabbed at Ku Klux Klan Rally in Southern California,” *New York Times*, February 27, 2016, [http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-anti-klx-protesters-anaheim-release-jail-20160228-story.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/02/28/us/three-stabbed-at-ku-klux-klan-rally-in-southern-california.html?smid=nytcore-ipad-share&smprod=nytcore-ipad; Anh Do, Richard Winton, and Matt Hamilton, “5 KKK members released from jail after brawl in Anaheim,” <i>Los Angeles Times</i>, February 28, 2016, <a href=).
 - After white supremacist Dylann Roof murders black churchgoers in South Carolina, the Loyal White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan distribute Klan propaganda with bags of candy to front lawns in Alabama, California, Georgia, Kansas, and Mississippi.
Source: Kate Briqueler, “The Klan’s Vile Post-Charleston Recruitment Spree,” *Daily Beast*, June 24, 2015, <http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2015/06/24/the-klan-s-vile-post-charleston-recruiting-spre.html>.
 - **April 14, 2015:** William Hagen, the grand dragon of the Loyal White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, assaults a homeless man and threatens him with a box cutter in Orange, California.
Hagen is arrested and later appears at a preliminary hearing in April 2016. On April 7, 2017, a Superior Court jury finds Hagen guilty of assault with a deadly weapon and making criminal threats. On June 16, Hagen is sentenced to eight years in prison. Sources: “Loyal White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan,” Anti-defamation League, <https://www.adl.org/resources/backgrounders/loyal-white-knights-of-the-ku-klux-klan>; Joshua Sudock, Scott Schwebke and Sean Emery, “KKK leader, an Orange resident, convicted of 2015 attack on homeless man,” *O.C. Register*, April 10, 2017, <https://www.ocregister.com/2017/04/10/klx-leader-an-orange-resident-jailed-following-assault-conviction/>.
 - **November 14, 2014:** The Traditionalist American Knights of the KKK (TAK) claims it will use “lethal force” against protesters in Ferguson, Missouri.
Source: Lily Workneh, “KKK Threatens ‘Lethal Force’ Against Ferguson Protesters And Appears on TV to Explain Why,” *Huffington Post*, November 14, 2014, http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/11/14/klx-threatens-lethal-force-protesters-ferguson_n_6155570.html.
 - **May 15, 2014:** Former Exalted Cyclops of the International Keystone Knights of the Ku Klux Klan Steven Dinkle is sentenced to two years in prison.
He is convicted for hate crimes and obstruction of justice in relation to a 2009 cross burning. Source: “Former Alabama KKK Leader Sentenced to Prison for Cross Burning and Obstruction of Justice,” Federal Bureau of Investigation, May 15, 2014, <https://www.fbi.gov/mobile/press-releases/2014/former-alabama-klx-leader-sentenced-to-prison-for-cross-burning-and-obstruction-of-justice>.
 - **April 13, 2014:** Former KKK senior leader Frazier Glenn Cross, Jr. murders three people—William Corporon, his 14-year old grandson Reat Underwood, and Terri LaManno—at two Jewish community centers near Kansas City, Missouri.
Cross is found guilty and sentenced to death on November 11, 2015. Source: Carey Gillam, “White supremacist charged with murder in Kansas shootings,” *Reuters*, April 15, 2014, [http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-34783848](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/04/15/us-usa-kansas-shooting-idUSBREA3C0MX20140415; “Frazier Glenn Miller: US white supremacist sentenced to death,” <i>BBC News</i>, November 11, 2015, <a href=).
 - **May 6, 2015:** KKK chapter leader Raymond Foster is sentenced to life imprisonment for shooting to death Cynthia Lynch, a new recruit who wanted to leave the group one day after her initiation near New Orleans in November 2008.
Source: “Ku Klux Klan leader murdered new recruit,” *Telegraph* (London), May 6, 2010, <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/northamerica/usa/7684947/Ku-Klux-Klan-leader-murdered-new-recruit.html>.
 - Daniel James Schertz of the North Georgia White Knights pleads guilty to building pipe bombs with the intent of blowing up buses transporting Haitian and Mexican workers from Tennessee to Florida.
Source: “Ku Klux Klan: Criminal Activity and Violence,” Anti-Defamation League, accessed September 2, 2015, http://archive.adl.org/learn/ext_us/klx/crime.html?LEARN_Cat=Extremism.
 - Four Klan members are arrested for plotting terrorist attacks in northern Texas.
They are later found guilty of a variety of criminal charges, including “building pipe bombs designed to blow up buses carrying Mexican and Haitian migrant workers from Tennessee to Florida.” Source: “Ku Klux Klan: Criminal Activity and Violence,” Anti-Defamation League, accessed September 2, 2015, http://archive.adl.org/learn/ext_us/klx/crime.html?LEARN_Cat=Extremism.
 - Two Klansmen from the United Klans of America lynch teenager Michael Donald in Mobile, Alabama.
One of the perpetrators, Henry Hayes, is executed for the crime in 1997. Source: “Buelah Mae Donald; Sued Klan, Won,” *Los Angeles Times*, September 20, 1988, http://articles.latimes.com/1988-09-20/news/mn-2179_1_buelah-mae-donald.
 - **November 3, 1979:** KKK and American Nazi Party members shoot five protesters at a “Death to the Klan” march in Greensboro, North Carolina.
Source: Michael Wright, Caroline Rand Hermon, and Richard Levine, “THE NATION; Civil Convictions in Greensboro,” *New York Times*, June 9, 1985, <http://www.nytimes.com/1985/06/09/weekinreview/the-nation-civil-convictions-in-greensboro.html>.
 - **June 21, 1964:** In coordination with Deputy Sherriff Cecil Price in Philadelphia, Mississippi, Klan members follow, beat then shoot to death three civil rights workers.
Source: “Mississippi Burning Trial: A Chronology,” University of Missouri–Kansas City, accessed September 10, 2015, http://law2.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/fttrial/price&bowers/miss_chrono.html.
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KKK (Ku Klux Klan)

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- - : KKK sees a resurgence during the growing Civil Rights Movement.
Source: "Rise of the Ku Klux Klan," Public Broadcasting Service, accessed September 4, 2015, <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/general-article/grant-klux/>.
 - The KKK disbands following a federal government demand for \$600,000 in unpaid taxes.
Source: Jeremy Brigham, "The Story of the Ku Klux Klan in Iowa and America," Iowa Public Television, accessed September 10, 2015, http://www.iptv.org/iowapathways/mypath.cfm?ounid=ob_000303.
 - The KKK reaches the height of its power, and claims to have around 4-5 million members.
Source: "Rise of the Ku Klux Klan," Public Broadcasting Service, accessed September 4, 2015, <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/general-article/grant-klux/>.
 - The KKK re-emerges in 1915 in Atlanta, Georgia.
Source: "Rise of the Ku Klux Klan," Public Broadcasting Service, accessed September 4, 2015, <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/general-article/grant-klux/>.
 - **April 20, 1871:** The U.S. government enacts the Ku Klux Klan Act, permitting the prosecution of KKK members as part of a terrorist organization.
Source: "Rise of the Ku Klux Klan," Public Broadcasting Service, accessed September 4, 2015, <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/general-article/grant-klux/>.
 - First meeting of original KKK in Pulaski, Tennessee, formed by six Confederate army veterans.
Initially formed as a "social club," it quickly spreads throughout the South, becoming a terrorist organization targeting black community leaders. Source: Richard Wormser, "The Ku Klux Klan (1866)," Public Broadcasting Service, accessed September 10, 2015, http://www.pbs.org/wnet/jimcrow/stories_events_kkk.html.

KKK (Ku Klux Klan)

Violent history:

The KKK has used violence as a tool of fear and intimidation from its earliest days in the late 19th century. According to the Southern Poverty Law Center, “[l]ynchings, tar-and-featherings, rapes and other violent attacks on those challenging white supremacy became a hallmark of the Klan” during the Reconstruction era.⁶⁶

The KKK is most associated with the practice of lynching (especially by hanging), in which a mob takes the law into its own hands and commits murder.⁶⁷ KKK lynchings of black men and women witnessed a resurgence during the 1920s. By 1930, the Klan was responsible for a significant proportion of the 4,000 blacks killed via lynching since the start of the 20th century.⁶⁸ This practice continues to be most associated with the KKK in the public imagination. In its third, current phase, the KKK has resorted to other forms of violence, including attempted bombings. Some Klan offshoots, notably the Knights Party and the Traditional American Knights (TAK), now officially eschew violence in order to “rebrand” with a softer image. According to TAK leader Frank Ancona, “I believe in racial separation but it doesn’t have to be violent.”⁶⁹

- **June 6, 2020:** Police arrest Harry Rogers, a self-described Ku Klux Klan leader outside Richmond, Virginia, after he drives his car into a group of Black Lives Matter protestors. One person is injured in the attack. On August 11, Rogers is convicted of six misdemeanors including assault, destruction of property and hit-and-run charges and is sentenced to six years in prison.⁷⁰
- **August 12, 2017:** Richard W. Preston, the self-identified imperial wizard of the northern Maryland-based Confederate White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, fires a pistol toward a counter-protestor at the “Unite the Right” rally in Charlottesville, Virginia. Preston was not immediately arrested as state troopers did not hear or see the incident, but the American Civil Liberties Union later releases a video of Preston, which leads to his arrest on August 26. Preston is charged with discharging a firearm within 1,000 feet of a school and is held at Baltimore County jail. Preston pleads no contest to his charges on May 8, 2018. On August 21, 2018, a Charlottesville Circuit Court sentences Preston to four years in prison.⁷¹
- **November 11, 2015:** Former Klan leader and anti-Semite Frazier Glenn Cross, Jr. is found guilty of one count of capital murder and three counts of attempted murder committed in April 2014. He is sentenced to death, to which he responds “Heil Hitler.”⁷²
- **June 2015:** After white supremacist Dylann Roof murders black churchgoers in South Carolina, the Loyal White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan distribute Klan propaganda with bags of candy onto front lawns in Alabama, California, Georgia, Kansas, and Mississippi.⁷³
- **November 14, 2014:** The Traditionalist American Knights of the KKK claims it will use “lethal force” against protesters in Ferguson, Missouri, in a flier that reads: “There will be consequences for your actions against the peaceful, law abiding citizens of Missouri.”⁷⁴
- **May 15, 2014:** Former Exalted Cyclops of the International Keystone Knights of the Ku Klux Klan Steven Dinkle is sentenced to two years in prison. He is convicted for hate crimes and obstruction of justice in relation to a 2009 cross burning.⁷⁵
- **April 13, 2014:** Former KKK senior leader Frazier Glenn Cross, Jr. murders three people at two Jewish community centers near Kansas City, Missouri.⁷⁶
- **May 6, 2010:** KKK chapter leader Raymond Foster is sentenced to life imprisonment for shooting to death Cynthia Lynch, a new recruit who wanted to leave the group one day after her initiation in St. Tammany Parish near New Orleans in November 2008.⁷⁷
- **August 2005:** Daniel James Schertz of the North Georgia White Knights pleads guilty to building pipe bombs designed to blow up buses transporting Haitian and Mexican workers from Tennessee to Florida.⁷⁸
- **April 1997:** Four Klan members are arrested for plotting terrorist attacks in North Texas, including the targeting of a gas processing plant. They are later found guilty of a variety of charges.⁷⁹
- **March 1981:** Two Klansmen from the United Klans of America lynch teenager Michael Donald in Mobile, Alabama. One of the perpetrators, Henry Hayes, is executed for the crime in 1997.⁸⁰
- **November 3, 1979:** Five protesters at a “Death to the Klan” march in Greensboro, North Carolina, are shot and killed by KKK and American Nazi Party members.⁸¹
- **June 21, 1964:** In coordination with Deputy Sheriff Cecil Price in Philadelphia, Mississippi police, Klan members follow, beat then shoot to death three civil rights workers.⁸²

⁶⁶ “Ku Klux Klan,” Southern Poverty Law Center, <https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/extremist-files/ideology/ku-klux-klan>.

⁶⁷ Robert L. Zangrando, “The NAACP Crusade Against Lynching, 1909-1950,” *National Black Journal* 7, no. 3 (1982), <http://escholarship.org/uc/item/1m71j2dk#page-1>

⁶⁸ <http://www.pbs.org/harrymoore/terror/lynching.html>.

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- ⁶⁹ Ashley Fantz, “Can this KKK leader rebrand?” CNN, April 19, 2014, <http://www.cnn.com/2014/04/19/us/jewish-center-shootings-kkk-rebranding/>.
- ⁷⁰ “KKK ‘leader’ charged for attack on Black Lives Matter protesters,” BBC News, June 9, 2020, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-52973398>; Allyson Waller, “Virginia Man, Said to Be a Klan Leader, Gets 6 Years in Prison After Driving Into a Protest,” *New York Times*, August 11, 2020, <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/11/us/kkk-harry-rogers-guilty.html>.
- ⁷¹ Tom Jackman, “Three men charged in Charlottesville attacks on counterprotesters,” *Washington Post*, August 27, 2017, https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/public-safety/three-men-charged-in-charlottesville-attacks-on-counterprotesters/2017/08/27/f08930a4-8b5a-11e7-84c0-02cc069f2c37_story.html; “Maryland Ku Klux Klan leader gets 4 years in prison for gunshot at Charlottesville rally,” *Baltimore Sun*, August 21, 2018, <https://www.baltimoresun.com/news/crime/bs-md-preston-sentencing-20180820-story.html>; Ian Shapira, “Ku Klux Klan leader found guilty for firing gun at Charlottesville rally,” *Washington Post*, May 8, 2018, https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/ku-klux-klan-leader-found-guilty-for-firing-gun-at-charlottesville-rally/2018/05/08/d4229ec6-522b-11e8-9c91-7dab596e8252_story.html.
- ⁷² “Frazier Glenn Miller: US white supremacist sentenced to death,” BBC News, November 11, 2015, <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-34783848>.
- ⁷³ Kate Briquetelet, “The Klan’s Vile Post-Charleston Recruitment Spree,” *Daily Beast*, June 24, 2015, <http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2015/06/24/the-klan-s-vile-post-charleston-recruiting-spre.html>.
- ⁷⁴ Lily Workneh, “KKK Threatens ‘Lethal Force’ Against Ferguson Protesters And Appears on TV to Explain Why,” *Huffington Post*, November 14, 2014, http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/11/14/ku-klux-threatens-lethal-force-protesters-ferguson_n_6155570.html.
- ⁷⁵ “Former Alabama KKK Leader Sentenced to Prison for Cross Burning and Obstruction of Justice,” Federal Bureau of Investigation, May 15, 2014, <https://www.fbi.gov/mobile/press-releases/2014/former-alabama-ku-klux-leader-sentenced-to-prison-for-cross-burning-and-obstruction-of-justice>.
- ⁷⁶ Carey Gillam, “White supremacist charged with murder in Kansas shootings,” *Reuters*, April 15, 2014, <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/04/15/us-usa-kansas-shooting-idUSBREA3C0MX20140415>.
- ⁷⁷ “Ku Klux Klan leader murdered new recruit,” *Telegraph* (London), May 6, 2010, <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/northamerica/usa/7684947/Ku-Klux-Klan-leader-murdered-new-recruit.html>.
- ⁷⁸ “Ku Klux Klan: Criminal Activity and Violence,” Anti-Defamation League, accessed September 2, 2015, http://archive.adl.org/learn/ext_us/ku-klux/crime.html?LEARN_Cat=Extremism.
- ⁷⁹ “Ku Klux Klan: Criminal Activity and Violence,” Anti-Defamation League, accessed September 2, 2015, http://archive.adl.org/learn/ext_us/ku-klux/crime.html?LEARN_Cat=Extremism.
- ⁸⁰ “Buelah Mae Donald; Sued Klan, Won,” *Los Angeles Times*, September 20, 1988, http://articles.latimes.com/1988-09-20/news/mn-2179_1_buelah-mae-donald.
- ⁸¹ Michael Wright, Caroline Rand Hermon, and Richard Levine, “THE NATION; Civil Convictions in Greensboro,” *New York Times*, June 9, 1985, <http://www.nytimes.com/1985/06/09/weekinreview/the-nation-civil-convictions-in-greensboro.html>.
- ⁸² “Mississippi Burning Trial: A Chronology,” University of Missouri – Kansas City, accessed September 10, 2015, http://law2.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/frtrial/price&bowers/miss_chrono.html.
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KKK (Ku Klux Klan)

Associations:

- **Council of Conservative Citizens (CCC):**

The Anti-Defamation League and Southern Poverty Law Center both state that KKK members have ties to the CCC and other white supremacist groups.⁸³ CCC members have previously supported the political activities of former KKKK leader David Duke.⁸⁴ On January 2, 1999, Duke held a fundraiser in Arlington, Virginia for his campaign for a Louisiana seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. Event organizer Mark Cotterill had recently resigned as chair of the CCC's national capital region. Cotterill insisted the CCC did not sponsor the event, but the audience of about 100 included many CCC members.⁸⁵ Duke had also previously shown up at a CCC national convention, to the ire of former CCC CEO Gordon Baum, who thought Duke's presence would hurt the CCC's political legitimacy.⁸⁶ Baum reportedly threatened a local newspaper with a lawsuit if it reported Duke's presence.⁸⁷

⁸³ Michael Janofsky, "David Duke Heads North to Raise Money for House Race," *New York Times*, January 3, 1999, <http://www.nytimes.com/1999/01/03/us/david-duke-heads-north-to-raise-money-for-house-race.html>.

⁸⁴ Michael Janofsky, "David Duke Heads North to Raise Money for House Race," *New York Times*, January 3, 1999, <http://www.nytimes.com/1999/01/03/us/david-duke-heads-north-to-raise-money-for-house-race.html>.

⁸⁵ Michael Janofsky, "David Duke Heads North to Raise Money for House Race," *New York Times*, January 3, 1999, <http://www.nytimes.com/1999/01/03/us/david-duke-heads-north-to-raise-money-for-house-race.html>.

⁸⁶ "Racist Council of Conservative Citizens Finds Home in Mainstream Politics," Southern Poverty Law Center, Winter 1998, <http://www.splcenter.org/get-informed/intelligence-report/browse-all-issues/1999/winter/sharks-in-the-mainstream>.

⁸⁷ "Racist Council of Conservative Citizens Finds Home in Mainstream Politics," Southern Poverty Law Center, Winter 1998, <http://www.splcenter.org/get-informed/intelligence-report/browse-all-issues/1999/winter/sharks-in-the-mainstream>.

KKK (Ku Klux Klan)

Rhetoric:

Charles Lee, Leader of the White Camelia Knights, 2005

“We see more and more All-Black TV programs that pollute the airwaves. Where are the White people in these Black Sitcoms? You can be sure to find a majority of the credits for these Black Sitcoms belonging to the Jews. In a Country where the Majority rules, you would think that the White Man would be in control and therefore rid this land of the evil that plagues it. But instead you have the parasitic Jew at the Head of Government.”⁸⁸

David Duke, founder and former leader of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, 2002

“In modern America, Jews lead the effort to de-Christianize America. More importantly, Jews dominate the very un-Christian mass media.... As I became more aware of the all-encompassing, world-wide scope of Jewish power, I also learned that Jews have endeavored to undermine the religious foundations of whatever nation they have lived in.”⁸⁹

Thomas Robb, National Director of the National Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, 2002

“Anti-White discrimination is official government policy through ‘affirmative action’ schemes such as minority scholarships, minority business grants, contract ‘set-asides,’ and the hiring and force fed promotion of less qualified employees. We demand an end to all government enforced race mixing such as busing and moving welfare recipients into Middle Class neighborhoods.”⁹⁰

Rachel Pendergraft, Spokeswoman, The Knights Party

“So for a church to welcome so-called Christian homosexuals or non-whites into the congregation—because its some sort of hospital for the deprived is wrong.”⁹¹

The Knights Party, 1997

“But there are those who speak of ideals, who can’t figure out what’s so great about two guys cuddling up for a romantic evening (ugh), who find it odd those who speak of rights are quick to end the rights of the unborn, and there are those who understand the concepts of genocide and how interracial mixing promotes it and the destruction of the white race.”⁹²

⁸⁸ J. Keith Akins, “The Ku Klux Klan: America’s Forgotten Terrorists,” *Law Enforcement Executive Forum* 5, no. 7 (2006), <http://www.uhv.edu/asa/articles/KKKAmericasForgottenTerrorists.pdf>.

⁸⁹ David Duke, *Jewish Supremacism: My Awakening on the Jewish Question*, 2002, https://archive.org/stream/JewishSupremacismByDavidDuke/jewish-supremacism-david-duke_djvu.txt.

⁹⁰ J. Keith Akins, “The Ku Klux Klan: America’s Forgotten Terrorists,” *Law Enforcement Executive Forum* 5, no. 7 (2006), <http://www.uhv.edu/asa/articles/KKKAmericasForgottenTerrorists.pdf>.

⁹¹ Rachel Pendergraft, “Our Assurance of Victory,” Christian Identity Church, accessed November 13, 2015, http://www.christianidentitychurch.net/our_assurance_of_victory.htm.

⁹² “Young People,” The Knights Party, accessed September 2, 2015, http://kkk.bz/main/?page_id=214.