

Yesterday, Today...Tomorrow? The KKK in America

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Even at a young age, I have had a fascination with the Ku Klux Klan. To me they always seemed untouchable and so far away. Nevertheless, I would always hear about them on the news. Even though they were a horrid wretched I still found them to be appealing. So when I had the opportunity to research Indiana history, I immediately took the opportunity research the Ku Klux Klan. Before starting the project I did some research on the Klan and their presence in society today. From there I was able to find out that the KKK had a very strong presence in the state of Indiana.

I began my research by reading a short history on the KKK in Indiana, after this I learned about D.C Stephenson the Grand Dragon of Indiana's Klan. After this beginning research, I was able to find that the Klan had many political connections such as Edward L. Jackson, the former Governor of Indiana. I then went to the Indiana Historical Society to find more about how the Klan and their inner workings. While there I looked at posters, notes from meetings, and even had the opportunity to look at a real Klan robe. Finally, I then researched more about the Klan today and how the older Klan affected our society today.

I have always enjoyed watching documentaries, and I felt that a documentary was the best way to talk about this topic. I used photos from the 1920s as well as modern photos to show both the affect the KKK had on our society today, as well as to show white supremacy now. I also included an interview with Dr. James Madison who I found out through his book *Hoosiers and the American Story*. He talked about the Klan's belief system, their leader D.C. Stephenson, and how he thinks that Klan affects our modern society. The interview gave the audience a much more educated view of the Ku Klux Klan and how they affect our society today. I then also added music from the 1920's to put more a fun and realistic twist in the documentary.

Triumph and Tragedy can be taken two ways. It can be taken as the Triumph of the KKK and how they took over Indiana and many other states in America. However, the tragedy is the eventual fall of the Klan and the loss of power across America. The other way this can be taken is the tragedy of the KKKs influence across America and how many minorities suffered throughout this time. The triumph meaning the eventual fall of the clan, and how many minorities were able to break society's rules and social status in society.

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Folder 1. This image gives a good idea of how the KKK would spread their influence.

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