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

Lily Nault
Junior Individual Documentary
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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 the 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.
Works Cited

Primary Sources

An attendee holds a cell phone like a gun during the City Council meeting. *NBC News*,
www.nbcnews.com/slideshow/grief-outrage-over-shooting-stephon-clark-sacramento-n861151. This image shows the reaction towards the shooting of Stephon Clark and how upset they are about what happened.

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lynching_of_Thomas_Shipp_and_Abram_Smith. Accessed 6 June 2019. This image shows how the Ku Klux Klan's influence has affected their society. Their reactions also tell us that many people back in the 1930's had not sympathy in the for African Americans like these

*Book with hidden alcohol / Prohibition. Britannica ImageQuest*, 1926,
quest.eb.com/search/prohibition-alcohol/1/109_134456/Book-with-hidden-alcohol--Prohibition. Accessed 1 Mar. 2019. This image one shows how alcohol was hidden during the prohibition. It also shows how desperate people were and the steps they would take to even drink any alcohol.

*The branded back of Reverend Van Loon, Pastor at the Berkley Community Church, Michigan, July 1924. Britannica ImageQuest*, July 1924, quest.eb.com/search/the- kkk/1/108_277705/The-branded-back-of-Reverend-Van-Loon-Pastor-at-the-Berkley. Accessed 11 Feb. 2019. This image gives a very good idea to the audience of the cruel methods that the Klan used that would be used to spread their message and impact. As well as show their torture methods.
DANCE: CHARLESTON, 1918. Britannica ImageQuest, 1918, quest.eb.com/search/roaring-twenties/1/140_1810690/DANCE-CHARLESTON-1918. Accessed 7 Feb. 2019. This image gives us a good idea of what lavish events were like in the 1920's, as well the normal dress wear and common events as parties.


Dr. James Madison. *Indiana.GOV*, www.in.gov/ibc/2370.htm. Accessed 6 June 2019. The purpose of this image is to help the audience understand who is listening. By placing this picture of Dr. James Madison, we do not confuse the audience thinking that it is actually D.C Stephenson speaking instead of him.


*Female Ku Klux Klan members in the 1920s march through Binghamton, N.Y., holding American flags.* NPR, www.npr.org/sections/npr-history-dept/2015/03/19/390711598/when-the-ku-klux-klan-was-mainstream. This image gives us a great idea of how the Klan went out in public. As well as how they would spread their message.

*Fiery Cross, Volume 2, Number 43, Indianapolis, Marion County, 24 August 1923. Hoosier State Chronicels, 24 Aug. 1923, newspapers.library.in.gov/?a=d&d=FC19230824&e=-------en-20--1--txt-txIN-------. This image gives a good example of how the KKK would spread their influence. It also shows what the KKK would often talk about.*

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*A Flapper's Life. Britannica ImageQuest*, 18 Feb. 1926, quest.eb.com/search/flappers/1/115_2843849/A-Flappers-Life. Accessed 5 Feb. 2019. This illustration/image shows us an example of the style of dance in the 1920s. It also shows what the common dress wear was also popular during the Roaring 20's.

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Gue, Mary, and Walter Ardrell Riggs. Ku Klux Kismet. Box 1 Folder 1, Indiana Historical Society, Box 1 Folder 1. This image shows how the KKK would spread their influence. One being a song made and played by the KKK.


_Hollywood, California: c. 1931. Conchita Montenergo enjoys herself as a spring carnival in Hollywood. Britannica ImageQuest, 1931, quest.eb.com/search/1920s-celebration/1/183_365367/Hollywood-California-c.-1931..Conchita-Montenegro-enjoys._ Accessed 7 Feb. 2019. This image gives an example of how lavish the 1920s was, and how it was often see as an area of "partying" hence its name the "Roaring Twenties."


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KKK Barbecue and Informative Meeting. Box 1 Folder 1, Indiana Historical Society, Box 1 Folder 1. This image gives a good idea of how the KKK would spread their influence.

One example, being public events.

KKK Celebration in Kokomo Indiana. Box 1 Folder 1, Indiana Historical Society, Box 1 Folder 1. This shows an example how the KKK would spread their influence. An example being the parade in Indiana.

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*KKK Rally. Britannica ImageQuest*, 1980, quest.eb.com/search/the-kkk/1/115_862356/KKK-Rally. Accessed 12 Feb. 2019. This image gives the audience a idea of what methods the KKK would use to spread their influence, as well as what methods they would use to bring fear to the people around them.

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*President Trump*. flickrhivemind, flickrhivemind.net/Tags/usarmyforcescommand/Interesting. This image show what President Trump looks like. As well as how he presents himself.

This image shows how President Trump presents himself as well as what he looks like.

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This image shows how the President presented himself. As well as what he looks like.

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www.nytimes.com/2018/05/01/us/stephon-clark-official-autopsy.html. This image gives the audience an idea of what Stephon Clark looked like. As well as the life he wanted to live.

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