

## Ku Klux Klan

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The **Ku Klux Klan** is a [hate group](#).

It was started in the [southern United States](#) on 3 March 1865. Most of its hate has been towards [African Americans](#), but it has also attacked [Catholics](#), [Jews](#) and [immigrants](#).

It has sought to keep "white power", often through very violent acts such as killing people. The first Ku Klux Klan broke up and does not exist anymore. However, other groups with the same name and the same ideas have been created.

The Ku Klux Klan ([acronym](#) KKK) is an [organization](#) which was started in [Pulaski, Tennessee](#) in 1865.

This was after the [American Civil War](#). It started as a social club for former Confederate soldiers. The Klan quickly became a [terrorist organization](#). Its aim was to resist the [Reconstruction of the United States](#).

### Early years:

During this time, the ex-[Confederacy](#) states were [occupied territory](#). Klan members feared [white people](#) in the South could lose their [supremacy](#). Also the Klan members firmly believed that [African Americans](#) were inferior to (less than) white people. The Klan acted against black [voters](#) to [intimidate](#) them. At times, [Republicans](#) were also targets of attacks by the Klan,

The methods of acting against people were often the same: the Klan members tried to frighten the people that the Klan wanted to go out of town. The KKK tried to scare people by burning crosses or by threatening them. If people did not react, the Klan sometimes killed them. The growing violence which was promoted by the KKK led to many [lynchings](#) ([execution](#) without a fair trial and killing them, often by [hanging](#)). The KKK was "prohibited" (made against the law) in 1871. After 1871, many KKK members were imprisoned (put in Prison). However, the Klan had achieved many of its original goals. For example, the occupation troops were moved out of the Southern states, to the West. The KKK affected many African Americans throughout the last century. The establishment of [Jim Crow laws](#) restored white supremacy in the South and the "first era" KKK disbanded.

### The second Ku Klux Klan

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In 1915, William J. Simmons, an [Atlanta](#) businessman, started the Ku Klux Klan for a second time. A [movie](#) called *The Birth of a Nation* had just been released. It showed [African-American](#) men (played by [white](#) actors in [blackface](#)) as stupid and [sexually aggressive](#) towards white women. It also showed the Ku Klux Klan as a [heroic](#) force. The movie proved to be an excellent [recruitment](#) tool for the KKK. Most of the [rituals](#) and [traditions](#) of the "old" Ku Klux Klan were kept. Any white [Protestant](#) man could join the KKK. The KKK still attacked African Americans, but they also attacked [Jews](#) and [Catholics](#) this time. In 1920, the Klan began attracting recruits from all over the nation. They [promised](#) better [law enforcement](#), better government, better [schools](#) and to restore [traditional family values](#).<sup>[7]</sup>

The KKK strongly argued for "[white supremacy](#)". "White supremacy" is the belief that white people are superior to other [racial](#) groups.