



A Short History of American Fascism from the Ku Klux Klan to the Age of Trump

Prof. John Donoghue

The “F” Word, American History, and the MAGA Moment; or, How I Relaxed and Learned to Love the F-Bomb

- ▶ Fascism: an ultra-nationalist form of authoritarian politics that seeks the regeneration of “the volk” (“We the People”) by attacking the groups and ideas that have “corrupted” the culture, “betrayed” the nation, and “poisoned the blood of the people.” Fascists rely on DEHUMANIZING their enemies, historical falsification, political violence, and cults of personality to mobilize mass movements in the name of restoring NATIONAL greatness and expanding IMPÉRIAL dominion.
- ▶ Conspiratorial thinking dominates the fascist world view.
 - ▶ Fascists believe that “enemies of the people” have conspired to replace “the volk” (the people) and destroy the great civilization, born in innocence, that they -and their ancestors- had built by virtue of their moral and racial superiority.
- ▶ Fascists seek regeneration of “the volk” through dehumanizing and then eliminating the “enemies of the people.”
- ▶ Fascism can be a politics of culture, a political movement, and/or a political party that often galvanizes around a charismatic leader.

*Widespread reluctance to dropping “F-bombs” on Trump and the MAGA movement. But America has a long history of white Christian nationalism (WCN) that has now consolidated into full-blown fascism.

* Since the 1920s, WCN has produced two large-scale, nationwide political movements –the Ku Klux Klan {ca. 1915-1930} and the MAGA movement (2015-present). Only the MAGA movement has produced (or captured) a political party and rallied around a “charismatic” leader, Donald Trum

Manifest Destiny and the Empire of Liberty



American fascists **white** wash the past to create false historical narratives of national innocence and purity

Manifest Destiny / American Exceptionalism / white Christian nationalism

“I've always believed that this land was placed here between the two great oceans by some divine plan. That it was placed here to be found by a **special** kind of people - people who had a **special** love for freedom... we built a new **breed** of human called an American - a proud, an independent., and a most compassionate individual...”

-Ronald Reagan, 1980 Presidential debate

American Imperialism and the Violence of Abstraction

-



Challenge: name the war(s) behind each territorial acquisition

Genocide, Slavery, and Colonial and National Expansion, ca. 1600-1900

The Frontier and the Indigenous

”enslave,” ”wage war on,” ”conquer,” ”colonize,” ”extirpate,” ”root out,” ”annihilate,” ”exterminate,” ”destroy,” ”remove,” ”erase,” ”assimilate,” ”displace,” ”concentrate,” ”reserve,” ”remove,”

Pequot; Mohegan; Wampanoag; Pokanoket; Narragansett; Powhattan; Oconeechee; Susquehanock; Pamunkey; Iroquois; Shawnee; Delaware; Senaca; Mingo; Ottawa; Blackhawk; Kickapoo; Ojibwa; Sauk; Fox; Cherokee; Tuscarora; Yamasee; Choctaw; Chickasaw; Creek; Seminole; Miscogule; Mandan; Apache; Comanche; Nez Perce; Cheyenne; Mojave; Chinook; Haida

Slavery and the Plantation Complex

Fante, Ashanti, Wolof, Igbo, Cru, Mendi, Congolese, Angolan, Yoruba, Mandiko

- ▶ indigenous genocide on the frontier / room for the plantation system to expand / mass trade and enslavement of Africans / genocide and slavery provided key foundations for the development of American capitalism.
- ▶ American Revolution.....20% slave population in the south
- ▶ Civil War: 45% slave population in the south
- ▶ Domestic slave trade, 1808-1860: 1 million slaves sold from the upper south to the Cotton Kingdom in the deep South

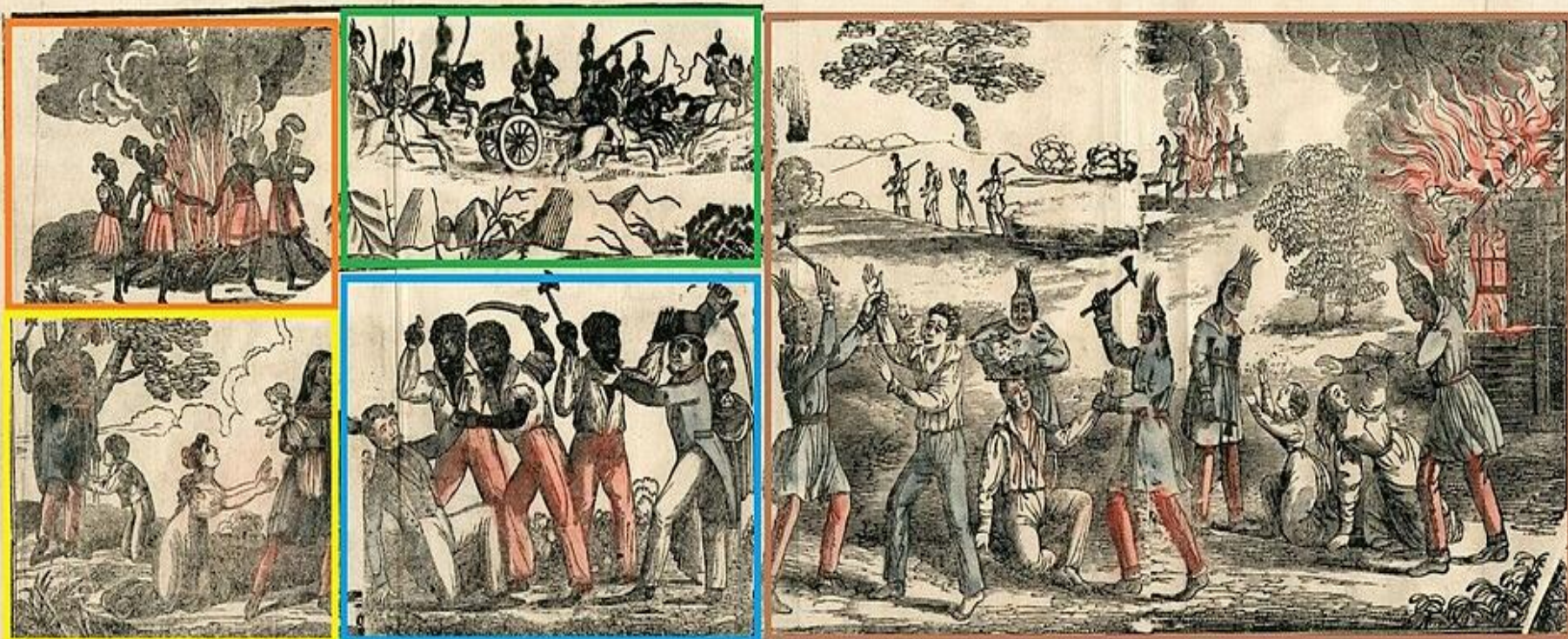
Indian Revolts before the Civil War

- *King Philip's War (New England, 1675-1676)
- *Bacon's Rebellion (Chesapeake, 1675-1676)
- *Tuscarora, Cherokee, Yamasee wars (Carolina backcountry and low country, ca. 1700-1760s)
- *Pontiac's Rebellion (Great Lakes, Ohio Country, Ohio Valley, 1762-1763)
- *Shawnee Wars (Ohio Valley, 1768-1774)
- *Northwest Indian Wars (Ohio Valley, Ohio Country, Great Lakes, 1785-1794)
- *Tecumseh's Revolt (Ohio Country, Great Lakes, Mississippi Valley, 1811-1814)
- *Creek (or Red Stick) Wars, (Mississippi Valley, modern Alabama, Georgia, Florida, 1811-1819)
- *Black Hawk War (Illinois, 1835)
- *Seminole Wars (Florida, 1810-1858)

Slave Revolts

- * Bacon's Rebellion (VA, 1676)
- * Jamaican Maroons (1655-1739)
- * New York City (1712)
- * Stono River (near Charleston, 1739)
- * New York City (1741)
- * Tacky's Revolt (Jamaica, 1760)
- * slaves escape to fight with British during
- * American Revolution (1774-1783)
- * **Haitian Revolution, 1792-1803**
- * Gabriel's Revolt (VA, 1800-1801)
- * New Orleans (German Coast, 1811)
- * Vesey's Plot (Charleston, 1820)
- * Nat Turner's Revolt (VA, 1831)
- * Madison Co, Alabama Plot (1835)
- * Underground Railroad conspiracy (1820s-1860)
- * Natchez plot (MS, 1858)
- * John Brown and the Secret 6 (VA, 1859)

Massacre of the Whites by the Indians and Blacks in Florida.



The above is intended to represent the horrid Massacre of the Whites in Florida, in December 1835, and January, February, March and April 1836, when near Four Hundred (including women and children) fell victims to the barbarity of the Negroes and Indians.

US Imperial Wars, ca. 1780-1941

Northwest Indian War

Seminole Wars

Creek (Red Stick Wars)

Tecumseh's War

War of 1812

Blackhawk War

Texas war

Mexican War

Sioux wars

Cheyenne wars

California Indian wars

Navaho wars

conquest of Cuba

conquest of Philipines

occupation of DR and Haiti

many Latin Americn interventions

border war w/ Mex. revs

American Manifest Destiny and Nazi “Lebensraum”



* Massacre of the Lakota Sioux at Wounded Knee (South Dakota, 1890)

* FJ Turner, Frontier Thesis (1893)

* Sec of Defense Hegsgeth -keeps Medals of Honor for vets of wounded knee and praises America’s “glorious Confederate heritage”



* Einsatzgruppen implementing the “Final Solution” in Russia, 1942

F. Razel, Hitler advisor: sees US as model landed empire achieved through genocide of racial degenerates; master race needs living space (lebensraum); Aryan conquest and colonization of slavic Central Eastern Europe

Nativism / White supremacy

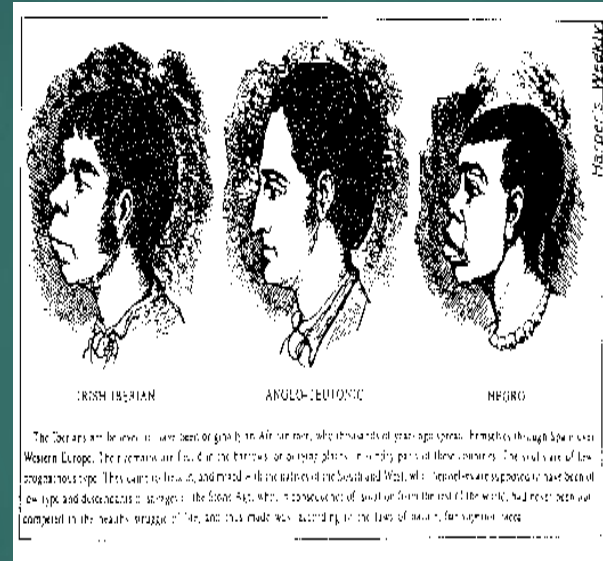
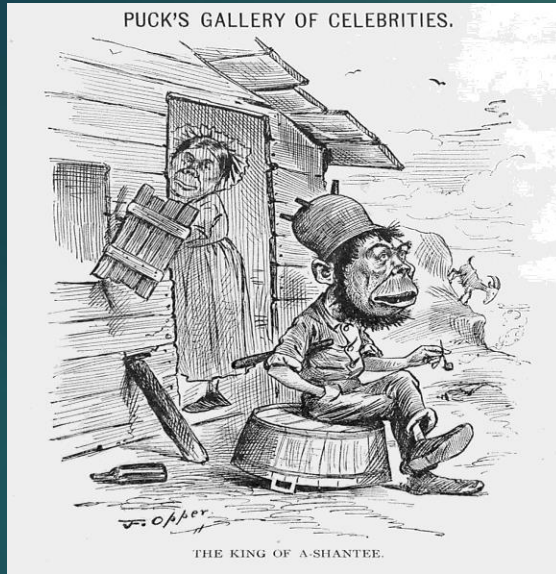
complements at home what the work of imperialism abroad

The Great Replacement (or white genocide) conspiratorial world view formed in the colonial period, providing an ideological touchstone of white Christian supremacy and later, after the Revolution and the establishment of the United States, white Christian nationalism.

- ▶ The Great Replacement worldview breeds paranoia and fosters hypervigilance against the enemies of white Christian civilization
- ▶ The violent imperatives of settler colonialism manufactured these enemies. To establish dominion for Christian civilization and avoid their own impoverishment, subjection and annihilation, whites subjected Native Americans to genocide and African Americans to enslavement.
- ▶ Whites saw black and Indian resistance to settler colonialism as a plot, or a conspiracy against Christians and Christian civilization.

“We the People does not mean them (black people).” - Georgia Senator’s response to an abolitionist petition to Congress (1790):

By the mid-19th Century, a new “enemy of the people” -a triple threat in its own right, had joined Indians and African Americans as a lethal enemy of “we the people” -**Irish** (racialized savage) **Catholic** (enemies of Christianity (Protestantism and democracy) **immigrants** (foreign born).

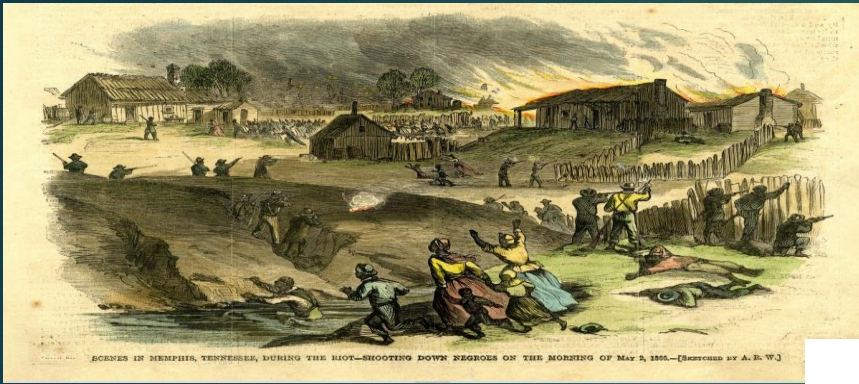


Epochs of White Christian Nationalism

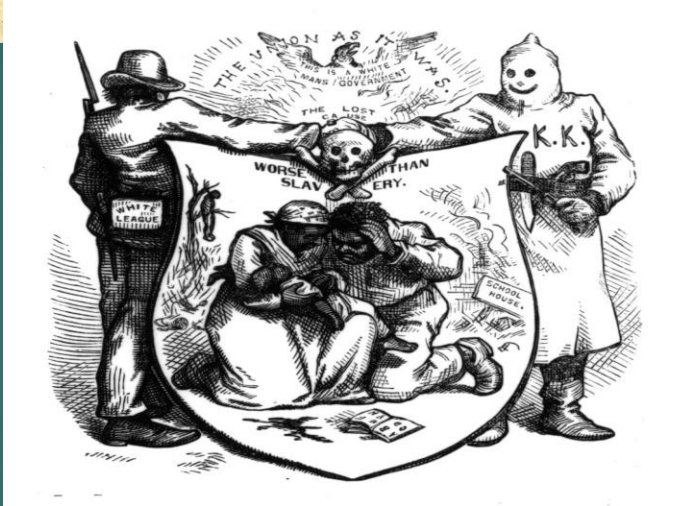
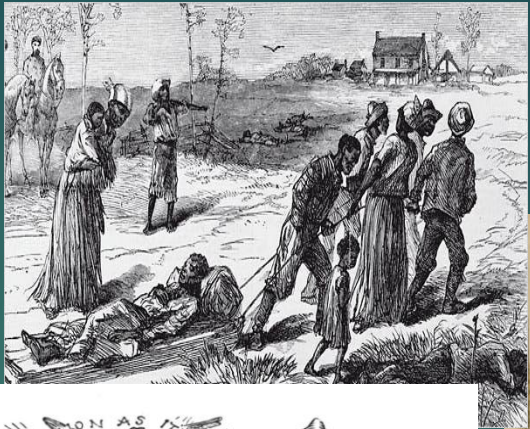
1. * “Negro Rule” by “Bayonet Rule” Reconstruction (1865-1876)

* Confederate veterans found the Ku Klux Klan, a paramilitary terrorist organization to prevent blacks from voting, holding office, keeping guns, owning property, and operating business –to win one of the Confederacy’s two goals –preserve white supremacy and thus Christian civilization

*The Klan, and successor groups like the Knights of the White Camelia, the White Shirts, the Red Shirts, and hundreds of local “rifle clubs” commit mass atrocities and pogroms at Memphis (1866), New Orleans (1866, 1868), Red River, LA (1870), Colfax, LA (1872), Vicksburg, MS (1874), Clinton, MS (1875), Hamburg, SC (1875)



SCENES IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, DURING THE RIOT—SHOOTING DOWN NEGROES ON THE MORNING OF MAY 2, 1866.—[REPRODUCED BY A. P. W.]

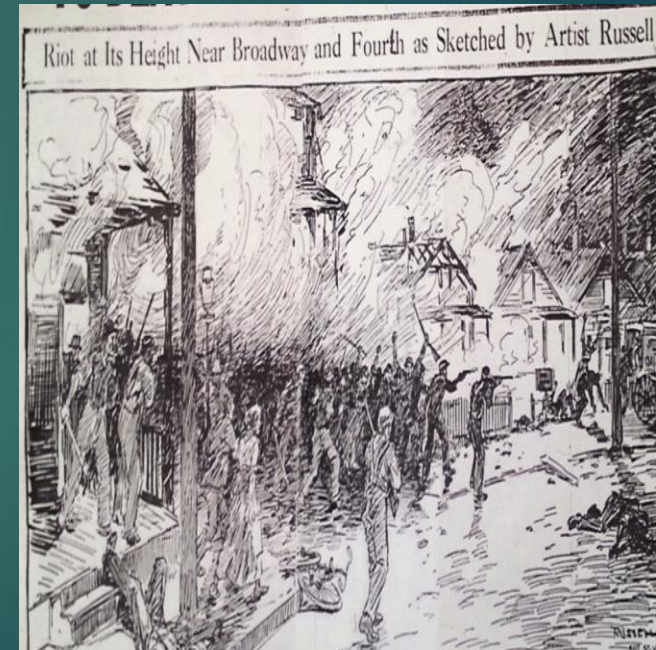


THE RIOT IN NEW ORLEANS—INTERIOR OF MECHANICS INSTITUTE DURING THE RIOT.—[SKETCHED BY THOMAS R. DAVIS.]

Epochs of White Christian Nationalism

2. Jim Crow (1876-1965)

segregation, discrimination, political repression, economic subjugation through state legislation and paramilitary / insurgent force / coups / lynch mobs / pogroms





“Birth of a Nation” (1915)–the new 20th C KKK and the consolidation of the NATION’s first fascist movement



The Klan Reincarnated, 1915-1926

The Klan 2.0 had chapters in all 48 states and counted 6 million members by 1923, with 200K splitting off to establish the WKKKK. The second Klan was a thoroughly modern organization, run like a corporation with an executive office, marketing department and a sales force paid on commission. The Klan was born of modern mass media (pulp fiction, cinema), published a national newspaper, owned and operated its own radio station (with the 5th largest range in the nation), used cars and trains for mass mobilization across large distances, managed baseball leagues, held fairs and festivals, and donated to churches and charities. The Klan succeeded because it mastered modern methods to mobilize white Christian nationalists so that, according to precedent, they could flourish through more primitive and barbaric means.

Klan Reborn (1915-1926) / Incorporates White Women

the group reincorporates in 1915 to become a Southern to a national organization that spawned an independent women's KKK. Both male and female Klans endorsed an "America First" / "100% Americanism" agenda. to save white Christian nationalism from blacks, immigrants, Mexicans, Chinese, Japanese, Jews, Catholics, Italians, Greeks, Russians, all Slavs, labor unions, socialists, Bolsheviks, anarchists, intellectuals, jazz, Hollywood, and American city life



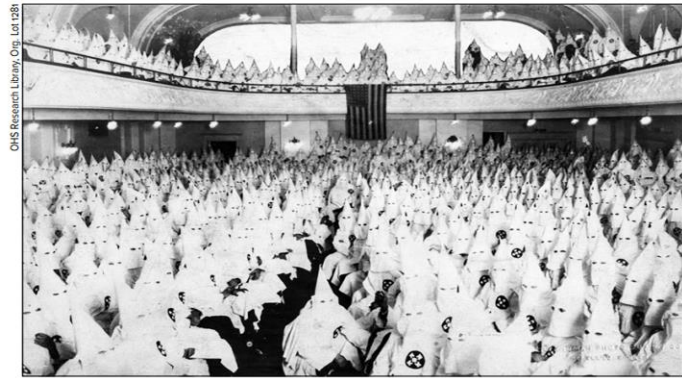
Klan Culture

The meeting of the 1000, called for Monday evening, is postponed until **TUESDAY** evening, may 25 11th Per Order,

Challenge !

The **KU KLUX KLAN BASE BALL CLUB** of Bangor, do hereby challenge the "Katahdin" Base Ball Club of Hampden, to play a match game of Base Ball, on the grounds of the said Hampden Club, on **WEDNESDAY, May 27th**, at 1 o'clock P. M. Per Order. may 25 Sec'y.

JOHN F. GODFREY,



KU KLUX KLAN MEMBERS ASSEMBLE by the hundreds in an auditorium, possibly in Portland, Oregon, in the early 1920s. When Edna Cummins joined the Newberg Women's Klan in 1923 or early 1924, state and local men's and women's Klans had reached their social and political apex. During the period of her trial and its aftermath they were losing power and influence in Oregon.



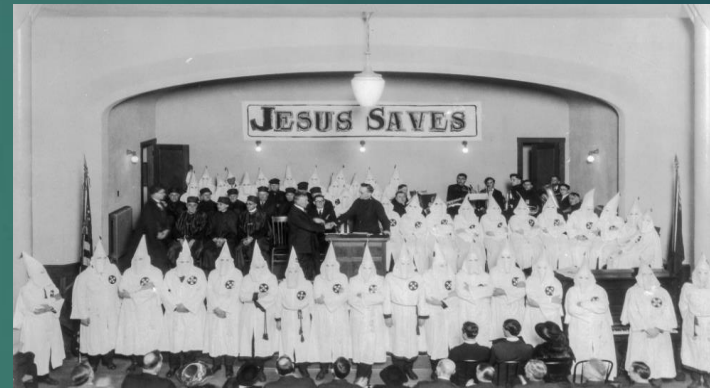
**KU KLUX KLAN
PICNIC**

UNDER AUSPICES OF WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION
SUNDAY, AUG. 17, 1924
on State Highway No. 4, near site of Weddleville School

Public Invited

Picnic to begin with a basket dinner at 12:00 noon
and lasts until 5:30 o'clock.

Good Speakers Good Music



The Fiery Cross, Christian Terrorism, and White Nationalism



Klan fascism institutionalized insurrection as a means to expand its membership and increase its political power at local, state, and national levels



HOME EDITION Vol. 6, No. 27. HOUSTON, TEXAS, FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 1918. INDEPENDENT 1 CENT PER COPY

16 DEAD-22 INJURED FROM RIOT

City Under Martial Law

SENATE NOW TO TRY JIM ON CHARGES

House Veterans' Service Bill's Charges; More Accusations Against Governor by Committee of Nine.

Senators, Jan. 23.—In one of the most important and exciting sessions in Texas history, the Senate today voted to try Jim Crow for the charge of treason.

The bill, which was introduced by Sen. J. C. Sweeney, provides for the trial of Jim Crow, who is charged with treason, for the role he played in the riot of last week.

The bill provides that if the Senate finds Jim Crow guilty of treason, he shall be sentenced to death.

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One Negro Soldier Tells What Precipitated Riot

Washington, Jan. 23.—A Negro soldier who was captured and taken to Camp Lejeune, N. C., today told the story of what he saw at the riot in Houston, Tex., last week.

The soldier, who is now in the hands of the military, said that he saw a group of Negroes gathered in a public square in Houston, and that they were shouting and waving flags.

The soldier said that he saw a group of white men, some of whom were armed, and that they were attacking the Negroes.

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TROOPS WHO MOTIVATED TO BE REMOVED

Washington, Jan. 23.—Troops who were sent to Houston, Tex., last week to quell a riot, are being ordered to be removed from the city, it was learned today.

The troops, who were sent to Houston by the military, are being ordered to be removed from the city, it was learned today.

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THE DEAD

At C. J. Wright's home, in Houston, Tex., today, a list of the names of the dead in the riot of last week was being compiled.

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The Pittsburgh Post



NO. 1000
PITTSBURGH, PA.
MAY 11, 1925

FRIDAY, MAY 11, 1925
PITTSBURGH, PA.
MAY 11, 1925

UNDERTAKER HELD IN CARNEGIE KLAN RIOT DEATH

PINCHOT PUTS OFF MANTLE OF U. S. POWER

"Taking for Grant" Taylor in Civil Policy

CONFANED ALIENAGE

THE PITTSBURGH POST
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'TRY TO PAY, OR WE SILENCE,' SAYS PERDUE TO STRESEMANN

French Cabinet Member Will Discuss State Position

LAURENCE SAYS 'THEY WERE HERE'

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Where Klan and Mob Clashed and Klan Corp on Interstate III



POLICE SEARCHING DISTRICT FOR MANY HURT IN OUTBREAK

Speed Investigation Shows April 10th 1925 to Have Responsibility for Fighting Which Results in Deaths of Klansmen

BLAY USED OFFER REWARDS FOR CAPTURE OF OFFENDERS

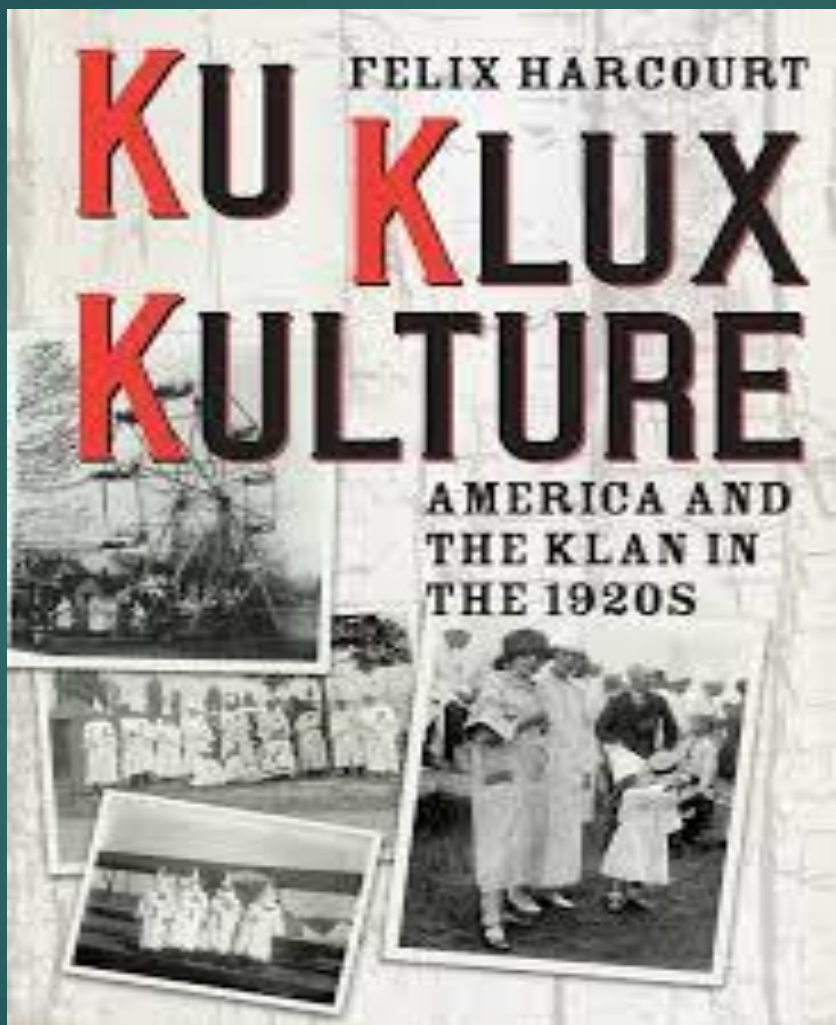
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FELIX HARCOURT

KU KLUX KULTURE

AMERICA AND
THE KLAN IN
THE 1920S



MAGA leaders quote, salute, and dress like Nazis. In the case of the influence Nick Fuentes, they have also denied the Holocaust.



Elon Musk
DOGE Directory



Stephen Miler
Senior Advisor for
President Trump



Greg Bovino
ICE Commander



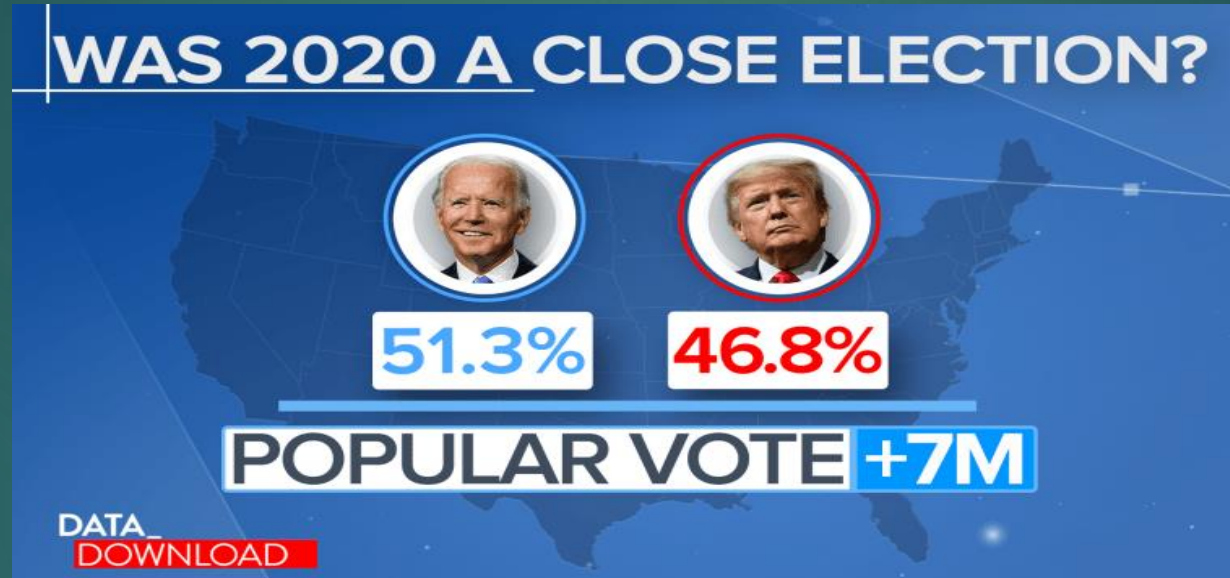
Pete Hegseth
Secretary of Defense



Nick Fuentes
Groyper

The past becomes prelude only with our acquiescence

The Election of 2020: Back to the conspiratorial future of American Fascism



Electoral College Votes....need 270 / 538 to win
Results in 2020....Biden 306 / Trump 232

Table with 6 columns and 9 rows. Sorted descending by column "Total Mentions"

CITY	STATE	TOTAL MENTIONS	PREELECTION MENTIONS	POSTELECTION MENTIONS	BLACK SHARE OF POPULATION
Detroit	Michigan	14.3	0.8	13.5	77%
Philadelphia	Pennsylvania	6.6	1.5	5.1	40%
Durham	North Carolina	4.7	1.0	3.7	37%
Atlanta	Georgia	4.3	0.3	4.0	49%

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

STOP THE STEAL

-2020-

KEEP AMERICA GREAT!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★



Stop the Steal Rally, January 6, 2025

set off the Capitol Insurrection that same day. Trump's speech laid out a detailed plot by state election officials in black majority cities and states with large Latina populations. He used the word "fraud" to refer to the election 22 times, with frequent references to stealing and cheating. He urged his MAGA followers to descend on the Capitol to "fight like hell" to get Congress to overturn Joe Biden's victory.





The Capitol Insurrection was, in effect, a well-funded and well-organized MAGA lynch mob bent on overthrowing the election, installing Trump illegally as President, and executing VP Mike Pence and Nancy Pelosi, Alexandria Ocasio Cortez, and other “traitors” in Congress. The insurgents shared a common belief that Donald Trump had been chosen by God to regenerate American greatness by eliminating the enemies of the people and resurrecting the white Christian nation.

Charlie Kirk and the Great Replacement Theory



The Biden administration's immigration policy "...is about bringing in voters that they like and, honestly, diminishing and decreasing white demographics in America."

"Islam is the sword the left is using to slit the throat of America," and a "spiritual battle is coming to the West and the enemies are woke-ism or Marxism combining with Islamism to go after what we call the American way of life...We must defend the Christian heritage and institutions that gave birth to America. Christianity is the key, irreplaceable element. If we lose it, it's not so much that America will fall, it's that America will become evil."

"The American Democrat party hates this country. They wanna see it collapse. They love it when America becomes less white."

"**The great replacement strategy**, which is well under way every single day in our southern border, is a strategy to replace white rural America with something different."







The fight against fascism is EVERYBODY'S FIGHT...fascism itself is a war on humanity. Anybody not in the fascist movement is an enemy of the fascist regime. If you are not a fascist, you are not safe. Eventually, as history shows, they will come for you, too.