

The Ku Klux Klan's Perspective (1926)

After World War I, the membership of the Klan was estimated to be between 3 to 8 million people. In 1922, William J. Simmons, who revived the Klan, was removed from office and a dentist from Dallas took the position of Imperial Wizard. His name was Hiram W. Evans. Evans openly publicized the Klan and in an article from the *North American Review*, he explained the Klan's purpose and moral agenda for America. Below are excerpts from this article:

The Ku Klux Klan, in short, is an organization which gives expression, direction and purpose to the most vital instincts, hopes and resentments of the old stock Americans,.., provides them with leadership, and is enlisting and preparing them for militant, constructive action toward fulfilling their racial and national destiny.....

There are three of these great racial instincts, vital elements in both the historic and the present attempts to build an America, which shall fulfill the aspirations and justify the heroism of the men who made the nation. These are the instincts of loyalty to the white race, to the traditions of America, and to the spirit of Protestantism, which has been an essential part of Americanism ever since the days of Roanoke and Plymouth Rock. They are condensed into the Klan's slogan: "Native, White, Protestant Supremacy."

First in the Klansman's mind is patriotism – America for the Americans. He believes religiously that a betrayal of Americanism or the American race is treason to the most sacred of trusts....He believes, too, that Americanism can only be achieved if the pioneer stock is kept pure....

The second word in the Klansman's trilogy is "white". The white race must be supreme, not only in America but in the world.... The colored races today, such as Japan, are clamoring not for equality but for their supremacy...The world has been so made that each race must fight for its life, must conquer, accept slavery or die. The Klansman believes that the whites will not become slaves, and he does not intend to die before this time.

Moreover, the future of progress and civilization depends on the continued supremacy of the white race....Until the whites falter, or some colored civilization has a miracle awakening, there is not a single colored stock that can claim even equality with the white; much less supremacy. The third of the Klan principles is that Protestantism must be supreme; that Rome shall not rule America....Protestantism is an essential part of Americanism; without it America could never have been created and without it she cannot go forward. Roman rule would kill it.

For the alien in general we have sympathy, opportunity, justice, but no permanent welcome unless he becomes truly America. It is our duty to see that he has every chance for this, and we shall be glad to accept him if he does. We hold no rancor (resentment) against him; his race, instincts, training, mentality and whole outlook of life are usually widely different from ours. We cannot blame him if he adheres and attempts to convert us to them, even by force. But we must see that he can never succeed.....

Hiram Wesley Evans, "The Klan's Fight For Americanism," *North American Review* 223 (March-April-May 1926):33-61 extracted from *Voices of the American Past, Documents in U.S. History*. Vol. Two 2nd. ed. Raymond M. Hyser & J. Chris Arndt. 417-419.