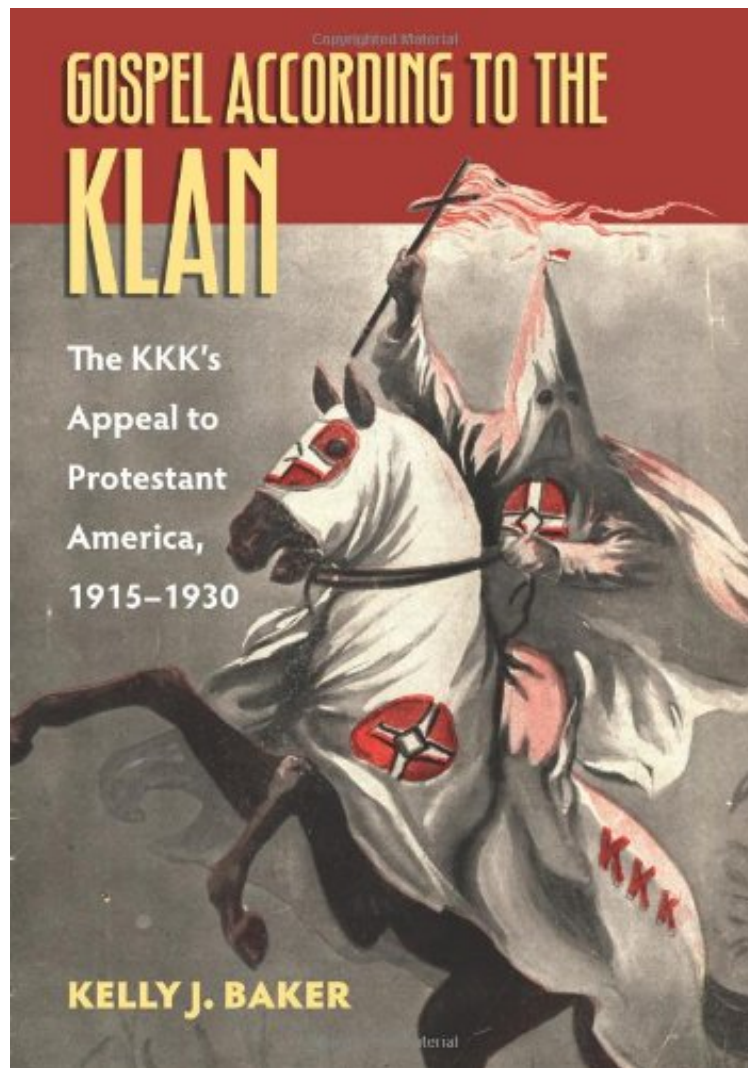


[Read ebook] Gospel According to the Klan: The KKK's Appeal to Protestant America, 1915-1930 (Culture America)

Gospel According to the Klan: The KKK's Appeal to Protestant America, 1915-1930 (Culture America)

Kelly J. Baker

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#576179 in Books Univ Pr of Kansas 2011-09-20Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.30 x 1.10 x 6.10l, 1.70 #File Name: 0700617922342 pages | File size: 23.Mb

Kelly J. Baker : Gospel According to the Klan: The KKK's Appeal to Protestant America, 1915-1930 (Culture America) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Gospel According to the Klan: The KKK's Appeal to Protestant America, 1915-1930 (Culture America):

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A good book with some interesting surprisesBy Ricky HerringA good book with some interesting surprises. One of the biggest surprises is that with all of the photos I did not see a single picture of a Confederate flag. I did however see numerous American flags. It makes you wonder if the tag "hate

symbol" that the left so often attaches to the Confederate flag and to it alone is totally justified.4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. this is one of the best books written on the connection between religionBy Shreena GandhiThis is a meticulously researched and clearly written book on the intertwined relationship between white Protestantism and the KKK. I have assigned the entire book in my upper level classes, and recently taught the chapter on motherhood and the KKK in my Religion in America class. Students learned a lot from the chapter, and many were eager to read more. To, this is one of the best books written on the connection between religion, US nationalism, white supremacy and the construction of whiteness. I recommend this book to anyone interested in better understanding US religious history and race/racism/racialization.6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. And just when you thought it was safe to walk down the streetBy C. WagnerA decidedly white Protestant (not liberal Protestant) organization strived to protect America from immigrants, Catholics, and other minorities while rewriting history to suit its needs. KKK demanded more God in public education and railed against religious schools, which did not meet its needs threshold and prided itself on good works. Also advocated were the protection of white women's virtue and growing youth into mature "real" Americans. This book is somewhat of a slow read and specifically covers a brief time period. However, the final chapter "Passing the torch" makes it all worthwhile. Are surviving splinter groups still maintaining political power? Have the ideals of the twentieth century Klan been absorbed into various twenty-first century political and religious units? This is all interesting stuff, and I am not going to tell you the author's conclusion. You will have to buy the book and read for yourself. I just will say these few pages leave a great deal to think about. Readers may also be interested in "Citizen Klansman" by Leonard Joseph Moore and "Klansville, U.S.A." by David Cunningham.

To many Americans, modern marches by the Ku Klux Klan may seem like a throwback to the past or posturing by bigoted hatemongers. To Kelly Baker, they are a reminder of how deeply the Klan is rooted in American mainstream Protestant culture. Most studies of the KKK dismiss it as an organization of racists attempting to intimidate minorities and argue that the Klan used religion only as a rhetorical device. Baker contends instead that the KKK based its justifications for hatred on a particular brand of Protestantism that resonated with mainstream Americans, one that employed burning crosses and robes to explicitly exclude Jews and Catholics. To show how the Klan used religion to further its agenda of hate while appealing to everyday Americans, Kelly Baker takes readers back to its "second incarnation" in the 1920s. During that decade, the revived Klan hired a public relations firm that suggested it could reach a wider audience by presenting itself as a "fraternal Protestant organization that championed white supremacy as opposed to marauders of the night." That campaign was so successful that the Klan established chapters in all forty-eight states. Baker has scoured official newspapers and magazines issued by the Klan during that era to reveal the inner workings of the order and show how its leadership manipulated religion, nationalism, gender, and race. Through these publications we see a Klan trying to adapt its hate-based positions with the changing times in order to expand its base by reaching beyond a narrowly defined white male Protestant America. This engrossing expos looks closely at the Klan's definition of Protestantism, its belief in a strong relationship between church and state, its notions of masculinity and femininity, and its views on Jews and African Americans. The book also examines in detail the Klan's infamous 1924 anti-Catholic riot at Notre Dame University and draws alarming parallels between the Klan's message of the 1920s and current posturing by some Tea Party members and their sympathizers. Analyzing the complex religious arguments the Klan crafted to gain acceptability and credibility among angry Americans, Baker reveals that the Klan was more successful at crafting this message than has been credited by historians. To tell American history from this startling perspective demonstrates that some citizens still participate in intolerant behavior to protect a fabled white Protestant nation.

"But Baker seems closer to the mark when she says that there's a dark strain of bigotry and exclusion running through the national experience. Sometimes it seems to weaken. And sometimes it spreads, as anyone who reads today's papers knows, fed by our fears and our hatreds."--The New York Times "[A] brave new book. Baker has exposed something about American cultural history that many of us may not wish to see: namely, that both religion and mainstream society participate in the ugly, even violent, side of American nationalism"--Religion Nerd "An important contribution to Klan scholarship that gives sustained attention to the centrality of Protestant Christianity in the construction of the movement's identity."--Rory McVeigh, author of *The Rise of the Ku Klux Klan: Right-Wing Movements and National Politics* "[W]ell-written, persuasively argued book... Her suggestion that the Klan's intertwining of nationalism and religion makes it part of the lineage of the American Right is particularly provocative, and sure to stimulate some heated discussion. Highly recommended. -- S. McCloud, *Choice* "While this book covers much familiar territory, it contains many original insights and evaluations that make it an important contribution to historical studies and deserving of a wide audience."--Al Menendez, *Voice of Reason*