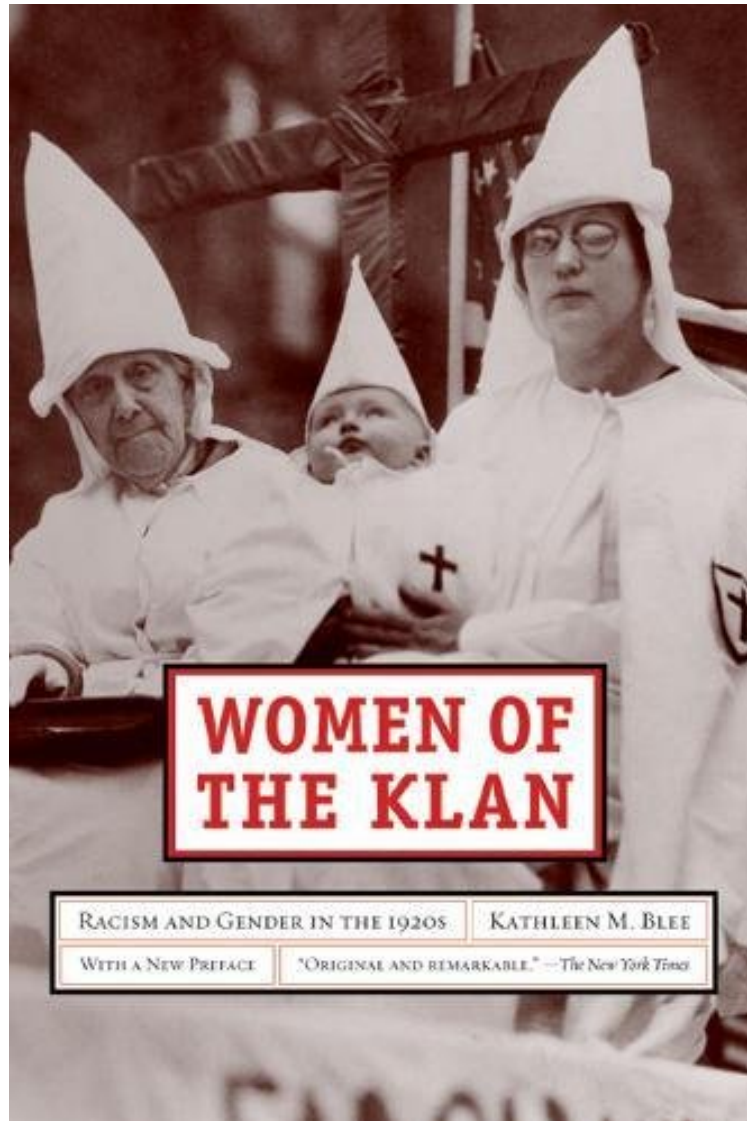


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## Women of the Klan: Racism and Gender in the 1920s

*Kathleen M. Blee*

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**Kathleen M. Blee : Women of the Klan: Racism and Gender in the 1920s** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Women of the Klan: Racism and Gender in the 1920s*:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Foundations of Modern American Feminism. By J. Preston This is an excellent book for filling in the gaps of the history of the "women's movement" in the U.S. In studying modern feminism, we hear much about feminism, by definition, being the movement that is behind gender equality. What is often omitted from modern commentary is that the "gender equality" is very often intended by feminism only to apply

to Caucasian Women, and, more specifically, to middle and upper class women. In this Book, Professor Blee points out that the doctrines of modern feminism, as they have evolved from the 1960's, were nothing other than the same doctrines of the "Invisible Empire" of Women in the Ku Klux Klan. There is an excellent review of this book in the L.A. Times, by Barbara Ehrenreich: [http://articles.latimes.com/1991-09-01/books/bk-2279\\_1\\_klan-members](http://articles.latimes.com/1991-09-01/books/bk-2279_1_klan-members) This document actually shows the origins of modern feminism in the U.S. It fills an important gap between early 19th century feminism in Europe, and, how feminism was adopted and evolved here in the U.S. Many of the "ideals" expressed in this work were adopted by the feminists of the late 1950's and 1960's to form a privilege class for "white women" in the U.S. as long as they were Jewish or Protestant. This monograph should be read in conjunction with several scholarly works on the subject: *Women of the Klan: Racism and Gender in the 1920s* Aliens Found in Waiting: *Women of the Ku Klux Klan in Suburban Chicago, 1870-1930* Sarah Elizabeth Doherty Loyola University Chicago [http://ecommons.luc.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1344context=luc\\_diss2](http://ecommons.luc.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1344context=luc_diss2) of 2 people found the following review helpful. The foundations of Modern American feminism By J. Preston This is an excellent book for filling in the gaps of the history of the "women's movement" in the U.S. In studying modern feminism, we hear much about feminism, by definition, being the movement that is behind gender equality. What is often omitted from modern commentary is that the "gender equality" is very often intended by feminism only to apply to Caucasian Women, and, more specifically, to middle and upper class women. In this Book, Professor Blee points out that the doctrines of modern feminism, as they have evolved from the 1960's, were nothing other than the same doctrines of the "Invisible Empire" of Women in the Ku Klux Klan. There is an excellent review of this book in the L.A. Times, by Barbara Ehrenreich: [http://articles.latimes.com/1991-09-01/books/bk-2279\\_1\\_klan-members1](http://articles.latimes.com/1991-09-01/books/bk-2279_1_klan-members1) of 1 people found the following review helpful. This is a very disturbing and well researched book. ... By Jay Raskin This is a very disturbing and well researched book. Those who think that gender-feminism is progressive need to read this book.

Ignorant. Brutal. Male. One of these stereotypes of the Ku Klux Klan offers a misleading picture. In *Women of the Klan*, sociologist Kathleen M. Blee dismantles the popular notion that politically involved women are always inspired by pacifism, equality, and justice. In her new preface, Blee reflects on how recent scholarship on gender and right-wing extremism suggests new ways to understand women's place in the 1920s Klan's crusade for white and Christian supremacy.

From Publishers Weekly A groundbreaking work about the Women of the Ku Klux Klan (WKKK), which enrolled hundreds of thousands of recruits in the 1920s and '30s. Photos. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Blee, a sociology professor, has written a fascinating and disturbing book about the women of the Ku Klux Klan (WKKK) in the 1920s. In Part 1, she examines the historical, cultural, and symbolic contexts of the Klan in the United States. In Part 2, she looks at activities of the women's Klan in Indiana and gives biographical sketches of some of the more prominent women in the Indiana WKKK. Through her extensive research, including interviews with surviving WKKK members, examining seized Klan documents, and reading local newspapers, Blee found that for many women the WKKK offered a logical place for them to express political views while also providing a home of like-minded females who shared social and moral concerns. While many books have been written about the history of the Ku Klux Klan, this is the first to focus on women. An important work which should be purchased by larger public and research libraries. Highly recommended. (Illustrations and index not seen.)-- Cindy Faries, Pennsylvania State Univ. Lib., University Park Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. "A meticulous job of historical sleuthing. . . . This down-home side of the K.K.K. in the 1920s resembles not so much the terrorist Klan of today as the myriad white supremacist groups that rally behind the 'new' David Duke." -- Claudia Koonz, New York Times Book "Thanks to Kathleen M. Blee's superb scholarship in *Women of the Klan* I must now live with the fact that the Klan contained 'all the better people': businessmen, physicians, judges, social workers (even Quakers, political reformers and (this is the truly discomfiting part) feminists. . . . *Women of the Klan* stands before us as carefully garnered, irrefutable evidence that women are capable of asserting their gender rights in the most noisome settings." -- Barbara Ehrenreich, Los Angeles Times "The author's interviews with women who were dedicated members of the Klan in the 1920s are original and remarkable. . . . The hypocrisy revealed in *Women of the Klan* could easily translate as the stuff of fiction." -- Herbert Mitgang, New York Times "[A] superb new book on women in the 1920s Ku Klux Klan . . . . Blee's insight is crucial if we are to uncover, and grasp, the depth of white supremacy." -- Dana Frank, The Nation