

The Artifacts of White Nationalism

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While most discuss racism, and white supremacy in particular, as a matter of beliefs, there's less talk of how hate becomes tangible and real. And yet, we know the Ku Klux Klan, the oldest hate group in the U.S., by their hoods and robes. Artifacts express their white supremacy, but also their Christianity and nationalism. Robes, fiery crosses, and even the American flag were all material objects created and used by the 1920s Klan. The Klan's religious nation, its vision of white Protestant America, became tangible, in each of these artifacts, and each artifact also reflected the order's religious and racial intolerance. Patriotism, Protestant Christianity and white supremacy rested side by side. Examining these historical artifacts of white supremacy helps us to understand how white supremacy manifests today and what that says about the state of our nation and our politics.

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