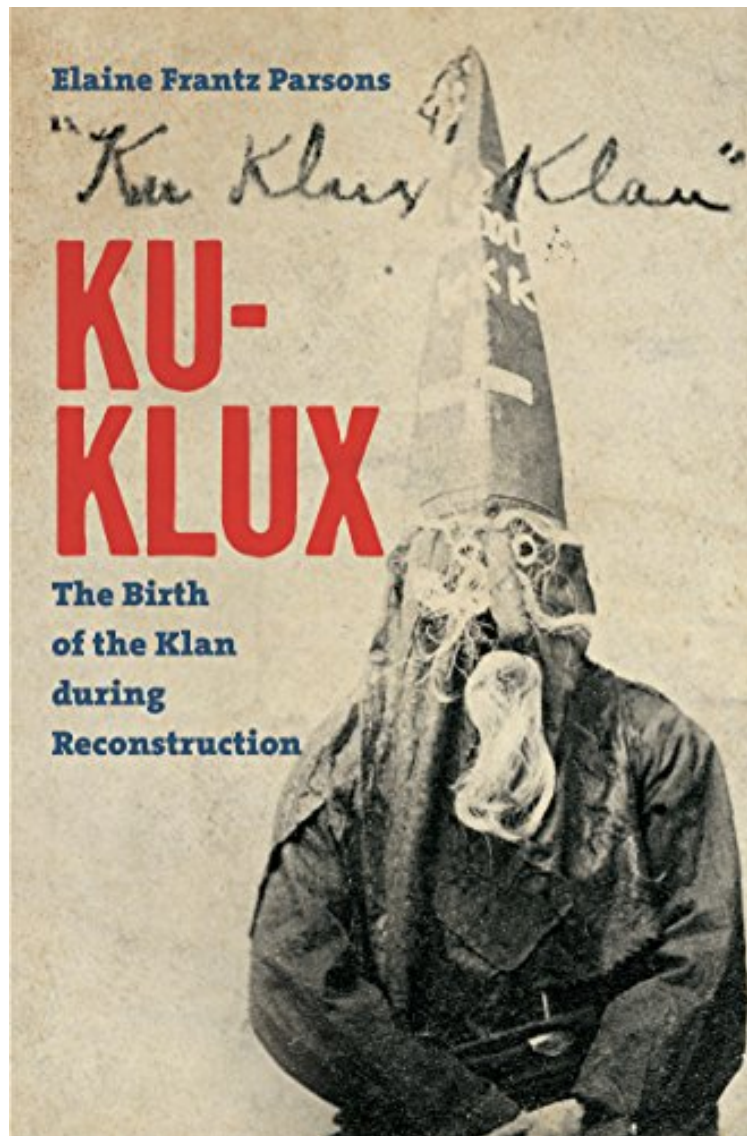


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Ku-Klux: The Birth of the Klan during Reconstruction

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wisdom about the Klan and shows that many widely held ideas about the Klan are based on poor information and unreliable sources. Among other academic bombshells, she states that "there is no convincing evidence that Nathan Bedford Forrest was ever head of the Klan." If you want to get beyond stereotypes and easy assumptions and learn some of the facts about Reconstruction and the Klan this book is worth the intellectual effort it takes to read. 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Great find! Been reading a lot of stuff about ...By Paul Eubanks Great find! Been reading a lot of stuff about KKK ever since I was in college and this is by far the most informative among them. 0 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Customer Best clan ever

The first comprehensive examination of the nineteenth-century Ku Klux Klan since the 1970s, *Ku-Klux* pinpoints the group's rise with startling acuity. Historians have traced the origins of the Klan to Pulaski, Tennessee, in 1866, but the details behind the group's emergence have long remained shadowy. By parsing the earliest descriptions of the Klan, Elaine Frantz Parsons reveals that it was only as reports of the Tennessee Klan's mysterious and menacing activities began circulating in northern newspapers that whites enthusiastically formed their own Klan groups throughout the South. The spread of the Klan was thus intimately connected with the politics and mass media of the North. Shedding new light on the ideas that motivated the Klan, Parsons explores Klansmen's appropriation of images and language from northern urban forms such as minstrelsy, burlesque, and business culture. While the Klan sought to retain the prewar racial order, the figure of the Ku-Klux became a joint creation of northern popular cultural entrepreneurs and southern whites seeking, perversely and violently, to modernize the South. Innovative and packed with fresh insight, Parsons' book offers the definitive account of the rise of the Ku Klux Klan during Reconstruction.

Explodes many commonly held conceptions about the first Klan through meticulous research of thousands of sources.--*Agricultural History* Provides an interesting and insightful view of how the Klan phenomenon was portrayed in different venues and by different kinds of actors.--*American Historical A* A superb, important new interpretation of the history of the first Ku Klux Klan. . . . Highly recommended for those interested in the history of the South, Reconstruction, and American racial violence.--*North Carolina Historical* As much a cultural history as it is an institutional history, a refreshing departure from a vast literature that has long cataloged the political, social, and economic implications of Reconstruction violence.--*Journal of the Civil War* Extraordinarily well-researched. . . . interesting and illuminating.--*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* A happy marriage of the tools of social history and the insights of cultural history.--*Arkansas Historical Quarterly* Essential reading for scholars focusing on the Civil War, Reconstruction, or racist violence in America.--*H-Net* A provocative reevaluation of the Ku Klux Klan that is essential reading for anyone studying the Reconstruction South.--*Journal of Southern History* Exciting, impeccably researched, and much-needed, Parsons' book goes far beyond providing a social or political history of the organization, and examines the Klan as a complex, cultural phenomenon that carried social and political force through the cultural meanings that it conveyed and that were imposed upon it.--Amy Wood, *Illinois State University* This is the first book to really apply cultural history to the questions that historians of Reconstruction have been asking for a long time. This is a great, groundbreaking work that will clearly be a major milestone in the study of Reconstruction and the history of the Klan.--Bruce Baker, *Newcastle University* About the Author Elaine Frantz Parsons is associate professor of history at Duquesne University.