

KU KLUX KLAN

PART 2

FULL SCRIPT

10 :00 :02 :00 / CREDITS

ARTE France
and
ROCHE PRODUCTIONS

10 :00 :07 :00 / COMMENTARY

The Ku Klux Klan is the oldest racist terrorist group in the United States.

10 :00 :11 :00 / SUBTITLES

I don't believe in segregation. I believe in slavery

10 :00 :18 :00 / CREDITS

With the participation of
FRANCE TELEVISIONS

10 :00 :23 :00 / COMMENTARY

Created after the Civil War, the "invisible empire" transformed into a violent militia bent on terrorizing freed former slaves.

10 :00 :36 :00 / COMMENTARY

The Anti-black, anti-Semitic, and anti-Catholic Klan had enlisted more than four million members in the 1920s before disappearing.

10 :00 :44 :00 / SUBTITLES

Now you die nigger !

10 :00 :46 :00 / CREDITS

Produced by
Dominique Tibi

10 :00 :49 :00 / COMMENTARY

After the Second World War, the invisible empire reemerged.

10 :00 :56 :00 / COMMENTARY

Its goal hadn't changed: to defend white supremacy, by any and all means.

10 :01 :07 :00 / SUBTITLES

White power !

10 :01 :09 :00 / SUBTITLES

White power ! White power !

10 :01 :10 :00 / TITLE

KU KLUX KLAN
An American story

10 :01 :15 :00 / CREDITS

A film by
David Korn-Brzoza

10 :01 :19 :00

Sous-titre

Klansmen ! We're the Ku Klux Klan !

10 :01 :23 :00 / TITLE

Part two
Resurrections

10 :01 :37 :00 / COMMENTARY

At the beginning of the 1950s, American society was more prosperous than ever before. Consumption, growth and well-being were keywords in the world's leading economic power.

Though the country that had won the Second World War and served as a symbol of liberty, racial segregation continued to exist in the American South, 80 years after the official abolition of slavery. Black Americans had no access to anything. Not to well-paid jobs, or healthcare, or quality education. The doors leading to prosperity were closed to them.

10 :02 :15 :00 / SUBTITLES

Colored

10 :02 :20 :00 / SUBTITLES

Colored Restroom

10 :02 :19 :00

ITW Dale LONG

When I was growing up as a child here in Birmingham, as an African-American, you couldn't go to a restaurant, sit down and have a meal. You couldn't try on clothes at a department store. When my mother, for example, attempted to buy shoes for us, we could not try on shoes. She would have to take a piece of paper and trace our feet and present that to the attendant at the store, and they would use that to try and match us up with the correct size of shoes.

10:02:50:00

ITW Bernard ALFAYETTE

What happened is... my friend had... lived in Mississippi and his neighbor was white but they lived (inaudible). But the dogs could play together, okay? But the children could not.

10:03:07:00 / COMMENTARY

The segregationist system was beginning to wobble, however. May 17 1954 was a major turning point. That day, the Supreme Court declared racial segregation in public schools to be unconstitutional. From now on, schools could no longer refuse to teach black children. This decision enraged Southern states.

10 :03 :28 :00 / SUBTITLES

Keep your kids at home (pancarte)

Keep our white schools white KKKK (pancarte)

10 :03 :33 :00 / SUBTITLES

Keep our white schools white KKKK

10 :03 :37 :00 / SUBTITLES

We don't want to negres in school with us !

10 :03 :40 :00 / SUBTITLES

Segregated we stand. Integrated we fail

10 :03 :43 :00 / COMMENTARY

The Klan, which had four million members in the 1920s, had practically disappeared. The threat of desegregation revived it. The invisible empire once again drew in thousands of supporters wearing the pointed hood.

10 :04 :05 :00 / SUBTITLES

They want to throw white children and colored children into the melting pot of integration throughout of which will come a conglomerated mongol class of people ! Both races will be destroyed in such a movement .

10 :04 :22 :00 / COMMENTARY

African-Americans began to rise up. The civil rights movement was seeking justice. In December 1955, Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on the bus to a white passenger. Martin Luther King launched his campaign for non-violent civil disobedience to obtain equality between blacks and whites.

10 :04 :46 :00 / SUBTITLES

Vote no to racism

10 :04 :49 :00 / SUBTITLES

Let's stop racism now

10 :04 :51 :00 / SUBTITLES

All men are created equal

10 :04 :54 :00 / COMMENTARY

The movement was pacifist, but the police response was not at all.

10 :05 :05 :00 / COMMENTARY

African Americans were calling for the end of segregation with all of their might. But neither Klan members nor Southern politicians were prepared to give up their supremacy. The governor of Alabama, George Wallace, was representative of this mindset from another era.

10 :05 :24 :00 / SUBTITLES

In the name of the greatest people that have ever trod this earth, I say segregation now, segregation tomorrow and segregation forever.

10 :05 :39 :00 / SUBTITLES

Segregation forever

10 :05 :44 :00 / COMMENTARY

Despite all the obstacles, on August 28 1963 more than 300,000 Americans, black and white, marched on Washington to protest for a new kind of society.

10 :06 :02 :00 / COMMENTARY

It was a unique moment in the history of the United States. Martin Luther King shared his dream for America.

10 :06 :12 :00 / SUBTITLES

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a dream today ! Free at last, free at last, thank God almighty ! We are free at last !

10 :06 :41 :00 / COMMENTARY

But the country refused to move on. In the South, supporters of white supremacy were on the defensive. Their response: radicalization.

10 :06 :56 :00 / COMMENTARY

On September 15th 1963, two weeks after the March on Washington, a bomb went off in the 16th Street Baptist Church at the center of a black neighborhood in Birmingham, Alabama.

10 :07 :11 :00

ITW Dale LONG

I played the clarinet in the church orchestra. I remember that the room began to shake. The lights went out. A lot of dust, a lot of smoke. Now, we had no idea what was going on. We just sort of looked at each other and ran.

10:07:32:00 / SUBTITLES

The church itself was devastated. Every window but one was broken. Pieces of masonry weighing twenty pounds were ripped from the facade and thrown across the street.

10 :07 :45 :00 / COMMENTARY

That Sunday morning, nineteen sticks of dynamite blasted through the southern side of the church. The shockwave was felt around the neighborhood.

10:07:57:00

ITW Dale LONG

Many were bleeding. A lot of them were crying. And almost everybody was looking for their parents and siblings and loved ones. Later that day, we started to get information, bit by bit. We found out that there were 27 people taken to the hospital, and there were four people dead.

10:08:22:00 / COMMENTARY

Four girls doing catechism were killed. Denise McNair, Cynthia Wesley, Carole Robertson, and Addie Mae Collins. They were between eleven and fourteen years old.

10:08:41:00

ITW Dale LONG

Four precious lives were taken. Addie, Denise, Carole, Cynthia: my friends, who were basically three rooms down from where I was, lost their lives. They found them under the rubble.

10:09:05:00

ITW Bill BAXLEY

One of the little girls, Denise McNair, was 11 years old. Her grandfather owned a shop right across from the church. The explosive effect of the bomb damaged all the shops around the area. And he had a clock on the wall and the clock stopped.

The time stands still and stood still in that moment in Birmingham, Alabama, when those four little girls were killed.

10:09:43:00 / COMMENTARY

Birmingham had come to be known as Bombingham because of how frequent attacks had become since the 1950s. But this time, the location and the victims' youth shocked the country.

10 :10 :13 :00 / COMMENTARY

The FBI and Alabama authorities quickly identified the suspected perpetrators. Four members of the local KKK were questioned, including Robert Chambliss, known as Dynamite Bob.

10 :10 :34 :00

ITW Mark POTOK

Very shortly after the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing, the FBI developed information which turned out to be true about who had actually carried out the bombing. They sent this file back to Washington, to the FBI headquarters, but the head of the FBI, J. Edgar Hoover, refused to forward that file to prosecutors in the Department of Justice. So it laid there for years and years and years and years. So, in fact, FBI agents in the field knew who the killers were, knew who the bombers were, but because of the leadership of the FBI at the time, none of that information was prosecuted until decades later.

10:11:18:00 / COMMENTARY

Robert Chambliss, who committed the bombing, was convicted of possession of dynamite. He would do just four months in prison. The other suspects were not prosecuted.

10 :11 :35 :00 / COMMENTARY

J. Edgar Hoover, the head of the FBI, did everything he could to block the investigations. He had chosen his side. In his view, the main danger to the country was the civil rights activists, whom he considered Communists. Martin Luther King was being monitored. Investigations into good, patriotic white people in the Klan could wait.

10 :11 :58 :00

ITW Dale LONG

The fact that no one was convicted right away, and, again, having the knowledge that they probably knew who did it, it seemingly was business as usual for the way African-American people were treated.

10 :12 :12 :00

ITW Bill BAXLEY

That is, unfortunately... there's a lot of truth to the fact that the Klan felt like they had a green light to commit violence. Especially in some places, the Klan felt like they could be as violent as they wanted and nothing would be done to them.

10 :12 :31 :00 / SUBTITLES

Integrated education is quality education

Integration is education

Equal Jobs now

10 :12 :34 :00 / COMMENTARY

This impunity encouraged violence, and the Klan had its preferred targets: promoters of racial equality. In June 1964, three civil rights activists, two of them Jewish and one African-American, went missing. While driving through the city of Meridian, Mississippi, they were stopped for speeding and released. The local deputy sheriff, Cecil Price, was the last person to see them.

10 :13 :09 :00 / SUBTITLES

They paid the fine and I released them and escorted them to their car. And they got in their car and I asked which direction they were going and they said they were going to Meridian, Mississippi. And that's the last time we saw any of them.

10 :13 :31 :00 / COMMENTARY

No one had heard from Andrew Goodman, James Chaney and Michael Schwerner since then. An alert went out. Mississippi had a reputation: the most racist state in America, and the heartland of the Klan. On June 23, 48 hours after their disappearance, their car was found.

10 :14 :01 :00

ITW Avery ROLLINS

The car was empty and it had been burned out totally. It was examined closely by a forensics expert, who could not find any evidence related to the crime.

10:14:19:00 / COMMENTARY

Edgar Hoover, the director of the FBI, called President Lyndon Johnson.

10:14:25:00 / SUBTITLES

Mr President, I wanted to let you know that we found the car.

Yeah.

The car was burned and we do not know yet whether any bodies are inside the car because of the intense heat

10:14:42:00 / SUBTITLES

NBC News presents

10 :14 :45 :00 / COMMENTARY

News coverage was non-stop. The victims' families used them to address viewers.

10:14:50:00 / SUBTITLES

Chaney, Goodman, Schwerner. A special report on the three workers for civil rights still missing in Mississippi.

10 :14 :55 :00 / SUBTITLES

We would implore anybody who can help to establish contact with him. We would be grateful to them.

10:15:10:00 / COMMENTARY

The media took an interest in the new strongman of the KKK, Robert Shelton. Always seen driving his late-model Cadillac, Shelton was an excellent organizer. He managed to bring several Klan factions together within the UKA, which he led. The former tire salesman was now in charge of 30,000 men in five states. Full of confidence, the Imperial Wizard appeared more and more in the media.

10 :15 :40 :00 / SUBTITLES

I have been in consultation with these members and people in the area and we have come up with some information that satisfies us in the fact that in all probability this is just another hoax.

10 :15 :56 :00 / COMMENTARY

Under pressure from the media, the investigation began moving faster. The FBI became more closely involved.

10 :16 :06 :00

ITW Avery ROLLINS

Immediately, more FBI agents were transferred in. The United States Navy has a small training base near Meridian, and approximately 200 sailors came out with the FBI agents to assist in the search of the area where the car was located.

10:16:30:00

ITW Mark POTOK

After that killing, the FBI went south with a lot of agents and they forced local law enforcement to dredge rivers all over the place. They found lots and lots of bodies that were not the bodies of the murdered civil rights workers, but ultimately, they were able to unravel the case.

10:16:51:00 / COMMENTARY

On August 4 1964, after a 45-day investigation, the bodies were finally found in a forest. The FBI managed to get a witness to talk and reveal everything. More than 15 suspects were linked to the plot and arrested. Among them were Samuel Bowers, a local Klan official, but also Sheriff Lawrence Rainey and Cecil Price, who had arrested the three activists. The killing was premeditated.

10 :17 :29 :00

ITW David CUNNINGHAM

The civil rights workers were in town, and therefore, on their way out of town, they were stopped by the deputy sheriff and they were released in a very coordinated way. Working with the police, Klan members were waiting near the jailhouse, they knew they were going to be released and they followed them out of town.

10:17:48:00

ITW Avery ROLLINS

They had been directed to follow the sheriff's car out of town. Deputy Sheriff Cecil Price purposely drew them into a trap, where several Klansmen led by Edgar Ray Killen were waiting for them.

10:18:03:00

ITW David CUNNINGHAM

And there, they proceeded to kill all three of those civil rights workers. And again, as part of this plot, they had already set up in a premeditated way how to dispose of these bodies. They placed the station wagon that the civil rights workers had been driving in in a swamp, fairly far away from the site in which they were murdered, and they had bulldozers ready there to have the bodies buried in an earthen dam nearby in the county.

10:18:41:00

ITW Mark POTOK

The most remarkable thing was how local law enforcement was essentially the same as the Klan. They were Klansmen and ultimately they handed these people. They took them out of a local cell where they'd been briefly arrested and detained, and handed them to the Klan, which then dragged them out into the forest and murdered them.

10:19:02:00 / COMMENTARY

Trial after trial took place: the criminals who arranged the arrests of the activists, committed the murder, and hid the bodies with a bulldozer were repeatedly arrested and released. In Mississippi, white juries rarely – or never – convict for crimes against black people.

10:19:27:00

ITW Mark POTOK

The local sheriff was really the undersheriff: Cecil Price, the infamous man. When you see Cecil Price when he was first tried and acquitted by a local white jury, he has this terrible grin on his face. He's just laughing at how he's gotten away, literally, with murder.

10:19:50:00

ITW David CUNNINGHAM

So a number of people involved in the Freedom Summer murders were brought to trial in the 1960s. Edgar Ray Killen, as the architect of the plot, was tried back then and he was not convicted, basically because there was one particular person on the jury who said, regardless of what the details of the case were, they could not bring themselves to convict a preacher, someone who worked in service of God for these crimes, and he was set free.

10:20:24:00

ITW Adam GREEN

It also points out how hard it was to actually bring the Klan to justice, because the Klan was both the perpetrator and the enforcement agent of the law, and in some cases, the judge and the jury, in terms of the crimes that took place in the south.

10:20:42:00 / SUBTITLES

I would like it this time to call sheriff Lawrence A. Rainey from the Neshoba county to the platform ...

10 :21 :00 :00 / COMMENTARY

Adding insult to injury, suspects including Sheriff Lawrence Rainey were welcomed as guests of honor at Klan meetings during the trials.

10 :21 :10 :00 / SUBTITLES

Now I was just down here I've been acused by the FBI, about the Klan and everything and so I come down today to see the hated men and investigate it and see what there was to it. I met some of the best fellas I think in all of Alabama, Mississippi and other places.

10 :21 :28 :00 / COMMENTARY

For a cold-blooded murder, the 17 suspects risked the death penalty, or life in prison. In the end, only seven of them were convicted, for a maximum of six years.

10 :21 :44 :00 / SUBTITLES

Let's give him a hand if you're glad he got on this platform. A true great white American !

10:21:54:00 / COMMENTARY

Nothing seemed to stop Klan violence. Threats, terror, and murders continued to take place. The Klan knew how to indoctrinate its members.

10:22:10:00

ITW Chris BUCKLEY

Have you ever seen the pyramid of Hate and Extremism? It's like, at the very top of the pyramid is hate, but the very bottom line, the very bottom pillar of the pyramid, is biases. And it slowly builds and slowly builds until it becomes a pillar of hate. They definitely guide you in your hatred, but, over the time they grow you, they groom you into hating just about everything.

10:22:32:00 / SUBTITLES

And remember the niggers that are giving you all the trouble, white folks are the educated nigger » (PAS CERTAIN)

10:22:39:00

ITW Chris BUCKLEY

The fact that you hate something, they have an avenue and they'll start to mold you and groom you. It's brainwashing and it takes a long time to get back from that.

10:22:53:00 / COMMENTARY

The apostles of hatred openly preached committing crimes.

10:23:00:00 / SUBTITLES

I got news for niggers, we're on the move too

I don't believe in segregation. I believe in slavery

10 :23 :15 :00 / COMMENTARY

But in 1965, yet another murder in Alabama began to shake things up. On March 25, Viola Liuzzo, a white woman activist, accompanied a young black man and fellow demonstrator home. The Klan didn't tolerate such racial mixing in a car. Klansman spotted the vehicle and fired shots.

10:23:41:00

ITW Bernard LAFAYETTE

And they got out of the car, once they shot into her car, to make sure she was dead. Blood was everywhere. Leroy Moton was a young black fella who was riding with her and he flopped his head down and pretended he was dead. And it was her blood that was all over his head. And when they looked in and they saw, they thought they had killed both of them. So he survived. But I often say that she gave her life and in the meantime, she saved his life with her blood.

10:24:22:00 / SUBTITLES

The driver of this car was Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, mother of five children. A red a white Sedan overtook her car. Several shots were fired. The driverless car veered off the highway and came to a stop at a kettle fence. Mrs. Liuzzo was dead.

10 :24 :41 :00 / COMMENTARY

This time, the crime was solved quickly. Gary Thomas Rowe, a Klan member and FBI informant, happened to be in the perpetrators' car.

10 :24 :54 :00

ITW Avery ROLLINS

This individual reported immediately to the FBI what he had seen, what he had witnessed, and this led to the successful prosecution of the Klansmen involved in her murder.

10:25:07:00 / COMMENTARY

President Lyndon Johnson announced that the crime had been solved the next day. The Klan had become public enemy number one.

10:25:18:00 / SUBTITLES

So if Klansmen hear my voice today, let it be both an appeal and a warning to get out of the Ku Klux Klan now and return to a decent society before it is too late.

10 :25 :38 :00 / COMMENTARY

But the invisible empire was indifferent to such threats. At their trial, Viola Liuzzo's murderers got away with it. The all-white jury refused to convict them.

10 :25 :53 :00 / SUBTITLES

May I present Mr. W. O. Eaton, Mr. Eugene Thomas, and the boy who stood under the battle guns Collie Leroy Wilkins !

10 :26 :08 :00 / COMMENTARY

As usual, the Klan celebrated the three men as heroes; they even signed autographs. A collection was set up to pay their legal fees. They would later receive minimal sentences for their crime. The Klan's combat against civil rights nevertheless seemed more and more like a lost cause, and its unpunished crimes would end up working against it.

10 :26 :42 :00 / SUBTITLES

Historic Ceremony :

The Right to Vote Signed into Law

Voice : Ed Herlihy

10 :26 :46 :00 / COMMENTARY

In 1964, President Lyndon Johnson pushed legislation to end segregation. In August 1965, five months after the murder of Viola Liuzzo, the president signed the Voting Rights Act, which banned all of the systems set up to prevent black people from voting.

10 :27 :01 :00 / SUBTITLES

This law will ensure them their right to vote.

10 :27 :07 :00 / COMMENTARY

A century after the abolition of slavery, African Americans had finally achieved full citizenship.

10 :27 :17 :00

ITW Mark POTOK

But when things happened, like the Klan bombed the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, there was an enormous reaction among white people. The very same thing happened when Viola Liuzzo was murdered by the Klan on the Selma to Montgomery march. And even Americans, white Americans, who weren't terribly progressive, weren't especially into integrating schools and so on, they reacted with a kind of horror. So I think that the Klan really is what absolutely guaranteed the success of the civil rights movement. It put first Kennedy and then especially Lyndon Johnson into a position where they felt they had to do this. They had to pass the Voting Rights Act. They had to pass the Civil Rights Act. So, it was very ironic how it turned out.

10:28:06:00 / COMMENTARY

The federal government began to seriously push back against the organization, as it had done with the First Klan a century earlier. They needed to neutralize its key leaders. Bob Jones, the Grand Dragon of North Carolina, and Robert Shelton, the leader of the United Klan of America, were summoned to Washington in 1965 and questioned by a congressional committee.

10 :28 :46 :00 / SUBTITLES

It is not my liberty to devode the membership of any member of the organization. And I can state myself that I am a member but it has to come from the individuals themselves if they want to admit they are a member.

10 :28 :59 :00 / COMMENTARY

The Klan was declared anti-American. Its leaders were sentenced to a year in prison for contempt of Congress.

10 :29 :08 :00 / SUBTITLES

The government of this country I fave respect but the justice department I have no respect. The justice department has become nothing more than a bunch of babysitters for the communist party and the civil rights movement .

10 :29 :21 :00 / COMMENTARY

Political pressure also forced the boss of the FBI, J. Edgar Hoover, to go on the offensive. The agency was already monitoring communists and civil rights activists, but now it had to target the Klan. Reluctantly, Hoover launched nearly 300 operations against the network. Klan meetings were riddled with moles.

10 :29 :50 :00 / COMMENTARY

Suspicious rose to the point that Robert Shelton, the Imperial Wizard, planned to test recruits with a lie detector. The FBI also launched a less-than-legal operation called Cointelpro.

10 :30 :06 :00

ITW Cecil MOSES

(That's short) for Counterintelligence Program... we used that (some) in Iowa against the Black Panthers, we used it in Mississippi against the Ku Klux Klan... very successful. In my opinion, it was a good program.

10 :30 :24 :00

ITW Avery ROLLINS

They were mostly rumors or anonymous letters that "Ms. so-and-so, do you realize that your Ku Klux Klan (avowing) husband is not attending Klan activities at all, he's going out with his girlfriend, your next-door neighbor" or something like that, to create hostility among the Klan members to destroy reputations and to make them ineffective in their political activities.

10 :30 :51 :00 / SUBTITLES

*The FBI want to check the Klan and investigate them, I live in 209 on ***** Avenue, Lakestone, North Carolina and my name is ***** and I'm not ashamed to be in the Klan. Amen.*

10 :31 :11 :00

ITW David CUNNINGHAM

Some of the things that they did looked downright and literally cartoonish. The FBI (labs draw up) literal cartoons that would illustrate misdeeds of their leaders, and they would turn them into postcards and they'd mail them out to hundreds of members, saying: "Do you know what your leaders are doing after you go home from the meeting at night? Do you know what your leaders are doing with your money?" These were... tended to be crudely drawn cartoons, they weren't elaborate. They tended not to be drawn in color, so they were kind of black and white drawings. It would show a sheet being lifted up off of someone's head, and (says) someone knows who you are. So it would be trying to build up anxiety within Klan members, by saying that you're being watched, you're being monitored and you could be exposed at any time.

10 :31 :33 :00 / SUBTITLES

6 can live cheap as one on those jugs of Kaln funds

10 :32 :06 :00 / COMMENTARY

Under pressure from federal agents, the Klan – which had 15,000 members in 1967 – lost 70 percent of its membership in the early 1970s. Times had changed. The culture of impunity was over.

10 :32 :26 :00 / COMMENTARY

In 1971, Bill Baxley was appointed Attorney General of Alabama. He decided to reopen the investigation into the bombing of the 16th Street Church in Birmingham. Soon after, he began receiving threats.

10 :32 :42 :00

ITW Bill BAXLEY

I received letters, threats and nasty letters from the Klan and groups like them from all over the country.

10:32:59:00

ITW Bill BAXLEY

I did get one nasty letter, saying that I was persecuting white patriots by doing this investigation. They demanded an answer to this letter they had sent me, the Klan, and I said my reply is: "(Kiss) my blank, blank, blank." Except I didn't put blanks.

10:33:29:00 / COMMENTARY

Despite the threats, Bill Baxley continued the investigation. Hoover, the FBI boss, was dead. Certain classified files finally resurfaced. The attorney general quickly got back on the case of of Robert Chambliss. Dynamite Bob. To convict him, the attorney general managed to track down a key witness: Kirthus Glenn, a woman who was in Birmingham the day before the explosion.

10:34:04:00

ITW Bill BAXLEY

It was 2 o'clock in the morning and she saw a car in that alley, and she saw four white men, and she knew something wasn't right. And so she wrote down the tag number of that car. Then the next morning, when the bomb went off, she called the FBI. And they carried pictures out to her. And she identified Robert Chambliss.

10:34:37:00 / SUBTITLES

In 1963, this church in Birmingham, Alabama was bombed and four black girls were killed in the explosion. Now fourteen years later a criminal indictment has been returned in the case and the white man indicted is 73 years old .

10 :34 :56 :00 / COMMENTARY

Bill Baxley managed to get Robert Chambliss sentenced to life in prison in 1977, 14 years after the crime.

10:35:14:00 / SUBTITLES

Certainly we know Chainy wasn't in it by himself, we know who else was in we just have to take it one step at a time but we will go back and get new indictment against the other people and we will have other trials.

10 :35 :25 :00

ITW Bill BAXLEY

The families of the victims of the little girls were ever able to say it was a good day. It couldn't bring back their children, but it was at least some sense that finally, justice may have been delayed, but it wasn't denied.

10 :36 :12 :00 / SUBTITLES

It's from our factory

10 :36 :15 :00 / SUBTITLES

Fellow Klansmen, fellow white people, It's good to see all of you here tonight. Good to see everybody from all over the country to come here, to stand up for the movement...

10 :36 :23 :00 / COMMENTARY

By the 1970s, the Klan had shrunk to a few thousand members. Most often, people who were marginalized or excluded from the system. Money was tight.

10 :36 :39 :00 / COMMENTARY

An unusual new leader managed to give it a fresh start. David Duke founded his own group in Louisiana: the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. The young leader even ran for Senate. This Imperial Wizard turned out to be a media wizard as well.

10 :36 :59 :00 / SUBTITLES

-We need a voice for our heritage, ideals and interests. It's only fair that things would have evened up a bit.

-We do need a real voice for the majority. Let's elect David Duke senator District 16.

10 :37 :11 :00 / COMMENTARY

Duke wanted to give the Klan a respectable front and to break with its inflammatory past.

10 :37 :20 :00 / SUBTITLES

I think most of what you call the Klan atrocities and so forth, I think most of it is a media creation, a Hollywood creation.

The Klan is becoming a political organization. We're becoming a political movement.

10 :37 :32 :00 / SUBTITLES

Oh I think he's the greatest. They don't have any better. He's great in every way.

10 :37 :37 :00

ITW Mark POTOK

David Duke initiated this idea of a new and different Ku Klux Klan. So it was Duke who talked for instance about taking off our robes and our conical hats and so on, and putting on business suits like other business people. So Duke attempted to and to some extent was successful in trying to kind of reposition the Klan as a responsible organization. We don't hate black people, we just love white people.

10:38:07:00 / SUBTITLES

The American white people are searching and are reaching out for a movement to carry forth their ideals, their values, their dreams that they carry in their hearts. And the Ku Klux Klan is that movement !

10:38:21:00 / COMMENTARY

Duke's choirboy looks concealed a dangerous revisionist and a fan of Hitler.

10 :38 :34 :00 / COMMENTARY

Despite his popularity, disputes within the organization sidelined the rising star of the American far right. David Duke left the Klan in 1978. He managed to make the racist organization more acceptable, but terrorism was still part of the Klan's DNA.

10 :39 :05 :00 / SUBTITLES

Death to the Klan !

10 :39 :06 :00 / COMMENTARY

In November 1979, in the working-class city of Greensboro, North Carolina, a group of leftwing activists protested against the creation of a United Racist Front between the Klan and the American Nazi Party. Cars full of Klan members and neo-Nazis arrived. Shooting broke out. The crime was captured live on camera.

10 :39 :54 :00 / COMMENTARY

Five anti-racist activists were killed in 88 seconds. Despite this massacre, and even though they had been captured on film, the murderers were acquitted by a jury. At the beginning of the 1980s, the Klan had once again managed to thwart justice.

10 :40 :24 :00 / COMMENTARY

Robert Shelton – who was still in charge of the United Klan of America – was unmoved and continued to spread his hateful message.

10 :40 :33 :00 / SUBTITLES

The negro today is nothing more than an animal as he is living in our society riding in the streets .

10 :40 :42 :00 / COMMENTARY

It took until 1981 for a case to bring an end to this long period of escaping punishment.

10 :40 :53 :00 / SUBTITLES

Early morning March 21st, 1981. On Herndon Avenue in Mobile, Michael Donald's body is found hanging from a tree. He had been beaten, strangled, his throat cut three times.

10 :41 :04 :00 / COMMENTARY

19 year-old Michael Donald was chosen at random. Two Klansmen were looking for a black man to kill as revenge for the murder of a white police officer.

10 :41 :21 :00

ITW Mark POTOK

This was the classic definition of terrorism, right? It wasn't merely killing a man, because you hate the man or whatever it may be. Michael Donald's murder was a message to all black people in the south: "This is what will happen if you dare to resist us, to resist white dominance."

10:41:40:00 / COMMENTARY

The FBI finally arrested the murderers following a two-year investigation: Henry Francis Hays and James "Tiger" Knowles. Hays was sentenced to the electric chair, Knowles to a life sentence. In the South, a white man hadn't been convicted of killing a black man in a very long time. But the victim's mother, Beulah Donald, wanted to go even further. She contacted a legal defense group for victims of discrimination.

10:42:15:00 / SUBTITLES

A mother's fight for justice after Klan-inspired murder

10:42:16:00

ITW Mark POTOK

Michael Donald case became extremely famous, because a lawyer named Morris Dees and the Southern Poverty Law Center filed a civil law suit against the Klan group itself, not merely the individuals, as well as the leader of the Klan group and the actual killers, and basically made the argument in civil court that the Klan should be held liable for the criminal actions of its members, that they had in effect been pushed to do this, and that the organization itself had been a part of it. And the end of the story is that, ultimately, the jury agreed, and they levied a fine of seven million dollars against the United Klans of America.

10:43:00:00

ITW David CUNNINGHAM

What this did in effect was bankrupt United Klans. So, Robert Shelton had to give up the whole compound he had built up. That became a retreat space and an organizational space for United Klans. And, in effect, the killing of Michael Donald put United Klans out of business. It became a landmark legal approach to how do you target effectively terroristic groups like the KKK.

10:43:28:00 / COMMENTARY

The verdict was historic. Seven years after her son's death, Beulah Donald finally got justice. The main Klan organization was bankrupted. Like so often in the United States, the most efficient way was to go for the wallet. All of the property belonging to the United Klan of America reverted to the Donald family. Robert Shelton lost his kingdom.

10:44:04:00 / SUBTITLES

*I don't have any comments. Just move, please sir I'm ***** going home.*

10 :44 :08 :00 / COMMENTARY

Thought the United Klan had been convicted, the Ku Klux Klan itself had not been outlawed. Freedom of expression and association guaranteed by the American constitution made sure it had a permanent outlet. Gradually, the Klansmen traded in their hoods for military gear and swastika tattoos. They linked up with neo-Nazis and all sorts of right-wing militias. Powerful ties bound them together: "white power" and anti-Semitism.

10 :44 :42 :00

ITW Mark POTOK

Beginning in the 1970s, you began to see explicitly Klansmen working with neo-Nazis. And it was at that time, in the 1970s through the 1980s, that this idea that the country was run by Jews came to be accepted all the way across the radical right. So, the narrative came out that the federal government was ZOG, the Zionist Occupied Government, and it's that that really symbolizes these movements coming together. So, now today, when you see a big demonstration by the radical right, very typically, you will have Klansmen and Nazis arm in arm marching together.

10:45:27:00

ITW Chris BUCKLEY

Their goal is to purify the white race and create a future for white children. Basically, they want their own state. They want to have an all-white sovereign state inside the United States. Their goal is racial purification.

10:45:36:00 / SUBTITLES

This is Ku Klux Klan Country

10 :45 :51 :00 / COMMENTARY

After decades of violence, power dynamics had changed. The collusion that used to exist between the court system, the police and the Klan was no more. Now it was impossible for the Klan to openly recruit in town without drawing out its opponents.

10 :46 :10 :00 / SUBTITLES

- I'm Ku Klux Klan born, bred and raised

10 :46 :15 :00 / SUBTITLES

-Get back in your holes ! Get back in your holes !

10 :46 :23 :00 / COMMENTARY

They mainly indoctrinated people through the internet. When it came to taking action, they began to rely on a new strategy: the lone wolf.

10 :46 :41 :00

On April 19 1995, in Oklahoma City, a car bomb went off and destroyed a federal building. There were 168 deaths and nearly 700 wounded. It was then the deadliest terrorist attack to ever occur on American soil. The terrorist was Timothy McVeigh, a former soldier and member of the KKK. He had only two accomplices.

10 :47 :22 :00

ITW Mark POTOK

That's a very dangerous thing, because, from the point of view of law enforcement, it is far easier to find out about a plot and stop it before people are killed, when it's a plot that is being hatched by 10-12-14-15 people, right? I mean, the chances of that getting out, somebody's telling... a woman in a bar (who) was bragging or whatever it may be, are far higher if you have one person who really knows what's going on and who keeps his mouth shut. It's almost impossible for law enforcement to find out about that in advance. So, the kind of terror we're seeing today as a result of all of this is much more scary. It's much more difficult to stop.

10:48:03:00

ITW Cecil MOSES

You (have) domestic terrorists and you have international terrorists. And so right now, the domestic terrorism in our country, in America, is starting to be as bad, maybe worse than foreign terrorism.

10:48:19:00 / COMMENTARY

Timothy McVeigh was sentenced to death and executed in June 2001. In the 2000s, the American justice system finally began opening up about the country's sinister racist past.

10:48:40:00 / SUBTITLES

NBC News, In Depth Tonight, Almost forty years after the crime, deliberations in a murder trial that became a terrible symbol of race hatred in America.

10 :48 :50 :00 / COMMENTARY

Several classified cases were were dusted off. Robert Chambliss's accomplices, who killed four young girls during the church bombing in Birmingham were arrested and convicted.

10 :49 :05 :00 / SUBTITLES

Millions of Americans remember where they were when they heard that 3 civil rights workers had been found dead in Mississippi

10 :49 :13 :00 / COMMENTARY

Edgard Killen, one of the murderers of the three civil rights activists in Mississippi, was sentenced to life in prison. At last, the winds of change seemed to be blowing over the United States.

10 :49 :32 :00 / COMMENTARY

The election of Barack Obama in 2008 seemed to confirm this trend.

10 :49 :51 :00

ITW Dale LONG

When President Barack Obama was elected president, it blew me away. I thought it would never happen. I thought I would never see that during my lifetime. It was a big shock to me. One of the happiest days of my life.

10 :50 :04 :00 / SUBTITLES

I, Barack Hussein Obama, do solemnly swear ...

10 :50 :08 :00 / COMMENTARY

Pour les hommes du Klan, l'élection d'un afro-américain à la maison blanche relève du sacrilège.

10 :50 :19 :00

ITW Chris BUCKLEY

When Obama was elected, I'm sure their heads exploded, but they spent the entire next eight years just attacking and belittling him. (The Imperial Klan) it actually wrote a poem for Obama and it was like: "Niggers on the front lawn, niggers on the grass, time to say goodbye to Obama's nigger ass" and stuff like that. A really negative, racial (inaudible). And we found it hilarious.

10:50:47:00 / COMMENTARY

The Obama years stirred up white supremacist hatred. Eight years after his election, the backlash was severe. In 2016, Donald Trump was elected after leading a populist campaign based on fear (of immigrants) and a promise: to "make America great again". The far right supported the candidate and saw his his election as a major victory. Obama had tried to unite, but Trump was able to divide and play on the fears of white America. A fear fueled by demographic forecasts.

10 :51 :33 :00

ITW Mark POTOK

Our Census Bureau has predicted that, within about 25 years, white people in this country will become just one more minority, they will sink to below 50% of the population. And this has driven this racial panic in this country, the idea that white people will be just like brown people, like black people, another minority. And it's out of that whole idea that white people are being dispossessed; the country that we, white people, built for our posterity, our white children, is being stolen from us. And so this has ultimately culminated in the idea of a white genocide, that white people are being killed or replaced.

10:52:23:00 / SUBTITLES

You will not replace us !

10:52:23:00 / COMMENTARY

Today, the Klan and other xenophobic groups are growing again. As has always happened when white supremacists have felt their dominance threatened. Threatened by the slaves freed after the Civil War. Threatened by mass immigration at the beginning of the 20th century, or by the end of segregation. Although they are fortunately less frequent than in the 1960s, racist crimes and violence continue to be committed.

10 :53 :03 :00 / COMMENTARY

In 2017, in Charlottesville, Virginia, a confrontation broke out between anti-racist activists and white power supporters. A white supremacist plowed through the crowd.

10 :53 :43 :00 / COMMENTARY

A young woman was killed and nineteen people injured. Other crimes continue to occur. In May 2020, George Floyd was arrested by white police officers. He was murdered in broad daylight, in front of witnesses filming the scene.

10 :54 :19 :00 / COMMENTARY

America was up in arms.

10 :54 :38 :00 / SUBTITLES

Black Lives matter !

10 :54 :51 :00 / COMMENTARY

The fields of racist hatred appear to be as fertile as ever in the United States.

10 :55 :04 :00

Active Klan membership is today estimated to be close to 6,000. But white supremacist groups have diverged into an infinite number of organizations. 150 years later, America has failed to cast out its old demons.

10 :55 :31 :00

ITW Dale LONG

There's a lot of work that has to be done in this country to make things better. For all people. Sometimes, I wish there was another Dr. King.

10 :55 :43 :00

ITW Bill BAXLEY

I think the story of the Ku Klux Klan is a part of the American story, but it's a very disgraceful part. We must be vigilant to try to stop it as soon as it shows its (rears), its ugly head.

10 :55 :59 :00

ITW Adam GREEN

Laws were changed as a result of the civil rights movement, but we're still having the fight in this country about whether the real America is a white America, or the real America is a multicultural or plural America.

10:56:15:00 / SUBTITLES

We shall overcome, we shall overcome, some day, oh-oh deep in my heart I do believe, we shall overcome, some day.

10 :56 :42 :00 / SUBTITLES

*Ain't gonna let nobody turn me around. We're gonna keep on walking, keep on talking,
marching up to Freedom land.*