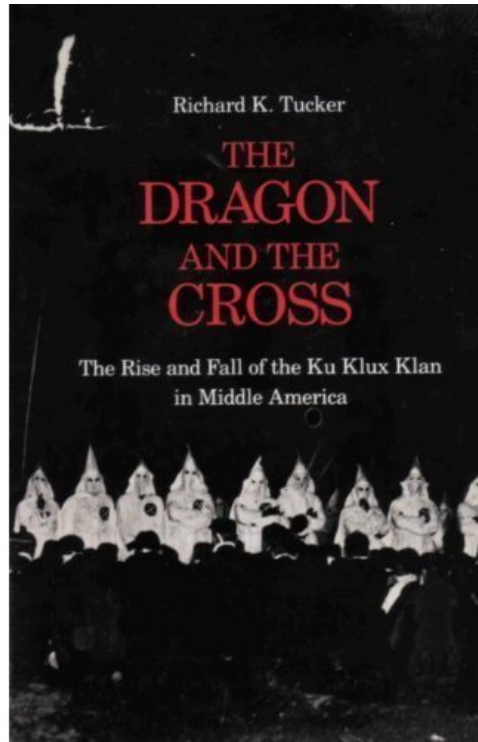


Download The Dragon and the Cross: The Rise and Fall of the Ku Klux Klan in Middle America Book Free



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Synopsis :

From Library Journal In the early 1920s there were about 250,000 members of the Ku Klux Klan in Indiana. Their principal organizer, and the man who profited most from their membership fees, was D.C. Stephenson, a mysterious drifter with a shady background who arrived in Indiana in 1920 with political experience and an acute sense of the showmanship required for political success, but no beliefs. He used his skills to move to the forefront of the Klan boom. But Stephenson's 1925 murder conviction, stemming from a bizarre and inebriated episode of abduction and rape, ended support for the Klan in Indiana, and discredited many of the state's political leaders. These two books, written for a general audience, tell the story of the rise and fall of the Indiana Klan and Stephenson. Tucker's book ventures more theoretical speculation about the Klan in the North, though he doesn't advance any sustained argument other than to stress, correctly, the Klan's anti-Catholicism. But Tucker exaggerates the Klan's hegemony and gives neither a real sense of the climate and the struggles of the time nor a convincing portrait of Stephenson, who remains a shadowy figure. Lutholtz's thorough book, though it has a sharper focus on Stephenson and Indiana, portrays the political struggles more completely. What is most pertinent is the picture that emerges of the quiet force of bigotry rather than overt Klan power. But Lutholtz resists all theory, so any conclusions about the broader relevance of the strange and fascinating story of Stephenson and the Indiana Klan in the 1920s will have to be drawn by the reader. Lutholtz's book is for larger public library collections.- Timothy Christenfeld, Columbia Univ.Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. Read more From Kirkus Reviews Here, Tucker, formerly with the Indianapolis News and the Baltimore Sun, listlessly tackles the phenomenon of the KKK's popularity in the Midwest in the wake of WW I, charting its rapid rise to social prominence as well as its equally meteoric decline. After touching on the Klan's origins in the 1860's and providing a brief account of racism, anti-Catholicism, and other manifestations of conservative thinking as they existed in America's heartland when the era of Prohibition began, Tucker focuses on the success that the KKK enjoyed in Indiana. He attributes this largely to the savvy of the charismatic D.C. Stephenson, a Klan organizer who became Grand Dragon in the state in the mid-20's and the leader of a membership in the tens of thousands. Lining his pockets with the dues of his fellow Klansmen, Stephenson also wielded considerable political power, with his organization picking candidates for state office and supporting them covertly. The practice culminated in the election of a Klan supporter as governor of Indiana in 1924, opening up the possibility of Stephenson's own candidacy for national office. Visions of a Klan presidency quickly went up in flames, however, when Stephenson was convicted of murder after having raped a young woman who then poisoned herself. Unfortunately, what originates here as a promising analysis of the KKK quickly reverts to a pedestrian biography of Stephenson--and that shift, as well as the persistently anecdotal nature of the discussion, makes for an unexceptional account. Offers some insight into the Klan and its most prominent member in the Midwest during the 20's, but a definitive book on the subject remains to be written. -- Copyright ©1991, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. Read more