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K. K. K.

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K. K. K. are three initials that represent an American organization known throughout the world as the Ku Klux Klan.

The Ku Klux Klan is a most reactionary organization, whose general program and constitution is so skilfully woven that all reactionary elements outside of the clutches of the Church of Rome can and do easily find elbow room for full expression of their ideals and economic expressions within its ranks. The cunning method that has been used to gather such a reactionary mass into one organization and the success that has attended the efforts of its originators, bears silent but eloquent approval to those that had the training of these minds in their immature state.

The Ku Klux Klan may be likened to a huge American bouquet composed of flowers of different hues (except red) which have blossomed forth on plants raised in America's garden, and assiduously cultivated by the gardeners of capitalism, whose function is to produce such radiant blossoms so pleasing to the eye of those that pay the gardeners for such productive efforts. That is the capitalist class who own and control the garden wherein the human plants grow.

The gardeners so engaged in this all engrossing but most vitally necessary occupation are the parsons, priests, scribes and literary "geniuses," professors and teachers who derive their living by acquiescing in their master's requests.

The flora that we here speak of, are, therefore, not those that belong to the scientific classification termed "botany," but rather the product of the human fauna in its relationship to its environment. In other words, it is the mind product of the genus homo, and a most reactionary but skilfully cultivated social atmosphere.

Economically speaking, the Klan is composed of two different factors—petite bourgeois and workers. But though comprised of these two factors, it by no means follows that the organizations must function in the interest of all. True, for the time being, it will serve the interests of one of them, and this one is the petite bourgeois faction. The other—the working element—are the cat's paw to be used by the monkey part of the company to help draw some of the chestnuts out of an exceedingly hot social fire for the monkey's benefit.

However, this is usually the function of the working class. They create the commodities that cause the trouble, and then like Ulysses' brave comrades, they are easily made drunk by modern swine. But not all the reactionary blossoms of society are gathered into this bouquet. There are others of exactly the same hue, smelling equally as nauseating, and comprised of exactly the same economic groups, bunched together into other bouquets with different labels. Chief of these is the K. C., or Knights of Columbus, and the funny part of it is that though identically the same in their composition and economic status; though both the product of the same garden; and though each is a valiant supporter of the self-same social system, yet they are antagonistic in the extreme, each towards the other.

The workers that provide the packing for the organization named after the discoverer of "our" country, are used in exactly the same manner as are their prototypes in the K. K. K., and their hatred of each other is mutual. Why? How comes it that these groups on the same economic relationship insofar as their being working class and petite bourgeois respectively find themselves split fifty-fifty, and fighting each other? Why is it not the cockroach capitalists in the one camp and the workers in the other? An answer to these questions might help us to mentally grasp the significant fact, that though they are fighting one another at the present time, both may and will be only too eager to fight a third party in the near or distant future at the behest of another faction that stands above them all.

We have previously stated that these two groups were the product of the same social garden. This garden is known as capitalism, and in it are flowers of a very different hue than those dealt with above. And all of them lumped together are the product of the antagonisms that must exist because of a far greater and more drastic antagonism which serves as the basis from which all others grow and flourish mightily. This basic antagonism is social production and private ownership of the things socially produced.

To clearly comprehend what is taking place in society, to understand why such antagonisms exist between individuals, groups and nations, we must keep firmly in mind the great division that exists in society, and we must at all times use it as a basic premise from which to reason if we wish to arrive at a sound and healthy conclusion, and consequently sound action. This great division is one that arises from the antagonism of private ownership of those things necessary for human welfare. With this fact firmly embedded in our minds, we are able to make a classification which no capitalist apologist has yet successfully denied. This classification is that of dividing society into workers and capitalists.

The productive activities of the workers leaves a vast surplus over and above the portion they receive as wages. This surplus is the bone of contention among the capitalists. Here is the cause of the antagonism among the capitalists.

In the general development of the productive forces of society we get accumulation, concentration and centralization. In a corresponding ratio we also get a grouping together of capitalist concerns into companies, combines and cartels. Each and all presenting a stage in the keen struggle that is going on for an ever larger share of the surplus values produced by the working class and the markets wherein they may be sold. It is due to this struggle that we can trace the reason for the small cockroach capitalist forming and entering into such organizations as the K. K. K. and the K. C.

Along with the continued evolution of capitalism the smaller and weaker capitalists are squeezed out of the privileged ring they formerly occupied. And the old shibboleth hath it that, "in unity there is strength."

But in order to preserve such a thing as class society, an institution known as the state is necessary. Hence in modern society we have a keen

struggle going on between the contending wealth owners for political expression. We also have a voting machine whereby enfranchised workers may express their desires. Hence the need of the petite bourgeoisie for these votes in order to get representatives of their class as part operators of the political machine. In the U. S. many of the cities have practically passed into the political control of the Knights of Columbus. This organization has its tentacles reaching throughout the entire aggregation known as the A. F. of L. By means of this they are able to keep a fairly sound grip on several of the offices of judicial institutions of the cities of the U. S. And it is most obvious as regards the police force in several large centers. The same is also true of many of the fire-fighters and other occupations.

The K. K. K. must of necessity, if it would be successful in its struggle for political elbow room make war on the enemy's base of supplies, namely the organized labor movement. Hence their plea for 100% Americans and the plank for the "open shop." This also explains why so many broken down or aspiring young lawyers are to be found in the organization. They think they see fame and glory ahead and probably some may even have visions of Big Bill Taft's job. Again the organization also serves to link up the cockroach capitalists into an economic combine for the purpose of a defensive operation on the economic field by means of a close trading agreement or boycott. Furthermore, it assures them of workers' trade who may happen to belong to the Klan.

But the competitive struggle is not only in existence among the members of the capitalist class. There are at all times more workers than jobs. And there is also a difference in those fleeting entities which the worker is continually choosing. So the workers in the Klan or the K. C. also have ulterior motives. And it is much better to be on the city's permanent staff than to be competing at the factory gate or around the slave market for the favors of a master. It is a base accusation but it fits nevertheless. Thus the K. K. K. is a veritable Klan indeed, and promises to all of its members something in the line of remuneration.

Viewed from another angle, we know that it is in the nature of things under this system for the small tradesman, the small property holder, and the small farmer to be in the grip of the money lender. Therefore, it is quite natural that such a class of people blessed with the reactionary ideology of individualism should be Anti-Semites. And the Ku Kluxers offer an haven of hope to all such.

Again the worker of the North, who has seen large droves of Negroes invade his territorial reserve since the war, and taking "his job," can be relied upon as good timber. The fact that he was brought North by his own kind Masters never seriously enters into the realms of his cognition.

In the South the slave owner who sees this emigration going on, cannot help but be favorable material for the Klan, and it goes without saying that the "poor white trash" due to ancient prejudices finds himself lined up solid for an organization that originally was born in the neck of the

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