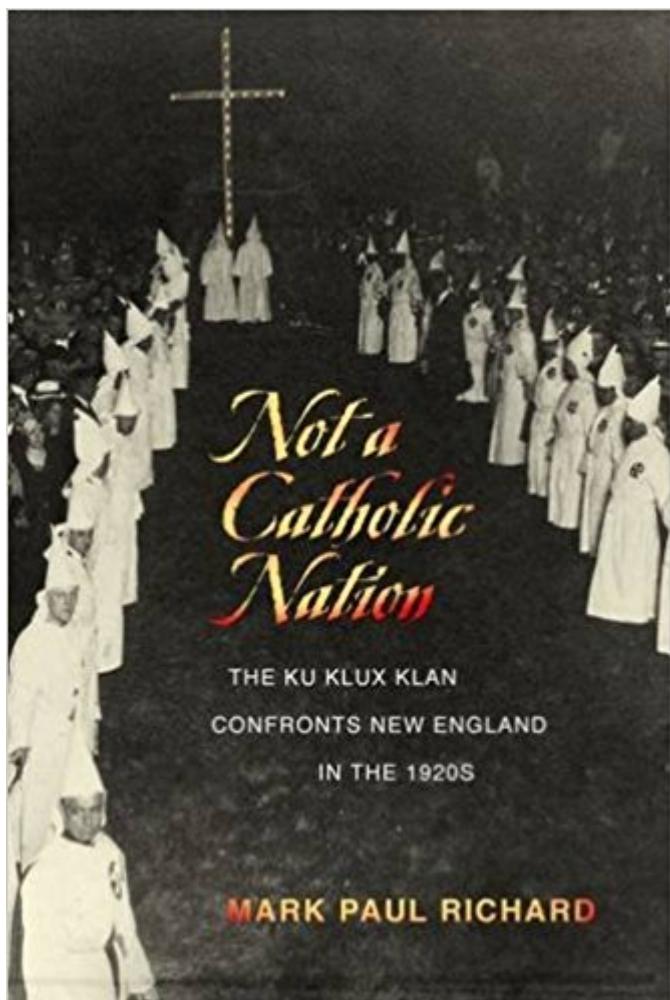


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Not A Catholic Nation: The Ku Klux Klan Confronts New England In The 1920s



Synopsis

During the 1920s the Ku Klux Klan experienced a remarkable resurgence, drawing millions of American men and women into its ranks. In *Not a Catholic Nation*, Mark Paul Richard examines the KKK's largely ignored growth in the six states of New England—Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont—and details the reactions of the region's Catholic population, the Klan's primary targets. Drawing on a wide range of previously untapped sources—French-language newspapers in the New England “Canadian borderlands”; KKK documents scattered in local, university, and Catholic repositories; and previously undiscovered copies of the *Maine Klansmen*—Richard demonstrates that the Klan was far more active in the Northeast than previously thought. He also challenges the increasingly prevalent view that the Ku Klux Klan became a mass movement during this period largely because it functioned as a social, fraternal, or civic organization for many Protestants. While Richard concedes that some Protestants in New England may have joined the KKK for those reasons, he shows that the politics of ethnicity and labor played a more significant role in the Klan's growth in the region. The most comprehensive analysis of the Ku Klux Klan's antagonism toward Catholics in the 1920s, this book is also distinctive in its consideration of the history of the Canada—U.S. borderlands, particularly the role of Canadian immigrants as both proponents and victims of the Klan movement in the United States.

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Customer Reviews

"Not a Catholic Nation is both original and illuminated by some of the most creative approaches found in recent scholarship in U.S. Catholic history. By opening with an account of the Klan's activities in the state featuring the most extensive boundary with Canada, Richard engages early the trans-national dimension of his story, a major feature of religious and ethnic conflict in the United States but one which has rarely been examined so intimately."•James T. Fisher, author of *Communion of Immigrants: A History of Catholics in America*

Mark Paul Richard is professor of history and Canadian studies, State University of New York at Plattsburgh. He is author of *Loyal but French: The Negotiation of Identity by French-Canadian Descendants in the United States*.

Richard's hard work in researching this book shows. It is hard to believe that such a movement took place. It's a lesson for today with increase in immigration through out the world and here in the US ofA

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