



Centre for
Human Rights and
Restorative Justice

REFERENCES TO COLONIALISM, COLONIAL, AND IMPERIALISM

US Truth Commission

Abstract

A list of references to colonialism, colonial, and imperialism in the US Truth Commission.

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Links to Data Visualization

This section contains links to all data visualization for the US report.

Comparison Charts

- [References to Colonialism, Colonial, and Imperialism chart](#)
- [References to Colonialism, Colonial, and Imperialism excel list](#)

Word Trees

- [Colonial](#)
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References to Colonialism, Colonial, and Imperial

This section contains all references to colonialism, colonial, and imperial from the US report.

<Files\\Truth Commission Reports\\The Americas\\UnitedStates.Greensboro.TRC_.Report-FULL> - § 17
references coded [0.19% Coverage]

Reference 1 - 0.01% Coverage

This intense period, happening alongside anti-colonial movements in Africa, featured a struggle for ideological supremacy among Black Power, Pan-Africanism and Marxism.²⁹
Ed Whitfield recalls,
During that

Reference 2 - 0.03% Coverage

and Robert Mugabe in Zimbabwe.
This Marxist influence in black activism grew not only regionally but internationally by the 1970s. In Greensboro, the fusion of black liberation and Marxist ideology took shape in the Malcolm X Liberation University (MXLU) and groups including Students Organized for Black Unity (SOBU, later to become Youth Organized for Black Unity, YOBU) and the Greensboro Association of Poor People (GAPP). Sandi Smith, who came to Greensboro to attend Bennett College in 1969, was active with all of these organizations, as well as with the African Liberation Support Committee (ALSC), chapters of which were organized in Greensboro and elsewhere in North Carolina as part of a movement of international solidarity to end apartheid in South Africa and to establish independent Zimbabwe against the efforts of the colonial Rhodesian government to keep Rhodesia as a white settler state that oppressed and exploited the native majority of people of color.³²
In Greensboro, activists working in

Reference 3 - 0.02% Coverage

developing a mass following.⁸²
The appeal of Communism was as varied as the people who espoused the ideology. For some, social idealism was the magnet, since Communism held the promise of a society without poverty or inequalities. Others saw it as a powerful tool to fight colonial powers and establish independent nations. American Communists embraced the rhetoric as a way to combat national ills, including racism. Gus Hall, a founder of the United Steelworkers of America and the long-time general secretary of the Communist Party of the United States, was recruited by his father and, like many Americans who experienced the Great Depression, became convinced that capitalism was doomed and ripe for overthrow.⁸³
World War II and the

Reference 4 - 0.02% Coverage

into the packed hall.⁹
By the following year, however, informants across the state were able to exploit emerging tensions over finances and leadership, a situation that only worsened when Jones spent close to a year in prison for his

contempt of Congress offense. A series of competing organizations emerged, including one headed by Greensboro resident, former UKA "Imperial Kludd" and acknowledged FBI informant George Dorsett. Alongside significant overall attrition among the rank-and-file, this proliferation of Klan groups meant that more groups were battling over the KKK's dwindling membership and financial resources. In 1972, Jones publicly broke from Shelton and resigned from the UKA, though by this point, internal squabbles and quickly-receding hopes for the resuscitation of the Jim Crow South ensured that the Klan retained little of its previous strength or appeal.¹⁰

101

What brought us to

Reference 5 - 0.03% Coverage

of two per day.⁵⁷

At times, the FBI's use of informants created serious tensions between means and ends. Informants sometimes perceived that their ties to the FBI gave them some form of protection, along with a free reign to engage in provocateur-like behavior. George Dorsett, the most visible UKA member in Greensboro throughout the 1960's, gained national attention from his fiery performance at the overflowing 1966 event in Raleigh, which featured UKA leaders from Georgia, South Carolina, Virginia, and North Carolina, as well as Imperial Wizard Shelton. "At the drop of a pin, there could be an all-out riot in this building. We're sitting on a powder keg ... you don't know what I'll do before I leave, and I don't know what you'll do," Dorsett warned, before concluding: "We don't believe in violence, and we're not going to have violence, if we have to kill every nigger in America."⁵⁸

It was later discovered that

Reference 6 - 0.01% Coverage

them would see anything."⁶⁵

Virgil Griffin, Imperial Wizard of the Cleveland Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, speaking at a Klan rally in October 1979:

"If you cared about your

Reference 7 - 0.01% Coverage

White supremacists' anti-Communist campaign

After China Grove, white supremacists were also experiencing in-fighting and looking for a way to attract new recruits. Joe Grady's Klan had broken off from Bill Wilkerson's Imperial Empire to form the NC Knights of the KKK. It was in an effort to win over members to their new organization that the recruiting drive showing "Birth of a Nation" in China Grove was planned.⁹¹

the white supremacists followed the

Reference 8 - 0.01% Coverage

for the anti-Klan campaign

came to Greensboro. I don't hide under a rock from nobody. I'm not scum, I'm not ashamed to say I'm Imperial Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, and I'm not afraid of no man. And I don't hide. That's why I'm here today.¹⁰³

A week later, on Oct

Reference 9 - 0.01% Coverage

get involved in any violence,

I informed them that I was not going. I had been ordered by my Imperial Wizard not to go, and common sense would tell me not to. I told them, I said, “Fellas, somebody is going to get killed. This crowd is organized, they’re dedicated, and they’re just as willing to die for what they believe in as you are. And when you have people who are

159 Butkovich, Harold Covington, Roger

Reference 10 - 0.01% Coverage

the back of YOUR necks;”

- Pointed out the route on a map to the assembled Klansmen and Nazis ; - “Rushed” everyone to leave the house; - When someone at the house asked “Who’s in charge of this thing?” Imperial Wizard Griffin said, “I guess he is.” (indicating Dawson) ;

- Organized the order of cars

Reference 11 - 0.01% Coverage

36 guns at line up

Further, Hightower Grand Jury Testimony (19 August 1982), 18-19, specifically recalled information related to Klan Imperial Dragon Virgil Griffin: • Cooper reportedly told the briefing that Griffin was known to be a “hothead with a short fuse” and often carried large caliber hand guns.³⁷

Further, Griffin was meant to

Reference 12 - 0.01% Coverage

Commission Final Report

City response

At the same event, Virgil Griffin, the Mount Holly, N.C.-based Imperial Wizard of the Invisible Knights of the KKK, told audience members they should “stand up and fight communism ... It’s time to wake up and fight for America. We’re not bowing down to communism.”³⁴

On Feb. 26, 1980, the

Reference 13 - 0.01% Coverage

Bill, Jim and Sandi.¹⁵

Virgil Griffin, Grand Dragon of the Cleveland Knights Ku Klux Klan (CKKKK) in 1979; Imperial Wizard since 1985; in Klan/Nazi caravan on Nov. 3, 1979:

I was released on \$100

Reference 14 - 0.01% Coverage

Reconciliation Commission Final Report

Reflections

Part of this double consciousness is a consciousness about race. Although India is not exempt from discrimination and bigotry, I had no race analysis or identity until I landed on U.S. soil. The unfolding and understanding of race and poverty as consequences of the predatory game played by Europe for nearly 500 years in the name of colonialism is an earth-shattering and soul-wrenching exercise for people of color.

I was no exception. It

Reference 15 - 0.01% Coverage

rifts” that were deepened the rifts and created canyons of mistrust, anger, hostility and sorrow. While I hope that our work helps bridge some divides, I am somewhat skeptical. I am skeptical because the foundation of November 3rd is the foundation of all division: race, racism, colonialism, labor, white privilege and inequities. The harm of colonialism and racism cannot be undone in two years.

We all want to move

Reference 16 - 0.01% Coverage

criminal trials, for Coleman Pridmore

Imperial Dragon, Invisible Knights of KKK, Mt. Holly, N.C. Klan, former textile mill worker, federal and civil trial defendant

Shooting victim of the May

Reference 17 - 0.01% Coverage

demonstrator on Nov. 3, 1979

Imperial Wizard, Imperial Empire of KKK, Alabama

Greensboro police captain, internal affairs