

# Claiming Whiteness Through Racial Violence: Centennial Of The Association Of

One hundred years ago, the Association Of was formed, marking a significant moment in the history of racial violence and the construction of whiteness in America. This landmark event, often overshadowed by other historical milestones, holds immense importance and continues to shape our understanding of race relations in the United States. In this article, we delve deep into the historical context, analyze the association's actions, and explore the consequences of claiming whiteness through racial violence.

## The Origins and Purpose of the Association Of

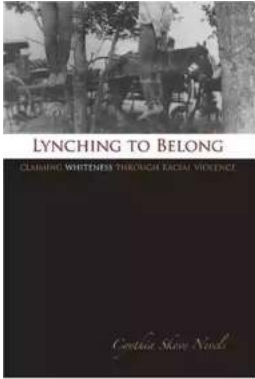
The Association Of, formed in 1921, was a clandestine organization that emerged amidst the backdrop of racial tensions and the rise of white supremacist ideologies. Its primary objective was to solidify the power dynamics in favor of the white population by perpetrating acts of racial violence against Black Americans and other marginalized communities.

Scholars argue that the formation of the Association Of was a direct response to the gains made by the civil rights movement during that era. As African Americans fought for their rights, this violent association aimed to undermine their progress and uphold white dominance in all areas of society.

**Lynching to Belong: Claiming Whiteness through Racial Violence (Centennial Series of the Association of Former Students, Texas A&M University Book 106)** by Cynthia Skove Nevels (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English



File size : 3596 KB  
Text-to-Speech: Enabled  
Screen Reader: Supported  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 208 pages



## **Racial Violence as a Tool for Claiming Whiteness**

The Association Of strategically employed racial violence as a means of asserting and reinforcing whiteness. By committing brutal acts against marginalized communities, they sought to solidify their own identity as superior and legitimate representatives of the nation.

The association's members engaged in acts such as lynchings, bombings, and targeted assassinations, which instilled fear within minority populations and discouraged any attempts at challenging the status quo. These acts of violence highlighted the stark contrast in power dynamics and effectively silenced voices of dissent.

Furthermore, the association's use of racial violence aimed to maintain the racial hierarchy that permeated various aspects of life, including education, employment opportunities, and political representation. By perpetuating a sense of fear, they ensured that marginalized communities would continue to be marginalized, relegating them to second-class citizenship.

## **The Centennial and Ongoing Relevance**

As we mark the centennial of the Association Of, it is crucial to reflect on its historical significance and ongoing impact. While the association's acts of racial violence were largely condemned and eventually fizzled out, their legacy has persisted in various forms.

One can draw parallel lines between the Association Of and contemporary white supremacist and nationalist movements. Although these groups may not bear the same name or operate in the same way, the underlying ideology of preserving white dominance and undermining racial equality remains a constant thread.

The centennial serves as an opportunity for us to critically analyze and confront the enduring systems of racism that continue to plague our society. By understanding the roots of racial violence and the construction of whiteness, we can actively work towards dismantling these structures and ensuring a more equitable future.

## **The Way Forward**

Recognizing the significance of the Association Of's centennial sparks a conversation about the path forward. It serves as a reminder that the path to racial equity and justice is still a long and arduous one, but not an insurmountable task.

Education and awareness are key tools in combating racism and understanding the historical context that birthed such violent associations. By examining the Association Of and its strategies, we can better equip ourselves with the knowledge needed to prevent history from repeating itself.

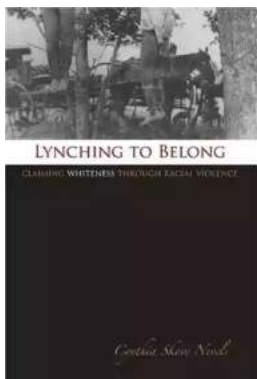
Additionally, it is essential to actively challenge and dismantle systems of white supremacy. This requires confronting our own biases, engaging in open dialogue, and supporting policies and initiatives that promote inclusivity and equality.

The centennial of the Association Of calls upon society to reflect on our progress and shortcomings in matters of racial justice. By acknowledging our history and actively working towards a more equitable future, we ensure that the association's legacy of racial violence is remembered, condemned, and ultimately eradicated.

The centennial of the Association Of serves as a grim reminder of the enduring legacy of racial violence and the construction of whiteness. While it is important to acknowledge this history, it is equally crucial to channel our energies into building a future free of such violence and injustice.

By gaining a deep understanding of the Association Of's objectives and strategies, we can actively work towards dismantling the systems of white supremacy that continue to plague our society. The centennial serves as a call to action, urging us to confront our own biases and actively strive for racial justice.

As we reflect on the events of the past, let us unite in our willingness to achieve a more equitable future, free from racial violence and built upon inclusivity, understanding, and justice.



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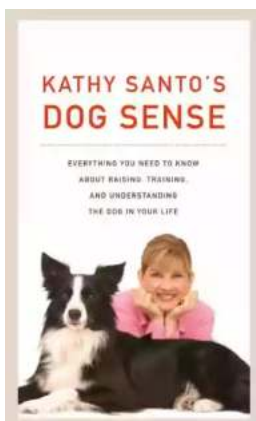


Thousands of black men died violently at the hands of mobs in the post–Civil War South. But in Brazos County, Texas, argues Cynthia Nevels, five such deaths in particular point to an emerging social phenomenon of the time: the desire of newly arrived European immigrants to assert their place in society, and the use of racially motivated violence to achieve that end.

Driven by economics and the forces of history, the Italian, Irish, and Czech immigrants to this rich agricultural region were faced with the necessity of figuring out where they fit in a culture that had essentially two categories: white and black. In many ways, the newcomers realized, they belonged in neither position.

In the end, they found ways to resolve the ambiguity by taking advantage of and sometimes participating directly in the South’s most brutal form of racial domination. For each of the immigrant groups caught up in the violence, the deaths of black men helped to establish racial identity and to bestow the all-important privileges of whiteness.

This compelling and superbly written study will appeal to students and scholars of social and racial history, both regional and national.



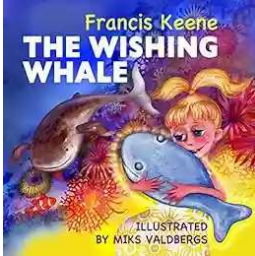
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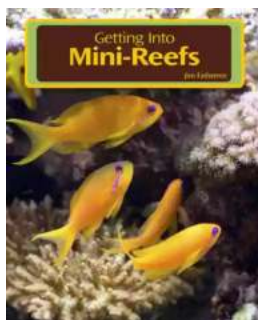
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