



White Supremacy: A Deeper Look

Dr. Michaela Null

for
Wright Memorial Public Library

“As during Reconstruction and the civil-rights era, we face once again the danger that a politics of freedom and equality may be eclipsed by the psychology of white resentment.” –Lawrence Glickman



Working Understanding of Racism

- **Racism is SYSTEMIC**
 - greater than a few instances
 - greater than individual beliefs
- We can reproduce, participate in, and be complicit in white supremacy without being white supremacists



Origins of White Supremacist Ideology

- Western colonization, manifest destiny, creation of whiteness
- Eugenics, Madison Grant, white supremacist groups

White Supremacist Ideology

- anti-Black
- antisemitic

- rationalizes hate, violence, and injustice
- focus on white racial 'purity'
- fears about 'white genocide'

White Supremacist Ideology

- anti-immigrant
- supported by pseudo-science
- reactionary to progress
- led by and benefitting American elites
- creates a sense of belonging for whites

White Supremacy in the North



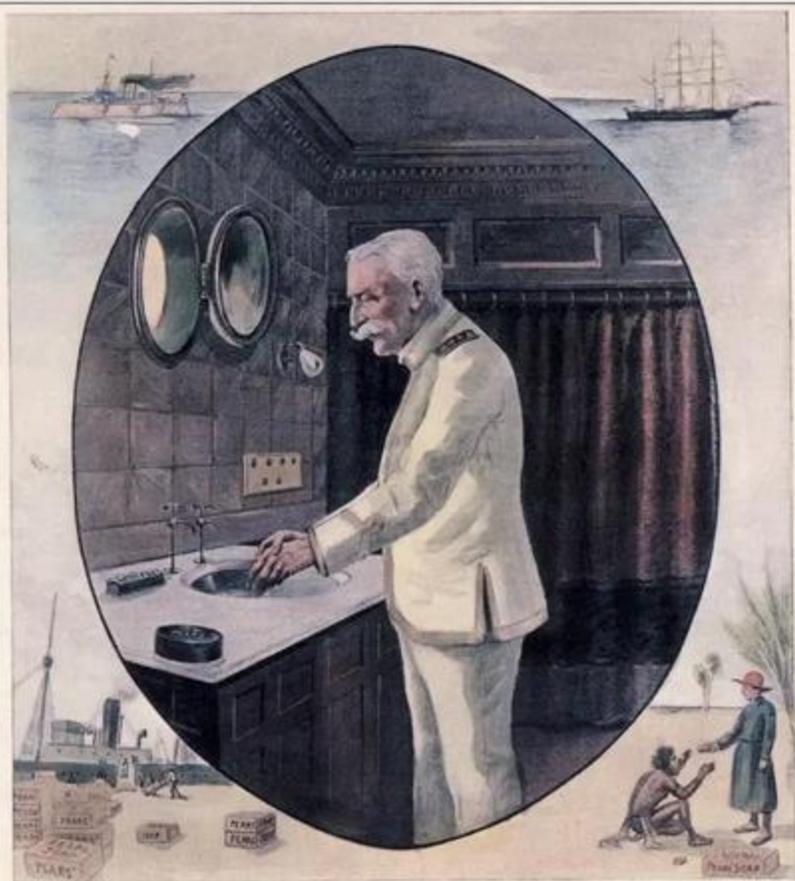
Legislator who questioned Black hygiene to lead health panel

Associated Press
January 22, 2021

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — A Republican lawmaker and doctor who questioned whether members of “the colored population” were disproportionately contracting the coronavirus because of their hygiene is drawing new criticism from Black lawmakers after his appointment to lead the state Senate Health Committee.



State Sen. Stephen Huffman



The first step towards lightening

The White Man's Burden

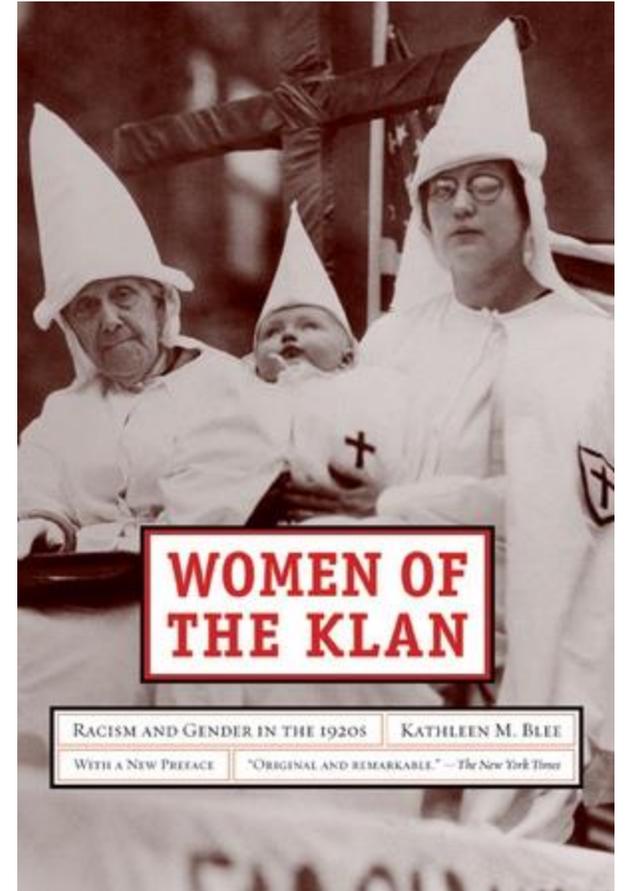
is through teaching the virtues of cleanliness.

Pears' Soap

is a potent factor in brightening the dark corners of the earth as civilization advances, while amongst the cultured of all nations it holds the highest place—it is the ideal toilet soap.

Women and White Supremacy

- White women are central to upholding white supremacy
- While men are often the face of organized white supremacy, women do a lot of organizing, behind the scenes work, and indoctrination



White Supremacist Groups

- **White Nationalist**
- **Neo-Nazi**
- **Neo-Confederate**
- **Proud Boys**
- **Racist Skinhead**



**White Supremacy is Built Into Our
Culture and the Way We Think**



Support for White Supremacy Looks Like

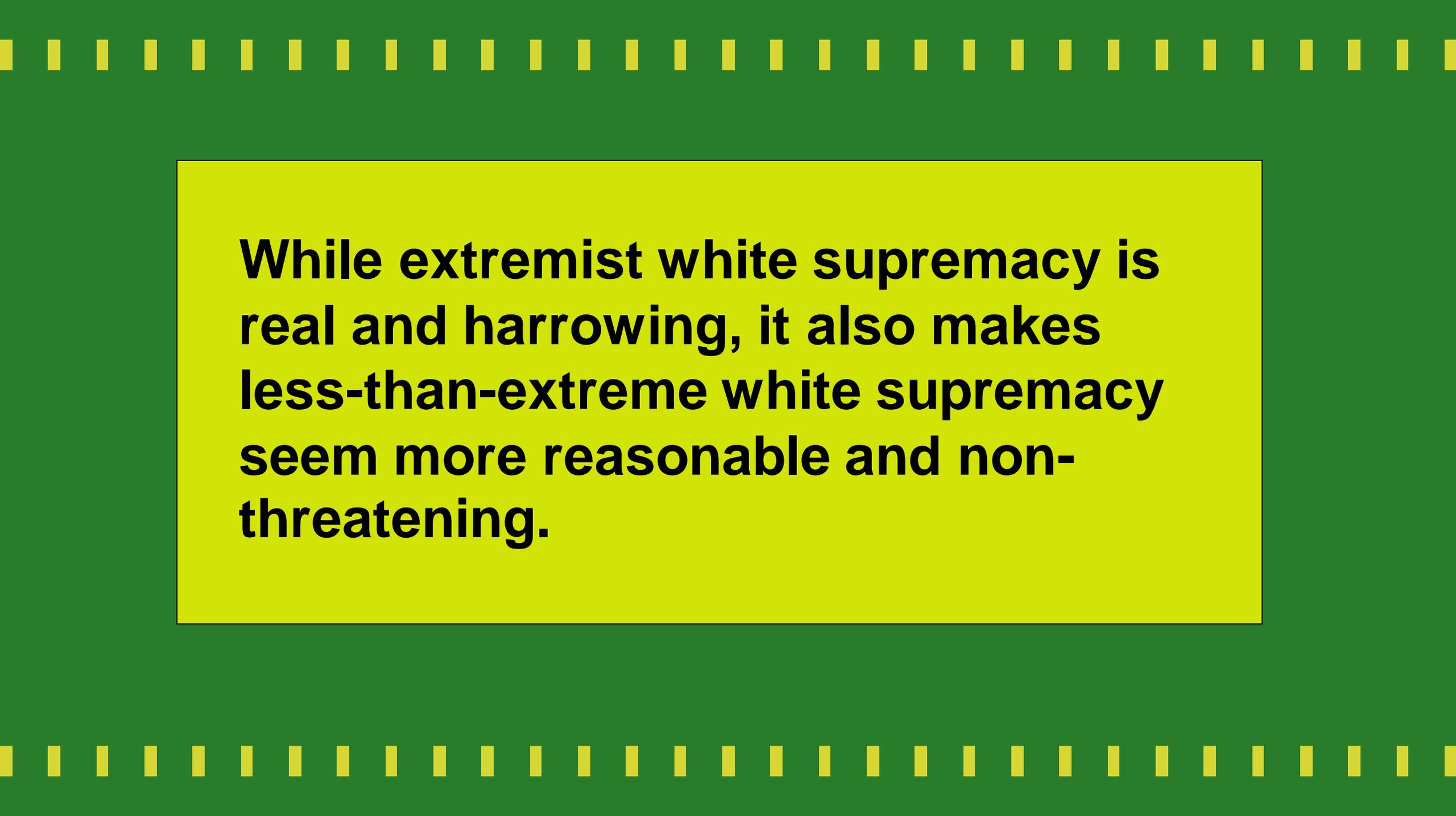
- portraying white racial fears as justified, including fears of demographic change
- discourse about “special privileges” and “reverse racism”
- downplaying less extreme white supremacy



Support for White Supremacy Looks Like

- complacency about racists shaping policy and law
- more trust in and/or empathy for people who are white
- downplaying the concerns of people of color
- letting fear of “backlash” or conflict inhibit anti-racist action





While extremist white supremacy is real and harrowing, it also makes less-than-extreme white supremacy seem more reasonable and non-threatening.

Challenging White Supremacy

- Listen to and support people of color and POC-led organizations
- Join an organization working to fight white supremacy
- Get trained in Bystander Intervention
- Call your representatives and demand change!



Challenging White Supremacy

- Utilize white privilege for anti-racist means
- Educate yourself and do the work
 - Do NOT rely on POC to:
 - Educate you
 - Speak up about racism and white supremacy
- If something potentially racist or based in white supremacy is pointed out to you
 - Apologize and deeply consider it—perhaps even do some research
 - Do not try to explain it away



Nina Simone Backlash Blues

So, Mr. Backlash, Backlash
Who do you think I am?
You raise my taxes, freeze my wages
Send my son to Vietnam

You give me second class houses
And second class schools
Do you think that all colored folks
Are just second class fools?

Mr. Backlash

I'm gon' leave you with the blues, yes I am

When I try to find a job
To earn a little cash
All you got to offer
Is your mean, old white backlash

But the world is big
Big and bright and round
And it's full of other folks like me
Who are black, yellow, beige and brown

Mr. Backlash

I'm gon' leave you with the blues, yes I am



How can we give white supremacists the blues?



A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide. It consists of several overlapping geometric shapes: a red triangle at the top left, a pink triangle to its right, a green triangle below the red one, a blue triangle below the pink one, and an orange vertical bar on the right containing a series of yellow horizontal dashes.

Q&A

Resources

Southern Poverty Law Center - Ohio <https://www.splcenter.org/states/ohio>

Southern Poverty Law Center “Extremist Groups” <https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/extremist-files/groups>

Sounds Like Hate Podcast <https://soundslikehate.org/>

Profile on the Proud Boys by the Southern Poverty Law Center:

<https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/extremist-files/group/proud-boys>

Further Reading

Blee, Kathleen. 2008. "Women of the Klan: Racism and Gender in the 1920s."

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