

The John Brown Anti-Klan Committee: Lessons for Today's Movements

The John Brown Anti-Klan Committee (JBACC) was a militant anti-racist organization active in the American South during the 1950s and 1960s. The Committee's members used violence to protect Black communities from white supremacist violence, and they played a key role in the Civil Rights Movement.



No Fascist USA!: The John Brown Anti-Klan Committee and Lessons for Today's Movements (City Lights Open Media) by Hilary Moore

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The JBACC was founded in 1958 by a group of white activists in response to the rising tide of white supremacist violence in the South. The Committee's members were inspired by the example of John Brown, the abolitionist who led a raid on Harpers Ferry in 1859. Brown's raid was a failure, but it helped to spark the Civil War and the eventual abolition of slavery.

The JBACC's members believed that violence was necessary to protect Black communities from white supremacist violence. They argued that the police and the government were not doing enough to protect Black people, and that the only way to stop the violence was to fight back.

The JBACC's tactics were controversial. The Committee's members were accused of being vigilantes, and they were often criticized for their use of violence. However, the JBACC's members argued that their violence was justified because it was necessary to protect Black lives.

The JBACC played a key role in the Civil Rights Movement. The Committee's members helped to organize protests and demonstrations, and they provided protection for Black activists. The JBACC's work helped to raise awareness of the plight of Black people in the South, and it contributed to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

The JBACC disbanded in 1969. However, the Committee's legacy continues to inspire activists today. The JBACC's members showed that it is possible to fight back against racism and violence, and they helped to create a more just and equitable world.

Lessons for Today's Movements

The JBACC's experience offers a number of lessons for today's movements. First, the JBACC's members showed that it is possible to use violence to protect Black communities from white supremacist violence. Second, the JBACC's members showed that it is possible to organize and mobilize Black communities to fight for their rights. Third, the JBACC's

members showed that it is possible to win victories against racism and violence.

Today's movements can learn from the JBACC's experience. By using violence wisely, by organizing and mobilizing Black communities, and by fighting for justice, today's movements can achieve their goals.

The John Brown Anti-Klan Committee was a militant anti-racist organization that played a key role in the Civil Rights Movement. The Committee's members used violence to protect Black communities from white supremacist violence, and they helped to raise awareness of the plight of Black people in the South. The JBACC's legacy continues to inspire activists today, and the Committee's experience offers a number of lessons for today's movements.

Written by the City Lights staff



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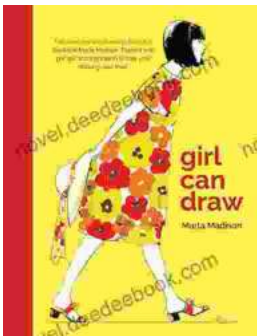
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