Proposal Objective

The recent deaths of many black men due to police brutality are consequences of a nation that has long been racist and discriminatory to people of color. Those who believe that these deaths have not stemmed from intrinsic racism in the United States are overlooking the history of race in this country. Although the KKK certainly did not start racism and the notion of white supremacy in the United States, it did propel and perpetuate the belief that people of color were subordinate and inferior to whites. In this way, it is important to understand the post-abolition social and racial conflicts in the south that led to strong black activism during the mid-20th century. Yusef Iman’s *Praise the Lord, but Pass the Ammunition*, published soon after the Civil Rights Act was signed, shows the relations between blacks and whites, specifically the KKK, but also most whites at the time, during the early 20th century in an attempt to reveal the mistreatment and oppression of blacks to unaware audiences.