

DON JORDAN and  
MICHAEL WALSH



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# WHITE CARGO

The Forgotten History of  
Britain's White Slaves in America

'A new and important perspective' – Tony Benn

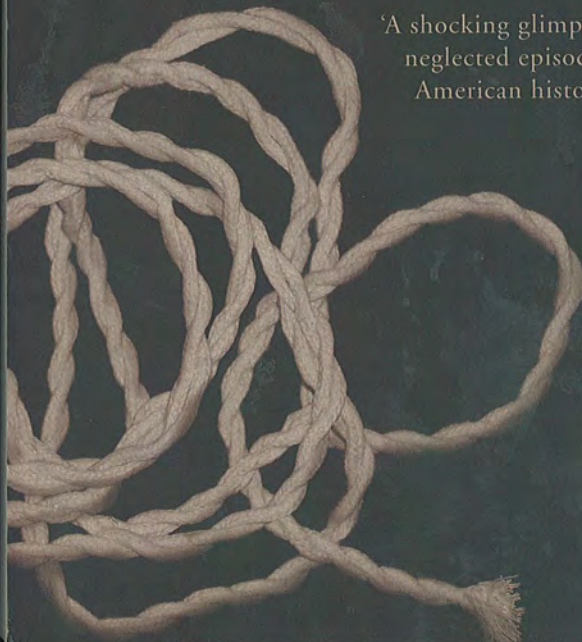
*White Cargo* is the forgotten story of the thousands of Britons who lived and died in bondage in Britain's American colonies.

In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, 300,000 people or more became slaves there in all but name. Urchins were swept up from London's streets to labour in the tobacco fields, where life expectancy was no more than two years. Brothels were raided to provide 'breeders' for Virginia. Hopeful migrants were duped into signing as indentured servants, unaware they would become chattels who could be bought, sold and even gambled away. Transported convicts were paraded for sale like livestock.

Drawing on letters crying for help, diaries, and court and government archives, Jordan and Walsh demonstrate that the brutalities usually associated with black slavery alone were perpetrated on whites throughout British rule.

This is a saga of exploitation and cruelty spanning 170 years that has been submerged under the overwhelming memory of black slavery. *White Cargo* brings the brutal, uncomfortable story to the surface.

'A shocking glimpse into a scandalously neglected episode of British and American history' – *The Scotsman*



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History

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Don Jordan is an Irish-born writer and film-maker who lives in London. In a thirty-year career, he has won many awards. *White Cargo* is the second book he and Michael Walsh have written together.

Michael Walsh spent twelve years as a reporter and presenter on *World in Action* and has won six awards for his work. He is now a producer, specialising in political and historical documentaries.

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The Forgotten History of  
Britain's White Slaves in America

DON JORDAN and  
MICHAEL WALSH



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