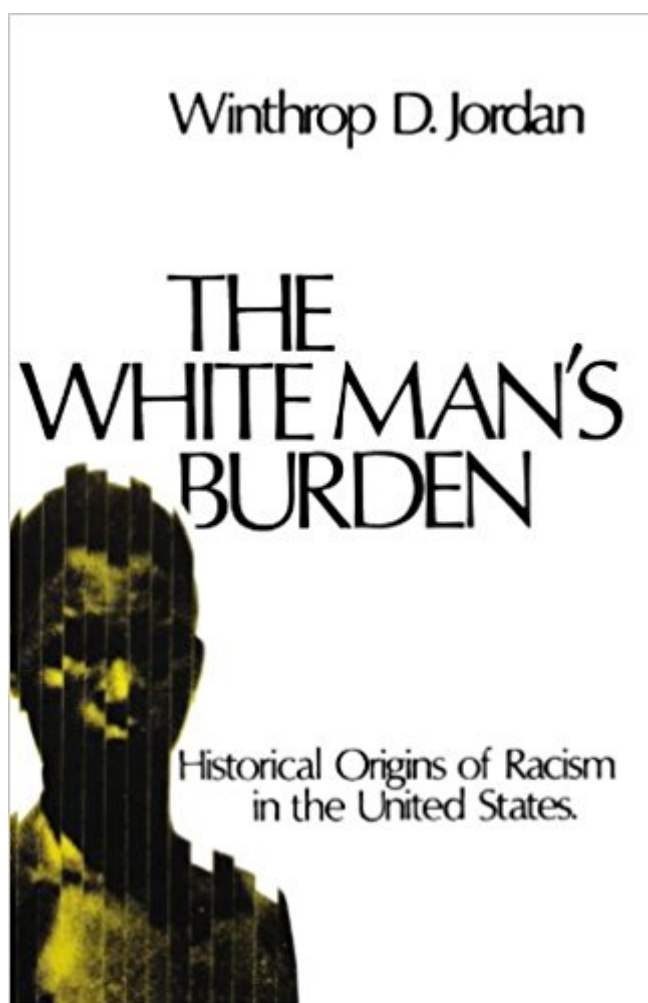


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# The White Man's Burden: Historical Origins Of Racism In The United States



## Synopsis

An abridgement of the acclaimed *White Over Black*, which won both the National Book Award and a Bancroft Prize. This study attempts to answer a simple question: What were the attitudes of white men toward Negroes during the first two centuries of European and African settlement in what became the United States of America?

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Still one of the finest works on this topic."--Andrew T. Miller, Union College  
"The best secondary text I've ever found. It opens a class up to racial-ethnic problems, opens eyes to human perceptions. Keep it in print!"--Robert W. Sellen, Georgia State University  
"Jordan's *White Over Black*...[now] published in a slightly more simplified form under the title of *The White Man's Burden*...is an outstanding work that traces the subtle, insidious and oftentimes unconscious psychology of racism in Western culture back to its Elizabethan origins."--*America*  
"The *White Man's Burden* provides a storehouse of information on the origins of racism in the United States."--*Southern Humanities Review*  
"There is no better book on its subject; nor is there likely to be one for many years."--*History: Reviews of New Books*  
"Teachers will welcome with relief the appearance of this classic study in a form suitable for classroom use."--*Journal of Southern History*  
"A very readable condensation...[N]ot only does it make Jordan's important findings accessible...but it also serves to throw into sharper relief his main argument."--George M. Fredrickson, *The New York Review of Books*  
"Precisely what was needed to make the brilliant *White Over Black* manageable for classroom use."--Richard

Crepesi, Florida Technological University"A thoughtful, searching essay on the embryology of racism in the young Republic...For students and scholars, this is a balanced, intelligent investigation of the ideas which fathered Jim Crow."--Kirkus Reviews"Jordan's abridgement is valuable for his concise presentation of his thesis that there was a mutual relationship between prejudice against blacks and slavery, and that after slavery's establishment, other factors, especially interracial sex, created tensions which led to strict control over blacks and to their alienation by white society."--Library Journal"Excellent abridgement of a fine work."--Frank Valadez, University of Illinois"Excellent!"--Professor N.C. Cooper-Lewter, Ph.D., Bethel College"Incomparable..."--Professor Ernest Allen, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Winthrop D. Jordan was professor of history, University of Mississippi and renowned writer on the history of slavery and the origins of racism in the United States.

Excellent and well researched. Gives great understanding to the mindset and conflicts of those who opposed and endorsed slavery. I was able to use several quotes from the book in a lecture to a mixed audience on why we have problems in our society today as well as giving heart changing solutions for tomorrow. I first read portions of this book as a requirement for a History class at Virginia Tech. I had lost it or loaned it out a few years ago. When my lecture opportunity came I remembered it, found it on at a reasonable price and purchased it. This is a very well written and thoroughly researched account of the subject. I heartily endorse its purchase.

You will love this book

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Great read very informative!!!

I needed this book for a history class and was not thrilled that I had another book to read. But, I'm so glad I did. I learned so much from it.

"Prejudices are inevitable, innate, and right" This riveting book serves as an excellent introduction to the formative decades in the history of slavery in the United States. Why should an Indian read a book on slavery, or even care about slavery, at least to the extent of actually reading books on its

origins? It is after all a history of enslavement half a world away, centuries ago, and India has enough problems of her own to worry about without having Indians travel half the world away to seek out more. This would however be to miss the point. Slavery in America - the history of its formative years in the seventeenth century, institutionalization, perpetuation, evolution, and most importantly - its justifications that emerged in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries in particular - should be of great interest to all, because the mechanics and logic of discrimination involved in slavery have been used in only slightly varying form and shape by people everywhere to justify the dehumanization of a race, people, religion, or nation. Perceived differences on the basis of skin color and religion were used to justify the colonization of India for instance. There is another benefit accruing to the patient reader - American attitudes to Indians (Indians, not native Americans), insofar as the question of American attitudes to Indians who are a minority in America and to the extent that Indians themselves are looked upon as a homogeneous entity goes, "I remain convinced that white American attitudes toward blacks have done a great deal to shape and condition American responses to other racial minorities." In the words of the author, a study of history "impresses upon us those tendencies in human beings which have not changed and which accordingly are unlikely to, at least in the immediate future." To that end, "The White Man's Burden" does a tremendous service in lucidly documenting the evolution of slavery's form and rationale. While the initial material on the roots of slavery is decidedly sketchy, the book shines when taking the reader through the century and a half where slavery established roots along with the accompanying prejudices. The book's length should make this accessible to even casual readers. Forming firm opinions on the basis of only one book can be tempting, because it is a quick way to the illusion of knowledge, but fraught with risks, least of all that of developing a blinkered, ideologically warped view of events. On the other hand, opinions formed on the basis of facts more often than not require the expenditure of effort and time sometimes not available and more usually precluded by disinclination. Therefore, when one comes across a work considered not only authoritative but also credited with spawning a line of scholarly inquiry into hitherto less investigated topics, the opportunity to use that book to get a quick-start on a topic should not be let go. One such book is *White on Black*, a 600 page scholarly tome on "American attitudes toward the Negro" written by the late Winthrop Jordan (Wikipedia, ), that not only won awards when it was published in 1968, but is still considered the "definitive work on the history of race in America in the colonial era." This book, "The White Man's Burden" is based on "White on Black", but has been abridged and edited down to a more manageable 250 pages, because, the author discovered, "not altogether to my astonishment, that many people do find themselves entirely comfortable wading through six

hundred and fifty pages on a single subject."To summarize, this book traces the arc formed by the cementing of slavery in the United States, the formation of opinions that reinforced the correctness and inevitability of slavery, to the rising sentiment against the slave trade and slavery itself, and finally to the change in attitudes among whites as the prospect and eventual inevitability of emancipation became clearer. The book stops before the American Civil War, because attitudes towards Negroes and the reality of segregation that continued well into the twentieth century had been formed in the early decades of the nineteenth century itself.

Just found this book for 50cents at a hospital used book cart. I think i found a gem. I'll begin reading tonight....wish me luck.

Dr. Jordan accomplished his goal of providing insight into the origins of racism in the United States. Although unable to provide an exact beginning or reason for the gradual degradation of relations between the Negro and the white man, he did an excellent job of providing a multitude of possible inceptions. The White Man's Burden is broad enough in subject to be read and easily understood by any student desiring general knowledge of the history of racism. By chronologically gliding through history and breaking the subject down into more specific parts, it provides just enough information so as not to inundate the reader with less significant points. The White Man's Burden is an excellent source of reference for the study of racism.

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