

Frederick Douglass and Modern Slavery

Guest post by Chris Sullivan.

Drapetomania was a supposed mental disorder that caused slaves to run away from their masters. Anyone paying attention to the emigration of many Americans to freer countries might think that drapetomania is striking the wealthier classes.

A man who knew something about drapetomania – in fact he had it, even if undiagnosed – was Frederick Douglass. After his escape he wrote a short autobiography titled *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*. His narrative is of interest not just because of its first hand account of slavery, but because of the insights he relates that are applicable to many people today.

Many people realize that the government they live under is a criminal organization, but will jump to its defense when some foreigner criticizes the actions or policies of their government.

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