



Freedom's Empire: Race and the Rise of the Novel in Atlantic Modernity, 1640-1940

By Laura Doyle

Duke University Press. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, *Freedom's Empire: Race and the Rise of the Novel in Atlantic Modernity, 1640-1940*, Laura Doyle, In this path-breaking work of scholarship, Laura Doyle reveals the central, formative role of race in the development of a transnational, English-language literature over three centuries. Identifying a recurring freedom plot, organized around an Atlantic Ocean crossing, Doyle shows how this plot structures the texts of both African-Atlantic and Anglo-Atlantic writers and how it takes shape by way of submerged intertextual exchanges between them. For Anglo-Atlantic writers, Doyle locates the origins of this narrative in the seventeenth century. She argues that Members of Parliament, religious refugees, and new Atlantic merchants together generated a racial rhetoric by which the English fashioned themselves as a "native," "freedom-loving," "Anglo-Saxon" people struggling against a foreign, tyrannical king. Stories of a near-ruinous yet triumphant Atlantic passage to freedom came to provide the narrative expression of this heroic Anglo-Saxon identity - in novels, memoirs, pamphlets, and national histories. At the same time, as Doyle traces, in figures such as Friday in *Robinson Crusoe*, and in gothic or seduction narratives of ruin and captivity, these texts covertly register, distort, or appropriate the black...

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