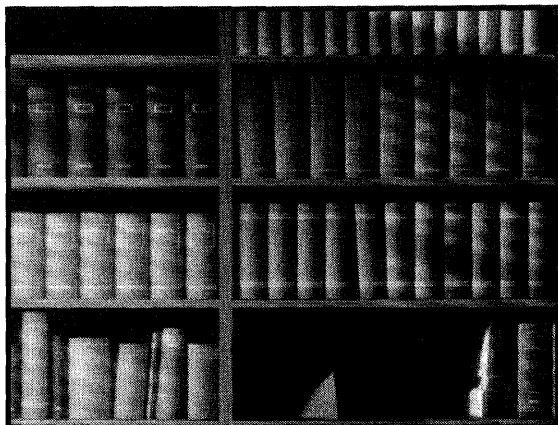


Book Review



Woman, Child for Sale: The New Slave Trade in the 21st Century by Gilbert King, Chamberlain Bros. Publisher, New York, New York, 2004.

The Greek philosopher Aristotle noted in his work "Politics" that "a slave is a property with a soul." Outlawed in the United States in 1865 by the 13th Amendment, slavery and human trafficking generally have become relegated to the past as historical footnotes. But, as law enforcement agencies in this country increasingly come into contact with the children and women who comprise today's slaves, officers need to understand the underlying issues that fuel this gruesome sex and labor industry.

In *Woman, Child for Sale*, Gilbert King serves a balanced wake-up call to those who view human trafficking, child sex tours, and forced labor as problems plaguing countries outside the United States. King presents a bevy of startling statistics that demonstrate how the enslavement of women and children has crossed international borders to become a serious issue for American law enforcement officers. The often-astounding facts clearly demonstrate how the business of human trafficking now rivals that of the drug trade,

yielding an estimated profit of \$8 to \$10 billion. In the summer of 2004, the U.S. Department of State reported that 600,000 to 800,000 new victims are trafficked across international borders each year to feed the sex trade and forced labor industries. Lest readers dismiss this cancer as exclusive to those countries outside the United States, King takes pains to educate them by revealing that every 10 minutes, a woman or child is trafficked into the United States for forced labor, which translates into approximately 50,000 female and child slaves crossing U.S. borders each year. These victims involve women 70 percent of the time with 50 percent of all victims being children, sometimes as young as 6 years old. The author avoids a drab recitation of research, presenting these mind-numbing numbers in a compelling and easily digestible format.

Despite the staggering fact that 10 million children worldwide currently are trapped in involuntary servitude and sexual slavery, it can be easy to depersonalize these "invisible" victims that toil in darkness. Recognizing that statistics often fail to tell the entire story, King bridges the gap between numbers and victims by personalizing the nightmare of human trafficking. Through gripping case studies, he profiles children and women from Asia, Russia, and Eastern Europe. The reader quickly becomes mesmerized by their incredible stories of entrapment, disillusionment, and servitude. For example, Siri is a Thai farm girl duped by a trafficker into leaving her village to take a "good job" in the city for a \$2,000 advanced payment. Forced to repay her debt to the traffickers, she sexually serviced 300 men each month. At \$4.00 per customer, her physical and psychological enslavement gives readers a glimpse of the horrors endured on a daily basis by these young girls. From Florida to Georgia, New York, and Washington, each brutal story

of lives led in misery without freedom shocks the reader's conscience and humanity.

King has wisely addressed the historical development of human enslavement and presents snapshots of various countries currently believed to engage in the exportation of children and women. Importantly, he calls attention to the difficulties faced by law enforcement and prosecutorial entities in seeking to investigate and convict the traffickers. The author warns of the challenges of infiltrating organized trafficking syndicates, obtaining cooperation from victims who are intimidated by their captors, and gaining cooperation from other countries that may not necessarily view human trafficking as criminal in nature.

The information contained in this book serves as a blunt and sobering example to the reader that without vigilance and dogged pursuit of criminal entrepreneurs, children and women will continue to be victimized and forced into lives of submission and humiliation. King has effectively blended statistics and history with touching accounts of human tragedy, creating a work that leaves a lasting impression upon the reader.

Reviewed by
Special Agent Andre Simons
Critical Incident Response Group
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Unusual Weapon

Knives

Offenders may use this unusual weapon, which appears to be a credit card. However, one edge actually is a knife.

Law enforcement officers should be aware that offenders may use this concealed knife. It has a hole in the blade, which permits operation with one hand.

Submitted by John F. Brannigan, a retired law enforcement officer and weapons concealment instructor.

