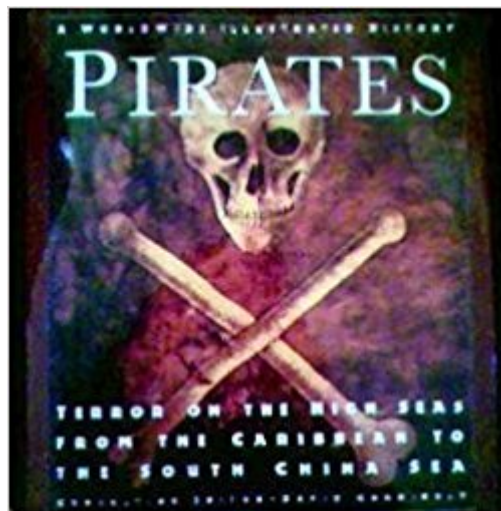




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# **Pirates: Terror On The High Seas-From The Caribbean To The South China Sea**



## Synopsis

A global overview of pirates documents the real world of these seafaring terrors, their violent lives of robbery and murder, and the exploits of famous pirates.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

YA. A comprehensive study of piracy from the 1600s to the 1900s. Each chapter is written by a different expert and covers one aspect of the topic, including piracy in the Caribbean, the Mediterranean and, unlike most books on the subject, the pirates of the Far East. A chapter also is devoted to modern pirates and the steps the international community is taking to eliminate them. The book contains many pictures of artifacts, 16th- and 17th-century illustrations, color paintings by noted artists Howard Pyle and Frank Schoonover, and period photographs of pirates and anti-piracy operations from the past 140 years. The text is well written and easy to follow. An ideal companion to Cordingly's *Under the Black Flag* (Random, 1996).?Robert Burnham, R. E. Lee High School, Springfield, VA Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc.

This worldwide overview of piracy discusses incidents from the earliest days of sea travel to modern times. Julius Caesar was among a group held for ransom by pirates in 78 B.C., and in the Philippines from 1983 to 1994, attacks by pirates armed with automatic rifles averaged nine per month. Accompanying the text are photographs of weapons used, maps of major harbors, and paintings of famous pirates and their ships. Large-scale, detailed drawings of pirate ships include Captain Kidd's vessel from 1695. Although young men generally sought fortune and fame as

pirates, a few women also made this choice. Two of the most notorious were Mary Read and Anne Bonny, captured together in 1720 off the coast of Jamaica. They were jailed but not hung (common punishment for Western pirates), because both proved to be pregnant. This book's 11 chapters by notable maritime historians contain 300 full-color illustrations and a lengthy bibliography, all of which supplement the six-part TBS documentary, *Pirate Tales*, to be broadcast in February. Jennifer Henderson

I'm looking forward to reading this like-new book which was received within three days of purchase. I plan to share it with other red hat wenches at our next crew muster.

Very nice. Excellent condition.

I was looking for a book on pirates for my boyfriend for Christmas and this was perfect. He loved it!

"Pirates" is a very well documented book on the history of pirates throughout the ages, from Ancient Greece to the present. Each chapter is written by a specialist in each theme, which makes the reading amusing because of some different points of view of the authors about the same aspects of piracy. No other book on piracy unites so many highly qualified historians on this theme. The reader will be amazed with the pictures, drawings and maps, a remarkable aspect of the book, which makes this full - color edition unique. I have not found such a good and complete pictography on pirates elsewhere. The book includes innovating chapters with new information, such as the last one, entitled "Piracy Today". Since this theme has not been covered by many authors, the chapter constitutes an excellent reference for people interested in doing further investigation. Even though, "Pirates" does not constitute a complete work on piracy, it can best be defined as a glance at sea banditry in different places and times. All the chapters captured me but left me with a sense of "wanting more", which has encouraged me to search for more books on every aspect of Pirate History. Pirates is an excellent book as an introduction to the study of piracy.

This book traces the history of piracy from the sixteenth century to the last decade of the twentieth century, when the book was first published. (It has since been reprinted, but without any updating for further developments.) Piracy is much older than the sixteenth century, but you'll have to look elsewhere for information about it. The sixteenth century is a reasonable starting point, as it was when Europeans started setting up colonies in the Caribbean islands and the continents to the

north, south and west of them. With those colonies came the trade routes and the pirates. Rather than have one author, this book has a consulting editor, who provides the introduction and one of the chapters, together with other contributors who mostly provide one chapter each, although one contributor provides three chapters. It is the transatlantic trade and the Caribbean Sea that get the most attention. It seems that the division between legitimate shipping (whether merchant or naval) and pirates was somewhat blurred, particularly in times of war when the navies needed the help of the pirates. Many notable pirates are discussed, even including two women, but more famously Sir Francis Drake, who was always regarded as a pirate by the Spanish. Of particular interest to Americans may be the chapter titled French and American privateers, which focuses on the eighteenth and nineteenth century, looking at the influence of piracy on the War of Independence, the War of 1812 (a misnomer as it didn't end in 1812) and the Civil War. Piracy probably didn't change the ultimate outcome of any of these wars, but it certainly affected some of the detail along the way. Did delays to British ships affect the outcome of the Battle of New Orleans? We will never know, but the delay allowed Americans time to call up reinforcements. Piracy in the Mediterranean Sea, the Indian Ocean, the waters around what are now Indonesia and Malaysia, and off the coast of China are all covered, with the Mediterranean being particularly interesting, as it discusses not only the contribution that pirates made to the long-running rivalry between Christianity and Islam, but also some of the early history of what is now the St John's Ambulance Service. The modern ambulances have done valuable work at British racecourses (where I've seen them) and elsewhere, but I had no idea about the history of the organization. Originally the Knights Hospitaller of St John of Jerusalem, this book discusses their involvement in piracy using Malta as a base. How they evolved into a modern ambulance service is not discussed, being outside the scope of this book, but it has piqued my curiosity. The final chapter discusses modern piracy (the period from about 1980 to 1995), reminding us that piracy still exists while pointing out that most pirates these days are land-based. No longer going to sea speculatively, the pirates wait for suitable targets to come within range then set off for a quick strike. This book provides a fascinating and well illustrated look at the history of piracy and its impact on history more generally/

This large and attractive book gives the history of pirates from the 1600s to today. Organized primarily chronologically, but also by region, the book traces the history of piracy from pirates sailing the Spanish Main, through the Barbary Corsairs, French and American pirates, Chinese pirates of the nineteenth century, and pirates around the world at the beginning of the twenty-first century. Overall, I found this to be a fascinating book. Plus, what makes the book even nicer is that it

is chock-full of large and interesting pictures. Is this a coffee-table book? I suppose so, but it is an excellent history book, sure to please anyone interested in learning more about pirates and piracy. I give this book my highest recommendations!

I bought this book for less than a dollar at a reclaimed freight store back in 2001 and still have it to this day. While this isn't the most heavily researched book on piracy out there it contains enough information to get a good idea of what piracy was and is today. There are TONS of great pictures in this-it's chock full of fantastic art as well as plenty of first hand accounts from people who lived at the time. It's a great coffee table book though if you're looking for a deeper look at the so-called 'Golden Age' you might want to look up *Piracy: The Complete History* by Angus Konstam

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