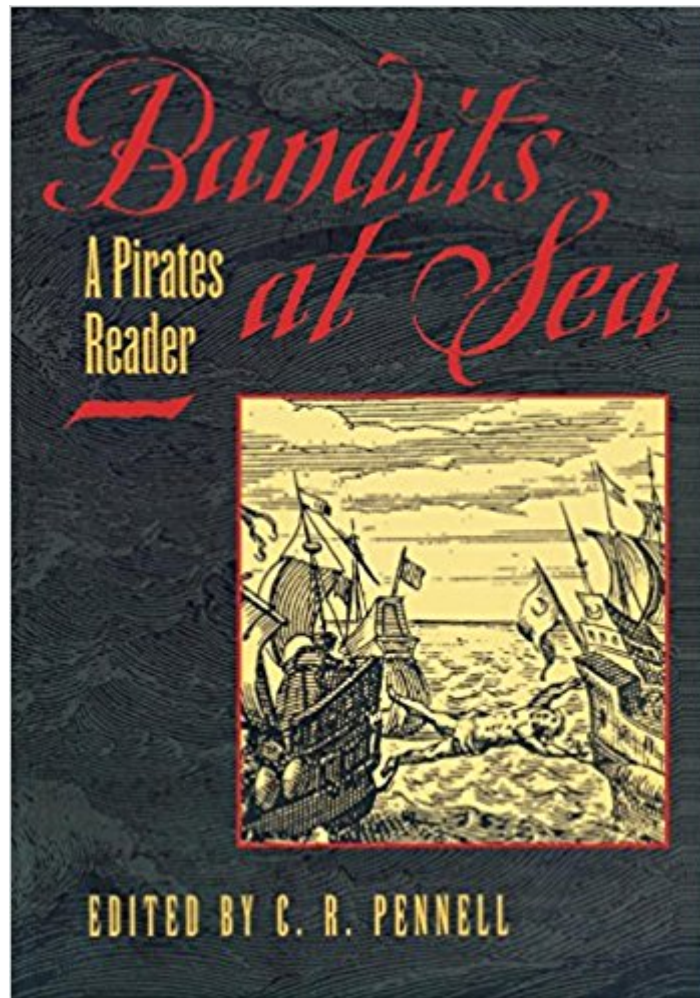




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Bandits At Sea: A Pirates Reader



Synopsis

The romantic fiction of pirates as swashbuckling marauders terrorizing the high seas has long eclipsed historical fact. *Bandits at Sea* offers a long-overdue corrective to the mythology and the mystique which has plagued the study of pirates and served to deny them their rightful legitimacy as subjects of investigation. With essays by the foremost scholars on these countercultural "social bandits" as *Lingua Franca* recently dubbed them, this collection examines various aspects of the phenomenon in the three main areas where it occurred: the Caribbean/Atlantic, the Mediterranean, and East Asia. We come to understand who pirates were, as well as the socio-economic contexts under which they developed and flourished. Comparisons between various types of piracy illustrate differences in practice and purpose between pirates of different areas; social histories, including examinations of women pirates and their historical significance and circumstances, offer similar insight into the personal lives of pirates from diverse regions. Far from serving as dens of thieves, pirate ships were often highly regulated microcosms of democracy. The crews of pirate vessels knew that majority rule, racial equality and equitable division of spoils were crucial for their survival, marking them as significantly more liberal than national governments. Scholars, students and a general audience ever intrigued by tales and now truths of piracy on the high seas will welcome *Bandits at Sea*.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

With titles like "Black Men Under the Black Flag" and "The Practice of Homosexuality Among the Pirates of China," the 16 scholarly essays of *Bandits at Sea: A Pirates Reader* deliberately set out to

explode myths and stereotypes. C.R. Pennell (Morocco Since 1930), senior lecturer at Australia's university of Melbourne, has gathered foremost experts on these most romanticized of murderous predators, some of whom are shown to have had sophisticated anti-statist and class conscious ideas about what they were doing. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"Long overdue! Stunning in breadth and depth, *Bandits at Sea* is the pirate historian's who's-who rendezvous. Pennell has pulled together for the first time the best and most recent scholarly work on piracy in the context of the wider world. A fresh look at an old topic. Highly recommended!"-Kris Lane, College of William & Mary "*Bandits at Sea* provides the first comprehensive, multi-disciplinary approach to piracy. From history to geography, economics to sociology, sexuality to politics, Pennell's anthology brings together the best of current scholarship."-Peter Galvin, Author of *Patterns of Pillage: A Geography of Caribbean-based Piracy, 1536--1718* "A thoroughly worthy and groundbreaking addition to the historiography of crime at sea."-*Sea History* "Each of the twelve authors deftly plumb the depths of documentary sources, literary analyses, personal observations, biographical and historical accounts to improve vastly on the seemingly two-dimensional nature of the pirate."-*The Great Circle: Journal of the Australian Association for Maritime History* "Technically well produced, with a generous allowance of illustrative plates and a good index."-S. D. Smith, *International Journal of Maritime History*

Historians and romantics alike can be intrigued (I consider myself both). An array of topics, from various academically rigorous writers, never dry (much like the seas :)) and meets the expectation of research too often unmet in the genre. I'm glad I chose this book!

This book is a very detailed discussion about golden age piracy in the Caribbean, the Mediterranean, and Asian waters. If you do not have a general background of pirates, this book could be rather difficult to grasp, as it is a compilation of essays and articles from scholars and experts. Great for college classrooms.

Good book that utilizes a lot of sources to get the big picture on piracy. Long shipping time but that's to be expected on an item shipped internationally

This book contains one of the best writings (including a wonderful section by the late pirateologist,

Kenneth J Kinkor, of Expedition Whydah fame) about Black/African pirates, and a very important and fascinating look into the subject regarding the difference between pirates who were homosexual and pirates who were heterosexual but engaged in homosexual sex.

This was required reading for a Pirate Societies course I took in anthropology. It was a good read and we used it more or less as a supplemental text book.

This book is a collection of scholarly essays on the subject of historical piracy the world over. It's divided into two sections, "Situating Piracy" and "Pirates in Action." Essays in the first section are more general/historical, discussing piracy in general as a career, its effects on local economies and politics, its role in warfare and trade. Personally I didn't much care for this section, largely because I'm more of a scholar of the story of the individual and I already have a pretty good working grasp of how piracy related to these other areas of societal structure. I imagine though that if you are relatively new to piratical research this section would be very handy in getting a grasp on this sort of background and "worldview" perspective. The second section focuses more on specific pirates/crews/ships/cultures, and spans a wide range of topics, from Cheng I Sao's Chinese pirate fleet, to minorities in piracy (gays, blacks, women, etc), to the little-known pirate culture of the Adriatic Uskoks. This section I found to be completely engrossing and wonderfully rich with research and detail, on subjects one rarely sees explored in depth (though perhaps more so of late as piracy scholarship becomes wider-known and more popular as a subject of academic research). There's a section of illustration plates in the center of the book, comprised of various historical/period woodcuts, engravings, maps, portraits, diagrams, and other media, including a fascinating diagram of the "genealogy" of pirate crews in the golden age of piracy--apparently all pirate crews at the time could be traced through the training of the captains, who sprang off from whose crews to man their own ships, which all originated with two "paterfamilias" pirate captains, Hornigold and Low. I recommend this book highly to anyone interested in piratical research!

Pirates At Sea is an excellent set of 15 articles edited by C. R. Pennell. It is a book suitable for those with a more scholarly interest in the subject of piracy at sea. The title is a little misleading in the sense that it could attract readers looking for narratives about piracy. For me, however, it provided both comment and analysis of questions I am particularly concerned about. It is a thoroughly stimulating set of readings.

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