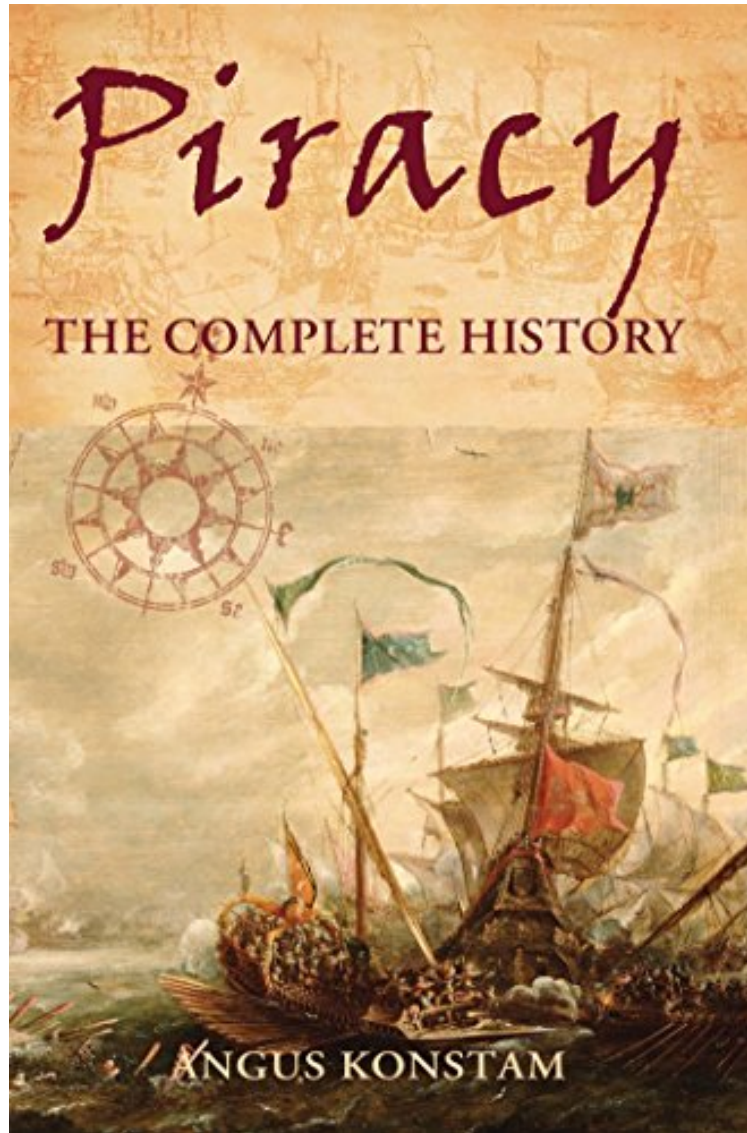


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Piracy: The Complete History (General Military)

Angus Konstam

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Angus Konstam : Piracy: The Complete History (General Military) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Piracy: The Complete History (General Military):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great read! Even if all you want are the ...By Flat LanderGreat read! Even if all you want are the good stories, you'll find yourself learning a little history whether you wanted to or not. I loved it! I find the subject both fascinating and current considering the work being conducted by NOAA and Barry Clifford in all corners of the world. If you follow marine archaeology, marine salvage, treasure hunters, or historians presently involved with this work, this book could provide a great deal of background and clearer understanding of

what is important. The book also provides some insight, whether historically correct or not, into some of the greatest characters and personalities of the period, which also helps clarify the reported work done by the professionals. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Solid History By Historyontherun Angus Konstam is a great historian. In this book he strives to provide a full picture of piracy and pirate history. Luckily, he succeeds in style. Barbary piracy and East Asian piracy are important for today's audience that is once again seeing piracy on the news. A good read and a solid book. Five Stars. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating history of the world By Kate This is a fascinating and interesting to read account of the world we could only guess at. I recommend it to anyone a little or a lot interested in history.

When we think of pirates we conjure up images of Blackbeard and Captain Kidd, or even fictional pirates such as Long John Silver, Captain Hook and Captain Jack Sparrow. These historical characters all hailed from one period. Known as "The Golden Age of Piracy", this period only lasted around a quarter of a century - from around 1700 until 1725. However, piracy has been around a lot longer than that. In fact ever since people started venturing onto the sea, others were waiting to waylay them. Pirate expert Angus Konstam sails through the brutal history of piracy, from the pirates who plagued the Ancient Egyptians, Greeks and Romans to the Viking raids on northern Europe through the golden age of piracy and on to the era of privateers who flourished during a period of constant warring on the European continent. He then examines the West's initial encounters with Eastern pirates off the Chinese coast whose confederations had sprung up in the 17th century and whose actions were severely hampering the West by the 19th century. Finally Konstam examines the phenomenon of the modern pirate, preying on modern super tankers. The reality of piracy is that it is a vicious, often deadly business. By separating the realities of piracy from the Hollywood-inspired fiction, and by tracing the development of piracy through the centuries, this book gives a realistic vision of what piracy actually involves. The book includes approximately 100 color and black white images, eight maps, a glossary of sea terms, notes on sources and a bibliography. Contents Chapter 1: Piracy in the Ancient World; Chapter 2: Medieval Pirates; Chapter 3: The Sea Dogs of the Renaissance; Chapter 4: Mediterranean Corsairs; Chapter 5: The Buccaneers of the Caribbean; Chapter 6: The Golden Age of Piracy; Chapter 7: The Pirate Round; Chapter 8: The Last of the Pirates; Chapter 9 The Chinese Pirates; Chapter 10: Modern Pirates; Chapter 11: Pirates in Fiction; Conclusion

From Publishers Weekly Starred . If you think pirating is about hoisting the skull and crossbones, swigging from bottles o'rum, and making lily-livers walk the plank, prolific history author Konstam is here to correct those romantic notions with a far less glamorous, but no less interesting, high seas history. The "golden age" of piracy, upon which most pirate lore is based, lasted only a quarter of a century, from 1700-1725, but the practice has been around as long as seamanship-often masquerading as naval heroism. Konstam includes Cretans, Viking sea raiders, French corsairs and even Sir Francis Drake in his rogues' gallery. The lives of most pirates were mostly Hobbesian: nasty, brutish and short. Indeed, the most notorious-Charles Vane, Calico Jack Rackham, and Edward "Blackbeard" Teach-usually ended up with their heads in a noose or on a pike, though escapes weren't unknown: two female pirates, Mary Read and Ann Bonny, got pregnant to avoid death sentences. Modern pirates still lurk off the coasts of Indonesia, Africa and South America, employing automatic weapons and speedboats in place of cutlasses and frigates. Though it may take some of the wind out of their favorite Hollywood scallywag's sails, this engaging, comprehensive account of one of the world's oldest profession should fascinate pirate-lubbers. Illus. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. Piracy is "well-crafted, carefully-indexed, and smartly produced. Piracy's 320 pages includes maps, reproductions of engravings, and 16 color pages of period illustrations and modern photographs. As with many books on the subject, vivid characters often drive the story... The author clarifies his terms and identifies his sources and occasionally traces how original data were 'improved' over time... In sum, Piracy: The Complete History is a confident introduction to a vast subject from an expert author." -Joseph Gibbs, Naval History, Magazine of the US Naval Institute (February 2009)"Without question, the strength of this book is its examination of a striking amount of global pirate history. Konstam begins in the ancient world, covers many chronological eras and geographical zones, including medieval pirates, the Renaissance sea dogs, the Mediterranean corsairs, the 'golden age' and it's decline, pirates in the Indian Ocean, Chinese pirates, modern piracy and fictional pirates... It features color plates and black and white illustrations... For those looking to study world pirates over the longue duree, this book is a worthwhile purchase." -Cherly Fury, The Northern Mariner/Le Marin du Nord (March 2009)"Who doesn't like hearing about pirates? And if my current retirement plan doesn't work out... maybe I could be a pirate ...? Kidding aside, recent events bring piracy to the forefront and it is a fascinating subject. If you want to read an in-depth history that provides the complex history -- you must read Piracy: the Complete History by Angus Konstam. This book is very detailed and contains [much] surprising information..." -Nancy Mehegan, www.vaboomer.com (May 2009)Konstam "offers a thorough suvery of piracy from ancient to modern times. His survey offeres more of a military approach than the usual light history, probing strategy, separating fact from fiction, and tracing piracy's development through the centuries. Especially reconmmended for nautical and military history libraries, the depth of coverage and research exceeds most competing books popularizing the history of piracy." -The Bookwatch (December 2008)"Angus

Konstam is the pirate expert. He discusses the 'Golden Age of Piracy' such fascinating characters as Captain Kidd and Blackbeard. He separates the Hollywood-inspired fiction with the realities of piracy." - Neopoprealsim Journal (July 2008) s of Author's Previous Works: On Scourge of the Seas (Osprey, March 2007): "Adult/High School--Although Jack Sparrow is not mentioned, teens interested in learning more about the real lives of the men and women who were maritime raiders should find this book most appealing." - School Library Journal On Blackbeard: America's Most Notorious Pirate (Wiley, 2006): "Konstam makes a thorough, exciting examination of 18th century pirate life, with wonderful details..." Publishers Weekly "Konstam is a former naval officer and marine archaeologist who has written extensively on piracy. He has provided an interesting and exciting biography of an enigmatic figure..." Booklist About the Author Angus Konstam is a prolific author, with over 50 historical titles in print. Over 30 of these have been for Osprey. His piratical titles include The History of Pirates (Lyons Press, New York, 1999), Pirates! and Pirates, 1680-1730 (both Osprey Publishing, Oxford, 2000) and The Pirate Ship (Osprey Publishing, Oxford, 2003). Other publications include History of Shipwrecks, A Historical Atlas of Exploration, and The Spanish Galleon. He studied history and archaeology at the Scottish Universities of Aberdeen and St. Andrews, and is also a former naval officer, an underwater archaeologist and a museum curator. He has advised the archaeologists who excavated Blackbeard's Queen Anne's Revenge, and has made several TV appearances as a piratical "talking head" for the History Channel. His latest work is Blackbeard: America's Most Notorious Pirate (Wiley, New York, 2006), which is publishing in early June. The author lives in Edinburgh, UK.