



# Pirates: Terror on the High Seas, from the Caribbean to the South China Sea

*David Cordingly*

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## **Pirates: Terror on the High Seas, from the Caribbean to the South China Sea** David Cordingly

Piracy has always provided a good opportunity for ruthless men to seek their fortunes. For the young man - very few older men went "on the account" - piracy offered a means of escape from the monotony of shore-based jobs and brought with it the added spice of treasure, definite danger and excitement, wine and women, and a chance to see the world. But it was a dangerous calling, and few took up active piracy for more than a decade: the careers of some famous pirates like Blackbeard, Kidd, and Avery lasted no more than two or three years, and few, like Morgan or Drake, lived long enough to enjoy their plundered wealth. From time immemorial there have been pirates: In the second millennium B.C., Phoenician merchant ships were preyed upon in the Mediterranean, and in the classical age of Greece, the islands of the Aegean were home to generations of pirates. In 78 B.C., young Julius Caesar was held for ransom by pirates. Much later, when Spanish conquistadores discovered astonishing quantities of gold treasure in the New World, this provoked two centuries of buccaneering on the Spanish Main - the Golden Age of Piracy. And on the other side of the world, the fabled riches of the East brought forth in the South China Sea the most formidable of all the world's pirates in both numbers and in cruelty. Nor has piracy ever died out; along the coast of Brazil, the west coast of Africa, and above all in the Malacca Strait - the greatest concentration of merchant shipping in the world - pirates still practice their ancient trade.

## **Pirates: Terror on the High Seas, from the Caribbean to the South China Sea Details**

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## From Reader Review Pirates: Terror on the High Seas, from the Caribbean to the South China Sea for online ebook

### Leanne Ritchie says

Content by differing authors varied far too widely in quality.

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### Teo smite says

This book was a very enjoyable and informative read. A nice thorough slice of history. The modern pirate section is a little dated.

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### Zidders Roofurry says

I bought this book back in 2001 and have read it quite a bit since. As other reviews have stated it's a bit textbook-like in style but that's because the information is thoroughly sourced. Despite that the writing is far from dry and is well worth reading through because of how interesting the subject is.

You'll also find pictures of pirate related artifacts and old maps along with illustrations that show where our current romantic notion of piracy came from. If I ever lost my copy of this book I would go out and buy another because despite having read and reread it many times it's a lot of fun to read.

The only negative thing I have to say about this book is that the section on modern piracy is outdated and seems a bit superfluous given it feels less thoroughly researched than the rest of the book. Modern piracy is a subject that deserves its own book which is why new editions should probably leave that section out altogether.

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### Christine Frost says

Great overview of the global history of piracy--while I was seeking something more in-depth, this was a nice read to start my research!

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### Lisa says

Pirates : terror on the high seas, from the Caribbean to the South China Sea / consulting editor, David Cordingly by David (consult. ed.) Cordingly (1998)

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### Walt says

This was a slow book to read. However, Cordingly appears to have focused on stories that he could prove

with multiple stories instead of rehashing some fanciful tales using dubious sources.

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### **Aaron Williams says**

Good book - full of a LOT of information. However it IS more like a textbook so it took me longer than I would have liked (my fault not the books!) and the version I read IS 14 years old now, so the section on modern piracy is a bit out of date.

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