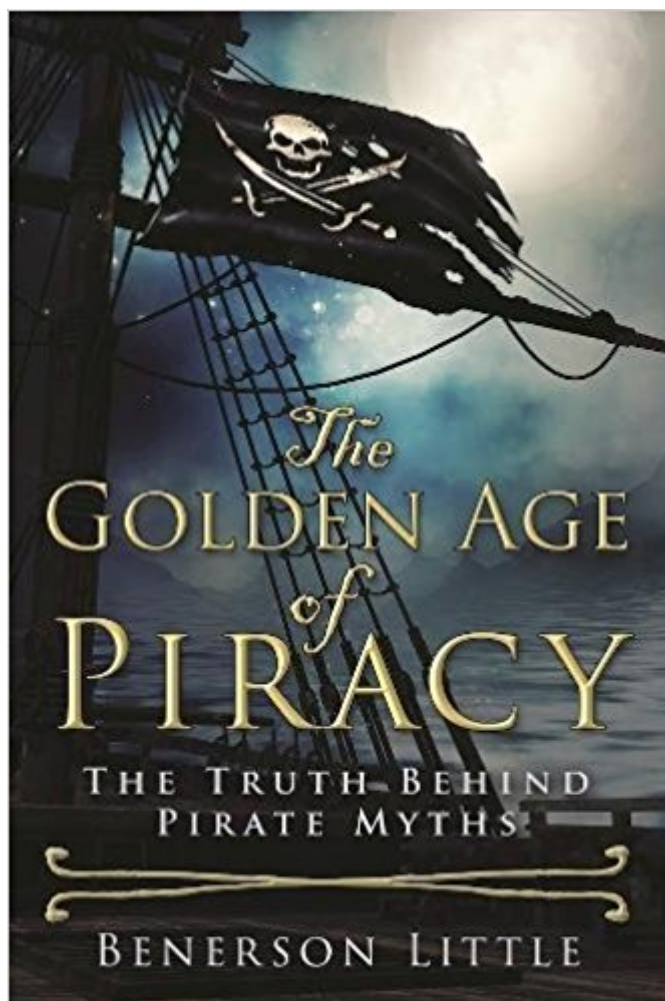


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# The Golden Age Of Piracy: The Truth Behind Pirate Myths



## Synopsis

For thousands of years, pirates have terrorized the ocean voyager and the coastal inhabitant, plundered ship and shore, and wrought havoc on the lives and livelihoods of rich and poor alike. Around these desperate men has grown a body of myths and legends—fascinating tales that today strongly influence our notions of pirates and piracy. Most of these myths derive from the pirates of the ‘Golden Age,’ from roughly 1655 to 1725. This was the age of the Spanish Main, of Henry Morgan and Blackbeard, of Bartholomew Sharp and Bartholomew Roberts. The history of pirate myth is rich in action, at sea and ashore. However, the truth is far more interesting. In *The Golden Age of Piracy*, expert pirate historian Benerson Little debunks more than a dozen pirate myths that derive from this era—from the flying of the Jolly Roger to the burying of treasure, from walking the plank to the staging of epic sea battles—and shows that the truth is far more fascinating and disturbing than the romanticized legends. Among Little’s revelations are that pirates of the Golden Age never made their captives walk the plank and that they, instead, were subject to horrendous torture, such as being burned or hung by their arms. Likewise, epic sea battles involving pirates were fairly rare because most prey surrendered immediately. The stories are real and are drawn heavily from primary sources. Complementing them are colorful images of flags, ships, and buccaneers based on eyewitness accounts. Skyhorse Publishing, as well as our Arcade imprint, are proud to publish a broad range of books for readers interested in history—books about World War II, the Third Reich, Hitler and his henchmen, the JFK assassination, conspiracies, the American Civil War, the American Revolution, gladiators, Vikings, ancient Rome, medieval times, the old West, and much more. While not every title we publish becomes a New York Times bestseller or a national bestseller, we are committed to books on subjects that are sometimes overlooked and to authors whose work might not otherwise find a home.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Benerson Little is the author of multiple books and numerous articles on pirates, has twice appeared on the History Channel to discuss piracy, and has served as a historical analyst for the Starz pirate drama Black Sails. A former Navy SEAL, he has worked as a naval special warfare analyst, an intelligence analyst, and a consultant on maritime subjects. He lives in Huntsville, Alabama.

I only knew pirates, like most people, from the media. The media has changed over the years. We have had Defoe (aka Capt. Charles Johnson), Stevenson, Pyle, Wyeth, Flynn and Johnny Depp attempting to tell a story that long ago got lost in myth and folklore. This book is an excellent way to find the truth, such as it is, about the Golden Age Pirate. I had a blast reading it. I will not spoil any of the facts v wish it was true - you should take voyage yourself. The book is nicely written and flows smoothly. The book is well researched and scholarly, but can be enjoyed by readers at all levels of interest. My one takeaway that I will share is that if there was one rule with the Golden Age Pirates, it was "follow the money" - making a pirate voyage pay. Highly Recommend!!!

\*\*\* LANGUAGE \*\*\*Written in plain English. Except for a very few uses of the d-word, this has no cussing. Suitable for all age groups, Young Adult and older. If this were a film, it would be rated G. Quick & Dirty Highlights This is the work of a former Navy Seal who, early on in life, became fascinated with the likes of Blackbeard and buccaneers. The information here is engagingly written and, in my opinion, is probably among the best in its field. I enjoyed this as much, or more, as I did some similar offerings by Michael Crichton and Ken Rossignol. Although Crichton is better known for other genres, his Pirate Latitudes is one of my favorites. Length: Print, 388 pages. Target Audience/Genre: Nonfiction discussion of pirates Dispels myths and common notions of the romance of piracy. Q - How was this book obtained? A - Bought on . Q - Is this a book that I can read without having to read others first? A - Yes. Q - Are there a lot of typos/misspellings, grammatical errors or other editing failures? A - No. Q - Is this a fast, easy read or is it more of a leisure read? A - A leisure read. Q - My biggest pleasure or disappointment? A - Very comprehensive but could include photos and

illustrations/maps. I've included a small excerpt below, so readers can peruse the style of presentation utilized by the author. EXCERPT'...The pirates furled the white banner of France they marched under, and in its place they raised high a red flag with a death's head at the center and two crossed bones below the head, in white, in the middle of the red. 15 The flag meant they would give no quarter. At Franco's order, the pirates fired musket volleys into the grasses where the Native Americans, who had been given a cow to slaughter and eau de vie to drink as encouragement to fight, lay hiding. The hot lead balls, whizzing by ears, cutting leaves, and killing and wounding warriors, scattered the Spanish allies. Hearing the fusillade, the mounted Spanish soldiery dashed to the road in a cloud of dust, expecting that the filibusters had been attacked by surprise but when they realized their error they reined up and retreated, keeping their distance. The rest of the attack was anticlimactic. The Spanish cavalry, most of it probably composed of poorly trained and armed militia and volunteers, chose discretion over battlefield valor. Captain Franco led his men into Acaponeta unmolested and held it to ransom, using hostages, including the governor, as a means of additional persuasion. The Spaniards promised them one hundred thousand pieces of eight, eight hundred carts of wheat, two hundred mule loads of corn, and eight hundred salted cattle. This was an enormous ransom for so small a place! Too enormous, in fact the filibusters should have been suspicious. The Spaniards, no fools either, delayed as long as they could, providing five cows and two loads of wheat per day, giving time for a small man-of-war to...'

Excerpted from Chapter 1. Bottom Line: Love the no-nonsense writing flow. Many times I felt as if I were sitting on a cruise ship, involved in a one-on-one discussion with the author. I could book a cruise with either Rossignol or Little to learn about the villains of the Caribbean. Five stars out of five. Comments regarding your opinion of this book or of my review, whether favorable or unfavorable, are always welcome. If you buy the book based on my review and become disappointed, especially, I do want to know that and I want to understand how I can improve as a book reviewer. Just please be polite. Thank you.

Whatever you thought you knew about pirates, Benerson Little will set you straight. His passion for the subject shows as he compares the characters we read about in novels or seen in the theater with the real people they portrayed. Though you may still enjoy your Pirates of the Caribbean movies you will find yourself shaking your head and smiling as the old salt cries "Arrr, shiver me timbers!..."

Parts were hard to put down while others I had to force myself to muddle through. I learned some things and will forever think differently of the golden age of pirates but I think I could have gleaned as much from an abridged edition. Still, it was worth reading.

Very well written and researched. Interesting, entertaining and informative story of the age of piracy. Benerson Little is a great author and I intend to read everything that he has written. I would recommend this book to anyone who has an interest in the true historical story of the Great Age Of Piracy.

The book started with interesting ideas and was engrossing. Then stories blended together. Interesting characters were only touched on. By the end the book became exhausting. Needed an editor in the middle sections.

This is a history book, but one specifically focused on examining some of the Hollywood cliches pertaining to pirates. There are historical accounts of both typical pirate behavior and of cases where reality is fairly similar to the cliché.

too much "could have" "would have" and other types of supposition. A real drag

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