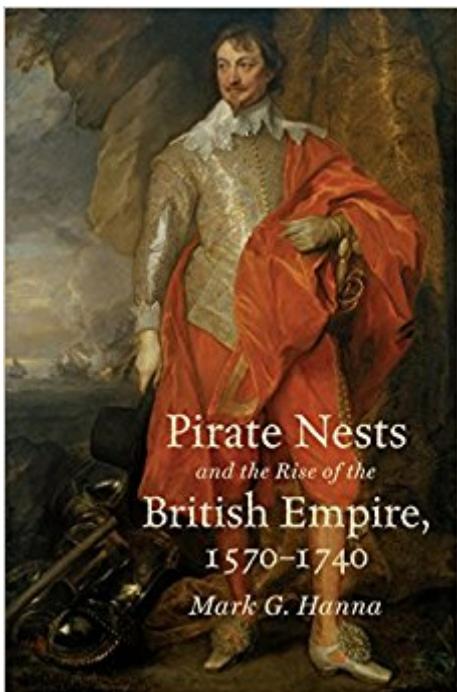


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Pirate Nests And The Rise Of The British Empire, 1570-1740 (Published By The Omohundro Institute Of Early American History And Culture And The University Of North Carolina Press)



Synopsis

Analyzing the rise and subsequent fall of international piracy from the perspective of colonial hinterlands, Mark G. Hanna explores the often overt support of sea marauders in maritime communities from the inception of England's burgeoning empire in the 1570s to its administrative consolidation by the 1740s. Although traditionally depicted as swashbuckling adventurers on the high seas, pirates played a crucial role on land. Far from a hindrance to trade, their enterprises contributed to commercial development and to the economic infrastructure of port towns. English piracy and unregulated privateering flourished in the Pacific, the Caribbean, and the Indian Ocean because of merchant elites' active support in the North American colonies. Sea marauders represented a real as well as a symbolic challenge to legal and commercial policies formulated by distant and ineffectual administrative bodies that undermined the financial prosperity and defense of the colonies. Departing from previous understandings of deep-sea marauding, this study reveals the full scope of pirates' activities in relation to the landed communities that they serviced and their impact on patterns of development that formed early America and the British Empire.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A fascinating and informative history of the rise and fall of international piracy from the late sixteenth through mid-eighteenth centuries.--American Historical Review An excellent read for popular audiences who are curious about the history of piracy, and it will also be an essential piece of

historiography for future historians and researchers.--- *Journal for Maritime Research*By piling up a treasure-trove of archival information from Britain and its colonies, Hanna has written one of the most important works on piracy to appear in the last three decades.--*Canadian Journal of History*This book will make an excellent read for popular audiences who are curious about the history of piracy, and it will also be an essential piece of historiography for future historians and researchers.--*Journal of Maritime Research*This work enlarges the understanding of piracy [and] . . . enriches and displays the maritime foundations of the British Empire. . . . Highly recommended.--*Choice*Hanna's engaging book has opened up a rich new chapter in the history of piracy through its emphasis on trade. His excellent contribution will do much to supplement social, labor, and political histories of piracy from below. --*English Historical Review*This carefully researched, beautifully written, and exquisitely detailed monograph turns the study of piracy on its head. In contrast to previous scholarship, which has focused on isolated accounts of colorful individuals and their flamboyant behavior, Mark Hanna concentrates on the nexus between land and sea.--*Dian Murray, New West India Guide*Hanna has a keen eye for the practical problems the pirates and their suppressors faced.--*Diplomatic History*Enriched by copious notes that will reward readers with a wealth of data, as well as entertaining and engrossing historiographical context.--*H-Net Reviews*Hanna's well-argued and exhaustively researched book will stand as the critical work on early modern British piracy for some time, but it is also essential reading for anyone interested in the development of the empire.--*William and Mary Quarterly*Ably details the symbiotic relationship between pirates and colonial ports [and] illuminates the differences in perspective between England and her colonies.--*Pirates and Privateers*Hanna argues persuasively that sea bandits . . . were vital participants in the survival of early maritime communities.--*Early American Literature*[An] ambitious investigation into the political role of pirates in shaping colonial British American society in the seventeenth century. . . . A valuable addition to a sparse literature on politics in this period.--*Journal of Southern History*

Affecting developments as disparate as silversmithing and slavery, print media and judicial practices, international law and domestic labor systems, piracy was central to English colonization in the Americas. *Pirate Nests* challenges us to rethink both the microhistories and the metanarratives of English expansion and the colonies' legacy to the United States.--Elizabeth Mancke, University of New BrunswickHanna's compelling analysis illuminates the role of 'pirate nest' ports in recruiting, supplying, and harboring early modern English pirates.Â Valuable in the launch, defense, and development of new settlements, pirates became unwelcome and expensiveÂ disruptions for the

more prosperous and better-organized empire that gradually eliminated them.Â Excellent book.--Ian Steele, University of Western Ontario emeritusMark Hanna sets piracy in motion. He traces his subjects across their lives and their lives across the centuries. Insisting that Atlantic pirates be understood in terms of the imperial forces that spawned them in one century and then destroyed them in another, he has written a powerfully revisionist work.--Daniel Vickers, University of British Columbia

Awesome read and extremely informative!

Purchased the book at author signing event. Author gave a nice 30 minute talk and quite interesting despite all the "ahs" between his sentences (is he really a college professor who has to give lectures daily?). Slugged my way through the first 100 pages of the book and then gave up. Interesting premise that pirate is basically defined by who is stealing from whom and that pirate nests 1570-1740 were crucial to the economic development of coastal seafaring towns. Aside the importance of silver coins as specie to maintain a healthy economic system was of particular interest to this portfolio manager/author. That said, the book is overwhelmed by minutia; in some cases footnotes take over more space in a page versus the actual narrative. Author feels compelled to share everything he has uncovered in his three years of research; a classic mistake of a first time author. An interesting topic and historical insights that deserves better writing.

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