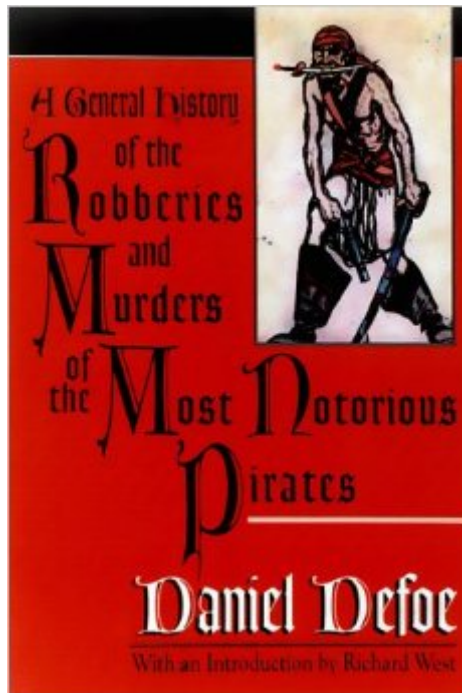


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A General History Of The Robberies And Murders Of The Most Notorious Pirates



Synopsis

Originally published in 1724, this instantaneous bestseller delivered a dramatic and detailed chronicle of robbery and murder on the high seas. The General History's vivid prose and graphic accounts not only were mainly responsible for the posthumous reputations of Blackbeard and Captain Kidd, but also have inspired fictional pirates, from Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island* to Errol Flynn's movies.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (35 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

1695-1725 is called the Golden Age of Piracy, a time when the black flag of the skull and crossbones provoked terror like nothing else. As European ships fattened with goods and gold left the New World for the Old, pirates were as plentiful as sharks. Courageous, clever, defiant--and drunk--these thieves knew no boundaries as they plied the waters with an unquenchable thirst for mayhem. They burned ships for sport, they murdered, they stole, they even bribed colonial governors to look the other way. One gang actually drew up a formal document declaring war on the entire world. And many of them swung from the yardarm as they were methodically brought to justice. The most intriguing aspect of these stories is the portrayal of piratical society. They democratically elected their ship's captain. They debated and voted on their next destination. They followed orders unquestionably. They admired courage under fire, and admired an intelligent mind put to foul deeds. They trusted one another--to a point. As two or three ships sailed together, many a time one of them would weigh anchor in the dead of night and sail off with the booty, leaving their cohorts to cry in their rum--or pursue them and viciously kill `em all for daring to steal from fellow

thieves. A perverse maritime code of respect and deceit evolved amongst these men, much like within today's penitentiaries. Personally, my biggest surprise was the ease with which pirates recruited more pirates. A ship would be overtaken and plundered, and the pirate captain would shout, "Would anyone like to join us?!" and formerly law-abiding seamen would clamber over the rails to join the cutthroats. The free-wheeling life of adventure, ill-gotten wealth, and promiscuity was irresistible.

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