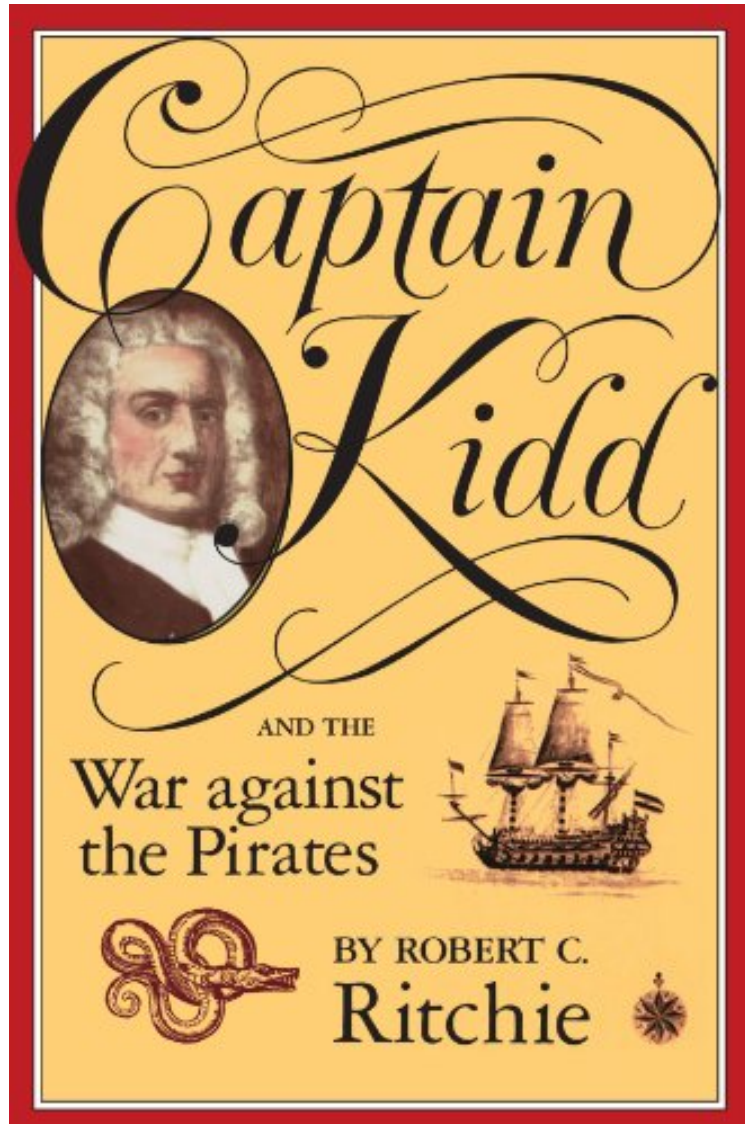


(Download pdf) Captain Kidd and the War against the Pirates

Captain Kidd and the War against the Pirates

Robert Ritchie

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Robert Ritchie : Captain Kidd and the War against the Pirates before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Captain Kidd and the War against the Pirates:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Very well written and historically detailed account of Kidd's life By Jeff Wignall I live on the coast of Connecticut and if you listen to local lore, George Washington slept in nearly every house that existed in the 1700s (and even some that didn't) and Captain Kidd hung out on every beach drinking the local grog and burying treasure on every small island and beneath almost every big old oak tree. I'm not done with this

book yet, but I'm having fun reading it and trying to piece together the real story of Captain Kidd and his nefarious (though apparently very busy and productive) life. The book is very entertaining and the writing is excellent and moves along at a great pace. The author is incredibly good at including details and verifiable facts and there is an extensive collection of notes at the end. There is a pretty good index, too, but I was disappointed to not see Connecticut (as a state) mentioned at all. I guess it comes from growing up along the coast and hearing these tales since I was a kid (not a Kidd) but I find that the older I get the more I want to read about pirates. And though Kidd never started out his seafaring career to become a pirate, the road from faithful servant to privateer to pirate was pretty much a given in those times. And it seems like it was an exciting life, except for that little bit at the end with the noose and all. A good read. Bought it used and super cheap. And now I'm going out into my yard with a shovel because if my guess is right, where that old oak tree used to be, if I just walk 10 paces south... 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Thrown Under the Bus of the British Empire By Lionel S. Taylor This is a very interesting and very readable account of the career of William Kidd a sea captain who found himself caught up in the larger political machinations of early 18th century Britain and the East India Company. In short, Kidd left London a privateer with papers giving him permission to give the French and their merchants as much trouble as possible and came back 5 years later as the English crown's public enemy number 1 accused of piracy and a host of other depredations. The book does a good job of tracking Kidd's voyages and unraveling some of the more confusing parts of the account of what happened during the trial and the disposition of Kidd's treasure. The author makes a strong case to the point that while Kidd was by no means completely innocent of what he was accused of, he was also very much a victim of the changing climate of the British Empire and the wider world of maritime trade. This book is highly readable account and is a great companion to Rediker's Villains of all Nations. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. but great addition to my lecture

By Hanna Kim Story was a bit difficult to read, but great addition to my lecture. Book came in great condition!

The legends that die hardest are those of the romantic outlaw, and those of swashbuckling pirates are surely among the most durable. Swift ships, snug inns, treasures buried by torchlight, palm-fringed beaches, fabulous riches, and, most of all, freedom from the mean life of the laboring man are the stuff of this tradition reinforced by many a novel and film. It is disconcerting to think of such dashing scoundrels as slaves to economic forces, but so they were--as Robert Ritchie demonstrates in this lively history of piracy. He focuses on the shadowy figure of William Kidd, whose career in the late seventeenth century swept him from the Caribbean to New York, to London, to the Indian Ocean before he ended in Newgate prison and on the gallows. Piracy in those days was encouraged by governments that could not afford to maintain a navy in peacetime. Kidd's most famous voyage was sponsored by some of the most powerful men in England, and even though such patronage granted him extraordinary privileges, it tied him to the political fortunes of the mighty Whig leaders. When their influence waned, the opposition seized upon Kidd as a weapon. Previously sympathetic merchants and shipowners did an about-face too and joined the navy in hunting down Kidd and other pirates. By the early eighteenth century, pirates were on their way to becoming anachronisms. Ritchie's wide-ranging research has probed this shift in the context of actual voyages, sea fights, and adventures ashore. What sort of men became pirates in the first place, and why did they choose such an occupation? What was life like aboard a pirate ship? How many pirates actually became wealthy? How were they governed? What large forces really caused their downfall? As the saga of the buccaneers unfolds, we see the impact of early modern life: social changes and Anglo-American politics, the English judicial system, colonial empires, rising capitalism, and the maturing bureaucratic state are all interwoven in the story. Best of all, Captain Kidd and the War against the Pirates is an epic of adventure on the high seas and a tale of back-room politics on land that captures the mind and the imagination.

From Library Journal This excellent volume explores the lives of pirates and probes deeply into the social, economic, and political forces that shaped those lives. Ritchie offers a compelling account, focusing on the legendary Captain Kidd, whose rise and fall more reflected the changing needs of landlocked merchants and princes than conditions at sea. He traces the golden age of piracy and places this in the historical context of seafaring through the millenia. This far-ranging book chronicles the daily life of the pirates, even as it helps us understand the appeal of pirate stories. A well-written and well-conceived volume; important reading for pirate fans and history buffs alike. Jay R. Kaufman, Massachusetts Bay Marine Studies Consortium, Boston Copyright 1986 Reed Business Information, Inc. The most detailed record I have ever seen of a pirate voyage, with its origins and aftermath; I doubt if there is another like it. [Ritchie] has also placed it in its historic context, describing the political, and especially the economic events that shaped piracy in its age of transition... Captain Kidd is a first-rate book. (George MacDonald Fraser Washington Post) [A] fascinating true story--not of moonlit beaches and buried treasure but of political intrigue and complicated business deal-making, not of swashbucklers on the high seas but of men who went to sea to escape a stifling social order so rigid that even the fabrics they could wear were prescribed... [Ritchie] makes the shadowy, myth-laden figure of William Kidd a real person, and not without sympathy. (Jim Haskins New York Times Book) Fascinating... Captain Kidd emerges as a very real historical person, the victim of shifts in English and colonial politics, and changes in mercantile, imperial and legal attitudes... Ritchie... has sorted out the conflicting evidence in a masterful way. (Times

Literary Supplement)The wealth of descriptive detail, combined with attention to a broad canvas of world politics, transports the reader into the world of the seventeenth century sea-breathren in an unusually forceful way...A rollicking, roistering adventure which will make...compulsive reading. (Journal of Imperials and Commonwealth History)About the AuthorRobert C. Ritchie is Professor of History, University of California at San Diego.