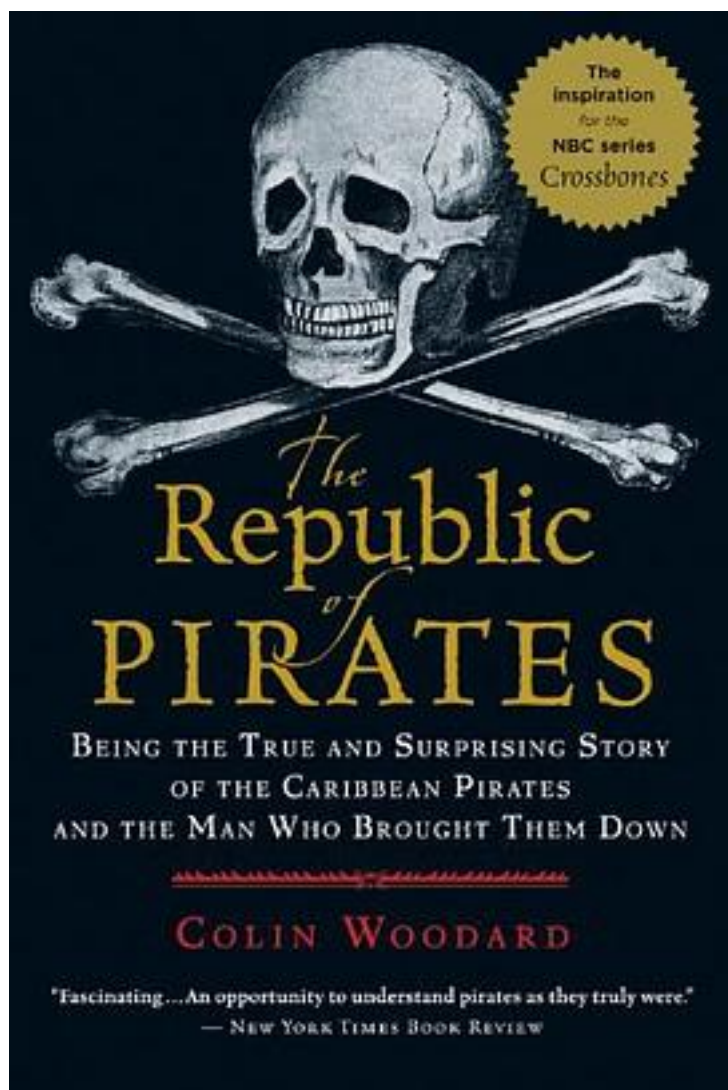


The Republic of Pirates



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著者:Colin Woodard

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Welcome to the Pirate Republic—the early-eighteenth-century home to some of the great pirate captains, including Blackbeard, "Black Sam" Bellamy, and Charles Vane. Along with their fellow pirates—former sailors, indentured servants, and runaway slaves—this "Flying Gang" established a crude but distinctive democracy in the Bahamas, carving out their own zone of freedom in which servants were free, blacks could be equal citizens, and leaders were chosen or deposed by a vote.

For a brief, glorious period the Pirate Republic was enormously successful. It cut off trade routes, sacked slave ships, and severed Europe from its New World empires. Imperial authorities and wealthy shipowners denounced its residents as the enemies of mankind, but common people saw them as heroes. Colin Woodard tells the dramatic untold story of the Pirate Republic that shook the very foundations of the British and Spanish Empires and fanned the democratic sentiments that would one day drive the American Revolution. In the early eighteenth century a number of the great pirate captains joined forces, including Blackbeard, Black Sam Bellamy, and Charles Vane. This infamous "Flying Gang" was more than simply a band of thieves: Many of its members were sailors, indentured servants, and runaway slaves who turned to piracy as a revolt against the conditions they suffered on ships and plantations. Together they established a crude but distinctive democracy in the Bahamas, carving out their own zone of freedom in which servants were free, blacks could be equal citizens, and leaders were chosen or deposed by a vote.

For a brief, glorious period the pirate republic was enormously successful. At its height it cut off trade routes, sacked slave ships, and severed Britain, France, and Spain from their New World empires. The Royal Navy went from being unable to catch the pirates to being afraid to encounter them at all. Imperial authorities and wealthy shipowners denounced the pirates as the enemies of mankind, but huge numbers of common people saw them as heroes. Finally one man volunteered to pacify the pirates' Bahaman lair and destroy any who resisted -- Woodes Rogers, a famous privateer himself and scion of a powerful merchant family.

Drawing on extensive research in the archives of Britain and the Americas, Colin Woodard tells the dramatic untold story of the Pirate Republic that shook the very foundations of the British and Spanish Empires and fanned the democratic sentiments that would one day drive the American revolution.

作者介绍:

屡获殊荣的新闻记者兼畅销书作家。著有《美国民族：北美十一个竞争区域文化的历史》(American Nations: A History of the Eleven Rival Regional Cultures of North America)、《天涯海角：行过正在消失的海洋》(Ocean's End: Travels Through Endangered Seas)，以及《龙虾海岸：造反者、远离尘嚣者，以及被遗忘的新天地挣扎》(The Lobster Coast: Rebels, Rusticators, and the Struggle for a Forgotten Frontier)。曾长期担任《旧金山纪事报》和《基督科学箴言报》外国通讯记者，视野遍及七大洲、五十五国，并定期为《华盛顿邮报》《华盛顿月刊》和《政治》撰文。毕业于塔夫茨大学和芝加哥大学。目前与家人居于缅因州，担任《波特兰新闻先驱报》美国国家与国际事务记者。

译者简介:

许恬宁，台湾大学外文系毕业，专职译者，译有《告密者：Olympus前执行长舍命揭露20年假账的故事》、《抉择：希拉里回忆录》（合译）、《征服者：弓马枭雄》、《征服者：白骨之丘》等书。

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评论

作者有国际新闻记者背景，真的尽力了，不仅考察了很多一手新闻通讯资料，而且亲自走访很多事件发生地，能将那个年代的所有有名的海盗拼凑在一起，真的觉得挺厉害的。

阅读的初衷源于迪士尼的电影和主题乐园。原来海盗也因人而异，各有各的处事原则和人生轨迹，不如电影奇幻，更加残酷。

Fantastic writing about the history of pirates, on which many Hollywood films are based. As all bandits over the world, most men engaged in the piracy were forced to, by extreme poverty. Government or the ruling class were ever so cruel, to either its subjects, or the heroes that were determined to eliminate piracy. History made of blood indeed!

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