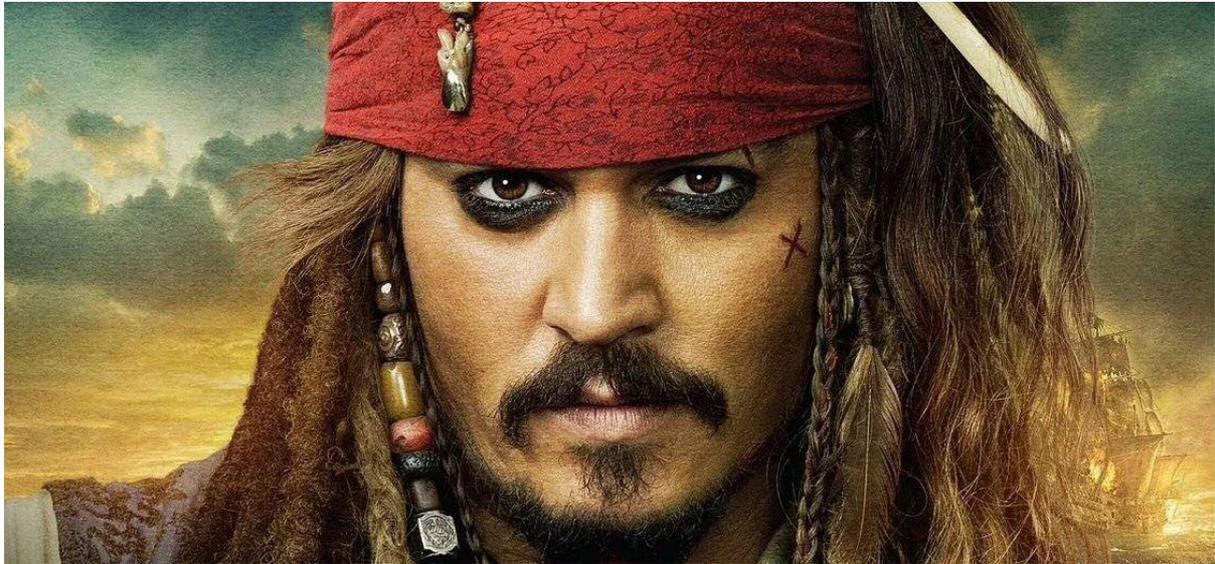


PIRATES

THE EMPIRE, THE DEVIL, AND THE DEEP BLUE SEA



How did pirates shape world history in a *longue durée* perspective? We will discuss questions of violence, imperialism and state formation in a big sweep and the broadest perspective. Are humans inherently violent and thus need the state to discipline them? Are pirates criminals that need policing or are they rebels against an oppressive state? What is the difference between different actors of maritime violence; between pirate fleets and the navy? How are different forms of piracy linked to various stages of state formation and how is the romanticisation of pirates reflective of the rise of the modern total state? Are these processes driven by climate/environmental and demographic/economic change and how? The unit is thus not only about pirates with hooks and sabres (although that too!) but about dispositions of violence and socio-political order more generally; about practices of violence at sea but also about concepts of (maritime) law and order and imaginations of the other.

Sessions

- 1) Introduction
- 2) The dawn of piracy: from hunter-gatherer to Bronze Age pirate
- 3) Athens and Rhodes: piracy and thalassocracy in antiquity
- 4) Caesar, Pax Romana and Mare Nostrum: Roman piracy
- 5) Vikings and Normans: piratical empires?
- 6) Crusades and the rise of the secular pirate: Venice and Genoa
- 7) Drake: Tudor piracy and reformation
- 8) Buccaneers and Filibusters: pirates of the Caribbean
- 9) End of piracy? Barbary states and rise of Western imperial sea power
- 10) The romanticisation of piracy: pirates in modern and contemporary literature and film
- 11) Postmodern piracy? Somali 'costguards' and raiding in the straits of Malacca

Questions?

Any questions? georg.christ@manchester.ac.uk

Or come to my course unit selection office hour 12 June 2023 2-3 pm on Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/98645321759>

Or in my office Samuel Alexander N2.8

The small print

10 ECTS, 20 creds, Sem 2, 3 hours/w

CONTENT WARNING

Think twice before taking this unit – it might knock you off your feet and broaden your world-view. Jack Sparrow and Elizabeth Swann might lurk in the background...

AIMS

- Understand main developments of piracy in world history
- Understand the interconnection of piracy, policing and state formation against back-drop of climate, demographic and economic change
- Critically engage with primary sources and relevant historiography as well as more general seminal texts
- Sharpen understanding of critical theoretical approaches in history and the social sciences more generally

LEARNING OUTCOMES

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

- Acquire knowledge of world history of state formation and sea power
- Understand basic concepts of (Medieval and modern) trade and international systems
- Understand main debates in historiography

INTELLECTUAL SKILLS

- Critically evaluate scholarship
- Formulate and evaluate research questions
- Analyse primary sources

PRACTICAL SKILLS

- active listening and discussion
- retrieval and application of material from specialist internet resources, including working with online databases
- understanding different individual knowledge management solutions
- oral/online presentation skills, including short presentations with short preparation time, discussion skills

TRANSFERABLE SKILLS AND PERSONAL QUALITIES

- Written communication and informed discussion with peers
- Working with databases
- Critical text analysis (retrieval of data, compiling of information, analysis to gather (applicable) insights), historical consciousness (critical reviewing of actual trends)
- Presentation skills including presentations with little preparation time as required in assessment centres.

ASSESSMENT METHODS

Assessment task	Form. Or Sum.	Length	Weighting within unit
Individual Presentation + Supporting Material (hand-out, slides) OR source analysis OR literature review OR case study OR essay proposal	Summative	5', 1000-1500 words	20%
Essay	Summative	2000-3000	100%

Zoom consultation office hour: 12 June at 1400, 2 pm

<https://zoom.us/j/98645321759> or in person, Sam Alex N2.8