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Pirates, Visionaries or Entrepreneurs

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Publication date:

2016

Link:

[Link to publication in PEARL](#)

Citation for published version (APA):

Stevenson, KA. (2016). *Pirates, Visionaries or Entrepreneurs*. Paper presented at ESRC Festival of Social Science 2016 Piracy and Plymouth: privateering, profiting and policing Exhibition.

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PIRATES, VISIONARIES OR ENTREPRENEURS?



PIRATE: Adventurer or **outlaw** who illegally attacks and plunders ships at sea or moored in harbours.

PIRACY: against the State counts as **treason** and until 1998 carried a mandatory death sentence.

In **international law** piracy is an offence against ALL states and against ALL humanity because there is no legitimate commission for acts of piracy.

The Pirate King?

The most famous pirate was **Blackbeard**, believed to be Edward Teach from Bristol, who deliberately chose to LOOK terrifying to strike fear into his enemies but often AVOIDED unnecessary violence, relying on his fearsome appearance to capture and loot merchant vessels. Blackbeard used 'Jack Sparrow like' tricks such as attaching fuses under the brim of his hat and lighting them like as in this picture!



What is the link between Blackbeard and this ship?

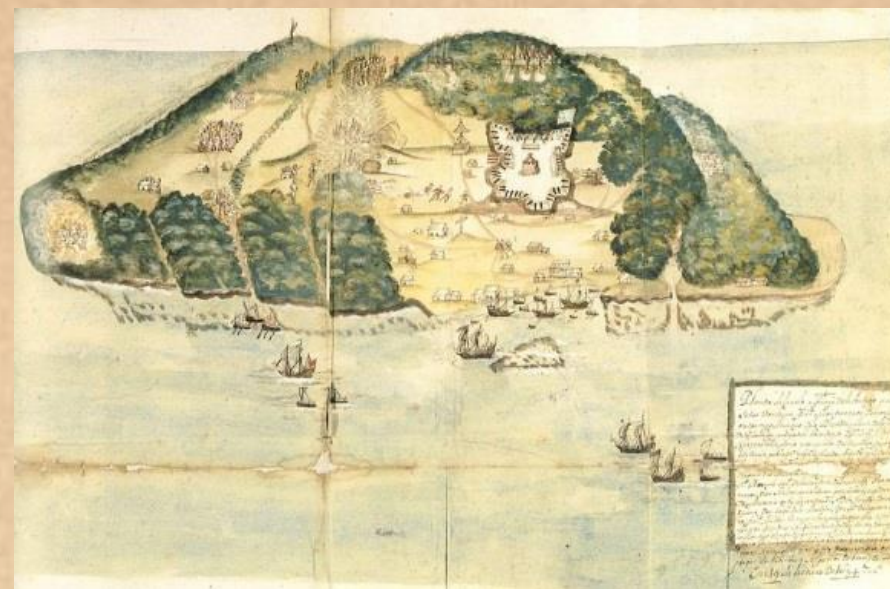
SCAN for clue

Blackbeard's career as a pirate was short-lived: with a £100 bounty on his head he was **killed** in a hand-to-hand battle with Lieutenant Robert Maynard in Ocracoke, NC, 1718. His head was severed from his body and hung over the bowsprit of Maynard's ship

Barbary Corsairs raided **the Cornish and Devon coasts** from the late C16th to the mid C17th as portrayed in this book by Sabatini who also based Captain Blood on the true life story of Henry Pitman, a surgeon, wrongly convicted by Judge Jeffries of treason. Transported to Barbados he was captured by pirates. Blood is indentured and becomes a pirate whereas Pitman actually found his way back to England.

SCAN for more

PRIVATEER: also filibuster (see below) or freebooter - NOT, strictly speaking, a pirate so long as they confined their attacks to enemy shipping. When at war the King could issue Letters of Marque and Reprisal to privately owned commercial vessels so they could **legitimately attack** enemy ports and ships as an act of war on behalf of the sovereign state where the ship is registered (see Poster on Drake). Privateers could keep what they plundered but were not permitted to attack shipping indiscriminately. Some, like **Henry Morgan**, were regarded as **heroes**. Privateering was outlawed in the middle of the nineteenth century.

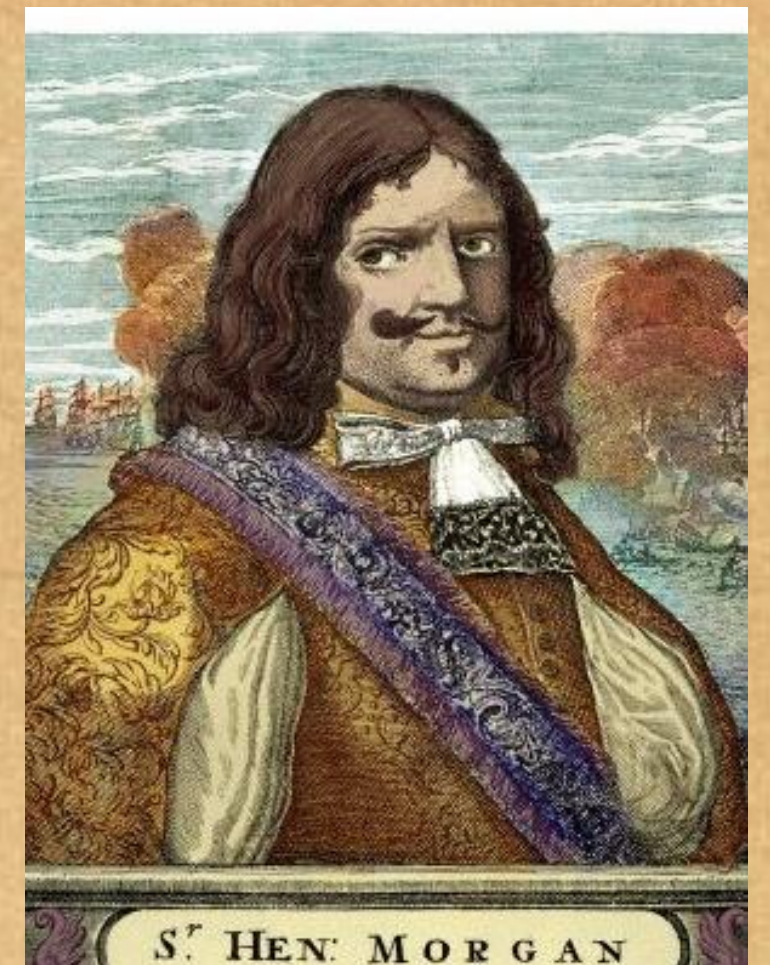
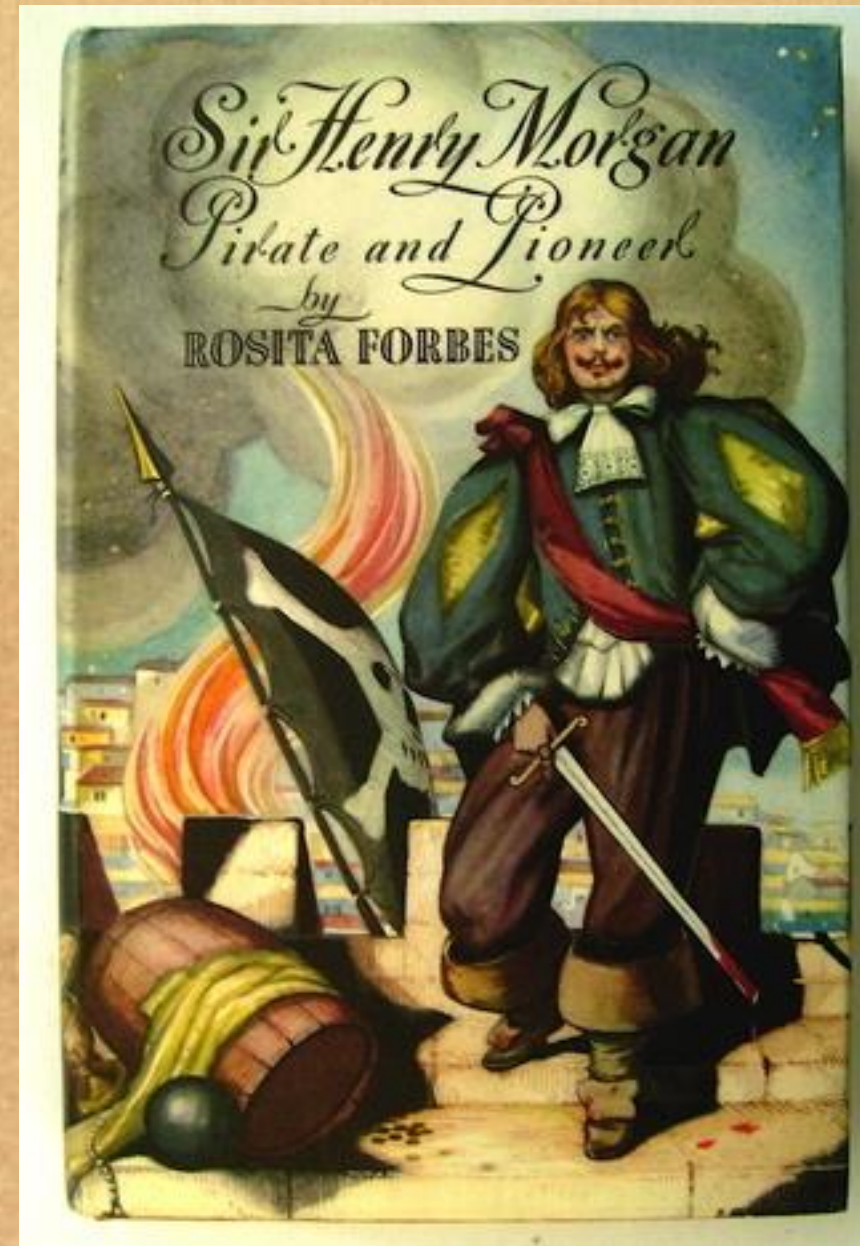


Tortuga in the 17th Century

Henry Morgan was a Welsh adventurer shanghaied (coerced against his will onto a ship) and sold as an indentured labourer to work as a slave in Barbados. When released from servitude, like many such white slaves he turned to piracy. Morgan, and a Dutch pirate, Mansvelt, were commissioned by the Governor of Jamaica to capture the Dutch island of Curacao. Instead with 15 ships and 500 men they set up their own **island state on Tortuga**, funded from seizing thousands of 'pieces of eight' (Peruvian gold) from the Spanish. **Pirate, entrepreneur or visionary?**

In 1670 **Morgan** mustered 2,000 men and 37 ships to attack Panama and led a ragbag army of 1,200 criminals, pirates and slaves to overwhelm 3,000 Spaniards destroying the city. In 1672 he was transported back to England to be tried as a pirate but his luck turned again and he was made a baronet returning to Jamaica as its Governor, **SIR Henry Morgan**.

SCAN for more



The Perfect Pirate Ship?

With his mentor Capt Hornigold, in 1717, Blackbeard captured a French slave ship *La Concorde* making her his flagship. Formerly a Royal Navy frigate, he renamed her *Queen Anne's Revenge* as an insult to her successor King George and installed 40 guns and a dozen cannons. With 300 crew he blockaded ports in the Caribbean seizing gold, sugar and cocoa before she ran aground in North Carolina.

Pirate, entrepreneur or visionary?

SCAN to see ship

BUCCANEER: (from the French 'Boucanier') Caribbean pirates who poached animals and smoked the meat on 'Boucans' (Spanish cooking frames).

CORSAIR: also French (from the Latin currere 'to run'), Mediterranean based, primarily Muslim, such as the Barbary pirates, operating out of North Africa.

FILIBUSTER: (from the Spanish filibustero) or Freebooter (Dutch), Attacked shipping or ports to disrupt governments and foment revolution abroad, but, unlike a privateer, had no licence to do so.

ROVER: a stateless pirate serving his own interests and armed without permission

