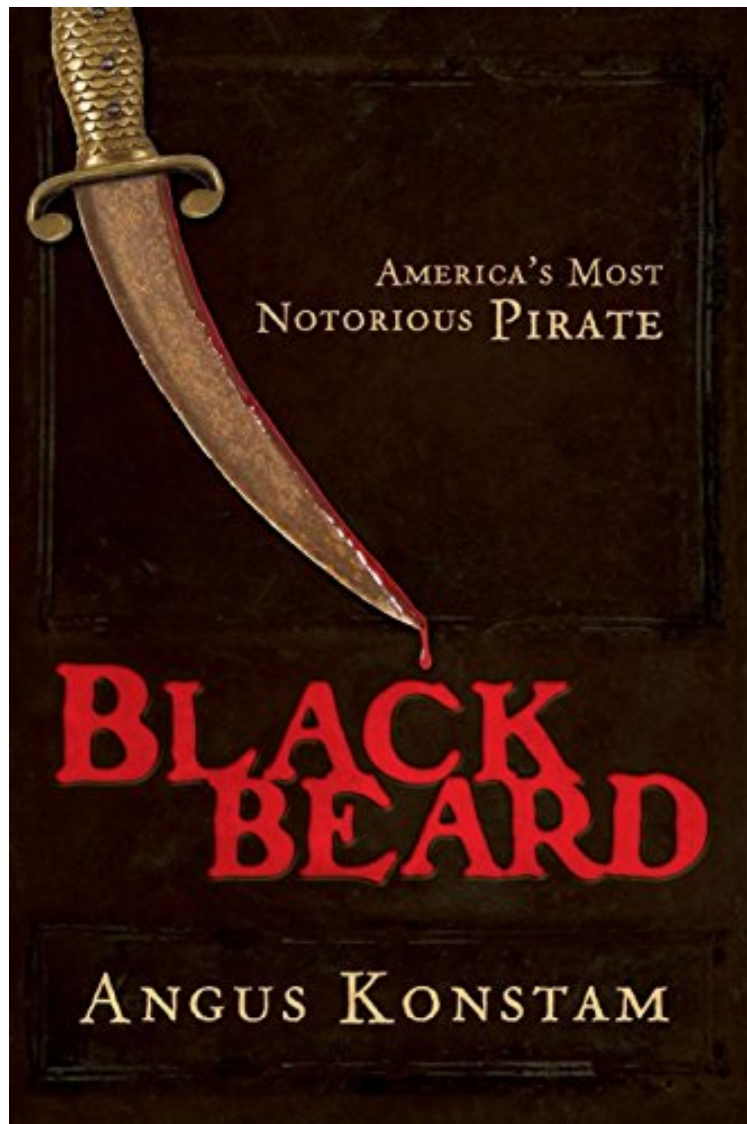


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## Blackbeard: America's Most Notorious Pirate

*Angus Konstam*

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**Angus Konstam : Blackbeard: America's Most Notorious Pirate** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Blackbeard: America's Most Notorious Pirate:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Blackbeard; America's Most Notorious PirateBy Richard D. ThomasI would not call this a novel,but a historical account of the life and times of Black Beard. If you are interested in the subject matter the book is very informative.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great Read, Very EntertainingBy CaseyMy first pirate book read....but I'm hooked!! (get it?? "hooked"??)Konstam I'm assuming is

extremely researched in early 1700 history and pirates. He writes in a very readable and entertaining way. Hard to put the book down. The topic is very addicting. I highly recommend this book! 10 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Blackbeard biography By H. Joe Thompson The book is well written but since so much of Blackbeard's life is unknown the book is full of known references of contemporary pirates' exploits. It is definitely worth reading.

A thorough, exciting examination of 18th-century pirate life, with wonderful details.--Publishers Weekly "Interesting and exciting . . . a thoroughly enjoyable chronicle of an interesting life and interesting era."--Booklist The definitive biography of history's most fearsome and famous pirate Of all the colorful cutthroats who scoured the seas in search of plunder during the Golden Age of Piracy in the early eighteenth century, none was more ferocious or notorious than Blackbeard. As unforgettable as his savage career was, much of Blackbeard's life has been shrouded in mystery--until now. Drawing on vivid descriptions of Blackbeard's attacks from his rare surviving victims, pirate expert Angus Konstam traces Blackbeard's career from its beginnings to his final defeat in a tremendous sea battle near his base at Ocracoke Island. Presenting dramatic accounts of the pirate's very effective tactics and his reputation for cruelty, Konstam offers a fascinating examination of the life and business of piracy and the lure of this brutal and bloody trade.

From Publishers Weekly Konstam, the Scottish author of more than 50 maritime history books here explores the dreaded Blackbeard, "the archetypal pirate of the age...and one of the most fearsome figures around." Konstam makes a thorough, exciting examination of 18th century pirate life, with wonderful details such as the pirates' code, which can read as a precursor to America's own Bill of Rights: "Every man has a Vote in Affairs of Monument, has equal Title to the fresh Provisions, or strong Liquors, at any Time seized use them at pleasure." However, the author's portrait of the seadog fails for two reasons: first, very little is known about Blackbeard, and Konstam hasn't been able to uncover much that's new; "we must assume" becomes a frequent, frustrating qualifier when the book focuses on its subject. Secondly, Konstam is fond of cliches: a ruler's power base collapses "like a house of cards" while another is able to "walk the political tightrope;" and the feared pirate himself "would stop at nothing to get what he wanted." The padding necessary to produce a lengthy version of Blackbeard's story produces a work that has little of the dash and derring-do readers will expect from the biography of a pirate, and ends up painting Blackbeard less as a terror of the high seas than a bully with a big boat. Illustrations. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist The so-called golden age of pirates (roughly, the first two decades of the eighteenth century) still conjures up images of tough, hardy, colorful rogues who chose to live outside the bounds of conventional society. Perhaps the best known of the pirates was Edward Teach, better known to contemporaries and to history as Blackbeard. Konstam is a former naval officer and marine archaeologist who has written extensively on piracy. He has provided an interesting and exciting biography of an enigmatic figure who defies easy categorization. Konstam does not romanticize Blackbeard, or the life of pirates in general. Blackbeard was apparently a ruthless, brutal man. He was by no means the most successful pirate, and his string of spectacular "achievements" lasted less than two years. Thankfully, Konstam spares us blather about "pirate honor," but he convincingly maintains that Blackbeard was a compelling figure with great seamanship skills and an audacious temperament, which inspired men to follow him. This is a thoroughly enjoyable chronicle of an interesting life and interesting era. Jay Freeman Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved \* "...the fearsome role model for a new breed of screen pirates..." (The Scotsman, July 2006) "...real pirate of the Caribbean..." (The Daily Mirror, July 2006)