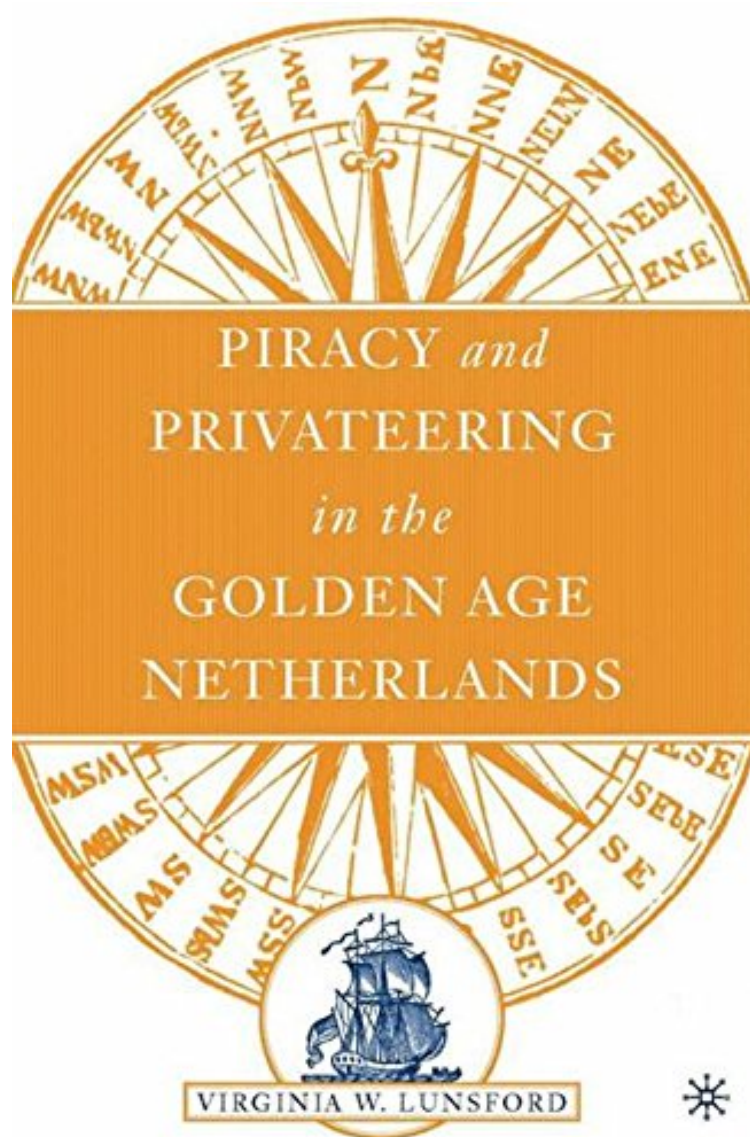


Piracy and Privateering in the Golden Age Netherlands

V. Lunsford

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V. Lunsford : Piracy and Privateering in the Golden Age Netherlands before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Piracy and Privateering in the Golden Age Netherlands:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Groundbreaking New Book By John Matlock I suppose that it is mostly the fault of the movies, but we tend to think of pirates as being either British (Blackbeard) or French (Lafitte). It turns out though that the Dutch, who were building an overseas empire that would rival that of the British also issued letters of marque (Dutch - commissie van retorsie) that gave their ships the right to act as privateers to attack

the ships of enemy countries. And as was the custom with the British and French privateers, some of them found that there weren't enough enemy ships so they broadened their range to become outright pirates. In this book, Virginia Lunsford, a professor of history at the United States Naval Academy describes the story of Dutch piracy and privateering in an excellent bit of original research. One strange aspect of Dutch pirates is that a surprising number of them retired back to Holland after their career as a pirate and lived with a certain esteem and respect. This was in spite of the existence of laws that specifically outlawed piracy and prescribed hanging as the penalty. This book not only gives the history of Dutch piracy in narrative form, but has several appendices that give specific detailed information on individual ships and the results of their cruises. This is a pioneering work covering a subject I've not seen covered before.

This exciting scholarly work examines Dutch maritime violence in the seventeenth-century. With its flourishing maritime trade and lucrative colonial possessions, the young Dutch Republic enjoyed a cultural and economic pre-eminence, becoming the leading commercial power in the world. Dutch seamen plied the world's waters, trading, exploring, and colonizing. Many also took up pillaging, terrorizing their victims on the high seas and on European waterways. Surprisingly, this story of Dutch freebooters and their depredations remains almost entirely untold until now. *Piracy and Privateering in the Golden Age Netherlands* presents new data and understandings of early modern piracy generally, and also sheds important new light on Dutch and European history as well, such as the history of national identity and state formation, and the history of crime and criminality.

About the Author VIRGINIA LUNSFORD-POE is an Assistant Professor of History at the United States Naval Academy, USA. She lives in Annapolis, Maryland.