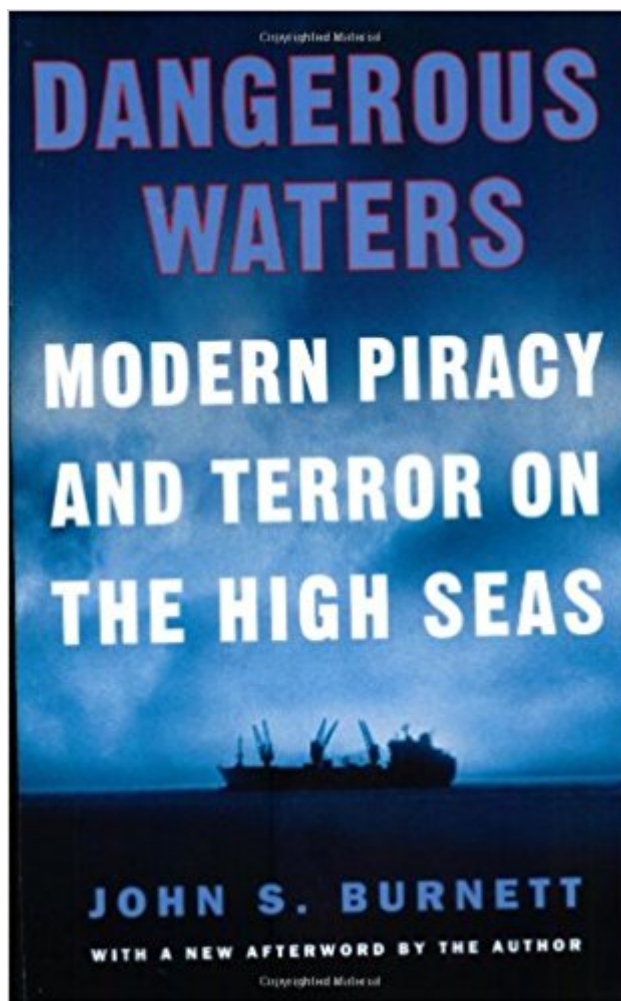


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# Dangerous Waters: Modern Piracy And Terror On The High Seas



## Synopsis

While sailing alone one night in the shipping lanes across one of the busiest waterways in the world, John Burnett was attacked by pirates. Through sheer ingenuity and a little bit of luck, he survived, and his shocking firsthand experience became the inspiration for *Dangerous Waters*. Today's breed of pirates are not the colorful cutthroats painted by the history books. Unlike the romantic images from yesteryear of Captain Hook, Long John Silver, and Blackbeard, modern pirates can be local seamen looking for a quick score, highly trained guerrillas, rogue military units, or former seafarers recruited by sophisticated crime organizations. Including new, up-to-date information for the paperback edition, *Dangerous Waters* is both a dauntless investigation and an epic, breathtaking modern tale of the sea.

## Book Information

Paperback: 346 pages

Publisher: Plume; Reprint edition (September 30, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0452284139

ISBN-13: 978-0452284135

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.7 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 39 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #740,102 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #130 in [Books > History > World > Maritime History & Piracy](#) #1019 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > True Crime > Organized Crime](#) #1548 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Specific Topics > Terrorism](#)

## Customer Reviews

For many, the word "pirate" only conjures up kitschy images of mustachioed villains with eye patches and gold hoop earrings. But as Burnett, a freelance journalist and former United Press International reporter, shows in this original and intriguing work, piracy is alive and well. A firsthand experience with pirates-in which his private sloop was attacked near Borneo-inspired Burnett to explore the modern world of thievery at sea. He hitches rides on two ships, a British carrier transporting crude oil from the Middle East to Western and Asian refineries, and a tanker carrying jet fuel and diesel oil to Vietnam. He describes some hair-raising close calls and shares his research along the way. Pirates, he explains, are often "gangs of poverty-stricken young men" (or sometimes

women) employed by warlords, organized crime syndicates and terrorists. They attack mostly cargo ships, but anything might be fair game. The most likely spots for attacks are off the coasts of Malaysia and Indonesia. He also "dramatizes" some recent, extremely brutal real-life examples of piracy. As Burnett shows, the most terrifying scenario is that of a major terrorist attack on the seas. The USS Cole incident suggests that big ships are really quite vulnerable-especially since much of the world's sea cargo is oil. Burnett's well-researched investigation is spiked with plenty of seafaring action. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Maritime piracy, once confined to the history books and long romanticized by storytellers and would-be adventurous youth, experienced a surprisingly rapid resurgence in the last decade. Shipping routes around Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and Africa have seen frequent pirate attacks. Today's pirates, however, have advantages their predecessors never dreamed of, such as modern weapons, radar, and tangles of red tape complicating law enforcement in international waters. Journalist and sailor Burnett joins up with an oil tanker to investigate. He details the antipiracy measures set up by shipping companies, captains, and crews and even tells how, during a pirate drill, one crew member was able to breach security despite the precautions. Throughout the book, Burnett writes of his shipmates' previous encounters with pirates as well as the experiences of other interviewees. If "fascinating" can ever be used to describe such a grave and terrible subject, Burnett's account is a prime example. Both chilling and gripping, Burnett's book will not be confined to the niches of pirate lore or sea adventure, but will attract readers of all interests. Gavin Quinn Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Written like a series that would appear in the newspaper, this is an interesting look at the modern business of piracy. The author points out that there really is no law on the high seas and that kidnapping, ransom and murders are common place. The worst areas are, of course, near the busiest and poorest areas of the world. I found the ties to the modern business world interesting. I note that there is no international will to end piracy and the few measures that ship owners put in place are easily discovered and worked around by the pirates. More interesting is the numerous occasions where local navies refuse to respond to cries for help and in some cases are the actual pirates. I recommend this book as a background before the next major hijacking or ship disaster (think super tanker on a reef or island). Powerful stuff.

An excellent narrative, based on -on the ship research- of modern day piracy. Very sobering of the poor options ship masters have when they are in dangerous waters. As of 10/2014 this activity is still going on, but is not well published due to many business concerns. Unfortunately "brute force resistance by untrained crews generally results on crew death and escalation with modern weapons by the pirates

This is an amazingly written book and I believe acutely describes moderne day piracy. One thing u might need to know is that their are a couple f words in this book so if that bothers u u might need to think twice before getting it

John Burnett is cleary a journalist at the top of his game, and this book is no exception. He sheds a bright light on a huge problem we all have, not just those of us who go to sea. Not only does modern piracy pose a threat to the lives of everyone who ventures into any waters where the US Coast Guard is not there to protect us, but it also threatens our worldwide economy possibly on a scale greater than 9/11 did. Not to mention the environment.I strongly advise everyone to read this book, and I'm sure you'll enjoy it as you learn more than you thought you ever would about modern piracy!

A very informative book but the last 20% of it could be cutout of the book. It almost made me think it was used as filler. This portion gives chronology of each and every Piracy incidence worldwide that's happened. Really really boring after the fourth or fifth incidence....

a lot of good reporting as we have come to expect from Burnett, but i think the book went on a little too long, although i finished it...

This book is certainly enlightening as to the magnitude of the pirate problem in and around the Indian Ocean/South China Sea/Bay of Bengal. It has its good parts and is intersperced with boring parts. If you are contemplating seaborne travel in this part of the world, you \*should\* read this.

I found this to be less than the geopolitical analysis that I was looking for. The book was informative, but too personal to the author and his experience. Also, the subject material is focused on South Asia and the South China Sea rather than the coast of Somalia.

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