[**Swashbuckler 1700**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/20630-swashbuckler-1700/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,115 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Europe
* Interests:pyrates, pryvateers, naval military and other history, different books, good movies, music (a little bit), drawing, games,...

[Posted May 9, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=409099) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=409099)

I know that there were crews that had British, French, Belgians, Swedes, colonial people, Indians (native Americans), Dutch, Spanish, Germans and lots of Africans etc. But the most of the gaop pirates appeared to be British, Africans, French or Colonial Americans and the other nationalities were much rarer. Or am I wrong?

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
* 
* 
* Admin
* 5,081 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Monroe, MI
* Interests:Scholarly piracy, designing and creating haunted house rooms and props, movies, abstract thinking, abstruse thinking, obstructive thinking, ideating, random thinking, movies, cartoons, movies, movies scores, cycling, world peace and small furry dogs, movies, writing, drawing, personal skills training, gremlins and, of course, lest I forget, movies.

[Posted May 9, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=409103) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=409103)

Didn't I just link to the [Pirate Nationalities (Origins)](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/4289-pirate-nationalities-origins/page__hl__nationality) thread a few days ago? You'll find more collected data on pirate nationalities there than I've ever seen anywhere else. Go study it and you can report back your findings. If you want an MS Excel version of the list, you'll find it on my website.

[**Fox**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1019-fox/)

* Old Twillian
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,564 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
* Interests:Nautical history of the 16-18th centuries and living history based thereon.

Shooting pirates.

[Posted May 9, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=409106) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=409106)

Lookg back I'm sure we'd have done it differently if we'd thought, but the trouble (or one of them) with the pirate nationalities thread is that it was never classified by time period. Not all of the names listed in it are from the GAoP.

[**Swashbuckler 1700**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/20630-swashbuckler-1700/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
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* Member
* 1,115 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Europe
* Interests:pyrates, pryvateers, naval military and other history, different books, good movies, music (a little bit), drawing, games,...

[Posted May 10, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=409113) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=409113)

Indeed Foxe .... Good list but periods are missing. Whydah was one good multicultural pirate ship it had e.g Dutch, Swedes, native Americans (only really few) and Africans.

[**Fox**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1019-fox/)

* Old Twillian
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,564 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
* Interests:Nautical history of the 16-18th centuries and living history based thereon.

Shooting pirates.

[Posted May 10, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=409115) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=409115)

For what it's worth, Marcus Rediker's analysis of pirate nationalities is probably the best you're going to get. He admits it's not perfect, but it is based on a range of sources from 1715-1725 which list pirates' nationalities. He reckoned, during that period:

English - 47.4%

Irish - 9.8%

Scottish - 6.3%

Welsh - 4%

"American" (including West Indies) - approx 25%

Other (Dutch, French, Portuguese, Danish, Belgian, Swedish, African) - 6.9%

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

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* Admin
* 5,081 posts
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* Location:Monroe, MI
* Interests:Scholarly piracy, designing and creating haunted house rooms and props, movies, abstract thinking, abstruse thinking, obstructive thinking, ideating, random thinking, movies, cartoons, movies, movies scores, cycling, world peace and small furry dogs, movies, writing, drawing, personal skills training, gremlins and, of course, lest I forget, movies.

[Posted May 10, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=409117) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=409117)

 On 5/9/2012 at 7:38 PM, Foxe said:

Lookg back I'm sure we'd have done it differently if we'd thought, but the trouble (or one of them) with the pirate nationalities thread is that it was never classified by time period. Not all of the names listed in it are from the GAoP.

We actually did talk about that, but the list was so huge at that point that no one wanted to do it. Still, if you know of another place where that data can be found in such a form, fess up. (If Swashbuckler wants to answer his own question, that would be the place to start. He really needs to do some of his own research to become truly knowledgeable and research savvy anyhow.)

One nice thing about the list is that I footnoted a lot of the pirates indicating who contributed the names and what the source was. That would be tremendously helpful in trying to find their dates of operation. Many of the pirates without footnotes came either from Rogozinski's Encyclopedic opus or Gosse's *Who's Who* where more info is in the offing.

Or we could just buckle down and start adding dates. ("Asps! Very dangerous. You go first." )

[**Swashbuckler 1700**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/20630-swashbuckler-1700/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
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* Member
* 1,115 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Europe
* Interests:pyrates, pryvateers, naval military and other history, different books, good movies, music (a little bit), drawing, games,...

[Posted May 10, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=409120) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=409120)

 On 5/10/2012 at 7:28 AM, Foxe said:

For what it's worth, Marcus Rediker's analysis of pirate nationalities is probably the best you're going to get. He admits it's not perfect, but it is based on a range of sources from 1715-1725 which list pirates' nationalities. He reckoned, during that period:

English - 47.4%

Irish - 9.8%

Scottish - 6.3%

Welsh - 4%

"American" (including West Indies) - approx 25%

Other (Dutch, French, Portuguese, Danish, Belgian, Swedish, African) - 6.9%

The small number of Africans is odd. It seems that some crews had not Africans at all but others had sometimes almost 50%. Like La Buse's Robert's or Bellamy's crews. Roberts (if my memory serves me right) had Greeks aboard and there is hints of the Spanish too

.

You may disagree but I think that in this case it is silly to put as accurate percents as 6.9% why not put just 7% since they are only for illustrative purposes.

That list seems to be good and there is still almost 10% non British men (or cononial Americans), BTW "Americans" does those mean only English colonies or Dutch, Spanish and French too?

Sorry is spelling was bad but I made this in hurry.

[**Swashbuckler 1700**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/20630-swashbuckler-1700/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,115 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Europe
* Interests:pyrates, pryvateers, naval military and other history, different books, good movies, music (a little bit), drawing, games,...

[Posted May 12, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=409163) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=409163)

This is from book the pirate ship 1660- 1730 ( Osprey but...)

A Danish (hmm. interesting) victim of Bart R recalled:

" The said Roberts' ship manned with about **180 white** men and about **48 French Creole negroes**...

**Edited May 12, 2012 by Swashbuckler 1700**

[**Fox**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1019-fox/)

* Old Twillian
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,564 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
* Interests:Nautical history of the 16-18th centuries and living history based thereon.

Shooting pirates.

[Posted May 12, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=409168) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=409168)

The thing with African or other black 'pirates' is that in many cases it's impossible to tell whether they were actually pirates or were kept as slaves on board a pirate ship - if you appreciate the difference.

For example, much has been made of the fact that when Blackbeard left Topsail inlet on the *Revenge* he had a 'crew' consisting of 40 white men and 60 black men. In fact, though, a variety of sources make it clear that the black men were slaves in every sense of the word.

I don't recall any definite evidence one way or another regarding the status of the black men in Roberts crew, except that many of them did not speak English, so it's unlikely that they were fully integrated into the predominantly Anglophone company.

[**Swashbuckler 1700**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/20630-swashbuckler-1700/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,115 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Europe
* Interests:pyrates, pryvateers, naval military and other history, different books, good movies, music (a little bit), drawing, games,...

[Posted May 12, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=409169) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=409169)

 On 5/12/2012 at 2:52 PM, Foxe said:

The thing with African or other black 'pirates' is that in many cases it's impossible to tell whether they were actually pirates or were kept as slaves on board a pirate ship - if you appreciate the difference.

For example, much has been made of the fact that when Blackbeard left Topsail inlet on the *Revenge* he had a 'crew' consisting of 40 white men and 60 black men. In fact, though, a variety of sources make it clear that the black men were slaves in every sense of the word.

I don't recall any definite evidence one way or another regarding the status of the black men in Roberts crew, except that many of them did not speak English, so it's unlikely that they were fully integrated into the predominantly Anglophone company.

Indeed

some Africans were even officers like John Julian or Black Ceasar but it seems that often Africans were slaves

Truth is far more complicated that some "whydah people" want us to believe u know the " blacks were equals aboard pirate ship" junk...

[**Fox**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1019-fox/)

* Old Twillian
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,564 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
* Interests:Nautical history of the 16-18th centuries and living history based thereon.

Shooting pirates.

[Posted May 12, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=409173) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=409173)

Before I get accused of racism, let me say that I have no axe to grind regarding black pirates. Undoubtedly there were some free black pirates who were valued members of the company, bore arms, and shared in the plunder. But now we've got that out of the way, I'm going to question the 'officer' status of both John Julian and Caesar.

The sum of evidence that Caesar was an officer is that he was apparently the one entrusted to blow up the *Revenge* in the event of Blackbeard's defeat. There's no evidence that I recall that he was an officer - that is, had command over other pirates in the company - or even that he wasn't a slave like the rest of the black men on Blackbeard's ship. The fact that he and a handful of other black men were still aboard at the time of the final battle suggests that they may have been more highly respected than the ones Blackbeard and his company sold, but it might just mean that they were the ones owned by other members of the company also still aboard.

John Julian's 'officer' status is also far from clear. He is described somewhere as the *Whydah's* pilot, but the word 'pilot' had two distinct meanings in the GAoP. It could refer to the officer in charge of navigation, and this is the sense in which it is usually applied to John Julian, but it is important to note that Ken Kinkor is John Julian's greatest champion, and coincidentally the author most strongly connected with the idea of pirate racial tolerance. On the other hand, 'pilot' could also mean a local expert who had the task of navigating a ship in a particular locale, like a modern port pilot does, rather than an officer with any actual authority. Now, in the trial of the *Whydah* survivors it was specifically testified that John Julian was pilot *because he was born at Cape Cod and knew those waters*, which suggests that he was a pilot in the local temporary sense rather than a permanent ship's officer.

[**Swashbuckler 1700**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/20630-swashbuckler-1700/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,115 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Europe
* Interests:pyrates, pryvateers, naval military and other history, different books, good movies, music (a little bit), drawing, games,...

[Posted May 13, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=409175) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=409175)

 On 5/12/2012 at 7:36 PM, Foxe said:

Before I get accused of racism, let me say that I have no axe to grind regarding black pirates. Undoubtedly there were some free black pirates who were valued members of the company, bore arms, and shared in the plunder. But now we've got that out of the way, I'm going to question the 'officer' status of both John Julian and Caesar.

The sum of evidence that Caesar was an officer is that he was apparently the one entrusted to blow up the *Revenge* in the event of Blackbeard's defeat. There's no evidence that I recall that he was an officer - that is, had command over other pirates in the company - or even that he wasn't a slave like the rest of the black men on Blackbeard's ship. The fact that he and a handful of other black men were still aboard at the time of the final battle suggests that they may have been more highly respected than the ones Blackbeard and his company sold, but it might just mean that they were the ones owned by other members of the company also still aboard.

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Indeed. I had interesting conversation about this with Brit.Privateer and he had quite similar thoughts.

While I was doing my thesis about african slave trade to high-school I noted it is bad that in western countries the subbejct is so shamed that sources are still liitle hard to get ( especially neutral ones). It too bad that in neutral conversation in web accusing other nazis, racist etc. without reason is far too common while conversation has been neutral.

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
* 
* 
* Admin
* 5,081 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Monroe, MI
* Interests:Scholarly piracy, designing and creating haunted house rooms and props, movies, abstract thinking, abstruse thinking, obstructive thinking, ideating, random thinking, movies, cartoons, movies, movies scores, cycling, world peace and small furry dogs, movies, writing, drawing, personal skills training, gremlins and, of course, lest I forget, movies.

[Posted May 13, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=409176) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=409176)

 On 5/12/2012 at 7:36 PM, Foxe said:

On the other hand, 'pilot' could also mean a local expert who had the task of navigating a ship in a particular locale, like a modern port pilot does, rather than an officer with any actual authority. Now, in the trial of the *Whydah* survivors it was specifically testified that John Julian was pilot *because he was born at Cape Cod and knew those waters*, which suggests that he was a pilot in the local temporary sense rather than a permanent ship's officer.

In the period accounts I've read, that meaning of the term seems to be used more often than the other. In fact, before you delineated the difference, I had thought this was the meaning based on the frequency that I had seen it used in that way. It does explain one account I read that confused me.

[**Swashbuckler 1700**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/20630-swashbuckler-1700/)

* Dread Pyrate
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* Gender:Male
* Location:Europe
* Interests:pyrates, pryvateers, naval military and other history, different books, good movies, music (a little bit), drawing, games,...

[Posted May 17, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=409263) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=409263)

Sorry I have some problems with text editing tool

The historian David Cordingly published a study indicating that of the

known pirates active in the Caribbean between 1715 and 1725, 35 per cent were English, 25 per cent colonial Americans, 20 per cent from the West Indian

colonies (mainlyJamaica and Barbados), ten per cent were Scottish and eight per

cent were Welsh. The remaining two per cent were from other seafaring

countries, such as Sweden, Holland, France or Spain.

In his book "Scourge of the Seas - Buccaneers, Pirates and Privateers" Konstam says

" A large percentage of pirate crews were also black men of African descent. An

account of the crew of Bartholomew Roberts in 1721 reported that they were

composed of 180 white men and 48 'French Creole' black men. When his crew

were captured by the Royal Navy off West Africa, the prisoners comprised 187

white and 75 black men. Many of these black men were escaped slaves from the

West Indies plantations, although a number were volunteers from captured slave

ships. As the racial composition contradicts that encountered in merchant or naval

ships of the early 18th century, it has to be assumed that the majority of

these black men were 'landsmen'. This begs the question of what exactly their role

was on board a ship crewed by professional seamen. While a number of historians

argue that they served on an equal footing with white men, there is a large body

of evidence to suggest that they were regarded as servants, used to carry out heavy

or menial tasks on board the pirate vessel. As familiarity and experience grew,

these black men may have enjoyed a more integrated relationship with the crew.

According to trial transcripts, a number of integrated crews existed, where

Africans were considered full crew members. These men had the most to lose by

capture, knowing that if they were not hanged they would be enslaved. A number

of Africans, including escaped plantation slaves as well as new arrivals, did succeed

in becoming pirates in their own right. One exaggerated Jamaican newspaper

article of 1725 reported bands of African and African--American pirates marauding

the Caribbean and eating the hearts of the white men they captured."

**Edited May 17, 2012 by Swashbuckler 1700**

[**Daniel**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/352-daniel/)

* Pyrate Captain
* 
* 
* Member
* 652 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:McLean, VA
* Interests:History, pirates, fiction, writing, writing historical fiction about pirates, jokes, games, law.

[Posted May 17, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=409276) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=409276)

Interesting! I didn't know there was evidence that Julian might have been only a local pilot.

There is also John Gardiner's tantalizing passing reference to Captain Kidd's quartermaster, Hendrick van der Heul as "a little black man," in Jameson, *Privateering and Piracy in the Colonial Period: Illustrative Documents,* p. 222. But did that mean black-haired, or black-skinned?

Are there any known examples of black officers on colonial-era European or American vessels *other* than amongst pirates? Certainly many of them were crewmen (Crispus Attucks comes to mind).

[**Fox**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1019-fox/)

* Old Twillian
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,564 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
* Interests:Nautical history of the 16-18th centuries and living history based thereon.

Shooting pirates.

[Posted May 17, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=409281) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=409281)

From the deposition of John Brown, one of the survivors of the *Mary Anne*:

"They made the best of their way for Cape Cod intending to clean their Ship at Green Island (having one Lambeth and an Indian born at Cape Cod for Pilots)..."

Re. Hendrick van der Heul: 'black' in period documents *almost* always means black haired. The usual way of describing a black skinned person in virtually every case was 'negro'. In the absence of evidence to the contrary, I would suppose this to mean that Kidd's QM was dark haired.

[**Swashbuckler 1700**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/20630-swashbuckler-1700/)

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[Posted May 18, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=409292) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=409292)

List from GHoP of stede Bonnet's captured crew . Note Bonnet's crew was hired (indeed hired) from Barbados so there is only few nonAmericans or nonBritish.

2Stede Bonnet, alias Edwards, alias Thomas, late of Barbadoes, Mariner.

Robert Tucker, late of the Island of Jamaica, Mariner

Edward Robinson, late of New-Castle upon Tine, Mariner.

Neal Paterson, late of Aberdeen, Mariner.

William Scot, late of Aberdeen, Mariner.

William Eddy, alias Neddy, late of Aberdeen, Mariner.

Alexander Annand, late of Jamaica, Mariner.

George Rose, late of Glascow, Mariner.

George Dunkin, late of Glascow, Mariner.

\*Thomas Nicholas, late of London, Mariner.

John Ridge, late of London, Mariner.

Matthew King, late of Jamaica, Mariner.

Daniel Perry, late of Guernsey, Mariner.

Henry Virgin, late of Bristol, Mariner.

James Robbins, alias Rattle, late of London, Mariner.

James Mullet, alias Millet, late of London, Mariner.

Thomas Price, late of Bristol, Mariner.

James Wilson, late of Dublin, Mariner.

John Lopez, late of **Oporto,** Mariner.

Zachariah Long, late of the Province of **Holland**, Mariner.

Job Bayly, late of London, Mariner.

John-William Smith, late of Charles-Town, Carolina, Mariner.

Thomas Carman, late of Maidstone in Kent, Mariner.

John Thomas, late of Jamaica, Mariner.

William Morrison, late of Jamaica, Mariner.

Samuel Booth, late of Charles-Town, Mariner.

William Hewet, late of Jamaica, Mariner.

John Levit, late of North-Carolina, Mariner.

William Livers, alias Evis.

John Brierly, alias Timberhead, late of Bath-Town in North Carolina, Mariner.

Robert Boyd, late of Bath-Town aforesaid, Mariner

Rowland Sharp, of Bath-Town, Mariner.

\*Jonathan Clarke, late of Charles-Town, South Carolina, Mariner.

\*Thomas Gerrard, late of Antegoa, Mariner.

And all, except the three last, and Thomas Nicholas, were found "

**Edited May 18, 2012 by Swashbuckler 1700**

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
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[Posted May 18, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=409296) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=409296)

Yeah, we've really covered all this ground (x1000) in the [Pirate Nationalities (Origins)](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/4289-pirate-nationalities-origins/page__hl__nationality) thread which I mentioned in the second post. What does everyone think of attaching this to that thread. Or I could take the slavery aside out and attach that to one of the threads on that topic and just attach the stuff in here that is directly related to the pirate nationality makeup.

[**Swashbuckler 1700**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/20630-swashbuckler-1700/)

* Dread Pyrate
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* Member
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* Gender:Male
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* Interests:pyrates, pryvateers, naval military and other history, different books, good movies, music (a little bit), drawing, games,...

[Posted May 18, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=409299) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=409299)

 On 5/18/2012 at 2:57 PM, Mission said:

Yeah, we've really covered all this ground (x1000) in the [Pirate Nationalities (Origins)](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/4289-pirate-nationalities-origins/page__hl__nationality) thread which I mentioned in the second post. What does everyone think of attaching this to that thread. Or I could take the slavery aside out and attach that to one of the threads on that topic and just attach the stuff in here that is directly related to the pirate nationality makeup.

But that tread focus on nationalities in general not gaop one.

[**Fox**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1019-fox/)

* Old Twillian
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* Moderator
* 2,564 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
* Interests:Nautical history of the 16-18th centuries and living history based thereon.

Shooting pirates.

[Posted May 18, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=409300) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=409300)

I'm not sure that either thread would benefit from being joined, since they do have somewhat different criteria - accepting that both are about nationalities. The pirate nationalities thread is far too broad in scope, both geographically and chronologically, to be relevant to the question of purely GAoP pirates, and this thread has too much (interesting) clutter to be an improvement to the other thread. My 2d worth.

So looking at Bonnet's crew list: 2 out of 34 men were not Anglophones, that's about 6% - which is more or less what Rediker said...

Not all of Bonnet's company were part of his original Barbados crew: at least some of them joined him from Blackbeard's company when BB wrecked the QAR, and some of them, (at least Brierly, Boyd, and Sharp) joined him after the split from Blackbeard.

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Shooting pirates.

[Posted June 3, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=409628) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=409628)

Possibly of interest, from Richard Hawkins account of being captured by Spriggs' company:

"When they first took me, they had twelve Guns, and thirty seven Men. I observ'd two *Irish*, one *Sweed*, and one *French* Man; the rest, I believe, are English."

(Italics in original)

[**Swashbuckler 1700**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/20630-swashbuckler-1700/)

* Dread Pyrate
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* Member
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[Posted June 3, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=409631) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=409631)

I do wonder how so multicultural crews communicated... There is a tread about it in here pub.......

**Edited June 3, 2012 by Swashbuckler 1700**

[**Fox**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1019-fox/)

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Shooting pirates.

[Posted June 3, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=409634) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=409634)

Here's another bit that you might find interesting, from Jacob du Bucquoy's account of his time as a captive of John Taylor:

"he divided his men into squads [messes] of seven men, consisting, for example, of a Frenchman, a Swede, a Portuguese and three or four Englishmen, so that the English, on whom he could depend, were always in the majority, and could warn him of all that was done or said on board."

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[Posted June 3, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=409637) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=409637)

Realy interesting!

Quite multicultural it seems....

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* Member
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* Gender:Male
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[Posted June 4, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=409647) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=409647)

I find the relative "big" number of Swedes odd.... Portuquese I undertand since there was many Portuquese ships captured and they also had links to RN (there were constanty British ships in Lisbon)....

Dutch are rarer than we or at least I could think but there were Dutch indeed but not too many. E.G Bonnet had one and so was in the Whydah and etc....

Johnson has theory why there were only some Dutch (Foxe hinted me about this in other tread ).

***" I have not so much as heard of a Dutch Pyrate: It is not that I take them to be honester than their Neighbours; but when we account for it, it will, perhaps, be a Reproach to our selves for our want of Industry: The Reason I take to be, that after a War, when the Dutch Ships are laid up, they have a Fishery, where their Seamen find immediate Business, and as comfortable Bread as they had before. Had ours the same Recourse in their Necessities, I'm certain we should find the same Effect from it; for a Fishery is a Trade that cannot be overstock'd; the Sea is wide enough for us all, we need not quarrel for Elbow-room: Its Stores are infinite, and will ever reward the Labourer. Besides, our own Coast, for the most Part, supply the Dutch, who employ several hundred Sail constantly in the Trade, and so sell to us our own Fish."***

**Edited June 4, 2012 by Swashbuckler 1700**

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[Posted June 4, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=409648) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=409648)

Multicultural crews should also take in consideration when thinking the pirate clothing. Frenchmen could have small sashes (small) and dutch (dare I say) perhaps occasional pearl earring like we know some Ducth sailor useing in gaop. But still not anything that H. Pyle has made.... But most of the men were Britons so.... I am **not** defending typical pirate image as a accurate one....

**Edited June 4, 2012 by Swashbuckler 1700**

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
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* Admin
* 5,081 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Monroe, MI
* Interests:Scholarly piracy, designing and creating haunted house rooms and props, movies, abstract thinking, abstruse thinking, obstructive thinking, ideating, random thinking, movies, cartoons, movies, movies scores, cycling, world peace and small furry dogs, movies, writing, drawing, personal skills training, gremlins and, of course, lest I forget, movies.

[Posted June 4, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=409649) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=409649)

 On 6/3/2012 at 3:00 PM, Swashbuckler 1700 said:

Realy interesting!

Quite multicultural it seems....

Funny, I was just thinking how homogeneously European it was. In those last two quotes there appears to be a decided bias towards the English as well.

The language question is sort of interesting. I theorize that people who successfully traveled the sea learned enough of the most common languages to get the basics across to each other. Nearly every sailor's account I have read contains foreign words (usually barbarously phonetically spelled, of course.) Plus they could always use gestures.

Although I also remember reading about some group of pirates forcing a captured Spaniard to speak to Spanish ship in a fleet so that the pirates could pretend to be Spanish and get in amongst them. But then the Spanish seemed to be the most insular group of sailors in the Caribbean.

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[Posted June 4, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=409650) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=409650)

" homogeneously European " well Africans were not there but it is multicultural. What you think there need to be to be multicultural Chinese?

**Edited June 4, 2012 by Swashbuckler 1700**

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* 5,081 posts
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[Posted June 4, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=409652) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=409652)

There could have been Africans, middle easterners, American Indians, Indians, multiple varieties of Orientals, Russians, Spaniards, American Colonists (although they were basically transplanted Europeans as well), Maltese, Italians...

If you go look at the list sorted by nationalities that I keep mentioning, you'll notice a decided preponderance of UK Pirates (Scottish, English, Welsh and Irish) with the second and third largest follow up nationalities being French and German and the Nordic Countries running fourth. Yet all these people lived within fairly close proximity to one another and are encompassed by the continent of Europe - the second smallest continent in the world. Sure, they all have different cultures, but in many ways those cultures are more similar to than different from one other. Their languages are primarily Germanic- or Latin-based, their cultures developed in somewhat similar ways and at similar times, their monarchs intermarried and their religions were mostly Christian-based.

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[Posted June 4, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=409653) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=409653)

 On 6/4/2012 at 11:01 AM, Mission said:

There could have been Africans, middle easterners, American Indians, Indians, multiple varieties of Orientals, Russians, Spaniards, American Colonists (although they were basically transplanted Europeans as well), Maltese, Italians...

If you go look at the list sorted by nationalities that I keep mentioning, you'll notice a decided preponderance of UK Pirates (Scottish, English, Welsh and Irish) with the second and third largest follow up nationalities being French and German and the Nordic Countries running fourth. Yet all these people lived within fairly close proximity to one another and are encompassed by the continent of Europe - the second smallest continent in the world. Sure, they all have different cultures, but in many ways those cultures are more similar to than different from one other. Their languages are primarily Germanic- or Latin-based, their cultures developed in somewhat similar ways and at similar times, their monarchs intermarried and their religions were mostly Christian-based.

Quite right (Holland was btw a republic).

I dare to say that often English colonists were called Englishmen as well.

I dare to claim that Roberts had Creeks and perhaps even Maltese.

Russia was pretty isolated then, and Orientals well why there would be those.

There were some Spaniards but I have no records handy.

There were indians but not too many Africans were well represented in pirate crews

• Bellamy (1717) – more than 27 out of 180 men

• England (1718) – less than 50 out of 180 men

• Lowther (1724) – 9 out of 23 men

•Blackbeard (1717) – 60 out of 100; (1718) – 5 out 14

• La Bouche (1719) – 32 out of 64 men

These facts are from <http://www.cindyvallar.com/blackpirates.html>

There only some examples but some of them were saves of the pirates

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[Posted June 4, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=409654) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=409654)

Speaking of Spanish this is from that same site which is quite reliable since it has many great sources

" In late September 1720, Captain **Nicholas de Concepcion** and 140 pirates (Spaniards “and others of diverse Nations”) cruised the waters of Virginia and the Chesapeake Bay aboard a well-armed Spanish brigantine from Saint Augustine. Their first capture was a Philadelphia sloop named *Mary*, commanded by Captain Jacobs. She carried a cargo of bread and flour. Concepcion decided she would make an excellent consort to the pirate brigantine. Captain Sipkin was master of the pirates’ second capture. A prize crew was put aboard and the ship set sail for Saint Augustine. The pirates seized a pink, bound to Virginia from Barbados, in the Chesapeake Bay on 23 September. Her captain was a man named Spicer. Once again Concepcion sent a prize crew aboard the pink to sail her to Florida. Sometime later, Concepcion and his men took a Liverpool merchantman named *Planter* that was eventually retaken. During a search of her papers, her rescuers discovered a forged letter of marque from the Governor of Saint Augustine. It was dated after the war between England and Spain ended. Attempts were made to capture the pirates, but they escaped."

**Edited June 4, 2012 by Swashbuckler 1700**

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[Posted June 4, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=409655) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=409655)

Robert's crew from GHoP

I think that this does not include those 70 Africans that he had.

There is many Britons but few other as well

**Mens Names Years of Age Habitations.**

William Magnes 35 Minehead.

Richard Hardy 25 Wales.

David Sympson 36 North-Berwick.

Christopher Moody 28 (was he never even a captain?)

Thomas Sutton 23 Berwick.

Valentine Ashplant 32 Minories.

Peter de Vine 42 Stepney.

William Philips 29 Lower-Shadwell.

Philip Bill 27 **St. Thomas's. (Danish colony)**

William Main 28

William Mackintosh 21 Canterbury.

William Williams 40 nigh Plymouth.

Robert Haws 31 Yarmouth.

William Petty 30 Deptford.

John Jaynson 22 nigh Lancaster.

Marcus Johnson 21 **Smyrna. (in Greece)**

Robert Crow 44 Isle of Man.

Michael Maer 41 **Ghent. (France)**

Daniel Harding 26 Croomsbury in Somersetshire.

William Fernon 22 Somersetshire.

Jo. More 19 Meer in Wiltshire.

Abraham Harper 23 Bristol.

Jo. Parker 22 Winfred in Dorsetshire.

Jo. Philips 28 Alloway in Scotland.

James Clement 20 Jersey.

Peter Scvdamore 35 Bristol.

James Skyrm 44 Wales.

John Walden 24 Somersetshire.

Jo. Stephenson 40 Whitby.

Jo. Mansfield 30 Orkneys.

Israel Hynde 30 Bristol.

Peter Lesley 21 Aberdeen.

Charles Bunce 26 Excter

Robert Birtson 30 Other St. Maries Devonshire.

Richard Harris 45 Cornwall.

Joseph Nosuter 26 Sadbury in Devonshire.

William Williams 30 Speechless at Execution. ( hmm why?.. interesting...)

Agge Jacobson 30 **Holland.**

Benjamin Jefferys 21 Bristol.

Cuthbert Goss 21 Topsham.

John Jessup 20 Plymouth.

Edward Watts 22 Dunmore.

Thomas Giles 26 Mine-head.

William Wood 27 York.

Thomas Armstrong 34 London, executed on board the Weymouth.

Robert Johnson 32 **at Whydah. (in Africa or?)**

George Smith 25 Wales.

William Watts 23 Ireland.

James Philips 35 Antegoa.

John Coleman 24 Wales.

Robert Hays 20 Liverpool.

William Davis 23 Wales.

**Edited June 4, 2012 by Swashbuckler 1700**

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Shooting pirates.

[Posted June 4, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=409657) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=409657)

Wow! So many posts to answer 

 On 6/4/2012 at 11:01 AM, Mission said:

There could have been Africans, middle easterners, American Indians, Indians, multiple varieties of Orientals, Russians, Spaniards, American Colonists (although they were basically transplanted Europeans as well), Maltese, Italians...

Bear in mind that many pirates simply described as "English" in the GAoP might easily have been American colonists, who were usually described as "English" at the time.

 Quote

If you go look at the list sorted by nationalities that I keep mentioning, you'll notice a decided preponderance of UK Pirates (Scottish, English, Welsh and Irish) with the second and third largest follow up nationalities being French and German and the Nordic Countries running fourth.

That's a good example of one of the problems with the list, if I may say so. I haven't checked your footnotes, so forgive me if I'm wrong, but at the time we were compiling that list Marcus was writing his PhD thesis on Medieval German pirates, so I suspect a lot of those Germans came from him and have no bearing at all on the make-up of GAoP crews.

 Swashbuckler1700 said:

There were indians but not too many Africans were well represented in pirate crews

• Bellamy (1717) – more than 27 out of 180 men

• England (1718) – less than 50 out of 180 men

• Lowther (1724) – 9 out of 23 men

•Blackbeard (1717) – 60 out of 100; (1718) – 5 out 14

• La Bouche (1719) – 32 out of 64 men

Careful with those: England and la Bouche were know to have tried slave trading, and the black men on Blackbeard's ship were almost certainly slave as well.

 Swashbuckler1700 said:

I think that this does not include those 70 Africans that he had

No, that list only includes those executed, so it doesn't include the Africans, those killed in the battle with HMS *Swallow*, those acquitted, those sentenced to servitude, or those respited to the Marshalsea prison.

 Quote

Christopher Moody 28 (was he never even a captain?)

No, despite the fact that many historians associate 'Captain Moody' with him, he was never a captain. The 'Captain Moody' mentioned in other documents was most likely either Samuel or William.

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[Posted June 4, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=409658) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=409658)

When you think about it, it's really not surprising that Europe was the major contributor to the pirate makeup at that time. For several hundred years, England and her neighbors were the expansionists, traveling and exploring. Naturally the criminal element would be traveling and exploring with them.

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[Posted June 4, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=409659) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=409659)

The thing about black pirates is a two edged sword often there were slaves of the pirates but there were also some of those Africans who were consired as crewmen with the others. But it seems that really often clack men were slaves or they were considered as lower people. like Foxe said before "Undoubtedly there were some free black pirates who were valued members of the company, bore arms, and shared in the plunder"

but like he said often pirates sold Africans as slaves and so on.

**Edited June 4, 2012 by Swashbuckler 1700**

[**Tartan Jack**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/4587-tartan-jack/)

* Notorious Pyrate
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* Location:South Carolina
* Interests:History, Scotland, Batman, Cars, and more<br />Married with 2 kids<br />

[Posted June 4, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=409660) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=409660)

Add to that the fact that those who were "crewmen" could also be, in a sense, loyal "slaves" to the captain or another officer, actual free men, freed by capability and likability by the crew, or flat out slaves w/ no right, and also that captured black pirates, slave or free, were often sold into slavery.

**Edited June 4, 2012 by Tartan Jack**

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[Posted June 5, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=409668) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=409668)

I am **not** a racist. This is just historican thinking

Hogarth again shows us what was the usual status of African aboard ships. He is certainly a slave while he is dressed well (He looks like sailor and he has nice red tie.... wondering still tie colors) and he has also a turban thing... no wait that is a wig. He is captains personal servant.



Avery in period art is having a slave too

and this from buccaneer articles and it tells something about how slaves were treated

"Thus they order for the loss of a right arm **six hundred pieces of eight, or six slaves** ; for the loss of a left arm **five hundred pieces of eight, or five slaves** ; for a right leg **five hundred pieces of eight, or five slaves** ; for the left leg four **hundred pieces of eight, or four slaves** ; for an eye **one hundred pieces of eight, or one slave** ; for a finger of the hand the same reward as for the eye."

We can also count from that that a slave in late 1600s cost 100 Pesos.

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[Posted June 5, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=409670) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=409670)

Slavery, itself, is a VERY complex issue in this period, as it was through the 1860s 150 years later in the Americas. We tend to view it through a post-Reconstruction (the period following the American Civil War) lens as a rather "black and white" (if you excuse the pun) issue. At the time, there were many, many gray stances on it and a huge range of shades. It WAS legal and a vital economic reality- all over the home countries and the colonies and wasn't an "Africans are slaves" issues, as there were also actual slaves of "foreign"nationality to a country and also of indentured servants that were of a crazy length and "debt slaves" as well from within a nationality.

On this matter, we need to TRY and view it as someone from the early 1700s would, rather than as a late 20th/early 21st century person. On pirate ships, all types of slave-free relationships existed, but not all at the same time on the same ship/boat.

To keep in mind about myself-> I am against racism, period, and have helped "desegregate" several white, black, and asian groups, unintentionally, by my stance that ANY decision where race itself is the primary or a prime reason for said decision, it is racism- whether that racism is good or bad (which it CAN be either). I've also BEEN the "outside" race in a number of Asian, Latino, and African-American (and African too) situations- so, I know "how it feels" to be criticized and to hide under the seat of a van . . .

Now, race and culture aren't the same thing!

The goal SHOULD be to get where skin color is like the "fiery red head" and "dumb blonde" ideas. It is a joke, but anyone who takes it seriously is seen as an idiot by anyone else.

Yet, through my personal interests and circumstances, I've read and interviewed an inordinate amount on the issues of slavery and racism. So, I have more knowledge and "learnin'" on the matter than many who pontificate upon the matter.

[**Tartan Jack**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/4587-tartan-jack/)

* Notorious Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 908 posts
* Location:South Carolina
* Interests:History, Scotland, Batman, Cars, and more<br />Married with 2 kids<br />

[Posted June 5, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=409671) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=409671)

Oh, I want to throw in another element:

Slavery as legal protection . . .

I know of particular instances where churches and individuals utilized the legal "slave" status to employ and protect others they valued, but were of a lower socio-economic class standing. In this case, the "slave" was treated as either a brother/sister or child (depending on specific situation). That is the foundation for the loyalty some "slaves" had for their masters that where beyond what makes sense to most today.

In the 1830s-1860s there were several churches in my area that "owned" a slave that was college and seminary educated and whose duties was as the full-time pastor of the "black" members of the community. The support of that position continued well after the American Civil War, sometimes decades later.

That situation may be helpful to explain some of the relationships in-period, as well, esp. those that don't seem to make sense from our modern perspective.

That was one of the most surprising situation I found . . .

Folks using the legal status as something else and "good" from a modern perspective! Slave-owners that were actually "anti-slavery" . . .

And have even read a court case in South Carolina from the 1854 where a slave owner was prosecuted for teaching his slaves and helping them establish businesses and communities. He was accused of "undermining" the institution and of being "anti-slavery," even though the accused owned hundreds of 'em. I wish I could remember the specifics, but that was over 15 years ago in a college archive.

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
* 
* 
* Admin
* 5,081 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Monroe, MI
* Interests:Scholarly piracy, designing and creating haunted house rooms and props, movies, abstract thinking, abstruse thinking, obstructive thinking, ideating, random thinking, movies, cartoons, movies, movies scores, cycling, world peace and small furry dogs, movies, writing, drawing, personal skills training, gremlins and, of course, lest I forget, movies.

[Posted June 5, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=409672) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=409672)

So, basically all that boils down to...

 On 5/31/2012 at 9:54 AM, Mission said:

When you come down to it, history is necessarily messy when you're being fair about what really happened.

I should really make that my signature line.

[**Daniel**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/352-daniel/)

* Pyrate Captain
* 
* 
* Member
* 652 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:McLean, VA
* Interests:History, pirates, fiction, writing, writing historical fiction about pirates, jokes, games, law.

[Posted June 5, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=409676) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=409676)

Slavery at sea is an interesting and confusing matter. Lord Mansfield ruled in Somersett's Case that England (as opposed to the English colonies) had no slavery, and that a slave's chains basically fell from his body the moment his feet touched English soil, and that he could not be returned to slavery even if he was captured and brought back onto a ship. But that was in 1772. Was slavery really unrecognized and unenforced in England during the GAoP, as Mansfield claimed it wasn't?

[**Swashbuckler 1700**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/20630-swashbuckler-1700/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,115 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Europe
* Interests:pyrates, pryvateers, naval military and other history, different books, good movies, music (a little bit), drawing, games,...

[Posted June 5, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=409678) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=409678)

Too bad that I don't have many of the books that I used in my school work (for slave trade) I would have nice stuff there... 

[**Daniel**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/352-daniel/)

* Pyrate Captain
* 
* 
* Member
* 652 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:McLean, VA
* Interests:History, pirates, fiction, writing, writing historical fiction about pirates, jokes, games, law.

[Posted June 6, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=409693) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=409693)

Here's a reference from Galvin's *Patterns of Pillage,* p. 205. "Mansfield's followers are said to have numbered six hundred men of several nationalities, speaking different languages, as among them, besides many English, there were Flemings, French, Genoese, Greeks, Levantines, Portuguese, Indians, and negroes."

[**Swashbuckler 1700**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/20630-swashbuckler-1700/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,115 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Europe
* Interests:pyrates, pryvateers, naval military and other history, different books, good movies, music (a little bit), drawing, games,...

[Posted June 6, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=409697) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=409697)

In what time that happened? In gaop?

[**Daniel**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/352-daniel/)

* Pyrate Captain
* 
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* Member
* 652 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:McLean, VA
* Interests:History, pirates, fiction, writing, writing historical fiction about pirates, jokes, games, law.

[Posted June 6, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=409702) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=409702)

In the early 1660s. Mansfield was Henry Morgan's mentor.

[**Swashbuckler 1700**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/20630-swashbuckler-1700/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,115 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Europe
* Interests:pyrates, pryvateers, naval military and other history, different books, good movies, music (a little bit), drawing, games,...

[Posted June 7, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=409708) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=409708)

Oh I know that man but with other writing style (I have read Mansvelt) then I know that man.

**Edited June 7, 2012 by Swashbuckler 1700**

[**Tartan Jack**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/4587-tartan-jack/)

* Notorious Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 908 posts
* Location:South Carolina
* Interests:History, Scotland, Batman, Cars, and more<br />Married with 2 kids<br />

[Posted June 7, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=409710) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=409710)

This can't edit feature can be frustrating . . .

I forgot to mention the legal issue at the core of the 1850s trials mentioned on page 2. At the time, it was illegal in South Carolina to teach a slave to read and write above a rudimentary level (one reason being the fear of slave revolt on coastal plantations). There was a series of prosecutions in the Upstate and Catawba River Valley areas where people and institutions were giving high school and even college and seminary educations to slaves, which they legally "owned" . . . Is that pro, anti-slavery, or something else entirely?

The point of the posts was to highlight the "gray" areas around what was a legal institution of the GAoP that is seen as entirely evil and wrong today. Even then, when legal and common, there were many shades between "for" and "against." Now, THAT makes me very, very curious as to the place of the "Negro" and "African" folks on pirate ships. Where in this huge range were they? Did it vary widely? (I suspect it did)

If you are willing to answer on here, Foxe, what is said about slaves, slavery, and "Africans" (or the like) in relevant period wills and articles? I'm curious.

[**Swashbuckler 1700**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/20630-swashbuckler-1700/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,115 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Europe
* Interests:pyrates, pryvateers, naval military and other history, different books, good movies, music (a little bit), drawing, games,...

[Posted June 7, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=409711) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=409711)

In Port Royal inventories of stores slaves are there like any other stuff <http://nautarch.tamu.edu/portroyal/archives/invent.htm>

here is one list from it

4 Stone Juggs

1 Swinging Glass Crackt

2 Silver Tankards 2 Muggs 3 Silver Spoons 1 Silver Peper Box

a Snuff Box [one](http://nautarch.tamu.edu/portroyal/archives/Inventories/Vol10/10-238.htm) Medall a little of Silver Chain at 79 Ounces

at 5/qt Ounce amounting to

A Negro Boy

A pair of Seales with 2 Weights

A Pocket Book with a Silver Pen

A Bedstead

A Silver Watch

[**Daniel**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/352-daniel/)

* Pyrate Captain
* 
* 
* Member
* 652 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:McLean, VA
* Interests:History, pirates, fiction, writing, writing historical fiction about pirates, jokes, games, law.

[Posted June 7, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=409712) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=409712)

 On 6/7/2012 at 1:09 PM, Tartan Jack said:

I forgot to mention the legal issue at the core of the 1850s trials mentioned on page 2. At the time, it was illegal in South Carolina to teach a slave to read and write above a rudimentary level (one reason being the fear of slave revolt on coastal plantations). There was a series of prosecutions in the Upstate and Catawba River Valley areas where people and institutions were giving high school and even college and seminary educations to slaves, which they legally "owned" . . . Is that pro, anti-slavery, or something else entirely?

I'm not certain about the facts of these specific cases. But recall that one of the chief excuses offered for slavery, both in GAoP and the time you refer to, was to educate and Christianize the slaves. The law forbidding the education of slaves shows that for the majority of the slaveholders who dominated the state legislatures, this was purest hypocrisy. But some slave owners, perhaps including the ones being prosecuted here, took their duty to educate the slaves seriously - so seriously that they were willing to risk legal punishment. Education and Christianization, of course, went hand in hand; a Christian (or at least a Protestant Christian) was supposed to read the Bible.

I agree that it is not obvious whether educating the slaves was pro-slavery, anti-slavery, or neither. One might educate a slave and still intend to keep him and his progeny enslaved, or one might intend to liberate them once they were deemed ready. And by the 1850s, liberation wasn't necessarily easy, as more and more Southern states outlawed the manumission of slaves as the Civil War approached.

[**Swashbuckler 1700**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/20630-swashbuckler-1700/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,115 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Europe
* Interests:pyrates, pryvateers, naval military and other history, different books, good movies, music (a little bit), drawing, games,...

[Posted June 12, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=409785) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=409785)

I know that some web info is not always the most reliable one but here is interesting man a " Irishman" with spanish crew. I mentioned the same man in other tread as well.

<http://www.thepirateking.com/bios/johnson_henry.htm>

[**Fox**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1019-fox/)

* Old Twillian
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,564 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
* Interests:Nautical history of the 16-18th centuries and living history based thereon.

Shooting pirates.

[Posted June 20, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=409974) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=409974)

 On 6/4/2012 at 1:16 PM, Foxe said:

 Quote

Christopher Moody 28 (was he never even a captain?)

No, despite the fact that many historians associate 'Captain Moody' with him, he was never a captain. The 'Captain Moody' mentioned in other documents was most likely either Samuel or William.

Further to this, looking back over WIlliam Bournal's trial for the la Buse thread I see it is confirmed that **William** Moody was captain of the *Rising Sun*

[**Swashbuckler 1700**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/20630-swashbuckler-1700/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,115 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Europe
* Interests:pyrates, pryvateers, naval military and other history, different books, good movies, music (a little bit), drawing, games,...

[Posted June 22, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=409994) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=409994)

That explainss quite a bit. So it is just error but I wonder who id it?

[**Fox**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1019-fox/)

* Old Twillian
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,564 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
* Interests:Nautical history of the 16-18th centuries and living history based thereon.

Shooting pirates.

[Posted June 22, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=409995) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=409995)

Many many people did it. There are various references to a 'Captain Moody', and the name 'Christopher Moody' is familiar from the GHP, so people put them together.

You actually have to read stuff in an archive to find the name William Moody...

[**Swashbuckler 1700**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/20630-swashbuckler-1700/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,115 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Europe
* Interests:pyrates, pryvateers, naval military and other history, different books, good movies, music (a little bit), drawing, games,...

[Posted July 13, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=410230) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=410230)

 On 6/3/2012 at 0:06 PM, Foxe said:

Here's another bit that you might find interesting, from Jacob du Bucquoy's account of his time as a captive of John Taylor:

"he divided his men into squads [messes] of seven men, consisting, for example, of a Frenchman, a Swede, a Portuguese and three or four Englishmen, so that the English, on whom he could depend, were always in the majority, and could warn him of all that was done or said on board."

Looking many quotes the number of Swedes is interesting. It is not huge but it is interesting how many times it is used as example of non english crewman

I know that at least in Nelson's navy there were Swedes around but what about GHoP Now speaking navy since they would be a little less mulicultural... or at least I think so.

List of HMS Victory's crew's nationalities in 1805. Think about it.... it was "English" navy after all.

" 515 English, 88 Irish, 67 Scottish, 50 Welsh, 1 African, 1 Brazilian, 2 Danish, 4 [French](http://dalyhistory.wordpress.com/2010/07/10/the-crew-of-hms-victory-at-trafalgar/), 2 Indian, 6 Maltese, 1 Portuguese, 2 Swiss, 22 American, 2 Canadian, 7 Dutch, 2 German, 1 Jamaican, 2 Norwegian, 4 Swedish, 4 West Indian, 48 Unknown."

oh and source <http://dalyhistory.wordpress.com/2010/07/10/the-crew-of-hms-victory-at-trafalgar/>

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
* 
* 
* Admin
* 5,081 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Monroe, MI
* Interests:Scholarly piracy, designing and creating haunted house rooms and props, movies, abstract thinking, abstruse thinking, obstructive thinking, ideating, random thinking, movies, cartoons, movies, movies scores, cycling, world peace and small furry dogs, movies, writing, drawing, personal skills training, gremlins and, of course, lest I forget, movies.

[Posted July 13, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=410232) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=410232)

 On 7/13/2012 at 3:07 AM, Swashbuckler 1700 said:

List of HMS Victory's crew's nationalities in 1805. Think about it.... it was "English" navy after all.

" 515 English, 88 Irish, 67 Scottish, 50 Welsh, 1 African, 1 Brazilian, 2 Danish, 4 [French](http://dalyhistory.wordpress.com/2010/07/10/the-crew-of-hms-victory-at-trafalgar/), 2 Indian, 6 Maltese, 1 Portuguese, 2 Swiss, 22 American, 2 Canadian, 7 Dutch, 2 German, 1 Jamaican, 2 Norwegian, 4 Swedish, 4 West Indian, 48 Unknown."

oh and source [http://dalyhistory.w...y-at-trafalgar/](http://dalyhistory.wordpress.com/2010/07/10/the-crew-of-hms-victory-at-trafalgar/)

Well, the four largest nationalities make logical sense. They were all part of the United Kingdom as of the Union Act in 1800. If you add them all together, you get 720 crew members from the UK. Out of the total of 883, that's 81.5%. I don't get the impression it was unusual for people to wind up in different navies, either. Several of the military sea-surgeons I studied were in foreign navies during their lifetimes.

Looking at the other nationalities by % (and ignoring the unknowns who could have been anything, including English):

22 American - 2.5%

7 Dutch - 0.8%

6 Maltese - 0.7%

4 French - 0.5%

4 Swedish - 0.5%

4 West Indian - 0.5%

2 Canadian - 0.2%

2 Danish - 0.2%

2 German - 0.2%

2 Indian - 0.2%

2 Norwegian - 0.2%

2 Swiss - 0.2%

1 African - 0.1%

1 Brazilian - 0.1%

1 Jamaican - 0.1%

1 Portuguese - 0.1%

Total Identifiable Non-UK Sailors: 7.1%

[**Fox**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1019-fox/)

* Old Twillian
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,564 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
* Interests:Nautical history of the 16-18th centuries and living history based thereon.

Shooting pirates.

[Posted July 14, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=410235) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=410235)

 On 7/13/2012 at 9:24 AM, Mission said:

Well, the four largest nationalities make logical sense. They were all part of the United Kingdom as of the Union Act in 1800. If you add them all together, you get 720 crew members from the UK. Out of the total of 883, that's 81.5%. I don't get the impression it was unusual for people to wind up in different navies, either. Several of the military sea-surgeons I studied were in foreign navies during their lifetimes.

Looking at the other nationalities by % (and ignoring the unknowns who could have been anything, including English):

22 American - 2.5%

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2 German - 0.2%

2 Indian - 0.2%

2 Norwegian - 0.2%

2 Swiss - 0.2%

1 African - 0.1%

1 Brazilian - 0.1%

1 Jamaican - 0.1%

1 Portuguese - 0.1%

Total Identifiable Non-UK Sailors: 7.1%

You could argue that the number of non-UK sailors was even smaller. Canadians were technically 'British' inasmuch as they were subjects of the British crown, not an independent nation, and the same might be true of the West Indians, depending where in the West Indies they were from. The Jamaican was certainly a 'British' subject. Americans present a problem because, in theory, American seamen were not liable to impressment but American citizenship was a little nebulous at times and it was a common and well-known ruse for British seamen to claim to be Americans to avoid impressment (and indeed, for British press-officers to impress American seamen on the grounds that they 'might' have been British). There were therefore a number of men listed as American who were actually British, and possibly a few men listed as British who were actually American, not to mention a few who could claim to be either.

[**Swashbuckler 1700**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/20630-swashbuckler-1700/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,115 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Europe
* Interests:pyrates, pryvateers, naval military and other history, different books, good movies, music (a little bit), drawing, games,...

[Posted August 31, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=410829) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=410829)

I have read, sorry no source now , that large number of German immigrants moved to Colonies in gaop, before and after. I wonder that migth it actually be so that some of these men or women were considered "English" in documents as they lived in English colonies? Many colonist were called just English of the colony was English. And what about german pirates. There was certainly a few Germans in crews, of course it was really tiny number.

[**Swashbuckler 1700**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/20630-swashbuckler-1700/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,115 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Europe
* Interests:pyrates, pryvateers, naval military and other history, different books, good movies, music (a little bit), drawing, games,...

[Posted January 6, 2013](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=412798) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=412798)

Said in *Pirates and Buccaneers of the Atlantic Coast* by Edward Rowe Snow. When there is written about Bellamy's pirates hanged in Boston in 1717 (thank to Mission for the hint)

"The (six) pirates were Simon Van Vorst, of New York; John Brown of Jamaica; Thomas Baker of Holland; Hendrick Quintor of Amsterdam; Peter Hoof of Sweden, and John Sheean of Nantes."

So lets look two English colonists, two Dutch\*, a Swede and one Frenchman. Bellamy's crew was probably one of the most multinational crews at the time but this is still illustrative to a extent.

\*I wonder that surprisingly many dutch appear in many places (not just this)

[**Red John**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/20698-red-john/)

* Ship's Master
* 
* 
* Member
* 102 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:NC
* Interests:History, Rum, Weaponry, GAOP, Rev War/F&I thrown in for good measure.

[Posted January 6, 2013](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=412799) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=412799)

On the list quoted, I'd be tempted to say three Dutch - the Van Vorst from "New York" is probably from a family that was there when it was "New Amsterdam" or may be fully Dutch himself.

Also, on the German thing, in the English Colonies (esp. Pennsylvania) the German immigrants were often called "Dutch" which was a mispronunciation of "Deutsch" and after a few repeats folks thought it meant actual Dutch not German. The Pennsylvania "Dutch" were nearly all German. Same for other colonies to a lesser degree, excepting of course the colony of NY and the surrounding areas.

Sooo . . . methinks if anyone has a way-cool jaeger they really really want to use as part of their piratical persona . . . there you go ... just claim to be English Colonial "Dutch / Deutsch" and sail away with Bellamy or whomever . . . 

[**Swashbuckler 1700**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/20630-swashbuckler-1700/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,115 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Europe
* Interests:pyrates, pryvateers, naval military and other history, different books, good movies, music (a little bit), drawing, games,...

[Posted January 7, 2013](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=412806) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=412806)

 On 1/6/2013 at 4:45 PM, Red John said:

On the list quoted, I'd be tempted to say three Dutch - the Van Vorst from "New York" is probably from a family that was there when it was "New Amsterdam" or may be fully Dutch himself.

Also, on the German thing, in the English Colonies (esp. Pennsylvania) the German immigrants were often called "Dutch" which was a mispronunciation of "Deutsch" and after a few repeats folks thought it meant actual Dutch not German. The Pennsylvania "Dutch" were nearly all German. Same for other colonies to a lesser degree, excepting of course the colony of NY and the surrounding areas.

Sooo . . . methinks if anyone has a way-cool jaeger they really really want to use as part of their piratical persona . . . there you go ... just claim to be English Colonial "Dutch / Deutsch" and sail away with Bellamy or whomever . . . 

That is Interesting.

Yeah Van Vorst sounds like a Dutch or perhaps German or French. However while Dutch and Germans might be messed up by others these two pirates were clearly from Holland....

[**Frtiz**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/19865-frtiz/)

* Bilge Rat
* 
* 
* Member
* 15 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Willich, Germany
* Interests:I am interested in history and started re-enacting some years ago. In Germany the most common time period for living history events is the middle ages. So I started with dark ages, but went on to re-enact 12th century. My next step forward in history is the Golden Age of Piracy.

[Posted January 7, 2013](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=412813) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=412813)

I was searching for something completely different when I was cross-reading through Woodards The Republic of Pirates and just stumbled over the following lines: "Within hours (of capturing the Sultana), the pirates captured a second ship, a clumsy merchant vessel under a Captain Tosor, who had been sailing for Campeche under the protection of the Sultana's guns. Tosor's vessel was plundered and, because the pirates were running increasingly short of manpower, several of his men were forced into service. Tosor himself was allowed to proceed on his way to Campeche in his ship. One of Bellamy's crewmen, Simon Van Vorst, a twenty-four-year-old Dutchman born in the former Dutch city of New York, later recalled seeing many of the forced men "cry and express their grief" at their fate."

Most likely this is the same Simon Van Vorst, but he would still be English because Nieuw Amsterdam became New York in 1664. So it was English before Simon Van Vorst was born. Correct me if I'm wrong.

Besides, you don't happen to have a cool jaeger you could borrow my piratical persona? 

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[Posted January 8, 2013](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=412817) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=412817)

Van Vorst was said to a Dutchman and his name tells that he was from Dutch family. I think there was many Dutch families in New York since I dare to claim that many families didn't move in 1664 just because the owner of the colony was changed (it was changed without a fight so there were no massacres of Dutch citizens done or anything like that). I think he might have good English skills thought because of his birth place.

But in any case while the English speaking men formed the overwhelming majority in the pirate crews the number of Dutch, Germans, Spanish, Swedes and especially French should be noted, while only few per-sets, we can still say that Gaop pirate crews were multinational in that scale and limits that were possible (pirate did not met many china-men etc. while raiding European shipping).

**Edited January 8, 2013 by Swashbuckler 1700**

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[Posted February 21, 2013](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=413389) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=413389)

Interesting that it seems that Captain Russel who served pirate Commodore Low was originally a Portuguese, at least George Roberts wrote so in The four years voyages of capt. George Roberts. 1726. Well the real writer was *perhaps* Defoe's but the book is still quite a good source. Like Foxe said in [this tread](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16753-the-four-years-voyages-of-capt-george-roberts-written-by-himself-re/) "Roberts' account shows a number of parallels with other historical sources, suggesting that if it is a work of fiction it's a very well researched one. There is little evidence in support of the otherwise unknown Roberts being the author, but no less evidence than there is for Defoe."

Here is the page about Russel <http://books.google.fi/books?id=OWsBAAAAQAAJ&hl=fi&hl=fi&pg=PA29&img=1&zoom=3&sig=ACfU3U0Ja1mMUhsJCJjDTVaRWK6gYjnmxw&ci=87%2C31%2C803%2C1550&edge=0>'

Also here there is more evidence to say that Africans worked as regional pilots. It shows also that pirates like Russel sometimes despised the Africans. I can see that equality among pirates abord ships was not so great as often implied. Also perhaps it was the pressure of being one of the few not Englishmen among a group that was formed mostly by English pirates that made Russel or John Lopez to pretend an Englishmen.

See his attitude towards the Africans:

Russel: *"What! Do you think I will let a negro to pilot me! no no..."*

<http://books.google.fi/books?id=OWsBAAAAQAAJ&hl=fi&hl=fi&pg=PA36&img=1&zoom=3&sig=ACfU3U32DAY_xFZM6BNYrnMkLPOTlPDScQ&ci=150%2C70%2C809%2C1530&edge=0>

**Edited February 21, 2013 by Swashbuckler 1700**

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[Posted June 18, 2013](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=414270) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=414270)

 On 7/13/2012 at 9:24 AM, Mission said:

 On 7/13/2012 at 3:07 AM, 'Swashbuckler 1700 said:

List of HMS Victory's crew's nationalities in 1805. Think about it.... it was "English" navy after all.

" 515 English, 88 Irish, 67 Scottish, 50 Welsh, 1 African, 1 Brazilian, 2 Danish, 4 [French](http://dalyhistory.wordpress.com/2010/07/10/the-crew-of-hms-victory-at-trafalgar/), 2 Indian, 6 Maltese, 1 Portuguese, 2 Swiss, 22 American, 2 Canadian, 7 Dutch, 2 German, 1 Jamaican, 2 Norwegian, 4 Swedish, 4 West Indian, 48 Unknown."

oh and source [http://dalyhistory.w...y-at-trafalgar/](http://dalyhistory.wordpress.com/2010/07/10/the-crew-of-hms-victory-at-trafalgar/)

Well, the four largest nationalities make logical sense. They were all part of the United Kingdom as of the Union Act in 1800. If you add them all together, you get 720 crew members from the UK. Out of the total of 883, that's 81.5%. I don't get the impression it was unusual for people to wind up in different navies, either. Several of the military sea-surgeons I studied were in foreign navies during their lifetimes.

Looking at the other nationalities by % (and ignoring the unknowns who could have been anything, including English):

22 American - 2.5%

7 Dutch - 0.8%

6 Maltese - 0.7%

4 French - 0.5%

4 Swedish - 0.5%

4 West Indian - 0.5%

2 Canadian - 0.2%

2 Danish - 0.2%

2 German - 0.2%

2 Indian - 0.2%

2 Norwegian - 0.2%

2 Swiss - 0.2%

1 African - 0.1%

1 Brazilian - 0.1%

1 Jamaican - 0.1%

1 Portuguese - 0.1%

Total Identifiable Non-UK Sailors: 7.1%

Interesting btw (getting to this topic again)

Note the practically similar numbers of non Uk pirates in Rederiker's study.

(in Rederiker's pirate study) Other (Dutch, French, Portuguese, Danish, Belgian, Swedish, African...) - 6.9%

So was piracy as multicultural business as later Nelson's navy?

In any case these numbers don't tell all. But they are clearly indicative so I would say that about 5-10% of pirates in Gaop were not from Britain or her colonies. So perhaps fever than sometimes implied by some historians....

**Edited June 18, 2013 by Swashbuckler 1700**

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

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* 
* Admin
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[Posted June 19, 2013](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=414273) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=414273)

You know, this would probably be a whole area of research for someone. I suppose the make-up of a crew would depend upon the crew itself.

We tend to focus on the English pirates because we all read English and our primary sources are in English and are often about English pirates. (Plus the GAoP as we define it seems to have been a time where you had all these out-of-work pressed naval men and former privateers as you've pointed out in other threads. Like would attract like, if only to make communication easier, so it seems intuitive that English-speaking pirates would tend to connect with other English-speakers. But what of the corsairs, the South China Sea and Mediterranean pirates?

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[Posted June 19, 2013](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=findComment&comment=414275) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18721-gaop-pirate-nationalities/&do=reportComment&comment=414275)

 On 6/19/2013 at 8:51 AM, Mission said:

You know, this would probably be a whole area of research for someone. I suppose the make-up of a crew would depend upon the crew itself.

We tend to focus on the English pirates because we all read English and our primary sources are in English and are often about English pirates. (Plus the GAoP as we define it seems to have been a time where you had all these out-of-work pressed naval men and former privateers as you've pointed out in other threads. Like would attract like, if only to make communication easier, so it seems intuitive that English-speaking pirates would tend to connect with other English-speakers. But what of the corsairs, the South China Sea and Mediterranean pirates?

Indeed true...

But now, here, we are talking about Gaop pirates which means westerns pirates of the late 17th and early 18th century.

And back to the topic about Gaop era:

In his book "Scourge of the Seas: Buccaneers, Pirates and Privateers" August Konstam states clearly referring to some period source:

*"A number of Africans, including escaped plantation slaves as well as new arrivals, did succeed*

*in becoming pirates in their own right. One exaggerated Jamaican newspaper*

*article of 1725 reported bands of African and African-American pirates marauding*

*the Caribbean and eating the hearts of the white men they captured."*

**Edited June 19, 2013 by Swashbuckler 1700**