**[Rateye](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/3060-rateye/" \o "Go to Rateye's profile)**

* Ship's Master
* 
* 
* Member
* 198 posts
* Location:Whitewater Wisconsin
* Interests:He's a no-gooder from the wrong side of the tracks! He has served the union on horseback (Civil war cavalry), made the west wild (Wild West reenactor), and now longs to join the brethern of the coast. <br><br>or at least join the lawless rabble that have polluted these waters. (That means us!)

[Posted August 11, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=212594) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=212594)

Now I hope not to cause problems. But seeing that many wars have been cause over such a topic, and the character I'm working toward is a bit of a nefarious doctor, I'm also wondering about religion during the GAoP

Seeing that pirate crews were made of folks from many different backgrounds, you would have to think there was quite a bit of either tollerance or problems.

Any ideas?

Rats

[**Cheeky Actress**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2975-cheeky-actress/)

* Contesse de Tosspot
* 
* 
* Member
* 3,876 posts
* Gender:Female
* Location:Middlesort Port of the Midwest
* Interests:Seeking all who have been Forsaken in their quest.

[Posted August 17, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=213665) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=213665)

You bring up some good points, Rateye...

From the time of Cromwell to the 1730s or so there was a lot of strife between Catholics and Protestants. And I am sure that there are several books out there that could go deep into this topic

I just currently finished a book on the over-all social climate of the times. It's called, "Restoration London: Everyday Life in the 1660s". This really gave some insight into 'everything' a person would encounter in their every day lives. There was a chapter on religion

[**Rateye**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/3060-rateye/)

* Ship's Master
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* Member
* 198 posts
* Location:Whitewater Wisconsin
* Interests:He's a no-gooder from the wrong side of the tracks! He has served the union on horseback (Civil war cavalry), made the west wild (Wild West reenactor), and now longs to join the brethern of the coast. <br><br>or at least join the lawless rabble that have polluted these waters. (That means us!)

[Posted August 17, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=213667) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=213667)

Sounds great!

I'd love to hear more?

Possibly bring to Bristol or post some interesting bits?

R

[**Cheeky Actress**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2975-cheeky-actress/)

* Contesse de Tosspot
* 
* 
* Member
* 3,876 posts
* Gender:Female
* Location:Middlesort Port of the Midwest
* Interests:Seeking all who have been Forsaken in their quest.

[Posted August 17, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=213669) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=213669)

Well, the whole book was very good...

There were topics on marriage, childbirth, social class, prostitution, death...you name it...they had it!

[**kass**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1603-kass/)

* Scourge o' the 7 Seas
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,526 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Easton, Pennsylvania
* Interests:Historical Clothing from the 14th through 18th centuries. Getting all the niggling details right. Dressing up and having fun with my similarly-obsessed friends. :)

[Posted August 17, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=213719) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=213719)

Just make sure you take anything that sounds like the author's opinion (any sentence that starts with "I...") with a grain of salt. Liza Picard is wonderful at gathering together resources of the period and presenting them in an easily-digestible whole. But whenever she starts, "I can't imagine..." this or that, she just belies her knowledge of feeling of the period. She's a great reporter. And an editorialist, she should keep quiet.

Oh and Cheeky, that tension between Catholics and Protestants didn't end in the 1730s. It lasted well into the 19th century. But, of course, for our purposes, we stop caring about it. 

[**Cheeky Actress**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2975-cheeky-actress/)

* Contesse de Tosspot
* 
* 
* Member
* 3,876 posts
* Gender:Female
* Location:Middlesort Port of the Midwest
* Interests:Seeking all who have been Forsaken in their quest.

[Posted August 17, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=213735) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=213735)

Hi Kass,

Yes, you are correct about the strife between the two religion going on for much longer (and earlier, for that matter) than the GAofP, but as Rateye mentioned, and as you stated....we were only focusing on the GAofP time period.

Kass, what other book do you know of, concentrated on the social climate of this time period. Restortation Londan was one...but for the life of me, I cannot remember the other one to save my life.

[**Red Dog**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2897-red-dog/)

* Plunderer
* 
* 
* Member
* 398 posts
* Location:Lake Forest, O.C., CA
* Interests:Piracy, weapons, history, photography, reasearch, reading, SCUBA, costuming, ebay, <br><br>a little of everything really.......

[Posted August 18, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=213775) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=213775)

In Ireland the strife between Catholic and Protestant lives to this day. It's just covered up in PC/BS.

There was a lot of dissension between the Christian and Muslim factions as far as piracy was concerned but the pirates being declared the "Enemies of the human race" seemed to transcend the religious boundaries.

A common factor for many pirates was the escape of authority, to include the church. Don't forget that the early Spanish Main was conceded to the Spanish and Portuguese by the Pope and the Northern European pirates went against him by attacking the Spanish.

Religion was as much a factor in piracy as tyranny was.

Eustace the Monk is an interesting case study. He used Christianity to give a holy meaning to his actions. Rebellion, deception, and the book of Revelations was a great weapon for him.

Conversely the Muslim pirate would force Christians to convert to Islam, or "Turn Turk" vs. being executed.

this is a truly involved subject, I look forward to continuing this thread.



[**kass**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1603-kass/)

* Scourge o' the 7 Seas
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,526 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Easton, Pennsylvania
* Interests:Historical Clothing from the 14th through 18th centuries. Getting all the niggling details right. Dressing up and having fun with my similarly-obsessed friends. :)

[Posted August 18, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=213781) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=213781)

 Cheeky Actress said:

Kass, what other book do you know of, concentrated on the social climate of this time period. Restortation Londan was one...but for the life of me, I cannot remember the other one to save my life.

Do you mean[1700: Scenes from London Life](http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/1568581645/reconstructinghi) by Maureen Walker?

[**Capt. Sterling**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2648-capt-sterling/)

* Sticky Fingers Sterling Needs a New Hat
* 
* 
* Member
* 10,302 posts
* Gender:Pyrate Hunter
* Location:here
* Interests:Killing pirates, haven't met one yet worth keeping alive....

[Posted August 18, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=213789) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=213789)

Hey Rats,

If this is concerning your impression, being a doctor you could read, so checking things out for yourself by actually reading the bible could have made a very big difference in your life...

remember during the time frame many folks could NOT read, so they had to depend on the honesty of the word coming over the pulpit... i.e, to really understand the religion of the times, you need to know the preachers of the times and what they were spouting, what were their adgendas and if they really believed what they were teaching/preaching or just using their "job" as a means to power and influence.

Then study their effects on their congregations... did the folks get what was being told them and did they practice it, or were they just sitting there shaking their heads...

Tons of people claimed to be "Christian, Protestant, Catholic, Muslim" and didn't have any clue what it was even all about... even today just because a person says they are, doesn't mean they truly are...

[**kass**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1603-kass/)

* Scourge o' the 7 Seas
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,526 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Easton, Pennsylvania
* Interests:Historical Clothing from the 14th through 18th centuries. Getting all the niggling details right. Dressing up and having fun with my similarly-obsessed friends. :)

[Posted August 18, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=213790) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=213790)

This is pre-GAoP, but in the reign of Elizabeth I, moralists advocated the education of women with the idea that children received their first religious training from their mothers. If the mother couldn't read the Bible, she couldn't teach them properly.

[**Capt. Sterling**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2648-capt-sterling/)

* Sticky Fingers Sterling Needs a New Hat
* 
* 
* Member
* 10,302 posts
* Gender:Pyrate Hunter
* Location:here
* Interests:Killing pirates, haven't met one yet worth keeping alive....

[Posted August 18, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=213791) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=213791)

 kass said:

This is pre-GAoP, but in the reign of Elizabeth I, moralists advocated the education of women with the idea that children received their first religious training from their mothers. If the mother couldn't read the Bible, she couldn't teach them properly.

Now that is very interesting! Certainly not what one would expect... ties in well though, with "the hand that rocks the cradle, rules the world!"

[**kass**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1603-kass/)

* Scourge o' the 7 Seas
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,526 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Easton, Pennsylvania
* Interests:Historical Clothing from the 14th through 18th centuries. Getting all the niggling details right. Dressing up and having fun with my similarly-obsessed friends. :)

[Posted August 18, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=213799) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=213799)

It wasn't everyone saying this, mind you. But there was one moralist in particular who was quite vocal on the subject, Thomas Beccan in a book called *The Catechism* (published in 1559). Also JL Vives, tutor to Mary I, wrote a book entitled *The Education of a Christian Woman* in 1532 which dictated that girls should only be allowed to read serious moral writings and not Ovid or romances. I find it interesting that he was tutor to Mary I, later known as Bloody Mary, who was famous for her cruelty and violence in trying to convert her father's kingdom back to Catholicism. Guess those "moral" writings didn't work so well... 

[**Rateye**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/3060-rateye/)

* Ship's Master
* 
* 
* Member
* 198 posts
* Location:Whitewater Wisconsin
* Interests:He's a no-gooder from the wrong side of the tracks! He has served the union on horseback (Civil war cavalry), made the west wild (Wild West reenactor), and now longs to join the brethern of the coast. <br><br>or at least join the lawless rabble that have polluted these waters. (That means us!)

[Posted August 18, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=213805) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=213805)

Actually the reason I asked is because of the methods of treatmet that were accepted by each religoin might be different.

I had read about the aversion some had toward cinchona ( a treatment for malaria which as seen in Port Royal, had helped the good Capt. Sterling ) also kinown as Jesuit's Bark or as the commoner's dubbed it the Jesuit's Poison.

I was therefore wondering if there were other areas or even prejudices that might be interesting.

"I don't want that catholic butcher tending to me!" kind of stuff for not only persona but also for Port Royal storylines.

Rats

[**kass**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1603-kass/)

* Scourge o' the 7 Seas
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,526 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Easton, Pennsylvania
* Interests:Historical Clothing from the 14th through 18th centuries. Getting all the niggling details right. Dressing up and having fun with my similarly-obsessed friends. :)

[Posted August 18, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=213807) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=213807)

Don't know specifically, Rateye, but I think we can make some assumptions based on politics of the time. When Charles II died in 1685, his brother James II ascended the throne. Unlike Charles, James II was Catholic and was determined to change the religion of England back to Catholicism. He was driven off the throne by 1688 and William of Orange, a Dutch Duke, was brought from Holland to rule. Shortly thereafter there was instituted a law that said no monarch of England could be Catholic.

So even though they weren't burning them in the streets or beheading them in the Tower as they were in Elizabeth's time, Catholics weren't very well looked upon in the GAoP.

I have no idea if Catholic and Protestant doctors would use different treatments, though. I really don't know anything at all about medicine of the time.

[**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 August 18, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=213812) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=213812)

Completely O/T, but the very steps which William of Orange ascended on his first landing in England are a spit's distance away from my work. In fact, when I walked the plank at the first SWPF I climbed out of the harbour up the same steps. Nobody made me King though 

[**Cheeky Actress**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2975-cheeky-actress/)

* Contesse de Tosspot
* 
* 
* Member
* 3,876 posts
* Gender:Female
* Location:Middlesort Port of the Midwest
* Interests:Seeking all who have been Forsaken in their quest.

[Posted August 18, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=213813) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=213813)

Yes Kass,

That's the other book that I read also, "1700 ..."

Good sound stepping stone kind-of book for this time period. I learned a lot from it.

[**Cheeky Actress**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2975-cheeky-actress/)

* Contesse de Tosspot
* 
* 
* Member
* 3,876 posts
* Gender:Female
* Location:Middlesort Port of the Midwest
* Interests:Seeking all who have been Forsaken in their quest.

[Posted August 18, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=213815) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=213815)

 kass said:

This is pre-GAoP, but in the reign of Elizabeth I, moralists advocated the education of women with the idea that children received their first religious training from their mothers. If the mother couldn't read the Bible, she couldn't teach them properly.

Really?!? Interesting insight...especially for the women of that time period.

[**kass**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1603-kass/)

* Scourge o' the 7 Seas
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,526 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Easton, Pennsylvania
* Interests:Historical Clothing from the 14th through 18th centuries. Getting all the niggling details right. Dressing up and having fun with my similarly-obsessed friends. :)

[Posted August 18, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=213821) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=213821)

That's because you're actually English, Ed. Everyone knows that you can't be English and be King of England! You have to be Welsh or Scots or Dutch or German... 

[**Capt. Sterling**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2648-capt-sterling/)

* Sticky Fingers Sterling Needs a New Hat
* 
* 
* Member
* 10,302 posts
* Gender:Pyrate Hunter
* Location:here
* Interests:Killing pirates, haven't met one yet worth keeping alive....

[Posted August 18, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=213838) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=213838)

 kass said:

That's because you're actually English, Ed. Everyone knows that you can't be English and be King of England! You have to be Welsh or Scots or Dutch or German... 



Precisely, what does being English have to do with ruling the country??? 

[**Red Maria**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/15-red-maria/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,057 posts

[Posted August 18, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=213844) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=213844)

 kass said:

Don't know specifically, Rateye, but I think we can make some assumptions based on politics of the time. When Charles II died in 1685, his brother James II ascended the throne. Unlike Charles, James II was Catholic and was determined to change the religion of England back to Catholicism. He was driven off the throne by 1688 and William of Orange, a Dutch Duke, was brought from Holland to rule. Shortly thereafter there was instituted a law that said no monarch of England could be Catholic.

So even though they weren't burning them in the streets or beheading them in the Tower as they were in Elizabeth's time, Catholics weren't very well looked upon in the GAoP.

I have no idea if Catholic and Protestant doctors would use different treatments, though. I really don't know anything at all about medicine of the time.

Don't forget Queen Mary! Remember she was James II daughter from his first marriage. She was a Protestant. William was The grandson of Charles I by one of his daughters. The whole country was pretty much against another Catholic coming to the throne. In fact after that Glorious Revolution that brought William & Mary to the throne it became illegal for anyone other tham a member of the C of E to sit on the throne of Great Britain.

[**kass**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1603-kass/)

* Scourge o' the 7 Seas
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,526 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Easton, Pennsylvania
* Interests:Historical Clothing from the 14th through 18th centuries. Getting all the niggling details right. Dressing up and having fun with my similarly-obsessed friends. :)

[Posted August 18, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=213845) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=213845)

Oh yeah. Can't forget Queen Mary! If it weren't for Mary, William of Orange would not have been able to rule England. She had a much stronger claim to the throne than he did.

There's a great book called "Ungrateful Daughters" about Mary and her younger sister Anne (who succeeded William and Mary) and how they kinda sold out their father, James II. Hell, I always thought Jamie was a weinie anyway! 

And they were BOTH grandchildren of Charles I. Ewwww... Cousins marrying... 

[**Capt. Sterling**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2648-capt-sterling/)

* Sticky Fingers Sterling Needs a New Hat
* 
* 
* Member
* 10,302 posts
* Gender:Pyrate Hunter
* Location:here
* Interests:Killing pirates, haven't met one yet worth keeping alive....

[Posted August 18, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=213847) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=213847)

Wasn't William a Dutch Calvinist?

[**kass**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1603-kass/)

* Scourge o' the 7 Seas
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,526 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Easton, Pennsylvania
* Interests:Historical Clothing from the 14th through 18th centuries. Getting all the niggling details right. Dressing up and having fun with my similarly-obsessed friends. :)

[Posted August 18, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=213852) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=213852)

Not a clue. Didn't dress like one at least.

[**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 February 11, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=379604) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=379604)

 On 8/18/2006 at 1:15 PM, Foxe said:

Completely O/T, but the very steps which William of Orange ascended on his first landing in England are a spit's distance away from my work. In fact, when I walked the plank at the first SWPF I climbed out of the harbour up the same steps. Nobody made me King though

Good lord...just to *think of* it!

Here's a bit of pirate religion for ya'! From *The Memoirs of Pére Labat 1693-1705*, translated and edited by John Eaden.

"This pirate [Captain Daniel], finding himself short of food between the Saints [Les Saintes or Iles des Saintes, south of Guadalupe] and Dominica, wanted some chickens, and knowing that there were plenty to be had in the Saints, dropped anchor at these islands during the night. Since it was peace-time, no watch was kept on shore, so it was easy for the pirates to land and seize the curé's house and other houses as well.

The pirates then conducted the curé and the settlers they had captured on board their ship, and posted men to guard the church and landing-place. They were kindness itself to the prisoners and explained that they only desired wine, brandy, chickens, and other stores. After they had collected these items the pirates asked the curé to say Mass on their barque, and he was unable to refuse this request. They sent for the church ornaments, and put up and alter on the poop under and awning, and then chanted Mass lustily. A salvo of eight cannons marked the commencement of

\_\_

the service, they fired a second salvo at the Sanctus, and third at the Elevation, a fourth at the Benediction, and lastly a fifth after the Exaudiat, while the prayer for the King was followed by the most hearty 'Vive le Roi'.

Only one incident slightly marred this ceremony. One of the pirates adopted an offensive attitude during the Elevation, and on being rebuked by the captain, he replied insolently with a horrible oath. Daniel promptly drew his pistol and shot him through the head and swore by God that he would do the same to anyone else who showed disrespect to the 'Sainte Sacrifice'.

Quite an effective method, as one perceives, to prevent the poor fellow from repeating his offence.

When Mass was over, the body was thrown into the sea, and the pirates rewarded the priest for preaching on board the ship." (Labat, p. 221-2)

This is also another example of disposing of the dead by throwing them in the water rather than burying him on land - even when burying on land was easily done, although the pirate's offense may have had something to do with that. (However, Labat gives several examples of this throughout his text, so perhaps not.)

[**Littleneckhalfshell**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/4-littleneckhalfshell/)

* Plunderer
* 
* 
* Member
* 390 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Hudson Valley, NY
* Interests:Blacksmithing, hunting, fishing, stuff.......

[Posted February 11, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=379652) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=379652)

Since the topic is 'religion' I offer the following, apparently from the 1680 census.

<http://blindkat.hegewisch.net/pirates/portroyal.html>

""It is also said that religion was nonexistent in Port Royal but in fact the census data shows otherwise. When it came to religion the town was indeed a "wide-open" town. Just about every major religion was present in Port Royal, including, Catholicism, Judaism, Quakers, Anglicans, and Atheist. Most of the groups had fled England (except for Anglicans) during one the repressions of their religious beliefs and settled in Port Royal just as had happened in England's other American Colonies. Because most of the French Buccaneers were Catholic, the English governors were extremely tolerant of non-Anglicans. It wasn't until the usefulness of the buccaneers had passed, that wide scale persecution of non-Anglicans started taking place. Most likely, the early criticisms of the lack of religion within the town of Port Royal came from supporters of the Anglican Church.""

[**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 February 11, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=379657) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=379657)

“St. Pierre, 6th March 1694. We were busy all this morning confessing a crew of filibusters who had arrived at Les Mouillanges with two prizes that they had captured from the English. The Mass of the Virgin was celebrated with all solemnity, and I bless three large loaves which were presented by the captain and his officers, who arrived at the church accompanied by the drums and trumpets of their corvette. At the beginning of Mass the corvette fired a salute with all her cannons. At the Elevation of the Holy Sacrements she fired another salvo, at the Benediction a third, and finally a fourth when we sang the Te Deum after Mass. All the filibusters contributed 30 sols to the sacristy, and did so with much piety and modesty. This may surprise people in Europe where filibusters are not credited with much piety, but as a matter of fact they generally give a portion of their good fortunes to the churches. If church ornaments or church linen happen to be in the prizes they capture, the filibusters always present them to their parish church.” (Labat, p. 36)

[**Mary Diamond**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/4625-mary-diamond/)

* It's My Fault
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 1,050 posts
* Gender:Female
* Location:Illinois
* Interests:Things I Love: Horticulture, Travel, Volleyball, Reading, Sewing, Costuming, Halloween, esp. props!, Halo, Halo2, Halo3, ODST, and, of course, Pyracy.

[Posted February 13, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=379740) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=379740)

Interesting that they mark Atheists among their number. Thank you for the great details!

[**Captain Huntsman**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/11435-captain-huntsman/)

* Bilge Rat
* 
* 
* Member
* 8 posts
* Gender:Pyrate
* Location:East
* Interests:Muskets and powder

[Posted September 27, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=389905) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=389905)

You might want to do some research into the life of Cotton Mather too.

since he had his hand in the hanging of pirates, as well as the burning of witches, and the slaughter of Indians.

[**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 September 27, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=389912) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=389912)

 On 9/27/2010 at 2:09 AM, Captain Huntsman said:

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since he had his hand in the hanging of pirates, as well as the burning of witches, and the slaughter of Indians.

Nobody under English law was hanged for being a witch - even at Salem.

On the subject of religion it is perhaps noteworthy that the articles of John Taylor's crew specifically forbade the discussion of religion.

[**Grymm**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10793-grymm/)

* First Mate
* 
* 
* Member
* 281 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Chilterns UK
* Interests:Stuff

[Posted September 27, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=389917) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=389917)

Do you mean nobody was burned, can't waste good firewood on a witch, swim them instead =o)

[The consequences of murdering a 'witch'](http://www.watfordobserver.co.uk/nostalgia/crimelibrary/theosbornesoftring/) circa 1751

**Edited September 27, 2010 by Grymm**

[**Matty Bottles**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/949-matty-bottles/)

* Notorious Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 891 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Milwaukee, WI
* Interests:Writing, Art, Spending exorbinant amounts of money on action figures, rum, murder.

[Posted September 27, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=389918) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=389918)

 On 9/27/2010 at 2:05 PM, Foxe said:

 On 9/27/2010 at 2:09 AM, Captain Huntsman said:

You might want to do some research into the life of Cotton Mather too.

since he had his hand in the hanging of pirates, as well as the burning of witches, and the slaughter of Indians.

Nobody under English law was hanged for being a witch - even at Salem.

Do you mean they technically weren't under English law? Because I'm pretty sure the folks at Salem were killed for witchcraft, except for Giles Corey.

[**MarkG**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10527-markg/)

* Pyrate Captain
* 
* 
* Member
* 587 posts
* Location:Ohio

[Posted September 27, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=389919) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=389919)

 On 9/27/2010 at 2:05 PM, Foxe said:

 On 9/27/2010 at 2:09 AM, Captain Huntsman said:

You might want to do some research into the life of Cotton Mather too.

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Nobody under English law was hanged for being a witch - even at Salem.

On the subject of religion it is perhaps noteworthy that the articles of John Taylor's crew specifically forbade the discussion of religion.

Lots of people were hung for witchcraft in England. In Salem, 29 people were convicted of witchcraft and 19 hung for it.

You are probably thinking of witch burning. English law was unique in the way it handled witchcraft. In most of Europe, a conviction of witchcraft carried an automatic conviction of heresy and heretics were burned. English law did not consider witchcraft as heresy so no burnings - only hanging for the worst offenses and other punishments for lesser counts of witchcraft.

In Scotland witches were burned but they were usually strangled first.

Mark

[**MarkG**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10527-markg/)

* Pyrate Captain
* 
* 
* Member
* 587 posts
* Location:Ohio

[Posted September 27, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=389920) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=389920)

 On 9/27/2010 at 8:15 PM, Matty Bottles said:

 On 9/27/2010 at 2:05 PM, Foxe said:

 On 9/27/2010 at 2:09 AM, Captain Huntsman said:

You might want to do some research into the life of Cotton Mather too.

since he had his hand in the hanging of pirates, as well as the burning of witches, and the slaughter of Indians.

Nobody under English law was hanged for being a witch - even at Salem.

Do you mean they technically weren't under English law? Because I'm pretty sure the folks at Salem were killed for witchcraft, except for Giles Corey.

For those who never heard of him, Cory was accused of witchcraft and refused to enter a plea. If he plead guilty his land would have been seized. If he plead innocent and was found guilty (the most likely result) then his land would also be seized. In an effort to force him to enter a plea, a board was put across his chest and weighed down with rocks. In order to keep his family from being dispossessed he kept demanding more weight until he was crushed to death. It took him two full days to die.

Mark

[**Capt. Sterling**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2648-capt-sterling/)

* Sticky Fingers Sterling Needs a New Hat
* 
* 
* Member
* 10,302 posts
* Gender:Pyrate Hunter
* Location:here
* Interests:Killing pirates, haven't met one yet worth keeping alive....

[Posted September 28, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=389930) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=389930)

Perhaps Foxe

has been watching that terrible slasher movie Simon Says...where Crispin Glover states that it is "well documented fact that witches BURNED" in Salem emitted a long, low howl whilst they were burning...called "The Devil's Howl" gotta love Hollywood. 

[**Jib**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2545-jib/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,076 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Minneapolis, MN
* Interests:Piracy, stage combat, martial arts, reading, film, travel

[Posted September 28, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=389933) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=389933)

I often wonder if the motivation for people was always spiritual... how much was motivated by money.

[**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 September 28, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=389938) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=389938)

Ah, consider that an embarrassing and careless typo. What I meant to say (which makes more sense in the context of the post I was quoting), is that nobody was **burned** for being a witch under English law. Quite right, everyone, they *were* hanged.

There is, IIRC one example of a witch being burned in England, which is often seized upon, but she was burned for treason and the fact that she was allegedly a witch was coincidental.

[**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 September 28, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=389939) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=389939)

 On 9/27/2010 at 8:52 PM, MarkG said:

... In an effort to force him to enter a plea, a board was put across his chest and weighed down with rocks. In order to keep his family from being dispossessed he kept demanding more weight until he was crushed to death. It took him two full days to die.

'Pressing' was a fairly standard procedure for people who refused to enter a plea. Pirate John Gow was also pressed for the same reason, for example.

[**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 September 28, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=389940) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=389940)

 On 9/28/2010 at 2:25 PM, Jib said:

I often wonder if the motivation for people was always spiritual... how much was motivated by money.

Since it is just about impossible to accurately invoke the society of a time passed, I don't think we can truly know the motivation of a person who lived in a period and among a sub-culture that has been so poorly documented. Yes, poorly documented. Sure, we have a few first person accounts, much of which would be thrown out by a proper historian as actual evidence unless it were corroborated by two other sources. We also have the subtly-politically-biased and rather sensationally plotted *General History*. But we really don't have any unbiased accounts to give us insight. (Well, in fact, I think it is impossible for a human being to write an unbiased account, but that is a discussion for another topic.)

Still, in some ways I think people of the past were pretty much like people of the present. By this, I am referring to personality types. In every time and sociological group there are some folks *more inclined* to be motivated by money, others by spiritualism, still others by logic or order or disorder or idealism or whatever. I posit that humanity contains certain archetypal behaviors and tendencies and they are probably fairly constant among different groups and in different times. But that's only one part of personality - a key to motivation.

Another aspect of motivation - the broader society and all the beliefs that go with membership in it - appears to me to have had some marked differences from our time. One could hardly say that the church/religion has anywhere near the influence today that it had during GAoP. Heretical statements are today seen as marketing ploys where at that time they could be a death sentence. I suspect differences in behavior would reveal themselves there. If you are a person who has a strong inclination toward order, the church might have a certain appeal during the GAoP. If you were strongly inculcated into a national religion like many Englishmen were during that time, an idealist might focus on things associated with the spiritual aspects of that religion where today we have less spiritual forms that seem to appeal to many idealists.

This is where I think movies (an important part of *our* society) lead us so astray. Movie-makers usually "modernize" eras (intentionally and not) to make them more relatable to our society. If you watch a movie that has been made several times in different eras, you will notice not only facile differences like those of clothing, language and hairstyles, but deeper, more philosophical differences such attitudes towards religion, governance and personal responsibility. As an experiment to see how much things have changed in the last 100 years, it might be interesting to watch the various versions of a movie that has been remade many times in different eras and note the difference in attitudes, norms and memes. (*Brewster's Millions* or (more on topic) *Mutiny on the Bounty* (and all it's various incarnations) could provide good fodder for such an experiment if you are inclined to it.)

This 'Hollywood Modernizing Factor' is what I think makes us believe that pirates looked at religion the way our society (or its modern outlaws) look at it. It's why I think many folks come to ideas like: "All pirates would be irreligious" or "Pirates were mostly seeking freedom from oppression" along with other, similar modern concepts we try to impose upon them.

[**MarkG**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10527-markg/)

* Pyrate Captain
* 
* 
* Member
* 587 posts
* Location:Ohio

[Posted September 28, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=389945) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=389945)

 On 9/28/2010 at 2:25 PM, Jib said:

I often wonder if the motivation for people was always spiritual... how much was motivated by money?

Money was certainly a motivation. Estates were seized. Being a witchfinder could be lucrative.

In Salem, the community had had a disagreement about housing and pay for the new minister. The girls making the accusations were all from one faction. None of the accused were from their faction and many were from the other side.

Mark

[**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 September 29, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=389950) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=389950)

This is a very interesting and though provoking post from Mission, so with the indulgence of the assembled company I'd like to add some thoughts of my own.

 On 9/28/2010 at 4:38 PM, Mission said:

Since it is just about impossible to accurately invoke the society of a time passed,

I suspect that we could probably do as good a job of invoking the mores of an historical society than we could our own. The problem, IMHO, is not the amount of evidence (see below), but the methodology. It's such a mammoth task to try and have a 'complete' understanding of any society, as to be virtually impossible.

 Quote

I don't think we can truly know the motivation of a person who lived in a period and among a sub-culture that has been so poorly documented. Yes, poorly documented.

No, we can't truly know, and in many cases we can't even guess. But I think you'd be pleasantly surprised at how much documentation is available for many eras and sub-cultures.

 Quote

Sure, we have a few first person accounts, much of which would be thrown out by a proper historian as actual evidence unless it were corroborated by two other sources.

It's not so much that a source needs to be corroborated if it truly *is* a first-person account, more that one person's view is not necessarily the only one. Sure, some historical questions might be answered by reference to one source, but most (such as the question about pirates and religion for example) can only be answered by comparing multiple sources to form a broader picture. None of those source is necessarily better or worse than any of the others, but none of them alone can answer the question.

 Quote

(Well, in fact, I think it is impossible for a human being to write an unbiased account, but that is a discussion for another topic.)

I would also argue that the bias of the intended reader must be taken into account. For example, if I were to write two letters describing what I did yesterday, one to my mother and one to my sister, they would both be accurate as far as their contents went, but the two letters would be very different. The things I chose to tell my mother about would be different to the things I think might interest my sister.

 Quote

This 'Hollywood Modernizing Factor' is what I think makes us believe that pirates looked at religion the way our society (or its modern outlaws) look at it. It's why I think many folks come to ideas like: "All pirates would be irreligious" or "Pirates were mostly seeking freedom from oppression" along with other, similar modern concepts we try to impose upon them.

Yup, I think Hollywood can be blamed for a lot, but there's also the fact that most people find it very difficult to really put themselves in the position of an historical figure, taking on all of the changes in attitude and opinion that that entails.

Take the great cat massacre of Paris. In the late 1730s a bunch of Parisian apprentice printers went on a spree of torturing and killing cats. They put the cats on 'trial', beat them, and hanged them. They had various reasons for doing this, but underlying it is the fact that *they found it funny*. Now, there might be many reasons we could understand (even if we do not condone) for killing cats, but unless you can understand how torturing cats might be *funny*, you can never truly appreciate what was going through the minds of those apprentices.

[**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 September 29, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=389952) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=389952)

 On 9/29/2010 at 5:35 AM, Foxe said:

 On 9/28/2010 at 4:38 PM, Mission said:

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No, we can't truly know, and in many cases we can't even guess. But I think you'd be pleasantly surprised at how much documentation is available for many eras and sub-cultures.

Well I *was* referring specifically to the pirates here. I've been reading every account that might contain info on medicine (my personal research topic interest) and there really aren't that many GAoP first person pirate accounts.

 On 9/29/2010 at 5:35 AM, Foxe said:

 On 9/28/2010 at 4:38 PM, Mission said:

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That's a very good point.

[**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 September 29, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=389956) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=389956)

 On 9/29/2010 at 9:12 AM, Mission said:

Well I *was* referring specifically to the pirates here. I've been reading every account that might contain info on medicine (my personal research topic interest) and there really aren't that many GAoP first person pirate accounts.

Not too many *published* first person accounts of pirates, I'll grant, probably no more than ten or a dozen, if we don't count the books written by buccaneers. There's a whole lot more material than that though.

There are at least 18 printed accounts of pirate trials from 1673-1725, and about eight or ten only available in the original manuscript form, almost all of which contain first-hand testimony from both sides. Add to that all the depositions taken by the High Court of Admiralty and colonial Vice Admiralty Courts, and other colonial authorities - of which there are several hundred, and you've got an awful lot of first-person evidence from the legal system alone.

Then there are all the depositions that didn't relate to trials, probably several hundred more; numerous letters from colonial governors, local officials, and Royal Navy captains who encountered pirates; plus a whole raft of other first-person evidence not so easily categorised.

Oh, and Johnson\* 

[\*and a hanful of other accounts written second-hand but based, to a greater or lesser extent, on interviews with firt-hand witnesses]

[**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 September 29, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=389957) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=389957)

What?! Now if I were in the mother country, I could do something with that revelation. Of course I'm not so now you're just being cruel to the poor old ship's surgeon & GAoP medicine researcher.

If (probably when) I DO get back over there, I'll be far more interested in traipsing through the medical museums than poring over old trial manuscripts. Reading is an activity for leisure time, and not for when you're right in the middle of a trip to a place with multiple small museums... and hand-pulled ale in the pubs...

[**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 September 29, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=389959) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=389959)

With sufficient time, internet access, and a local library that can handle unusual inter-library loan requests, there's quite a bit available on your side of the pond. The Calendars of State Papers Domestic and Colonial contain a fair number of depositions and letters from governors (unfortunately, many of them are summarised). The Calendars can be found online: <http://british-history.ac.uk/catalogue.aspx?type=3&gid=191> and <http://british-history.ac.uk/catalogue.aspx?type=3&gid=123>. If you've got a large amount of disposable cash then you could do worse than sign up to *Eighteenth Century Collections Online* (<http://gale.cengage.co.uk/product-highlights/history/eighteenth-century-collections-online.aspx>) which now carries with it access to *Early English Books Online*. ECCO has a number of interesting books (including heaps of medical texts), and several of the printed trial accounts. The Burney Newspaper Collection (<http://gale.cengage.co.uk/product-highlights/history/17th--18th-century-burney-collection-newspapers-.aspx>) turns up 1,907 results for a search for 'pirate' between 1675 and 1730.

John Franklin Jameson's *Privateering and Piracy in the Colonial Period* used to be scarcer than rocking-horse turds, but has recently gone back into print ([Amazon link](http://www.amazon.com/Privateering-Piracy-Colonial-Illustrative-Documents/dp/1153786109/ref%3Dsr_1_4?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1285788550&sr=1-4)) thanks to the digital printing revolution. There's also a link to it on Project Gutenberg kicking around somewhere in Twill.

More recently, Joel Baer has compiled a four volume set of books containing facsimiles of contemporary printed accounts, [British Piracy in the Golden Age](http://www.pickeringchatto.com/index.php/major_works/british_piracy_in_the_golden_age), which duplicates some of the texts available via ECCO.

For manuscript sources you really do need to visit the archives though, unfortunately.

[**captscurvy\_nc**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10634-captscurvy_nc/)

* Plunderer
* 
* 
* Member
* 488 posts

[Posted September 30, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=389984) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=389984)

It's a very fine line. You can look at it from both sides and I feel it is safe to say that the phrase "a few bad apples" can come into play here. Personally, I have always looked at Pirates, Merchant Seamen, Navy Sailors and all other types that made their living onthe sea to have their own form of religion to a point. This is from all the superstitions and general practices that would occur on a ship that even if you were not a religious person you still followed because it was part of being a sailor.

[**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 March 2, 2014](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=416287) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=416287)

Reading David Marley's *Daily Life of Pirates* (which is proving to have some questionable facts, but I am still committed to reading through it), I came across this, which I thought was worth throwing out there. He doesn't source it (again), so I don't know where he got the info.

"Fully cognizant of the irreligious nature of their piratical foes, the Spanish-Americans would even devise a system of passwords known as santa y seña or 'saint and countersign,' based on the Church calendar. If a vessel or fortress were approached by strangers after nightfall, they would be challenged by a sentry shouting out a saint's name at random, which was to be answered by correctly identifying the corresponding place associated with that particular saint - to a cry of 'Santa Rosa,' for instance, the proper reply would be 'Lima;' to 'San Francisco Javier,' the answer was 'Navarra;' and so on. This system had been introduced with heretical English or Dutch pirates in mind, as they would never have such pious answers ready on their lips. Moreover, such a flexible system permitted Spanish vessels to depart on protracted voyages without worrying about a specific password having been altered during their absence." (Marley, p. 170)

Note that in the beginning he says pirates were not religious. While true in some cases, it is not in others as has been shown here. Sweeping generalizations like this are part of the problem with this book IMO. He'd have been better to start by saying that pirates were generally not Catholic (although [even that is not entirely true](http://pyracy.com/index.php/topic/17412-papist-pyrates/?p=391255)) rather than broadly labeling them. Still, Marley's primary focus is pretty clearly on buccaneers, so I suspect there is probably something in the code he talks about.

[**Elena**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/11386-elena/)

* A Seadog Looking for Crewmates
* 
* 
* Member
* 388 posts
* Gender:Female
* Location:Bucharest, Romania
* Interests:historical Age of Sail RPGs, music, reading, foreign languages

[Posted March 3, 2014](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=416294) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=416294)

The saints are specific to Spanish places, (the patron saints of several cities) so I think not being Catholic was the main issue, and not being Spanish the second. (And yes, for Catholics, the protestants were heretics )

**Edited March 3, 2014 by Elena**

[**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 March 4, 2014](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=416304) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=416304)

 On 3/2/2014 at 9:13 AM, Mission said:

Note that in the beginning he says pirates were not religious. While true in some cases, it is not in others as has been shown here. Sweeping generalizations like this are part of the problem with this book IMO. He'd have been better to start by saying that pirates were generally not Catholic (although [even that is not entirely true](http://pyracy.com/index.php/topic/17412-papist-pyrates/?p=391255)) rather than broadly labeling them. Still, Marley's primary focus is pretty clearly on buccaneers, so I suspect there is probably something in the code he talks about.

Interesting.

Marcus Rederiker, while he has done some interesting study about it, has similar generalization of pirates and religion (thought he focused on the 1700s pirates and not buccaneers). Sure if you take all of the (indeed numerous) anti-religious acts of pirates it seems like all were not religious. For example while some pirates didn't repent (like William Fly, the favorite example of Rederiker) there were also those who would in the end repent and sing psalms with people like Cotton Mather (like some of Bellamy's men hanged in Boston and indeed some Bellamy's men were singing psalms during a violent storm) and Rederiker doesn't mention those in his main book "Villains of All Nations". Surely pirates were rarely religious, instead it seems some at least believed that they would go "merrily to Hell together". Still...

**Edited March 4, 2014 by Swashbuckler 1700**

[**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 March 4, 2014](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=416305) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=416305)

Rediker is a [self-proclaimed historical activist](http://www.marcusrediker.com/Miscellany/activism.htm) so I tend to take anything he says with a grain of salt.

I agree that some pirates were irreligious, but my comment was that not all of them were and I provided links to some examples here on the Pub.

[**privypiper2002**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/20982-privypiper2002/)

* Bilge Rat
* 
* 
* Member
* 17 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:arizona
* Interests:Piracy in general. I make belts baldrykes etc. I was also fortunate to be a supplier of leathers to Disneys POTC.

[Posted March 4, 2014](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=416307) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=416307)

As a pastor, this has been a great read. Some basic things I keep in mind.

1. Every man, or Pirate as the case may be, keeps God in his or her own way.

2. Everyone believes that their way is the only way.

Great read great history.

[**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 March 5, 2014](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=416308) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=416308)

The other thing to bear in mind is that belief and practising religion are not always the same thing. Pirates who all expected to go to Hell together may not have practised religion, but they believed in Hell (and thus, presumably, the alternative). Other pirates are known to have practised religion, such as Taylor's company who sang psalms at the funerals of their comrades, and even went so far as to ban the discussion of religion in their articles - presumably because of its potentially divisive nature - but du Bucquoy says that apart from funerals he never saw them doing anything else religious.

[**Patrick Hand**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1049-patrick-hand/)

* The sailor's sailor
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 6,100 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:TH' Mountains of Central California
* Interests:I like wierdness... Klingon, Pyrate..... and even..... gasp.... Renn Faires...... (Baseball and tractor pulls I'd have to think about.... could be wierd or Not,,,,)

[Posted March 5, 2014](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=416312) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/8268-religion-during-the-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=416312)

 Quote

This system had been introduced with heretical English or Dutch pirates in mind

I think the part you are missing here is Heretical The Dutch and English Pyrates would have been Protestant, and therefore considered heretics by the Catholic Spanish.

If I remember correctly, if English Buccaneers were captured by the Spanish, they were tried first as Heretics, and if they "survived" that, then they were tried for their acts of Pyracy.