**[Swashbuckler 1700](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/20630-swashbuckler-1700/" \o "Go to Swashbuckler 1700's profile)**

* 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,...

([IP: 80.223.160.249](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=80.223.160.249)) ·

[Posted May 3, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=findComment&comment=408946) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=reportComment&comment=408946)

[split from [Period hanging methods](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18672-period-hanging-methods/).]

 On 5/3/2012 at 11:49 AM, Foxe said:

William Fly and his company were hanged in 1726, and John Upton went to the gallows in 1728 eating a biscuit. And there was a pirate crew hanged in Williamsburg VA in 1729. There were also lots of pirate executions outside the GAoP If memory serves a bunch of people were hanged for piracy in London in the 1730s too.

The Golden age, after all, is just a later invented time period. ( since there were pirates in late 1720s too I think best end of gaop is the year 1730). Of course pirate operation decreased because of RN etc. but I think the main reason why post 1724/ 25 pirates are not so known is that GHOP was made in 1724. 

**Edited May 3, 2012 by Mission**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=edit)

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

* Old Twillian
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* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
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Shooting pirates.

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[Posted May 3, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=findComment&comment=408954) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=reportComment&comment=408954)

Possibly, except that the pirates being hanged in 1725 that I quoted above were from John Gow's company, and he has a chapter in the GHoP.

I can't remember if there's a thread already about defining the 'Golden Age' here...

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=editComment&comment=408954)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/#elControls_408954_menu)

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[Posted May 3, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=findComment&comment=408955) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=reportComment&comment=408955)

This is one of SB1700's pet topics based on pm discussions we've had due to the fact that he doesn't think I defined it right on [my website](http://www.piratesurgeon.com/). (I sort of plucked them out of the air, so I know I'm wrong. OTOH, there is little agreement on this by *anyone*, so I know I'm right. ("Truly, you have a dizzying intellect." "Wait till I get going!") Now, where was I?)

The Golden Age of Piracy took place sometime around the turn of the 17th/18th centuries, but the edges are incredibly ragged. Everyone defines it differently based on whatever episode of piracy that occurred around that time that they want to focus upon and based on the fact that they want that year to end in a 5 or a 0 because it looks cleaner that way. (OTOH, it's the kind of picayune bit of nonsense we sometimes get into shockingly silly tussels over, so here we go...)

A quick Google search produces the following results from the first page:

[Wikipedia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golden_Age_of_Piracy): "In its broadest accepted definition, the Golden Age of Piracy spans from the 1650s to the 1730s..."

[The UnMuseum](http://www.unmuseum.org/pirate.htm): "This period started soon after the discovery of the New World and continued for about 250 years."

The [Pirate Encyclopedia](http://ageofpirates.com/article.php?Golden_Age_of_Piracy): "The Golden Age of Piracy covers the time period around the end of the seventeenth century and the beginning of the eighteenth - from about 1690-1730, particularly."

[Cindy Vallar's Site](http://www.cindyvallar.com/goldenage.html): "The height of plundering lasted about a decade from 1715-1725"

[Reefs, Wrecks and Rascals](http://www.melfisher.org/reefswrecks/golden.htm): "the era lasted from around 1700 until 1730"

[Wisegeek](http://www.wisegeek.com/what-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy.htm): "The Golden Age of Piracy was a period between roughly 1650 and 1720 when piracy on the Atlantic Ocean reached astounding levels."

[Chacha.com](http://www.chacha.com/question/what-years-are-considered-the-golden-age-of-piracy): "Piracy was widespread from the 15th to the 18th Century AD."

[Angus Konstam's Pirate Blog](http://www.edinburghwargames.com/Pirate%20Blog%20-%20Q%20%26%20A.htm): "The so-called Golden Age of Piracy was a phrase coined by pirate novelists and historians to describe the period from between 1695 and 1730, when all the best-known pirates were in business."

[About.com](http://latinamericanhistory.about.com/od/TheGoldenAgeofPiracy1700-1725/a/The-Golden-Age-Of-Piracy.htm): "the so-called "Golden Age" of Piracy, which lasted roughly from 1700 to 1725"

Viola! None of the top rated sites for this question agree with one another. You may as well try to catch a will-o-wisp as try and define the dates accurately.

**Edited May 3, 2012 by Mission**

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It depends also because some think that buccaneers were in Gaop other Don't. I don't like that buccaneer + other pirates gaop and I like more of that gaop that has only actual pirates ( 1690s- 1730)

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

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/)
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It's one of those things that will never be pinpointed unless an expert like J.R. Moore comes along and tells us how it should be defined.

**Edited May 3, 2012 by Mission**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/)
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* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/#elControls_408957_menu)

[**William Brand**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1471-william-brand/)

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* Admin
* 8,884 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Logan, Utah
* Interests:My name is William Pace and I live and work as a graphic designer, illustrator and photographer in Northern Utah. I'm married to the lovely Tracy Pace and we have three children. In addition to all things art, I enjoy traveling and meeting new people from every walk of life. I've always been a fan of history, theology, and of course, Pyracy.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PSkt-q-HihQ

([IP: 166.70.59.121](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=166.70.59.121)) · · 

[Posted May 3, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=findComment&comment=408958) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=reportComment&comment=408958)

So based on the experts we can say, without hesitation, that part of the Golden Age of Piracy was 1715-1720. Or whenever.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/)
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* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/#elControls_408958_menu)

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I don't know if I'd call them experts - they're just the top bunch of websites that come up with an answer when you was Google when the Golden Age of Piracy occurred. One way I suppose you could define it is to look at all the pirates in the two books of the History of the Pirates that Johnson wrote and see when the first one went a-pirating (excluding the ones clearly outside the golden age like those who captured Caesar) and when the last one got caught. Although, even then, I think Foxe may have documented examples of pirates that aren't included in those books. (See? Fuzzy.)

Swashbuckler1700 brings up a good point (and one Wikipedia sort of agrees with when you read the fine print): there were the buccaneers and there were the pirates. They're not really the same thing. Wiki goes a step further and defines a third period (just to confuse things):

 Quote

1. the buccaneering period of approximately 1650 to 1680, characterized by Anglo-French seamen based on [Jamaica](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jamaica) and [Tortuga](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tortuga_%28Haiti%29) attacking Spanish colonies and shipping in the Caribbean and eastern Pacific,
2. the [Pirate Round](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pirate_Round) of the 1690s, associated with long-distance voyages from [Bermuda](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bermuda) and the Americas to rob Muslim and East India Company targets in the Indian Ocean and Red Sea, and
3. the post-Spanish Succession period, defined by [Marcus Rediker](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marcus_Rediker) as extending from 1716 to 1726, when Anglo-American sailors and [privateers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Privateers) left unemployed by the end of the [War of the Spanish Succession](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_of_the_Spanish_Succession) turned en masse to piracy in the Caribbean, the American eastern seaboard, the West African coast, and the Indian Ocean.

Curiously, this doesn't completely agree with their statement that "the Golden Age of Piracy spans from the 1650s to the 1730s".

**Edited May 3, 2012 by Mission**

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[Posted May 3, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=findComment&comment=408960) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=reportComment&comment=408960)

My statement was as tongue-in-cheek as I could manage from a thread that can only be speculative or opinion. I generally just say late 1600s, early 1700s.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=editComment&comment=408960)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/#elControls_408960_menu)

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Oh, I understood. I just wanted to be clear on how I'd come up with that info. I personally think it's funny that no one can agree. It's yet another example of how hard it is to pin things down when you're talking about stuff that happened so long ago. It's like you can't comfortably participate in discussions about the finer points of this topic unless you can accept ambiguity.

**Edited May 3, 2012 by Mission**

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[Posted May 3, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=findComment&comment=408962) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=reportComment&comment=408962)

I say that we get ridiculously specific. Let's call the Golden Age everything from three fourths of the way into 1667 through the first four and a half weeks of 1729, minus September 14th-19th of 1701 and the better part of 1727 apart from Good Friday, Halloween and Defoe's birthday.

**Edited May 3, 2012 by William Red Wake**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/)
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The reason, I suspect, that nobody can really reach a consensus over *when* the Golden Age of Piracy (hereafter GAoP) was, is that there's no real consensus over *what* the GAoP was. Usually, if pressed for a reason, people say something inane and meaningless about the number of pirates active, or the 'best known' pirates being around. To be honest, they might as well say 'when pirates wore tricorns'. Accepting for a moment that we're talking about Anglo-American pirates (as the Anglo-American authors who tend to use the phrase generally are), then the number of pirates active is not the best definition, because there were probably just as many, possibly more, English pirates active in the second decade of the 17th century as there were in the early 18th century. Neither does it really make sense, to me, to define it by the best known pirates being active because then there are problems with cause and effect: is it the GAoP because those pirates were active, or are they the best known because they were active in the GAoP? At it's widest the GAoP is sometimes defined as beginning with Drake and co in the late 16th century and ending with Blackbeard and co in the early 18th. At its narrowest, the GAoP is defined as encapsulating only the decade from around 1715-1725. Whatever the time-frame, all are agreed at the the GAoP includes those pirates active in the 17teens and early 1720s, so in order to define the GAoP *I think* it's best to start by examining what it was about that period that was different from other periods when piracy flourished. If we can establish what marks those years out then we can see how far those criteria can be stretched in either direction. ("Truly, you have a dizzying intellect." "Wait till I get going!")

So, just for the fun of it, here's a few considerations which I think mark the GAoP apart from other periods when piracy flourished.

**1. Pirates of the GAoP identified themselves as pirates**. This sounds banal, but it isn't. The buccaneers of Morgan's day, for example, made every effort to appear to be legitimate privateers - they would take commissions from foreign powers, even forge them if they had to, but they generally made sure that there was some veneer of legitimacy. So too did many or most of the pirates active in the early 19th century, manyof whom allied themselves with the South American states in rebellion against the Spanish Empire. But, people like Bart Roberts, Blackbeard and Edward Low made no pretence about being pirates.

**2. Pirates of the GAoP operated in bands, loosely connected to one another, forming a pirate 'community'**. They were not the first or the last to do it, but the scale of it was truly staggering. Rediker (love him or hate him) has shown quite conclusively that around 90% of all the Anglophone pirate companies active in 1715-1725 belonged to one of two bands who all, to some extent, knew one another. Moreover, it is clear they felt a genuine bond existed between them: Blackbeard burned all Boston ships he came across because of Bostonians hanging men from Bellamy's crew; Roberts attacked the Leeward Islands because they were holding some pirates in prison there; Spriggs vowed to hunt down Walter Moore for finishing off Lowther's company, etc.

**3. Pirates of the GAoP presented a major and genuine threat to legitimate trade**. This is partly linked to the cohesion of the pirate community mentioned in point 2, and partly to do with numbers, but during the GAoP pirates were more of a threat to legitimate shipping than any other danger of the sea. More anti-pirate legislation was enacted between 1715 and 1725 than at any other time, and pirate activity made a definite impact on maritime insurance rates.

**4. Pirates of the GAoP were not tied to any particular port or area for their sustenance**. Some pirates of the GAoP remained at sea for years at a time without putting into the same port more than once or twice. If we take Anstis' company as an example, some of them had been at sea from 1718 to 1723 without ever having a safe base. Conversely...

**5. Pirates of the GAoP established bases which were more or less entirely populated by pirates or their supporters**. Principally I'm thinking of New Providence here, which from 1716-1718 was held by pirates. Anyone who didn't like living with pirates left.

So, *IF* we accept those things as being defining characteristics of the GAoP (and of course, others may not agree with me) then I think we can discount the buccaneers since they, at best, meet only criterion 2. The pirates of the early 17th century meet 1 and 2, and maybe 3. Most pirates of the 19th century meet only criteria 1 or 5. Pirates of the 16th century meet none of the criteria.

However, many of the pirates involved in the 'Pirate Round' of the 1690s meet all five criteria, and for that reason I think that they should be included in any definition of the GAoP. Moreover, many people, like William, generalise and say late17th-early18th centuries. That being the case, I'm going to go out on a limb and say that we can actually pinpoint the dates of the beginning and end of the GAoP.

**13 October 1691**. The *Bachelor's Delight*, commanded by George Raynor, arrived at St. Mary's Island, Madagascar, and became the first pirate ship to resupply at Adam Baldridge's trading post which had been set up in **May 1691**. Baldridge's trading post enabled pirates sailing from America and England to remain in the Indian Ocean and plunder shipping in the Red Sea indefinitely, until they'd made enough money to make it worth going home and retiring from piracy: Robert Culliford stayed in the East for nearly ten years. Because they no longer needed to return home between cruises the Indian Ocean pirates were able to throw off the pretence of being privateers, and their perpetual presence in the Eastern seas not only made it extremely dangerous for legitimate shipping, but also aroused the ire of the Indian merchants against English-speaking traders to the point that they nearly ejected them from India twice in the 1690s. Baldridge's trading post also offered a communal base where pirates from different crews could meet and mix, and so a community was formed: John Ireland, for example, sailed under or alongside Henry Every, Thomas Tew, Robert Culliford and Richard Shivers - four of the most prolific pirates of the 17th century - and spent some time at Baldridge's place.

The end of the GAoP is a little harder to define so precisely, but if pressed I'd say the beginning of the end occurred on 9 February 1722, on which day Bartholomew Roberts band was destroyed by HMS *Swallow*. Certainly, there were pirates active after that date, and in fact the Lowther-Low group hadn't even begin operations then, but the Lowther-Low group of pirates never really made the same impact on trade that the earlier pirates had, and there was never more than three of them operating at once. The last pirates active with any link to the great days of Roberts and Blackbeard were the company commanded by John Philips (who had sailed under Anstis) and his quartermaster John Rose Archer (who had sailed under Blackbeard). Their effective end came at about **11.15 am, 18 April 1724**.

Is that precise enough for you William?

Yours etc, J.R. Moore.

Um, I mean, Foxe.

(And, FWIW, there were more pirate captains active in the GAoP who are *not* covered by Johnson than there were whom he did cover.)

**Edited May 3, 2012 by Foxe**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=editComment&comment=408965)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/#elControls_408965_menu)

[**William Brand**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1471-william-brand/)

* Mercury Malefactor
* 
* 
* Admin
* 8,884 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Logan, Utah
* Interests:My name is William Pace and I live and work as a graphic designer, illustrator and photographer in Northern Utah. I'm married to the lovely Tracy Pace and we have three children. In addition to all things art, I enjoy traveling and meeting new people from every walk of life. I've always been a fan of history, theology, and of course, Pyracy.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PSkt-q-HihQ

([IP: 166.70.59.121](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=166.70.59.121)) · · 

[Posted May 3, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=findComment&comment=408968) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=reportComment&comment=408968)

 On 5/3/2012 at 4:56 PM, Foxe said:

Is that precise enough for you William?

Wait, what? I didn't start the thread. However, I love your specific citations. I'm not a creature of precise dates when framing the GAoP end to end, only because I play comfortably within a time frame that most people can agree on, but I loved your examples. More people should know the years and names of pirates during the individual 'Golden ages' of those pirates.

**Edited May 3, 2012 by William Red Wake**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=editComment&comment=408968)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/#elControls_408968_menu)

[**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....

([IP: 66.87.7.61](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=66.87.7.61)) · · 

[Posted May 3, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=findComment&comment=408969) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=reportComment&comment=408969)

Wow.

Lovely Mr. Moore

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=editComment&comment=408969)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/#elControls_408969_menu)

[**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.

([IP: 86.147.77.188](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=86.147.77.188)) · · 

[Posted May 3, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=findComment&comment=408970) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=reportComment&comment=408970)

 On 5/3/2012 at 5:18 PM, William Red Wake said:

Wait, what? I didn't start the thread.

No, but you did say:

 Quote

I say that we get ridiculously specific.

(And in case anyone is in doubt, those dates are real, you can check 'em)

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=editComment&comment=408970)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/#elControls_408970_menu)

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http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PSkt-q-HihQ

([IP: 166.70.59.121](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=166.70.59.121)) · · 

[Posted May 3, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=findComment&comment=408972) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=reportComment&comment=408972)

Why am I quoted most often when I'm being patently absurd on purpose?

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=editComment&comment=408972)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/#elControls_408972_menu)

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

* Goat Specialist
* 
* 
* Admin
* 5,082 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.

([IP: 24.247.94.112](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=24.247.94.112)) · · 

[Posted May 3, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=findComment&comment=408974) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=reportComment&comment=408974)

So, according to J.R., my website was pretty much right after all - even though I pulled those dates out of my...ear. (Either that or I got them out of a discussion at the Pirateinfo site with Ed. )

 On 5/3/2012 at 5:46 PM, William Red Wake said:

Why am I quoted most often when I'm being patently absurd on purpose?

Use more smilies. 

**Edited May 3, 2012 by Mission**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=editComment&comment=408974)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/#elControls_408974_menu)

[**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,...

([IP: 62.148.100.83](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=62.148.100.83)) · · 

[Posted May 4, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=findComment&comment=408983) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=reportComment&comment=408983)

I think that end of gaop there is few milestones so to speak

1. 1718 W.Rogers to the Bahamas, Death of Bonnet and Blackbeard. Pirates have harder times than before that. Other pirate executions

2. 1722 death of Roberts, pirate executions

​3. 1726 William fly's execution. pirate executions

4. 1730 La Buse's death. Final end of Gaop.

since whole decades look better than fives I prefer 1730 and not 1725....

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=editComment&comment=408983)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/#elControls_408983_menu)

[**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.

([IP: 195.194.74.65](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=195.194.74.65)) · · 

[Posted May 4, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=findComment&comment=408984) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=reportComment&comment=408984)

Ah, but what makes Fly a 'Golden Age' pirate? What makes him different from, say, Richard Coyle, who was hanged in 1738?

La Buse was certainly a Golden Age pirate, but since he was basically insignificant after Taylor's departure from the Indian Ocean in 1722, is he enough to justify the subsequent period being labelled the GAoP?

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=editComment&comment=408984)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/#elControls_408984_menu)

[**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,...

([IP: 62.148.100.83](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=62.148.100.83)) · · 

[Posted May 4, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=findComment&comment=408990) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=reportComment&comment=408990)

Well Fly was a pirate and operated in the same time as some of the Low's company. It was all that early 18th C pirate frenzy that Fly was a member of.

I think that death of la Buse showed that even inactive pirate can be get caught.

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

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=editComment&comment=408990)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/#elControls_408990_menu)

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* Goat Specialist
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([IP: 24.247.94.112](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=24.247.94.112)) · · 

[Posted May 4, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=findComment&comment=408995) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=reportComment&comment=408995)

 On 5/3/2012 at 4:56 PM, Foxe said:

(And, FWIW, there were more pirate captains active in the GAoP who are *not* covered by Johnson than there were whom he did cover.)

You know, it's too bad when we were making that list of [Pirate Nationalities (Origins)](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/4289-pirate-nationalities-origins) over at the Pirateinfo forum that we didn't indicate which were the captains and what their years of activity were. (And their date of death, original sources where they were found, ships taken, life histories, major prosthetics, whether they owned a parrot or not...&c. )

**Edited May 4, 2012 by Mission**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=editComment&comment=408995)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/#elControls_408995_menu)

[**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,...

([IP: 80.223.160.249](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=80.223.160.249)) · · 

[Posted May 4, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=findComment&comment=409000) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=reportComment&comment=409000)

But we all agree that gaop **ended by 1730** but was it 1725 or 1730 there is little matter.....

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=editComment&comment=409000)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/#elControls_409000_menu)

[**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.

([IP: 86.144.28.118](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=86.144.28.118)) · · 

[Posted May 4, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=findComment&comment=409001) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=reportComment&comment=409001)

 On 5/4/2012 at 7:52 AM, Swashbuckler 1700 said:

Well Fly was a pirate and operated in the same time as some of the Low's company. It was all that early 18th C pirate frenzy that Fly was a member of.

Fly was a pirate that operated at the same time as some of Low's company, but was he really a 'member of' the early 18th century pirate frenzy?

It's a rhetorical question really. The point I'm trying to make is that what is important about the 'Golden Age' of piracy is not so much *when* it was, as *what* it was.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=editComment&comment=409001)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/#elControls_409001_menu)

[**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,...

([IP: 80.223.160.249](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=80.223.160.249)) · · 

[Posted May 4, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=findComment&comment=409004) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=reportComment&comment=409004)

Well-spoken! J.R. Moore

oops I mean Foxe

At least there were lots of ugly dudes called pirates in early 1700s who had ships, weapons and murderous intentions ....

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=editComment&comment=409004)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/#elControls_409004_menu)

[**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,...

([IP: 80.223.160.249](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=80.223.160.249)) · · 

[Posted May 4, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=findComment&comment=409007) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=reportComment&comment=409007)

If we would look age of the most pirates ever active ( per capita at least) it well may be that let's say there were most pirates in antique Roman times.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=editComment&comment=409007)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/#elControls_409007_menu)

[**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,...

([IP: 80.223.160.249](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=80.223.160.249)) · · 

[Posted May 21, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=findComment&comment=409329) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=reportComment&comment=409329)

Properly speaking if we think with Foxe's logic (not bad logic at all)John quelch and Wynne were not gaop pirates at all they had no connections to others.....

**Edited May 21, 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 />

([IP: 74.181.91.31](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=74.181.91.31)) · · 

[Posted May 21, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=findComment&comment=409337) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=reportComment&comment=409337)

The politically related impact of the rash of organized piracy in the aftermath (the time following the official peace and suddenly unemployed sailors) of the Queen Anne's War (War of Spanish Succession) is a major "starting point" for the brief period most think of as "the pirate era" -for the reasons Foxe mentioned above. The "Pirate Round" era was certainly a famous round of piracy, which had an end at the beginning of the War, so that could be called the "prequel" to the GAoP (if you will). It was after the burgeoning pirates were kicked out of Jamaica (following the raids on the Spanish recovery camps from the Hurricane treasure fleet disaster) that the "Golden Age" really kicked off. It was in high-tide until Woodes Rogers kicked/brought "peace through pardons" to New Providence, which then fractured the organization as many pirates when peacefully into the night or even became pirate hunters. The pirates where then forced to a period of complete roving (and crewmen moving between crews of a group or gang of pirates), which framed a central part of the "pirate image" captured by later writers.

The death of Roberts spelled the beginning of the end (IF that of Blackbeard and a wide number of others in 1718 didn't already) of "classic piracy," which then concluded with the end of that same loosely knit and VERY interconnected band in 1724, as Foxe noted.

Another element unique to this period is "self-proclaimed-pirates" who weren't out-and-out criminals (I'd say that the Low/Lowther group WERE and would have been such regardless of the era). Many of the captains and crewmen of the "New Providence"-related group -which called THEMSELVES "The Flying Gang" (THEY even thought of themselves as an interconnected group)- probably would have been "honest men" if given the free opportunity and if the Royal Navy and civilian merchantmen had been less "cruel" in their policies. Such is shown at how many became pardoned so easily trough the period, even if the pull of relatively easy money and a more "carefree" lifestyle beckoned then back, after they had experienced it.

Even Roberts own famed statement reflects this: "A *merry Life and a short* one, *shall be my Motto*."

The focus of the Flying Gang was more self-sufficient living and a "merry life," as opposed to a back-breaking one with little joyful benefit as almost a slave of one's debt they could never repay thanks to the poor wage of a sailor. (This is the root of the "gentleman pirate," "good pirate," and "honest man turned pirate" motif that captured writers and that fuels pirate fiction from 1720 through today. Of note is that the first "pro-pirate" writing appeared DURING the "Golden Age" itself, not many years or decades later- as is almost always/VASTLY the case when dangerous men are "glorified" into heroes.

In contrast, pirates of other periods tend to fall into 2 camps:

1) "We are legitimate citizens of our country" (even if that country isn't the one of their birth), where the sailors were more of mercenaries than true pirates or thought they were on legitimate missions on behalf of that country- whether the country thought so or not. The Buccaneers were certainly of this camp, as were many of the "Rounders."

2) Out-and-our criminals and/or sadists in it JUST for the money (to get rich) and/or for the sheer joy or rape, pillage, torture, and murder. The Low/Lowther camp was in this group almost to-a-man.

So, the "tight" dates would be 1715-1724, for the New Providence-related band.

The "looser" dates would be 1695-1724, if you include the "Rounders" in the GAoP (as most tend to). Rounders include FAMOUS pirates such as Every/Avery, Kidd, Tew, and so forth. The debate here is if the Rounders are of the same group in spirit and mentality as the Flying Gang members.

In my personal research, I lean toward the narrower dates for period-accuracy- but also keep and ear/eye out for the wider dates- as it's interesting info.

My overall tendency is to THINK of the "Flying Gang" period AS the Golden Age of Piracy . . .

Accurate or not.

**Edited May 21, 2012 by Tartan Jack**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=editComment&comment=409337)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&page=2#elControls_409337_menu)

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[Posted May 21, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=findComment&comment=409339) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=reportComment&comment=409339)

Those are interesting - since I am in a part of North America that was starting to see European presence during this time, I prefer the broader dates since it gives me a chance to talk about King WIlliam's War and Queen Anne's War, which most Americans don't know anything about.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=editComment&comment=409339)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&page=2#elControls_409339_menu)

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[Posted May 21, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=findComment&comment=409343) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=reportComment&comment=409343)

As my edit is gone . . . I meant to say "1691" rather then "1695" as the start of the broader dates.

The 2 wars are important factors as to WHY the sailors were so well trained in combat tactics and techniques, as well as their grudge against those whom they served as privateers and in the Royal Navy, but left them jobless, shipless, and destitute at the end of hostilities. Also of note would be the Yamasee War in the Carolinas and Georgia and Jacobite issues culminating the the Jacobite Rebellion of 1715-> both of which play into the politics and atmosphere of that area (the Carribean and the American colonies especially) and the larger "British" empire/kingdom. The broader dates are relevant in what lead up to the 1715 pirate explosion, the openness to piracy as a real option (the success of the Rounders), the fears, conditions, and scope they operated in, as well as the aftermath on the following decades as it reverted to a strictly criminal activity on one hand and the fiction that birthed the popular myth on the other.

When in non-first-person portrayal (when teaching, rather than acting in-period), I've used all that. It is ALL relevant.

I'd even say both date sets are relevant and accurate from a certain perspective. I could easily argue either, depending on situation and context.

Still, the popular image conjured up by the term "Golden Age of Piracy" is rooted squarely in the 1715-1725 events, people, and personalities-> even though some names (such as Captain Kidd, for example- who I'd argue wasn't actually a so much a pirate as a failed privateer- and Morgan -who saw himself as more a privateer and royal mercenary) are certainly from the earlier Rounder and Buccanner periods.

As you can tell, I see the era of pirates as several sub eras:

- Buccanners

- Rounders (Pirate Round pirates, St Mary's and Madagascar)

- New-Providence/Flying Gang (the "classic pirate era")

- Lowther/Low (criminal element takes over)

Later stuff (everything post 1730-ish, well before the American Revolution), which more often was smuggling more than actual piracy.

In THAT sense, you could even expand the Golden Age of Piracy from 1630-ish to 1730-ish with several markedly distinct sub-sets within that larger period. If one uses that HUGE hundred-year period as the GAoP, then I'd make a distinction of 1715-1724 as the "Classic Age" of piracy/pirates.

Plus . . .

The Asian (Chinese, Japanese -Wakou-, and Korean) and the Med/Barbary pirates are another element that we have completely failed to consider/include. The Barbaries extended from the Crusades until the 1800s- when the US Navy took then on head-on. Either are MUCH longer than the popularly imagined "Golden Age" stuff was in the Americas and Indian Ocean. But, those are seldom included, mentioned, or even thought of when discussing "pirates." To the "popular imagination,"Pirates" remains the stuff related to the the Americas from generally 1630-1730-ish and most specifically 1715-1724.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&page=2)
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* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&page=2#elControls_409343_menu)

[**oderlesseye**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2503-oderlesseye/)

* Scourge o' the 7 Seas
* 
* 
* Member
* 2,126 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:San Diego, Ca. (North Park) me cove !
* Interests:Oderlesseye is a mutinous two bit sand dollar with a thirst for adventure. Sailing on tall ships, firing black powder weapons, and sword fighting.. I most love to entertain the public in piratical skit presentations that involve all of the above. My name is befitting of my position on board as that of the look-out. Some ask what’s the meaning of the name Oderlesseye...It is simple really.. When Eye am aloft, ye can’t smell me...But it’s spelled wrong some exclaim! Hey now! What pirate can spell? - is my retort!
I have been an active member of the pirate community since 2005. I consider myself a fan of living history in the Golden Age of Piracy. As a child I , like the lot of ye, loved the old time pirate movies with Errol Flynn and Douglas Fairbanks. Long live Long John Silver !
Inspired by them, Eye created a Pirate Ninja Movie called "Treachery and a Dead Mans Promise" Available on YouTube.
Being a pirate, as it turns out, is multi-dimensional. For me, a lifestyle has been carved out of it. There is a six foot tall skeleton pirate in a make shift hide out called Dead Mans Cove behind my house. The walls are painted giving the impression you are in a sea cave. There is a mural of a pirate coming ashore in a long boat at the mouth of the cove. Believe me, it is a great place to enjoy rum now and again!
Exploration into all things piratical have led me to being an attempted escapee from the Governors noose to impersonating a judge in the Anne Bonnie and Mary Read trial held in Pirates In Paradise.. As Oderlesseye, my one on one impression to patrons is as one whom barley escaped the flames of the ship we took when the powder magazine blew with the booty in me hands from the Captains quarters.. The tale explains the soot on me face, the tattered clothing, and the burnt tricorn, as I hand out a gold coin or two. I hate them plastic ones and I know kids appreciate the metal coins even more so.
When an event is slated for a historical time line presentation to the public, I do not do these things mentioned above. Rather, I share about what is a grape shot or how a flintlock works. I ware clothing that is more closely representing the era in these cases. I am still updating me togs (Period Kit) as I learn more thru fellow pirates and sources like the Pyracy Pub.

So far, there have been many exciting moments of adventure the world of PIRACY has afforded me. From standing on a bar top with Pirates Charles singing to me in New Orleans to shooting cannons ( Ships Guns for you PC Pirates!), on the tall ship Spirit of Dana Point. Cheers from a crowd during a show as last man standing on the Treasure chest proclaiming to an excited crowd ITS MINE! THE BOOTY IS MINE ! YARR ! ~ These things and the notoriety that comes with being a pirate has me hooked! Whats More Is the greater bonds of friendships that have been forged with those whose course finds me at such events, sharing the same love and passion of the Life within the pirate/reenactment community. To Them Eye take me hat off and offer a tot of Rum! Cheers mates!

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[Posted May 22, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=findComment&comment=409344) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=reportComment&comment=409344)

Is thar a "Like" button for both Foxe and Tartan Jacks post? Thank you both for the info and Low down..

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&page=2)
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[Posted May 22, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=findComment&comment=409346) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=reportComment&comment=409346)

I am not saying that gaop would have lasted in 1730s but I only mean that it ended by the year of 1730.

I think that we are putting stuff in the boxes once again. It may look nice but it don't give us real picture...

I see pirate eras as sub eras (as well Tartan Jack) but the " Rounders " were active also in early 1720s after 1718 (Rogers in the Bahamas) not only in 1690s like England or Taylor. But the scale of 1720s pirating was smaller in India than it was in 1690s.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&page=2)
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[**Tartan Jack**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/4587-tartan-jack/)

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* Interests:History, Scotland, Batman, Cars, and more<br />Married with 2 kids<br />

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[Posted May 22, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=findComment&comment=409355) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=reportComment&comment=409355)

(Oh, and I DO NOT mean to be read that the New Providence folks didn't do bad things. My point was that they didn't do robbery, death, and destruction for the fun of it. I think they would have felt a need to justify every "sinful act" (as they would have said then, as well as now) as a necessary evil or justifiable vengeance for acts committed against themselves or their friends. Just look at Blackbeard's attitude toward Boston due to their execution of the survivors of the shipwreck of his friend Bellamy's crew OR Robert's attitude toward the islands or Barbados and Maritinique (the ABH and AMH on his flag) and his first act as a pirate captain-> a death dealing avenge raid on the town that killed Capt. Davis. his predecessor.)

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&page=2)
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[Posted May 31, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=findComment&comment=409551) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=reportComment&comment=409551)

I know it's been a week since we discussed this topic, but I wanted to add another thought set.

There are three ways to look at what the "Golden Age" actually is/was:

1) the general period where piracy became a major socio-economic and political force for Europe and their colonies (particular the American ones). That would be the larger 1691-1725-ish.

2) the specific period the the mass rash/outbreak of piracy that informed the media and the popular image of piracy, sparking the huge volume of books on piracy and the need for a mass "clamping down" on that piracy. That would be the 1715-1724 period, esp. 1715-1718.

3) the period that sets the "classical image" of pirates and piracy in all forms of fiction from the 1720s through today. That one is more vague, not being set on the real history but as much on myth and legend. The narrative and visual is VERY much based on the 1715-1724 period. The described ships range from Elizabethan times to the Napoleonic Wars, esp. weighted to the 1770s-1820-ish. The NAMES used are also weighted to the 1650s-1720s with little regard to generational and geographic gaps, placing Buccaneers, Rounders, and New Providence pirates all together in a lump in the narrative. Looking at a range of "pirate" films over the last bit, I noticed that even the "buccaneer" era films presented the situation as it was in New Providence (pre-Rogers), only with the location names changed to fit the presented era-> as many tried to work Morgan into the "classic" pirate genre situations.

Historically, 1 and 2 are easily justifiable depending on the specific qualifications defining "Golden Era" historically.

The third is what it is in the popular imagination, such as in "The Pirates! Band of Misfits"/"The Pirates! In an Adventure with Scientists!" which puts pirates dressed (mostly/genrally) as early 1700s pirates in Victorian England a century later.

Wikipedia even defines the GAoP as:

"In the popular modern imagination, pirates of the classical period were rebellious, clever teams who operated outside the restricting [bureaucracy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bureaucracy) of modern life. Pirates were also depicted as always raising their [Jolly Roger](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jolly_Roger) flag when preparing to hijack a vessel. The Jolly Roger is the traditional name for the [flags](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag) of European and American pirates and a symbol for piracy that has been adopted by film-makers and toy manufacturers."

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piracy>

And whoever wrote the specific article on the GAoP sees it as a broad range with three parts:

"

The **Golden Age of Piracy** is a common designation given to one or more outbursts of [piracy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piracy) in [maritime history](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maritime_history) of the [early modern period](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Early_modern_period). In its broadest accepted definition, the Golden Age of Piracy spans from the 1650s to the 1730s and covers three separate outbursts of piracy:

1. the buccaneering period of approximately 1650 to 1680, characterized by Anglo-French seamen based on [Jamaica](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jamaica) and [Tortuga](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tortuga_%28Haiti%29) attacking Spanish colonies and shipping in the Caribbean and eastern Pacific,
2. the [Pirate Round](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pirate_Round) of the 1690s, associated with long-distance voyages from [Bermuda](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bermuda) and the Americas to rob Muslim and East India Company targets in the Indian Ocean and Red Sea, and
3. the post-Spanish Succession period, defined by [Marcus Rediker](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marcus_Rediker) as extending from 1716 to 1726, when Anglo-American sailors and [privateers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Privateers) left unemployed by the end of the [War of the Spanish Succession](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_of_the_Spanish_Succession) turned en masse to piracy in the Caribbean, the American eastern seaboard, the West African coast, and the Indian Ocean.

Narrower definitions of the Golden Age sometimes exclude the first or second periods, but most include at least some portion of the third. The modern conception of pirates as depicted in popular culture is derived largely, though not always accurately, from the Golden Age of Piracy."

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golden_Age_of_Piracy>

Wiki is getting better, but still remains . . . imperfect . . .

I still hold to what I posted before.

**Edited May 31, 2012 by Tartan Jack**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&page=2)
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[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
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* Admin
* 5,082 posts
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* Location:Monroe, MI
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[Posted May 31, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=findComment&comment=409552) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=reportComment&comment=409552)

Yeah, I already cited the Wiki three conceptualizations idea back when this first came up. When you come down to it, history is necessarily messy when you're being fair about what really happened. Although, of your three concepts, two of the results agree with Foxe's results for the most part.

We can keep slicing and dicing this and get the wide variety of ideas when the time period *could be* defined as shown in my first post of all the top Google results, but I think Foxe has presented a pretty logical rationalization for how we can define the GAoP. Of course, since he did that by establishing a set of guidelines, it can re-done and re-done and re-done by modifying the guidelines you want to use.

**Edited May 31, 2012 by Mission**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&page=2)
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[**Daniel**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/352-daniel/)

* Pyrate Captain
* 
* 
* Member
* 652 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:McLean, VA
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[Posted June 1, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=findComment&comment=409570) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=reportComment&comment=409570)

 On 5/21/2012 at 11:42 PM, Tartan Jack said:

Also of note would be the Yamasee War in the Carolinas...

I'd like to see you expand on this. What was the influence of the Yamasee War on the Golden Age? I've only found a very little bit about the Yamasee War, and it seemed to me that it helped weaken Charleston to the point where Blackbeard saw it as a good target, but I'd be curious to know if that war has any further connection to the Golden Age.

And incidentally, while the Wikipedia entry on "Golden Age of Piracy" is certainly not the work of one person, the nincompoop who wrote the "three outbursts of piracy" part, as well as the historiography section which that summary is based on . . . that was me. So if y'all have any suggestions about how to make it better, I'll see if I can do something.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&page=2)
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[Posted June 1, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=findComment&comment=409571) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=reportComment&comment=409571)

Who called you a nincompoop, Daniel? As I have stated in the past, I think wiki is right more often than wrong. However, I also think that if they want to be the internet's encyclopedia they ought to maintain consistency throughout a given article. It confuses the issue when they say one thing in one place and another later on. (Which is one of the problematic facets of any group exercise.)

I must say, I have never understood the desire to separate out the Roundsmen. It seems like a slightly different shade of the Golden Age of piracy to me. Of course, that really just returns us to the definition of guidelines problem and how fuzzy the underlying facts really are.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=editComment&comment=409571)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&page=2#elControls_409571_menu)

[**LookingGlass**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10434-lookingglass/)

* Deck Hand
* 
* 
* Member
* 81 posts

([IP: 24.40.136.23](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=24.40.136.23)) · · 

[Posted June 1, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=findComment&comment=409572) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=reportComment&comment=409572)

"and it seemed to me that it helped weaken Charleston to the point where Blackbeard saw it as a good target, but I'd be curious to know if that war has any further connection to the Golden Age."

Contrary to suggestions by Konstam, Woodard, Lee, et. al., Blackbeard was unlikely to have crossed the bar, entered the harbor and sacked the town. According to 19th century historian Edward McCrady, “it is altogether improbable that Thatch would have ventured his 40 guns against 100 which lined the fortifications of the town, and risked his vessels in the harbor where [the governor] would have had him under such disadvantage.”

**Edited June 1, 2012 by LookingGlass**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=editComment&comment=409572)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&page=2#elControls_409572_menu)

[**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.

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[Posted June 1, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=findComment&comment=409575) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=reportComment&comment=409575)

 On 6/1/2012 at 0:41 PM, Mission said:

Who called you a nincompoop, Daniel? As I have stated in the past, I think wiki is right more often than wrong. However, I also think that if they want to be the internet's encyclopedia they ought to maintain consistency throughout a given article. It confuses the issue when they say one thing in one place and another later on. (Which is one of the problematic facets of any group exercise.)

I was speaking tongue in cheek about the "nincompoop" (probably should have used a smiley). But I'm quite sincere about suggestions for how to improve it. No false modesty - I've read a hell of a lot about pirates, enough where I feel qualified to edit Wikipedia. But you and many other Pub members may well be able to improve it more than I could.

You're right about the problems with a group exercise: if I'm going to go in and remove something somebody else wrote on WIkipedia, I like to have very strong proof in hand that what they wrote was wrong, and with a concept as shifting and controversial as the boundaries of the "Golden Age of Piracy," strong proof of *anything* is hard to come by.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=editComment&comment=409575)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&page=2#elControls_409575_menu)

[**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.

([IP: 86.164.206.39](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=86.164.206.39)) · · 

[Posted June 1, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=findComment&comment=409576) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=reportComment&comment=409576)

In general I think Wikipedia is much maligned. It's not perfect and certainly not to be relied upon but, at least as far as the pirate stuff on there goes, I've read a hell of a lot worse in published books.

One of its major failings, in my opinion, is the insistence that anything posted on it must be supported by a published source and that primary source evidence is not acceptable. In the past I have thought about seriously expanding one or two of the pirate bios on there, but haven't because although I have some excellent primary sources, they haven't been published. A good example would be the page on Thomas Cocklyn which pretty much says that after he parted company with WIlliam Snelgrave "nobody knows what happened to him". I know, but I can't post it on Wikipedia...

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=editComment&comment=409576)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&page=2#elControls_409576_menu)

[**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 />

([IP: 74.181.91.31](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=74.181.91.31)) · · 

[Posted June 1, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=findComment&comment=409586) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=reportComment&comment=409586)

With the Yamasee War, I was thinking more about the time period and stuff that can be discussed. That is one of the possible impact on "outlets" for people at the time (why at sea rather than settle in the continental British southernmost colony), for refugees from the fighting who may have "gone to sea" instead of settle in Charles Towne, or maybe even how it affected the psyche of Charles Towne and it's turn against pirates at about the same time. But I haven't looked into it too much. I keep looking for stuff on period boats and ships . . . or other non-period topics.

I DO think that, as Charles Towne/Charleston was a major trading partner with the various islands, esp. Barbados, a local war would have had personal impact on those in the area- in some form or fashion. I just haven't looked into that "gut hunch" . . .

Another influence on me and that particular War . . .

I'm IN South Carolina and some of my "teaching" is in the very area of the Yamasee War itself. I use it when "in character" as to why I'm at sea.

**Edited June 1, 2012 by Tartan Jack**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=editComment&comment=409586)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&page=2#elControls_409586_menu)

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

* Goat Specialist
* 
* 
* Admin
* 5,082 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.

([IP: 12.232.174.154](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=12.232.174.154)) · · 

[Posted June 2, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=findComment&comment=409597) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=reportComment&comment=409597)

 On 6/1/2012 at 2:44 PM, Foxe said:

One of its major failings, in my opinion, is the insistence that anything posted on it must be supported by a published source and that primary source evidence is not acceptable.

I can see the point about published sources, at least as far as modern material goes. Every ill-informed idiot with an idea seems to want to state their views in a blog and many ill-informed idiots with ideas do. I suppose they figure if something has been published, it has at least been reviewed a little and that will separate the wheat from the chaff.. OTOH, Berg got his book published, so maybe that's not such a great measuring stick either.

The primary source evidence thing is kind of bizarre. I suppose that again comes back to wheat/chaff thing. Just because someone wrote a letter from the trenches about their role in the great war (whichever great war) doesn't necessarily mean they got their information right, especially in regard to the larger picture. In fact, I would think the opposite would often be true. So rather than try and sift through it or get involved in mediating silly arguments between two writers with letters containing differing opinions, wiki issues a preemptive inconcessus.

Interesting. (Irrelevant to the topic, but still interesting.)

**Edited June 2, 2012 by Mission**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=editComment&comment=409597)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&page=2#elControls_409597_menu)

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

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[Posted June 2, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=findComment&comment=409601) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=reportComment&comment=409601)

But . . .

Fascinating side conversations, oft more interesting than the original topic, are common around here! It's part of what makes this forum so much fun . . .

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=editComment&comment=409601)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&page=2#elControls_409601_menu)

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* Old Twillian
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* Moderator
* 2,564 posts
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Shooting pirates.

([IP: 86.164.206.39](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=86.164.206.39)) · · 

[Posted June 2, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=findComment&comment=409603) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=reportComment&comment=409603)

 On 6/2/2012 at 7:33 AM, Mission said:

I can see the point about published sources, at least as far as modern material goes. Every ill-informed idiot with an idea seems to want to state their views in a blog and many ill-informed idiots with ideas do. I suppose they figure if something has been published, it has at least been reviewed a little and that will separate the wheat from the chaff.. OTOH, Berg got his book published, so maybe that's not such a great measuring stick either.

I absolutely see the point of permitting only published sources. I think a lot of it is to do with accountability: if something really needs checking then the internet and the inter-library loan system ought to make any published source accessible, whereas unpublished primary sources are not available in the same way - they are freely available to anyone who wants to travel to the relevant archive to look at them, but I could theoritically read any published source in the world without having to leave my house...

Also, I believe Wikipedia takes the stance that and encyclopoedia is not the place to air original research, and in general I agree with that.

The slightly ridiculous thing about it is that your ill-informed idiot's website would be an acceptable Wikipedia source, but my first hand testimony about the death of Thomas Cocklyn is not.

Oh, and if you think Burg is the worst example of published history you clearly haven't read as much published crap as I have! Burg is silly and contentious, but compared to some stuff on the market it's positively erudite.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=editComment&comment=409603)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&page=2#elControls_409603_menu)

[**LookingGlass**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10434-lookingglass/)

* Deck Hand
* 
* 
* Member
* 81 posts

([IP: 24.40.136.23](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=24.40.136.23)) · · 

[Posted June 3, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=findComment&comment=409636) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=reportComment&comment=409636)

“I'd be curious to know if [the Yamasee War] has any further connection to the Golden Age.”

In my estimation, the end of the War of the Spanish Succession, the dispersal of logwood cutters, and widespread unemployment of merchant sailors were simply social and economic conditions that made the GAoP possible. The wreck of the Spanish treasure fleet in July 1715 was the spark that ignited the explosive expansion of the GAoP. I could be wrong, but I’ve been unable to find any of the marquee names of pirate captains in the records--other than Hornigold--prior to the wrecks. Among the treasure seekers who rushed to Florida with the likes of Henry Jennings and Sam Bellamy and who subsequently became pirates, were a number of young men from the Carolinas.

The Yamasee War in South Carolina, indeed, had an indirect but profound connection to the Golden Age (or “Great Age” as I prefer)—more of a connection than one might imagine. In fact, an argument could be made that the outbreak of Yamasee War on April 15, 1715, followed by the wreck of the Spanish treasure fleet a little more than three months later, were two events that both (inversely) sparked the Great Age of Piracy and launched a series of political machinations that initiated the beginning of the end of piracy of the time. At the center of my hypothesis are the political and business ambitions of the Moore family dynasty of the Carolinas and their desire to overthrow Proprietary rule in the two colonies.

In 1701, Governor James Moore of the Carolinas, hired an indigent young man named Edward Moseley in Charleston to serve as a clerk and a librarian for the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. At that time, Moseley became acquainted with the governor’s two sons, Maurice, and his older brother James Moore II. In 1713, Col. James Moore II, with his younger brother at his side, became noted for leading the southern colony’s militia, bolstered by a force of friendly Indians, in the defeat of the Tuscarora in North Carolina. Two years later, after moving to the Albemarle region of North Carolina to reside near his boyhood friend and brother-in-law, Edward Moseley, Maurice Moore, now a Colonel, organized a small force of 50 volunteers and went to South Carolina to aid in the fight against disparate tribes collectively called the Yamasee.

The Lords Proprietors’ inability (or unwillingness) to provide aid to the South Carolinians against the Yamasee infuriated Charlestonians and set in motion a revolt that ultimately led to the overthrow of the Proprietors and return of colony to royal authority in 1719.

"Address of the Assembly of South Carolina to the King. Refer to previous Addresses (v. C.S.P. 1715), etc. Out of the extream grief we are under, to see our country still harassed and our fellow subjects daily killed and carried away by our savage Indian enemies, etc., we are obliged again to lay before your Royal Majesty, the state of this your afflicted Colony, etc. ... Notwithstanding all these our miseries, the Lords Proprietors, instead of using any endeavours for our relief and assistance, are pleased to term all our endeavours to procure your Majestie's Royal protection, the business of a faction and party; We most humbly assure your Majesty that it's so far from anything of that nature, that all the inhabitants of this Province in general, are not only convinc'd that no humane power, but that of your Majesty can protect them, but earnestly and fervently desire that this once flourishing Province may be added to those already under your happy protection."

Among the most vociferous against Proprietary rule during the preceding years was Col. James Moore II, who had been removed from his position as commander-in-chief of the militia for his opposition. When South Carolina finally “threw off” the Proprietary government, James Moore II was made, albeit temporarily, governor for the King.

Discontent with the Proprietary government was rife in North Carolina as well. In 1716, the Lords Proprietors informed the North Carolina Assembly that they would not accept paper bills of credit for the payment of land and taxes due to them as had been previously allowed for South Carolina. “All the purchase money now due for Lands shou’d be made in sterling money or at sixteen penny weight the Crown, or in the produce of the Country equivalent,” so ordered the Proprietors. According the the editor of North Carolina’s Colonial Records, “the Lords Proprietors, instead of extending a helping hand to save their property from destruction by the Indians, were avaricious enough to demand their rents in silver, a requirement that the people of the colony in the best of times were unable to meet.” (Worth noting: this occurred at the same time “English” sloops were converging on the Spanish wrecks--where better to accumulate hard currency than the beaches and shallows of central Florida?)

The political party opposed to Proprietary rule in North Carolina was led by the Speaker of the Lower House of the Assembly, Edward Moseley (the elder James Moore’s former clerk). With a revolutionary fervor decades ahead of his time, Moseley had long been a voice for the people. In 1715, his party openly defied the Proprietors’ governor in North Carolina, Charles Eden, with the passage of this bill: “Resolved, That the impressing of the inhabitants, or their property, under the pretence of its being for the public service, without authority from the Assembly, was unwarrantable, a great infringement of the liberty of the subject, and very much weakened the government by causing many to leave it.”

By 1718, the division between the Proprietors’ governor in North Carolina, Charles Eden, and the peoples’ party leader, Edward Moseley, had reached its boiling point, and then, along comes Capt. Thatch, aka Black Beard with his treasure of African slaves. Moseley learns of Eden’s illegal pardon of Thatch, Bonnet and their respective companies, the illegal adjudication of the sloop *Adventure*, and the sale of more than 50 slaves to the plantation owners of Bath and the Pamlico. Moseley and Maurice Moore live just a two-day’s ride and ferry trip from Williamsburg and Lt. Gov. Spotswood. Emboldened by developments in South Carolina to depose the Lords Proprietor’s government spurred by the Yamasee War disaster, and seeing an opportunity to expose the Proprietors’ governor in North Carolina, Charles Eden, for colluding with and aiding and abetting pirates (a hanging offense), Moseley and Moore pay a visit to Spotswood, who likewise would be happy to see the King resume authority over the colony to the south and perhaps join it with Virginia. All they need is written evidence to prove that Eden had illegally supported the pirates.

You know what happened next. In what is often hailed as the beginning of the end of the GAoP, Black Beard is killed (he would have been legally pardoned by George I had he not fired the first shot), and Lt. Maynard searches the *Adventure* to little avail--only Eden’s Council Secretary Tobias Knight’s letter to Black Beard is found among the pirate’s possessions which is insufficient to incriminate Eden. On his return to Virginia, Capt. Ellis Brand informs Moseley and Moore of the lack of evidence. Then, on the day after Christmas, the distinguished Moseley and Moore go for broke and forcibly occupy for 20 hours the house that contained the colony’s official records including, presumably, all the documents resulting from Eden’s official interactions with Thatch and his men: the government’s records of the pardons, the Vice-Admiralty proceedings awarding ownership of the *Adventure* and the French ship captured off Bermuda in August, as well as receipts for the casks of sugar delivered to the governor. Not a shred of paper could be found by Moseley and Moore, nor does one exist today, implicating Gov. Eden and proving his interaction with the pirates. Gov. Eden and his supporters clearly did their job well of removing and/or destroying the records.

The day after Moseley-gate, Gov. Eden had Moseley and Moore arrested and charged with committing high crimes and misdemeanors. In the grips of a magistrate, Moseley shouted before a crowd of gawkers that the governor could “easily procure armed men to [arrest him] but could not raise them to destroy Thatch, [aka Black Beard the pirate]. Additional charges of sedition, slander and inciting discord were promptly added to Moseley’s bill of indictment. Moseley was subsequently convicted, fined and was barred from practicing law for three years.

Moseley and Moore’s quest to overthrow the Proprietary government as was accomplished by Moore’s brother and others in South Carolina failed. The 19th century North Carolina historian Francis Hawks observed that, “Indeed it was alleged that [Moseley] was arranging with Col. Moore to have a new administration — perhaps with Moore for governor.” Referring to South Carolina’s overthrow of the Lords Proprietors, Hawks wrote: “This noiseless but most important change, which brought the southern portion of the province under the direct government of the crown, was to the thoughtful but a foreshadowing of what must, ere long, inevitably be the condition of the northern part also. But at present, the authorities of North Carolina were not ready to imitate the example of the south.” North Carolina became a Royal colony in 1729.

Most modern historians have overlooked this key connection between Indian wars, Proprietary rule, Carolina politics and pirates.

Kevin Duffus

*The Last Days of Black Beard the Pirate*

**Edited June 3, 2012 by LookingGlass**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=editComment&comment=409636)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&page=2#elControls_409636_menu)

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

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

([IP: 80.223.160.249](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=80.223.160.249)) · · 

[Posted June 12, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=findComment&comment=409784) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=reportComment&comment=409784)

Yes we can indeed say that gaop ended in 1725 but there is interesting later pirates like Henry Johnson who operated in 1730.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=editComment&comment=409784)
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[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
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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.

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[Posted June 12, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=findComment&comment=409793) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=reportComment&comment=409793)

...and probably every year after that, even up into the present. Of course, it sort of depends on your definition of "interesting."

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=editComment&comment=409793)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&page=2#elControls_409793_menu)

[**Brit.Privateer**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/3204-britprivateer/)

* Old Twillian
* 
* 
* Member
* 246 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:North Carolina
* Interests:Atlantic World Maritime History during the Colonial Era. I specialize in early provincial era (1680-1740) and do quite a bit with pirate history.

([IP: 75.110.39.150](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=75.110.39.150)) · · 

[Posted June 12, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=findComment&comment=409796) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=reportComment&comment=409796)

 On 6/3/2012 at 1:04 PM, LookingGlass said:

In 1713, Col. James Moore II, with his younger brother at his side, became noted for leading the southern colony’s militia, bolstered by a force of friendly Indians, in the defeat of the Tuscarora in North Carolina.

Never thought I would see anyone reference the assault on Fort Noherooka in North Carolina (where hundreds of Tuscarora Indians were killed and hundreds taken prisoner and sold into slavery). Dr. Larry Tise at East Carolina University is actually working on getting public awareness of that event since next year is the 300 aniversary of it (I've been working on it with him)

Anyway, I love stuff like that Kevin, for it adds so much context to the pirate events of the time. Some writers on pirate history make pirate history feel like it took place in a vacuum and had minimal influence from the outside world. Thank goodness recent scholarship on pirates is finally tying in the politics of early eighteenth century world into this. Recent work by Ed Fox and Arne Bialewshewski have discussed the role of the Jacobite rebellions within the pirate world for example. Thank you for pursuing such history Mr. Duffus, and I hope to see some publications on the subject soon.

But back to the thread topic of Defining the Golden Age of Piracy. Has anyone proposed that maybe we should do away with the term "Golden Age" outright? I feel like by this point in pirate historiography that the term "Golden Age of Piracy" has almost lost its meaning and is used to give the era a romantic feel to it (and an easier way in which to remember when this all took place). I think a more interesting question that might help people undestand and learn more about history during the period is - what allowed and what caused pirates to go sea, do so in large numbers, and operate over significant periods of time from the 16th to early 19th centuries? If answered correctly, one can learn a lot about the development of colonies, economics, politics, and more during this very important period in world history.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=editComment&comment=409796)
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[**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.

([IP: 86.147.77.33](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=86.147.77.33)) · · 

[Posted June 12, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=findComment&comment=409799) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=reportComment&comment=409799)

 On 6/12/2012 at 3:18 PM, Brit.Privateer said:

...I think a more interesting question that might help people undestand and learn more about history during the period is - what allowed and what caused pirates to go sea, do so in large numbers, and operate over significant periods of time from the 16th to early 19th centuries? If answered correctly, one can learn a lot about the development of colonies, economics, politics, and more during this very important period in world history.

Spoken like a true academic.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=editComment&comment=409799)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&page=2#elControls_409799_menu)

[**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,...

([IP: 80.223.160.249](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=80.223.160.249)) · · 

[Posted June 13, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=findComment&comment=409810) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=reportComment&comment=409810)

You have a fine point.....

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=editComment&comment=409810)
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[**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 />

([IP: 74.181.91.31](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=74.181.91.31)) · · 

[Posted June 13, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=findComment&comment=409813) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=reportComment&comment=409813)

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Never thought I would see anyone reference the assault on Fort Noherooka in North Carolina (where hundreds of Tuscarora Indians were killed and hundreds taken prisoner and sold into slavery). Dr. Larry Tise at East Carolina University is actually working on getting public awareness of that event since next year is the 300 aniversary of it (I've been working on it with him)

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What?

History doesn't happen in a vacuum?

Events in one place affect others?

Really?



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* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=editComment&comment=409813)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&page=2#elControls_409813_menu)

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

* Goat Specialist
* 
* 
* Admin
* 5,082 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.

([IP: 24.247.94.112](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=24.247.94.112)) · · 

[Posted June 13, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=findComment&comment=409815) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=reportComment&comment=409815)

Actually, I'd say we should stick with the Golden Age of Piracy moniker, even though it violates my recognition of the fact that history is quite messy when you really look into it.

You have to balance technical correctness and alienating the public by yanking away their cherished perceptions. A lot of the public understand the concept of the Golden Age of Piracy and tearing it down will only create cognitive dissonance. It's better to educate people gradually like we do around here.

The problem with cognitive dissonance is that it causes a lot of people to just give up on understanding something. Some people will rationalize, others will research to get to the bottom of the conflicting ideas, but those who aren't interested in investing the time just leave. Bad for our sport, you see.

**Edited June 13, 2012 by Mission**

[**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,...

([IP: 80.223.160.249](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=80.223.160.249)) · · 

[Posted June 13, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=findComment&comment=409824) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=reportComment&comment=409824)

 On 6/13/2012 at 9:25 AM, Tartan Jack said:

 On 6/12/2012 at 3:18 PM, Brit.Privateer said:

 On 6/3/2012 at 1:04 PM, LookingGlass said:

In 1713, Col. James Moore II, with his younger brother at his side, became noted for leading the southern colony’s militia, bolstered by a force of friendly Indians, in the defeat of the Tuscarora in North Carolina.

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What?

History doesn't happen in a vacuum?

Events in one place affect others?

Really?



What is that so.. Oh my vision of the world has been destroyed!

Seriously indeed it is not good to be stuck only in "gaop" period and forget the big picture.

**Edited June 13, 2012 by Swashbuckler 1700**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&page=3)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=editComment&comment=409824)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&page=3#elControls_409824_menu)

[**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.

([IP: 86.171.237.112](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=86.171.237.112)) · · 

[Posted June 13, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=findComment&comment=409836) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=reportComment&comment=409836)

 On 6/13/2012 at 9:46 AM, Mission said:

Actually, I'd say we should stick with the Golden Age of Piracy moniker, even though it violates my recognition of the fact that history is quite messy when you really look into it.

I think we *should* stick with the moniker simply because we *will* stick with it, whether we like it or not. Since there is no governing body of historians to determine which phrases are or aren't allowed there will always be people using the phrase and others like it. It's no more or less precise than similar monikers like 'iron age', 'medieval' or 'renaissance'.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&page=3)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=editComment&comment=409836)
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* Notorious Pyrate
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* Member
* 908 posts
* Location:South Carolina
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[Posted June 13, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=findComment&comment=409837) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=reportComment&comment=409837)

One of the WORST monikers we are stuck with . . . Dark Ages.

It completely misrepresents the period.

GAoP is much better than that!

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&page=3)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=editComment&comment=409837)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&page=3#elControls_409837_menu)

[**Brit.Privateer**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/3204-britprivateer/)

* Old Twillian
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* Member
* 246 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:North Carolina
* Interests:Atlantic World Maritime History during the Colonial Era. I specialize in early provincial era (1680-1740) and do quite a bit with pirate history.

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[Posted June 14, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=findComment&comment=409838) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=reportComment&comment=409838)

Well, it looks like my previous comments inspired a few people to think outside of the box with this, good. I never really thought that we would get rid of the name "Golden Age of Piracy."

One thing that would be interesting to find out concerning the Golden Age of Piracy is when the name first come into significant use for describing any of the piratical actions from the 16th to early 19th centuries? I do wonder if any scholar has done work on Pirate History in Public Memory. Back when I studied Civil War history, I noticed how this concept - looking at how the public memory and perception of history over time that is - became popular.

In the end, if I were forced to pick when the Golden Age of Piracy took place, 1691-1724.

More specific than that is debatable. For the beginning date, when was the first recorded attack on civilian vessels in the Indian Ocean by a pirate coming from the Atlantic World? And for the ending date, I would go with the end of the last active pirates in the Low/Lowther family of pirates. But the problem with that is that Francis Spriggs was part of that bunch, and its not exactly clear where or if he died as a pirate. I suspect that he may have met his fate in Florida in 1725 at the hands of natives, especially when one takes into consideration how sparce and vague reports of attacks done by him get. While there are other acts of piracy that take place soon after in the rest of the 1720s, that doesn't mean they should count in the Golden Age. Robbery as a whole will always be in society as long as someone is desperate somewhere and as long as those same people are capable of making bad choices. Therefore, piracy will always be around - its just robbery at sea after all. If the Golden Age of Piracy is supposed to contain those pirates that had significant ties to one another and operated in large numbers for the time from the 1690s to 1720s, then 1724 is where you want to stop.

Here is a related question, how do the Guardas Costas of the Caribbean that sailed during this period (and were often pirates or at least called pirates by English officials) fit into our definition of the era? How do they fit into our studies of pirates overall? For instance, of all those pirates Marcus Rediker described in his book on pirates and numbered at 5,000 overall during the 1710s and 1720s, does he include these Spanish raiders of questionable legality?

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&page=3)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=editComment&comment=409838)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&page=3#elControls_409838_menu)

[**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,...

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[Posted June 14, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=findComment&comment=409841) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=reportComment&comment=409841)

I (who is the practically the only one who claims gaop to continue till 1730 year) need to ask what makes lowther company so specific last gaop "pirate group"? I claim without real evidence (what is not good way to do conversation so don't take me too seriously) we perhaps don't know much about later pirates in late 1720s just because because GHoP was made in 1724 and we don't know much about the networks formed by those later pirates.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&page=3)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=editComment&comment=409841)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&page=3#elControls_409841_menu)

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[Posted June 14, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=findComment&comment=409844) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=reportComment&comment=409844)

 On 6/14/2012 at 0:28 AM, Brit.Privateer said:

For the beginning date, when was the first recorded attack on civilian vessels in the Indian Ocean by a pirate coming from the Atlantic World?

Tricky. The French vessels *Rose* and *Victoire* returned from plundering in the Red Sea in 1634, but they may have been privateers rather than pirates. The *Roebuck* was an English privateer, but certainly committed an act of piracy in 1635 when she attacked an English Company ship. From then on, there are lots of examples of ships with lawful commissions exceeding their terms and committing acts of piracy. Perhaps the first indisputable pirate in the area was the *Satisfaction*: in 1684 her crew mutinied and turned the captain out, then went on to take a number of prizes.

 Quote

And for the ending date, I would go with the end of the last active pirates in the Low/Lowther family of pirates. But the problem with that is that Francis Spriggs was part of that bunch, and its not exactly clear where or if he died as a pirate. I suspect that he may have met his fate in Florida in 1725 at the hands of natives, especially when one takes into consideration how sparce and vague reports of attacks done by him get. While there are other acts of piracy that take place soon after in the rest of the 1720s, that doesn't mean they should count in the Golden Age.

Joseph Cooper and Philip Lyne were still active into 1726, but were so insignificant and divorced from other pirates that I struggle to define them as 'golden age' pirates - it depends on how you choose to define the term.

 Quote

Here is a related question, how do the Guardas Costas of the Caribbean that sailed during this period (and were often pirates or at least called pirates by English officials) fit into our definition of the era? How do they fit into our studies of pirates overall? For instance, of all those pirates Marcus Rediker described in his book on pirates and numbered at 5,000 overall during the 1710s and 1720s, does he include these Spanish raiders of questionable legality?

I think the Guarda Costas are a bit like the buccaneers, they inhabited a kind of grey area where they might or might not have been pirates. Certainly they committed the odd act of piracy, and other nations oftens considered them pirates, but like the buccaneers they usually had some semblance of legitimacy - by definition they held commissions. I prefer not to count them in with the likes of Blackbeard and Roberts because they were so different in many ways: they held commissions, they had safe ports to return to near their cruising grounds, they condemned their prizes in a (theoretically) legally approved fashion, etc. FWIW, I don't believe Rediker includes them in his tally.

 Swashbuckler1700 said:

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Most serious pirate historian look well beyond the GHoP for their evidence: trial accounts and associated depositions, newspapers, colonial correspondence, merchants' correspondence, naval accounts, other published accounts, and other similar sources provide far more information than the GHoP, and about many pirates not included in the GHoP. From that evidence it's fairly clear that pirate activity in both the Atlantic and Indian Oceans went into decline after 1722 and was dropping right off by 1725. There were pirates active after that date, but never in the same numbers as earlier and, crucially, never with anything like the networks established by the Lowther group, who in turn were relatively insignificant when compared to the Flying Gang-Roberts-Taylor group. I can't even think of an example of two pirates sailing in consort after about 1725, let alone more.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&page=3)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=editComment&comment=409844)
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* Location:Europe
* Interests:pyrates, pryvateers, naval military and other history, different books, good movies, music (a little bit), drawing, games,...

([IP: 80.223.160.249](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=80.223.160.249)) · · 

[Posted June 14, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=findComment&comment=409846) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=reportComment&comment=409846)

 On 6/14/2012 at 5:32 AM, Foxe said:

 Swashbuckler1700 said:

I (who is the practically the only one who claims gaop to continue till 1730 year) need to ask what makes lowther company so specific last gaop "pirate group"? I claim without real evidence (what is not good way to do conversation so don't take me too seriously) we perhaps don't know much about later pirates in late 1720s just because because GHoP was made in 1724 and we don't know much about the networks formed by those later pirates.

Most serious pirate historian look well beyond the GHoP for their evidence: trial accounts and associated depositions, newspapers, colonial correspondence, merchants' correspondence, naval accounts, other published accounts, and other similar sources provide far more information than the GHoP, and about many pirates not included in the GHoP. From that evidence it's fairly clear that pirate activity in both the Atlantic and Indian Oceans went into decline after 1722 and was dropping right off by 1725. There were pirates active after that date, but never in the same numbers as earlier and, crucially, never with anything like the networks established by the Lowther group, who in turn were relatively insignificant when compared to the Flying Gang-Roberts-Taylor group. I can't even think of an example of two pirates sailing in consort after about 1725, let alone more.

Sorry for possible writing errors I just don't bother to do spel fixes.

'

Well you are rigth but still I think that "ending date" is a thing that has actually much matter. Well I would say that significant pirate operation was between 1690- 1725. But for study (of ships, weapons etc) the period 1680- 1730 is the best if you get what I am meaning.

I personally count all western pirates who operated between 1690- 1730 as gaop pirates and that includes pirates like John Quelch who was not part of " red sea men" nor "the flying gang", William fly and Henry Johnson who all operated in americas or other " gaop pirate places" but had not their own networks or significant impact to trade.. and why I use 1730? well it looks better since it is full ten unlike 1725 what seems to me a too meticulous date. And I think that the ending of the period is part of it too and I say that gaop ended by late 1720s or by 1730.

I actually think that late gaop (I say 1718- 1730) is the most interesting and well most "romantic" period since then piracy was not as free and pirates needed costantly be cautious of RN I see the era of carefree pirating as a bit less intersting.

I am not stretch gaop but I was wondering near gaop era piracy

Weren't there also some english pirate activity (and smuggling) of almost same sort than Guardas Costa's and even later than gaop all after treaty of Utrecht till the War of Jenking's Ear when english trasported slaves to spanish colonies? And was that actually so that Robert jenkings was a pirate? At least spanish Guardas Costa ofifcer accused him as a pirate but was perhaps just a lie.

**Edited June 14, 2012 by Swashbuckler 1700**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&page=3)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=editComment&comment=409846)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&page=3#elControls_409846_menu)

[**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.

([IP: 86.164.206.227](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=86.164.206.227)) · · 

[Posted June 14, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=findComment&comment=409847) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=reportComment&comment=409847)

You're welcome to call 1730 the end of the GAoP if it makes you happy. Or 1740, or 1750, or 1927. Personally, I dislike 1730 for exactly the same reason that you like it. History does not happen by arbitrary dates, so for me 1729, or any other year, is just as good as 1730. Less neat, perhaps, less compartmentalized, but potentially more accurate. However, there's no 'boss of the world application of dates to time-periods', so whatever floats your boat.

But as I've said before, what is actually important is not *when* was the GAoP, but *what* was the GAoP.

Now, on 13 October 1691 something actually occurred which genuinely changed the pattern of Western piracy in a massive way. If that's too meticulous for you, so be it. My post originally proposing that date was somewhat tongue in cheek, but it's still as good a date as any. After that date things were genuinely different. The actual end of the GAoP is harder to pinpoint, but nonetheless we can identify changes in the pattern and nature of piracy that took place between 1722 and 1725. The changes were more gradual, but they did occur. Between 1726 and 1730 there were no major changes, they had already occurred, and the pattern of piracy remained essentially unchanged until the next great wave of Atlantic piracy in the early 19th century.

Now, this does not mean that *all* piracy that occurred between those dates fits the pattern of what we might call GAoP piracy - John Quelch's cruise is a good example - but that doesn't make the point any less valid. There was still a great deal of 'medieval' thinking and activity going on during the 'renaissance'.

In short, call it 1730 if you wish, but if you want to convince others that you're right then justify it. In what way was piracy in 1731 different to piracy in 1729?

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&page=3)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=editComment&comment=409847)
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[**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,...

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[Posted June 14, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=findComment&comment=409849) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=reportComment&comment=409849)

 On 6/14/2012 at 8:30 AM, Foxe said:

'renaissance'.

In short, call it 1730 if you wish, but if you want to convince others that you're right then justify it. In what way was piracy in 1731 different to piracy in 1729?

Yes well not much... well La Buse died while he was inactive pirate but he was inactive does not make it good point...... Well I say that gaop ended **by** 1730(that makes a bit difference don't you think). But what makes 1725 the end of gaop we don't know what happened to low he and some of his party could have easily active after 1724 who knows?

Anyway I think the "pirate" (and privateer) period was from 1522 (when Jean Fleury made first big assault against gold galleons of spain) to 1856 (when was issued to abolish privateering in europe). In short "pirate" (and privateer) period was during european colonialism but it had its golden age in late 17 C and early 18th C.

**Edited June 14, 2012 by Swashbuckler 1700**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&page=3)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=editComment&comment=409849)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&page=3#elControls_409849_menu)

[**Gentleman of Fortune**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1651-gentleman-of-fortune/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,456 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Germany... Franconia (northern Bavaria)
* Interests:I \*used\* to be an environmental scientist, until I married a DoDDs teacher in 1997. Since then, I have been living in, and traveling around, Europe (First the UK, now Germany).

My hobbies are all the "usual suspects" for those interested in re-enacting and Golden Age of Piracy stuff.... but I have drifted away from the pirate scene as my location and young family don't allow for any more than "virtual" pirate participation. Besides Piracy, I am into Reverend Guitars and Vintage Corvettes.

([IP: 92.194.123.49](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=92.194.123.49)) · · 

[Posted October 18, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=findComment&comment=411627) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=reportComment&comment=411627)

Wow... you go on a couple years cruise and you miss all the good stuff.

So I'll be late to the party and add my two cents worth... but its probably worth less than that these days.

Anywhoo...

I like Foxe's cirteria, but I will add two more things to the list, though I am not sure what I would break out under the headings

6 **Pirates of the GAOP elected to resort to piracy in reaction to the Socioeconomic & geopolitical forces that were broadly affecting Europe/Americas.**

7 (and I am not sure of the best wording for this but here is a stab at it) **Pirates of the GAOP are quasi united by a similar "fashion" period.** Now the arguments can fly here but I'd argue that a 1690 pirate/sailor in his clothing would not really be out of place in 1722... but prior to 1785ish or so, the sailor fashions were different, and after about 1730ish trends change as well. Yes, Justaucorps changed... yes, there was a difference in which fabrics/colors would be fashionable at any specific time along the way, but in the 1690-1725 couldron of fashion that is a lot of overlap as styles wax and wane. You could see petticoat breeches along side of slop hose. Slop hose themselves seem to fluctuate in legnth during this period.. Tied shoes and buckle shoes... buckles of similar size (but GROWING after 1730)

For re-enacting purposes it can be a blessing (and a curse).

I used 1680-1725 on my website... Which I like, so I am using it.

**Edited October 18, 2012 by Gentleman of Fortune**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&page=3)
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[**Swashbuckler 1700**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/20630-swashbuckler-1700/)

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

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[Posted November 4, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=findComment&comment=411989) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18713-when-was-the-golden-age-of-piracy/&do=reportComment&comment=411989)

Nice ,) but I cannot see the date 1680 as a really sensible starting point. Or did something unusual actually happened then? I found no reason for that. But it is fine but now I prefer 1690(or 1691)-1725.

However this is rather meaningless; it is rather artificial to hunt specific dates for historical periods like gaop.

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