EmpireMUNC X

Joint Crisis: Republic of Pirates
Republic of Pirates

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Republic of Pirates

Committee Background Guide

Joint Crisis Committee
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Welcome Letters

Meet Your Joint Crisis Director

Delegates, I can't wait to work with you all throughout this conference. My name is Sydney Tiesi and I am the joint crisis director for the Republic of Pirates joint crisis committee. I am a junior studying Hospitality and Tourism Management at the School of Professional Studies with a minor in Chinese Language. For the past year I have been staffing conferences and have had an amazing experience. I will work to ensure this joint crisis committee stays consistent and fluid through both committees. I am sure all your ideas and performances will amaze me and I hope to foster a welcoming and fun committee for all of you!

Sydney Tiesi, Joint Crisis Director
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Meet Your Crisis Director

Delegates, it is my great honor and privilege to welcome you all to the Republic of Pirates joint crisis committee. My name is Sara Khan, and I am thrilled to be your crisis director for this conference. I am a junior at the College of Arts and Science majoring in International Relations and minoring in Economics. I was a part of the Model UN program in High School and am thrilled to be continuing my MUN journey in college. We are here to support you throughout this conference and hope you enjoy pursuing your passion for MUN by collaborating with each other! I'm excited to meet all of you over the course of these amazing four days and to explore in-depth these complex and fascinating topics.

The golden age of piracy is both exciting and intriguing, it was a time where innovation was at its peak as pirates attempted to escape the shackles of poverty and poor working conditions that continually surrounded them. Along with the myriad of issues they faced at sea such as a lack of doctors to cure illnesses such as scurvy and yellow fever, many came out successful and built legacies for themselves which still live on today. We are excited to see delegates explore these issues and collaborate with each other in order to tackle the numerous conflicts at hand.

Sara Khan, Crisis Director
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Meet Your Chair

Delegates, I am so excited to meet you all! My name is Shriya Chitale and I'm originally from Edison, New Jersey — so just across the river! I'm a senior at the College of Arts and Science majoring in Politics and Arabic with a minor in History. After I graduate, I hope to attend law school and work in the field of public service. I've been participating in Model UN since entering college, as a crisis analyst, chair, delegate, secretary, and now as treasurer. Thank you so much for joining us today, I am so excited to share with you all our hard work.

Shriya Chitale, Chair
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Statement of Diversity and Inclusion

Whilst EmpireMUNC is committed to maintaining an educationally and historically accurate experience, we recognize that any debate around historical events will incorporate sensitive issues. Delegates are expected to discuss these issues maturely and appropriately. EmpireMUNC is committed to promoting a culture of diversity and inclusion in line with NYU's values; in the spirit of this commitment, EmpireMUNC will not tolerate any bigoted symbols, statements, or attitudes. Remember that by attending our conference you agree to our Terms and Conditions of Conference Attendance, which we suggest you read over. It is posted on our website and is in your Delegation Guide.

During the Golden Age of Piracy, slavery was intertwined with pirate activities in various ways. While the intrinsic connection between the Trans-Atlantic slave trade and the Golden Age of Piracy should not be glossed over, it is also not open for debate within this committee. The suffering of enslaved persons during this time is not something to be made light of and is undeniably immoral. In acknowledgement of these facts and in order to respect the continued impacts of these atrocities, delegates are not to use or debate the Trans-Atlantic slave trade during this conference. The characters created for the purpose of the committee DID NOT PARTICIPATE in the trans-atlantic slave trade within the universe we have created. No delegate will be asked to represent or argue in support of slavery.

If you have specific questions that you are not sure about in regard to appropriate topics, please don't hesitate to email or ask.

Introduction

It's 1715 and you're living during the Golden Age of Piracy. Here in the Republic of Pirates adventure is always waiting and there's plenty of treasure for the taking on the horizon. Many view pirates as romantic villains: fearsome men willing to forge a life beyond the reach of government and law, liberated from their jobs and the contrastaints of society to pursue adventure, wealth, and justice. Although three centuries have passed since pirates disappeared from the seas, the Golden Age pirates remain folk heroes.

Golden Age pirates were notorious outlaws, oftentimes regarded as criminals and thieves by every nation, including their own. Many pirate gangs were wildly successful, they succeeded in severing Britain, France, and Spain from their New World empires by cutting off trade routes and sifting the flow of information between continents. During this time pirates went from being a meddlesome, slippery problem for royal navies to striking fear in the hearts of sailors.

While pirates often operated from lone vessels or in small crews, there were a few notable instances of pirates banning together under a larger cause. One of these was known as the Republic of Pirates. Based in Nassau harbor from 1706-1718, the Republic of Pirates was a conglomerate of pirate groups that came together to form a society. Though the ties binding them were loose at times, these groups were able to create a democratic society with a functioning economy.

As a delegate within the Republic of Pirates it is your job to help your burgeoning republic survive the trying times ahead. Anti-pirate sentiment is on the rise and the imperial powers in Western Europe have grown more concerned with trade route disruption and their colonies as of late. As a member of this governing body, a loose coalition of powerful and interested parties, of the Republic of Pirates your job is to sift through conflicting evidence and varying proposals to create a better society, as you define it. It is your job to tackle the problems facing this budding island democracy. While facing internal squabbles — making sure everyone is following the pirate code — you must also address the looming threats to piracy as a way of life. With the main Western imperial powers working to put an end to the so-called 'Golden Age' of piracy, delegates must protect themselves and their constituents from disaster, disease, and death. Are you up to the challenge?

Committee Mechanics

While you will be representing a character set within this slightly altered historical context over the course of this weekend, you will still be expected to act as a delegate within a Model UN committee. Thus, rules on engagements of debate, speeches, and caucuses will still apply as they would in any Model UN committee. This committee will be run in the style of a CRISIS committee and NOT a General Assembly.

In terms of character for this committee, it is also important to note that each of these characters is a fictionalized representation of a real historical figure. Delegates have the freedom to research the figure their character is based on and incorporate further information into their portrayal, however, please understand that what is written in the character bios will be considered canon and supersedes other information provided. We wanted to ensure that each delegate would feel comfortable representing the characters they were assigned and felt that this was the best way to ensure this outcome.

In regards to characters and affiliations the key distinction between pirates and privateers must be recognized. During this time, privateers were commissioned by a governmental or sovereign to legally exert their right to pillage and trade. Similarly, buccaneers, the English crown, would also license buccaneers with letters of marque, which legalized their operations in return for a share of their profits. However, pirates can be distinguished because they were lawless individuals who attacked ships and coasts without being legally commissioned to do so.

This committee takes place on November 9th, 1715 in the Republic of Pirates. This committee will convene at this critical juncture to determine the current of Europe's colonization efforts as the pirates work to stay afloat. All historical actions after this date are considered null and void for the sake of this committee. Delegates are welcome to use historical events for the basis of their arc, but are not required to do so. Please understand that historical events taking place after 1715 may be used in updates and their timeline may be accelerated as well. We encourage delegates to be familiar with historical events from the entire Golden Age of Piracy which took place from 1650 to 1726.

Historical Context

Origins of the Golden Age of Piracy

The Golden Age of Piracy took place between 1650 and 1726. During this time, pirates were feared and revered, but they were rarely dealt with effectively. Although many pirates were English or Irish, there were large numbers of Scotts, French, Africans, Dunch, Danes, Swedes, and Native Americans who participated in piracy as well. International authorities painted pirates as cruel and dangerous monsters. They were seen as uncivilized and incapable of mercy. These tales were based on exaggerated reports meant to sway public opinion against the pirates. They wanted to dissuade navy sailors and laborers from being Robinhoods of the sea through this propaganda. Many pirates, in reality, were runaway merchants, former privateers, and poor laborers attempting to make money to support themselves and their families. This group was heavily exploited by their upper class bosses and forced into inscription by police and royal naval officers.

During the early 16th century state sanctioned privateers were extremely prevalent and were the bandits that ruled the seas. French, English and Dutch Buccaneers would deal striking blows against the Spanish main. These Buccaneers were a powerful tool used by imperial powers to establish their empires abroad. Without these forces in the 17th century, Western European powers would not have been able to create their empires to the same degree. Piracy began as privateers and other sailors began to go on their own, unsanctioned looting expeditions, or just chose to never return home, keeping their treasures for themselves. Successful and notorious pirate gangs began to form. Most pirates were pure opportunists, attacking any ship of substance regardless of its country affiliation.

While pirates often operated in isolated bands, gangs, or crews there were many examples of pirate havens that emerged during this period. What started as safe spaces to dock, unload, and clean ships, often became fully functioning societies and micro states. After a successful raid, pirates would return to one of these main locations: Port Royal (Jamaica), Tortuga (Hispaniola), New Providence (Bahamas), and Madagascar in the Indian Ocean. Havens were chosen for their secluded, safe harbors and easy access to freshwater, fruit, meat, and timber on the island's interior. Being near main shipping routes but not too close to colonial authorities were distinct advantages as well.

Pirates needed to sell their cargo off and these secluded havens attracted merchants for that purpose. Here, merchants could strike deals, contact smugglers, and buy goods far more cheaply than in other, more legitimate ports. Some pirate captains were more ambitious and tried to deal directly with colonial ports where officials could be bribed and goods sold at better

prices. Some of these officials, the most notorious being Charles Eden, governor of North Carolina, and Colonel Benjamin Fletcher in New York, even gave out pardons to pirates. Pirates such as Henry Adams would bribe local authorities using their exotic, stolen goods — elephant tusks, barrels of gun-powder, several chests filled with guns, muskets, and remarkable collections of ship anchors of island nations — in exchange for safety from the royal British, French, and Spanish empires.

The Republic of Pirates

Nicholas Trott, who was the governor of the Bahamas from 1694 to 1697, was one of the first to allow pirates onto New Providence Island in exchange for their treasures. Trott claimed that he had no reason to suspect that such men were involved in piracy. Despite the treasures and money that he was offered in exchange for their ship to harbor the island, Trott claimed that he was only concerned for the safety of the island, which would be improved by the armed men harboring on the coast, in case the Royal Navy or French were planning to attack the Bahamas. The popularization of New Providence and the Bahamas as a pirate haven began in 1696 when Henry Avery brought his ship, the *Fancy*, loaded with treasures stolen from Indian trade ships into the harbor. Avery bribed the Trott with gold, silver, and other valuables in order to be granted entry into the territory.

Eventually Nassua became a safe haven for pirates in the region. As the pirates began to establish their own society in the Bahamas, they had to deal with continued attacks from the Governor as well as increased pressure from imperial parties trying to end piracy in the region.

After a Franco-Spanish attack left the island without a governor in 1703, however, the pirates were able to take control of the island and establish their own society. While many settlers fled the area during the attack, those who remained were incorporated into this new burgeoning democracy.

The Bahamas was the perfect location for a pirate empire. The waters surrounding the island were too shallow for large warships but deep enough for the vessels pirates favored. From their harbor in Nassau, the pirates from the republic could send out quick attacks to interfere with prominent imperial trade routes.

The Republic of Pirates as we know it now in 1715, began in 1706. The new political entity was created by members of the notorious Flying Gang on the island of New Providence during the Post Spanish Succession Period. Initially Benjamin Hornigold, Henry Jennings, and Thomas Barrow declared themselves governors of the island. These individuals were many of the main players in the Flying Gang. Despite internal conflicts and rivalries the Flying Gang was successful and thousands of people including pirates, merchants, prostitutes, and even families, found their way into the community. Eventually Blackbeard would be elected to run the Republic of Pirates and he took on the position of 'Magistrate'. He still holds this position today.

This society was organized around a code of conduct very similar to the generally established pirate code. Because of the small population, and the fact that the area had been home to pirates for over a decade, establishing the island was fairly easy at first. Over time, the island was populated by the crews of pirate ships, merchants who did hidden business with pirates and their families, and other settlers from nearby locations who found their way to the harbor. A few thousand people call this small republic their home as of today.

Disagreements, greed, and old scores followed pirates from the high seas into their meeting rooms in the Republic of Pirates. While this democracy is in a good place currently, the ties that bind many of the most powerful people in this community together are tenuous at best.

In July of this year, a hurricane sank a fleet of eleven Spanish treasure ships — the plate fleet — off the coast of Florida in the Spanish main. News just reached the Bahamas of the wreck of the Floatilla. Many successful raids of the wreckage and of salvage ships have been undergone and the cargo from these ships has been used to make the Republic of Pirates a more stable and established power in the area. There is still much more out there to find. This has also greatly stimulated the economy of this pirate haven. The influx of money and competition over the wreckage, howThe success of this tiny state has begun to draw the attention of naval commanders from many western imperial nations, as well as freelance privateers who see their success as a threat to their existence.

Trading Companies

During this time, various trading companies play a significant role in shaping the economic landscape and influencing pirate activities in the Caribbean. European powers, such as Spain, Portugal, the Dutch Republic, and England, established these trading companies to exploit the riches of newly discovered lands and to monopolize trade routes with the East and the Americas. These companies operated under the charters granted by their respective monarchs, which provided them with monopolies or exclusive trading rights in specific regions. This granted them a monopoly over the trade in particular goods, such as spices, textiles, and other valuable commodities. This also established comparative advantages in the production of goods on the European continent, a development that supported intracontinental trade but also hurt domestic businesses. Alongside major European trading companies, various smaller private trading companies operate in the Caribbean; they deal with commodities like rum, sugar, and tobacco. The activities of these trading companies and the wealth they transported make them attractive targets for pirates seeking plunder. These companies also often participate in the pirate economies of the day, purchasing cheaper goods illegally to compete against larger companies.

Trading companies were powerful and skilled at moving resources, establishing trading posts and forts in strategic locations around the world, particularly in Asia and the East Indies. These trading posts served as hubs for conducting trade, storing goods, and facilitating exchanges with local merchants and rulers, however they also became hotspots for pirate activity because of the volume and value of the goods passing through them. Forced to maintain their naval forces and well-armed merchant ships to protect their trade routes and secure their colonies, they were authorized to defend themselves against rival companies and pirates. The trading companies were also historic for their diplomatic impact and economic structure. They spread, often through the use of force, language and cultural norms. Considering they were often the largest official representative body of their country occupying land and influence in a foreign territory, the relations they established with local leaders impacted the diplomatic ties that would be more formally established as states started to professionalize diplomacy. They also had a unique organizational structure, with shareholders who invested in the company. The profits earned from trade were distributed among the shareholders as dividends, making these companies some of the earliest examples of joint-stock companies.

Spanish exploration and colonization of the Americas brought forth a vast influx of precious metals, particularly silver and gold, from regions like present-day Mexico and Peru. This influx of bullion significantly boosted Spain's wealth and financed its imperial ventures, reinforcing its position as a dominant economic power in Europe. The Spanish Crown's exclusive control over its colonies and trade routes contributed to the establishment of the House of Trade (Casa de Contratación) and the Casa de Indias, which centralized trade and revenue collection. Meanwhile, Portugal's maritime explorations and its control of trade routes to India and the Far East via the Cape of Good Hope allowed it to accumulate wealth through the spice

trade. The establishment of the Portuguese East India Company (Companhia das Índias Orientais) in 1628 further solidified Portugal's hold on these lucrative trade routes. In the Dutch Republic, the formation of the Dutch East India Company (VOC) in 1602 was a landmark event in the history of trade and finance. The VOC was granted a monopoly on Dutch trade in Asia, and it soon became the largest and most powerful trading company of its time. The VOC's operations in the spice trade, textiles, and luxury goods enriched the Netherlands and contributed significantly to the rise of Amsterdam as a prominent financial center in Europe. England also capitalized on the expanding global trade and exploration, with the formation of the English East India Company (EIC) in 1600. The EIC secured a monopoly on English trade with the East Indies, and it rapidly expanded its operations to include diverse commodities like textiles, spices, tea, and opium. The EIC's activities paved the way for the British Empire's vast economic expansion and dominance in the following centuries. France's overseas exploration efforts were primarily focused on North America and the Caribbean. The establishment of New France and French colonies in the Caribbean, such as Guadeloupe and Martinique, provided access to valuable resources like furs, sugar, and tobacco, which became lucrative commodities in European markets. The establishment of the French East India Company (Compagnie française des Indes orientales) in 1664 allowed France to participate in the highly profitable trade with the East Indies, contributing to the growth of its wealth.

Although this system often generated positive interactions between the royal family and the burgeoning private sector, like in the case of Prince Maurice of Orange's role as a shareholder in the VOC, tension still existed between maximizing the interests of the state and the profits of the company. King James II of England, for example, had to balance his vision for European stability with the need to support the shipping company of his home country as it lagged behind in Asian-bound shipping tonnage. He perceived his political survival to be threatened, and decided to grant the VOC with special privileges without levying the same duties on them to which the EIC was subject. By granting privileges to the Dutch, James II aimed to improve trade relations between England and the Dutch Republic, hoping to gain access to Dutch markets and foster economic cooperation. This was especially important to him because James II was seeking alliances against France, which was a major European rival. The Dutch were also wary of French expansion, and there was mutual interest in countering French influence. By granting privileges and displaying goodwill, James II aimed to form an anti-French alliance with the Dutch Republic to maintain the delicate geopolitical stability he had enjoyed throughout his reign. Furthermore, James II's wife, Mary of Modena, was very popular and connected with Louis XIV's court. Having instituted changes to promote Catholicism in England alongside his wife, including appointing Catholics to key positions of the treasury, Protestant merchants became more opposed to the couple. In an attempt to win back the religious majority, James II attempted to strengthen his ties with the Dutch Protestants, publically allowing the Lord of Zuylestein to felicitate the birth of the Prince. It would later become apparent that the Lord of Zuylestein was sent by William III of Orange to spy on James II and the conciliatory policies he

was drafting. In 1688, a group of English nobles and political figures invited William of Orange to invade England and take the throne in what would later be called the Glorious Revolution. William of Orange was seen as a Protestant champion and a leader capable of countering French influence in Europe, which aligned with the interests of English merchants and the EIC. James II fled to France, and William and Mary were offered the English throne jointly. The English Parliament played a significant role in the transition of power, as they affirmed the new monarchs' rule and established constitutional changes to limit royal authority. Grateful for the support that the English merchants had provided in William's accession, his reign was set to reward them generously. The EIC secured a new charter in 1698, providing it with renewed trading privileges, leading to the consolidation of British interests in India, with the EIC playing a crucial role in establishing British control in various lucrative Indian territories. The greater assurance of religious and economic freedoms laid the foundation for the development of a constitutional monarchy that facilitated economic stability and growth in the years to come, but the confidence in the market was still under siege from intense piracy.

The Treaty of Westphalia

The Treaty of Westphalia, a set of two treaties signed in 1648, marked the end of the Thirty Years' War and the Eighty Years' War. The treaty's negotiations took place in the Westphalian cities of Münster and Osnabrück, inviting delegations from all the belligerent countries and some mediators, with France, Spain, the Dutch Republic, and England as principal stakeholders. The wars before it were responsible for the death of around 8 million people, and the scale of the tragedy from external sieges was deeply ingrained in the tenets of the discussion. The powers of Europe wanted to be left peacefully alone, but ironically they needed to work together collectively to achieve that sovereignty. Many historians argue that the development of Westphalian Sovereignty had far-reaching implications for the development of modern state-building and international relations. These developments would have their maiden voyage during the Golden Age of Piracy.

As the concept of state sovereignty and territorial borders became more defined, people began to identify more closely with their respective nations. This sense of national identity strengthened over time, leading to the emergence of modern nation-states with shared languages, cultures, and histories. These cultural ambitions were limited by the physical boundaries that were essentially exhausted on the "power-balanced" European continent. The pursuit of overseas territories and colonies came to be seen as not just a quest for wealth and resources but also a means of enhancing national prestige and sovereignty. For shipping companies, expanding overseas holdings became synonymous with expanding the influence and power of their respective nations. As these companies ventured into uncharted waters and established trade routes to distant lands, they not only sought economic prosperity but also sought to extend the sphere of their nation's influence. More territories under their control meant a broader reach of

their nation's customs, culture, and authority, reinforcing the notion that more land equaled more sovereignty. European aristocrats, on the other hand, viewed overseas conquest as a means of advancing their nation's interests and augmenting their own status and wealth. Controlling overseas territories brought them closer to the centers of political power and expanded their dominion over vast domains, elevating their positions in the hierarchy of the nobility. Owning significant overseas holdings allowed these aristocrats to project an image of power and authority, reinforcing the link between landownership and sovereignty. Territories were often named with references to the places and names of the Europeans who were establishing them, like New Amsterdam and Nassau. The pirates were a critical threat to this new sovereignty. By the 1700s, pirates had made themselves comfortable as sea robbers, but the occasional landlubbing was necessary for storing treasure, restocking, and establishing a community of their own. Nassau was a notorious pirate haven during the Golden Age of Piracy. Pirates like Blackbeard and Charles Vane used Nassau as a base of operations and even established a form of self-governance for a time. Port Royal was another well-known pirate stronghold and a hotbed of piracy during the 17th century. The town attracted pirates due to its location and became known as the "Wickedest City on Earth." The lawlessness of the pirates in places like Tortuga were often exacerbated by tall tales of their lust, greed, and general incivility, whereas the nobility did not receive equal coverage in this regard.

Pipelines of Piracy

Shortly after England went to war with France in 1688, many young men enlisted in the Royal Navy in hopes of getting away from the growing poverty that was engulfing England's countryside. However, many of these men were treated very poorly. They were deeply malnourished as well as physically and verbally abused by officers. The majority of these men went years without pay and many never received their salaries. This was especially problematic for their poor laborers because they had families at home depending upon these wages for survival. Voluntarily enlistment numbers dropped drastically and the British government sought to forcibly conscript many of its most vulnerable citizens. Additionally, because many of the tasks required by these men were so physically taxing, many men were permanently injured during their time serving. These former sailors were forced to beg upon their return home. It was not uncommon to lose arms, legs, hands, feet, or eyes in incidents or battles. This was extremely common across the imperial powers. As a result of these poor working conditions and the fact that sailors were rarely fairly compensated for their labor, many men turned to piracy or tried to find work with wealthy merchants endorsed by the royal families.

Many merchant ships would leave England and go to Spain in order to collect the necessary legal documents, then merchants would sail to the Caribbean where they would conduct trade with the Spanish colonies and attack French colonies and plantations. However, many of these enterprises failed due to compromised navigation practices which resulted in voyages taking longer than expected. Thus, sailors working with merchants would end up facing

the same issues they had when they were enlisted as soldiers. These included severe food shortages, no wage compensation, and poor working conditions.

As a result of these unfair working standards that the majority of sailors faced, they began revolting against their captains by joining forces with each other, stealing armed ships, and conducting their own voyages. On these self-conducted voyages, they often attacked other ships on trading routes in an attempt to earn the money that they never received from their captains. As a result of these attacks, such sailors can be seen as the pioneers of piracy.

Many men would turn to piracy due to lay-offs from previous jobs. Lack of education was a large driving force towards piracy. This was often the only viable career choice if a sailor wanted to provide for their families. That being said, some pirates were literate and somewhat educated. Additionally, the lack of education among most pirates on board voyages also resulted in poor decision making. For instance, many captains would prefer stocking up on alcohol and liquor rather than nutritious food on long voyages because they were under the impression that liquor was the most useful substance that they needed to stay comfortable on long voyages. Unfortunately, this mentality is why so many pirates would starve to death when voyages turned out to be longer than expected, such malnourishment also affected the physical and cognitive abilities of the men when they spent months out on sea.

In 1713, peace of Utrecht left Spain free to drive logwood cutters out of Campeche and into piracy in New Providence. The Peace also left almost 40,000 privateers (mostly Dutch and English) out of work, many in the West Indies. Facing economic depression and a life of hardship in the merchant service or the Royal Navy, many were eager to find an alternate way out. A large number of these people turned to piracy, especially after the wreck of the Spanish Treasure fleet in July of this year.

Education & Healthcare

A lack of educated individuals in colonies and on ships created a large shortage in doctors and other educated personnel needed for long, arduous sea voyages. Thus, although most pirates would willingly volunteer to join voyages in search of treasure, doctors were often forced or kidnapped to join the pirates on their journey. Pirate crews desperately wanted skilled medical personnel to treat wounds as well as general illness. The frequently violent battles they encountered required a doctor to perform amputations and dress wounds. Even with these doctors, sicknesses of the seas and foreign territories were very misunderstood and medical technology was not very advanced. Many people were lost to illness at sea. There were many diseases that existed during the Golden Age of Piracy that doctors could not cure such as scurvy, the black plague, malaria, dysentery, yellow fever, and tuberculosis. In fact, disease rather than

death in battle or from battle wounds was the most common cause of death among 17th century pirates.

Technology

During the Golden Age of Pirates, the ships used by pirates tended to be small, fast, and heavily armed, with a focus on firepower. The crew composition on pirate ships was more diverse and democratic than merchant and naval vessels, allowing opportunities for sailors of different backgrounds. Pirates operated outside the law and modified their ships to strike fear into their enemies, while official ships adhered to regulations and served various purposes, such as protecting trade routes and engaging in naval warfare.

Current Issues

Disease

Pirates confronted a multitude of challenges, among them were the prevalent diseases they encountered in their unhygienic living conditions at sea. Common health issues during this period included scurvy, a disease caused from vitamin C deficiency due to limited access to fresh produce on long voyages. Dysentery spread rapidly in the crowded and unsanitary conditions aboard pirate ships. The cramped and dirty environments also made pirates susceptible to typhus transmitted by disease-carrying rats and other pests. In tropical regions like the Caribbean, yellow fever and malaria was also a big risk to sailors. Smallpox, a highly contagious and fatal viral disease, could spread rapidly among pirate crews.

Moreover, the frequent injuries and wounds pirates endured during battles and accidents often led to severe complications, exacerbated by limited medical knowledge and resources of the time. Consequently, the life expectancy of pirates was notably lower compared to the general population, as healthcare and sanitary conditions were rudimentary during the Republic of Pirates. This resulted in a need for doctors, however at this time not many doctors wanted to live on pirate ships making them a commodity among ships. Pirate ships that had a doctor on board were able to recover quicker after battle, making them more efficient.

Weather & Environment

Pirates also faced the cruel climate of the Caribbean while at sea. Tropical storms and hurricanes, common during the Atlantic hurricane season, were a big risk to pirates, as their ships were often ill-equipped to withstand such extreme weather. The region's trade winds could either improve a voyage making it faster, helping pirates seize merchant ships or evade naval vessels. However, the winds could also hinder their progress, making navigation more difficult and leaving many ships more vulnerable. Hurricanes and storms would also sink merchant and trade vessels as well providing more opportunities for plunder.

Lack of Resources

Another issue pirates faced was a lack of resources while on voyages. Their ships had limited storage space, primarily designed for speed rather than supplies. Extended voyages lasting weeks or months made perishable food spoil quickly, leaving pirates with few options for a balanced diet. Further, pirates often choose to take alcohol over food if given the choice. Piracy forced them to avoid ports, restricting access to replenish supplies, and naval blockades made docking risky. Although they plundered merchant vessels for food, captured provisions weren't always in good condition.

Interlopers

Interlopers played a significant role in the Caribbean, impacting the Republic of Pirates in various ways. Interlopers were unauthorized traders or pirates who violated established trade monopolies and licenses granted by European colonial powers. Their presence in the region led to increased competition for plunder, as both pirates and interlopers sought opportunities to capture valuable merchant ships and reap financial gains. This heightened rivalry sometimes resulted in tensions and disputes among the various groups vying for the same targets. The activities of interlopers also had implications for the unity and cohesion within the pirate community. While pirates often operated with a degree of camaraderie, the arrival of interlopers could strain relationships and create divisions over the distribution of loot and resources. The shared goal of acquiring wealth through piracy could be overshadowed by conflicts arising from conflicting interests and rivalries. Moreover, interlopers posed a threat to the safety and security of pirate havens and bases. These unauthorized traders and pirates could attract unwanted attention from colonial authorities and naval forces, jeopardizing the sanctuaries that pirates relied on to rest, refit their ships, and divide their plunder. The presence of interlopers further complicated the already tumultuous environment of piracy in the Caribbean, as pirates had to navigate not only the challenges posed by colonial powers but also deal with the influence of competing factions within their own ranks.

Questions to Consider

1. With the rise of piracy in the region the rise of anti-piracy laws have increased among the imperial powers. How will the Republic protect itself and its citizens from imperial incursions? Should the Republic take an offensive or defensive position?
2. Should this new government regulate and sponsor pirate voyages? Should they tax individual vessels? Should the Republic have a fleet of official pirate ships to fund the state?
3. What should be done with the influx of money from the plate fleet wreck?
4. How might government corruption create internal political factions? And how might these factors either help or hinder each other's progress?
5. How can education and literacy be used as a tool for good? How can it be used to mobilize the pirates?
6. What, if any, social programs and systems should be created on the island?

Character Lists

1. Anthony Darwell
2. Arthur Crimson
3. Bartlet Roland
4. Christopher Holding
5. Daniel Gold
6. Dylan McConnel
7. Ernest Cooper
8. Finnigan Marshall
9. Gregory Florence
10. Howard Jenkins
11. James Kunning
12. Jamie Guttierez
13. Jeane Maslow
14. Joshua Pelton
15. Katherine Josephine
16. Leonardo Wattson
17. Liam Witherspoon
18. Luke Thames
19. Mark Ruben
20. Martha Millard
21. Mathew Loraine
22. Michael Smith
23. Oscar Davidson
24. Owen Yorkshire
25. Robert Prowell
26. Shawn Greene
27. Shirly Bradley
28. Sir Jake Richardson
29. William Bradley

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