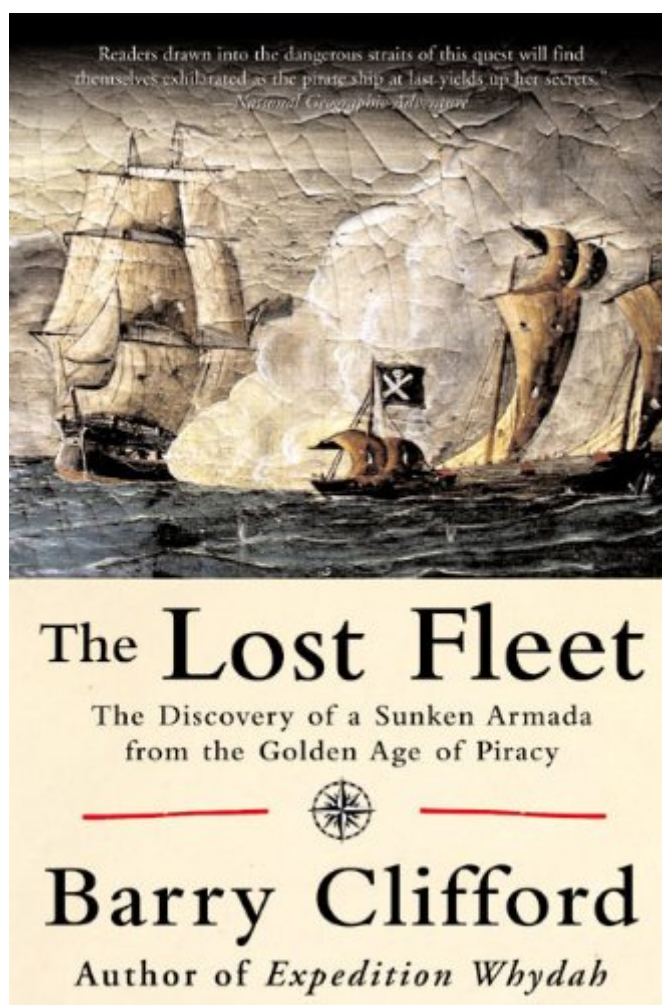


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The Lost Fleet: The Discovery Of A Sunken Armada From The Golden Age Of Piracy



Synopsis

On January 2, 1678, a fleet of French ships sank off the Venezuelan coast. This proved disastrous for French naval power in the region, and sparked the rise of a golden age of piracy. Tracing the lives of fabled pirates like the Chevalier de Grammont, Nikolaas Van Hoorn, Thomas Paine, and Jean Comte d'Estrées, *The Lost Fleet* portrays a dark age, when the outcasts of European society formed a democracy of buccaneers, settling on a string of islands off the African coast. From there, the pirates haunted the world's oceans, wreaking havoc on the settlements along the Spanish mainland and -- often enlisted by French and English governments -- sacking ships, ports, and coastal towns. More than three hundred years later, writer, explorer, and deep-sea diver Barry Clifford follows the pirates' destructive wake back to Venezuela. With the help of a lost map, drawn by the captain of the lost French fleet, Clifford locates the site of the disaster and wreckage of the once-mighty armada.

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Customer Reviews

The age of the Privateers was an era of adventure and exploration but it was also an era of great tragedy. Thousands of ships were lost both pirate ships, and the ships of various governments including, The Netherlands, Spain, Portugal and England who tried, often with poor results to stop piracy in the Caribbean, Atlantic, and Pacific Oceans. Clifford offers the story of a group of French ships that were lost off the Venezuela Coast in the late 17th century. This tale of pirates, piracy, and the grand age of Exploration offers the reader insight not only into a time of great change and expanding international borders but, the tale of the salvagers who found and saved the archaeological artifacts that were all that remained of these once grand ships. Clifford is an excellent writer. He uses descriptive language both of historical scenes and the unfolding drama of the efforts to save artifacts and history in spite of conflict with the Venezuelan government over who held the rights to the artifacts. That being said there are some problems with this book. For example, it is often difficult to determine where Clifford's sources came from and you often cannot determine if he is referring to primary or secondary source documents. Therefore, this is not recommended as a primary reference for historians seeking to explore "Pirate" history further. However, this is a fun read for the amateur historian or for people who like reading about grand and glorious adventures (Yes Pirates of the Caribbean fans .. this means you!!). Overall I give this book a 4:5 stars due to issues with citation and referencing but overall it is well written and enjoyable.

Thoroughly enjoyed the history of the "pirates of the Caribbean" and the way Clifford brought to life the recent search for the sunken remains of the ships off the coast of Venezuela. He gave me a different view of the life of a pirate as well.

Great overall history of Alves and the players. Would hve liked to see more time spent on artifacts.
Good book

Great read and interesting history. Wish it was a bit more in depth, but it is worth a read.

Fresh new look at forgotten history that was important in the history of what shaped where I live -the Caribbean.

Thanks!

My son was very pleased with his Christmas gift.

Very good.

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