

# LIFE UNDER THE JOLLY ROGER

## Reflections on Golden Age Piracy

### Gabriel Kuhn

Over the last couple of decades an ideological battle has raged over the political legacy and cultural symbolism of the “golden age” pirates who roamed the seas between the Caribbean Islands and the Indian Ocean from 1690 to 1725. They are depicted as romanticized villains on the one hand, and as genuine social rebels on the other. *Life Under the Jolly Roger* examines the political and cultural significance of these nomadic outlaws by relating historical accounts to a wide range of theoretical concepts—reaching from Marshall Sahlins and Pierre Clastres to Mao-Tse Tung and Eric J. Hobsbawm via Friedrich Nietzsche and Michel Foucault. The meanings of race, gender, sexuality, and disability in golden age pirate communities are analyzed and contextualized, as are the pirates’ forms of organization, economy and ethics.

While providing an extensive catalog of scholarly references for the academic reader, this delightful and engaging study is directed at a wide audience and demands no other requirements than a love for pirates, daring theoretical speculation and passionate, yet respectful, inquiry.

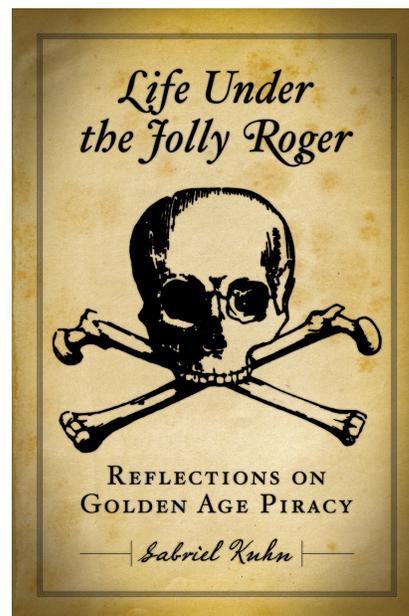
### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Gabriel Kuhn lives as an independent author and translator in Stockholm, Sweden. He received a Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Innsbruck in 1996, following a four-year semi-professional soccer career. His numerous publications include *Women Pirates and the Politics of the Jolly Roger* (1997), the Alpine Anarchist pamphlet series, and the award-winning ‘*Never Anarchismus’ in den USA: Seattle und die Folgen* (2008). His publications with PM Press include the anthology *Sober Living for the Revolution: Hardcore Punk, Straight Edge, and Radical Politics* (2009) and the Gustav Landauer reader *Revolution and other Writings* (2009).

### ACCOLADES

“*Life Under the Jolly Roger* will appeal to anyone interested in pirates and radical practice. It brings the golden age of piracy to life and shows us the link to contemporary radical politics. I recommend this book to those who identify with pirates and seek a well-reasoned analysis of their legacy.”—Luis A. Fernandez, author of *Policing Dissent*

“Piracy is as relevant in today’s world as it ever was, and if you want to understand why it happens and what it really means, this is the book to start with. While modern-day robber barons give pirating a bad name, this important book restores the balance through a lively and provocative narrative. Definitely one to read, and to treasure!”—Randall Amster, professor of Peace Studies at Prescott College, Arizona



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