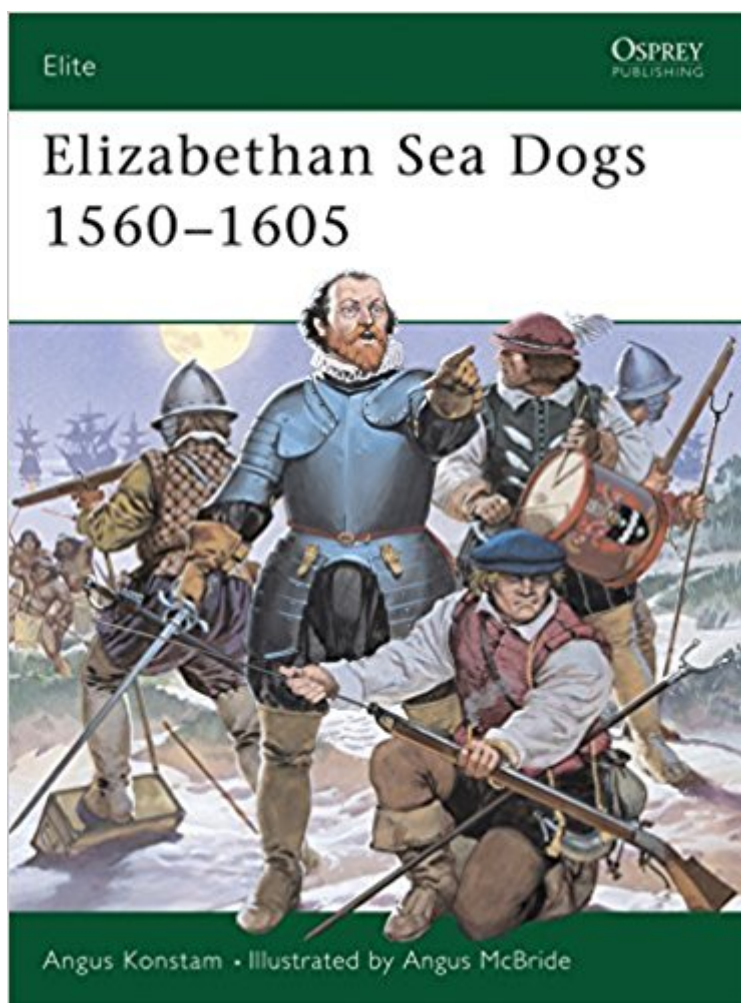


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Elizabethan Sea Dogs 1560–1605 (Elite)



Synopsis

The swashbuckling English sea captains of the Elizabethan era were a particular breed of adventurer, combining maritime and military skill with a seemingly insatiable appetite for Spanish treasure. Angus Konstam describes these characters, including such well-known sea dogs as Francis Drake, Walter Raleigh, John Hawkins and Martin Frobisher. For about 40 years they fought a private war with the Spanish, and while their success in defeating the Spanish Armada is well known, this book also covers their exploits in the New World.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

An unrivalled illustrated reference source on fighting men and commanders, past and present. Each volume is packed with full colour artwork, making military history uniquely accessible to enthusiasts of all ages.

Angus Konstam has written several books for Osprey, mainly on 18th century subjects. His recent works include Campaign 44 Pavia 1525 and Elite 67 Pirates 1660-1730. Angus previously worked as a Curator of Weapons at the Royal Armouries, Tower of London, and Chief Curator of the Mel Fisher Maritime Museum. He now devotes himself to full-time writing, indulging his passion for maritime and naval history to the maximum.

Like all of the Osprey books we've had, this is a great resource, with useful illustrations and good

information about the topic at hand.

This is a real nice book about the Elizabethan age and it will fit fine into my collection of Osprey on the subject

Angus Konstam is a renowned naval history scholar and he isn't influenced at all by the usual imbecilic propaganda shown by movies since the thirties. Although he is British, he analyses the era without the usual anti-Spanish biases and with academic eyes. Reading this book you will find the beginnings of the attacks on the Spanish Main, the voyages of commerce and "persuasion" of Hawkings, Drakes interesting career, the constant attacks sanctioned by Queen Elizabeth on Spanish territory and fleets, the Armada campaign and the English post-armada raids. The author describes the different types of ships, their strengths and weaknesses; the organization of an expedition of plunder as a commercial venue where crown, private companies and individuals were involved hoping for profit in plunder; the differences between letters of Reprisal, letters of Marque and Piracy and how easy was to abuse sanctioned reprisal attacks (some English ships were still using as excuse letters de Reprisal issued 9 years before!!!). Also very interesting are the different tactical doctrines that influenced English and Spanish naval warfare; the former investing in speed, agility and firepower (with fast reloading systems like the four wheeled carriage) and the latter in boarding actions and short ranged firepower. The Angus McBride plates are quite good: Jacques de Sores plundering Havana - 1555; Pedro de Menendez attacking Fort Caroline - 1565; John Hawkins fight at San Juan de Ulúa - 1568; Francis Drake attempt to ambush the Panama silver train - 1573; The sea-beggars "Hell-raiders" attacking the Schelde Pontoon Bridge - 1585; Martin Frobisher's fight with the Spanish Armada off Portland - 1588; Francis Drake's raid on St Augustine - 1586; Sir Richard Grenville and the last fight of the "Revenge" - 1591; Lord Thomas Howard, Sir Walter Raleigh and the capture of Cadiz - 1596. This book has a big weakness - it should be about "Elizabethan Sea Dogs", not a generic history of corsairs and pirates against Spain. We get little information about weapons, training, hierarchies and clothing. The author could invest less space in describing French, Dutch and Spanish or so many details about the expeditions and concentrate on the focus of the book. The author has dozens of published books on naval history! Several about Pirates in general; here I believe he should concentrate on the Elizabethan Sea Dog. This is a very worthy and impartial introduction to the subject. Recommended.

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