



The Voyage of Sir Francis Drake Around the Whole Globe

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'Their fruits be diverse and plentiful, as nutmegs, ginger, long pepper, lemons, cucumbers, cocos, sago, with divers other sorts...'

Scholar, spy, diplomat and supreme propagandist for Elizabethan sea power, Richard Hakluyt's accounts of famed explorers mythologised a nation growing rapidly aware of the size and strangeness of the world - and determined to dominate it.

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Richard Hakluyt (c 1552-1616).

Hakluyt's Voyages and Discoveries is available in Penguin Classics.

The Voyage of Sir Francis Drake Around the Whole Globe Details

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Author : Richard Hakluyt

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From Reader Review The Voyage of Sir Francis Drake Around the Whole Globe for online ebook

Sarah Reffstrup says

Briterne var basically pirater ? Jeg tror jeg havde forventet skattejagt ligesom i Uncharted spillene til Playstation, som handler om Nathan Drake, efterkommer af Francis. Men ja, myrde for guld kan man jo også ?

Alex Murray says

Short but sweet. Perfect to inspire ones imagination to roam free.

A bus ride well spent.

Leigh says

Short quick historical fact book, written without emotion or scene setting, great little book for interested related readers!

Bogdan says

Spre sfârșitul secolului al XVI-lea, în plină Epocă a Descoperirilor, au plecat din Anglia spre Lumea Nouă (și coloniile spaniole de acolo) o pleiadă de navigatori/exploratori. Unii dintre cei mai faimoși dintre aceștia au fost Francis Drake, precum și Thomas Cavendish. Iar propagandistul oficial al dinastiei Tudorilor, autorul Hakluyt, ne prezintă cronica acestor două expediții. Neluând parte la călătoriile propriu-zise, a încercat să se folosească de relatările martorilor oculari în cea mai mare parte, lăsând totuși unele lacune în text. Expedițiile sunt povestite la persoana I, emulând stilul unui jurnal de bord. Pe scurt, englezii găsesc insule virgine, mări calme/agitate, băștinași prietenoși și numeroase specii de animale inedite – schimbându-le drastic evoluția fiecăror. Este de remarcat faptul că autorul descrie cu seninătate abuzurile și mizeriile săvârșite de către mateloșii conduși de Drake/Cavendish (aceștia operând în mare parte la limita pirateriei), găsindu-le în același timp unele dintre cele mai tranșante justificări (de ex, am ucis mare parte din populația băștinașilor, dar e totul ok pentru că se închinău la diavoli). Cu adevărat un produs al vremurilor respective, cartea are totuși valoare ca document istoric (fereastră către compromisuri spre trecut); din păcate, ediția de față este un fragment scurt, 50p, dintr-un volum mai extins – pentru cei pasionați de subiect, volumul complet fiind esențial.

Eleonora says

Although it could have been a very interesting read, here it was a simple compilation of facts. As if someone

was writing in his diary first I did this, then that, and then that. So, this is why I wasn't able to read more than a few pages and dnf-ed it.

Sam Quixote says

Richard Hakluyt's *The Voyage of Sir Francis Drake Around the Whole Globe* collects the two accounts, snappily titled: "The famous voyage of Sir Francis Drake into the South Sea, and there hence about the whole globe of the earth, begun in the year of our Lord 1577." and "The prosperous voyage of the worshipful Thomas Candish of Trimley in the County of Suffolk Esquire, into the South Sea, and from thence round about the circumference of the whole earth, begun in the year of our Lord 1586, and finished 1588."

The first thing that strikes the reader about these accounts is how bloody life was on the high seas way back then. Within paragraphs, Drake's looting and pillaging one Spanish galleon after another and then going mental whenever he encountered a native village on some island – the juxtaposition between Drake's knighthood and the way he lived couldn't be more opposite.

The second thing you'll notice is how excruciatingly dry Hakluyt's writing is. He's describing the life of a pirate with all its attendant madness with the energy and insight you might describe a trip to the supermarket. "Met some natives. Beheaded most of them and torched their huts. Ate an apple. Met some other natives, got drunk and partied with them. Killed some family I think. Saw hundreds of majestic birds. Slaughtered them all and filled the ship's hold with their corpses. Sneezed." followed by a list of other foods they picked up. I'm paraphrasing but that's essentially it the whole time.

Hakluyt provides no insight into their day to day lives, what they thought or felt, or bring any kind of atmosphere to his accounts. It's just lists of things they mostly killed/saw. It's the worst rendering of dramatic subject matter I've ever read – it's so mundane to read, I couldn't have hated it more. Anthropologists/historians might enjoy this as it's a first-hand account of these voyages and new cultures but it's beyond boring for anyone else.

Judging by these crews' behaviour though, it's easy to see why the English were despised for so long - our ancestors were fucking psychos!

Daren says

I think what surprised me more than anything in this short excerpt from Richard Hakluyt's *Voyages and Discoveries*, is how much Drake and his entourage were bloodthirsty pirates!

In the first three pages they have forcibly taken, robbed eight boats. These occupants (mostly fishermen in this case) yielded, and as there is no mention of their slaughter, so we will give Drake the benefit of the doubt and consider they were left alive.

Others were much less lucky, and were slaughtered, their ships, boats or villages torched.

To be fair, I have no doubt the Spanish were equally aggressive, but the repeated scenarios are documented in such a way that they are as eventful as sailing up a coastline for a week, or massacring 300 flightless birds on an island to store for food!

I couldn't tell with this book whether the excerpts selected were consistent with the rest of the book, but these weren't gripping in the way other of these *Little Black Classics* are.

Joey Woolfardis says

Exceedingly boring. I thought perhaps it would give an insight to what Drake was like as a man and leader, but it barely even mentions him: I'm assuming "our general" is Drake. Who knows, really? I don't even know who the second bloke is and can't bring myself to care. It offers nothing, except a slight historical note on where these voyagers went. Still not as bad as those haikus, though.

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JK says

Simply, *purely* awful.

Hakluyt writes of voyages around the world in a factual, disconnected tone. Many of these visits to foreign lands spell trouble for the locals, who find themselves robbed and killed, mainly as a display of superiority than anything else. Neighbouring sailors meet the same fate. Hakluyt's tone here never falters; dispassionate, dead, laying out the facts of the terrors as though they're the same as tying a knot in a rope. No wonder the English were so hated back then, running around taking lives for a laugh and a couple of bags of leather.

There are no thoughts or feelings here, it reads similarly to the diary of my ten year old self – "Went to the shop. Got a lollipop. Came home and we watched Frasier." It's so bloody dry. My imagination was the only thing keeping me together – to think how huge and unknown the world was back then, to have none of the knowledge we have now of other cultures, lands, people. It must have been exciting, frightening, wonderful. None of that was given to us here.

I realise the words are a product of their time, but in some instances, words just aren't worth the bother.

royaevereads says

Fascinating. I no longer understand the difference between explorers and pirates - these Englishmen weren't just mapping the world; they were killing, burning and looting almost everywhere they went.

The writing was very simplistic and matter of fact, even when describing something as disturbing as an execution. There were some very detailed descriptions of things that they had never come across before, like coconuts. And they referred to seals as "sea-wolves".

Peter says

An interesting little book, more aimed at the historian than the casual reader. The text tells of where ships were sunk making it a handy treasure guide in the past.

A typical long winded and dry travelogue but not bad, it makes you wonder how we survived as a species when all we done was kill each other, or theirself all the time!

Sean Barrs the Bookdragon says

Normally I don't judge a book based on the actions the people commit in them. Normally, I just consider the work a piece of history and detatch myself from anything that occurs inside. But sometimes, every so often, a book comes along in which the contents are just that atrocious that I can't remain impartial and approach the book academically.

Simply put, Sir Francis Drake was a cunt. Now I don't use that word liberally; it's not something I fling around: it's something I save for human beings who are so terrible that they can only be summed up with that single word. To emphasise my point, it's a word I also hold in reserve for the current president of the USA. And I don't like the word, but sometimes it just has to be said. Drake had that terrible power orientated mind-set that gave the British a terrible name overseas. He was at war, so he attacked Spanish boats. This is, though terrible, understandable. But he also raided and pillaged native villages, relishing in the power he had over them as he put the people to the sword. When visiting such lands, instead of admiring the beauty of them, he went around killing everything and hunting everything just so he could bring it home and show it off: he tried to conquer what he thought beneath him.

History shows us the consequences of this way of life. It only ever leads to destruction and misery. One day man might learn the folly of his ways, one day man might learn that power does not necessarily mean domination and one day he may learn that wealth is not the highest commodity of human life. But, that day isn't soon, not when men like Trump can get into power- the so called leader of the "free world." Let's hope the conspiracy theorists and experts are wrong, let's hope his stupidity doesn't start a war.

Penguin Little Black Classic- 65

The Little Black Classic Collection by penguin looks like it contains lots of hidden gems. I couldn't help it; they looked so good that I went and bought them all. I shall post a short review after reading each one. No doubt it will take me several months to get through all of them! Hopefully I will find some classic authors, from across the ages, that I may not have come across had I not bought this collection.

Yumna M. Usmani says

At first it seems quite an objective account of English voyages, how he describes the burning and looting done by the Englishmen on the two ships. But what cracks me up is how the writer uses stronger words to describe similar acts done by the Spanish, as though looting and burning done by Englishmen was in a way more sophisticated than the one done by Sapiards...All in all a great read!

Kaitlin says

I read this as part fo the Dewey's 24 hr readathon and I have to say this was a really exceptionally shocking little book. I had no idea quite how pirate-like and bloodthirsty Francis and his crew were but the whole way through this all they seem to do is kill animals (in the thousands - despite there only being just over 150 men), pillage, burn, destroy and kill people (particularly the Spanish!!)

In this little book we have two excerpts from two voyages, the first is that of Drake, the second that of Candish/Cavendish. I have to say I preferred the recounting of Drake's one because the frank attitudes with which the murder and desecration of lands, towns and villagers was spoken was throughly shocking... all I can say is no wonder everyone hated the English!!! They're flipping maniacs...

I did find the descriptions of the land and small tribesmen very interesting and getting to see some of their beliefs and cultures was thrilling and terrifying all at once. The world seems to have been so big, expansive and foreign back then!!

This is well worth a read and I would say a lot more interesting than I'd imagined it may be. A solid 3.5*s and an interesting introduction to the exploits of the explorers back in Elizabethan times!

Ekaterina Anguelova says

If you ever asked yourself what the interior workings of the imperialist mindset are, look no further. The mind-boggling lack of self-reflection combined with tremendous amounts of entitlement make for a hauntingly informative, though hardly enjoyable read:

"The general permitted them to enter within our bulwark, where they continued their song and dance a reasonable time. They made signs to our general to sit down, to whom the king, and divers others made supplications, that he would take their province into his hand, and become their king, making signs that they would resign unto him their right and title to the whole land, and become his subjects. In which, to persuade us the better, the king and the rest, with one consent, and with great reverence, joyfully singing a song, did set the crown upon his head, enriched his neck with all their chains: which thing our general thought not meet to reject, because he knew not what honour and profit it might be to our country. Wherefore in the name, and to the use of Her Majesty he took the sceptre, crown, and dignity of the said country into his hands."
