



GLOBAL INSTITUTIONS



# Maritime Piracy

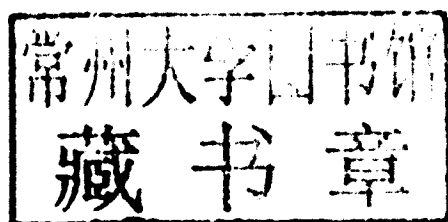
Robert Haywood  
and Roberta Spivak

ROUTLEDGE



# Maritime Piracy

Robert Haywood and Roberta Spivak



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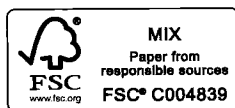
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# Maritime Piracy

Maritime piracy is now a pressing global issue, and this work seeks to provide a concise and informative introduction to the area. Never truly having receded into a romanticized past, seaborne banditry's rapid growth was stimulated by low risks and increasingly high rewards. Currently, obsolete, incomplete and complicating structures and norms of governance, together with advances in technology, enable a lucrative business model for pirates, as they effectively operate with impunity and claim increasing ransoms.

Beginning with an overview and historical development of piracy and the relevant maritime governance structures, this work progresses to examine how twentieth-century shifts in global governance norms and structures eventually left the high seas open for predatory attacks on one of the world's fastest growing and essential industries. Moving through contemporary debates about how to best combat piracy, the work concludes that the solution to a chronic global problem requires a long-term, holistic, and inclusive approach.

Examining militaristic, legal, and humanitarian strategies and offering a critical evaluation of the various problems they bring, this work will be of great interest to all students and scholars of international law, international organizations, and maritime security.

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## **Routledge Global Institutions Series**

Edited by Thomas G. Weiss

*The CUNY Graduate Center, New York, USA*

and Rorden Wilkinson

*University of Manchester, UK*

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The Global Institutions Series is designed to provide readers with comprehensive, accessible, and informative guides to the history, structure, and activities of key international organizations as well as books that deal with topics of key importance in contemporary global governance. Every volume stands on its own as a thorough and insightful treatment of a particular topic, but the series as a whole contributes to a coherent and complementary portrait of the phenomenon of global institutions at the dawn of the millennium.

Books are written by recognized experts, conform to a similar structure, and cover a range of themes and debates common to the series. These areas of shared concern include the general purpose and rationale for organizations, developments over time, membership, structure, decision-making procedures, and key functions. Moreover, current debates are placed in historical perspective alongside informed analysis and critique. Each book also contains an annotated bibliography and guide to electronic information as well as any annexes appropriate to the subject matter at hand.

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**To Erin Jellel Collins Arsenault, who taught us so much about  
the need for a world beyond war.**

# Foreword

The current volume is the sixty-third title in a dynamic series on global institutions. These books provide readers with definitive guides to the most visible aspects of what many of us know as “global governance.” Remarkable as it may seem, there exist relatively few books that offer in-depth treatments of prominent global bodies, processes, and associated issues, much less an entire series of concise and complementary volumes. Those that do exist are either out of date, inaccessible to the non-specialist reader, or seek to develop a specialized understanding of particular aspects of an institution or process rather than offer an overall account of its functioning and situate it within the increasingly dense global institutional network. Similarly, existing books have often been written in highly technical language or have been crafted “in-house” and are notoriously self-serving and narrow.

The advent of electronic media has undoubtedly helped research and teaching by making data and primary documents of international organizations more widely available, but it has complicated matters as well. The growing reliance on the Internet and other electronic methods of finding information about key international organizations and processes has served, ironically, to limit the educational and analytical materials to which most readers have ready access—namely, books. Public relations documents, raw data, and loosely refereed web sites do not make for intelligent analysis. Official publications compete with a vast amount of electronically available information, much of which is suspect because of its ideological or self-promoting slant. Paradoxically, a growing range of purportedly independent web sites offering analyses of the activities of particular organizations has emerged, but one inadvertent consequence has been to frustrate access to basic, authoritative, readable, critical, and well-researched texts. The market for such has actually been reduced by the ready availability of varying quality electronic materials.

For those of us who teach, research, and operate in the area, such restricted access to information and analyses has been frustrating. We were delighted when Routledge saw the value of a series that bucks this trend and provides key reference points to the most significant global institutions and issues. They are betting that serious students and professionals will want serious analyses. We have assembled a first-rate team of authors to address that market. Our intention is to provide one-stop shopping for all readers—students (both undergraduate and postgraduate), negotiators, diplomats, practitioners from nongovernmental and intergovernmental organizations, and interested parties alike—seeking insights into the most prominent institutional aspects of global governance.

### **Maritime Piracy**

When we conceived this series in 2005, certain titles seemed necessities, but we were not prescient enough to foresee the importance of the return of an old blight on the international agenda, namely the re-emergence of piracy on the high seas. Maritime piracy was thrust back into the public's and media's attention by highly visible and publicized hijackings off the coast of Somalia.

In the age of nuclear weapons and sophisticated drones attacking belligerents, how could a tiny group of men in small boats equipped with machine guns pose a significant—the authors claim that the total bill could approach \$12 billion per year—problem to international shipping? The answer is akin to that for many books in this series, namely that piracy takes place outside the actual jurisdiction of any state but causes damage to all. The world may be increasingly interconnected, but public international law and international organizations still reflect the fundamental building blocks of state sovereignty. And states are unwilling or unable to live up to their historical and treaty-based obligations to prevent piracy.

Piracy—like terrorism or climate change or pandemics—is a global threat that requires new approaches, laws, and organizations to tackle the problems posed by increasingly global, but disjointed, arrangements for global governance.

We were delighted when Bob Haywood and Roberta Spivak agreed to take up the challenge of writing about this problem for this series. Both have been involved in conceiving and carrying out a multinational and multidisciplinary research project over the last two years conducted by One Earth Future. Both Bob and Roberta have practical experience in the field and in headquarters of governmental, intergovernmental, and



nongovernmental organizations but also bring to bear a critical analytical eye to this long-ignored subject. More importantly, they have also brought to bear the policy insights from one of the few research efforts working on this challenge.

As always, we welcome comments and suggestions from our readers.

Thomas G. Weiss, The CUNY Graduate Center,  
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July 2011