

Arne Bialuschewski, *Raiders and Natives: Cross-Cultural Relations in the Age of Buccaneers*. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2022. xi + 179 pp. (Paper US\$ 24.95)

In this important study, Arne Bialuschewski investigates the cross-cultural relations that emerged when Northern European marauders encountered Indigenous populations during incursions into the seventeenth-century Spanish empire. Through detailed study of well-known and lesser-examined raids, he convincingly argues that Indigenous Peoples frequently proved to be the decisive factor in the success or failure of violent buccaneering expeditions. With this argument, *Raiders and Natives* sets itself firmly apart from the existing scholarship on maritime predation and international rivalries in the seventeenth-century Caribbean, which has often presented these as exclusively European conflicts. Bialuschewski addresses this significant oversight, establishing that most buccaneering raids involved and impacted on Indigenous Peoples in one way or another. Using an impressive source base, he provides an original and compelling examination of the entangled histories of marauding gangs and Indigenous groups.

The study has seven short chapters. Chapter 1 provides an overview of European Atlantic maritime predation from the transatlantic voyages of the sixteenth century to the emergence of Caribbean bases in the seventeenth century. Chapter 2 focuses on the Yucatan peninsula between the 1630s and 1660s, where Maya communities were caught in the midst of international conflict and fell victim to the violent raids of roving brigands. Chapter 3 charts the raid of Granada in 1665 by a multinational gang of marauders, examining how Indigenous Peoples became crucial actors in raiding expeditions when buccaneers began to travel farther into the interior of the Spanish empire in search of undefended and wealthy outposts. Chapter 4 considers several raids conducted in Central America between 1666 and 1671, exploring the multifaceted roles that Indigenous Peoples played as allies and opponents of invading forces. Chapter 5 examines the cross-cultural alliances brokered and sustained through long-term interactions between Miskito communities and English raiders, demonstrating how Miskito polities were transformed through engagement with trading and raiding networks. Chapter 6 concentrates on relations between marauders and Cuna communities in Darien, emphasizing that Cuna groups exploited the presence of heavily armed outsiders to defy Spanish imperial interference, strengthen their authority, and gain access to highly valued goods. Finally, Chapter 7 explores the campaigns of buccaneers operating on the Pacific coast in the 1680s, where Indigenous communities were fundamental to defending the coast from invaders by informing on their movements, repelling incursions, and burning key resources. This led to brutal

attacks on Indigenous villages in quest of provisions and information. Without the support of Indigenous communities, most of these expeditions proved unsuccessful and surviving buccaneers staggered back to the Caribbean where they sought alternative employment or new targets overseas.

Across these chapters, Bialuschewski reveals the complexity and diversity of cross-cultural relations between Indigenous Peoples and marauding gangs. Each chapter offers discussion of diverse Indigenous groups who supported, opposed, or fell victim to roving gangs across the locations and raids discussed. Importantly, he does not fall into the trap of studies that follow raiders as they moved across locales without any real consideration of the impact or impressions left in their wake. Instead, he stresses the trail of destruction, casualties, and crises caused by these raids and their considerable consequences for Indigenous Peoples. There are several mentions of Spanish attempts to displace Indigenous communities from strategic coastal or island sites while the repartimiento regime meant that the burden of repairing damaged outposts fell hardest on the Indigenous Peoples required to provide labor and construction materials. Communities that had been devastated and impoverished by buccaneering raids could not expect similar support from the colonial regime, even when these villages were left defenseless as men were conscripted to defend nearby Spanish towns. Meanwhile, those who supported buccaneering raids often faced violent repercussions that included execution and enslavement. While the Miskito and Cuna utilized buccaneers to advance their strategic interests against colonial incursions, buccaneering raids led to the loss of many Indigenous lives, livelihoods, and lands.

*Raiders and Natives* is a significant and much needed addition to the historiography of maritime predation and Atlantic empires. Bialuschewski's extensive research into Spanish colonial records alongside his careful examination of various transatlantic collections offers substantial insights beyond the current historiography while firmly situating Indigenous participation and experiences within this history. A must read for any scholar interested in these themes, it will also prove very popular with students for its captivating narratives and eminent readability. By shifting the narrative to focus on the understudied cross-cultural relations so vital to the events discussed, Bialuschewski addresses a significant weakness in the current historiography of international conflict in the seventeenth-century Atlantic world and changes our understanding of how these struggles played out across the diverse territories of the Spanish empire.

*David Wilson*

School of Humanities, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, U.K.

*david.wilson.101@strath.ac.uk*