

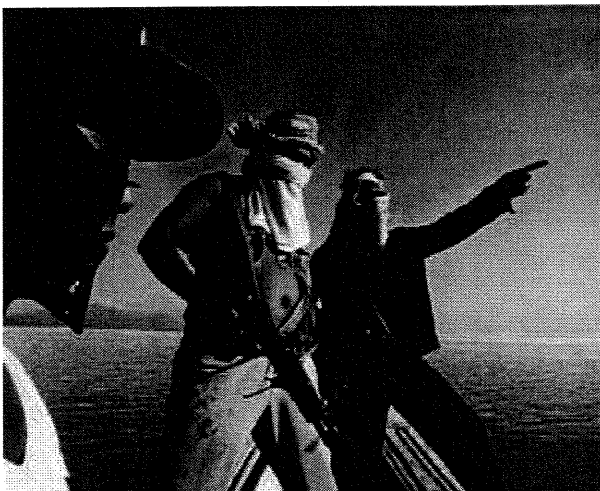
# Modern Day Pirates

Sea Piracy still occurs today! Modern day pirates currently roam the coasts of East Africa and Southeast Asia. Specifically, areas of pirate activity include the South China Seas, Somalia, South America (particularly the ports of Brazil), the coasts of the Arabian Peninsula, and The Philippines.

The screenshot shows the BBC News website interface. At the top, there are navigation links for Home, News, Sport, Radio, TV, Weather, and Languages. The main headline reads: "Somali pirates seize Indian ship". Below the headline, there is a sub-headline: "Heavily armed pirates have seized an Indian cargo vessel off the coast of Somalia's capital, Mogadishu, maritime officials say." The article text continues: "Andrew Mwangura of the Kenyan-based Seafarers Assistance Programme said 14 crew members have been taken captive. The vessel, Mv N'imatullah, was to deliver 800 tonnes of cargo to Mogadishu but was barred by fighting. Piracy was rampant in Somalia, but had stopped when Islamists ruled large parts of the country last year. In February, pirates hijacked a UN-chartered cargo vessel, Mv Rozen, and are still holding 12 of its crew members, six Sri-Lankans and six Kenyans. 'The Indian dhow had anchored off Mogadishu when it was hijacked but no demands have been made so far,' Mr Mwangura told the BBC News website. Since the overthrow of Union of Islamic Courts in December, insecurity in Mogadishu has deteriorated and aid workers say the current fighting is the worst the city has seen for 15 years." The page also features a map of Somalia and Kenya, and various sidebar sections like "SERVICES", "BACKGROUND", and "PROFILES".

The South China Sea is considered the most dangerous; "half of the record 285 attacks recorded by the International Maritime Bureau (IMB) last year occurred here, with Indonesia and Malaysia among the worst-hit nations" (BBC News), in particular the Strait of Malacca where 50,000 ships travel per year. In fact, sea piracy went up 57% worldwide in Year 2000 (Source: IMO)

Modern pirates often target cargo vessels, but sometimes they attack cruise ships as well. Attacks on cargo ships cost insurers about \$100m a year.

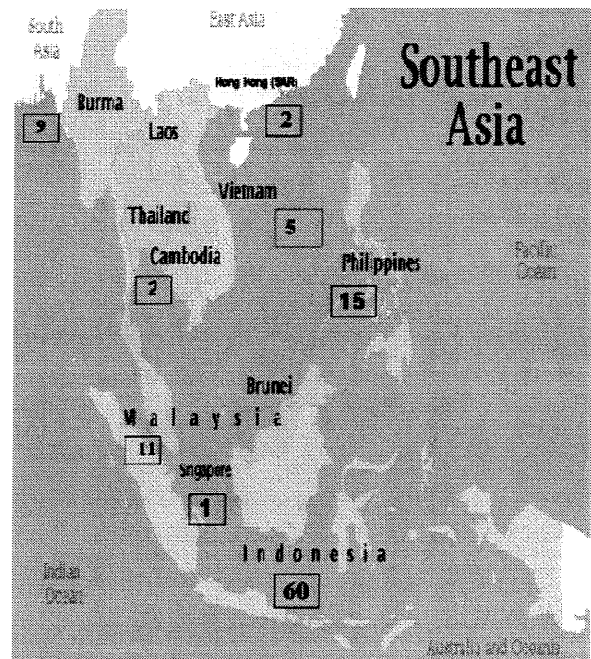


Gone are the swashbuckling swordsmen, pirates today now use speed boats, automatic weapons and satellite technology to find and capture their "loot" which now can range from cargo, to money and personal goods, to whole fishing vessels.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/724753.stm>

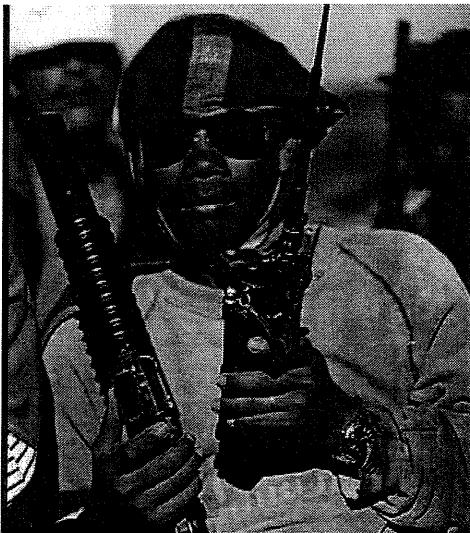
## Why is piracy on the rise?

- \* Reduced Naval Presence – after the cold war many countries' navies were reduced (Particularly Russia, the USA, and Great Britain)
- \* New Technology and weapons – availability of cheap weapons and tools
- \* Political instability – with the collapse of the Soviet Union and increased political instability and wars in the world, many countries cannot maintain their waters or control criminal groups, like pirates.



Reported Pirate Attacks 1998  
[http://www.cargolaw.com/presentations\\_pirates.html](http://www.cargolaw.com/presentations_pirates.html)

Modern piracy is an ongoing news item to study and may interest many Young Adults in reading the newspapers or keeping track of current events. To learn more about Modern piracy, visit the International Maritime Organization at [www.imo.org](http://www.imo.org)



< A Modern Pirate  
<http://www.nickryan.net/articles/pirates.html>

BBC News. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/6522793.stm>

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/724753.stm>

International Maritime Organization  
<http://www.imo.org/>