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 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.

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

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


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