

Topic proposal adapted from a former student

Student Name

Prof. Brown

Topic Proposal

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Introduction:

When most people hear the word “pirates,” the image of Blackbeard, the Jolly Roger, buried treasure or other romanticized clichés of the golden age of pirating will pop into their heads. However, there is nothing romantic about the hijacking of ships and of holding captured crews ransom for years on end. The United States is currently leading the fight to protect the world’s seaborne trade routes. This isn’t the first time the U.S. has had to battle pirates in a far-off land. Successful campaigns in the First and Second Barbary Wars had stopped piracy against the U.S. in the Mediterranean Sea soon after our nation was founded. I would like to research how past wars against pirates could help with the fight against pirates off the coast of East Africa today.

Rationale:

The fight against pirates is a subject of both current issue and historical significance. Furthermore, as a veteran of the Navy, and an avid reader of military history books, I will have a swashbuckling time researching this topic. I never had a chance to fulfill my dream of engaging and capturing a band of pirates on the open sea, so reading and writing about it is the closest I will get. Soon after the U.S. had won its war of independence, pirates from the nations of North Africa began capturing merchant ships conducting trade and the U.S. had to develop innovative ways to combat this problem. Today, a similar problem with pirates is occurring off the coast of east Africa and there needs to be a way to combat this. Current and former high-ranking military members have had their first hand experiences, accounts and opinions published by the Naval War College and other military academies. These works will be both a great source of information and inspiration for my topic.

Request:

I request to conduct research of this topic to see if there are any useful lessons from warfare over 200 years ago that could be applied to solve major world issues today. This topic is pertinent to my personal interest of current and historical military matters. I appeal for your endorsement on this topic proposal.