



Thomas Jefferson and the Tripoli Pirates: The Forgotten War That Changed American History by Brian Kilmeade and Don Yaeger | Summary & Analysis

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OVERVIEW

This review of the book *Thomas Jefferson and the Tripoli Pirates* by Brian Kilmeade and Don Yaeger includes a detailed summary of each chapter, followed by an analysis. The book presents a fairly straightforward, chronological account based on original sources, focusing on the challenge presented to the newly established United States by Mediterranean pirates, supported by and based mainly in four North African states. Wealthier European countries paid protection money to keep their shipping unmolested; the United States could afford neither the exorbitant fees set by the Barbary states, nor the depredations by the pirates on U.S. merchant shipping in the Mediterranean, and the impact on the developing country's economy.


Sources used by the authors to develop the story included personal documents, such as journals and correspondence, and official documents, such as ships' logs and other naval documents, and official records of the U.S. Congress. The authors studied the accounts of those involved in the business of dealing with the Barbary pirates, thus achieving as close a perspective as is possible, without actually having lived the events themselves. They include a bibliography of "the best of the primary and secondary works" written on this subject, for those readers who wish to explore further.

The authors focus mainly on those who were "on site," as it were, serving in the Mediterranean either as diplomats or in a military capacity. Just as in more recent times, their efforts were both aided and hampered by politics back home.

Brian Kilmeade is a television broadcaster and radio host for FOX News, as well as a bestselling author with a passion for history and a talent for storytelling. His previous books include *George Washington's Secret Six: The Spy Ring that Saved the American Revolution* (also with Don Yaeger), *The Games Do Count: America's Best and Brightest on the Power of Sports*, and *It's How You Play the Game*. Don Yaeger is an Associate Editor for *Sports Illustrated*, an award-winning motivational speaker, and author of more than twenty books, including seven New York Times best sellers: *Under the Tarnished Dome: How Notre Dame Betrayed Its Ideals for Football Glory*; *Never Die Easy: The Autobiography of Walter Peyton*; *Ya Gotta Believe: My Roller-Coaster Life as a Screwball Pitcher, Part-time Father, and my Hope-Filled Fight against Brain Cancer*; *It's Not about the Truth: The Untold Story of the Duke Lacrosse Case and the Lives It Shattered*; *I Beat the Odds: From Homelessness, to the Blind Side, and Beyond* (with Michael Oher), *Play Like You Mean It: Passion, Laugh, and Leadership in the World's Most Beautiful Game* (with Rex Ryan); and *Nothing to Lose, Everything to Gain: How I Went from Gang Member to Multimillionaire Entrepreneur* (with Ryan Blair).

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