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(author) Adrian Johns : Death of a Pirate: British Radio and the Making of the Information Age (Paperback) - Common before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Death of a Pirate: British Radio and the Making of the Information Age (Paperback) - Common:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The end of one era of pirate radioBy J. DuffyAdrian Johns frames the collapse of one era of Pirate radio in the UK (the sixties era of offshore transmissions) around the death of pirate Reginald Calvert at the hand of rival pirate Oliver Smedley. He boldly suggests that Calvert's death was the result of a misunderstanding between the two adversaries. While Calvert's death may have been the proximate cause of the shutdown of the pirate radio operations, there were greater economic and political forces at work that doomed that era of pirate radio (regardless of Calvert's death) and led to the incorporation of its main innovation -the playing of pop music- into mainline radio broadcasting (i.e., the BBC). Still, a fascinating and well-researched book on the myriad forces at work that led radio pirates to lurk offshore in pursuit of making radio broadcasting a commercial enterprise.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excessive detail obscures the main messageBy H. M. GladneyA theme of this book is that the history of radio transmission privilege teaches about Internet issues. Another is that media monopolies are pertinent for civil liberties. Both are worth paying attention to.However, excessive detail about the personalities and wrangles of otherwise-forgotten British entrepreneurs makes it unnecessarily difficult for readers to discern and judge the arguments for and against central control of media and bandwidth. Had the book been 80% as long as it is, it would have been much better.0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The Road More

BoringBy Cody L CustisI originally ordered this book after reading an article on the Principality of Sealand. After reading an exciting piece which referenced the book, I expected interesting stories of the challenges and adventure in running pirate radio. Instead, the book glazes through the history of government monopoly and right wing thought in the UK. If you want a badly written autobiography of Fredrich Hayek and libertarian thought, read up. Otherwise, save your time and energy.

When the pirate operator Oliver Smedley shoots and kills his rival Reg Calvert in Smedley's country cottage on June 21, 1966, it is a turning point in the careening career of the outlaw radio stations dotting the coastal waters of England.