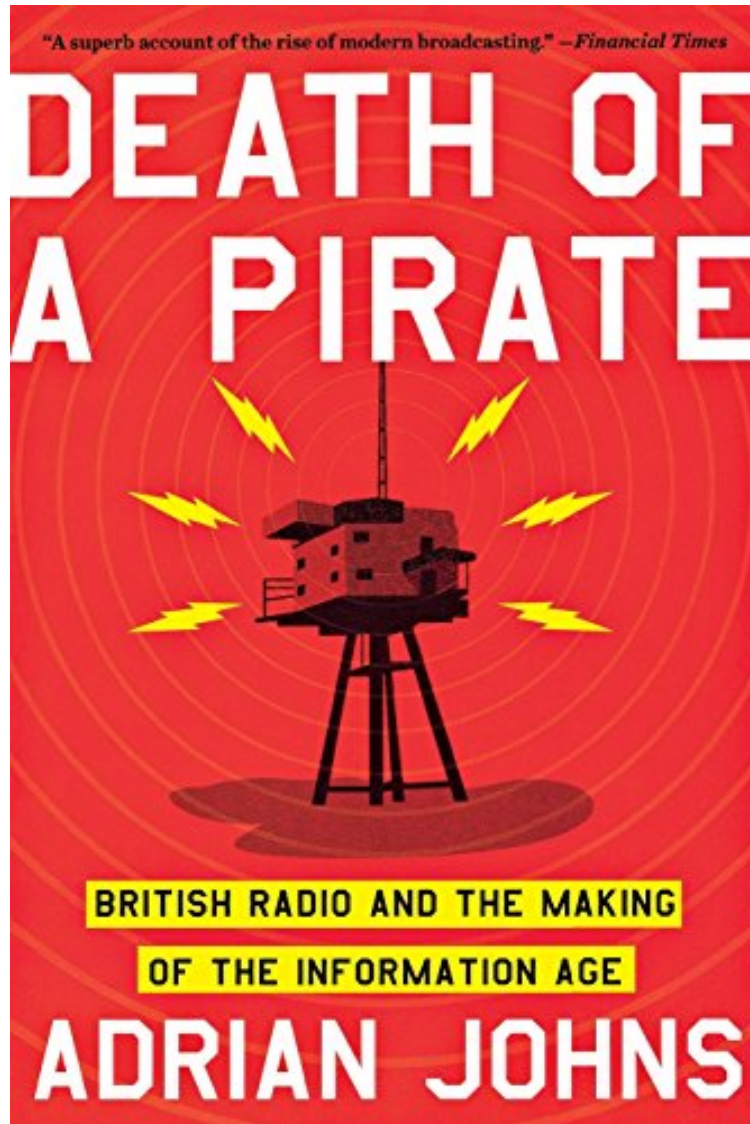


Death of a Pirate: British Radio and the Making of the Information Age

Adrian Johns

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Adrian Johns : Death of a Pirate: British Radio and the Making of the Information Age 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:

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 message By H. M. Gladney A 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 Boring By Cody L Custis I 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.

A superb account of the rise of modern broadcasting. Financial Times When the pirate operator Oliver Smedley shot and killed his rival Reg Calvert in Smedleys country cottage on June 21, 1966, it was a turning point for the outlaw radio stations dotting the coastal waters of England. Situated on ships and offshore forts like Shivering Sands, these stations blasted away at the high-minded BBCs broadcast monopoly with the new beats of the Stones and DJs like Screaming Lord Sutch. For free-market ideologues like Smedley, the pirate stations were entrepreneurial efforts to undermine the growing British welfare state as embodied by the BBC. The worlds of high table and underground collide in this riveting history. 16 pages of photographs

From Booklist Johns, an expert in the field of intellectual property and piracy, walks us through the history of pirate radio. Pirate radio stations were most famously a British phenomenon (although many other countries had their own versions of these outlaw broadcasters); they operated from offshore sites, usually a boat, skirting the British regulations regarding license fees, broadcast rights, etc. The BBC saw them as illegal and disreputable, but the pirate broadcasters and their listeners (and even many artists) thought they were exciting and indispensable. The end of British pirate radio came soon after a partnership between two colorful station owners, Oliver Smedley and Reg Calvert, ended in violence, property theft, and death. Highly detailed but unfortunately rather dry, the book is closer in texture to a textbook than it is to a lively history of this fascinating period in British broadcasting history. For readers interested in the subject, however, the wealth of information in the book should outweigh its lack of zest. --David Pitt A treasure. . . . [Adrian] Johns portrays the British radio pirates not in the warm glow of sentimental memory that the period usually enjoys but in the historian s cold bright light. --Randall Bloomquist "A well-written tale about those buccaneers of the high C s. "About the Author Adrian Johns is a professor of history at the University of Chicago. Educated at Cambridge, England, Johns is a specialist on intellectual property and piracy.