How did the Mediterranean emerge as a coherent and recognizable place in the early modern period? By looking to the semi-licit world of piracy and to the development of its laws and practices in particular, we can trace a convergence of understandings and agreements across Mediterranean space. Ironically enough, these outlaws and scofflaws of the time played major roles in forging the critical connections that drew the shores of the Mediterranean closer in a time of turmoil on the seas. Should we give pirates significant credit for the making of the modern Mediterranean? 

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