

from colonial prosperity. So the English government began passing the **Navigation Acts** in 1651. The Navigation Acts had four major provisions designed to ensure that England made money from its colonies' trade.

1. All goods had to be carried on English ships or on ships made in the English colonies.
2. Products such as tobacco, wood, and sugar could be sold only to England or its colonies.
3. European imports to the colonies had to pass through English ports.
4. Officials were to tax any colonial goods not shipped to England.

The colonists resented these laws. Merchants ignored the acts whenever possible. England had trouble controlling colonial shipping and patrolling the long coastline of the colonies. **Smuggling**—importing or exporting goods illegally—was common. England also had great difficulty preventing pirates, like the legendary Blackbeard, from interfering with colonial shipping.

CAUSES AND EFFECTS Explain why England passed the Navigation Acts.

CONNECT To Today

PIRACY

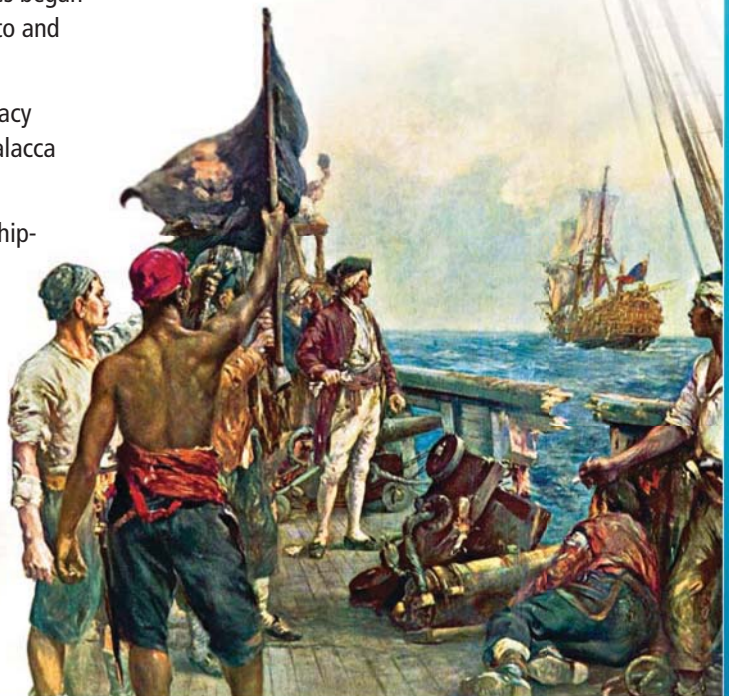
In the late 1600s, England faced a problem that it had helped create—Atlantic piracy. For decades, England had encouraged pirates to attack Spanish shipping. But as England itself grew rich from commerce, pirates began attacking English ships. They also smuggled goods into and out of colonial ports.

Rich cargoes have always attracted pirates. Today, piracy flourishes in southeast Asia, especially in the busy Malacca Strait between Indonesia and Malaysia.

Each year 50,000 ships, carrying half the world's oil shipments, pass through the strait. Hundreds of ships are attacked annually. Vessels are often hijacked and the crew held to ransom. In 2004, Indonesia, Singapore, and Malaysia agreed to fight piracy in their waters.

Modern coastguard on the lookout for piracy near Guam

Pirates in colonial times



CRITICAL THINKING

1. **Make Inferences** Why was piracy a threat to the mercantilist system?
2. **Draw Conclusions** Why are modern pirates attracted to the Malacca Strait?