During the Age of Exploration merchant ships full of goods such as slaves, precious metals and raw materials traded regularly with China, India, Africa and the New World. Pirates were successful in boarding and robbing these ships because of three major factors. Firstly the war in Europe enabled piracy to flourish without the intervention of law and order and secondly the triangular trade unit was a predictable shipping route that they exploited. Finally by using small uninhabited islands, pirates were able to remain out of sight using this time to repair their ships and organise provisions for their next raids.

(100 words)

Pirates took advantage of the triangular trade route during the seventeenth century to considerably increase their wealth. This route comprised of merchant ships transporting slaves from ports in Africa to the Caribbean where once empty, they were then loaded with gold and silver before sailing back to Europe where the process began again. These ships also used this route consistently because of the prevailing trade winds and currents which assisted their voyages but made them easy targets for pirates. During this period pirates attacked merchant ships from all nations disrupting trade routes and halting the growth of the New World economy. Bartholomew Roberts was one of the most successful pirates at this time capturing over 400 ships terrorizing and upsetting merchant shipping from
Newfoundland to Brazil and the Caribbean and the African coast. He was effective because he usually commanded a fleet of anywhere from two to four pirate ships which would surround, catch victims and take any riches that were on board. During the age of exploration pirates were also successful because they used small and uninhabited islands with harbours to hide from capture.

(185 words)

(Example of a conclusion)

The triangular trade route enabled pirates to take advantage of the large number and continuous supply of ships which they robbed to greatly increase their own wealth. The lack of ships patrolling the seas to stop them increased the success of pirates, as the main colonial empires during this time were distracted by their own wars in Europe. Pirates were also successful as they were able to take advantage of small uninhabited islands to keep themselves concealed as they restocked and repaired their ships. As a result of these factors, the precious cargoes transported across the seas enabled piracy to be very successful during the Age of Exploration.

(109 words)

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Bibliography

