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## The **Pirate Queen**: Queen Elizabeth I, Her Pirate Adventurers, and the Dawn of Empire

**BYLINE:** Tessa L.H. Minchew

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**Ronald, Susan. *The Pirate Queen*:** Queen Elizabeth I, Her Pirate Adventurers, and the Dawn of Empire. HarperCollins . Jul. 2007. c.496p. illus. maps. index. ISBN 978-0-06-082066-4 . \$26.95. BIOG

Historian Ronald (*The Sancy Blood Diamond*) emigrated to England from the United States over 20 years ago and became an adviser to England's National Trust. Coming from a mercantile background (her father was a diamond merchant) no doubt influenced Ronald as she lovingly pored over the intricate details of the rise of Elizabethan England's merchant adventurers for this book. Casual readers may find the sheer mass of financial minutiae and numerous players difficult to follow. The narrative emphasizes the commercial and naval issues of the period, and those looking for a biography ripe with the social intrigue for which Elizabeth's reign was famous will likely be disappointed. Still, Ronald paints a gripping tale of the great brilliance (and often great luck) of Elizabeth I and her advisers as they molded merchants and plunderers into a national defense force, defeating the powerful Spanish Armada and transforming a weak and bankrupt country into a nascent empire. Recommended for academic libraries.-**Tessa L.H. Minchew, Georgia Perimeter Coll., Clarkston**