



PIRACY AND PAHANG

In the Nineteenth Century

Piracy in Pahang

- Line between pirate, merchant mariner, and pirate hunter potentially blurred
- Wealth seized through cruising and plunder redistributed to support the state and naval forces
- Slaves bolstered political support for elites by providing them with more attendants
- Pirates in the region acting on behalf of the regions' states, contrary to the interests of most seafarers and at odds with postwar Southeast Asian nationalist and Western anti-imperialist historiography because it undermines the resentment and cautionary tale narratives.

Why Use 'Piracy?'

01

Reflection of the sources employed, especially of victims of it.

02

There were international and state laws prohibiting these actions.

03

Few if any identified as a 'pirate' but even a raja was captured for it.

Tambil de Singapur



Historical Literature on Malayan Piracy

Liberal Imperial Narratives

- Sherard Osborn: Blames European powers for oppression of Malays
- Samuel Congalton through Wallace blames head money prizes
- Maxwell critical of expansionist policies predicated on 'piracy'
- Sought to restrain European power & treat Asians with more compassion

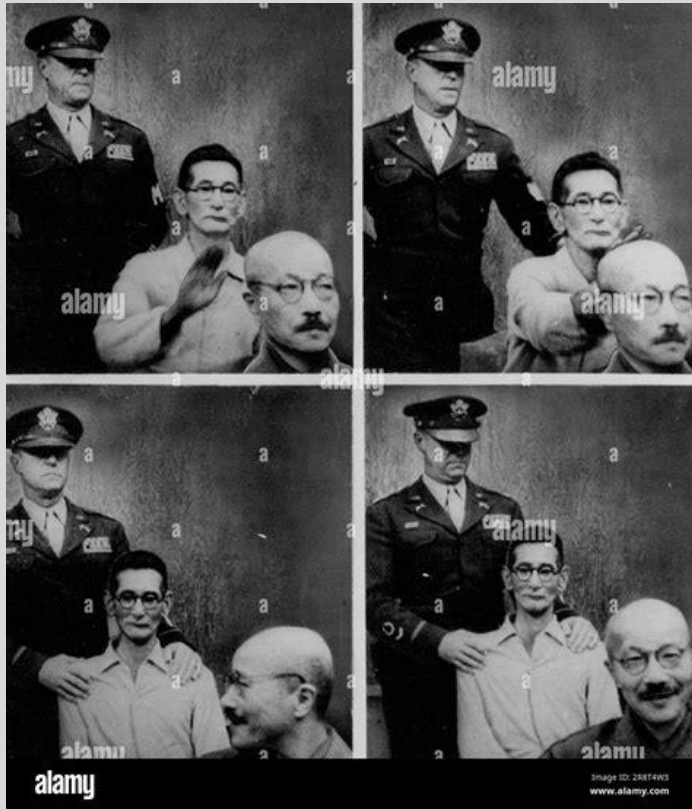
Postwar/SE Asian Nationalist Narratives

- Tarling: British forces used suppression of piracy as justification for expansion
- Trocki: British counterpiracy operations destroyed Malay shipping industry
- Why are there such similarities between the two periods?

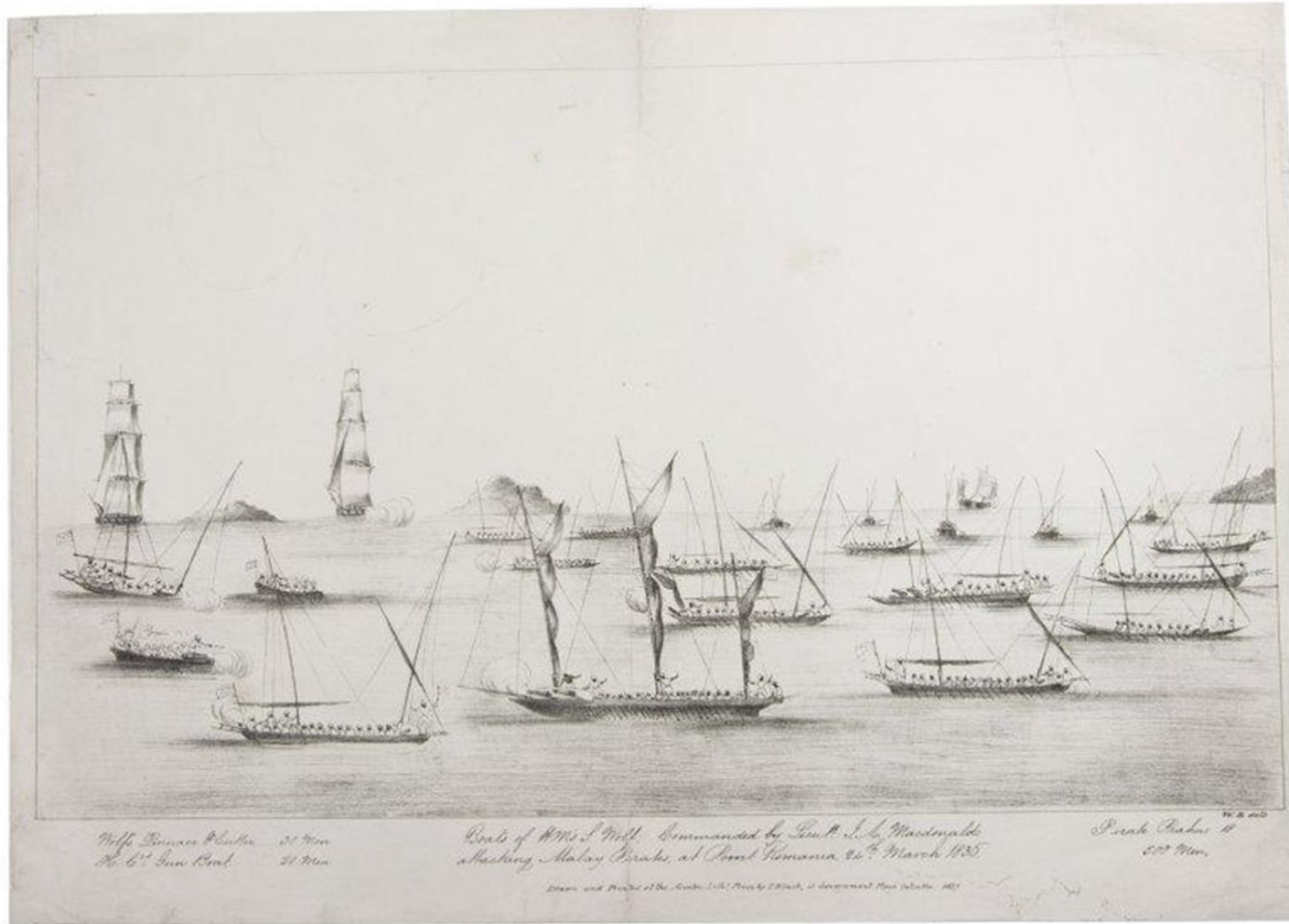
Missing Link?!?!?



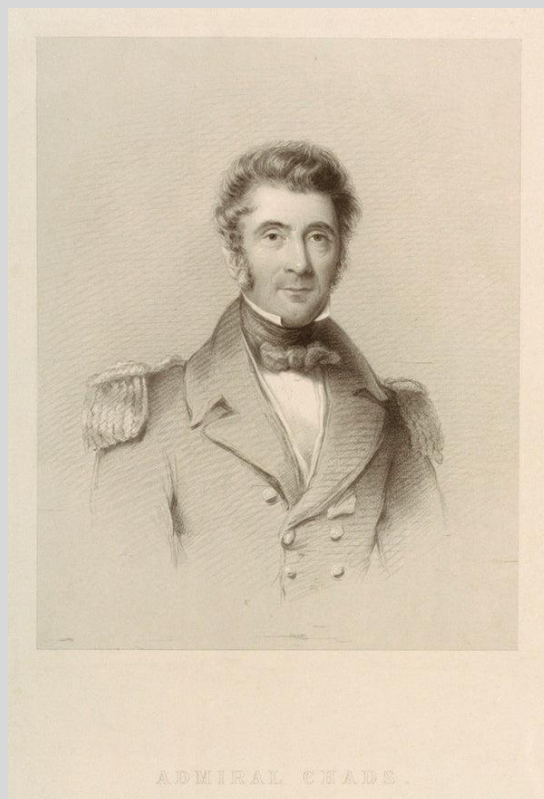
Madness or Academic Methodology?



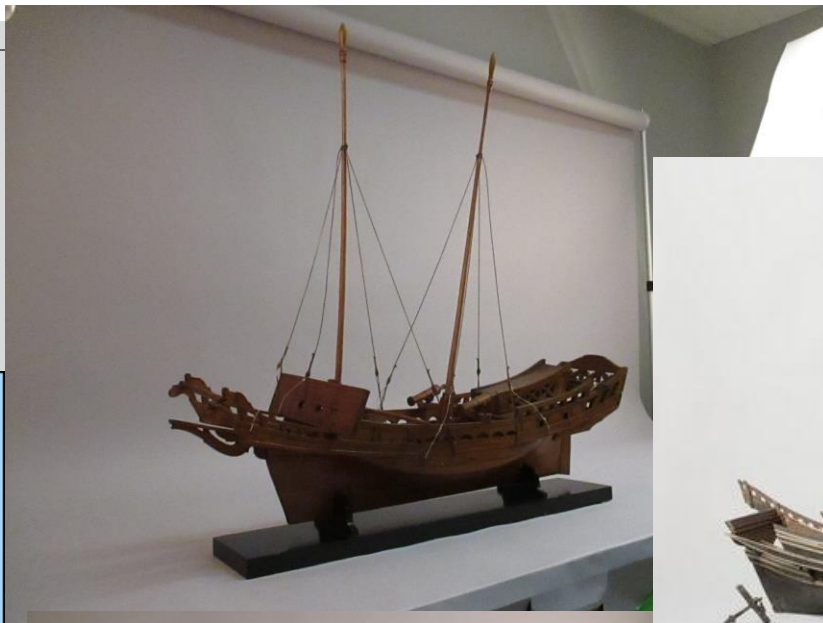
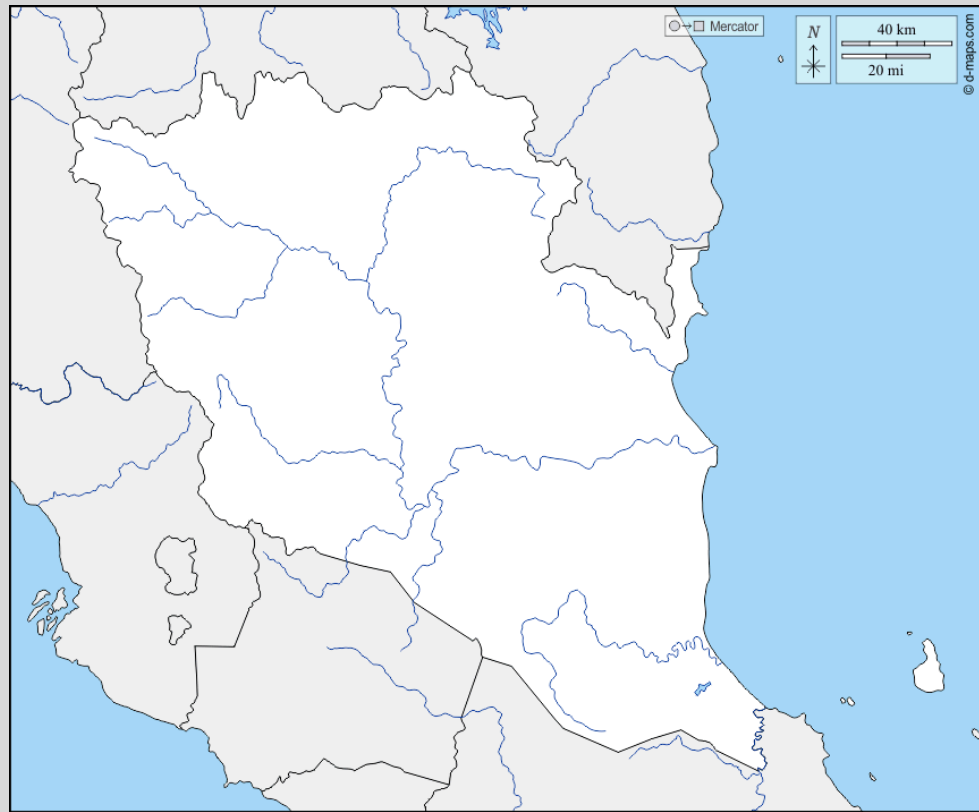
Engagement between HMS *Wolf* and Malays



Captain Chads & the Vessels deployed

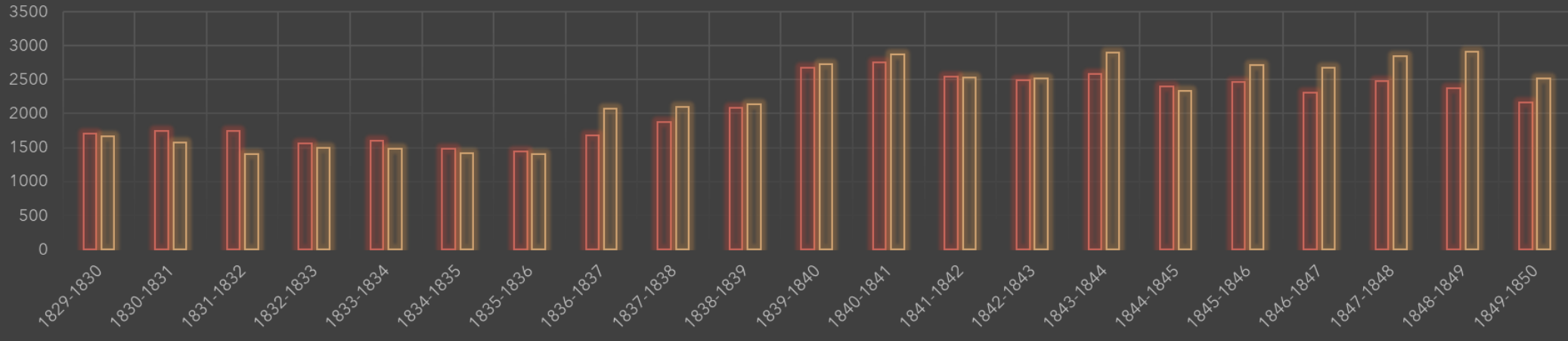


Pahang, 1836



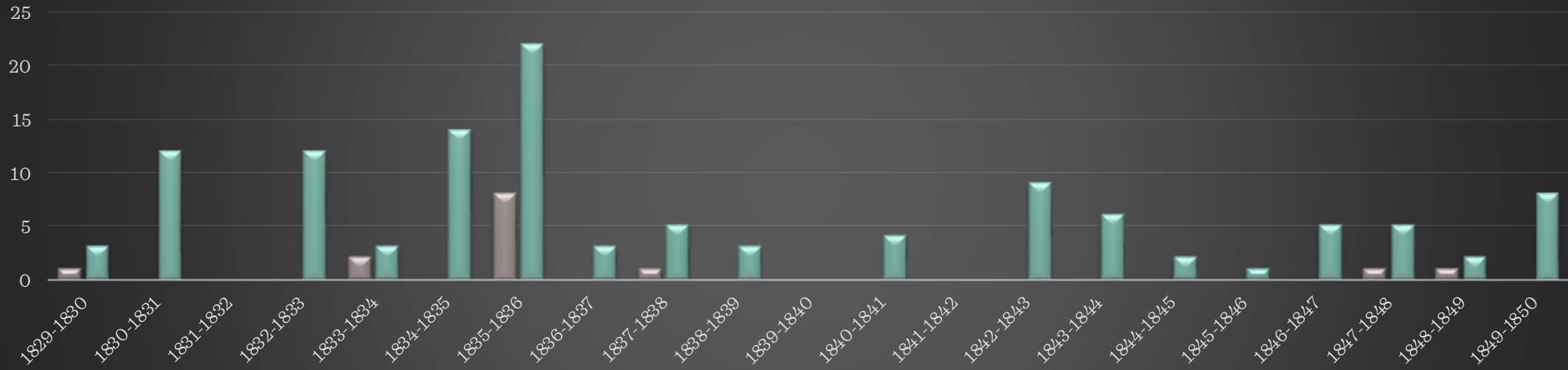
Singaporean Trade

Number of Asia Vessels Importing to Singapore Number of Asian Vessels Exporting from Singapore



Pirate Attacks on Singapore's Shipping

Western Square Rig Vessels Engaged by Pirates Asian Vessels Engaged by Pirates



Conclusion

- Cruising played a critical role in supporting Malay states such as Pahang by providing the state with plunder, naval experience, and slaves necessary to function
- Any suggestions as to area needs more evidence? How much more should I engage with the historiography?
- Ultimately, plan to create a state-by-state analysis for a monograph.