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## Two Roads to Dodge City

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These opinions yield a contentious and impractical premise.

The "bottom line" conclusion is that if a state assumes jurisdiction over piracy on other than the passive personality basis, legal complications "beyond the bounds the legal order accepts" will result. That conclusion completely misses any mark of relevancy for either the contemporary world or the historical one.

Any scholarly work will be subject to criticism for omissions, though this one less so than most. There is, however, one omission that is puzzling. For an analysis so heavily dependent on the passive personality theory of jurisdiction, the absence of the *Lotus* case (P.C.I.J., Ser. A, No. 10 (1927), 2 Hudson, World Court Reports 20 (1935) is perplexing. That is a small matter, but a potentially important one.

In sum, *The Law of Piracy* is a treasure-trove for academics and scholars who have need of the research Professor Rubin has accomplished over many years. Interestingly, the book is both more and less than the title promises. It holds no succor for those whose mission it is to resolve practical problems. It does, however, yield an immense amount of scholarship and research data exceeding, perhaps, even the ephemeral limits of "piracy." For some, *The Law of Piracy* will be an invaluable research tool and aid. For others, particularly the naval officer who ostensibly has a part to play in eradicating piracy (whatever that term really means), the book is largely irrelevant. "Aye, there's the rub." For all its meticulous

scholarship, in the final analysis, *The Law of Piracy* does not serve its logical audience.

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Nicholson, Nigel and Nicholson, Adam. *Two Roads to Dodge City*. New York: Harper & Row, 1987. 291pp. \$17.50

From Alexis deTocqueville's *Democracy in America* to Jonathan Raban's *Old Glory*, Americans have provided a ready and continuing market for the travel writings of Europeans in America. The why doesn't matter, the genre has often been worth the read. Such is the case with this father and son team of well-known British writers.

In the Spring of 1986, Nigel Nicholson, author of *Napoleon 1812* and the biography of Field Marshall Alexander, and his son Adam, author of several British travel books, simultaneously but separately toured the United States. Each day they wrote to one another about their impressions, sights and visits. Their letters make up the book. Nigel the father, as befitting an elderly British Tory, toured the eastern part of the country visiting a number of established people known to him from his previous works. Adam, the son, toured the new West from Los Angeles to the Pacific northwest, down through the mountain, desert and the high Plains states. The people he met were new to him and from

a newer strata of American society. Both Nigel and Adam have that most important attribute of a first-rate travel writer—a knack for meeting interesting people, drawing them out and relating them to the country around them. The people they met contributed much to their feel for America and to the book. After 20,000 miles each, father and son met in Dodge City and hence the title, *Two Roads to Dodge City*.

Nigel began with a deep self-confessed love for the people, history, landscape and culture of the United States. Through his travels, his affection is unwavering. Initially, Nigel is the more interesting. Adam's reservations seem at first to be only a foil for his cleverness. Adam "didn't like the idea of America too much at the beginning. Now I can find nothing wrong." As

the book and their travels progress, Adam's transformation into an Americophile becomes the focus. To his unexpected pleasure (and ours), he got hooked on ranches, ranchers, cutting horses, rodeos and lots of open space. The American West—the newest and most open part of the country—captivated this conservative young Englishman as it did so many of his predecessors in the 19th century.

One of the many pleasures in this book is reading the portion that deals with "your" part of the United States to see if they got it right. For this reviewer, Nigel's and Adam's observations of two treasured places were dead on!

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. . . in representative governments, military interests cannot without loss dispense with the backing which is supplied by a widely spread, deeply rooted, civil interest, . . .

*Naval Strategy*  
A. T. Mahan (1911)  
Little, Brown (1918), p. 447

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