Record Nr. UNINA9910797248703321 Autore Robinson Paul H. <1948-> Titolo Pirates, prisoners, and lepers: lessons from life outside the law / / Paul H. Robinson and Sarah M. Robinson; designed by N. Putens Pubbl/distr/stampa [Herndon, Virginia]:,: Potomac Books,, 2015 ©2015 **ISBN** 1-61234-744-4 1-61234-746-0 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (361 p.) HIS054000LAW060000 Classificazione Disciplina 340/.115 Soggetti Criminal law - Philosophy Criminal justice. Administration of - Philosophy Punishment - Philosophy Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Note generali Description based upon print version of record. Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di bibliografia Nota di contenuto What Is Our Nature? What Does Government Do for Us and to Us? --Cooperation: Lepers and Pirates -- Punishment: Drop City and the Utopian Communes -- Justice: 1850's San Francisco and the California Gold Rush -- Injustice: The Batavia Shipwreck and the Attica Uprising -- Survival: The Inuits of King William Land and the Mutineers of Pitcairn Island -- Subversion: Prison Camps and Hellships --Credibility: America's Prohibition -- Excess: Committing Felony Murder While Asleep in Bed and Life in Prison for an Air-Conditioning Fraud -- Failure : Getting Away with Murder Beyond a Reasonable Doubt -- Collapse: Escobar's Colombia -- Taking Justice Seriously: Five Proposals -- Postscript: What Are They Doing Now? Sommario/riassunto "It has long been held that humans need government to impose social order on a chaotic, dangerous world. How, then, did early humans survive on the Serengeti Plain, surrounded by faster, stronger, and bigger predators in a harsh and forbidding environment? Pirates. Prisoners, and Lepers examines an array of natural experiments and accidents of human history to explore the fundamental nature of how human beings act when beyond the scope of the law. Pirates of the

1700's, the leper colony on Molokai Island, prisoners of the Nazis,

hippie communes of the 1970's, shipwreck and plane crash survivors, and many more diverse groups--all existed in the absence of formal rules, punishments, and hierarchies. Paul and Sarah Robinson draw on these real-life stories to suggest that humans are predisposed to be cooperative within limits. What these "communities" did and how they managed have dramatic implications for shaping our modern institutions. Should today's criminal justice system build on people's shared intuitions about justice? Or are we better off acknowledging this aspect of human nature but using law to temper it? Knowing the true nature of our human character and our innate ideas about justice offers a roadmap to a better society. "--