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Jihočeská univerzita  
v Českých Budějovicích  
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in České Budějovice

Jihočeská univerzita v Českých Budějovicích

Pedagogická fakulta

Katedra anglistiky

Bakalářská práce

***Viking Raids on the British Isles and its Reflection in Literature***

***Vikingské nájezdy na Britské ostrovy a jejich odraz v literatuře***

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České Budějovice 2018

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## Acknowledgements

I would like to express my gratitude to my supervisor Mgr. Linda Kocmichová for her time, valuable advice and help during writing my master's thesis.

## Poděkování

Poděkování za pomoc, cenné rady a čas strávený nad kontrolou této práce patří paní Mgr. Lindě Kocmichové, vedoucí práce.

## Abstract

In the first part this bachelor thesis will deal with the Viking nation, including their history, lifestyle, trade, vessels, customs, deity and ways of war. Then the author will explain the main causes of their raids. In the second part, the author will deal with the reflection in literature and with the analysis of the selected works which of course correspond with these themes and draw their inspirations from them.

## Anotace

V první části se tato bakalářská práce zabývá národem Vikingů, včetně jejich historií, životním stylem, obchodem, loďářstvím, zvyky, božstvem a způsoby vedení války. Dále autor vysvětlí hlavní příčiny jejich nájezdů do jiných zemí. Ve druhé části se autor zabývá odrazem v literatuře a analýzou vybraných děl, které samozřejmě odpovídají těmto tématům a čerpají z nich inspiraci.

## Table of Contents

Introduction.....	6
1. General Information about Vikings .....	7
2. Society, Religion, Warfare, Vessels and Trade .....	8
2.1 Society .....	8
2.1.1 An Ordinary Nordic Wife .....	8
2.1.2 The Other States in Social Hierarchy .....	9
2.2 Religion .....	11
2.3 Warfare.....	13
2.4 Vessels .....	15
2.5 Trade.....	16
3. Viking History in Data .....	17
4. Viking Raids.....	18
5. Vikings in England.....	19
6. Viking Reflection in Literature .....	21
6.1 Giles Kristian – Raven saga .....	21
6.2 J.R.R. Tolkien - The Hobbit and The Lord of the Rings, The Legend of Sigurd and Gudrun, Beowulf and other sagas .....	21
6.3 Frans Gunnar Bengtsson – The Long Ships.....	23
6.4 Stephan Weaver – Vikings: The Viking Age from Beginning to End .....	24
6.5 Tore Kvaeven – Hard er mitt lands lov – Marie Novotná - Drsný je zákon mé země.....	24
6.6 Robert Low – Oathsworn Saga .....	25
6.7 Lars Brownworth - The Sea Wolves: A History of the Vikings .....	26
Conclusion .....	31
Resources .....	32
Literature .....	32
Primary Literature .....	32
Secondary Literature .....	32
Internet Sources .....	34
Image Attachments .....	35

## Introduction

I chose the topic for my bachelor thesis for many reasons. I have always been fascinated by Vikings as a war nation. I had never really examined the people of Scandinavia in detail, until I began with my studies at the university where I found myself in the middle of studying, watching and reading about their very history. This history is mostly connected with the raids and cruelty. These facts made me curious about what I was going to find.

In the first part, I focus on the Viking history such as lifestyle, trade, vessels, customs, deity and ways of war from the very beginning of their existence. Further on I proceed with the cause of the raids until the colonization and assimilation. I started my research by reading books which gave me some insight into the topic of contradictions between the tribes and the earls or kings and of the clash between the northern realms versus Britain and The French Empire. Then comes the consequences of described events and the new era of raiding into Peloponnesian peninsula and Mediterranean Sea begins. So is the fighting with Saracens and Islam.

In the second part, I deal with the reflection in literature and with the analysis of my selected works which of course correspond with these themes and draw their inspirations from them. I chose The Raven Trilogy Saga because of the main protagonist of the book. The boy is orphaned and taken by Vikings who turned him into one of their own. There are many similarities and inspirations of Viking age in Tolkien's works and another reason why I chose it is that I am a big fan of Tolkien. My next selected works focus on famous Vikings, ways of life, raids, art of combat, shipbuilding, discoveries and also on legends and myths. But my most described work is a masterpiece called The Sea Wolves by Lars Brownworth. The author deals with the most important places, personalities, discoveries, legends and myths and of course with the history of Vikings itself.

## 1. General Information about Vikings

Researchers agree that the era of the Vikings began somewhere around the year 800 BC and ended in the 11th century, but most of the literary memories that still draw on it date back to the 13th and 14th centuries. The Age of the Old North was a period of oral culture that survived the traditions until it was enrolled.<sup>1</sup>

The Vikings were Norse seafarers, mainly speaking the Old Norse language, who raided and traded from their Northern European homelands across wide areas of northern, central, eastern and western Europe, during the late 8th to late 11th centuries. This period of Nordic military and demographic expansion constitutes an important element in the medieval history of Scandinavia, Estonia, the British Isles, France, Kievan Rus' and Sicily. They were mostly known for their cruelty, raids and paganism. It all began with brutal overtures, pirate actions and looting shortly before 800 BC and continued with real invasions to conquer and colonize in nearly two centuries. As a result, the Northerners became a scourge for all Western Europe and their dragon ships frightened even the Mediterranean people from Gibraltar through Constantinople to Asia Minor. The Vikings owed their success to their brilliant shipbuilders and navigators. The Northerners' ships were unique in their time and the fleet of the Old Dominican invaders was made up of a large number of fast, spacious, sturdy, yet lightweight vessels designed to transport fighters. The domination of the Nordic people abroad did not reflect the situation in the home Scandinavia. In Norway, for example, King Charles Harald I. ended the contradictions and political fragmentation until the end of the 9th century. He forcibly united whole Norway, causing further migration of the population, in particular the emigration of its opponents and the conquest of new territories, especially in the West. Thus The Iceland was discovered and inhabited such as Greenland and the coasts and islands of North America. Viking culture and its awareness spread to massive military and commercial expansion throughout Europe, part of North America, and then in the territory of then Kiev Kyrgyzstan. Somewhere it grew more meaning, culturally rooted and retained in references and various aspects of cultural life, somewhere else disappeared during history and more significant historical events.

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<sup>1</sup> Roesdahl, Else. *The Vikings*. Penguin, 2Rev Ed edition. 1998. p. 234.

This cultural blending and strong romantic tradition results in an unceasing interest in Viking culture even today. Both lay and professional public engage in the research and revival of the Old-Norse tradition and culture. Various interest groups and associations are emerging to bring the various aspects of the Vineyards of the Old Dominion to light.<sup>2</sup>

## 2. Society, Religion, Warfare, Vessels and Trade

### 2.1 Society

The Nordic society was based on three states. The creation of these states is mentioned in the song about Riga. We learn how God Heimdall set out in the world with a predetermined plan to breed mankind. During traveling through the world and sowing his seed he created the basic components of the Nordic society: slaves, peasants, nobility, and king. It is the text of the song about Riga that confirms that the Nordic society consisted of three states - *træl*, *karl* and *earl* - slaves, peasants and nobles. The king was the highest, chosen by the nobles. The power of the king was limited by the power of the people, by the assembly of free men. The ranks below were the status of earls - landowners, whose wealth and ownership of the land allowed them to maintain ships and spread their influence. The eldest son was always the heir of the estate. The heart of the society was a farmer.<sup>3</sup>

#### 2.1.1 An Ordinary Nordic Wife

A Nordic wife was given an esteem and respect, whether they belonged to the state or *earls* or *karls*. She was independent and free. If a woman did not belong to the slave, she was free and self-sufficient. Women married to single men or warriors enjoyed considerable respect. If a husband was on the war move, the woman was taking care of the farm, she was at the command of the family and subordinates. Even though she didn't possess the same rights as men, Scandinavian men were considered in the question of women very tolerant

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<sup>2</sup> BRØNDSTED, Johannes. Vikingové: sága tří staletí. 1. vyd. Praha: Orbis, 1967. p. 44.

<sup>3</sup> STURLUSON, Snorri. Edda a Sága o Ynglinzích. Vyd. 2., V Argu 1. Překlad Helena Kadečková. Praha: Argo, 2003. p. 157.



and enlightened. The woman was even protected by law, without her approval the man could not touch her. The seduction of a neighbour's wife or rape of a virgin was even somewhere punished by death. If a woman wanted to get divorced, it was enough to say it out loud before the witnesses. And finally the women were also warriors. In the sagas there are also references to ordinary warriors who, like their male counterparts, have experienced joy and straits of raids and battles. For example King Hödbrodd's bodyguards were women only.<sup>4</sup>

### 2.1.2 The Other States in Social Hierarchy

The lowest place in the company was held by slaves, a necessary, but low-ranked class. We know little about their way of life, their dependence and their rights. The status of the Nordic slave was not much better than anywhere else. Murder of a slave was not considered a serious crime, only the owner could claim compensation for damage. The slaves performed the worst jobs such as field fertilization or peat mining. They had only little or no rights and were clothed poorly.<sup>5</sup>

People without big profits were allowed to work like housekeepers and damsels, craftsmen or simple sailors.

The second important social state was free people, featuring peasants, craftsmen, hunters, fishermen and warriors. Sometimes the term of *karl* is used for their designation. Freeman had the right to wear a weapon and also to fight in raids if they wanted to. The exception was the situation when war was about to come and every area had to provide a certain number of men.

A status of a noble stands at the top of this society.<sup>6</sup> The king was the head of all, but at that time he had to listen to the people. The King was elected by the earls and if he ruled badly or was unable to do great deeds, he was replaced by a new one. The signs of

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<sup>4</sup> BRØNDSTED, Johannes. Vikingové: sága tří staletí. 1. vyd. Praha: Orbis, 1967. p. 85.

<sup>5</sup> Ibidem. p. 98.

<sup>6</sup> Hadley, Dawn. The Vikings in England: Settlement, Society and Culture. Manchester University Press. 2006. p. 201.

hereditary monarchy are only encountered in later times. When the king made a decision, people obeyed him if they seemed it to be wise. But in times of war, they showed the king or his chosen chief a complete obedience. Earl was actually a landowner, the leader of a rich and powerful family. He could afford his own ships and assert his influence more and more. Some of the earls were called "sækonungr," meaning the powerful Viking chiefs, whose power was based on a war fleet. Many of them also did not have a permanent residence on the mainland and their seat was the sea. On the other hand, "hersir" was the chief of a smaller area and earl had several "hersirs" underneath.

The conception of children was really interesting in the Viking society. Left-banked or illegitimate children, they were all "good," no one was denied the right unless it was a child of slaves. Children were mostly well looked after. The Northerners were quite fertile and so they did not much care for their loyalty to a single woman. Thanks to polygamy, new and new peasants, warriors, settlers or blacksmiths grew. Marriage was understood as a business contract between a bridegroom and a bride's father, whose purpose was to secure the alliance of a prominent family, and to gain, among other things, important support.

Surprisingly, there was an over population in the Viking period. Sources describe, though with some exaggeration, the enormous size of the Viking army and its huge losses. The reason for the overpopulation is polygamy, greatly widespread in the north, and the abundance of children. Man had not only wives, but also concubines and mistresses. In this context what is also important is that the heir of property became the eldest son and the younger ones had to gain their glory and property themselves.<sup>7</sup>

The basic prized qualities and virtues were pride, boldness, desire for struggle and glory, ambition, and contempt of death in Viking's life. Unmarried men at that time appreciated mostly courage, honour and physical abilities. Respect was gained through fidelity, public and loud despair of death, cleverness and veracity, reliability and keeping the word. The word once given was Holy to the Vikings, believing that its power dates back to the afterlife. However, the word given to the enemy did not have such value. In these cases cunning, fearlessness and cruelty was worthy. The hospitality of the Vikings was also remarkable,

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<sup>7</sup> JOCHENS, Jenny. Women in Old Norse society. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1995. p. 68.

especially in Sweden. When a guest arrived he could stay as long as he wanted and was really well cared of.

The Vikings also enjoyed telling heroic tales and stories at banquets. They were very happy to listen to the troubadours and they never forgot to reward them properly for their work. In winter, the Nordic people enjoyed the fruits of their year-long work and enjoyed long winter evenings. People gathered at the domestic fireplaces and drank ale and mead.<sup>8</sup>

## 2.2 Religion

The original Nordic religion was very sophisticated and impressive. Perhaps that is why it remained in the hearts and minds of the people despite the violent Christianisation of the Nordic countries and why it preserved almost in its entirety. The Vikings were pagans and their polytheistic religion played a significant role in their lives, which significantly influenced their values. Even here the harsh Nordic environment had its influence, so the Vikings imagined their gods as harsh and violent beings. Their gods varied widely which also led to conflicts. Unlike other people, the Vikings believed that the gods were mortal and that they were constantly in some danger, especially from giants who existed before the gods appeared.<sup>9</sup>

At the very beginning there were only two worlds called Niflheim and Muspellheim, the land of ice and the country of fire. These two worlds were separated by the Ginnungagap abyss. One day however, the fire from Muspellheim merged with the ice from Nifelheim and the reaction was the birth of giant Ymir and cow Audhum. The world was inhospitable, desolate and dark and so Audhum licked the stones covered with salt there. It was from one such stone that the first god Buri was born. Buri had a son named Bori, who married Bestla, the daughter of Ymir. New beings originated from his sweat and from the friction of his feet during the sleep. Bori and Bestla had three sons Vili, Ve and Odin. These three brothers were very concerned about the number of trolls and other giants who were born within

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<sup>8</sup> Downham, Clare. Viking Ethnicities. A Historiographic Overview, History Compass. 2011.

<sup>9</sup> STURLUSON, Snorri. Okouzlení krále Gylfa: Edda. Překlad Emil Walter. V Praze: Arkún, 1929. p. 197.

Ymir's body and so they decided to kill this dangerous race including Ymir. In a great struggle they succeeded, but one pair of trolls survived and laid the foundation for a new generation of giants who became Gods archenemies. Brothers then created nine worlds that support the Yggdrasil world tree from Ymir's body.

The main worlds were Asgard and Vanaheim. There was also the giant Hall of Valhalla, where Odin collected the souls of human warriors from whom he built the army for the final battle of the end of the world called Ragnarok. From Asgard, we reached Midgard a world of people, but also Jotunheim a land of giants thanks to Bifröst the Rainbow Bridge. Niflheim lied beneath those worlds and was called the land of the dead.

Humans as we knew them were created by Odin, Vili and Ve. They breathed life into two logs found on the beach. The man was from the ash named Ask and the woman from the sheaves named Embla.

The three main gods later grew into a large family. Odin himself stood at the head of all the gods, because he sacrificed his eye to gain wisdom from the well of wisdom. He had sired several sons with his wife, the goddess Frigg, such as the god of war Tyr or the god of light Baldr and others. Apparently the most popular Odin's son was Thor, the Nordic god of thunder. A very popular figure was also Loki, Odin's adopted son and half-bred of a giant and a god.<sup>10</sup>

The Vikings deeply respected deity and often asked them for help at different moments of life. Every request was mostly followed by a sacrifice, either modest of crops and food or rich and primarily bloody. Larger animals like sheep or cows were sacrificed. The exception was the sacrifice for Odin. Odin demanded a black cock or a human to show respect. The sacrifices, including human sacrifices, were put on altars or just hanging on branches of trees. Victims for water deities, such as Aegir, drowned in rivers, lakes, or seas. The connection with the gods was also the consumption of mead, since the mead was a drink of the gods. It was natural that it was consumed in great quantity. It was believed that when a

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<sup>10</sup> STURLUSON, Snorri. Okouzlení krále Gylfa: Edda. Překlad Emil Walter. V Praze: Arkún, 1929. p. 113.

man was drunk, a direct contact with the gods was possible to be achieved. It was almost religious duty to get drunk on these festivals.<sup>11</sup>

## 2.3 Warfare

Fight and war, these were very important parts of the life of the old Northerners. Large number of weapons, armour and other combat equipment found buried underground confirms how much Vikings love fighting. Whether with other people they threatened with raids, or even with each other. The raids and attacks have entered history as very unexpected, fast and cruel and they have become their distinguishing and determining signs. Thanks to the archaeological finds, period sagas, songs, poems and chronicles, or just plain engravings we learn a lot of how the Vikings fought, how they used tactics and about their attitude to death in battle. Written sources of evidence of the equipment or combat can be divided into Nordic and non-Nordic. Material springs can be for example picture stones or engravings. This type of material is valuable because it can show us a combat position.

Vikings were a fighting society and wearing weapons was on a daily basis. Using different kind of weapons reflected the position of the society class. The highest classes of society used the best weapons like swords, while lower ones used axes and spears.<sup>12</sup>

In this context, it is necessary to say what form the army had at that time. The army consisted of two separate types of units: 1. Troops (Squads) and 2. Recruits. Every man who was somehow politically engaged had his own troop. According to sagas, it was estimated that the number of trained fighters, without the king's personal squad, was about 2000. Such was the number of men who could be better equipped. Every man was mentally very well prepared to fight. From his youth he heard about the heroes and about entering Valhalla after death. In practice, it meant that such a man did not resist fighting and through demonstrating his bravery and moral integrity he was building his reputation.

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<sup>11</sup> Weaver, Stephan. Vikings: The Viking Age From Beginning To End (Norse Mythology - Norse Gods - Ragnar Lodbrok - Loki - Thor - Odin). Amazon Digital Services, Inc. 2015. p. 47.

<sup>12</sup> MACKINTOSH-SMITH, Tim, James E MONTGOMERY, Abū Zayd Ḥasan ibn Yazīd SĪRĀFĪ a Aḥmad IBN FAḌLĀN. Two Arabic travel books.

In the past the struggle was going in such a way that the warrior was trying to kill or disable the enemy as soon as possible. The primary goal was not to strike as many light blows as we can, but instead taking him down with one lethal blow. The only defense was a wooden shield, because blow cover with sword only was neither safe nor common. The shield was the only obstacle separating fighter from death, so he was using it until it had completely disintegrated. The fight was therefore much more defensive than in later times. It can be said, that the man at the time had two goals. Firstly he had to destroy the shield and then kill his wearer. So the goal was not to kill the enemy technically, but with force or thought-out. The one-on-one fight was usable either in a duel or in formation disintegration.<sup>13</sup>

The Vikings used two types of formations either defense called a shield wall or an attacking wedge-shaped. The shield wall is a formation of men whose shields overlap each other either in a row or in a circle. The shield wall had to flexibly respond to the current combat situation. In the defending position it was clasped and closed and on the contrary during the attack it could stretch and gradually move from the defense to the offensive formation. But it was important not to endanger the life of the commander who acted as a conductor and determined the shape and the position of the formation. However, the force did not reside in elasticity or weapons, but in speed, tightly held shields and attack centered on one site of enemy wall. If the breakthrough was successful, there was an encirclement or attack in the back of the still resisting part of the wall and the enemy commander.

Fights one on one had a different character in comparison to the struggle in formation. There were several types of duels. Killing in such a fight was not considered as a murder and did not lead to a court or vendetta. Such a duel had very strict rules that the fighters determined, such as fighting with the same weapon or ending a duel when the first blood was spilt. The chosen one had to appear in a certain number of days in the selected place. If he did not, he became a criminal without honour. It was common to make a sacrifice to the gods before the duel, most often cattle. These duels also had a religious side. At the request of the goddess and Odin's wife Frigg, Odin does not send all the fallen warriors to Valhalla,

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<sup>13</sup> <http://sagy.vikingove.cz/boj-v-dobe-vikinske/>

but those who have died in a duel for a woman are sent to the goddess Frey, who has her own Hall of Warriors called Folkvang.<sup>14</sup>

## 2.4 Vessels

Viking ancestors from the Bronze Age had already displayed ships on the walls of their caves. The Earls were buried on the way to Valhalla in ships or at least in ship-shaped graves. Thanks to their ships the Northerners were able to discover new places and achieve new business opportunities.<sup>15</sup>

The Viking ship became the symbol and the cognitive mark. Dragon ship called Drakkar is the most famous type. Besides Drakkar there were also types like Skif, Snekkar and Knarr. However Drakkar and Snekkar were the modified types of the original vessel known as landskip. The Skifs were small and mostly just fishing boats. Knarr was spacious in comparison with slim Drakkar and Snekkar for a purpose of taking the expense of the merchants. Drakkar and Snekkar were war type vessels. These types of ships were long, lightweight and very well-maneuvrable with square sails. The nose of the ship was often decorated with the appearance of an animal or dragon. The ship was driven by a large oar on the right port and it was able to ride into the high waves, even if it was fully loaded. For this reason it could sometimes be used for landing and this feature had a great impact on the successes of Viking raids. The maximum speed of the ship was about 12 knots where a normal speed of about 7 knots when rowing and with 30 men in oars Viking ship can reach a speed of about 5 knots. The largest ship was about 23.3 meters long with holes for 32 shields on each side. It had 16 pairs of paddles and probably was able to carry about 70 men. Each man had a personal ownership chest, which also served as a seat when the time came to row. There was practically no protection from the elements on the ship, except for a small canvas tent that could be unfolded for earl's needs. The art of navigation remains a mystery. The Sun, Moon and stars apparently helped in determination of an approximate position. No device has been found yet which could serve as a compass. The interesting thing is the

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<sup>14</sup> STURLUSON, Snorri. Okouzlení krále Gylfa: Edda. Překlad Emil Walter. V Praze: Arkún, 1929. p. 42.

<sup>15</sup> Ibidem. p. 54.

Icelandic Crystal. It is a translucent variant of calcite or crystallized calcium carbonate. The crystals of the Icelandic crystal were used by Vikings to determine the position of the sun even in the cloudy sky because of its polarizing properties. The stone will visibly bright up after turning it towards the sun when looking at the sky through the crystal. Viking ships mostly sailed near the coast. Significant landmarks or an experienced navigator who has already explored a number of routes determined the way. The distance travelled was estimated according to the speed determined by the shape of the furrow behind the ship's keel and the time spent on the way. The sailor's food included pickled meat and herrings, water from barrels and dense milk. If someone died during the voyage he was given to the waves of the sea and to the goddess of waves Ran, who was the daughter of Aegir the sea god.<sup>16</sup>

## 2.5 Trade

One of the most significant aspects of Viking life was business. Among the Vikings, the Swedish Vikings were the best merchants who adapted to the rivers and even spread the trade upstream. This way they could trade past seaside shopping centres.

The main merchandise was fur and slaves. The Northerners sold mostly women to slavery. The most valued furs were seals, squirrels, foxes and martens, but the most demanding were furs of stoats and sables. An important object of trade was iron, made of iron ore, which was of high quality.

The goods that were exported from Scandinavia include feathers, timber, salted fish, walrus tusks and amber. Slaves, furs, honey, wax, and walrus tusks were mostly exported to Byzantium and further east. Among the imported commodities were silver, silk, spices, wine and glass, ceramics and weapons from Western and Central Europe.

The northerners set up business trails to such distant places as Alexandria, Seville, Rome or Baghdad. They reached Europe, North Africa, Central Asia, Iceland, Greenland and even

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<sup>16</sup> BRØNDSTED, Johannes. Vikingové: sága tří staletí. 1. vyd. Praha: Orbis, 1967. p. 108.



North America. They brought fur, silk, spice, precious stones, glass, weapons, wine, slaves, and other things from there.<sup>17</sup>

### 3. Viking History in Data

In 600 the Danes and Swedes seize foreign trade in the Baltic Sea. The raid to the English Lindisfarne monastery is considered to be the very beginning of the Viking raids, the beginning of so-called Viking period in 793. Then comes the assault on the monastery of St. Columby - island of Lona in western Scotland in 795. In 800 there are incidental raids of Vikings so-called Normans such as Danes, Swedes and Norwegians in the European coast. The beginning of raids on the French Empire is considered in 834 when the Danish Vikings destroy Dorestad in Friesland. Since 840 Norman invasions become regular. The Vikings take off with strong troops and build camps at the mouth of rivers. The Vikings founded Dublin in Ireland in 841 and attack on Paris and Hamburg for the first time in 845. In 859 The Vikings penetrate towards the Mediterranean Sea attacking on Spain, southern France, northern Africa and Italy and plundering Pisa. In 871 the colonization of Iceland begins. The Swedish Vikings called Varjags who penetrated into northern Russia near Ladoga Lake and moved to the Black Sea set up their capital city in Kiev in 885. They also set up the city of Novgorod. It is the beginning of the Russian state. In 886 Alfred the Great is sharing England with Danes and concluding a treaty with them. The Franks defeated Vikings in 891 thanks to an effective defense and so the influence of the Vikings on the continent is decreasing. Since 900 The Danish Normans rule the area at the mouth of the Seine, later Normandy. Besides they occupy a large area in the east coast of England. In 911 Viking Chief Rollo establishes the Norman Principality in France. Eric the Red leaves Iceland and lands at the southern tip of Greenland in 930. Icelandic merchant Bjarn Herjofsson lost his way from Greenland to Iceland to the North American coast between the years of 985 and 986. Leif Ericson, the eldest son of Eric the Red, lands with a group of men and women in the east coast of North America in 1000. He founded l'Anse aux Meadow in Newfoundland and Iceland accepts Christianity.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> Ibidem. p. 139.

<sup>18</sup> <http://vikingove.mysteria.cz/vikingove-historie-v-datech.html>

## 4. Viking Raids

The history of Vikings is particularly devoted to their war expeditions. The reasons that led Vikings to conquest from the eighth to the eleventh century are not exactly known. It might have been a lack of fertile land, relative overpopulation, urge for prey, political disputes or inherent hostility triggered by the weakness of neighboring states.

The first known Viking raid dates back to 793 and was directed to the northeast coast of England. The Vikings attacked the Lindisfarne monastery in the Holy Island. In the ninth century the Viking war expeditions focused not only on England but also on France. Through the rivers they penetrated far into their inland.

The first phase of the Viking raids, roughly fifty years after the attack on the Lindisfarne monastery, had all the features of pure piracy. Raiders have found it easy to plunder in rich places in Western Europe. They preferred fast and furious attacks primarily from the sea on unprotected and rich monasteries to big cities or fortresses with armed and trained soldiers.

In the second phase (since the second half of the ninth century), the Vikings have moved from piracy to attacks against the whole kingdoms and colonization of their territories. The Vikings from Denmark focused on England and France. In 865 they destroyed the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms of East Anglia and Northumbria. In 874 the Kingdom of Mercia was destroyed. Then The Vikings focused on Wessex, but it resisted. Its king, Alfred the Great, managed to resist to the Viking invaders as one of the few and formed the core of the future England. The new wave of Viking raids to England began in 980.

The Vikings attacked even the West French Empire from the beginning of the ninth century. At the turn of 885 and 886 the Vikings attacked Paris, but they were defeated. In 911 the Viking Chief Rollo concluded with the French King Charles Simplex a contract according to which the Normans, as the Vikings were called in The French Empire, had to settle down only in the territory of today's Normandy.

The Vikings from Denmark travelled to northern Spain and Portugal. They even sailed through the Gibraltar Strait and attacked the eastern Spanish coast, Balearic Islands, Sicily

and reached north eastern Italy. However the Muslims repelled them and prevented them from settling on the Iberian Peninsula.

The Swedish Vikings settled in the ninth century around the Baltic Sea and penetrated into Russia first as mercenaries called by rival tribes in what is today Sankt Petersburg.

When Western Christianity spread into Scandinavia the Russian Vikings moved to Orthodoxy. Viking settlements in Greenland and North America were abandoned and the Vikings and local populations merged into the British Isles and Normandy. The Vikings abandoned their nomadic and rampant way of life and settled down in home Scandinavia.<sup>19</sup>

## 5. Vikings in England

The main reason for the raids to England was the inheritance law, according to which all the property of the father fell to the eldest son and the others were excluded. At the time of the first raids on the west coast of Europe the Vikings were by no means just barbarians. In the 9th century they were involved in the trade for several generations. Regular contacts with the people in the West brought them to business. After the fall of the Royal Dynasty in 854 there was no strong king who would unite the warriors and prevent the invaders from scattering across European countries. Later the accidental plundering was replaced by settlement and conquering.

The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle is the oldest evidence of the raids. There is a record of the arrival of the first three Danish ships to Wessex in 789. The king's representative invited them to the royal residence but was killed by them. In the north the monasteries of Lindisfarne (793), Jarrow (794) and Lona (795) were gradually plundered in these years. With the mighty raid on Kent in 835 began a thirty-year period of every year plundering. The thirty year period ended with the invasion of the Danish army.

There were two main raids directions. One route led around The Northern Scotland to Hebrides and south, the second to the east and south shores of England and continued further south to Gaul. In 865 the Danish Army led by Halfdan and Ivarr the Boneless landed

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<sup>19</sup> Bengtsson, Frans. *The Long Ships*. NYRB Classics. 2010. p. 368.

in the Kingdom of East Anglia. They conquered York in Northumbria and the Danes appointed the officers to rule there. Their army advanced to Mercia. Here it encountered resistance and retreated back to York to eventually attack East England.<sup>20</sup>

In 870 the Danish army camped in Reading and prepared an invasion to Wessex. However there was a striking resistance. In the Berkshire Highlands, troops led by Ethelred and his brother Alfred clashed with them. The Vikings were defeated there for the first time in history. But the Danes attacked again and defeated the two brothers at Basingstoke. A new Danish army landed in England in 871. Meanwhile, Alfred became King of Wessex. He entered history as a man who saved England from hopelessness. At the beginning of his reign however he had to subordinate to the Danes and pay them a tribute. That's why they left Wessex in peace for five years, but they raided into Mercia in the meantime and deposed king Burgred. The Viking army split in many. In the north they settled in Yorkshire, in the south they colonized Lincoln, Nottingham, Derby and Leicester. And in 878 Alfred won the decisive victory. Danish chieftain Guthrum accepted baptism and the subsequent peace agreement of mutual borders was signed. The occupational territory beyond the borders accepted by Guthrum was called Danelaw. The Danish soldiers brought up their company here. In 893 another Danish army landed in the mouth of the Thames and plundered England for next three years.

In the 10th century other groups from the North competed for England. The West coast was attacked by the Norwegian Vikings from Ireland. They built fortifications against the Danes and Welsh in there. The reign of king Eduard of Wessex was characterized by penetrating into the Danelaw area. In 918 he conquered his southern part. In the same year the Norwegians attacked Scotland, formed a base in Northumbria, conquered York and created a kingdom that lasted for another 35 years. For 50 years of complicated struggle, the royal dynasty of Wessex was finally victorious, which began to issue binding laws and thus to build a solid state.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> Brownworth, Lars. *The Sea Wolves: A History of the Vikings*. Crux Publishing Ltd. 2014. p. 168.

<sup>21</sup> Ferguson, Robert. *The Vikings: A history*. Penguin Books, International Edition edition. 2010. p. 341.

## 6. Viking Reflection in Literature

In today's literary work, the Vikings as a theme have been enjoying relatively high popularity. There are plenty of children's books, encyclopaedias, adventure and fantasy stories, novels, reeditions of historical sagas and songs and of course professional publications. In my selection of presented publications I will mainly focus on the non-fiction and belles-lettres literature, which is closer to the general public and it is more visible to see, how much are people interested in the old Northerners.

### 6.1 Giles Kristian – Raven saga

Giles Kristian is an English-Norwegian writer. *The Raven-Blood Eye* is his novel debut, followed by the second part of the trilogy called *The Raven-Sons of Thunder* and the last part *Odin's Wolves*.

The Raven Trilogy Saga takes place around the year 800 and tells us a story of a boy called Osric, who grows up in a small village in the south coast of England. His village is one day attacked by the Vikings, and he eventually gets into the crew of one of the ships among the northerners. The Viking earl is impressed by his eye, which has a bloody stain within. Earl Sigurd is sure that God Odin himself put a wad of blood in Osric's eye, so he takes him to the crew because he believes they are connected with fate. He fights with Vikings and shares their happy and distressing fate through the fighting in England, the disputes with the army of Charlemagne itself and the fighting in the heart of the Byzantine Empire of Miklagard (Constantinople). As the story takes place in the early Middle Ages and the Vikings stand out, the book is full of naturalistic descriptions of illnesses, injuries, deaths, or no less impressive rituals.

### 6.2 J.R.R. Tolkien - *The Hobbit and The Lord of the Rings, The Legend of Sigurd and Gudrun, Beowulf and other sagas*

John Ronald Reuel Tolkien was an English writer, philologist, university professor and the author of the world-famous *Hobbit* and *Lord of the Rings*. He was a distinguished linguist and an expert in Old English and Old Norse. Tolkien is often considered to be the most important of the fathers of the modern heroic fantasy genre.

Tolkien's *Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy are among the most famous fantasies in the world. Tolkien's great inspiration for these books was the Anglo-Saxon and Viking traditions.

The greatest inspiration in the Nordic world comes probably from dwarves and their runes. Only the names given to the dwarves or the Sorcerer Gandalf can be read on the front pages of *Eddas*. In addition, there are similarities that are not so obvious but still visible as great swords from which Narsil stands out. The sword of kings which was broken and reforged again. This refers to the king Sigismund sword itself that he received from the king of gods Odin himself. However in the last battle this sword was broken and in the last few moments Sigismund advised his wife to collect all the pieces and let them reforged into a new sword called Gram. That sword is to be inherited by his son who is to become the most powerful and most famous man of the Völsung family. This son was Sigurd (The Dragonslayer) or in German Siegfried.

Another similarity is hidden in the rings. All the stories are dominated by One Ring. This ring controls directly the nine rings donated to human kings, eight rings for dwarves and three for elves. What a similarity with the ring owned by Odin himself. His bracelet Draupnir was magical and every ninth day it created eight golden rings looking just like Draupnir itself. The white Gondor Tree reminds us of Ygdrassil a tree of the world. Orcs and trolls resemble the orcs and trolls of the Anglo-Saxon and Viking traditions and of course the sleeping dragon guarding the treasure like the fabled Fafnir killed by Siegfried with his Gram sword.

Tolkien as a linguist studied mainly Old English and Nordic languages so there is no surprise in his admirable rework of *The Song of Sigurd* and *Gudrun* which is incorporated into the *Volsungs saga* or the Old English text of *Beowulf*.

Tolkien's most important basic element which bounds all his knowledge in writing was primarily religion. Religious education of nations inspired him to write such masterpieces.

### 6.3 Frans Gunnar Bengtsson – The Long Ships

Frans Gunnar Bengtsson was born and raised in Sweden. His two-volume biography of Charles XII won the Swedish Academy's annual prize in 1938. Bengtsson was a firm opponent of the Nazis throughout World War II, refusing to sanction a Norwegian translation of the Red Orm tales during the German occupation of Norway.<sup>22</sup>

This mid-twentieth century work introduces the greatest adventure stories ever. *The Long Ships* is a magnificent novel of epic size. *The Long Ships* consists of two distinct works. The first was originally published in 1941 as *Red Orm on the Western Way*, the second as *Red Orm at Home and on the Eastern Way* in 1945. They were combined and published as *The Long Ships* in the United States and England in 1955.

*The Long Ships* focuses on the travels and adventures of “Red Orm” Tosteson, as he explores the sea in search of plunder and honor in the tenth century. Orm is a brave and strong man who, after leaving his home after bad circumstances, becomes an adorable warrior, leader and chieftain. His travels gets him in the service of the Caliph of Cordoba before going back to Scandinavia and getting involved in the affairs of kings. Along the way we can find out more about the Viking home life of a man of admired name in a time of plunder, bloody skirmishes and intrigue feuds. As the story unfolds, Orm meets a variety of interesting people, both friend and foe, and spreads his trade and influence in many even exotic locations. Orm's travels start at his native Denmark and head to Spain, England, and the Ukraine. Despite his bravery, Orm constantly experiences a hypochondriacal fear for his health and well-being. This often shows us a comic edge along with Orm's adventures, and leads directly to his wife. His relationships with family and friends also help to make Orm a very realistic and likeable character.

Bengtsson's episodic and colloquial style gives an authenticity and pace to the narrative. This piece of work comes across as an oral history, as if shared across communities and generations through the periods of time. There are few long passages of description, and there always seems to be something happening.

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<sup>22</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frans\\_G.\\_Bengtsson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frans_G._Bengtsson)

## 6.4 Stephan Weaver – Vikings: The Viking Age from Beginning to End

This non-fiction work written by a historian Stephan Weaver is a historical look at the Vikings. It begins with the invasion of Britain and goes right through to the end of the Viking era, telling us all we desire to know about the famous raids. Describing the craftsmanship used in building the longboats and explaining the myths that surround the Vikings. We learn everything about the Vikings, their lives and their legends, their gods and of the archaeological finds that document their time in this world.

It is informative, especially for those who know nothing about the Vikings. It is well written, easy to read and absorb, and the photographs adds a nice bonus to the book. It is a next work that gives us a different view on the Vikings and a fresh look at their culture.

## 6.5 Tore Kvaeven – Hard er mitt lands lov – Marie Novotná - Drsný je zákon mé země

Tore Kvæven is a Norwegian writer and history teacher.

This novel is perhaps a bit controversial, but certainly temptingly adventurous. Perhaps it is thanks to a naturalistic and austere style of narrative as the author wrote the novel or it is because of a lot of violence in the life of the Northerners. The main story line is rising dynamically with retrospective insertions that reveal the origin of the main character, mysteriously hidden in the beginning and give the story a more thrilling and dreadful character.

The story takes place at the beginning of the 11th century, starting in 1010, when a cultural and historical breakthrough occurs in the north of Europe. The mysterious man from Greenland called Ulf comes to a Viking ship Wolverine, taking over the ship and the crew by force and conveying them to the risky expedition for a giant treasure in the heart of the "black continent". The journey is full of difficulties, oaths, mysterious deaths and bloody sacrifices to the God of vengeance - the Vali, which consists of two mythological figures of the same name, the god of Vali and the wolf of Vali. Everything graduates into a very



emotional and dark end that Ulf had planned all the way to the "Great Mothrynskie", regardless of the losses.

In this work, I would like to highlight the great idea of the story, which is bringing Northerners to Africa, where they experience not only thermal but also cultural shock. The author studied African tribes, and so the story can be seen from "other side of the barricade".

## 6.6 Robert Low – Oathsworn Saga

Robert Low is a journalist and writer since he was seventeen. He worked in war zones in various locations like Vietnam, Sarajevo, Romania and Kosovo. His interest in Nordic history brought him into the historical group called The Vikings. He lives in the Scottish town of Largs, where the Vikings lost their last battle on British soil and were eventually banished from Britain.

*The Oathsworn saga* is a pentalogy about the Viking brotherhood initially led by Einar Black and then by Orm the "Bearslayer" Ruriksson. The brotherhood is a group of wandering Vikings looking for wealth and glory which the young Orm joins. All adventures of the brotherhood are connected with the mythical cursed treasure that the Völsungs gave to Attila as a dowry. Orm and his companions are the only ones who have the map and that is why they are on the list of wanted. They get into various troubles with powerful people and rulers of that time. On their journeys they get involved in the conquest of Kharkary Sarkel's fortress, the stray wandering for the captured comrades leads them to Jorsalar or Miklagard, they fight the Skyta Amazons, rescue and raise the little prince Olaf Tryggvasson called "Crows Bone" and then they are even captured by the famous son of Svjatoslav I. Igorevich, Vladimir. Still, the main heroes outlast it despite all the losses.

Low's books are very engaging and exciting. Historically, sometimes the author has changed the history a little bit and has also mixed up a mysterious world of legends and myths to achieve bigger excitement. The raid techniques and the verbal culture are the most interesting and inspiring elements in this piece of work.

## 6.7 Lars Brownworth - *The Sea Wolves: A History of the Vikings*

*The sea wolves* are a good, well-written work of the Viking Age. The author divided the book into sections.

The Introduction, called *The Hammer of the North*, where he deals with the island of Iona, a grassy promontory with white sandy beaches, rising up out of the North Sea. It is a place of quiet contemplation, relatively undisturbed by groups of people wandering among its enchanted ruins. Even for those who know, it is easy to forget twelve centuries ago, these idyllic shores were the scenes of unimaginable violence.

*The Prologue: The Viking Dawn* is a part where The Holy Island of Lindisfarne is being described. The Holy Island of Lindisfarne is an unlikely place to begin the story of an epoch of violence and blood. If anything, it seems today like a place outside of time, an inconspicuous and unimpressive bit of land sticking out of the North Sea.

*The Raiders* chapter, concerning predominantly Viking raids on Western Europe and the British Isles.

At the very beginning we have the original home of Vikings. The most frightening thing about the Vikings was that almost nothing about them was known. In the eighth century, their homelands were at the fringe of the known world, a cold and inhospitable place that the civilizing hand of the Roman Empire had never touched. Scandinavia – the land divided today into the modern countries of Norway, Sweden, and Denmark – is a place of extremes. It stretches 1,243 miles from Jutland in the south to Knivskjellodden in the Arctic Circle, a distance accounting for half the length of Europe. It contains one of the continent's most mountainous countries, Norway, as well as one of its flattest, Denmark, whose highest point rises only five hundred and sixty one feet above sea level.

Further the author connects history with myths and legends. For example one legend said that in the late eighth century Charlemagne once caught sight of some Viking ships while he was visiting the French coast. His hosts assumed that they were merchants, but the emperor knew better and warned that they were strange foes. The Franks rushed to the beach, but the Vikings fled so quickly that it seemed as if they had simply vanished. The disappointed

courtiers returned to the palace where they were greeted with an astonishing sight. The great Charlemagne, Roman emperor and restorer of world order, was weeping. No one dared to interrupt him, but after a time spent gazing out to sea he explained himself. Another one said that Ragnar Lothbrok was undoubtedly most adorable member of Horik's court. His surname Lothbrok means 'hairy breeches', a reference to a curious pair of hide leggings that he wore into battle and which, he claimed, offered him some sort of magical protection. According to one legend, he made them to win his first wife, who was being held prisoner by a dragon-like serpent. To save himself from its venomous bite he boiled a pair of leather pants in pitch, and rolled them in sand. This unorthodox garment protected him long enough to dispatch the beast and claim his bride.

Then the author explains main aims of raids and even their consequences. The great Viking invasion of England originated at least partially in Ireland. Men of Horik and Ragnar's generation had looked to the Frankish kingdoms for their raids, but their children began to look for greener pastures to the west. Unlike its unfortunate neighbours to the south and west, England had escaped the attentions of Viking raiders in the ninth century. There had been sporadic raids since the attack on Lindisfarne, but these had been relatively small and limited operations. Most monasteries were on the alert, and when one was raided, the other communities would usually scatter. But then on the other hand the only remaining independent English kingdom was crumbling. King Aethelwulf of Wessex, an unambitious ruler, had died in 858, leaving four surviving sons to succeed him. None of them seemed particularly inspiring. The eldest, Aethelbald, married his widowed step-mother but died two years later. The crown then passed to the second son, who, after a short rule, had the good fortune to expire the year the great heathen army landed in England. That left the last two brothers, Athelred and Alfred to face the Viking assault.

In the early months of 878, Alfred, driven into exile in his own kingdom, abandoned by most of his subjects, and constantly on the run, tried to save his kingdom. There are numbers of charming stories that originate from this period, the most famous of which involves him taking refuge with a peasant couple. The wife assigned him the task of watching some cakes by the fire, but the king, weighed down with his troubles, let them burn. Having failed to recognize her sovereign in his ragged and dirty clothes, the wife berated him for neglecting his duty. The husband, who immediately recognized Alfred, begged the king's

forgiveness, but Alfred admitted that she was right. In another tale, Alfred sneaked into Guthrum's camp disguised as a traveling minstrel. As he entertained them, he overheard their plans, enabling him to win a victory the following day.

Perhaps the greatest tribute to Alfred's success was that the Danelaw never became a kingdom of its own. Its main city was York, a city which owes its location and much of its existence to the Vikings. In AD 71, the Ninth Legion of the Roman army had built a wooden fort at the confluence of the rivers Ouse and Foss. The Anglo-Saxons, however, had moved the settlement inland. It remained a smaller royal center until the Viking conquest, when its new masters moved it back to the bank of the rivers, transforming it into a major port city. Their name of Jorvīc or York stuck, and by the eleventh century it had grown to around ten thousand people, representing perhaps a sixth of the existing population of the Danelaw.

Across the Irish Sea, the kingdom of Dublin was also faltering. In some ways, the repeated attempts to conquer and hold on to York had drained Viking Ireland of its energy. The potential conquest of Ireland had been sacrificed, and now Dublin would pay the price.

We know very little about the ancestry of the man who eventually found one of the most powerful states in western Europe. He was most likely of Norwegian extraction, and is known to posterity as 'Rollo', the Latinized version of the name Hrolf or possibly Hrolleif. The most comprehensive account of his life comes from a later Norman historian named Dudo of St. Quentin, who had been commissioned for that purpose by Rollo's grandson, Richard I. According to Dudo, young Rollo was the son of a trusted companion of Harald Fairhair, the first king of Norway.

The next chapter called *The Explorers* engaged in Viking expeditions to the Mediterranean Sea, Iceland, Greenland and North America. If Rollo was present at the siege of Paris, he served alongside the first significant Viking explorer, Hastein. He had been one of the leaders of the Great Heathen Army when it attacked Alfred's kingdom, and had crossed over to France after the treaty of Wedmore. Although his ancestry is disputed, he was either the son of Ragnar Lothbrok, or had been recruited by him to toughen up Ragnar's youngest son Bjorn. Either way, he had fulfilled the latter request, by leading the twelve-year old on a wild raid up the Loire river.

Most Viking discoveries were made by island hopping. Sometime towards the end of the eighth century, the Vikings discovered the Shetlands. This uninhabited cluster of more than three hundred rocky islands was probably found by Norwegian Vikings since it lies almost directly west of Bergen, Norway's largest western port. The Vikings used them for stock raising, mostly sheep and cattle, to resupply ships headed south.

The discovery of further islands such as Iceland to the northwest was inevitable. Tradition holds that the first Viking to site fresh land was the Norwegian Gunnbjörn Ulfsson in the early ninth century. He was caught in a storm on a trip from Norway to Iceland and after a long journey. He also caught sight of a much larger landmass to the west, but when he reported his findings, no one was interested since Iceland still had available and prosperous land.

*The Traders* chapter, which is mostly about the Eastern Vikings and the founding of the state of Kyiv Russia. Unlike their Scandinavian cousins who pointed their longships down the coasts of Frisia and the British Isles, the Swedish Vikings looked in the other direction, to the vast forest zones across the Baltic Sea. As early as the mid eighth century – forty years before Norwegian raiders had attacked Lindisfarne – the Swedes began to explore the river systems of western Russia.

In its long struggle with Islam, the Byzantine Empire was finally starting to see the tide turn. This was due to both a temporary decline in the strength of the Caliphate, and the careful stewardship of a series of emperors. The current dynasty had been reaping the benefits of this resurgence, but had been less than successful on the battlefield, and was eager to fend off the whispers of cowardice. When the opportunity came to gain some ground on the Arab frontier, therefore, the emperor Michael III marched out to fight the Muslims.

In some ways it's surprising that the Rus held on to a Viking identity as long as they did. The original Viking raiders had always been a minority population. The vast area they conquered, from Novgorod, in the northwest, to Kiev, was populated by Slavs, while the Scandinavians were no more than a privileged military caste. They took local wives and began a new era in a foreign country.

The Viking Age is often judged by its impact on other cultures. It's remembered as a time of destruction known for the brutal sacking of monasteries, the ruin of much of Anglo-Saxon England, Ireland, and the Frankish Empire. But there was also creation. Colonies were founded in Iceland and Greenland, a Duchy was created in Normandy, great trading cities like Dublin and York flourished, and Russia gained its first centralized state.

The world the Vikings left behind was fundamentally changed from the one that they had come crashing into nearly three centuries before. The part they are usually given in this transformation is one of destruction. Even now, almost a millennium after Stamford Bridge, the enduring image of them is of wild barbarians, leaping from their dragon ships, axes and swords hungry for blood.

In each section the author focuses on several Vikings and the story develops in relation to them. This will help provide a context for each of the parts. From my point of view the weakness of the book is that by dividing it into four more or less independent stories, it is difficult to get a general idea of what has happened.

## Conclusion

The aim of my work was to make the Viking's life clearer. I chose such chapters which I think reflect a developed and extremely interesting culture that disappeared, but in some points of view still persists due to the interest of the general public and the living legacy. Despite the initial concerns about the amount and availability of resources, I found sufficient publications and valuable internet resources after a diligent research work.

So the main benefit of this work, as I see it, is in the coherence and elementary nature of the problematics when I tried to deal with the main aspects of the hard and militant life of the Vikings with all the characteristic features and their pros and cons. The undisputed advantage of the presented text is, in my opinion, an unprecedented insight into the issue and my longstanding interest in the topic from all possible points of view, but also the possibility of its further expansion for my future research.

Eventually I really think I gained another insight into Viking history. I got further information about their lives and afterlife. Their way of life, battle techniques and strategies and behaving to deity seemed tremendously inspiring to me. I can only hope that I will have the opportunity to discover more and more in the future.

With the information obtained from sagas and publications, Viking culture was very advanced at that time, and northerners were educated and inventive. These aspects, along with their war-centered religion, gave them the opportunity to endanger Europe and the distant corners of the world for two centuries, and to influence historical events. However, this trend ended with the advent of Christianity and the influence of Islam, which bound them and did not allow further development. Fortunately, thanks to various references and traditions, it was partially preserved, so it could be further examined and explored.

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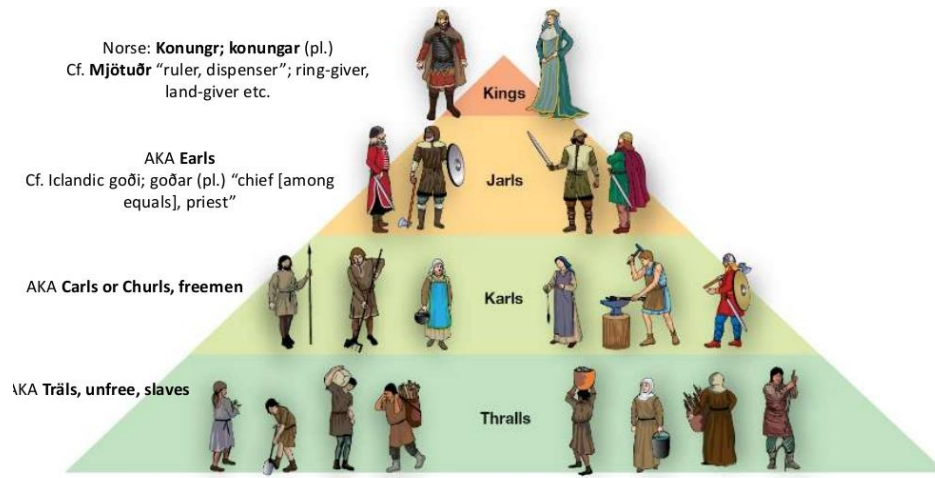
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## Image Attachments

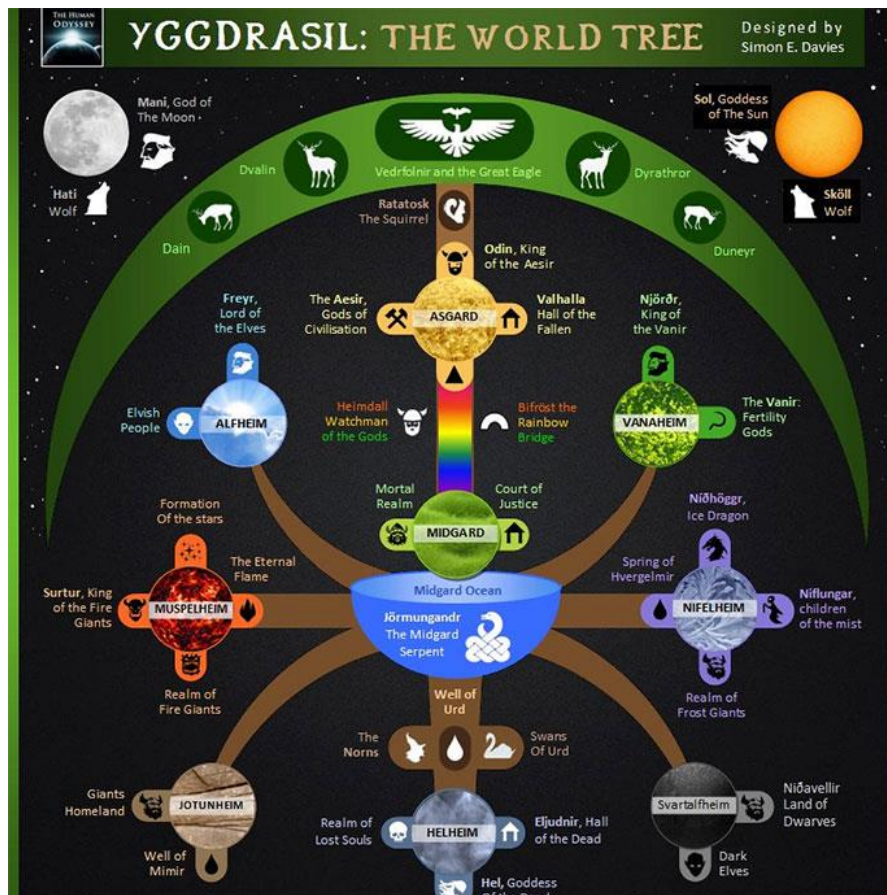
Figure 1 Viking Social Classes



SOURCE 2.3 The Viking social hierarchy

[2 http://thedockyards.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Norse-society.jpg](http://thedockyards.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Norse-society.jpg)

Figure 2 Viking belief in The World Tree



[3 https://lovelustandlaptops.files.wordpress.com/2015/06/yggdrasil-asgard-tableau-688.jpg](https://lovelustandlaptops.files.wordpress.com/2015/06/yggdrasil-asgard-tableau-688.jpg)

Figure 4 Viking major gods and goddesses



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5 <https://s-media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com/originals/16/d9/01/16d901814ba29f90567b4bd0f1387226.jpg>

Figure 6 Viking swords



7 [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/d/de/Viking\\_swords.jpg/1024px-Viking\\_swords.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/d/de/Viking_swords.jpg/1024px-Viking_swords.jpg)



Figure 8 Viking helmet



9 [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/f/f0/Hjelm\\_av\\_jern\\_fra\\_vikingtid\\_fra\\_Gjermundbu.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/f/f0/Hjelm_av_jern_fra_vikingtid_fra_Gjermundbu.jpg)

Figure 10 Viking shields and shield wall



11 <https://s-media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com/736x/a2/71/68/a2716874112c03d6ede73a2f011f52c4--viking-shield-viking-age.jpg>

Figure 12 Viking ship



13 <http://the-wanderling.com/longship09.jpg>

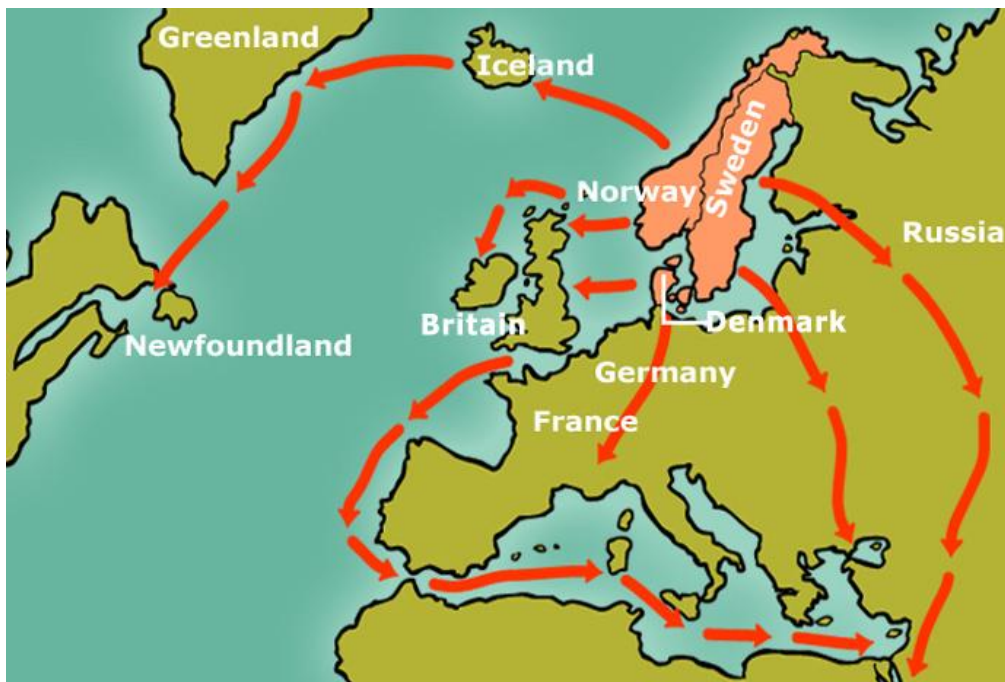
Figure 14 Viking ship head



15 [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/6/6c/Oseberg\\_ship\\_head\\_post.jpg/800px-Oseberg\\_ship\\_head\\_post.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/6/6c/Oseberg_ship_head_post.jpg/800px-Oseberg_ship_head_post.jpg)



Figure 16 Viking trade trails



17

[http://downloads.bbc.co.uk/rmhhttp/schools/primaryhistory/images/vikings/trade\\_and\\_exploration/vk\\_map\\_trade.jpg](http://downloads.bbc.co.uk/rmhhttp/schools/primaryhistory/images/vikings/trade_and_exploration/vk_map_trade.jpg)

Figure 18 Viking typical trade



19 [http://sciencenordic.com/sites/default/files/imagecache/620x/Prizvanievaryagov\\_None.jpg](http://sciencenordic.com/sites/default/files/imagecache/620x/Prizvanievaryagov_None.jpg)