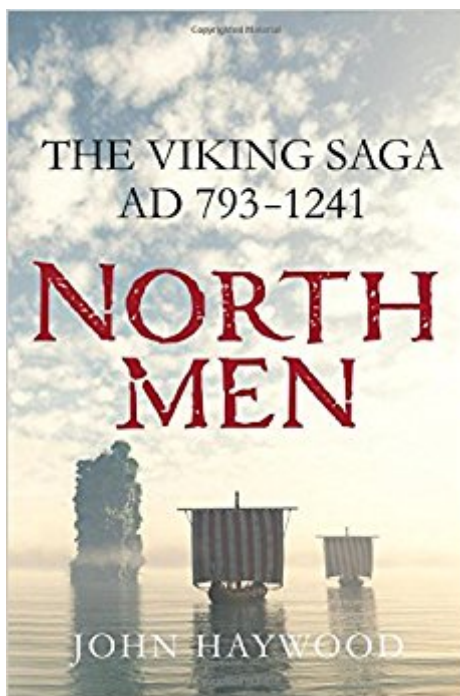


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Northmen: The Viking Saga AD 793-1241



Synopsis

From Finland to Newfoundland and Jelling to Jerusalem, follow in the wake of the Vikings—a transformative story of a people that begins with paganism and ends in Christendom. In AD 800, the Scandinavians were just barbarians in longships. Though they held sway in the north, their power meant little more than the ability to pillage and plunder, which they did to bolster their status at home. But as these Norse warriors left their strongholds to trade, raid, and settle across wide areas of Europe, Asia, and the North Atlantic, their violent and predatory culture left a unique imprint on medieval history. The twist that no one predicted, however, was a much slower, insidious takeover than any the Vikings would execute, and by a turn of the tide, they themselves became its target. For as they made their mark on Europe, Europe made its mark on them. By the year 1200, what remained of the Vikings' pagan origins floated beneath the surface and the strong, strange territories of the north had become a part of Latin Christendom. *Northmen* is there to tell the tale, to pay homage to what was lost and celebrate what was won. Focusing on key events, including the sack of Lindisfarne in 793 and the Battle of Stamford Bridge in 1066, medieval history expert John Haywood recounts the saga of the Viking Age, from the creation of the world through to the dwindling years of halfhearted raids and elegiac storytelling in the thirteenth century. He does so with meticulous research, engaging narrative, and sensitivity for his subject, shedding light and blood along the way.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Fascinating and authoritative." —The Westmorland Gazette (UK)
"Haywood has made this period of history accessible to all." —All About History (UK)
"Looks at the evolution of civilizations in

Scandinavia, with a sprinkling of mythology thrown in for good measure ... Haywood aims to give the reader a full picture of the Viking Age." â •History of War (UK)"Haywood's lucid explanations of the cultures of the Danes, Swedes, and Norwegians are vital to understanding the motivations for their movements." â •Kirkus Reviews

DR. JOHN HAYWOOD is a Cambridge-educated expert on the history of Dark Age Europe. He is also the author of *The New Atlas of World History*, *The Penguin Atlas of the Vikings*, and *Great Migrations*

Wildly ambitious to cover everywhere these people went in a single book but Haywood pulls it off alright. I rarely had to reread sentences so I can't fault the writing. I found it hard to keep track of the dynastic changes at times but that is not Haywood's fault. I recommend this book to anyone who wants to push beyond the schoolbook tales and Hollywood caricatures. I found the Greenland stuff most fascinating and we can only imagine the different terms with which Europeans engaged with the Americas had it succeeded. The influence of the Norse and Germanic tribes on human life today is colossal once you begin to trace it back.

I really enjoyed this book. Haywood examines Norse history from its beginnings in legends and sagas and moves forward through time until the end of the Viking Age. I liked how Haywood broke up the history of the Northmen by geography: Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Frisia, Frankia, Normandy, England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Isle of Man, Orkney, Hebrides, Iceland, Greenland, etc. This book helped me paint a complete picture in my mind of the many facets of Norse culture and history. Too many books focus exclusively on raids and sea kings, but this book tells the ironic historical tale of the cultural and religious assimilation of the conquering Norse into the civilizations and peoples that they were conquering.

Excellent summary of the Vikings and their excursions throughout the world. Lots of detail about battles won and lost, monasteries sacked and villages looted. Corrects some common misunderstanding about the Vikings----who were they, how far did they travel, and what did they really wear. Also some nice information about Viking Gods and rituals. Well-written, clear and well-researched. Plenty of references for those who want to delve more deeply.

Interesting and at times funny. Very solid history. Covers a lot of ground. At times a bit tough to

follow, partly due to the complex names. Not only do you learn about the Vikings, but it's an interesting treatment of Europe, particularly Britain, from 700-1100

Really well written, an easy read, I learned a lot of new facts about Viking history. Just as an aside, not a writer's fault in any way, the Viking kings simply didn't live long enough, most of them died in a battle in their twenties or thirties, so the amount of Viking kings named Olaf, Olof, Harald, Harold etc. just starts to become really confusing towards the end of the book, lol

Very interesting and detailed chronicle of the Vikings, would highly recommend it!

Good information for someone who wants to get a background on the Norse. It was difficult to follow all the dynasties, but history is seldom simple.

thorough, fascinating

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