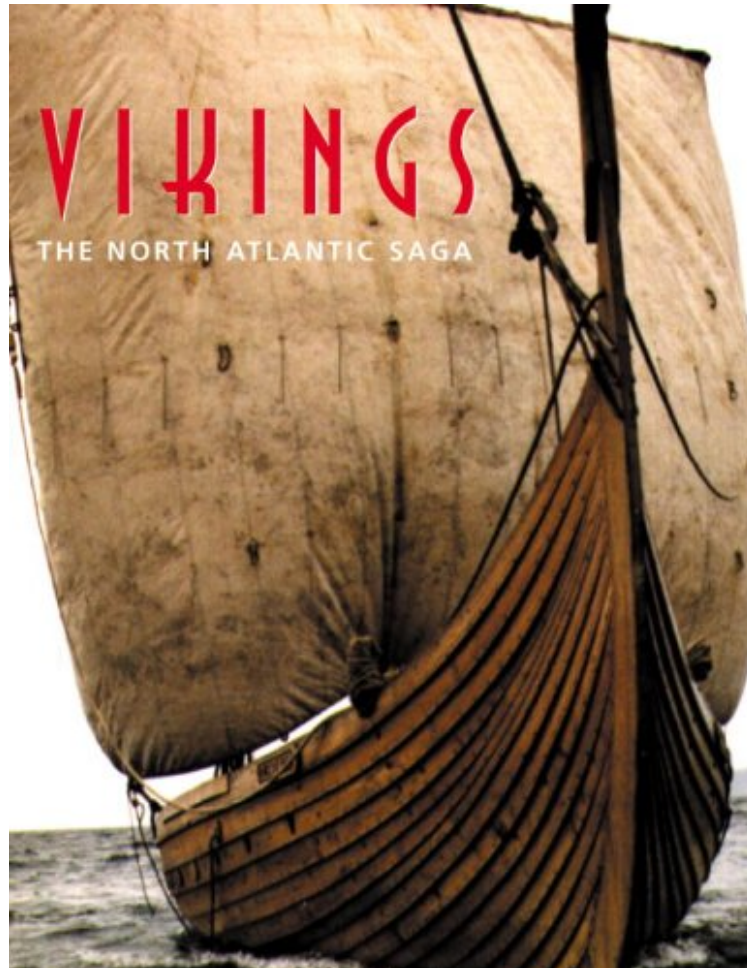


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Vikings: The North Atlantic Saga

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From Smithsonian Books : Vikings: The North Atlantic Saga before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Vikings: The North Atlantic Saga:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Great, comprehensive, history By Lucas Beechinor I got really interested in Viking history after reading Jared Diamond's "Collapse" and this is one of the books he recommends as additional reading. The authors provide a deep, comprehensive look at Viking history and culture and provide a great picture for anyone wanting the bigger picture of how these people lived. The book is divided into a lot of different sections which makes it great for curious, independent readers like me. I can easily flip through the book to read about what I'm most curious about. For instance, I am most interested about Viking experiences in North America, so that is where I started. However, I jumped back to the beginning after I read all the book offers on Vinland, etc. GREAT pictures throughout the book, and I like them a lot more than I thought I would. The only reason I gave this book 4 stars is because it's really big and hard to hold up while reading it. The physical format just doesn't suit me but this

definitely feels like a school book for college students. It's probably best to read this while setting it flat on the table. If Vikings interest you, don't hesitate to pick this up. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The process of history

By I. Gribble-Neal I was surprised at the scholarly focus of the articles in this book and feel I learned as much about the process of putting together a history as I did about the Vikings themselves. Every subject was covered from several different disciplines within science, not just on what I think of as traditional archeology describing articles discovered, but also looking at pollen counts or insect habitation. I was once again amazed at my ignorance of any history but that of the US and the poor job our school system does of teaching history. When I contemplate all the travel and trade accomplished by early civilizations, I realize how much we as citizens of this world are connected rather than separated. This book made me think which is the reason I read.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent introduction...more please!

By Nancy Rynes Very good book on the general subject of Norse exploration of the North Atlantic. Beautifully produced aesthetically. I agree, some things are missing or not fully represented, but on the whole, a very good introduction to the subject. I would like to request, though, that the authors now turn their attention to the other half of the story...the Norse exploration of the Baltic region, what we now call "Russia", and going through into Turkey and beyond. I would love to see these authors produce a similarly comprehensive volume on that part of their trade network. Their eastern explorations are every bit as fascinating as their western ones.

Replete with color photographs, drawings, and maps of Viking sites, artifacts, and landscapes, this book celebrates and explores the Viking saga from the combined perspectives of history, archaeology, oral tradition, literature, and natural science. The book's contributors chart the spread of marauders and traders in Europe as well as the expansion of farmers and explorers throughout the North Atlantic and into the New World. They show that Norse contacts with Native American groups were more extensive than has previously been believed, but that the outnumbered Europeans never established more than temporary settlements in North America.

.com In the early Middle Ages, driven by famine at home and the promise of wealth to be had in other lands, the Viking people exploded out of Scandinavia and set about conquering parts of England, Ireland, France, Russia, and even Turkey. Emboldened by their successes, the Vikings pushed ever farther outward, eventually crossing the North Atlantic and founding settlements in Iceland, Greenland, and eastern Canada. In *The Vikings: The North Atlantic Saga*, some three dozen scholars examine the growing archaeological evidence of the Viking presence in the New World--including such items as a Norse coin excavated in Maine, runic stones from the Canadian Arctic, and farming implements found in Newfoundland. The contributors consider the sometimes friendly, sometimes warlike history of Viking interactions with the native peoples of northeastern North America (whom the Norse called skraelings, or "screamers"); compare the archaeological record with contemporary sagas and other records of exploration; and argue for the need to better document the Viking contribution to New World history. "As an historical and cultural achievement," write the editors, "the Viking Age and its North American medieval extension stand out as one of the most remarkable periods in human history." This oversized, heavily illustrated volume celebrates that little-understood time.

--Gregory McNamee From *Publishers Weekly* According to this excellent work, there's a lot more to the Vikings than the ill-informed contemporary imagination often allows. The book doesn't only correct misperceptions--it uses the history of the Vikings as a framework for a range of events in world history. Edited by Fitzhugh, the director of the National Museum of Natural History's Arctic Studies Center, and Ward, a curatorial specialist in Viking Studies, this volume is a companion to the Smithsonian's spring exhibition (which will later travel to five other cities). Appearing exactly 1,000 years after the landing of Leif Eriksson in North America, the book first leads the reader through Scandinavian culture, art, religion and daily life and then to Viking expansion into Europe and the Mediterranean. The focus then shifts to the notorious North Atlantic raids that prefigured European expansion and settlement to come half a millennium later, to the effects of this settlement on the descendants of the raiders in Greenland and to the Viking legacy. In every instance, contributors impressively interpret a wealth of archeological and literary evidence in a lively and engaging manner; the analysis of the Vinland Sagas, the two surviving accounts of the settlements in North America, are particularly fine. Although the chapter on "The North Atlantic Environment" may tell more about lice than one wishes to know, it's a pleasure to read such lucid prose on topics that might otherwise seem arcane. Well designed, heavily illustrated and almost encyclopedic in scope and detail, this stimulating work gives the Vikings the place they deserve in the history of the world and will repay both extensive study and casual browsing. (Apr.)

Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. From *Library Journal* To mark the 1000-year anniversary of the first settlement of Viking explorers in North America on the coast of Newfoundland, Canada, the Smithsonian Institution has mounted a large exhibition now touring Canada and the United States. Companion to the exhibition, this large-size book is replete with high-quality color photographs, drawings, and maps of Viking sites and artifacts. While the book concentrates on the New World, there are also chapters on the Vikings in Iceland, Greenland, and France and along the coasts of Britain and the rivers of Russia. The contributors discuss the Viking saga from the perspectives of natural science, archaeology, history, oral tradition, and early writings. The Vikings are shown to have had more extensive

contacts with Native Americans than previously believed, though they were never able to gain more than a temporary toehold in the New World. Recommended for academic and larger public libraries. DHarry Frumerman, formerly with Hunter Coll., New York Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.