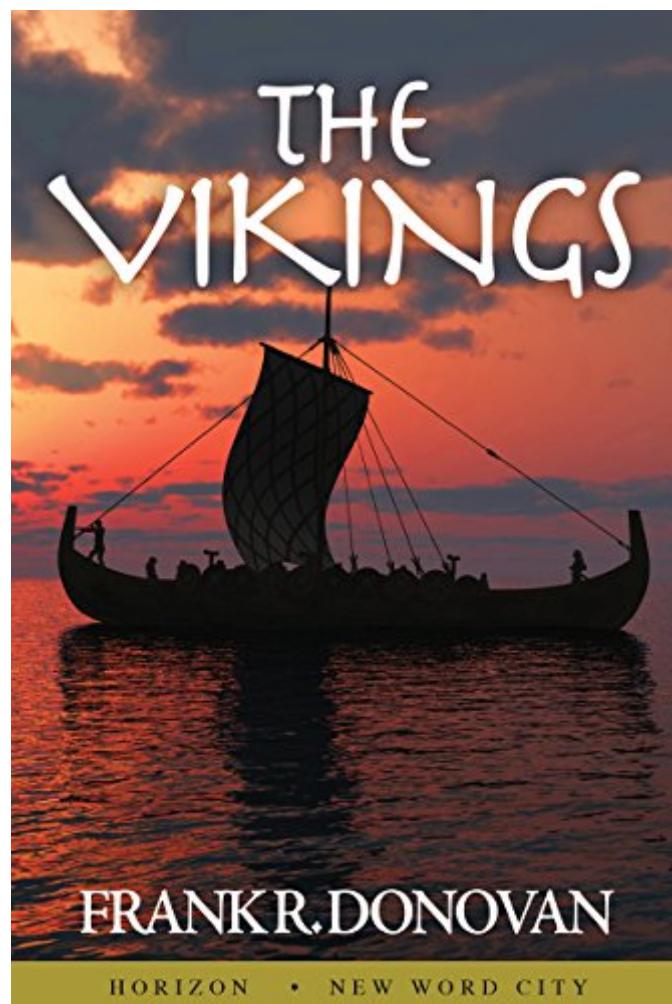


The book was found

The Vikings



Synopsis

At the height of their power in the ninth and tenth centuries, the Vikings seemed invincible – conquering, well-armed warriors whose ships were the ultimate in seafaring technology. From island bases near the deltas of major rivers, they used the waterways to scour the countryside, looting and burning towns, plundering merchant shipments, and stripping churches and monasteries of their gold, silver, and jeweled treasures. The Norsemen eventually penetrated all of England and Scotland, founded cities in Ireland, gained a powerful province in France, controlled Frisia and the modern Netherlands, and raided lands around Spain, passing into the Mediterranean to attack Italy and North Africa. They established the first Russian kingdom, challenged Constantinople, and provided a personal guard for the Byzantine emperor. They settled Iceland, where they developed Europe's first republic, founded two colonies on Greenland, and explored parts of North America five centuries before Christopher Columbus landed in the Americas. Then, like the abrupt end of a summer thunderstorm, their adventures ceased. Here is their dramatic story.

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Customer Reviews

Everyone knows a little about the Vikings, but television shows and movies tend to muddy the

water, so to speak. It is nice to read a clear but not endless or monotonous chronology of the Viking era. I like that author explained different versions of specific events that have been passed down. Being primarily of northern European heritage, it is hard to visualize what my ancestors must have gone through just to survive. It was interesting, also, to read how the Vikings were eventually assimilated into the local cultures and became more civilized. I liked the book, and thought it was well written. It helped me put together pieces of history that previously seemed disconnected. I would read other books by this author.

I originally purchased this book to see how it and the History Channel series "Vikings" compared. I found many instances portrayed in the series actually happened, but not to the same people or timeframes. Ultimately what I learned from this book was the extent to which the Vikings influenced other countries such as Great Britain and Ireland. This helped me understand my heritage and showed me why 75% of my ethnicity are from these areas.

Answers many questions about the Vikings and provides IDs for characters in the History Channel series. Tells of the fates of Björn, Ivar, and Rollo. The show condenses history a bit to allow characters to cross the centuries to depict key Viking events.

Interesting and informative. The similarity of names of different generations and the "repetitiveness" of events make following the storyline somewhat difficult. I did not realize that the Vikings impacted such a large geographic area.

It may have to do with my Norse Heritage, but this was a fascinating book. I was familiar with some of the names from hearing my Norwegian dad talking about our family history, as well as from the Viking Series on the history channel. I only wish there had been sources cited. It was easy to read and I was surprised there was so much Viking influence on the history of Europe.

Good resource for someone like me who had minimal knowledge of the subject. The book isn't great on detailed history, but certainly is a solidly researched and well written book that gives the reader a nice general history of the more significant people and events.

This book is written with up to date thoughts and research regarding the activities of the Nordics. There is so much known and more is becoming known daily. The peoples of the North have been

ignored but have contributed greatly to all aspects of Western Civilization.

good overview for those that 'skipped' history . The Vikings explored and settled large parts of the world- North America, Ireland Greenland as well as England ,Ireland and Europe. Their ships we engineering marvels of their time

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