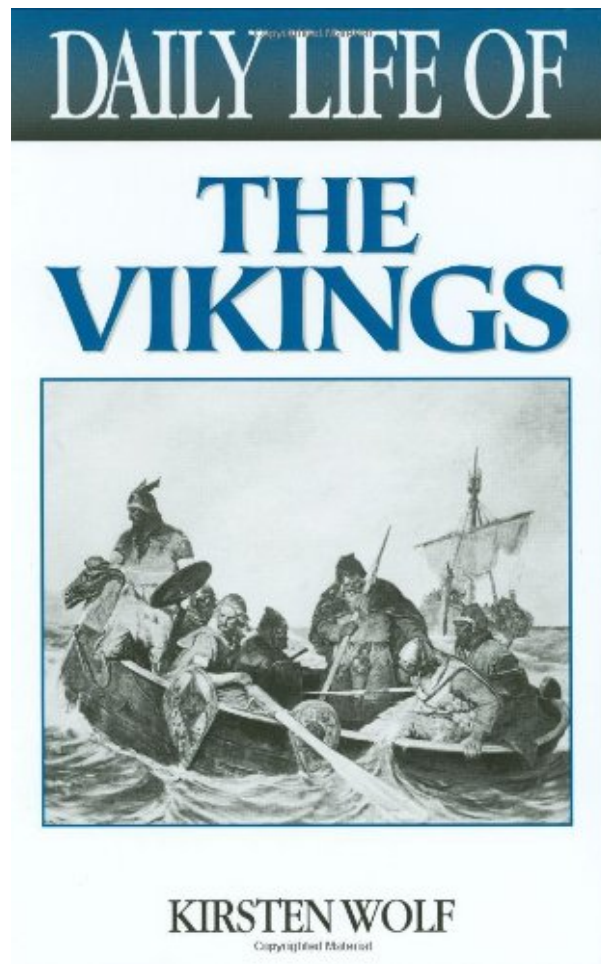


DAILY LIFE OF THE VIKINGS BY KIRSTEN WOLF



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Review

"[P]robes the realities of the greater Scandinavian community and its relationship to its Viking explorers."- MBR Bookwatch/Donovan's Bookshelf

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Though infamous for their violent marauding, Vikings were but one part of the complex Scandinavian culture from which they emerged. This excellent and intimate study goes beyond the rumors of the fury of the Northmen, into the prosaic realities of the greater Scandinavian community, and is ideal for readers who want to discover the everyday details of living in this dynamic time and place. What were Viking families like? How were slaves treated? Were older people treated well, or regarded with contempt? Exactly how did they manage to travel from Baghdad to Greenland? Author Kirsten Wolf answers all of these questions and many more in this highly readable and informative resource volume, which will be a benefit and pleasure to the student and the general reader alike.

For the reader's convenience, the work is organized into chapters covering all aspects life: domestic, economic, intellectual, material, political, recreational, and religious. It includes a historical timeline of Viking history, complementary pictures, illustrations, and maps, and a bibliography.

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Most helpful customer reviews

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful.

needs more photos of artifacts

By W Boudville

The author writes to educate a general audience about Viking society. While the Vikings are certainly remembered, few histories that mention them go into much details about the actual culture. Wolf gives a broad sweep through what is known to specialist historians. We see the cultural affinities between the Vikings in Scandinavia and the societies in Germany and eastern Europe.

The book also describes the visual art. Most of which appears on functional items as decorative emblems. Very applied, as Wolf puts it. The book has several photos of Viking artifacts. Nice, but perhaps some of these should have been in colour. And more of them.

The role of slavery is also examined. Not race-based, as it was in America. But the thrall or chattel slavery practised by the Vikings was arguably just as brutal. The book also points out much that still remains unknown, like their legal system. Little has survived in writing to attest to this.

11 of 16 people found the following review helpful.

This is a very biased book.

By A. S. Michele

While I enjoyed reading this book for my research, I was disgusted by the author's constant references to Christianity as a better religion than the pagan traditions of the Vikings. When I engage in historical research, I expect to be presented with facts, not the author's opinions as to which religion is better. The author constantly makes comments such as, "The viking raids were caused by the poor resources of the region, but eventually ceased when Christianity was introduced and the Vikings became more satisfied with their lot in life."

I intend to write a long letter to the publisher about the editor's inability to remove religious commentary from a book concerning the history of a people. I advise serious researchers to locate other sources, as this book is excessively biased.

4 of 6 people found the following review helpful.

Raid, pillage and plunder?

By history nerdling

Very good; another valuable contribution to this excellent series. Could use a few more illustrations and

pictures, but the information is good.

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