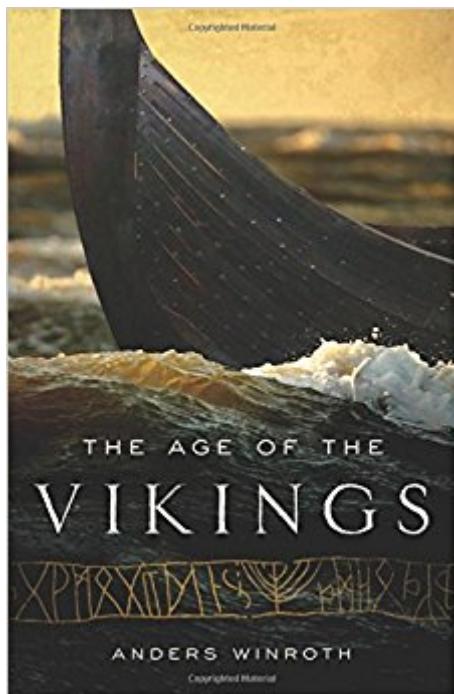


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The Age Of The Vikings



Synopsis

The Vikings maintain their grip on our imagination, but their image is too often distorted by myth. It is true that they pillaged, looted, and enslaved. But they also settled peacefully and traveled far from their homelands in swift and sturdy ships to explore. The Age of the Vikings tells the full story of this exciting period in history. Drawing on a wealth of written, visual, and archaeological evidence, Anders Winroth captures the innovation and pure daring of the Vikings without glossing over their destructive heritage. He not only explains the Viking attacks, but also looks at Viking endeavors in commerce, politics, discovery, and colonization, and reveals how Viking arts, literature, and religious thought evolved in ways unequaled in the rest of Europe. The Age of the Vikings sheds new light on the complex society, culture, and legacy of these legendary seafarers.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Honorable Mention for the 2015 PROSE Award in European & World History, Association of American PublishersOne of The New York Post's Best Books of 2014 "[Winroth] has an impressive knowledge of the sources, the archaeology, and the modern historical literature. . . . Winroth really knows what he is writing about, and has done the research. . . . I recommend the work to anyone with little knowledge of the subject and a wish to learn more."--Eric Christiansen, New York Review of Books"Winroth really knows what he is writing about. . . . I recommend the work to anyone with little knowledge of the subject and a wish to learn more."--Eric Christiansen, New York Review of Books"Mr. Winroth's account is superior to all its most recent competitors. He avoids what has become the traditional chronological narrative, centering his chapters instead on themes: violence first, regrettably; but then emigration, trade, state-formation and eventually, with

some relief, life 'home on the farm.' He also has the happy knack of seizing on a fascinating detail to open each chapter."--Tom Shippey, *Wall Street Journal*"[I]nsightful, informative . . . delightful chapters that flesh out our understanding of the Norsemen's world in a way that no bare narrative could. . . . The *Age of the Vikings* is a wonderfully compact and fascinating companion to many facets of the Viking world. . . . This book should prove a fascinating and rewarding read for those seeking to deepen their understanding of the Viking world."--Philip Parker, *Literary Review*"[T]his book is obviously where to start for anyone fed up with MGM's 'Vikings' and even remotely interested in the real story behind."--Karen Schousboe, *Medieval Histories*"If a person wants to approach the Viking Period for the first time or get a refresher on where scholarship is standing right now, then I am happy to recommend this fine book."--Martin Rundkvist, *Aardvarcha*"There was more to this seafaring civilization."--Michael Kane, *New York Post*"I loved this book. . . . His prose is sharp and compelling, and often left me wanting more (in a good way). . . . *Age of the Vikings* captures the wanderlust of its subjects, placing the Vikings all over Europe and the Middle East. Winroth's Norse aren't just raiders or farmers, they are merchants, poets, warriors, and sailors. . . . The lives of the Vikings often make for romantic fonder and good television shows, but their lives were far more complicated than those mediums let on."--Jason Mankey, *Patheos*"Winroth has penned a fast-paced, slender volume on the Viking Age designed for general readers. With a style that is vivid, engaging, and brilliant in detail, Winroth skillfully summarizes an impressive body of scholarship not available to most readers. He re-creates the drudgery of farm work to the far-ranging trade in exotic goods, evoking daily life in Viking Age Scandinavia."--*Choice*"[T]his is a detailed and scholarly work, with the full paraphernalia of notes, references and bibliography, but is very well-written and provides a most accessible and readable introduction to the Viking era, and I would strongly recommend it to anyone with an interest in the topic."--Jon GrÃfÃ- mr, *Magonia* blog"This book . . . remains such an enjoyable read that readers will find themselves carried along quickly from chapter to chapter."--Kerstin Hundahl, *Scandia*"Vivid, engaging, and brilliant in detail."--*Choice*

"The *Age of the Vikings* is an excellent book. The writing is clear, engaging, and brimming with historical insights. First class."--Peter Heather, author of "The Fall of the Roman Empire: A New History of Rome and the Barbarians""I know of no other book quite like this one."--Janet L. Nelson, coeditor of "The Medieval World""This entertaining and informative book provides valuable insights into not only the Viking expeditions themselves but also the social and cultural life of early medieval Scandinavia."--Sverre Bagge, author of "Cross and Scepter: The Rise of the Scandinavian

Kingdoms from the Vikings to the Reformation"

This is a sober, even-handed and very entertaining account of the Viking Age, with attention to its unique artistic and poetic culture (to include the incredibly complex and obscure epic poetry of the skalds). It's a very good introduction for the general reader who wants to learn about the (in)famous Northmen of the early Middle Ages.

I bought this book specifically to prepare for a visit to the Viking Ship museum in Oslo. The book places the Vikings in the proper context of peoples in Europe in the 9th century. Life for everyone was nasty, brutish and short. The Vikings were just the best able to take advantage of the situation with their skill as marine engineers, seamen and traders and when profitable, as very effective warriors. Reading this prepared me well for the Viking ship museum. This small venue is not to be missed when in Oslo.

Anders Winroth is the author of the magnificent book *The Conversion of Scandinavia*, where he takes an interdisciplinary approach to recreate Scandinavia's conversion to Christianity from their own perspective (if you haven't read that book, go read it now). Here in *The Age of the Vikings*, he takes a similar in depth approach into the Viking Age in general. Every aspect of the Viking Age, from raiding, to trade, to religion, to art is explored carefully and vividly reconstructed. This book makes use of various sources from across all regions with Viking contact creating a very complete picture of the time. Winroth does all this in a lively writing style that is sure to keep you entertained as you go along on this informative journey. I recommend this for graduate students and casual readers alike.

Bought for one of my sons for Christmas. He has enjoyed it. It's the story of the couple hundred years when the Vikings roamed Northern Europe, tales beyond the standard stories of conquest, into how they lived. Well written and enjoyable.

A little more detail than I wanted in some places. I found some parts interesting and other parts a bit dry. Still the book changed how I thought about the Vikings and I appreciate any book that changes how I think about the world.

Well researched and supported account of Viking Age. It left me wanting more detail on Viking

influence in Normandy and how it came about.

Nice clear writing, easy to look up facts as needed, or read chronologically.

Interesting subject matter, uninspired writing. I guess the bottom line is that the Vikings were not as exciting as modern people think....and this book was not as exciting as it could have been. Its not that the writing is in the academic style, which I wouldn't mind, its just that there is so much "stage setting" that's not really pertinent to the most important points that the important stuff gets lost in the somewhat arid rambling. I realize everyone can't write like Robert Payne or Stephan Ambrose but how do you write a book about Vikings that is so dull?

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