


Vikings



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- Vikings - early medieval Scandinavian sailors, in VIII-IX centuries to make sea trips from Vinland to Biarmiya and from the Caspian Sea to North Africa.

The bulk of these were tribes in the stage of decomposition tribal system, lived in what is now Sweden, Denmark and Norway, which are pushed beyond their home countries overpopulation and famine. In religion the Vikings, the vast majority were heathens.

Etymology



- The word "Viking" is derived from the ancient Norwegian «víkingr», which for the most common version is the "man of the bay", "people from the port." It can also be derived from the name of the Norwegian Wick. Some linguists derive from the Old Norse term Vike meaning "to leave, abstain": so called people leaving their homes in order to plunder or trade.



History

Reasons for expansion

- The reasons for the expansion of the Vikings, take a variety of forms (search for new lands and resettlement, predatory attacks, piracy and great military campaigns, shopping trips, is closely intertwined with piracy and robbery) were varied. Expansion of community-tribal system Swedes, Danes and Norwegians was accompanied by strengthening of the nobility, for which the spoils of war serve as an important source of wealth; Many freemen (bonds) left their homeland because of the relative overpopulation of coastal areas of the Scandinavian Peninsula and the lack of cultivable land. Progress Shipbuilding Scandinavians - skilled navigators of old - made it possible for them not only swimming in the Baltic Sea, but also in the waters of the North Atlantic and in the Mediterranean Sea.

Go West



- Scandinavian influence on the political culture, social structure and language of Ireland and other Celtic lands was much more significant than in England, but the chronology of their invasion because scarcity of sources can not be restored with the same accuracy. The first foray into Ireland is mentioned in the year 795. With the arrival of Viking Dublin base due to which the Scandinavians have owned for two centuries. His Scandinavian the kings were in Limerick and Waterford, while the kings Dublin distributed at the beginning of the X century its power even at Northumbria.



The Vikings in England

- 8 June 793 AD. e. Vikings landed on the island of Lindisfarne in Northumbria, devastated and destroyed the monastery of St. Cuthbert. This is the first attack of the Vikings, clearly stated in the written sources, although it is evident that the Scandinavians came to visit British shores before. Because at first the Vikings used the tactic of pin-strikes (fast plundered and retreated into the sea), the chroniclers did not attach much importance to their raids. However, in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle mentions raid pirates of unknown origin at Portland in Dorset in 787.



Society and Culture

Populations



- Peasant houses Scandinavians IX-XI centuries were simple one-room houses built of tightly fitted or vertical bars, or more often of braided vines, covered with clay. Wealthy people usually lived in a large rectangular building, which housed numerous relatives. In heavily forested Scandinavia such houses were built of wood, often in combination with clay, and in Iceland and Greenland, the shortage of wood is widely used local stone. There folded wall thickness of 90 cm or more. Roofs usually lay peat. The central living room of the house was low and dark, it was located in the midst of a long hearth. They prepared food, ate and slept. Sometimes the walls inside the house was set in a series of columns that supported the roof and fenced off so that the side rooms were used as a bedroom.

Clothing



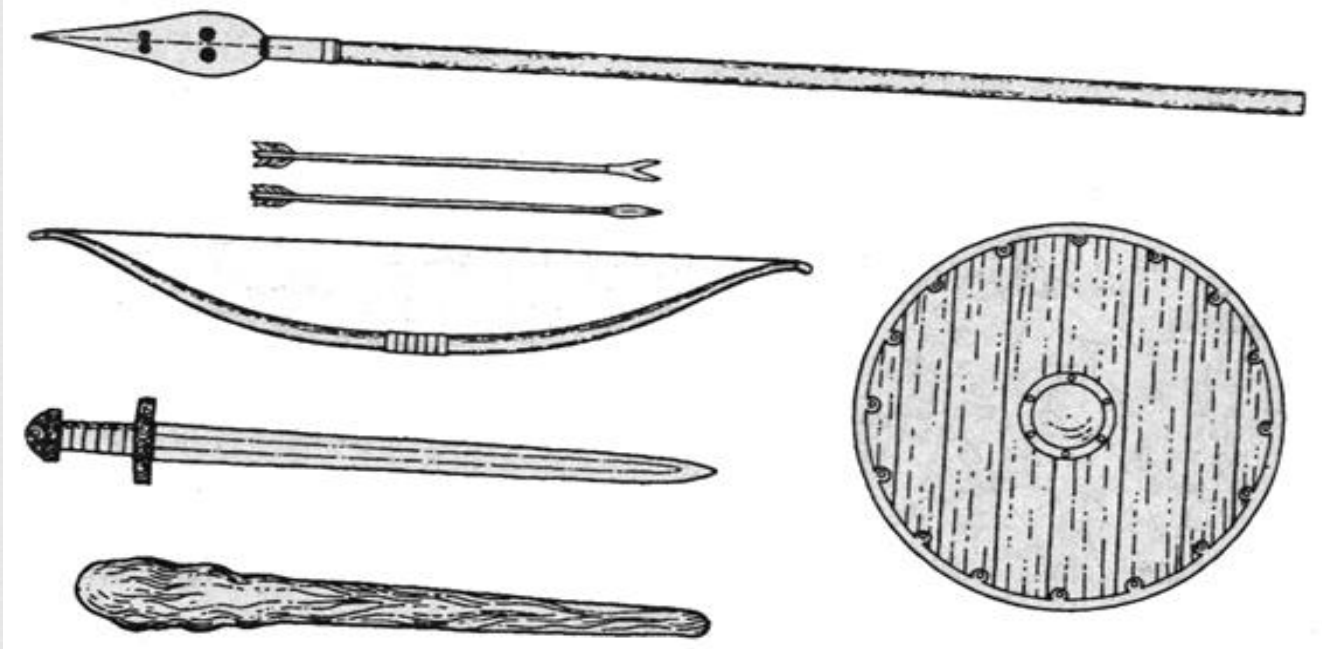
- Peasant clothes Scandinavians IX-XI centuries consisted of a long woolen shirt, short baggy pants, stockings and rectangular cloak. The Vikings of the upper classes wore long pants, socks and capes of bright colors. In the course were woolen mittens and hats and fur caps, and even felt hats.
- Women from high society usually wore long clothes, which consisted of a bodice and skirt. With buckles on clothing hung thin chains, which were attached to the case for scissors and needles, knives, keys and other small items. Married women to style your hair in a bun and wore white linen bonnets conical shape. We unmarried girls were picked up by the hair ribbon. To mark its position Vikings wore metal jewelry. Very popular are the belt buckle, brooches and pendants. Screw bracelets of gold and silver are usually given for the conduct of a successful warrior or raid for victory in battle.



Weapons



- The most common type of weapon - the spear length of about 150 cm. Could spear and stabbing and slashing. Scandinavian ax has a wide, symmetrical diverging blade. Scandinavian Sword is a long, double-edged blade with a small Guard. Hone only the top third of the blade, and the lower two-thirds of little or no sharpened.



Religion and Literature



- Like the ancient Germans earlier period, the Vikings before the adoption of Christianity professed traditional Norse religion (now known as Asatru) with regular sacrifices - blots. Writing was runic
- The first half of the IX century in the Nordic countries have developed quite original skaldic tradition. In Iceland, it remained extremely stable even two hundred years after the introduction of writing, very slowly decompose under the influence of European written literature.



The End