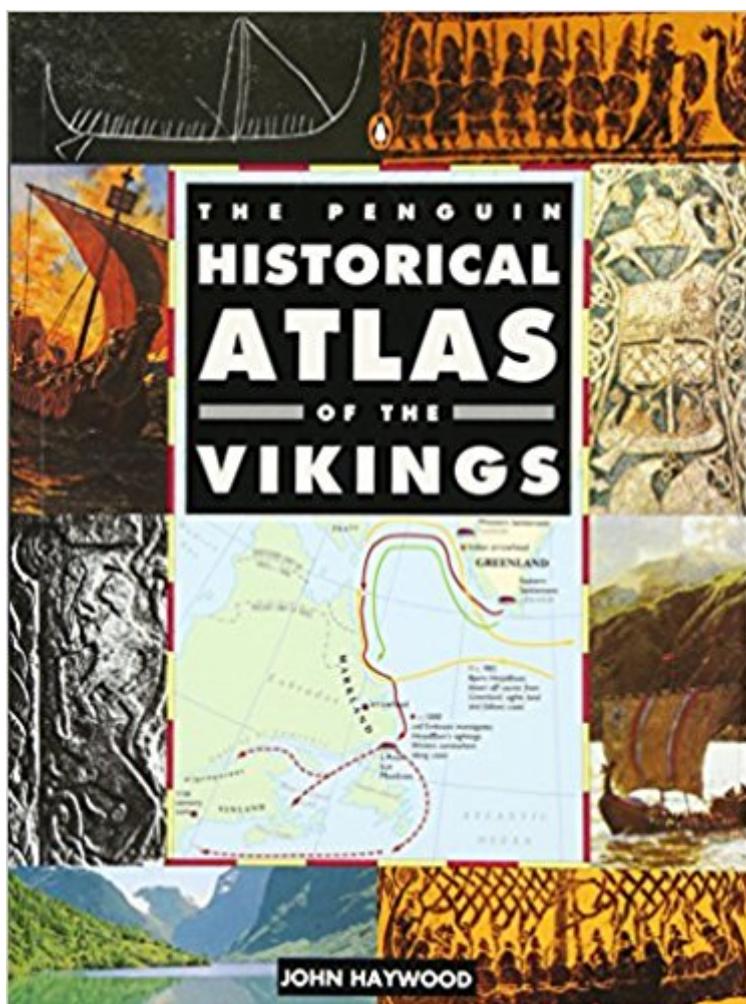


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# The Penguin Historical Atlas Of The Vikings (Hist Atlas)



## Synopsis

Viking marauders in their longships burst through the defences of ninth-century Europe, striking terror into the hearts of peasants and rulers alike for two centuries. But the Vikings were more than just marine warriors and this atlas shows their development as traders and craftsmen, explorers, settlers and mercenaries. With over sixty full colour maps, it follows the tracks of the Viking merchants who travelled deep into Russia, of Viking mercenaries who served in the emperorâ™s bodyguard at Constantinople, and Viking mariners who sailed beyond the edge of the known world to North America.

## Book Information

Series: Hist Atlas

Paperback: 144 pages

Publisher: Penguin Books (September 1, 1995)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0140513280

ISBN-13: 978-0140513288

Product Dimensions: 7.1 x 0.4 x 9.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 64 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #47,995 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #14 in Books > History > Historical Study & Educational Resources > Historical Maps #15 in Books > History > Europe > Scandinavia #22 in Books > Textbooks > Reference > Atlases

## Customer Reviews

John Haywood is the author of a number of books, including *The Penguin Historical Atlas of the Vikings* and *The Historical Atlas of the Celtic World* (Thames & Hudson). He lives in Lancaster.

Dr. John Haywood has done it again! Another in depth yet compact information pact, wonderfully illustrated and loaded with colorful maps atlas by Dr. Haywood available for hungry history and geography lovers. This book and actually the complete series of the Ã¢ÂœPenguin Historical AtlasesÃ¢Â• are greatly recommended by me. As a historian, geographer, professor, author and a journalist, I shall state that this is a great series. If you are a history buff, history student or simply a history fan, this is your food! Dr. John Haywood has done a great job on this. The book is loaded with colorful maps, charts, illustrations, photos and narratives. Great amount of compact information

with accurate historical data, dates and events are all over the book. The book is historically accurate, well designed, well formatted, fun to read and maps are amazing and make you busy studying them for hours. The book specifically focuses on the Vikings (Sweden, Norway, Finland, Denmark and Iceland) history from the beginning all through the years with vast amount of historical maps and illustrations (over a 140). I truly enjoyed reading this book and analyzing the maps. To own this complete series is a must for a history buff. Unlike many other disappointing Atlases and historical atlases, this series is amongst the great atlases available on (read my other reviews). Enjoy it because I test drove it and it passed my finicky and perfectionist taste.

I received this volume with great anticipation as I'm currently writing an historical fiction on the Vikings. Imagine my disappointment when I discover that the font is about a size 5 or 6 type and even with 3X readers it is very hard to read. The line spacing is just tight enough that after a while, when the eyes tire, the print begins to look like ant tracks. The publisher should be ashamed in trying to keep production costs down to the point that the book is hurt if not ruined. Damned shame.

I own many historical books, but most of them brought from Denmark to Thailand, and thereby mostly written in Danish, and by now living in Thailand I at least ought to own a book written in English, and telling about the Vikings. And when I out here have telling about all of the places to where the Vikings were sailing, I especially are getting into problem when taking about the Faeroes, which nobody knows anything about, and as it is so small it is nearly impossible to show I on my Globe. So I at last started searching after an easy and good book telling about the Vikings, a book with pictures and cards. And the first time I in discovered "The Penguin Historical Atlas of the Vikings", and then was looking inside the book, I immediately ordered one copy. And after now having received and read it, I must say that it's a very good book about the Vikings, probably the one which I would choose if I only was allowed to own a single book about the Vikings. The book is extremely detailed concerning all of the places to where respectively the Danish, Norwegians, or Swedish Vikings were travelling, and with the marks for at which year. So most of the book is containing Atlases with the accompanying text pages, but we also are getting many sides with pictures and drawings concerning their daily life, small towns, round forts, churches, warrior weapons, ships, their gods the Thor, with 8 legged horse Sleipnir, and the Odin and so on, and we learn how they by their settling all over Europe resulted in the starts of some of the later big cities. But as a remark, on the side 40 we are reading that it's not known how the Vikings found around on the ocean, as the compass not yet was invented. But during some

years most historians now believes that the Vikings were using the Sunstone, the stone which nearly looks like a part of a crystal, and comes from Iceland, and by which they through the clouds can locate the Sun. Such one was found in a ship which sank around 500 years ago, and after the discovering of this one it now is believed that the Viking used Sunstones and that these followed the owners into the graves and there deformed during the years. And as one more remark concerning if the Vikings totally left America. I still remember that I around 25 years ago was reading that it then was discovered that some of the Vikings had settled in North America. Because it was found that a tribe of mostly white haired Indians all died by an sickness which was brought with the immigrants back around the year 1880, and now by DNA was found to be connected to the Scandinavians. Of course, during the past year new research has proved that the Indian came from Japan and Scandinavia thousands of years before the Vikings discovered North America. In the book we by historical writing are getting a touch of the Sagas, and we especially read about the Icelandic Sagas, and learn about how good writings they contain. For persons that want to learn more about the Vikings especially the Icelandic Sagas, like Njal's Saga, are telling good stories. But I cannot recommend a special book, because all of my Saga books are written in Danish, so I don't know which of these translated into English either is good or bad translated. But especially concerning the Icelandic Sagas they just this year have been finished in a totally new translating into 5 books in Danish, and in these books we now are getting more juicy telling, precisely as they were written, by not earlier allowed to be told to us. So thereby when looking after a book with a Saga then think about looking on at which year it was translated, and probably these new Danish will come in English, and in case so I'll have them, even though I have the older one. But finally, and again, it's an excellent book with the many Atlas showing to where the Viking went. First by this book I for example discovered that the Vikings in 844 went into Seville, I never thought that they went inside Spain.

My dad really likes this atlas, but he said the print is really small. I looked at it, and he is right. I wish they made it with bigger print because it is a really nice book, great pictures and great articles. I was going to get a different gift for my dad, but he said he wanted to keep it.

This short but informative book is easily the best value of any book available on this subject. It is affordable but is not cheap. It packs a lot of information into a compact format. The text helps you understand all aspects of the viking culture from the beginning to the end of the period of viking domination. Most people are familiar with viking coastal raids, but this book also includes exploration,

women's roles, pre-history and the like. Anyone with an interest in Scandinavian history will find this book helpful in establishing a good foundation of basic information. The book is organized like many other atlases with a combination of text and complimenting maps. The author explains Scandinavian climate and geography and how those areas impacted human history. He describes political development as society evolved from tribalism headed by chiefs to a more organized pattern that introduced kings. He reviews agricultural development and writes about how the limited amount of arable land determined how settlement would occur. All in all this book serves as a solid introduction to viking and early Scandinavian culture and society. From paganism to Christianity from mining minerals to warfare this book covers a lot of ground in a limited amount of space. Penguin is known for its quality atlases and this book is a well written and well organized edition of that lineup. For the price it is a can't miss book that scholars of all levels of education can identify with.

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