best viking history books non fiction

best viking history books non fiction offer an invaluable window into the complex and fascinating world of the Vikings. These books provide detailed historical accounts, archaeological insights, and cultural analyses that help readers understand the Viking Age beyond popular myths and legends. Exploring the best viking history books non fiction can enrich one's knowledge of Viking exploration, warfare, society, and influence on medieval Europe. Whether you are a history enthusiast, scholar, or casual reader, selecting authoritative and well-researched titles is essential to gaining an accurate picture of Viking life. This article presents a curated list of top nonfiction Viking history books, highlighting their unique contributions to Viking studies. Additionally, it includes an overview of key themes and criteria for choosing the most reliable and engaging Viking history literature.

- Top Non-Fiction Books on Viking History
- Key Themes Explored in Viking History Books
- Criteria for Selecting the Best Viking History Books
- Popular Authors and Historians of Viking History
- Additional Resources for Viking History Enthusiasts

Top Non-Fiction Books on Viking History

The market for best viking history books non fiction is rich with titles that vary in scope, depth, and perspective. Below is a selection of highly regarded books that offer comprehensive, scholarly, and accessible accounts of the Viking Age.

The Vikings by Else Roesdahl

Else Roesdahl's *The Vikings* is widely recognized as a definitive introduction to Viking history. It combines archaeological evidence with historical narrative to present a balanced view of Viking society, culture, and expansion. The book covers aspects such as Viking trade routes, daily life, and their influence on Europe.

Vikings: The North Atlantic Saga by William W. Fitzhugh and Elisabeth I. Ward

This book focuses on the Viking exploration of the North Atlantic, including Greenland, Iceland, and North America. It provides detailed archaeological findings alongside historical context, making it essential for understanding Viking voyages and settlements beyond Scandinavia.

Viking Age: Everyday Life During the Extraordinary Era of the Norsemen by Kirsten Wolf

Kirsten Wolf's work delves into the social and cultural aspects of the Viking Age, emphasizing the lives of ordinary people. It explores topics such as family structures, gender roles, and religious beliefs, offering a well-rounded perspective on Viking society.

The Sea Wolves: A History of the Vikings by Lars Brownworth

This narrative-driven history presents the Vikings as formidable warriors and explorers. Lars Brownworth's engaging style makes the complex Viking history accessible while maintaining academic rigor, ideal for readers seeking an exciting yet informative read.

Vikings: Raiders, Traders and Masters of the Sea by Rodney Castleden

Rodney Castleden's book examines the economic and military aspects of the Vikings. It covers their raiding strategies, trade networks, and naval technology, providing insight into how Vikings dominated the seas during their era.

- The Vikings by Else Roesdahl
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Key Themes Explored in Viking History Books

Best viking history books non fiction typically explore a variety of themes that provide a multidimensional view of the Viking Age. Understanding these key themes helps readers appreciate the complexity of Viking civilization.

Viking Exploration and Expansion

Many books focus on the Vikings' voyages across the North Atlantic, their settlements in Iceland, Greenland, and North America, and their incursions into Europe. These narratives highlight the Vikings' navigation skills, shipbuilding technology, and motivations for exploration.

Society and Daily Life

Exploring Viking social structures, family dynamics, gender roles, and everyday activities offers insight into how the Vikings lived beyond their reputation as warriors. Topics such as farming, craftsmanship, and trade are commonly discussed.

Religion and Mythology

Viking pagan beliefs, rituals, and the transition to Christianity are central themes. Books often analyze the influence of Norse mythology on Viking culture and how religious changes affected Viking society.

Warfare and Raiding

Viking military tactics, weapons, and the impact of their raids on European territories are crucial areas of study. This theme also covers the political structures and leadership styles of Viking chieftains and kings.

Archaeological Discoveries

Recent archaeological finds have significantly shaped the understanding of Viking history. Non-fiction books often incorporate these discoveries to provide evidence-based narratives about Viking settlements, artifacts, and burial practices.

Criteria for Selecting the Best Viking History

Books

Choosing the best viking history books non fiction involves evaluating several factors related to content quality, author expertise, and presentation style. These criteria ensure that readers access reliable and engaging material.

Authoritative Scholarship

Books written by historians, archaeologists, or experts with a strong academic background provide the most accurate and well-researched information. Peer-reviewed works and those based on primary sources are preferred.

Comprehensive Coverage

Effective Viking history books cover multiple aspects of the Viking Age, including culture, economy, warfare, and exploration, offering a holistic view rather than a narrow focus.

Clarity and Accessibility

While scholarly rigor is important, books that present information clearly and accessibly appeal to a broader audience. Well-structured narratives and avoidance of excessive jargon are key.

Inclusion of Archaeological Evidence

Integration of archaeological data enhances credibility and enriches the historical account. The best books combine textual sources with material culture findings.

Balanced Perspective

Books that dispel myths and stereotypes, presenting Vikings in their historical context without romanticizing or demonizing them, provide the most trustworthy insights.

- Authoritative Scholarship
- Comprehensive Coverage
- Clarity and Accessibility

- Inclusion of Archaeological Evidence
- Balanced Perspective

Popular Authors and Historians of Viking History

Several authors and historians have established themselves as leading voices in the field of Viking history. Their works are often cited among the best viking history books non fiction due to their expertise and contributions.

Else Roesdahl

A Danish archaeologist and historian, Else Roesdahl is renowned for her authoritative works on Viking history. Her research combines archaeological findings with historical analysis to create comprehensive narratives.

Neil Price

Neil Price is a prominent archaeologist specializing in Viking history and culture. His books explore Viking rituals, warfare, and society, often incorporating cutting-edge archaeological discoveries.

Judith Jesch

Judith Jesch is a leading scholar in Viking studies, known for her research on Viking Age literature and history. Her works often explore the social and cultural dimensions of the Viking world.

Peter Sawyer

Peter Sawyer's historical analyses focus on Viking expansion and political history. His detailed studies have shaped modern understanding of Viking interactions with medieval Europe.

- Else Roesdahl
- Neil Price
- Judith Jesch

Additional Resources for Viking History Enthusiasts

Beyond the best viking history books non fiction, several other resources can deepen understanding and engagement with Viking studies. These include documentaries, museum collections, and academic journals.

Museums and Exhibitions

Institutions such as the National Museum of Denmark and the Viking Ship Museum in Norway offer extensive Viking artifacts and exhibitions. Visiting these can provide tangible connections to Viking history.

Documentaries and Lectures

Educational documentaries and university lectures available through various platforms present visual and auditory learning opportunities about Viking history, complementing written works.

Academic Journals and Articles

For readers interested in cutting-edge research, academic journals like *Viking and Medieval Scandinavia* publish articles on the latest archaeological and historical findings.

Online Archives and Databases

Digital archives provide access to Viking sagas, runic inscriptions, and archaeological reports, useful for in-depth study and research.

- Museums and Exhibitions
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- Academic Journals and Articles
- Online Archives and Databases

Frequently Asked Questions

What are some of the best non-fiction books about Viking history?

Some of the best non-fiction books about Viking history include "The Vikings" by Robert Ferguson, "The Sea Wolves: A History of the Vikings" by Lars Brownworth, and "Vikings: The North Atlantic Saga" by William W. Fitzhugh and Elisabeth I. Ward.

Which book provides a comprehensive overview of Viking culture and society?

"The Vikings" by Robert Ferguson is highly regarded for its detailed and accessible overview of Viking culture, society, and their impact on Europe.

Are there any Viking history books that focus on archaeological discoveries?

Yes, "Vikings: The North Atlantic Saga" edited by William W. Fitzhugh and Elisabeth I. Ward focuses extensively on archaeological findings and their significance in understanding Viking history.

Which non-fiction book about Vikings is suitable for readers new to the topic?

"The Sea Wolves: A History of the Vikings" by Lars Brownworth is an engaging and well-written introduction to Viking history, perfect for readers new to the subject.

Can you recommend a Viking history book that covers their exploration and expansion?

"Vikings: Raiders, Traders and Masters of the Sea" by Rodney Castleden explores the Vikings' exploration, raids, and expansion across Europe and beyond.

Are there any recent non-fiction books about Vikings that incorporate modern research?

"The Viking World" by Stefan Brink and Neil Price is a recent scholarly work that incorporates the latest research and archaeological evidence to provide a modern perspective on Viking history.

Which book offers insights into Viking mythology alongside historical facts?

"The Viking Spirit: An Introduction to Norse Mythology and Religion" by Daniel McCoy combines historical analysis with detailed exploration of Viking mythology and religious beliefs.

Additional Resources

- 1. The Viking World by James Graham-Campbell
 This comprehensive book offers an in-depth look into the Viking Age, covering their culture, society, and exploration. James Graham-Campbell draws on archaeological evidence to paint a vivid picture of Viking life. The book is richly illustrated and accessible for both newcomers and seasoned readers interested in Viking history.
- 2. Vikings: The North Atlantic Saga by William W. Fitzhugh and Elisabeth I. Ward

This book explores the Viking expansion into the North Atlantic, highlighting their voyages to Greenland, Iceland, and North America. It combines archaeological findings with historical records to provide a detailed narrative of Viking exploration and settlement. The authors emphasize the Vikings' maritime skills and adaptability.

- 3. The Age of the Vikings by Anders Winroth Anders Winroth presents a concise yet insightful analysis of the Viking Age, focusing on their raids, trade, and cultural impact on Europe. The book challenges common stereotypes by revealing the complexity of Viking society. It is well-suited for readers seeking a balanced and scholarly introduction to the period.
- 4. The Viking Achievement: The Society and Culture of Early Medieval Scandinavia by Peter Foote and David M. Wilson This scholarly work delves into the social structures, art, and daily life of the Vikings. The authors use a multidisciplinary approach, combining history, archaeology, and art history to explore Viking achievements. The book is praised for its thorough research and detailed examination of Viking civilization.
- 5. Vikings: Raiders, Traders and Masters of the Sea by Rodney Castleden Rodney Castleden offers a vivid narrative of Viking life, emphasizing their roles as warriors, merchants, and explorers. The book covers their origins, mythology, and eventual decline. It is well-illustrated and provides a clear timeline of key events during the Viking Age.
- 6. The Sea Wolves: A History of the Vikings by Lars Brownworth
 This engaging history traces the rise and fall of the Vikings, focusing on
 their daring raids and expansive conquests. Lars Brownworth presents the
 story in a lively and accessible style, making it ideal for general readers.

The book also explores the Vikings' legacy in shaping medieval Europe.

7. Viking Age: Everyday Life During the Extraordinary Era of the Norsemen by Kirsten Wolf

Kirsten Wolf provides an intimate look at the daily lives of Vikings, from family structures to farming practices and craftsmanship. The book highlights the ordinary aspects of Viking existence often overshadowed by tales of warfare. It is richly detailed and illustrated, offering a nuanced perspective on the era.

- 8. Northmen: The Viking Saga, AD 793—1241 by John Haywood John Haywood delivers a thorough chronological account of Viking history, covering their origins, expansion, and interactions with other cultures. The book blends historical narrative with archaeological insights, making it a valuable resource for understanding the broad scope of Viking influence. It is comprehensive and well-researched.
- 9. The Vikings by Else Roesdahl Else Roesdahl's classic work is a foundational text in Viking studies, combining archaeological discoveries with historical analysis. The book covers Viking society, religion, and their extensive trade networks. It remains a definitive and accessible introduction for anyone interested in Viking history.

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best viking history books non fiction: Writer's Market 100th Edition Robert Lee Brewer, 2021-11-09 The most trusted guide to getting published, fully revised and updated Want to get published and paid for your writing? Let Writer's Market, 100th edition guide you through the

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best viking history books non fiction: Choosing and Using Fiction and Non-Fiction 3-11 Margaret Mallett, 2010-07-02 Winner of the United Kingdom Literacy Association's Author Award 2011 for its contribution to extending children's literacy. Praise for the book: 'This book is about making readers. A compact summary of its contents would not do it justice. It is the accountof a life's work and it deserves thanks and readers. *****. - Margaret Meek, Books for Keeps on-line, Number 185, November 2010. 'This book is a cornucopia of varied pleasures, offering something for all tastes, presented with an awareness of the complexities of the field and communicated with commitment, enthusiasm and deep knowledge'. - Eve Bearne, English 4-11, the primary school journal of The English Association, Number 42, Summer 2011. Choosing and Using Fiction and Non-Fiction 3-11 is a guide to the many kinds of text we want children to encounter, use and enjoy during their nursery and primary school years. So children's non-fiction literature - including autobiography, biography, information and reference texts - is given equal status with fiction nursery rhymes, picturebooks, novels, traditional tales, playscripts and poetry. The author addresses important issues and allows the voices of teachers, reviewers and children to be heard. The book supports teachers as they help children on their journey to becoming insightful and critical readers of non-fiction and sensitive and reflective readers of fiction. It also contains suggestions for practice which are in the spirit of the more flexible and creative approach to learning towards which primary schools are moving. It includes: help on using criteria to select quality texts of all kinds; annotated booklists for each kind of text for different age groups; suggestions for keeping a balance between print and screen-based texts; case studies showing teachers and children using texts in interesting and imaginative ways to support learning in English lessons and across the curriculum; advice on developing children's visual and multimodal literacy; guidance on using the school library and embedding study skills in children's wider purposes and learning; critiques of key theoretical perspectives and research projects. Although the main readership will be primary and student teachers, it is hoped that the book will be of interest and use to anyone concerned with the role of texts in children's learning.

best viking history books non fiction: Children's Authors and Illustrators Too Good to Miss Sharron L. McElmeel, 2004-06-30 Who are today's must-know children's authors and illustrators? McElmeel's ready reference introduces you to some of the hottest new names in children's literature, and reacquaints you with established authors and illustrators who are just now becoming recognized for their contributions to the field. You'll find engaging biographical sketches, photos, selected bibliographies, and lists of resources for 45 authors and illustrators, including Laurie Halse Anderson, Haemi Balgassi, Toni Buzzeo, David Diaz, Kate DiCamillo, Linda Sue Park, Chris Soentpiet, Anastasia Suen, Simms Taback, and many more. This all-new new volume is a current and affordable update to the Popular Authors Series. Students will enjoy using it as a resource for reports and research papers, and librarians will find it a handy reference and collection development tool. A great addition to the elementary school library and to the children's room at the public library. Grades K-6

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Argentina. His unconventional works appeal to students, who nonetheless can find his richly intertextual prose challenging. Addressing courses in Spanish and in English, this volume offers innovative approaches that help students navigate the texts, engage with them emotionally and creatively, and understand the time and place of their production while connecting them to the present. Part 1, Materials, provides detailed biographical information about Borges as well as print and digital resources. The essays in part 2, Approaches, offer strategies for discussing his writing process, his manuscripts, and the material history and translation of his texts. Contributors also examine Borges's influences, which include film, mythology, history, and ideas of Islam and Judaism; the author's interest in humor and games; and resonances with other literary works.

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best viking history books non fiction: Children's Writers' & Artists' Yearbook 2023
Bloomsbury Publishing, 2022-07-21 Foreword by bestselling and award-winning author Smriti Halls. The indispensable guide to writing for children of all ages from pre-school to young adults, this Yearbook provides inspirational articles from dozens of successful writers and illustrators on how to get your work published. It includes a directory of over a thousand up-to-date listings with contacts from across the media and publishing industry. This bestselling Yearbook is full of practical advice on all stages of the writing and illustration process from getting started, writing for different markets and genres, and preparing an illustration portfolio, through to submission to literary agents and publishers. It also covers the financial, contractual and legal aspects of being a writer and illustrator. Widely recognised as the essential support for authors and illustrators working across all forms: fiction, non-fiction, poetry, screen, audio and theatre, it is equally relevant to those wishing to self-publish as well as those seeking a traditional publisher-agent deal. It includes advice from bestselling writers, such as Sarah Crossan, Kiran Millwood Hargrave, Tom Palmer, David Wood and many more. Additional articles, free advice, events information and editorial services at www.writersandartists.co.uk

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the Book in America addresses the economic, social, and cultural shifts affecting print culture from World War II to the present. During this period factors such as the expansion of government, the growth of higher education, the climate of the Cold War, globalization, and the development of multimedia and digital technologies influenced the patterns of consolidation and diversification established earlier. The thirty-three contributors to the volume explore the evolution of the publishing industry and the business of bookselling. The histories of government publishing, law and policy, the periodical press, literary criticism, and reading — in settings such as schools, libraries, book clubs, self-help programs, and collectors' societies — receive imaginative scrutiny as well. The Enduring Book demonstrates that the corporate consolidations of the last half-century have left space for the independent publisher, that multiplicity continues to define American print culture, and that even in the digital age, the book endures. Contributors: David Abrahamson, Northwestern University James L. Baughman, University of Wisconsin-Madison Kenneth Cmiel (d. 2006) James Danky, University of Wisconsin-Madison Robert DeMaria Jr., Vassar College Donald A. Downs, University of Wisconsin-Madison Robert W. Frase (d. 2003) Paul C. Gutjahr, Indiana University David D. Hall, Harvard Divinity School John B. Hench, American Antiquarian Society Patrick Henry, New York City College of Technology Dan Lacy (d. 2001) Marshall Leaffer, Indiana University Bruce Lewenstein, Cornell University Elizabeth Long, Rice University Beth Luey, Arizona State University Tom McCarthy, Beirut, Lebanon Laura J. Miller, Brandeis University Priscilla Coit Murphy, Chapel Hill, N.C. David Paul Nord, Indiana University Carol Polsgrove, Indiana University David Reinking, Clemson University Jane Rhodes, Macalester College John V. Richardson Jr., University of California, Los Angeles Joan Shelley Rubin, University of Rochester Michael Schudson, University of California, San Diego, and Columbia University Linda Scott, University of Oxford Dan Simon, Seven Stories Press Ilan Stavans, Amherst College Harvey M. Teres, Syracuse University John B. Thompson, University of Cambridge Trysh Travis, University of Florida Jonathan Zimmerman, New York University

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Publishing, 2023-07-20 'WAYB remains an indispensable companion for anyone seriously committed to the profession of author, whether full-time or part-time; and as always it is particularly valued by those who are setting out hopefully on that vocational path.' - David Lodge Revised and updated annually, this bestselling guide includes over 3,500 industry contacts across 12 sections and 80 plus articles from writers across all forms and genres, including award-winning novelists, poets, screenwriters and bloggers. The Yearbook provides up-to-date advice, practical information and inspiration for writers at every stage of their writing and publishing journey. If you want to find a literary or illustration agent or publisher, would like to self-publish or crowdfund your creative idea then this Yearbook will help you. As well as sections on publishers and agents, newspapers and magazines, illustration and photography, theatre and screen, there is a wealth of detail on the legal and financial aspects of being a writer or illustrator. Additional articles, free advice, events information and editorial services at www.writersandartists.co.uk

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when what one is choosing from is not

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