

The Vikings

2016-09-22

the history of the vikings is bloody and eventful and viking warriors capture the popular imagination to this day they made history establishing the dukedom of normandy providing the byzantine emperors bodyguard and landing on the shores of america 500 years before columbus beautifully illustrated with colour photographs and original osprey artwork this book presents a new window into their way of life including detailed studies of the hersir the raiding warrior of the viking world and the legendary viking longship

LEGEND OF THE LAST VIKINGS - Free Alternate Ending

2017-10-23

in 1066 upon the death of edward the confessor harald hadraada king of norway challenged for the crown of england claiming it was his through his bloodline he led a large force of over 400 longships to england and after a few initial victories was defeated during the battle of stamford bridge near york by harold goodwinson only 24 longships returned to norway two weeks later harold goodwinson and his army exhausted by the forced march from york to hastings were defeated william the conqueror and the rest they say is history or is it questions remain what happened to the vikings after stamford bridge where did they go what did they do well legend of the last vikings is just one possibility but why an alternate ending when i started researching the book i was amazed to discover that the silk route was not just one route but instead a whole network of routes reaching from eastern europe and criss crossing asia as such i had to decide which of these routes my characters would travel along before i could make this decision i had to research the routes in doing so i found so much fascinating information on each trying to decide which route to travel was not easy even though i eventually settled upon a route i did not want to waste potential stories so decided to write an alternate ending which in effect gives the reader a two for one synopsis chapters 1 33 i was going to give a summary of the chapters 1 to 33 but have decided that too much action adventure character building and meaning would be lost in doing so so i have kept this to a minimum by providing the following synopsis on returning home to norway after defeat at stamford bridge in 1066ad our hero ulf uspakson herald to king harald hadraada realises an era is over then he remembers the story of a swedish viking adventurer yngvar vittfarne yngvar the far travelled who went missing on a journey to the east and in a last fling of youth decides to try and trace him somewhere on the silk route no easy task the alternate ending starts at chapter 34 with the conclusion of the adventure in china s taklamakan desert or is it after leaving shanguo and crossing the tien shan mountains

the crew as i affectionately call this motley group follow the course of the jaxartes river syr darya to the aral sea in kazakhstan they then cross the karakum and barsuki deserts they loop around the top of the aral sea approaching astrakhan from the north east they are tired and weary after such an arduous journey as always trouble awaits and the crew will have to summon physical and mental strength from reserves hidden deep within themselves about the book itself a finalist in the foreword magazine book of the year competition it has a 4 star amazon rating and reviews of the book can be found on the amazon page as well

Viking Worlds

2014-11-30

fourteen papers explore a variety of inter disciplinary approaches to understanding the viking past both in scandinavia and in the viking diaspora contributions employ both traditional inter or multi disciplinarian perspectives such as using historical sources icelandic sagas and eddic poetry and also specialised methodologies and or empirical studies place name research the history of religion and technological advancements such as isotope analysis together these generate new insights into the technology social organisation and mentality of the worlds of the vikings geographically contributions range from iceland through scandinavia to the continent scandinavian british and continental viking scholars come together to challenge established truths present new definitions and discuss old themes from new angles topics discussed include personal and communal identity gender relations between people artefacts and places spaces rules and regulations within different social arenas processes of production trade and exchange and transmission of knowledge within both past viking age societies and present day research displaying thematic breadth as well as geographic and academic diversity the articles may foreshadow up and coming themes for viking age research rooted in different traditions using diverse methods and exploring eclectic material viking worlds will provide the reader with a sense of current and forthcoming issues debates and topics in viking studies and give insight into a new generation of ideas and approaches which will mark the years to come

Armed State Building

2013-08-15

since 1898 the united states and the united nations have deployed military force more than three dozen times in attempts to rebuild failed states currently there are more state building campaigns in progress than at any time in the past century including afghanistan bosnia kosovo the democratic republic of congo haiti sudan liberia cote d ivoire and lebanon and the number of candidate nations for such campaigns in the

Funding the Enemy

2012-03-20

with the vague intention of winning hearts and minds in afghanistan the us government has mismanaged billions of development and logistics dollars bolstered the drug trade and dumped untold millions into taliban hands that is the sobering message of this scathing critique of our war effort in afghanistan according to this book america has already lost the war while conducting extensive research and fieldwork in afghanistan s war zones a drumbeat of off the record and offhand remarks pointed the author to one conclusion we blew it the sentiment was even blazoned across a us military fortification as the author saw at forward operating base mehtar lam in insurgency wracked laghman province i glanced over at a concrete blast barrier while waiting for a helicopter wissing says someone had spray painted in jagged letters the game you lost it the author s vivid narrative takes the reader down to ground level in frontline afghanistan it draws on the voices of hundreds of combat soldiers ordinary afghans private contractors aid workers international consultants and government officials from these contacts it became glaringly clear as the author details that american taxpayer dollars have been flowing into taliban coffers courtesy of scandalously mismanaged us development and counterinsurgency programs with calamitous military and social consequences this is the first book to detail the toxic embrace of american policymakers and careerists afghan kleptocrats and the opportunistic taliban the result us taxpayers have been footing the bill for both sides of a disastrous afghanistan war

The Lost Carving: A Journey to the Heart of Making

2013-03-21

awestruck by the sight of a grinling gibbons carving in a london church david esterly chose to dedicate his life to the art its physical control intricate beauty and intellectual demands until his death in 2019 he was the foremost practitioner of gibbons s forgotten technique which revolutionised ornamental sculpture in the late 1600s after a fire at hampton court palace in 1986 destroyed much of gibbons s masterpiece the job fell to david esterly to restore his idol s work to its former glory it turned out to be the most challenging year in esterly s life forcing him to question his abilities and delve deeply into what it means to make something well exploring the determination concentration and skill that go into achieving any form of excellence esterly breathed life into the world of wood carving this special collector s edition of the lost carving reveals an astonishing life and deftly illustrates the union of man and material necessary to create a lasting work of art

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