# The Viking Age: A Comprehensive Guide to the Vikings and Their World



The Viking Age	e by Araceli Egea
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The Viking Age was a period of great upheaval and change in Europe. From the late 8th century to the mid-11th century, the Vikings raided, traded, and settled across vast areas of the continent, leaving a lasting legacy on the history and culture of the region.

In The Viking Age, Araceli Egea provides a comprehensive and engaging account of this fascinating period of history. Drawing on the latest scholarship and stunning visuals, Egea brings the Viking Age to life, exploring the origins of the Vikings, their culture, their raids and conquests, and their eventual decline.

The Viking Age is a must-have for anyone interested in this fascinating period of history. With its expert insights and stunning visuals, Egea's book is the definitive guide to the Vikings and their world.

#### **Origins of the Vikings**

The origins of the Vikings are shrouded in mystery. Some scholars believe that they were a group of Germanic peoples who migrated from Scandinavia to the British Isles and Ireland in the 8th century. Others believe that they were a mix of Germanic and Celtic peoples who emerged from the coastal regions of Norway, Denmark, and Sweden.

Whatever their origins, the Vikings were a seafaring people who were skilled in shipbuilding and navigation. They were also skilled warriors, and their raids on coastal settlements throughout Europe became legendary.

#### **Viking Culture**

Viking culture was based on a warrior ethos. Men were expected to be strong and courageous, and women were expected to be chaste and loyal.

The Vikings also believed in a pantheon of gods, including Odin, Thor, and Loki.

Viking society was divided into three classes: the jarls (nobles), the karls (freemen), and the thralls (slaves). The jarls were the leaders of the Viking clans, and they were responsible for organizing raids and leading their people in battle.

The karls were the freemen of Viking society. They owned their own land and could participate in the moot, or assembly, where decisions were made about the clan.

The thralls were the slaves of Viking society. They were captured in raids or Free Downloadd from other tribes. Thralls were used for a variety of tasks, including farming, fishing, and domestic work.

#### Viking Raids and Conquests

The Vikings were known for their raids and conquests throughout Europe. They raided coastal settlements from the British Isles to the Mediterranean Sea. They also established settlements in Iceland, Greenland, and Vinland (North America).

The Vikings were skilled warriors, and they were often successful in their raids. They were also ruthless, and they often killed or enslaved the people they conquered.

The Viking raids had a profound impact on European history. They helped to shape the political and cultural landscape of the continent, and they contributed to the rise of the feudal system.

#### Decline of the Viking Age

The Viking Age began to decline in the mid-11th century. A number of factors contributed to the decline, including the rise of centralized states in Europe, the adoption of Christianity by the Vikings, and the development of new technologies.

By the end of the 11th century, the Viking Age was over. The Vikings had been assimilated into the cultures of the countries they had raided and settled, and they had left behind a lasting legacy on the history and culture of Europe.

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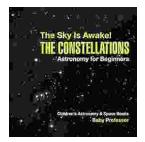
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