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文明的进程

THE VIKING WORLD

维京人的世界

ANN M. ROSSI (美) 著

外语教学与研究出版社

FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING AND RESEARCH PRESS

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INTRODUCTION 引言

Imagine sailing in a fast, narrow¹ ship whose prow², or front, is shaped like a dragon's³ head. Think of how it would feel to wear a shirt made of heavy iron rings. Could you move on skates made out of horse bones? Imagine living in a room heated only by a wood fire or bathing only once a week in a steam⁴ bath.

These are some of the things that you might have done had you lived during the Viking Age⁵.

The Vikings lived more than 1,000 years ago. They came from the part of northern Europe that is now called Scandinavia⁶.

- | | | |
|----------------|------|----------|
| 1. narrow | adj. | 窄的 |
| 2. prow | n. | 船首, 船头 |
| 3. dragon | n. | 龙 |
| 4. steam | n. | 蒸汽 |
| 5. Viking Age | | 北欧海盗时代 |
| 6. Scandinavia | | 斯堪的纳维亚半岛 |
| 7. Iceland | | 冰岛 |

Thingvellir, the place where Vikings held meetings in Iceland⁷

They were so fierce¹ that people were afraid of them. Traveling by sea, they raided² towns, stealing and killing. They also traded with other peoples and settled³ new lands. In their long warships⁴, the Vikings sailed to faraway places, such as Greenland⁵, Russia, and even America!

We come into contact⁶ with the Vikings every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Those days are named for Viking gods.

There is much to discover about the people of Scandinavia, past and present. So, let's begin our journey⁷.

1. fierce	adj.	凶猛的
2. raid	v.	劫掠
3. settle	v.	殖民于(某地)
4. warship	n.	战船
5. Greenland		格陵兰岛
6. contact	n.	接触
7. journey	n.	旅行; 行程

THE VIKING WORLD: THEN AND NOW

维京人的世界：历史与今天



The Viking Age lasted from the late 700s to about 1100. Viking warriors¹ looked for riches. Viking explorers looked for rich farmland. Viking settlers set up homes in new lands. The first map above shows the Vikings' world. Find the places where the Vikings lived.

The second map shows modern Scandinavia, the name given to the countries of Denmark², Norway³, Sweden⁴, and Iceland. Today, Scandinavia includes Finland⁵, but the Finns long ago weren't Vikings. These lands have long, cold winters because they are so far north.

Norway and Sweden form a peninsula⁶. This is a piece of land that is almost surrounded⁷ by water. Sweden has many lakes and forests. Much of Norway is mountainous⁸. Norway has valleys⁹ and plains and many fjords¹⁰ too. They are

long, narrow inlets¹¹ of the sea bordered¹² by steep¹³ slopes¹⁴.

Part of Denmark is also on a peninsula. The rest of Denmark is on islands. Iceland is an island in the Atlantic Ocean. Compare the two maps. Why do you think the Vikings were such great sailors¹⁵?

1. warrior	<i>n.</i>	武士
2. Denmark		丹麦
3. Norway		挪威
4. Sweden		瑞典
5. Finland		芬兰
6. peninsula	<i>n.</i>	半岛
7. surround	<i>v.</i>	围住；环绕
8. mountainous	<i>adj.</i>	多山的
9. valley	<i>n.</i>	山谷
10. fjord	<i>n.</i>	(尤指挪威海岸边的)峡湾
11. inlet	<i>n.</i>	水湾
12. border	<i>v.</i>	围
13. steep	<i>adj.</i>	陡峭的
14. slope	<i>n.</i>	斜坡
15. sailor	<i>n.</i>	水手



The city of Bergen on the west coast of Norway

During the Viking Age, Viking ships were the best in the world. Using these fine ships, the Vikings sailed to many places. They traveled to the sunny Mediterranean Sea¹ and icy Greenland. They also sailed across the Atlantic Ocean to North America.

LOOKING BACK

When the Vikings sailed, they used the sun and stars to help direct their course. They also used their knowledge of sea birds, fish, and wind and wave² patterns to guide³ them at sea.

- | | |
|----------------------|-----|
| 1. Mediterranean Sea | 地中海 |
| 2. wave | 波浪 |
| 3. guide | 指引 |
| 4. carving | 雕刻品 |



A Viking carving⁴ of a ship full of warriors

COMMUNITY LIFE 社会生活

RULERS AND GOVERNMENT

Viking society **long ago** was divided into three classes: nobles¹, freemen², and slaves³. Nobles were kings, chiefs⁴, and other wealthy people. Freemen farmed or traded. Most Vikings were free.

The Vikings captured⁵ people during wars or raids. These people became slaves. Sometimes, slaves were freed as a reward⁶ for their good work. Others could buy their freedom.

A king or chief was the ruler of a community. But these rulers did not make all the decisions. In every Viking community, freemen and nobles belonged⁷

to an assembly⁸ called the *thing*⁹. Members of the *thing* made laws.

Today, all Scandinavians are free. The countries are democracies¹⁰, governments that are run by the people. Scandinavians who are at least 18 can vote¹¹ for lawmakers¹².

1. noble	//	贵族
2. freeman	//	自由民
3. slave	//	奴隶
4. chief	//	首领
5. capture	V	俘虏
6. reward	//	奖赏
7. belong	V	属于
8. assembly	//	集会; 集合
9. thing	//	(斯堪的纳维亚各国的) 议会
10. democracy	//	民主政体
11. vote	V	投票
12. lawmaker	//	立法者
13. divorce case		离婚案件
14. painting	//	画

An early Viking assembly in Iceland hears a divorce case¹³ in this painting¹⁴.



A fisherman hangs his catch to dry.

WORK

In Scandinavia **long ago**, many Vikings were farmers. Good farmland lay in narrow strips¹ along the coasts. Farmers raised pigs, cows, sheep, and chickens.

Farmers also grew grains², such as barley³, rye⁴, and oats⁵. In the cold climate, they had to grow hardy⁶ vegetables, such as peas⁷, beans⁸, and cabbage. Other Vikings fished.

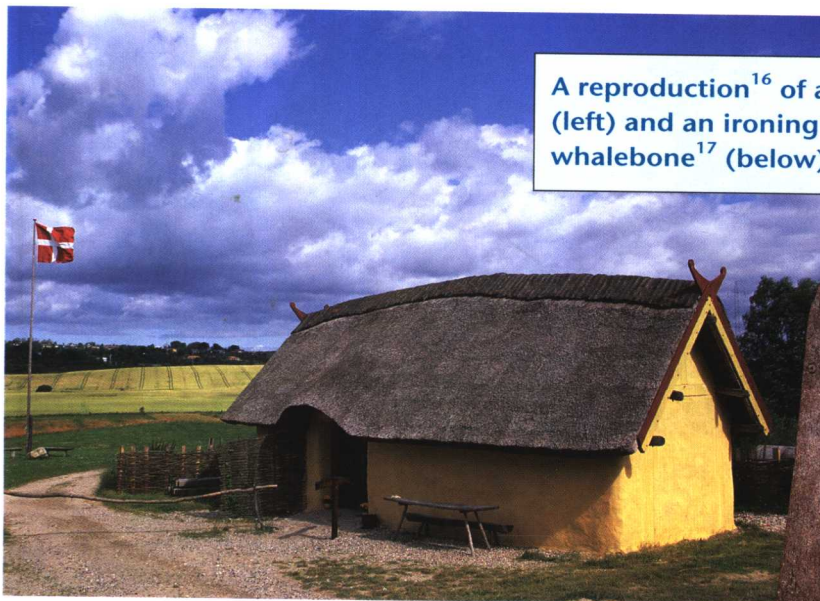
Some Viking metalworkers⁹ made necklaces¹⁰ and rings. Others made swords¹¹ and spears¹². They also made simple tools, such as hammers¹³ and saws¹⁴. Weavers¹⁵, usually women, wove wool to make cloth. Carpenters¹⁶ built ships. Other Vikings were merchants¹⁷. They bought, sold, and traded goods¹⁸.

Viking men did not always stay at home. They sailed rivers and seas in search of gold, silver, and jewels¹⁹. They took what they wanted by force. Anyone who tried to stand in their way was wounded or killed. They attacked towns and religious communities. Often these were left in ruins²⁰.

Today, some Scandinavians farm or fish. Norwegians continue to build ships. Scandinavian artists still make fine jewelry²¹. Both Denmark and Sweden have skilled furniture builders. Many Swedes work in automobile²² factories. Many Scandinavians today work in education, banking, government, or health care.

1. strip	<i>n.</i>	带状地带
2. grain	<i>n.</i>	谷类
3. barley	<i>n.</i>	大麦
4. rye	<i>n.</i>	黑麦
5. oat	<i>n.</i>	燕麦
6. hardy	<i>adj.</i>	耐寒的
7. pea	<i>n.</i>	豌豆
8. bean	<i>n.</i>	蚕豆
9. metalworker	<i>n.</i>	金工工人
10. necklace	<i>n.</i>	项链
11. sword	<i>n.</i>	剑
12. spear	<i>n.</i>	矛
13. hammer	<i>n.</i>	铁锤
14. saw	<i>n.</i>	锯
15. weaver	<i>n.</i>	织布工
16. carpenter	<i>n.</i>	木匠
17. merchant	<i>n.</i>	商人
18. goods	<i>n.</i>	[复] 货物; 商品
19. jewel	<i>n.</i>	宝石
20. ruin	<i>n.</i>	[-s] 废墟
21. jewelry	<i>n.</i>	珠宝
22. automobile	<i>n.</i>	汽车

A reproduction¹⁶ of a Viking house (left) and an ironing board made from whalebone¹⁷ (below)



HOMES

Most Vikings in Scandinavia **long ago** built their homes from wood. Roofs¹ were made of wood shingles², turf³, or straw⁴. Thick mats⁵ of grass on the roof kept the house warm. The roof was green with grass in summer. It was white with snow in winter.

Imagine a single dark and smoky room. This was home for most Vikings. Some homes had one big room with a smaller room at either end. In winter, Vikings shared their homes with their animals. A door separated them. Think of the smell!

Vikings cooked over an open fireplace⁶ in the middle of the big room. Most of the smoke escaped⁷ through a hole in the roof. The fire heated and lit the room. Vikings also used candles and oil lamps for light.

Vikings decorated⁸ their homes with rugs⁹

and wall hangings¹⁰. They built benches¹¹ along the inside walls of their houses. They spread furs¹², blankets¹³, and pillows¹⁴ on the benches at night.

Today, Scandinavians live in modern homes and apartments¹⁵. Most live in cities.

1. roof	<i>n.</i>	屋顶
2. shingle	<i>n.</i>	木瓦; 墙面板
3. turf	<i>n.</i>	草皮
4. straw	<i>n.</i>	稻草; 禾秆
5. mat	<i>n.</i>	席子
6. fireplace	<i>n.</i>	火炉
7. escape	<i>v.</i>	排出
8. decorate	<i>v.</i>	装饰
9. rug	<i>n.</i>	小地毯
10. hanging	<i>n.</i>	帘子; 悬挂物
11. bench	<i>n.</i>	长椅
12. fur	<i>n.</i>	毛皮
13. blanket	<i>n.</i>	毯子
14. pillow	<i>n.</i>	枕头
15. apartment	<i>n.</i>	公寓
16. reproduction	<i>n.</i>	复制品
17. whalebone	<i>n.</i>	鲸须

FAMILY

Viking parents **long ago** usually chose the person each of their children would marry. Often, the best person was the one with the most property¹ or goods².

Viking women had more rights than other women of that time. Viking women could own property and land. A wife shared her husband's wealth.

Men farmed and went to sea as warriors. Women made clothes, cooked, and did the housekeeping³. Women ran the household⁴ when the men were away.

Viking children did not go to school. Instead, they learned skills from their parents. **Today**, all Scandinavian children must go to school for at least nine years, until they are age 16. Scandinavians are among the best-educated people in the world. Nearly everyone can read and write.

- | | | |
|-----------------|----|----------|
| 1. property | n. | 财产 |
| 2. goods | n. | [复] 私人财产 |
| 3. housekeeping | n. | 家务管理 |
| 4. household | n. | 家庭 |

Students in a Swedish school





A woman selling fish at a Norwegian market

FOOD

In Scandinavia **long ago**, Vikings raised animals for meat. They hunted¹ deer² and seals³. They ate fish, such as cod⁴, trout⁵, herring⁶, and salmon⁷.

Vikings dried or salted meat and fish. This made the food last through the winter. They also ate wild berries⁸ and apples.

Vikings ate eggs, drank milk, and made butter and cheese. They baked⁹ bread and

made pancakes and porridge¹⁰.

Today, Scandinavians eat many of the same kinds of foods that the Vikings ate. They eat other foods too. Open-faced¹¹ sandwiches are popular. People start with one slice¹² of bread. They put a topping such as shrimp¹³, smoked herring, or cheese on it.

LOOKING BACK

Vikings ate two meals a day. They ate at about eight in the morning and again at about seven in the evening. People ate with their fingers and with knives and spoons. There were no forks.

1. hunt	<i>v.</i>	猎取
2. deer	<i>n.</i>	鹿
3. seal	<i>n.</i>	海豹
4. cod	<i>n.</i>	鳕鱼
5. trout	<i>n.</i>	鲑鱼
6. herring	<i>n.</i>	鲱鱼
7. salmon	<i>n.</i>	大马哈鱼
8. berry	<i>n.</i>	浆果
9. bake	<i>v.</i>	烘焙
10. porridge	<i>n.</i>	粥
11. open-faced	<i>adj.</i>	露馅的
12. slice	<i>n.</i>	(切下的)薄片; 片
13. shrimp	<i>n.</i>	虾

CLOTHES

In Scandinavia **long ago**, Viking freemen wore woolen pants¹ and a long shirt. Women wore long, loose-fitting² dresses. Vikings also wore leather³ shoes. In winter, people wore capes⁴, or cloaks⁵, and fur hats to keep warm.

Nobles wore the same style of clothes as freemen did. Colorful embroidery⁶ sometimes decorated their clothes. Men and women wore beautiful pins⁷ to fasten⁸ their clothing.

Warriors wore leather caps or iron helmets⁹ to protect their heads in battle. Many warriors wore a leather tunic¹⁰ made from animal hide¹¹. Other warriors wore armor¹² made of metal links¹³ called *chain mail*¹⁴.

Today, Scandinavians wear the same kinds of clothes that people in most countries do. Many people wear jeans. Like the Vikings, some people wear fur hats in cold weather.

1. pants	<i>n.</i>	[复] 裤子
2. loose-fitting	<i>adj.</i>	宽松的
3. leather	<i>adj.</i>	皮制的
4. cape	<i>n.</i>	斗篷
5. cloak	<i>n.</i>	披风
6. embroidery	<i>n.</i>	刺绣
7. pin	<i>n.</i>	别针
8. fasten	<i>v.</i>	系牢; 固定
9. helmet	<i>n.</i>	头盔
10. tunic	<i>n.</i>	束腰外衣
11. hide	<i>n.</i>	兽皮
12. armor	<i>n.</i>	盔甲
13. link	<i>n.</i>	环; 圈
14. chain mail		锁子甲
15. sauna	<i>n.</i>	桑拿浴
16. pour	<i>v.</i>	倒

Then & Now

Long ago, most Europeans seldom took baths or changed their clothes. The Vikings took a bath about once a week. Some took a sauna¹⁵. A sauna is a steam bath made by pouring¹⁶ water over hot stones. **Today**, people in many parts of the world enjoy taking a sauna.



A man wearing chain mail under a helmet

SHIPS, TRADE, AND EXPLORATION

船、贸易与探险

SHIPS

Vikings in Scandinavia **long ago** were great boat builders. Their ships were strong and speedy. Vikings built their ships with wooden planks¹ held together with metal pins².

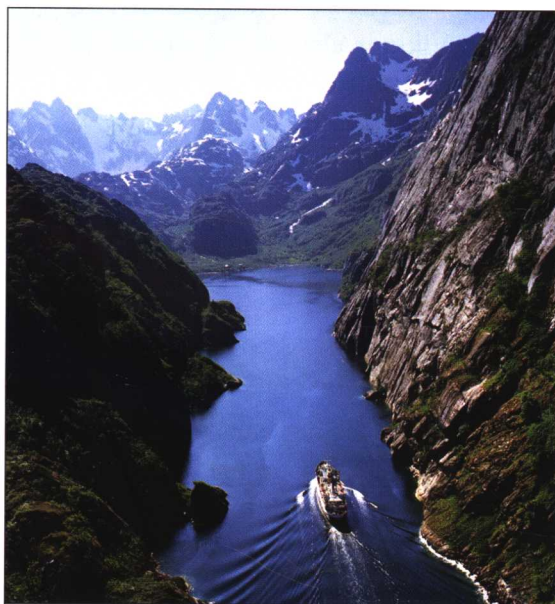
Viking ships were light and easy to steer³. They could travel in shallow⁴ water. They could move quickly down rivers and be pulled up on beaches. So, it was easy to catch people unaware⁵.

On a windy day, a crew⁶ raised the sails⁷ on a ship. When there was no wind, a crew could row a ship. It took as many as 30 sailors to row some ships.

Unlike⁸ other ships built at that time, Viking ships could move forward or backward⁹. So, Vikings did not have to waste time turning their boats around. They could attack quickly and make a fast escape.

Vikings built boats in different sizes. Longships¹⁰ were used for fighting wars. They were the fastest ships. Trading ships were shorter and wider, so they could carry more goods.

Today, just as in Viking times, people travel by boat on the fjords and rivers of



A modern boat sails through a fjord in Norway.

Norway. Boats also move passengers and goods in Denmark and Sweden. Many people enjoy sailing their own boats in summer.

- | | | |
|--------------|--------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. plank | <i>n.</i> | 厚板 |
| 2. pin | <i>n.</i> | 连接销 |
| 3. steer | <i>v.</i> | 操纵 |
| 4. shallow | <i>adj.</i> | 浅的 |
| 5. unaware | <i>adv.</i> | 出其不意地 |
| 6. crew | <i>n.</i> | 全体船员 |
| 7. sail | <i>n.</i> | 帆 |
| 8. unlike | <i>prep.</i> | 和……不同 |
| 9. backward | <i>adv.</i> | 向后 |
| 10. longship | <i>n.</i> | (公元 8 世纪至 11 世纪时北欧海盗使用的) 狭长快速战船 |