

Vikings are known around the world for their bloody nature which is only half of their culture. Vikings are the base of norwegian culture. The ulfberht is a viking sword which was thought of being magical, and was feared by anyone who met it in battle. If the vikings weren't around there would be no advancement of inhabitants on greenland and iceland. Most people think that the vikings were always brutal but that is not the case.

The vikings were known for their blood lust but if you look deeper they are more civilized. The vikings were wonderful navigators being able to travel around the world and even able to orient themselves at sea with no compasses but using a solar stone. The solar stone or sun stone is used to find the sun even on overcast days. Vikings also had a fast type of ship called the drakkar.

“The Vikings are known for being cruel warriors and skilful navigators who for centuries (from the 8th to the 11th) regularly set out from their native Scandinavia to explore and plunder other lands. The key to their successful raids was their ships, the speedy drakkar, technically superior to those of their rivals. In addition, they were able to orient themselves on the sea without a compass by using solar stones that allowed them to know where the sun was on overcast days.” The Viking Technology that Conquered the World. (2018, October 29).

Retrieved from

<https://www.bbvaopenmind.com/en/economy/geopolitics/the-viking-technology-that-conquered-the-world/>

The most common ship they used was the drakkar or dragon in old norse, being long and narrow with a length of 35 meters. The overlapping boards of the hull made it flexible, and being able to go in waters that have low water, as long as there's about a metre of water these ships would be able to sail through. With a speed of 16 knots and being able to turn at great speed makes this ship better than most in its day and age.

“Although they also used other types of ships, the most characteristic Viking vessel was the drakkar, “dragon” in Old Norse. Long and narrow—the largest recovered has 35 meters in length—the drakkar allowed them to move in places where there was very little water thanks to a very low draft of barely half a metre, an innovation for the time. Overlapping the boards that made up the ship’s hull, as it was being built, made it very flexible. They were also symmetrical ships, equally long in the bow as in the stern, which facilitated turning at great speed. These were ships made to transport people and to go very fast, which under favourable conditions could reach close to 30km/h (16 knots)” The Viking Technology that Conquered the World. (2018, October 29). Retrieved from <https://www.bbvaopenmind.com/en/economy/geopolitics/the-viking-technology-that-conquered-the-world/>

Someone or a family of a viking village was able to make the ulfberht sword. This sword was famous for its strength and flexibility, along with the technology needed to make

this sword around 800 AD, and only since the industrial revolution could the sword be reproduced similarly like the ulfberht. The sword is still very hard to make with its concentration of no impurities, or a better way of putting it the sword almost has no impurities and today to make the same level of impurities is usually to melt the metal. The vikings were not able to melt metal to the melting point of 3,000 degrees farenheits so the only way to make it without impurities is to hammer it out.

“Around 170 of the swords have been found, all of which date from between 800AD to 1000AD, but the technology that would have forged them is from the Industrial Revolution of the 1800s and 1900s.”

“A television programme has looked into the mystery in more detail called, ‘Secrets of the Viking Sword’. Its researchers say that to forge the iron which the swords are made of, the ore needs to be heated to around 3000 degrees (F).”

“It then liquefies and the impurities are removed. It is then mixed with carbon to strengthen the iron. However medieval technologies, which are what the Vikings would have been using, would not have been able to heat any metal or substance that high a temperature. In those days, the impurities would have been removed by hammering them out of the iron.”

“In contradiction to this, the Ulfberht contains almost no impurities at all and it has thrice the amount of carbon in it than any other metals that are known to have existed at the time. The metal the swords are made of is known as crucible steel.” Mystery Ulfberht Viking sword has archaeologists stumped. (2018, February 21). Retrieved from

<https://www.thevintagenews.com/2018/02/21/ulfberht-viking/>

There technology in fighting, ships, and navigation helped us to form our current way.

The viking religion is very complex. The vikings religion is as every one mainly knows a part of it. Valhalla is the end for vikings if they died in battle. The vikings have more than one god like entity. The vikings had realms within their religion. Niflheim being the realm of mist and ice which is for murderers, nerdewells and people who broke viking code. Midgard being the realm of mortals and was connected by the rainbow bridge to Asgard. Asgard being home to the gods like Odin and Thor along with other realms like Valhalla. Vanaheim is the realm of Vanir, Vanir being a group of Norse gods like Freyja, Freyr, along with there father Njord. Jotunheim being the land of the giants wich troubled the mortals and the gods. Alfheim being the realm of elves. Two races of elves were light and dark, the dark mainly thought to live in Svartalfheim. Svartalfheim being home of what thought to be dwarves but later thought of being the dark elves. Muspelheim being the realm of fire being inhabited with fire giants and by the Giant Surtur. Helheim known as hel and being of the underworld and being ruled over by Hel,

being the daughter of Loki. Helheim was the place where vikings go if they died of natural causes or just easier not in battle.

“Niflheim was the world of the mist, and literally translates as the ‘land of freezing mist’.[...] Midgard was the middle realm, the land of mortals in ancient Norse times. This human filled land was linked to the home of the Gods, Asgard by the rainbow bridge. [...] Asgard in ancient Norse mythology and religion was the home of the Aesir gods, led by the mighty Odin. Asgard itself was home to many realms inside its boundaries including Valhalla and more. [...] Vanaheimr or as it was known in the old Norse times, home of the Vanir, was just that. The Vanir were a Norse group of gods, including Freyja, Freyr, and their father Njord. [...] Jotunheim was the land of the mighty Norse giants, a menace and trouble to the humans and the gods living in the Viking realms. [...] Alfheim was the land of the elves in Norse mythology, with this particular realm being home to one of two groups of elves. Alfheim was home to the light elves, a race that the Norse reported to be pleasing to the eye, and very beautiful. The other group of elves in Norse mythology were the dark elves, they did not live in Alfheim however, but deep in the realm of Svartalfheim.[...] Svartalfheim was known in old Norse mythology to be the home of the dark elves, often referred to as swart elves. The interesting point of uncertainty with Svartalfheim is that many sources list this realm as the home of the dwarves as well. [...] Muspelheim was the realm of fire, the flame to the ice of Niflheim and ruled by the Giant Surtr. [...] Helheim also known as Hel was the underworld of Norse mythology and was home to the being who oversaw this realm also called Hel. Hel was the daughter of Loki, and her realm of Helheim was actually situated in Niflheim. [...] Helheim was the place where Vikings would go should they die from natural causes, or more specifically not in battle.”  
Viking Religion and Beliefs. (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://www.legendsandchronicles.com/ancient-civilizations/the-vikings/viking-religion-and-beliefs/>

The Vikings religious ways made them more prone to wanting to die in battle and less afraid in battles.

The social hierarchy is different than those of other cultures at the time. There were three areas of the viking hierarchy. At the top was the nobles or the jarls and in the middle was the middle class and the bottom was slaves. It was possible to get out of being a slave by buying themselves but could not really progress from there. The middle class could go both ways but rarely towards the nobles since they were rich. After the three main ones it gets more complicated, like in the freemen there could be rich ones and ones which are poor and everything in between.

“In the early Viking Age, no national kings existed. There were three broad social classes: the nobles or jarls, the middle class or karls and the slaves or thralls.”

“While these three classes might have seemed rigid, there were mechanisms for moving both up and down in social status. Medieval freemen might get into debt to the point where he might have to sell himself as a bondsman until he could pay off his debt. A slave might be allowed to sell the handicrafts produced in their free time and buy his or her freedom. He might then become among the medieval freemen, but he probably wouldn't be able to improve his circumstances much from there.”

“Jarls, too, might become strong and rich enough to make himself a king, or they might lose much of what they owned and move down into the ranks of the karls. Jarls were rich, and held their wealth in property, number of followers, treasure, ships and estates. A jarl's retainers or followers expected to be rewarded with good food, drink and clothing as well as with treasure and a share of land. Jarls protected the honor, prosperity and security of their followers. In return, the jarl's retainers were expected to support him, go with him on raids and follow him into battle.” Viking Society: Nobles, Medieval Freemen, Slaves. (2018, May 29). Retrieved from <https://www.historyonthenet.com/viking-society-nobles-medieval-freemen-slaves>

The social hierarchy was much more forgiving than of other cultures which led it into a more strong culture since the slaves could buy themselves out of slavery and almost go to the top, but never really get there which is why it is important.

Their politics led their governing ways to solve problems. Vikings had a special governing system which had courts called "Things" which there were different levels and ways. The Viking had a system where a third party could help solve the problem. The Thing also created laws. The Viking system was not stable at all, but their government did evolve in basically three stages. The first stage is where there was a ruler of every family. The second stage was that there were rulers of areas. The final stage was a democracy which is surprising for their nature of war and bloodshed. Then the king would solve all the problems leading to the thing being less needed.

"This shows that the vikings had an unstable government because within 300 years, all Scandinavian countries switched from a democratic (rule by the people) government to a monarchy (ruled by a few or 1). If all Scandinavian countries government were stable, they all wouldn't change their entire structure within 300 years. The laws were created by "The Thing". According to Uncovering History Everyday Life of the Vikings, "The Thing created laws and acted as a jury to settle crimes." Eventually The Thing lost its political power and the king made all laws and settled all disputes. A stable government would have a constant way of making laws instead of switching. In conclusion, the viking government was unstable."

The vikings best economy was when there was a monarchy in power.

"In the book Uncovering History Everyday Life of the Vikings, it says that The Vikings economy skyrocketed when the Vikings had a monarchy, ultimately leading them to become more civilized and to form separate countries." Viking Politics. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://vikingbosco2.weebly.com/viking-politics.html>

If the vikings had a different way to solve problems they might be more brutal.

The vikings did start out as barbarians but as their economy grew so did the civilization. If the vikings never got civilized we might not have all the navigation techniques they had or even ship making.