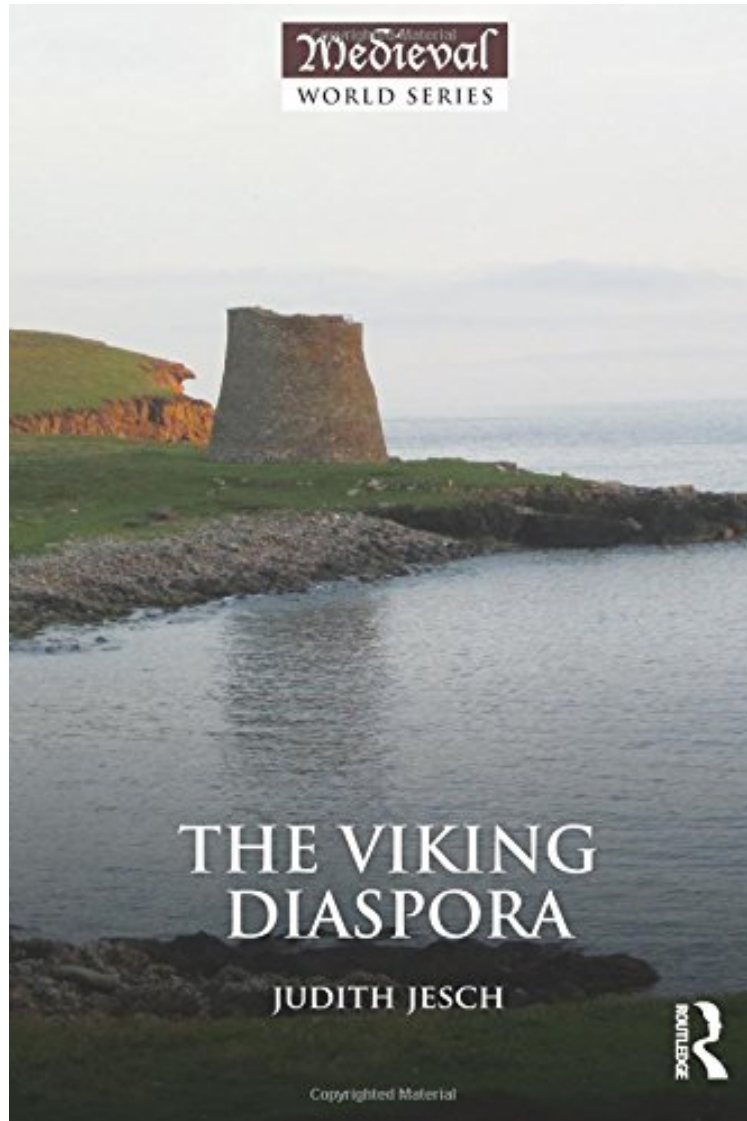


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The Viking Diaspora (The Medieval World)

Judith Jesch

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#1109056 in Books Judith Jesch 2015-06-07 2015-06-08Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.21 x .55 x 6.141, .85 #File Name: 1138020796244 pagesThe Viking Diaspora The Medieval World | File size: 50.Mb

Judith Jesch : The Viking Diaspora (The Medieval World) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Viking Diaspora (The Medieval World):

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. The World the Northmen BuiltBy A. A. NofiA summary of the review on StrategyPage.Com:'Prof. Jesch (Nottingham), who has specialized in the study of the Vikings, gives us an ethnic studies overview of their history, culture, and achievements in what she calls the Viking Age, roughly from AD 750 to 1100. A short introductory chapter discussing who were the Vikings and what evidence is available about them, is followed by five chapters covering broad topics, not organized chronologically: the Vikings and their world from

Greenland to Russia, migrations and movements; familial customs, myths and spiritual life, and Networks and Identities. Within each chapter, Jesch draws up a broad range of evidence, sagas and chronicles, arts and archaeology, linguistics and DNA, and traces of the Viking presence in modern lands. A volume in the Routledge series *Medieval World*, this is very valuable for those interested in a deeper look at Viking history and culture within the framework of Medieval times. For the full review, see StrategyPage.Com

The Viking Diaspora presents the early medieval migrations of people, language and culture from mainland Scandinavia to new homes in the British Isles, the North Atlantic, the Baltic and the East as a form of diaspora. It discusses the ways in which migrants from Russia in the east to Greenland in the west were conscious of being connected not only to the people and traditions of their homelands, but also to other migrants of Scandinavian origin in many other locations. Rather than the movements of armies, this book concentrates on the movements of people and the shared heritage and culture that connected them. This on-going contact throughout half a millennium can be traced in the laws, literatures, material culture and even environment of the various regions of the Viking diaspora. Judith Jesch considers all of these connections, and highlights in detail significant forms of cultural contact including gender, beliefs and identities. Beginning with an overview of Vikings and the Viking Age, the nature of the evidence available, and a full exploration of the concept of diaspora, the book then provides a detailed demonstration of the appropriateness of the term to the world peopled by Scandinavians. This book is the first to explain Scandinavian expansion using this model, and presents the Viking Age in a new and exciting way for students of Vikings and medieval history.

"Many histories have been written of the Viking Age, which saw the explosion of Norse speakers out of Scandinavia, to spread over most of the then-known world (and then some); practically all such histories are cast in precisely the same mould. The concept of diaspora offers an innovative and powerful tool for recasting this story in a new form: laying emphasis on the interconnectedness and long duration of far-flung Norse communities, on their sense of shared (even if mythical) heritage and their sometimes competitive fraternity, it challenges us to see complexity in place of uniformity, hybridity and contingency in place of continuity, and feedback loops in place of linear development. In this book, Judith Jesch, one of the foremost scholars of the Viking Age in our generation, opens the door and invites us in to the diasporic theatre; a virtuoso linguistic, archaeological, epigraphic and literary performance ensues. Readers of this book will emerge with some new answers to old puzzles, but, more importantly, with a slew of entirely new questions on their minds." Oren Falk, Cornell University, USA "Judith Jesch's *The Viking Diaspora* is a fresh look at an significant aspect of the Viking Age. Students and established scholars alike will learn much from this widely-ranging examination of settlement and cultural cohesion. With a narrative that is complimented by case studies of specific topics such as steatite or Valkyries, Jesch takes her readers beyond the popular perception of the Vikings and gives an important assessment of their community." Benjamin Hudson, Pennsylvania State University, USA "An excellent study not just of the Viking diaspora per se, but also of the relevance of this term to the period of Viking expansion and its aftermath. A genuinely interdisciplinary text, it avoids pedestrian historical narrative in favour of an approach that combines natural, artefactual and linguistic evidence to explore themes such as gender and family, religion, networks and identity. A fresh approach to Viking migration, settlement and diaspora." Stephen H. Harrison, University of Glasgow, UK This is an enormously inspiring book and should be recommended as obligatory reading among students of Viking archaeology, Norse language and literature and Viking history. The strength is that it takes a wide variety of evidence seriously and demonstrates how the interweaving as seen through the diasporic lens, presents us with a much more rounded picture than we usually get from overviews of the Viking age as written from the perspective of these different scientific disciplines involved in the field. Karen Schousboe, *Medieval Histories About the Author* Judith Jesch is Professor of Viking Studies at the University of Nottingham. Her previous publications include *Women in the Viking Age* (1991), *Ships and Men in the Late Viking Age. The Vocabulary of Runic Inscriptions and Skaldic Verse* (2001) and *The Scandinavians from the Vendel Period to the Tenth Century: an ethnographic perspective* (2002).