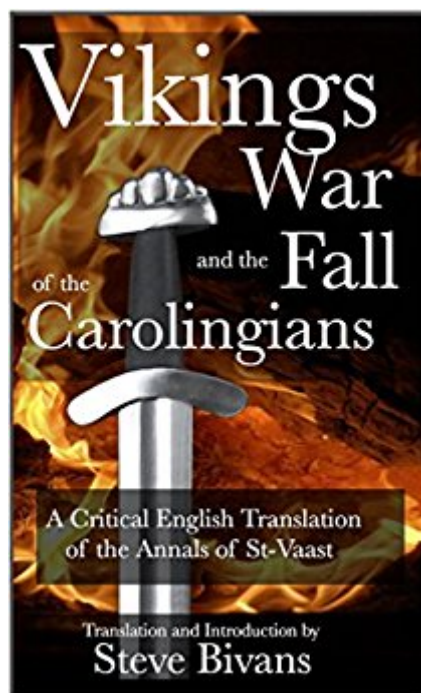




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# Vikings, War, And The Fall Of The Carolingians: A Critical English Translation Of The Annals Of Saint Vaast



## Synopsis

Fan of the Vikings History Channel show? The Last Kingdom? 13th Warrior? Have questions, like: Who were the Vikings? Illiterate, mindless barbarians bent on the destruction of Christendom? Swashbuckling Columboes unaware of the larger world around them? "There's nothing on the other side of the North Sea, Ragnar!" Agents from hell, sent to punish bad Christians? Were they really that violent? Why Attack Europe? Why were they so successful? How many Vikings were there? Were there women Vikings like Lagertha? While the entertainment industry has focused on the Viking wars and raids in Britain, their invasions into Francia have largely been ignored. But a full understanding of the Viking Age must include this part of the story. Thankfully, we have historical documents from the period to give us that story. The Annals of St-Vaast—never before published in English—is one of the key sources for their adventures in the Kingdom of the Franks. Written in the last quarter of the 9th century, they cover the height of Viking invasions on the continent of Europe. The annals are a great companion for anyone interested in the perspective of the Christian world in this turbulent century. What you'll find inside this book: The story of the great Siege of Paris! The destruction of the Carolingian dynasty. Intrigue, murder, treason, rebellion, and feuds between the Frankish Kings, their dukes, counts, and bishops. Medieval Military History!: strategy, tactics, weapons, and logistics. Professional historical analysis of the source. An invitation to a Free Video Course on the Vikings, instructed by the author himself. A sample of the author's upcoming historical-fiction novel, Anno Draconis, based on the Vikings in France, as well as a Free Advanced Copy and an exclusive invitation to the Official Launch Team for the book! If: You're a fan of a movie or TV show looking for answers to questions you have about the Vikings? You're a history geek looking for a new, previously untranslated, unpublished primary source for the Vikings, Francia, Charles the Fat, or the late Carolingian dynasty? Then Vikings, War and the Fall of the Carolingians is the book for you! Be bold, like a Viking, and scroll back up to the top of the page and BUY THIS BOOK! But pack your helmet, sword, and shield, because it's gonna be a rough ride, Ragnar.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Steve Bivans' book "Vikings, War and the End of the Carolingians" is a scholarly translation of a rare thing: an original source on 9th century history. This is the Annal of St. Vaast, kept in the late 800s by monks in a Frankish monastery, and a record of the declining days of the dynasty started by Charlemagne. In a very informative introduction, Bivans sets the stage, introduces some of the major characters, and puts the Annal in historical context. The translation itself is abundantly footnoted, and there's significant value added by the interpolation of identifying information whenever a character is named. So many of Charlemagne's descendants of this era were named Charles that this is extremely useful for the modern reader to keep track of who's who. There are extensive appendices as well. Beyond the bibliography, there are maps, genealogies, a glossary, a list of places mentioned. This is the first translation into English of this original source for medieval history, and while I'm sure it will be useful to other scholars, it is also a painless introduction for the serious student of history who may not be acquainted with all the arguments on various sides of the questions.

It can be easy for Anglophiles to forget that the age of Vikings did not come to an end in 878, when King Alfred the Great's victory over the Danish army at the Battle of Edington compelled the Viking leader Guthrum and his commanders to accept terms of surrender and Christian baptism. But though they withdrew from Alfred's Wessex, the Danes

didn't simply retire to a life of philosophy and furniture design. There would be further trouble both in England and across the English Channel, as well, as the great Viking army now turned its attention to the continent. This book gives lay readers and specialists alike an utterly readable translation of a text unavailable until now in English. This is a scholarly work but is, by its very nature as a translation, an accessible one. For academic medievalists, this text should prove invaluable for enlarging their understanding not only of the history of "the blood-thirsty pirates of Northern Europe," as Bivans refers to the Vikings, but also the dynastic, diplomatic, and spiritual challenges facing late ninth-century France. At the same time, fans of shows like *The Last Kingdom* will enjoy reading about the continuing adventures of the Vikings, who ravage the young Carolingian empire, lay siege to Paris for over a year, and cause no end of military and political turmoil for Frankish monarchs (who rejoice in such names as Charles the Bald, Louis the Stammerer, and Charles the Fat). Such readers may especially appreciate that Bivans, a military historian, pays close attention to battle tactics in both the preface and his generous annotations to the translated text.

Great read!

great

Professor Steve & Storyteller Steve have partnered up to bring the reader a fascinating & marvelously well written historical account of a time period most of us know little about. The book literally transports the reader back in time both experientially and scholarly. As one reads and if one allows, you will find yourself immersed in the story. Steve Bivans expressive style evokes emotion as the "pillagers of the period" invade, do battle, lay siege, occupy, and exploit the weaknesses of the inner-conflict of Leadership at the time. These cunning conquerors stir the emotions of our own inner-warrior and you may find yourself empathizing with their cause while struggling with how you could possibly "feel" that way. You will experience the full gamut of emotions as you walk among the legends of the period immersed in struggle, conflict, and consternation. For sure, Viking lore, but this book is no historical bore, prepare to be captivated, captured, and transported to your seat at the table of this incredible 9th century saga... This book gets a 5 STAR Recommendation!!! As a side note, the supportive material in the appendix alone is well worth whatever price you may eventually pay for this book...Bobby Kountz-

One of the true joys of reading historical accounts and good analysis of such writing is the dramatic themes and conflicts that surpass what one would think reality could provide. In this succinct and excellent translation and commentary on the Annals of St. Vaast, we see Empires fall, hoards invade, sieges, battles, intrigue, betrayal and devastation. The historical events seem to crash over the Carolingian empire and its remnants with such force and frequency that no work of fiction would dare to write such a sequence of events. One can clearly see how some of today's most popular entertainments are paler shadows of the reality of the human dramas that would have been the day to day existence of these people. I highly recommend this work as an exploration of an overlooked period of history. The author's broad knowledge of the period with a clear grasp of the forces, both large and small, at work creates a very accurate and readable translation with excellent analysis.

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