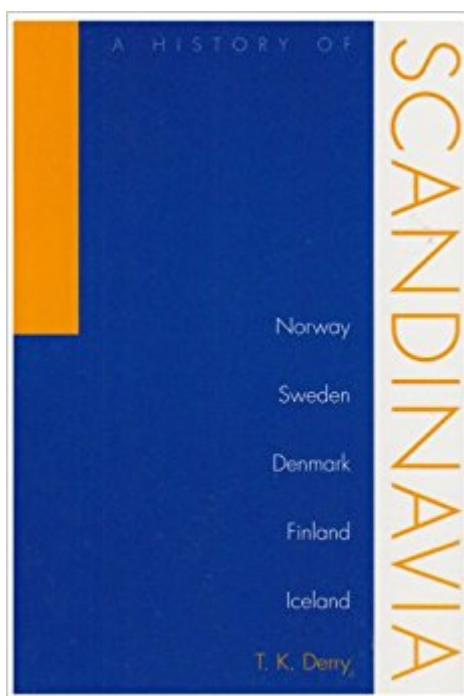


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A History Of Scandinavia: Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, And Iceland



Synopsis

This concise account traces the history of the Scandinavian countries from earliest times to the present, emphasizing common features in their heritage and in their contribution to the modern world. T. K. Derry has a two-fold aim: to describe each country's history, traditions, and way of life and, in addition, to examine the political development of the five nations in the context of the whole Nordic region. He covers the dramatic early history of the region, but his principal focus is upon the 19th and 20th centuries. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Four pages of maps in this book would have made me like it a lot more. But the writing is fairly tedious, with no nice high-level summaries to help you put what is going on in perspective, both relative to the region and its own history, and to what was going on elsewhere in Europe. I gave up after 60 pages or so. There's a lot of information, but it's not telling a compelling story.

This was the main history book I used decades ago when working on a minor in Scandinavian Studies. I have many other books that touch on Scandinavian society but most deal with Anglo Saxon or Viking history. Derry does not go into enough detail for me but it was intended to be an overview. It covers a large time period so it is a decent review. It does cover my favorite woman in history, Margaret I. After the viking era the Northern peoples went into decline. She united Scandinavia in the Kalmar Union. That union would have changed European history if her successors had her talent. The great powers like England and the Hanseatic League exploited

internal cracks to tear it apart. The North again went into decline so it could not defend its neutrality with Napoleon or Hitler.

This well written and researched work provides an excellent introductory overview of Scandinavia and the dynamic sources of people, geography, cultures and resources that molded this unique, multinational land. Reading it while traveling through Scandinavia, it became a rich source of knowledge and insight into the heart and soul of the land, people and cultural values. Like a fine map, SCANDINAVIA provides meaning and direction for the reader to grow and make sense of a rich and fascinating peoples and their journey over the centuries, especially of their similarities and differences. It is a good and helpful read for the beginner or seasoned inquirer seeking to better comprehend the peoples of these northern lands and waters called Scandinavia.

Whoa. Is this book ever dense! Well written; packed with information, some of it minutiae. The anecdotes about the personalities add a lively note. For example, did you know that Marie Antoinette's lover figured prominently in Swedish politics? You will if you read this book. Would have been better had there been more subheads, as it often wasn't easy to discern where the recitation of history of one Scandinavian country left off and another started. It's clear Dr. Derry did his research, and for those looking for a scholarly, well-researched tome, this is it.

I wanted a comprehensive but brief history and this book does it. Covers from ancient history up to WW II. I've learned things about the relationships between the 5 countries which I didn't know and that will make my travel there more interesting. I have read more interesting histories but also some which were boring. This is in between.

This is a very detailed, comprehensive tome, which is fine, but I was disappointed by its failure to step back and give perspective on events.

It was okay, I learned more than I had to start with, the book was realying and hard to get into.

Just finished "The Vikings" and this book is a great sequel. The first chapter's prehistory is particularly well done ... wish I'd read that before "The Vikings." Scandinavia has an amazing history.

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