

# WARFARE IN THE VIKING AGE



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**Scientific American Cruise, July 5-15, 2013**

## 2/Iron-Age Scandinavia

Early Iron Age, c. 500 BC–AD 1:

- body in bog
- votive ship

Roman Iron Age, c. AD 1–400:

- warrior grave
- votive ship
- other votive offering

Migration period, c. 400–600:

- migration out of settled area
- dense concentration of fortresses
- burial mounds
- Svear

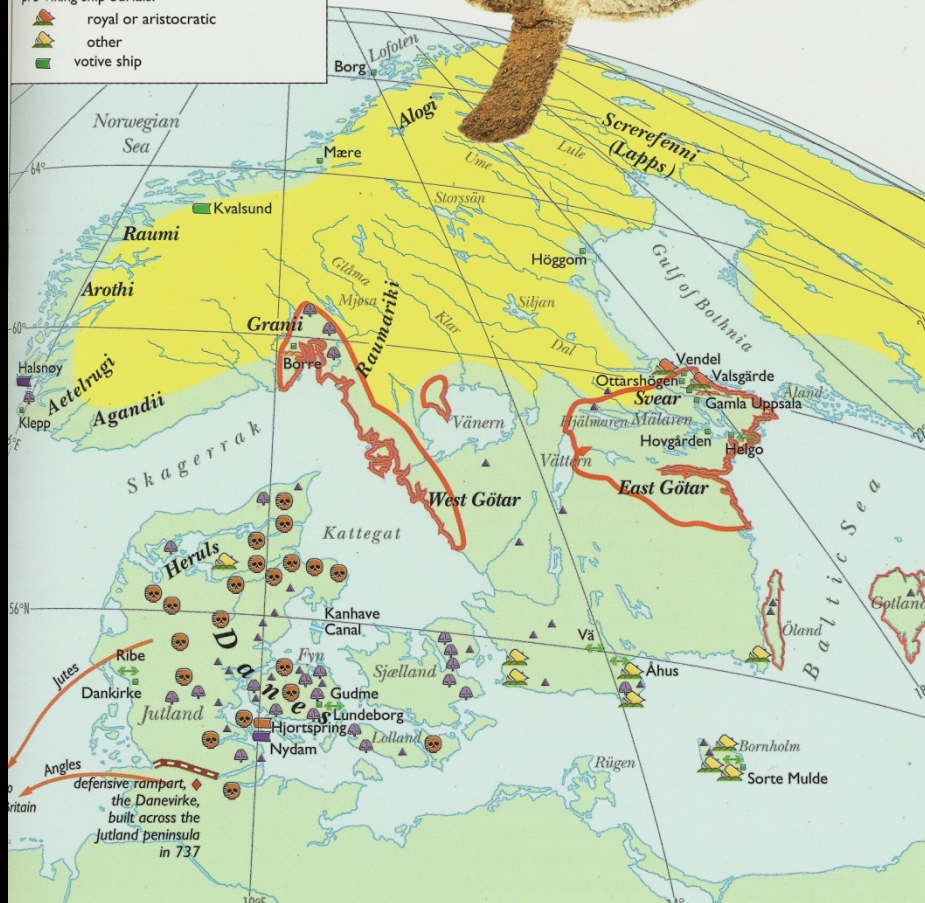
Late Germanic, c. 600–800:

- unsettled area c. 700
- chief's residence and religious centre
- seasonal trading place
- royal defence work

pre-Viking ship burials:

- royal or aristocratic
- other
- votive ship

*This helmet comes from one of the 8th-century ship burials at Vendel in Sweden. The size and magnificence of such burials is evidence that states now existed, ruled by powerful kings who could command people and resources over a wide area.*



**MARTIAL ETHOS 400-700 A.D.**

**SWEDEN**

**Uppsala, Ynglingar Kings**

**Vendel, Royal Burials**

**WEST GAUTAR (GEATS)**

**DENMARK**

**Hleidr (OE Heorot)**

**Skjoldungar Kings**

**Zealand (Sjaelland)**

**BRONZE  
FIGURINES  
VIKING AGE**

**Odin  
Frey  
Thor**



**Odin seated on Hlidskjalf, 900-950 A.D, Lejre Excavations**





**THOR FISHING FOR  
MIDGARD SERPENT**

**Altuna, Sweden,  
1000-1050**

**THOR FISHING FOR  
MIDGARD SERPENT**

**Gosforth, Cumbria, ca. 950**



**WOLF FENRIR  
DEVOURING ODIN,  
ISLE OF MAN**



**LOKI, STONE FURNACE, SNAPTUN, JUTLAND**





## **BERSERKERS**

**HELMET, VAPSGARDE.**

**SWEDEN, ca. 500-600 A.D.**



**Warriors in boar helmets;**

**Plaques, Oland, Sweden**

**STAND AT HLEIDR, HALL OF HROLF KRAKI, ca. 550-575 A.D.**







## VALKYRIES: MODERN VIEWS

Copenhagen, 1908 statue by Stephan Sinding and modern poster



**Valkyrie**  
**Stave Church**  
**Urnes, Norway,**  
**ca. 1250**

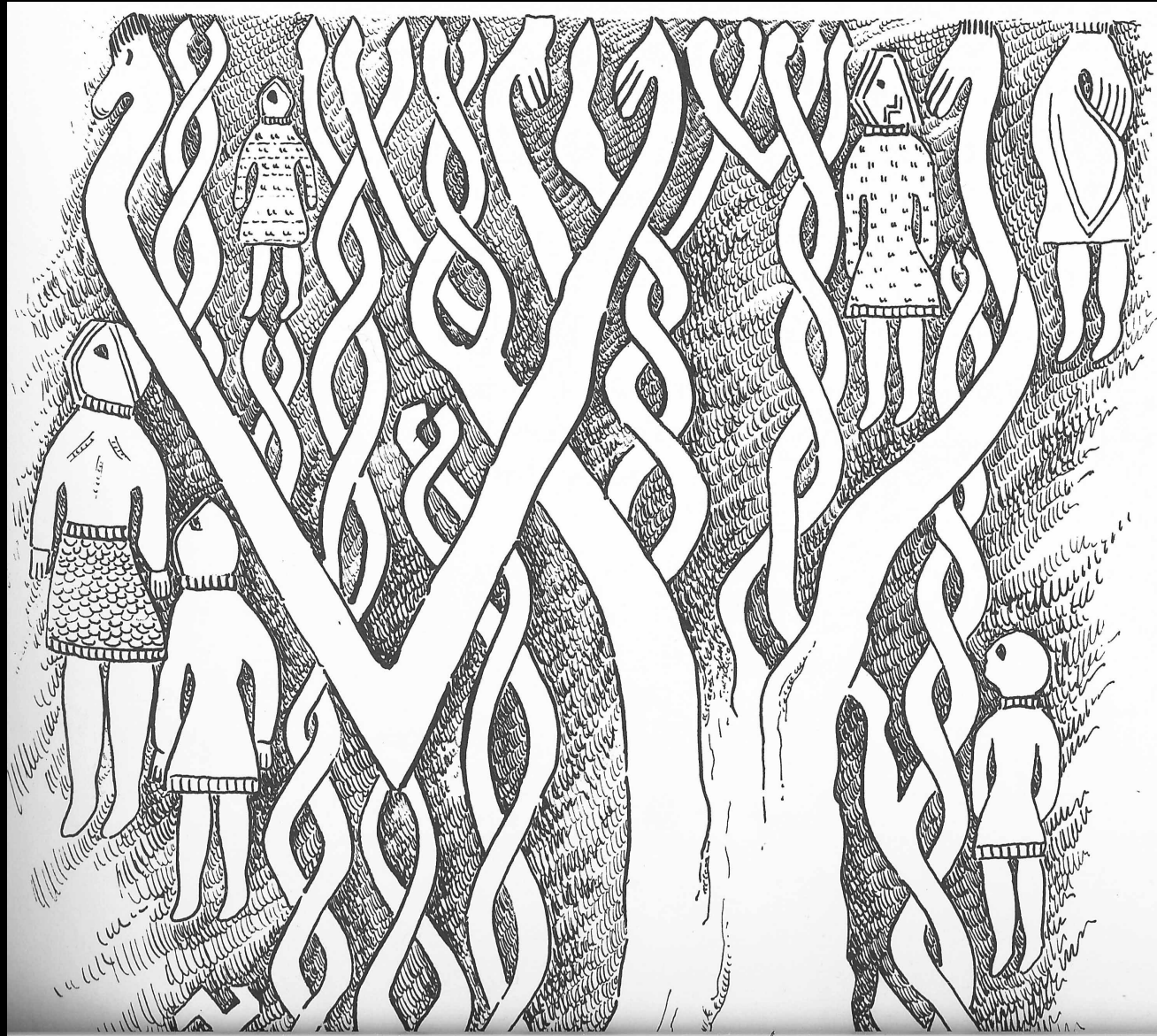




**Gravestone, Gotland, 800-900**  
**Odin on Sleipnir received into**  
**Vahalla by Valkyrie**

**Figurines**  
**Hero &**  
**Valkyries**





**TEXTILE FRAGMENT, OSEBERG SHIP BURIAL, ca. 834 A.D.**

**Human Sacrifice to Odin**



## HIBERNO-NORSE KINGS OF YORK

1. Sigtrygg I of Dublin, 921-927; sword and cross

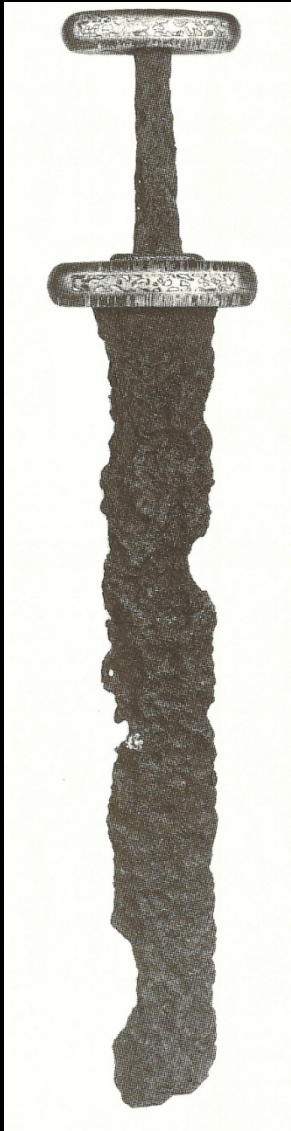


2. Olaf Guthfrithsson, 939-941; raven and cross



3. Olaf Kvaran, 941-943; 948, Viking shields and banner

## SWORDS OF VIKING AGE

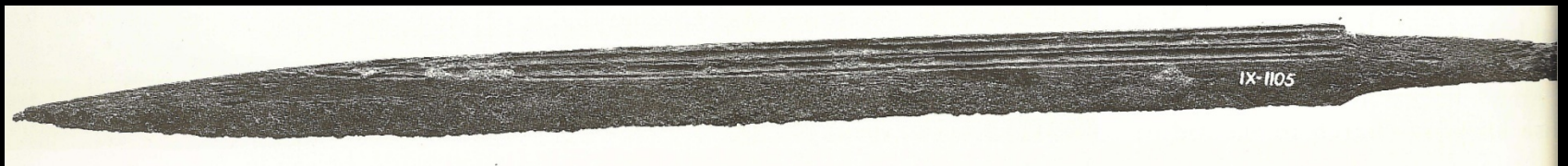


Danish Sword,  
Reading, 871

Snartemo Sword, Hilt,  
ca. 550-600



Scramsax (single hand sword)





**SWORDS, SPEAR HEADS,  
AXES, SHIELD, HELMET**

**NORWAY, ca. 800-950**



**Spear head**



**BOWMEN, Martyrdom of  
Saint Edmund, King of East  
Anglia, 869, by Vikings**

**From Miscellany of Life of  
Saint Edmund, ca. 1150  
Pierpont Morgan Library**



## HELMETS

**Silver Gilt Roman Cavalry  
Helmet of Officer, 325 A.D.**



**Frankish Spangenhelm, 500 A.D.**



Viso Helmet, Denmark, ca. 1500 B.C.

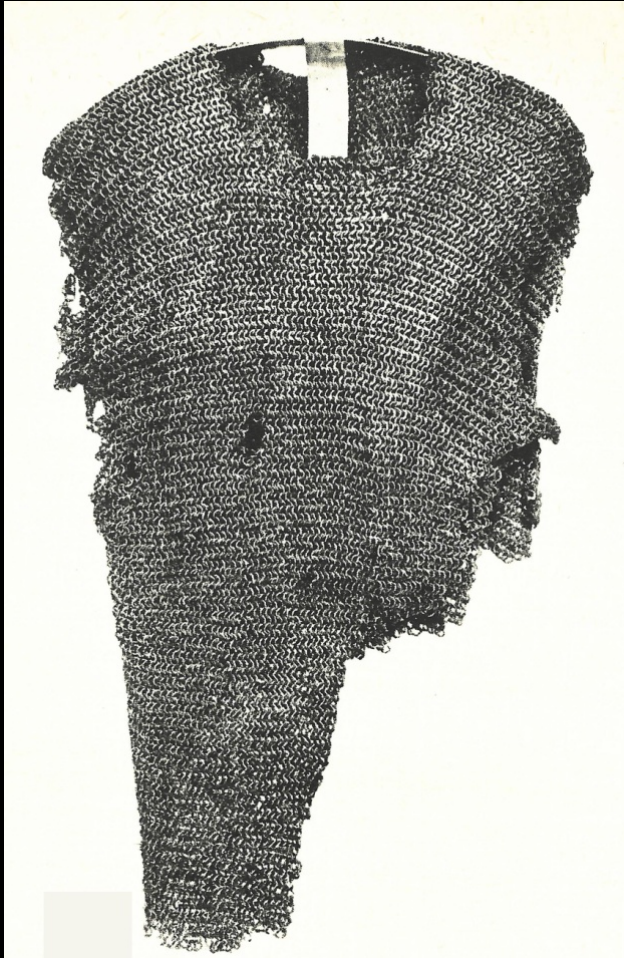


Dannevirke, New Zealand



Hagar the Horrible 2006

## CHAIN MAIL (ON BRYNJA)



Chain mail, Trondelag,  
Norway, ca. 1000-1100

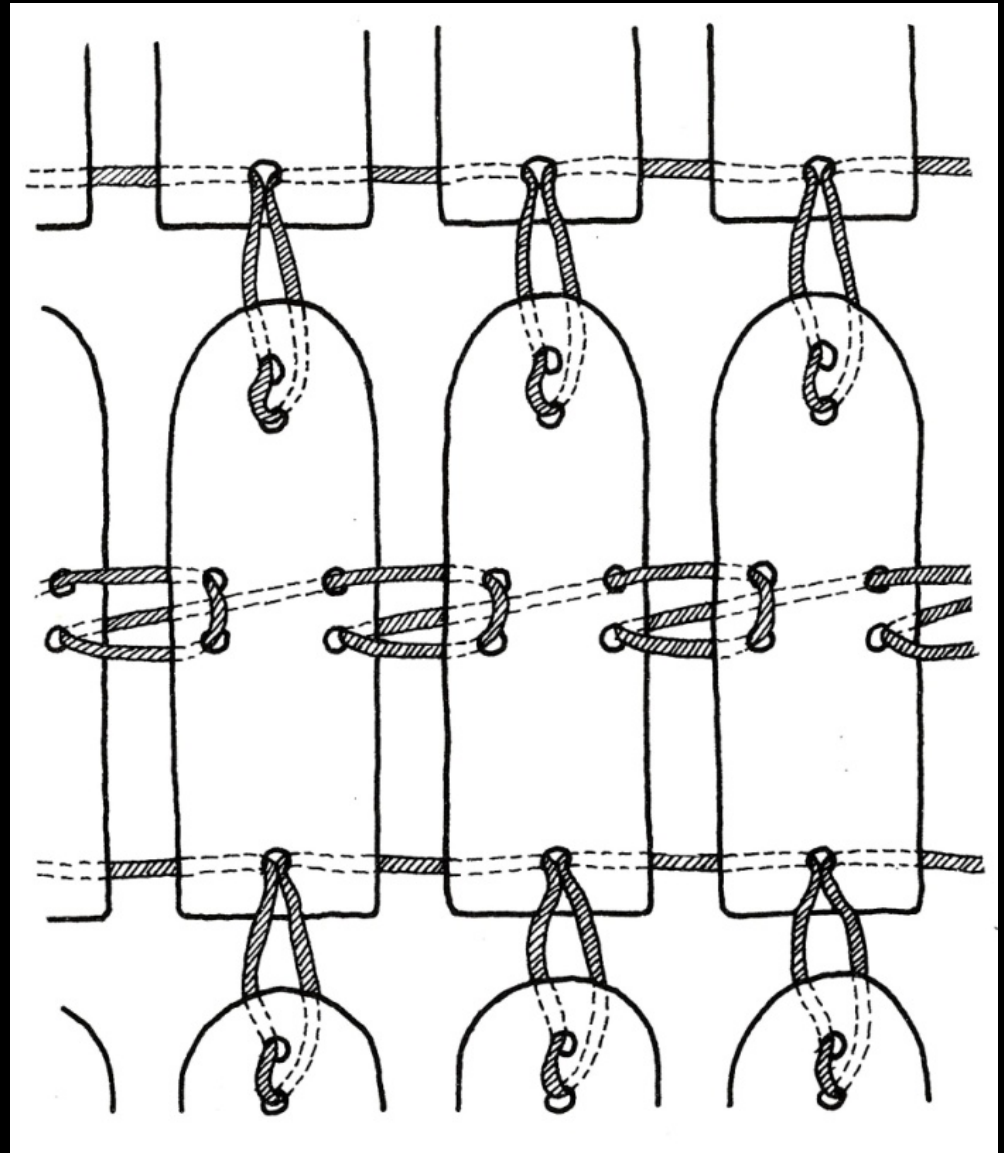


Norwegian "knight," Tapestry, ca. 1250

**Byzantine Warrior  
Saint Theodore, ca.  
1050**



## LAMELLAR ARMOR



**SHIELD: SUTTON HOO, RECONSTRUCTION, ca. 625**





**VARANGIAN GUARDS,  
990-1100 A.D.**

COMBAT, Bayeux Tapestry, Battle of Hastings, 1066



**COMBAT, Bayeux Tapestry, Battle of Hasting, 1066**

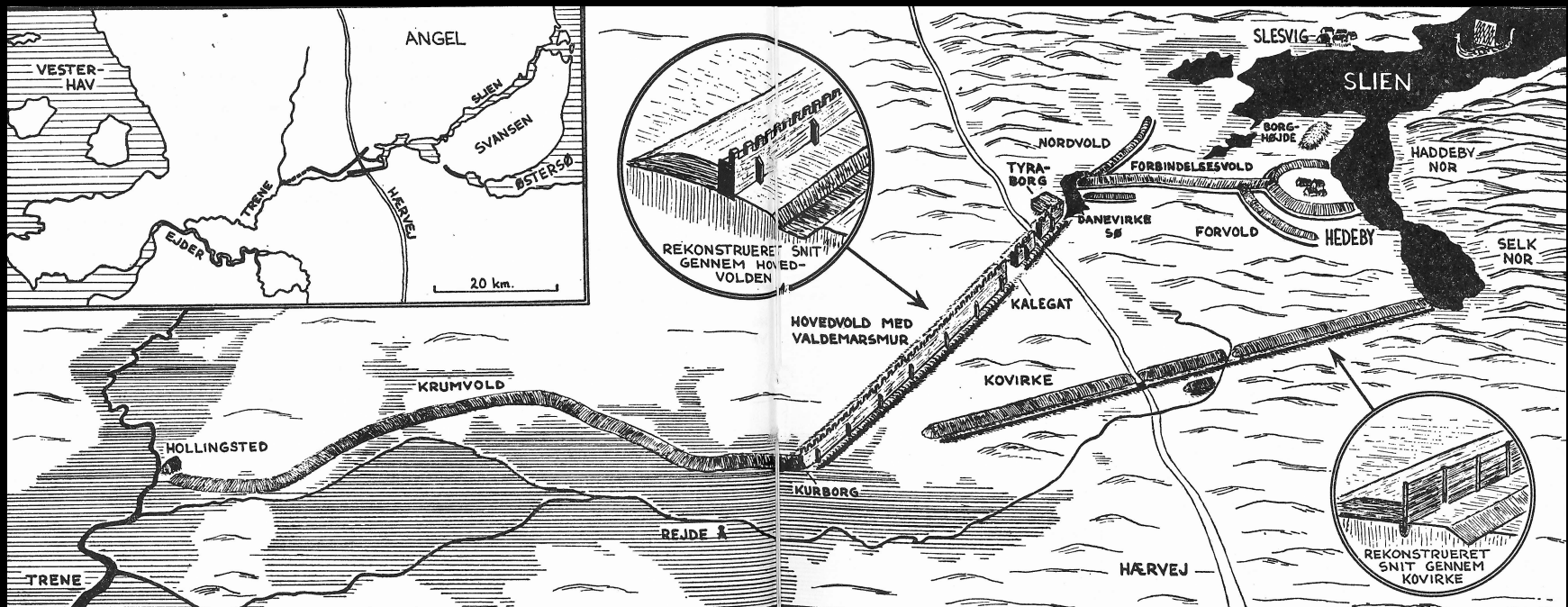




**SHIELD WALL: HISTORY CHANNEL "VIKINGS" (2013)**



# FORTIFICATIONS OF DANEVIRKE, 739-968





**DANEVIRKE, MAIN WALL**

**ca. 980 A.D.**

**View to East (Hedeby)**

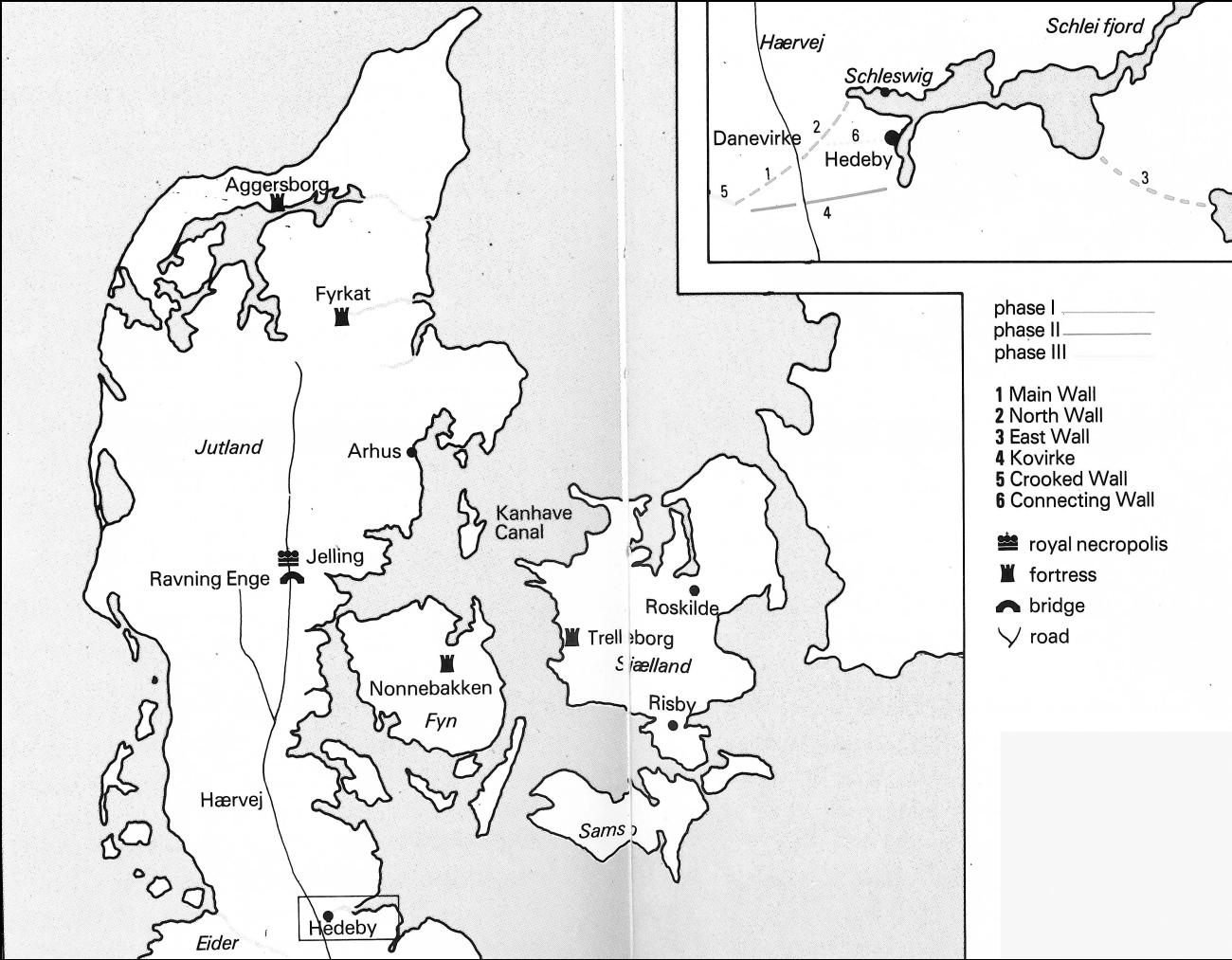
**DANISH MILITARY CAMPS, ca. 980 A.D.**

**Trelleborg**

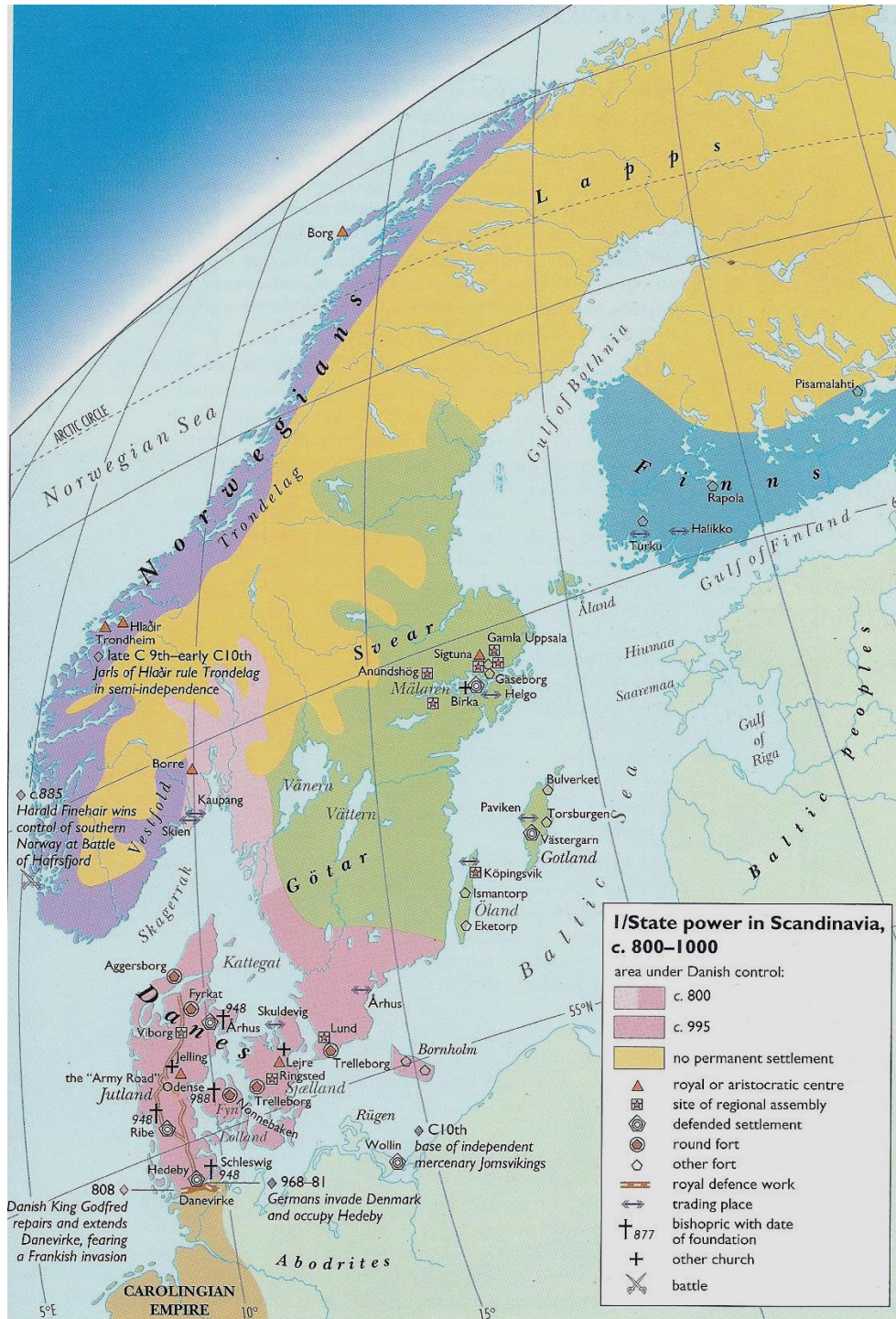
**Fyrkat**

**Aggersborg**

**Nonnebakken**



- phase I \_\_\_\_\_
- phase II \_\_\_\_\_
- phase III \_\_\_\_\_
- 1 Main Wall
- 2 North Wall
- 3 East Wall
- 4 Kovirke
- 5 Crooked Wall
- 6 Connecting Wall
- 👑 royal necropolis
- 🏰 fortress
- 🌉 bridge
- ↘ road

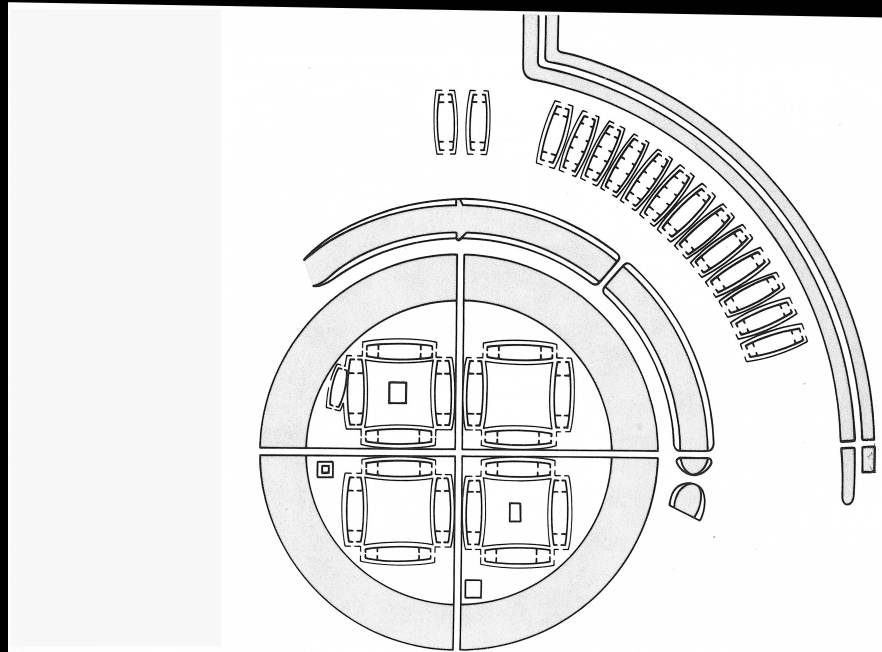


# DANISH KINGDOM

Harald Bluetooth  
(Blatand), 958-986

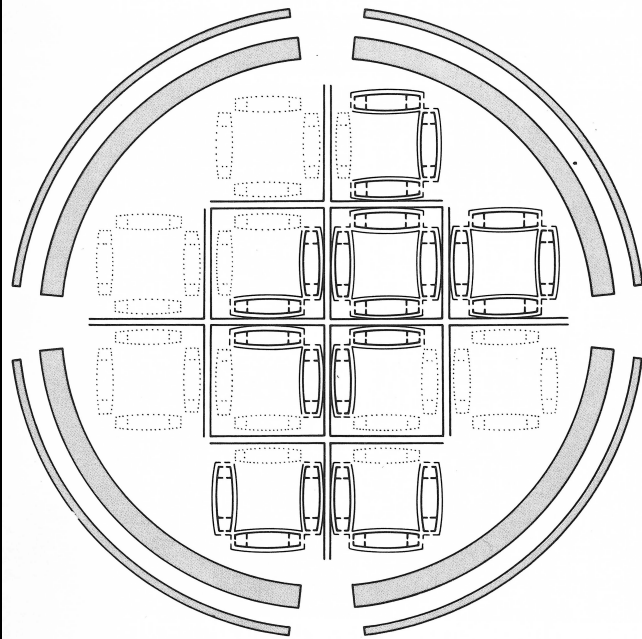


Memorial Runestone  
Harald Bluetooth, Jelling



## VIKING MILITARY CAMP

### Plan of Trelleborg, Sjaelland



### Plan of Aggersborg, Jutland

**Trelleborg, Viking Camp, ca. 980, View from East**





# CAMPAIGNS OF THE GREAT VIKING ARMY, 865-878 A.D.

Great Army under sail, Miscellany of St. Edmund





# ALFRED THE GREAT (878-899) KING OF WESSEX



Statue, 1899  
Winchester  
Hamo  
Thornycroft



Silver Penny  
880 A.D.

