


THE VIKINGS


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PRE EXPANSION


- common language (Norse)
- Germanic gods (Thor, Odin)



- harsh winters = short growing season
- individual farms or small hamlets
- political unification = difficult
 - jarl - regional ruler
 - thing - council




- Longboats
 - originally used for local communication and trade



WHY EXPANSION?

- overpopulation, poverty
- God's punishment (Christian POV)



DIRECTIONS OF EXPANSION



PROCESS OF CONQUEST

- successful small expeditions = larger expeditions
- opposition
 - pillaged and left
- no opposition
 - seized land, recruited more for settlement

IMPORTANCE TO TRADE



WHY DID THEY NOT CREATE AN EMPIRE?

- assimilation with local populations
- conversion to Christianity

