



The epic saga of the Northmen continues in ***Axe of Iron: Confrontation*** by J.A. Hunsinger.

The second book in the **Axe of Iron** series picks up where the first book, ***Axe of Iron: The Settlers***, left us. It is the late summer of 1008, and while the settlement at Halfdansson's fjord is flourishing, the uncounted numbers of indigenous peoples--the Naskapi, Anishinabeg, and Haudenosaunee Indians--have violently resisted the arrival of these pale-skinned invaders.

An ill-fated hunting trip, a blending of cultures, friendship with a tribe of Naskapi, the capture and eventual acceptance of a young boy of the Northmen by his Haudenosaunee captors, and an event that seems destined by the gods, leave the Northmen's fate hanging in the balance.

Can their developing relationship with the native tribes pave the way for the Northmen to survive in Vinland?

As with ***Axe of Iron: The Settlers***, *Hunsinger* uses his wealth of knowledge and years of study to bring the Northmen and their adventures to life. Halfdan Ingolfsson and his second in command, Gudbjartur Einarsson, continue to lead the settlers in Halfdansson's fjord to what they hope is a prosperous life in Vinland.

Readers, who will recognize many of the names and characters from the first novel, are treated to watching these people develop and change as they meet the challenges of their lives in this new place; a place that is filled with hope and danger.

In ***Confrontation***, we begin to see the blending of cultures as Thora of the Northmen marries Deskaheh the Haudenosaunee, who had once been captured by the Northmen, but who is now considered a member of their tribe. While Halfdan and Gudbjartur hope commitments such as these will allow the indigenous tribes and Northmen to better understand each other, they cannot let their guard down for a single moment. Hunsinger captures well, the dangerous situation in which the Northmen find themselves on a daily basis.

The Foreword provides important information for the reader, in addition to sharing a brief synopsis of what happened in *Axe of Iron: The Settlers*. Also

included is a *Glossary of Norse and Native Terminology* to define terms that readers might find unfamiliar.

I found that as soon as I finished ***Confrontation***, I was eager to continue reading the story of the Northmen. Luckily, Hunsinger also includes a short excerpt of the next **Axe of Iron** novel, *Assimilation*, which appears to be just as exciting as the previous two installments.

Readers of historical fiction are sure to be drawn in by this sweeping epic of the Northmen.

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