

Halfdan Ingolfsson and his second-in-command Gudbjartur Einarsson with a group of people from Iceland and Greenland journey to Vinland (North America) to make a better life for themselves. On their journey, they experience hardship and fun times together. The purpose of this expedition is to establish a permanent settlement. They must develop a peaceful relationship with the Skraelings (native people of North America). This is paramount to their survival.

You can tell that Hunsinger put a lot of time and effort into his research. Hunsinger explains the daily lives of the Northmen in great detail. As you read this book, you get the feel that you are actually there. You can see, hear, and feel what the Northmen had to endure to survive. I am just glad that I don't have to do all they did just to have food.

When you think of Northmen or Vikings, you think of the stereotypical ones who rape and pillage. (Well at least I do.) This book gives you a different perspective on what Vikings are, just typical people who care about their family and friends. These Northmen just want to explore Vinland and live peacefully in their new land.

The characters are well written and believable. I enjoyed the characters interactions with each other.

Axe of Iron: The Settlers is an accurate glimpse into the lives of the Northmen. You get to see how brutal and savage and how ordinary and gentle the Northmen were. It is about a time period that one does not normally read about. Overall, I found this book to be a fantastic read. I give it **4.5 Stars**. I look forward to the other books in this continuing saga. I can't wait to see what happens to this group of first settlers in North America.

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March 2009