

Title:

Viking Trekkies

Word Count:

1199

Summary:

They say history repeats itself. Here's an example of it doing so in the 23rd century world of

Keywords:

Viking history, Vikings, Nordic history, Star Trek, Klingons, Ferengi, Borg, Varangian, Norman

Article Body:

History weaves its influence into pop culture via many avenues ... One of the strangest is the

Ever since that series found the airwaves, I've often wondered if one or more of its writers w

I've always been interested in the influence that the Viking era had on western civilization,

1. Vikings created the first governing legislature of 'common' citizens in history, calling th
2. Viking law was the first in Europe, at least, to conduct trials with a jury of the accused'
3. It was virtually 500 years before any other culture would design a ship that could travel a
4. Four of the seven days of the week --- in the English language --- are named after Viking g
 - a. Tuesday, for Tyr - the god of truth,
 - b. Wednesday, for Odin - the 'Allfather' of Viking gods,
 - c. Thursday, for Thor - the 'thunder' god, and
 - d. Friday, for Frigg - Odin's first wife.

(Some scholars argue the latter is named for Frey, the god of fertility, but I'll stick with t

5. William the Conqueror was a Viking descendant; enough said. Vikings dominated England for 3

Elsewhere, the Slavic peoples' name for Vikings was 'Rus,' meaning 'rowing men.' Viking domina

Still, it's mildly surprising to see the Viking stamp on one of the most popular science ficti

Take the Klingons. Until they became uneasy allies of the Federation, they were the scourge of

Those guys were holdovers from the original Star Trek series and the Next Generation writers d

One was the Ferengi. The casual Trekkie might think them to be inspired by Shakespeare's stere

The last of the great Vikings, Harald Hardraada --- who also reigned as a great Norwegian king

Even the name is Nordic. 'Borg' (actually pronounced 'bor-ee' in Old Norse) is the Viking word

Vikings fought as a collective. In one famous instance, during one of those annual sieges of F

Vikings were known for assimilation, too. However, theirs was the opposite of the Borg. Viking

During the Viking era, almost every mass prayer in a European church was prefaced by 'Deliver

That's clearly more than the Trek's writers could say. They couldn't and didn't resist taking

And they did it without a script.

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