

Review on the Netflix Series „Vikings“

„Vikings“ depicts and tells the tale of a raw, honest, martial, amoral, natural life in the scandinavian fjords a thousand years ago. The Vikings ventured out on boats, ransacked England, amongst others, and are a european icon of an indiginous noble and savage way of nordic life.

Viewing this american series from my european point of view became a disturbing experience as two déjà-vus, or facts, instated themselves adamantly.

One was the stuning resemblance of the depicted vikings' social and moral codes with the ones Nazi Germany had pushed and two was the resemblance of the vikings' mindset, gear and dress with the rioters who stormed the capitol building in Washington USA, on January 6. 2021. One might remember the mascot character of that movement, the so called „QAnon-shaman“, barechested, with a fur on his shoulders and horns on his head, the face painted in the colors of fraternity, equality and liberty. He must have watched „Vikings“.

Ascribing such disturbing parallels to a mainstream series obliges me to take on responsibility and elaborate and detail on the series' imagery, characters and message. The series often shows its protagonists in proactive battles, blood soaked and fearless. In comparison to their christian counterparts, they are not corrupt and solve all struggles, domestic and foreign, with martial rule. Their all-white community is geographically isolated and cultivates the purification of their own genetics, lore and attitudes in every day life. Polygamy, hunting, fishing, farming and heroically ransacking are, according to the series, the key features of the viking way of life.

Being a commercial product, the series was surely based on an analysis of the needs and dreams of its future viewers. Therefore, the stated features of viking life are exactly what Netflix viewers, not only american, miss and crave for in their lives and time. The utopia of a racially pure sphere, where people all look alike, are healthy and simple, hardened by nature and their own social darwinism, proud and free from church and state, hits the nerv of our time.

I therefore recommend the Netflix series „Vikings“ for educational purposes, as an example of a production which in all its aspects, historical, ethical and cineastic, caters to the bloodthirst of a anemic couch potato public, fantasizing about assuming power and addressing today's gordian knots with a sword.

Serge Pinkus

Zurich, March 11.2021