

Viking ships attacked the coast of Aquitaine in **799** but were repelled.
Vikings were predominantly Danish and some Norwegians living in Ireland.

Viking raids: Movement of people from Jutland.

Surprise raids

Surprise, speed and offence.

The raiders took away metals and slaves for sale and captives for ransom.

Attacks on England, the Low Countries (Frisia), France, Spain the Balearic Islands, Morocco and Italy.

834 raiders came into Frisia – Dorestad, a trading centre,
and the Loire valley – Noirmoutier island, a centre of salt trade = an island base for
raids up the Loire valley.

(Charlemagne's son Louis the Pious was captivated by his sons at Soissons. It was
suggested that Louis's son Lothair invited the Danish attack on Frisia in 834)

From 834 to 850, during the raiding season from spring to autumn, Vikings attacked
northern Francia, along the Loire (Nantes, Angers) and Seine Rivers (Chartres, Paris)
and the coast of Aquitaine.

Co-ordinated raids

The Vikings conduct campaigns, besiege towns, realise profit from tribute.

Secured their longship on shore and used horses for transport.

From 850 to 875, Vikings wintered in the river systems of Western Francia.

From 879 to 892, intense periods of Viking onslaught against continental western
Europe.

Calais, Ghent, Tournai, Reims.

Courtrai, Arras, Cambrai, Peronne

Rhine – Cologne, Bonn, Koblenz

Defence

Offensive and defensive military arm.

Defence of the realm did not exist; defence was organized locally.

Fortified bridges

Danegeld – hold an entire community for ransom. Danegeld bought time (profit to the
king)

Augustus – title

Charlemagne knows that the title is a recognition of his power, while Charles the Bald
thinks that titles confer power.

900

When they came again in about 900, it was to settle.

Harald Bluetooth – Jelling stone, Jutland

The Greater Scandinavia of **Cnut the Great** (c.985 - 1035)

king of all England 1016

king of Denmark 1019

king of Norway 1028

king of part of Sweden,

lord of Orkney and Shetland

overlord of the kings of Scotland and Dublin

English with Scandinavian influence:

Happy, ugly, call, fellow, loose, ill, law, Thursday

Conversion to Christianity

It took only two to three generation to change from the Hammer of Thor to the Cross of Christ.

Source: The Vikings in History – Donald Logan