

DOWNLOAD PDF CULTURAL WEAPONS, SCOTLAND AND SURVIVAL IN A NEW EUROPE

Chapter 1 : Cultural Weapons: Scotland and the New Europe (Determinations) on OnBuy

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Highland Weapons Here we discuss most of the early Scottish weapons referred to in contemporary literature. Some of the names are in old Scots or English and further research is underway to identify them. These were in use in Scotland up until the end of the 17th century and were used for hunting and in battles. Bowis is the old spelling of bows and dorlochis means quivers. Also called jack, it looked a bit like a modern flak jacket and was lined with metal plates. Any lead ball that penetrated it would be flattened like a dum dum bullet and was less likely to cause critical injury. From the mid 16th century, basket hilt swords were in common use in Scotland. The idea of a basket to protect the hand first came to England and then Scotland from Scandinavian and German sword makers. By the mid 17th century, ribbon baskets were being made in large quantities and by the turn of the 18th century, the Highland basket was reaching its full pattern. With the addition of the final rear wrist guard at the time of Culloden, it had fully matured. All basket hilt swords after were of military pattern. These were essential weapons for the Highlanders and the favourite fighting method was with a broadsword in one hand and a targe shield on the other arm. The Ancient Scottish Weapons had this to say: The broadsword first appears in formal record in Scotland in , when, along with the Lochaber axe and the Jedburgh staff, it constitutes part of the equipment of the levies then called out by the Convention of Estates, From to a "ribbit gaird" often appears as the " essay" of the armourers of Edinburgh, but in it was changed to " ane mounted sword, with a new scabbard and an Highland guard. Nothing is certainly known of the swordsmith originally using the designation of Andrea Ferara, beyond the excellence of the blades that bear his mark by right. He is said to have been an Italian armourer of the last quarter of the sixteenth century, and to have also established an armoury in Spain. But this is probably a mere inference, from the fact that the cognomen of the artificer is by some supposed to have been derived from the town of Ferrara in Italy, and by others from the town of Feraria in the north of Spain. It may be of some significance that the name of Ferreira is still common in Spain, and that, while Ferara sword-blades are almost unknown in Italy, the largest and finest collection of them in existence is to be found in the Royal Arsenal at Madrid. The name " Andrea Ferara em Lisboa " occurs on a sword in the possession of Brodie of Brodie and there is a sword stamped with the words " O. The date usually attributed to the original Andrea is too early for the majority of the sword-blades bearing the designation, and the probability is, that the " Ferara " blade was manufactured by various armourers in different places to supply the demand created, in the first instance, by their superior excellence. Picro Ferara, Cosmo Ferara, and Giovanni Fuerara, are signatures occasionally found on sword-blades, and it is quite in accordance with what is known, in other cases, that the original name Andrea should have been continued through several generations of armourers after it had become famous. This is the old plural for culverin which was a piece of artillery that had the same calibre and fired the same size shot as cannons but was a quarter to a third longer than a cannon. The rate of fire of such guns was very slow, possibly about 10 shots an hour and the gunnery was frequently inaccurate. The weight of the shot - iron or even stone balls - was just under 7 kgs and the weight of the powder needed to propel it was just over 8 kgs. Each cannon needed a team of horses and men to get it into position and operate it and the culverin needed eight horses and up to 50 men. The more affluent Highlanders would keep the dirk in a sheath often with one or more smaller knives or a knife and fork held by smaller sheathes. After the uprising, many broadswords were cut down and made into dirks. The Highland Dirk is distinguished from all other weapons of the same kind by its long triangular blade, single-edged and thick-barked; and by its peculiar handle, cylindrical, without a guard, but shouldered at the junction with the blade, the grip swelling in the middle, and the pommel circular and flat-topped. The fashion of carrying a knife and fork in the side sheaths is at least as old as the time of Charles

I. Mr Boutell instances "a beautiful dagger, now the property of Mr Kerstake, that appears to have been worn by King Charles I. In the previous century Blind Harry refers to the custom of carrying a Scots Whittle under the belt. Describing the meeting of Wallace with the son of the English Constable of Dundee, he makes the Englishman address him thus: This oath they take upon a drawn dagger, which they kiss in a solemn manner, and the penalty declared to be due to the breach of the said oath is to be stabbed with the same dagger; this manner of swearing is much in practice on all other occasions to bind themselves to one another. It was a direct descendant of the old Gallowglass two-handed, 12 inch bladed axe and was particularly effective against horsemen since the foot soldier could cut and thrust with it. The Ancient Scottish Weapons had this to say on axes: The Axe is one of the earliest of weapons. The war-axe of iron, in its earlier forms, differed in no respect from the same implement used as a tool. The earliest form of the weapon-tool is a common axe-head longer and narrower in the shank than those now in use. Such axes are depicted as weapons in the Bayeux tapestry. War-axes of a later time were furnished with prolongations in the line of the shaft and hammers or spikes on the hack of the blade. The Jedburgh Staff was a long-handled axe with a curved or crescentic blade, with or without a back-spike. The Lochaber Axe had an elongated blade usually rounded at the upper end, and the staff was furnished with a hook on the end. The axe and "broggit staff" appeared in as the equipment of those who were not archers. In the weaponshaws of halberts appear along with two-handed swords. The Lochaber Axe and the Jeddard Staff appear in in company with the broadsword. In it was appointed that seventy-two men in each regiment should carry halberds, and in Lord Lorne requests a supply of partisans, from the store at Aberdeen, for the equipment of his regiment of Life Guards. Pistol - dag pr: Scottish flintlock pistols were unique in that they were all steel and they were very popular weapons with the Highlanders. Many drawings of Highlanders show a couple of pistols tucked into their belt and a powder horn hanging round their neck. They also carried a leather pouch which contained the lead shot. With the old pistols you could only fire one shot and then the gun had to be reloaded. Their reasons for throwing them away rather than tucking them back in their belts were very practical - if they won the battle they could always come back and find them. If they lost the battle, they could run away a lot quicker without being weighed down by them. Highland Pistols are wholly formed of metal, usually of steel, sometimes of brass, and occasionally in part of both these metals. Like most other portions of the Highland equipment they are always remarkable for the excellence of their manufacture and the beauty of their decoration. Logan states that the manufacture of pistols was commenced at Doune about by Thomas Guide who had learned his trade at Muthil. One of his apprentices, John Campbell, also became a famous maker. John Murdoch succeeded him. Bissett occurs frequently on Highland pistols in the Tower Armoury. A less known maker is Jo. A brace of his pistols are in the collection of Sir J. Speris of sex elnis land. Spears of six elns long. Eln was another name for the old measurement an ell. An English ell was 45" long 1. Powder horns from the Ancient Scottish Weapons The Highland Powder Horn is distinguished from all others by its peculiarities of form and ornament. The estimation in which these highly decorated objects of home manufacture, - the designing and engraving of which was wholly of individual effort - may be inferred from the mottoes they bear, if not from the careful work and original character of the designs. The famous two-handed sword, the Claymore, claidheamohmor - great sword first made its appearance around and was developed by the Hebridean Gallowglass warriors. This early Highland version measured between 53 and 60 inches overall. About 90 years later came a new version with a slightly shorter blade of between 51 and 57 inches. This was developed by the Redshanke mercenaries who fought throughout Europe, but by then, musket power was becoming the new weapon of war. The overall length of the Lowland two-handed sword was between 53 and a massive 75 inches. The Life of a Long Sword: Solingen blades were very expensive but a blade of such quality could last years. After its arrival in Scotland, the blade would be given to one of the many sword cutlers of The Isles and assembled with a Scottish made hilt to the old specification. After its use as a long sword, probably by about the mid 17th century, it would have been ground down and fitted with a basket. When its life as a broad sword was over it would have been further modified and would probably have ended up as a dirk. The blade lengths would have been as follows:

Long sword - 40 inches. Broad sword - 32". Dirk - 17" From the Ancient Scottish Weapons: The great two-handed swords of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, also appear to have been popular in the Highlands and it is these swords, and not the basket-hilted broadswords, that are the true Highland swords to which the poetical name of claymore may be fitly applied. Gordon of Rothiemay refers to them in the middle of the seventeenth century, as still used by some of the Highlanders of Aberdeenshire, while others used the broadsword. The pictures of the Campbells of Glenurchy in the " Black Book of Taymouth," drawn about the end of the sixteenth or beginning of the seventeenth century, represent them and their followers with two-handed swords. They all have straight guards except the two which the artist has placed in the hands of the first Colin of Glenurchy and the first Earl of Argyle, which have the guards curved towards the point. The two-handed sword first appears in the weapon-shaws of the first-half of the sixteenth century. Black in name and black in purpose, the sghian dubh pr: Four to six inches in length, this close-quarter knife was for use when no other weapons were to hand and it is believed that it became more commonly used in the late 18th century between and when the Hanoverian Government banned weapons throughout Scotland. If a Highlander felt in danger in the company he was in, he would sit with his arms folded with one hand on the sghian dubh so that he could pull it out in a flash Dubh is the Gaelic for black and traditionally the handle and scabbard were made from dark coloured woods and leather. In the 19th century when the wearing of the sghian dubh became more decorative and less functional, the hilt for daytime would be made from stag horn and the one worn in the evening from ebony and decorated with jewels. Muskets though exhibiting less of the peculiar decoration of the dirk, the powder-horn, and the pistol, are nevertheless distinguished by their ornate character. They are fewer in number because they were more costly weapons, and their use was confined to the comparatively wealthy. The inventories of the Houses of Balloch and Finlarig show that they were made in Dundee, and that their ornamentation consisted of engraved work and inlaid work in bone and mother-of-pearl. The details of the ornamentation of the three specimens figured on Plate XXX. The inscription on the barrel of one shows that it was made in Germany to the order of John Grant, Sheriff of Inverness, but the date, , is much too early for the piece as it now exists. It is constructed of two layers of some light wood, often of fir, the grain of the one layer crossing that of the other angularly, and the pieces dowed together. Over the wood, a covering of leather is lightly stretched for the front of the target, and a piece of hide, often of calf-skin, with a stuffing for the back. A handle, sometimes of leather or iron and an arm-strap were fixed at the back, near the opposite sides of the circumference of the target. Occasionally there were two arm-straps and sometimes instead of arm-straps, a sleeve of leather was fastened to the back of the target.

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Chapter 2 : From murder capital of Europe to role model for London - BBC News

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Share1 Shares Scotland is one of the few places that always provides us with great archaeological discoveries. Christian Bickel In , chess pieces were discovered in a sand dune on the Isle of Lewis. They were carved from walrus ivory and whale teeth into small statues depicting royalty , bishops, mounted knights, warders, and pawns. Beautifully detailed and measuring 6â€”10 centimeters 2â€”4 in in height, the four distinct chess sets were incomplete but had 93 game pieces in all. Even today, nobody knows where they came from or who made them. The figures appear to have been heavily influenced by Norse mythology. The age of the artifacts dates from the late 12th and early 13th centuries, a time when Norway owned the beach where they were found. Despite being over eight centuries old, the condition of these chess sets is pristine, almost like they were never used. Christine Westerback Originally, it was believed that Wigtownshire in southern Scotland was first inhabited by people who founded a church there in AD However, in , archaeologists were excavating a single crannog an ancient loch home when they discovered the only known loch village in Scotland. This incredibly well-preserved Iron Age settlement has at least seven roundhouses dating to the fifth century BC. So by the time the church was built in AD , this village was already a sophisticated farming community thriving around a small loch. The loch no longer exists, but the village remains in good condition, including some of the timber structures. In one of the most unexpected finds, the roundhouses were constructed directly over the fen peat without artificial foundations. The site is the only one of its kind in Scotland, and it changes the traditional history of the southern part of the country. Even so, researchers have only established that the carvings represent a lost language of the tribes that once occupied eastern and northern Scotland. Tarbert When a gamekeeper released pigs on the Isle of Islay, he expected the porkers to graze on bracken. Instead, the animals made a discovery that changed the known history of the island. While rooting about, the pigs unearthed the tools of a hunter-gatherer society on the east coast that turned out to be the earliest evidence of human habitation. Archaeologists were amazed by the discovery. The artifacts included animal remains, crystal quartz tools, spatula-type objects, other hunting tools, and a fireplace. But the wow factor came when these artifacts were found to be around 12, years old, placing people on the Isle of Islay nearly 3, years earlier than originally believed. Upon closer inspection of the workmanship of the artifacts, researchers believe that the owners originally came from central Europe, specifically from the Ahrensburgian and Hamburgian cultures. During that time, Britain was connected to Europe, which would have enabled these reindeer hunters to come to the Isle of Islay. During a survey project recording new archaeological sites, the unusual alignment was first spotted from the air at Warren Field near Crathes Castle. The ancient calendar most likely aided Mesolithic hunter-gatherers in tracking time and following the seasons more accurately. Incredibly, the time-telling field was created almost 5, years before the first calendars appeared in the Near East. Approximately 10, years old, the pits are arrayed in an uneven curve and may each have held a wooden post at one time. This unique calendar may also be one of the first steps that humans took toward formally attempting to understand the concept and passage of time. Johnbod In , a schoolboy named Douglas Coultts made an extraordinary find. The most credible theory suggests that an aristocratic family gathered these heirlooms over several generations. Beautifully decorated, the 28 pieces include quality jewelry, bowls, cutlery, and ornamental pieces that may have been removed from weaponry most likely swords. The only object that seems out of place in the collection is the partial jawbone of a porpoise. Some researchers believe that the items were buried around AD â€” for safekeeping, a time period that coincides with the first Viking raids on Scotland. So far, the collection is the only example of such superb metalcraft to survive from that era. When this wooden figure of a young woman was discovered by builders working near Loch Leven, it became the most ancient human figure ever found in Scotland. Carved from alderwood, the nude figure was determined to be over 2,

years old. Her location lends some weight to the latter theory. During her heyday in Ballachulish, she probably stood on a raised beach as suggested by the pebbles stuck in the lower part of the carving. As her quartzite eyes gazed over the dangerous straits linking the sea and Loch Leven, the sight of such a protective deity may have given hope to ancient travelers. When found in , the fateful choice to dry out the waterlogged artifact caused it to warp, break, and lose much of its detail. Prehistoric wooden figures exist in other countries such as Britain and Ireland, but the Ballachulish figure remains unique to Scotland. In , a 12th-century copy came to the attention of Dr. The Boethius manuscript also has unique, elaborate illustrations that closely resemble those of the finely decorated Kelso Charter, a work of the monks at Kelso Abbey from This means that the Boethius copy in Glasgow is now the oldest surviving nonbiblical manuscript from Scotland. Historically, this discovery has immense value because it points to a lost literary culture that once flourished in the country centuries earlier than previously believed. Skara Brae is so well-preserved that it appears to be frozen in time. Occupied for about six centuries, the village consists of about 10 houses connected by alleyways and sheltered passages that made neighborly visits easy, even in winter. Stone was used for nearly everything, from constructing insulated walls to beds, shelves, and even sophisticated tools. But Skara Brae is a place of mystery. One of the houses is different from the rest. According to one theory, this building was the village workshop. The only other decorated house in the village is the strangest one. But the Scottish ruins are 2, years older. Around BC, the ancient Orkney inhabitants used thousands of tons of sandstone to build a site that was a masterpiece of workmanship and grandeur. Among the many structures was one of the greatest roofed buildings of prehistoric northern Europe, running over 25 meters 80 ft long and 20 meters 60 ft wide. The ruins also yielded pieces of Neolithic art, the largest collection in the UK as of late In the same area are the Ring of Brodgar and the Stones of Stenness, both stone circles, and the 4,year-old chambered tomb called Maeshowe. Archaeologists suspect that the four monuments share a unified history and a purpose not yet understood. After a millennium of use, the temple complex was abandoned in a ceremony that saw the killing of over cattle. But only their shinbones, arranged around the temple, were ever found. Untouched deer carcasses were piled on top of the bovine bones. Then the rest of the complex was deliberately destroyed and buried. Why it was demolished may never be known.

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Chapter 3 : Used Cultural Weapons: Scotland and the New Europe (Determinations) on OnBuy

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Pointed Weapons of Wood, Bone, and Ivory: The familiar Clovis "fluted points" and other lithic points equally old or even older than Clovis, may have evolved later in time due to increasing lithic technology or a need or stimulus related to changing killing methods or the type of animals being slaughtered. Bone spear points alone have been found with some kill-site discoveries, while in others possibly later in time both bone and lithic spearpoints were used in making the kill. Bone and ivory weapon tips of several recurring types from many areas of Europe, Asia, and North America are studied in this paper and interpretative suggestions are made as to their use, morphology, and purpose. He, in his natural state, is a physically defenseless animal, lacking fangs, claws, horns, hooves, or tusks. As a runner he is not fast enough to escape even the slowest of his predators. As a climber he is not agile enough to outclimb his once greatest enemies, the leopard, panther, and the giant tree snakes. Perhaps in his earlier evolving forms, the major asset that saved him from being eaten to extinction by carnivorous animals was the fact that in his natural, unwashed state, he was blessed with a very strong body odor. This terrible odor, unlike that of any other animal, was repugnant to the great carnivorous cats such as tigers and lions. They would kill and eat man only as a last, or starving resort. Fig 1 The proposed "Ramming Method" of executing mammoth. Early Man had developed other physical and mental assets, however, that his predatory enemies lacked. Man walked upright, had grasping hands, opposing thumbs, and an inventive mind. He was able to hurl an object with great accuracy and velocity, to thrust with his body weight, and to strike downward with great force. These assets have made him truly the sovereign of beasts, the "lord of the jungle" as it were. What he lacked in strength, agility, and physical weapons of defense he more than made up for by utilizing as weapons the objects he found lying underfoot. Few predators can face up to a barrage of rocks, a wooden pole thrust into his mouth or body, or being beaten with heavy bones or clubs of wood. There is usually safety in numbers, and man, a gregarious animal, ganged up on his enemies. Later in time, Early Man learned not to depend upon chance to furnish him a defensive weapon; there might not always be a rock, bone, wooden club or long pole near at hand when he most needed it. He learned to carry such weapons with him as he foraged for food, and he learned to use his weapons offensively in hunting as well as defensively when he, himself, was being hunted. He learned to select his weapons by weight, length, and balance, and to modify them slightly to fit his purposes or to make them more effective. He began to sharpen the heavy end of his wooden poles and they became spears; he chose wood or bone clubs with heavy knotted ends or sharp projections. Thus equipped, Man then set out to conquer the whole earth. And conquer the world, he surely did. From a starting point in either Africa, the Middle East, or southern Asia, and armed only with a club and a spear, he, in time, occupied every habitable corner of the Earth. Fig 2 Bone and ivory needle-spear and leister spear components from both the old and new worlds. At a time period of possibly 40,000 years ago Early Man had arrived in eastern Siberia, the northeasternmost land area of the continent of Asia. Three times during the "Wisconsin" the sea level was lowered as much as 100 feet by the retention of water in the form of great ice caps or glaciers that covered much of the northern regions of Europe, Asia, and North America. During these three intervals the seas were lowered enough to turn the shallows of what is now Bering Strait into a wide bridge of land connecting the continents of Asia and North America, a land bridge that Early Man with his then limited knowledge and primitive tools and weapons could have crossed. The dry land thus exposed by the three intervals of lowered sea levels is now called "Beringia," and the three different intervals of exposure have been dated by geologists. The dated intervals are 35,000 to 32,000 years B. Early Man was capable of, and probably did cross Beringia during all three intervals of exposure, but what interests us in this paper are the oldest dates: What we mean by the term "Early Man" in this paper does not necessarily denote that they were "Homo sapiens sapiens" present-day man, but anyone of the more ancient types of the genus

"Homo" who later evolved into the modern Homo sapien sapien. To this statement we must agree, at least in part. At the time period of possibly 35, to 40, years ago, Early Man had evolved into the four distinct racial types that exist today. The four principal types recognized at present are Caucasoid, Mongoloid, Australoid, and Negroid, plus many mixtures, divisions, sub-types and hybrids of the four distinct types. This does not mean, however, that the men who first reached Siberia and crossed Beringia into North America were one of these newly-developed distinct types, but rather more likely an earlier and still evolving form of Early Man who lived on the far fringes of the gene pools that produced the distinct types. Fig 3 Mended bone and ivory needle spears and their components The majority of American Indians Amerinds living today in both Americas seem to represent hybrid types produced by the mixing of Mongoloid and Simitic Caucasoid genes far back in the mists of time. Only the late-comers, the Eskimos or Inuits, are truly Mongoloid, a distinct racial type. In any event, Early Man arrived in North America by way of Siberia and Beringia equipped with all the tools and weapons essential to his survival in a harsh environment, and they were surprisingly few in number. Russian archaeologists have excavated numerous sites in Siberia, and many of these contain stratified occupation levels dating back to the beginning of the Upper Paleolithic Period of eastern Siberia. This means, of course, that if Early Man was in eastern Siberia 35, years ago, he could well have been in Beringia and North America at about the same year, for the Beringian land-bridge was open during that period. A tool inventory recovered from this dated level does not include spearpoints or weapons of wood, bone, ivory or stone, yet these people were hunters of big game and must have used offensive and defensive weapons. The tool inventory does include bifacially worked oval knives, choppers, blade and flake cores, end scrapers and two different types of burins. Knives, end scrapers, and burins are wood and bone working tools and it follows that spearheads were being made of wood, bone, or ivory and hat these weapons have presumably long since decayed to dust. During the interval of land-bridge exposure between 28, years and 25, years BP there is little perceptible change in the lithic tool inventory. Still no lithic projectile points were being made and we must conclude that weapons were being manufactured of wood, bone, or ivory, though none were found. So, we have two periods totalling 6, years of exposed land linking the two continents in which Early Man the Diuktai Culture, Mochanov, lacking any form of lithic projectile points, could have crossed dry-shod into North America. Early Man Diuktai Culture had occupied all of ice-free eastern Siberia during these two periods and there is no logical reason why he could not, in the course of his nomadic existence, have crossed the flat plain of Beringia into North America. Lacking stone projectile points posed no problem to him since there is little doubt he possessed weapon points of wood, bone, or ivory. During the last and longest interval of land-bridge exposure, 20, years B. By at least 18, years B. They were making bifacially flaked spearpoints of an elongated willow-leaf shape, and were not only making them of lithic materials but of flaked ivory as well Mochanov, If Early Man walked into North America bearing lithic spearpoints, it could have been no earlier than 18, to 20, years B. We believe, however, that his predecessors using spearheads of wood, bone, and ivory had reached North and even South America thousands of years before that time. We also believe that these leaf-shaped points of the Diuktai people were not ancestral to the Clovis fluted point, but were the direct ancestors of the Great Basin projectile point types of the Northwestern States and the Lerma types of Mexico and the Southwest. The later Clovis fluted points, we believe, were an American invention, and had their beginnings in what is now the Southeastern United States Painter, We also feel certain but still lack proof that Early Man had long been adapted to a coastal environment in Siberia before making his way slowly eastward along the southern coast of Beringia and Alaska, then southward along the exposed Pacific continental shelf. This has long been the theory of Knut R. The warming effect of the Japanese Current and the constant availability of food make this route much more logical for this early time period than the much touted IceFree Corridor migration route long accepted by many. This cold, narrow, inhospitable, inland path between two great ice sheets stretched for miles between the Arctic and the northern Great Plains. This low, narrow gap between the ice-covered Rocky Mountains on the west and the mile-or-more-high Laurentide ice cap on the east may have funneled cold Arctic air southward during all seasons. A coastal route would also explain why we have earlier

dates for Early Man in South America than anywhere east of the Rocky Mountains, and why the earliest sites in South America do not contain lithic projectile points. What proof have we that Early Man possessed spearpoints of wood, bone or ivory and that he entered the New World before lithic spearpoints evolved? Wooden objects decay very rapidly and the chances of a wooden spear being preserved for many thousands of years are very slim indeed; however, at least two examples have been found in Europe. Lacking positive proof, we can only surmise, and logically so, that Early Man did indeed possess wooden spears when he arrived in the Americas, that he had possessed them for untold thousands of years and would continue to use them for many thousands more. Wooden spears and arrowheads were used until very recently and may in fact still be in use by various primitive groups in tropical regions of the earth. The museums of the world contain thousands of examples. Since bone and ivory spearpoints are much more durable, we have many hundreds of examples left by Early Man in Europe, Central Asia, Northeast Asia Siberia, Alaska, and various other places in North America. They have been found at sites in the Pacific Coastal states, the Great Plains, the Gulf Coast, and last but not least, Florida, where they abound. Curiously, but not too surprisingly, most bone and ivory spearpoints found in North America are identical in design to several types found in Europe and Asia. Whether this sameness is the result of diffusion or independent invention is at present impossible to determine. These long, tapered, cylindrical bone and ivory spearpoints, some pointed on both ends, others pointed on one end and beveled on the other end sometimes with cross-striations on the beveled surface, and the types sometimes called "foreshafts" that are beveled and striated on both ends, all have their counterparts in Europe, Asia, and North America Figure 1. The oldest C dated points of these types were found in the Lower Perigordian and Aurignacian "0" cultural epochs in Europe and date back to at least 32, years B. These bone and ivory spearpoint types were all well developed at that time period and must have evolved long before 32, B. Since these types are as widely spread as Alaska, Florida, the Southwest, and the Great Plains, it is possible that they were already in North America before the Perigordian and Aurignacian cultural periods in Europe. A search of the available literature reveals that bone and ivory spearheads were found in the following sites and locations in North America: Alaska - A placer mining site near Goldstream, Tanana Valley, Central Alaska, has yielded two bone projectile points that were pointed on one end and beveled and cross-striated on the other end. These points were found in Pleistocene muck and associated with a "Yuma" type lithic projectile point Rainey, The rib showed partial healing, proving it to be an old wound. The skeleton of the mastodon was found in a pond or bog and dated to almost 12, years B. The bones showed signs of butchering, however, proving that man had attacked again and had slain the mastodon at last Gustafson and Daugherty, Fig 4 Two types of bone and ivory leisters and their components. Washington - Four fragments of a bone spearhead or foreshaft were found at the Marmes Site in southeastern Washington state. Indications are that the original length of the implement was perhaps mm. The fragments were found associated with portions of a human skeleton and dated between 10, and 11, years BP Fryxell, et. Washington - The Lind Coulee Site in southeastern Washington has yielded three long, bone projectile points. One of these was serrated or barbed along one side; another, with a sharp point, was wedge-shaped on the opposite end. The last had a blunt point and was broken on the other end. This site has been dated between 9, and 10, years B. Washington - Long, smooth bone points were found at a 9, B. These are thought to be portions of leister fishing spears Kirk and Daugherty, This opinion agrees with the theories of the writer of this report Painter, California - Three broken bone weapon tips were found with bone scraps and ivory shims at what was perhaps a mammoth kill site on the ancient shore of China Lake, a dry lake bed in the Mojave Desert of Southern California. California - A long, fossilized bone point was found on a site on Lower Klamath Lake in northern California. This point was stained by the blue silts of the lake; mammoth bones from the same locality were also stained blue. The bone point was sharp at one end and beveled at the other Cressman, These bone objects are sometimes referred to as bone foreshafts in many reports. Saskatchewan - A fossilized bone projectile point was found in the early s near Grenfel, Saskatchewan.

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Chapter 4 : Secret Report Accuses UK Defense Ministry of Five Nuclear Safety Breaches - Sputnik International

Cultural Weapons: Scotland and the New Europe (Determinations) by Harvie, Christopher,

Some of the Germanic tribes are frequently blamed in popular conceptions for the "Fall" of the Roman Empire in the late 5th century. Professional historians and archaeologists have since the s shifted their interpretations in such a way that the Germanic peoples are no longer seen as invading a decaying empire but as being co-opted into helping defend territory the central government could no longer adequately administer. Individuals and small groups from Germanic tribes had long been recruited from the limes i. Later the government of the Empire began to recruit whole tribal groups under their native leaders as officers. Assisting with defence eventually shifted into administration, and then outright rule, as Roman traditions of government passed into the hands of Germanic tribal leaders. The presence of successor states controlled by a nobility from one of the Germanic tribes is evident in the 6th century - even in Italy, the former hearth of the Empire, where Odoacer was followed by Theodoric the Great, leader of the Ostrogoths, who was regarded by Roman citizens and Gothic settlers alike as a legitimate successor to the rule of Rome and Italy. They apparently dwelt in the basin of the Main River, to the south of the Chatti. According to Asinius Quadratus their name all men indicates that they were a conglomeration of various tribes. There can be little doubt, however, that the ancient Hermunduri formed the bulk of the nation. Other groups included the Juthungi, Bucinobantes, Lentienses, and perhaps the Armalasi. From the 4th century onwards we hear also of the Suebi, Suevi or Suabi. The Hermunduri had apparently belonged to the Suebi, but it is likely enough that reinforcements from new Suebic tribes had now moved westward. In later times the names Alamanni and Suebi seem to be synonymous, although some of the Suebi later migrated to Spain and established an independent kingdom there that endured well into the sixth century. The tribe was continually engaged in conflicts with the Roman Empire. They launched a major invasion of northern Italy in , when the Romans were forced to denude much of their German frontier of troops in response to a massive invasion of the Visigoths. In the early summer, the Emperor Gallienus halted their advance in Italy, but then had to deal with the Goths. After efforts to secure a peaceful withdrawal failed, Claudius forced the Alamanni into war at the Battle of Lake Benacus in November. The Alamanni were routed, forced back into Germany, and did not threaten Roman territory for many years afterwards. Their most famous battle against Rome took place in Strasbourg, in Julian, later Emperor of Rome, and their king Chonodomarius was taken prisoner. On January 2, the Alamanni crossed the frozen Rhine in large numbers, to invade the Roman Empire. Early in the 5th century the Alamanni appear to have crossed the Rhine river, conquered and then settled what is today Alsace and a large part of Switzerland. Their kingdom or duchy of Alamannia lasted until , when they were conquered by Clovis I at the Battle of Tolbiac, from which time they formed part of the Frankish dominions. In a strange twist of fate, the word "Frankish" eventually gave its name to the Romance language French, while the Alamanni gave their name to the French word for "German" Allemand. Angli were one of the Germanic peoples who migrated from continental Germany to Britain in the 5th century, along with the Saxons and Jutes. Thanks to the major influence of the Angles, the people of England are also known as Anglo-Saxons, and, of course English. A region of the United Kingdom is known by the name East Anglia. The Angle homeland, a small peninsular form in the southern portion of the modern German bundesland of Schleswig-Holstein, itself on the Jutland Peninsula is still called Angeln today, and is formed as a triangle drawn roughly from modern Flensburg on the Flensburger Fjord to Kiel and then to Maasholm on the Schlei inlet. Of course, ethnic Frisians are known to have inhabited the land directly in the path of any invasion route from Angeln to Great Britain and in fact, also inhabited lands between the ancient Saxon domaine and Britain, yet they are rarely mentioned as having taken part in the vast migration. In the fifth century, an exodus of tribes took place to Great Britain. The Jutes appear to have come from Jutland and the area near the mouth of the river Rhine. The Saxons, by this time had covered a wide area, but invaded Britain from what is now primarily Northern Germany. The Saxons were not

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just one tribe, but a confederation of several smaller tribes, and are not even mentioned by the Roman chroniclers until the second century when Ptolemy placed them in the area of the Elbe River an area once held by the Cimbri. What tribes composed the confederation is truly not known, though the Cimbri that remained in the North may have been among them as well as the Cherusci other tribes that have been suggested as forming the confederation are the Avioni, Nuithoni, Reudigni, Suarini, and some of the Suebi. The Frisians came from what is now the Netherlands, and the Frisian coast of Germany. Other tribes such as the Varni, neighbors of the Angles, and the Geats of Sweden invaded Britain in smaller numbers. Hired as mercenaries by the Celtic leader Vortigan, they came to take land promised them in return for defending the Celts from the Picts. Other tribes such as the Frisians would also invade in smaller numbers. By the Saxons had established Wessex, Kent was established not long after the arrival of Hengest and Horse by the Jutes. Other kingdoms would be established later. For over 50 years, the Germanic tribes in what is now England went unmolested by Christianity. They kept to the religion of their ancestors, and practiced rites as they had for eons. By CE he convinced Ethelbert to destroy the Heathen temples and idols and repress Heathen worship. Missionaries were sent to the West Saxons. Kings would convert their kingdoms to Christianity, then their successors covert the kingdoms back to Heathenry, and folks would lapse back to the old religion when the Church was not looking. But this was the beginning of the end for Anglo-Saxon Heathenry. Thus was the end of ancient Anglo-Saxon Heathenry in England amongst the kings While the kings and ealdormen of the Anglo-Saxons were converted to Christianity, for the common folk merely the names of the Gods changed. They continued to practice Heathenry in their homes, and throughout their lives. A long period of mixed faith continued long after the conversion of the Anglo-Saxons. Perhaps until as late as the time of Cromwell, Heathen tradition, although not worship survived in many areas. Plows which had been blessed in the fields in Heathen times were brought into the Churches to be blessed in the spring. Christian festivals were celebrated with Heathen customs such as Maypole dancing, and the dead honored in funeral feasts as they had prior to the conversion. Even the Heathen gods were still being invoked in charms for healing as late as the 10th century. As late as the reign of King Canute in the 11th century, laws had to be enacted against Heathen practices. The Batavii or Batavi, Batavians were a Germanic tribe reported by Julius Caesar and Tacitus to have lived around the Rhine delta, in the area which is currently the Netherlands. This led to the Latin name of Batavia. They were mentioned by Julius Caesar in his commentary Gallic Wars, as living on an island formed by the Meuse River after it is joined by the Waal, 80 Roman Miles from the mouth of the river. He said there were many other islands formed by branches of the Rhine, inhabited by savage and barbarous nations, some of whom were supposed to live on fish and the eggs of sea-fowl. Tacitus described the Batavi as the most brave of the tribes of the area, inhabiting not much territory on the Rhine but an island in it. They were formerly part of the Cattans but moved after a feud to become part of the Roman Empire. He said they retained the honour of the ancient association with the Romans, not required to pay tribute or taxes and used by the Romans only for war. He named the Mattiacians as a similar tribe under homage, but on the other Germanic side of the Rhine. The areas inhabited by the Batavians where never occupied by the Romans, they were allies. In 69 AD, a rebellion led by Claudius Civilis arose, which was defeated by the Romans the following year. After the 3rd century CE, the Batavians are no longer mentioned, and they are assumed to have merged with the neighbouring Frisian and Frankish people. The Batavians became regarded as the eponymous ancestors of the Dutch people. The Netherlands were briefly known as the Batavian Republic. Bavarii was a large and powerful tribe which emerged late in Teutonic tribal times, in what is now the Czech Republic Bohemia. They swiftly expanded their influence southward, and occupied Austria and the area which still bears their name: By the 6th c. Later absorbed into the larger Frankish community, and reportedly allies with Cherusci and others in defeating the Roman General, Varus at Teutoberg in 9 AD. Best place to find archival documents and history of the tribe is Soest, Germany. After possibly having dwelt in the Vistula basin, they migrated westwards into the Rhine Valley during the Germanic migrations. The Rhineland Burgundians lived in an uneasy relationship with the imperial Roman government. Nominally Roman foederati, they periodically raided portions of eastern Gaul.

In 456, their king, Gundaharius, set up a puppet emperor, Jovinus, in cooperation with Goar, king of the Alans. The Rhineland kingdom with its capital at Worms, Germany was destroyed by Huns in 456, perhaps under the authority of the Roman general Aetius. The refugees were settled by Aetius near Lugdunensis, known today as Lyon. They spread over southwestern Gaul; that is, northern Italy, western Switzerland, and eastern France. The Burgundian kingdom was made part of the Merovingian kingdoms; the Burgundians themselves were by and large absorbed as well. One of the earliest Germanic law codes, the Lex Gundobada or Lex Burgundionum, is a collection of the constitutions or laws issued by king Gundobad, the best-known of the Burgundian kings, whose reign began in 473 and died in 520. The Lex Gundobada was a record of Burgundian customary law and is typical of the many Germanic law codes from the period. The name of the Burgundians has since remained connected to the area of modern France that still bears the name of Burgundy. Between the 6th and 20th centuries, the boundaries and political connections of this area changed frequently. The Burgundians, East German tribesmen, were great allies of Rome. So much the Roman allies, the Burgundian kings were given the title of Master of the Soldiers. Burgundians sought their place in history through military alliances. The rise of the Franks under Clovis committed the Burgundians as allies to the Franks in which they helped Clovis to defeat the Visigoths in AD 486. It was twice that the Burgundians faced destruction, the second time being fatal. The survivors fled to the territory surrounding Lake Geneva in Switzerland. Later, after repeated invasions, they moved to the valley of the Rhine River where they occupied eastern Gaul. Lyon became the capital of the Burgundian Kingdom. They gave their name to the region that still remains today as the region Burgundy. But later in AD 532, the Burgundians were attacked by the Franks, their former allies, and their kingdom was annexed. The greatest of the Burgundian kings was Gundobad, who reigned from 473 to 520 AD, his greatest contribution being Burgundian law. In 501, he formulated a law code for his Burgundian subjects, the Lex Gundobada, or Lex Burgundionum. Years later, he sponsored a more significant law code, the Lex Romana Burgundinum, this time benefit of his Roman subjects, "[w]hich applied also to cases in which both Romans and Burgundians were involved," Jones, p. 11. Finally, the Burgundians, like many other Germanic tribesmen, were Arian Christians. The Chauca was a numerous tribe inhabiting the extreme northwestern shore of Germany during Roman times - basically the stretch of coast between Frisia in the west to the Elbe estuary in the east. By the end of the 3rd century CE, they had merged with the Saxons. They were first allies of, and then enemies of Rome.

Chapter 5 : List of World Heritage sites in the United Kingdom - Wikipedia

Cultural Weapons: Scotland and the New Europe (Determinations) by Harvie, Christopher,

Clach an Tiompain , a Pictish symbol stone in Strathpeffer In the centuries after the departure of the Romans from Britain, there were four groups within the borders of what is now Scotland. In the east were the Picts, with kingdoms between the river Forth and Shetland. In the late 6th century the dominant force was the Kingdom of Fortriu , whose lands were centred on Strathearn and Menteith and who raided along the eastern coast into modern England. These missions tended to found monastic institutions and collegiate churches that served large areas. Origins of the Kingdom of Alba Conversion to Christianity may have speeded a long term process of gaelicisation of the Pictish kingdoms, which adopted Gaelic language and customs. He was later credited with bringing Scottish Christianity into conformity with the Catholic Church. After fighting many battles, his defeat at Brunanburh was followed by his retirement as a Culdee monk at St. The reign of King Donnchad I Duncan I from was marred by failed military adventures, and he was defeated and killed by MacBeth, the Mormaer of Moray , who became king in Particularly important was his second marriage to the Anglo-Hungarian princess Margaret. Victorious, Edgar , the oldest of the three, became king in In practice Norse control of the Isles was loose, with local chiefs enjoying a high degree of independence. He was succeeded by his brother Alexander , who reigned " His reign saw what has been characterised as a " Davidian Revolution ", by which native institutions and personnel were replaced by English and French ones, underpinning the development of later Medieval Scotland. He created an Anglo-Norman style of court, introduced the office of justiciar to oversee justice, and local offices of sheriffs to administer localities. He established the first royal burghs in Scotland, granting rights to particular settlements, which led to the development of the first true Scottish towns and helped facilitate economic development as did the introduction of the first recorded Scottish coinage. He continued a process begun by his mother and brothers helping to establish foundations that brought reform to Scottish monasticism based on those at Cluny and he played a part in organising diocese on lines closer to those in the rest of Western Europe. To prevent civil war the Scottish magnates asked Edward I of England to arbitrate, for which he extracted legal recognition that the realm of Scotland was held as a feudal dependency to the throne of England before choosing John Balliol , the man with the strongest claim, who became king in Over the next few years Edward I used the concessions he had gained to systematically undermine both the authority of King John and the independence of Scotland. In , Edward invaded Scotland, deposing King John. The following year William Wallace and Andrew de Moray raised forces to resist the occupation and under their joint leadership an English army was defeated at the Battle of Stirling Bridge. Edward came north in person and defeated Wallace at the Battle of Falkirk in In , he fell into the hands of the English, who executed him for treason despite the fact that he owed no allegiance to England. Robert defeated that army at the Battle of Bannockburn in , securing de facto independence. The Declaration has also been seen as one of the most important documents in the development of a Scottish national identity. The parliament had evolved from an earlier council of nobility and clergy, the colloquium, constituted around , but perhaps in representatives of the burghs " the burgh commissioners " joined them to form the Three Estates. Balliol finally resigned his claim to the throne to Edward in , before retiring to Yorkshire, where he died in

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In recent centuries the problem seems to have begun with the antiquarian William Stukeley - who associated such ancient monuments as Stonehenge and Avebury with the Celtic Druids, unaware of course that such monuments predated the Celtic Druids by a couple of millennia. Thus began the association of the Celts with the structures of the remote past. The fact that the Celts as such were a relatively recent civilization, contemporaneous with the Greek, Roman, and Etruscan cultures did not gain wide acceptance until the 20th century - and even today many may find it hard to accept the flowering of Celtic culture as post BC. Much Greek and Roman literature has survived and it ought to be easy to pinpoint the Celts on their home ground. Herodotus, a Greek historian of the 5th century BC, refers to the Danube "which has its source among the Celts near Pyrene - the Celts live beyond the Pillars of Hercules Gibraltar next to the Cynesians who are the most Westerly people of Europe". What is happening here is confusion between the Celtic homeland on the Upper Danube and the limit of their influence - Iberia. Another Greek geographer Pausanias 2nd century AD tells us that the Gauls "originally called Celts live in the remotest region of Europe on the coast of an enormous tidal sea. Okeanos the River of Ocean which surrounds the world is the most distant part of the sea - the people who live beside it are Iberians and Celts - it contains the island of Britain. The remotest Celts are called Kabares who live on the edges of the ice desert - a very tall race of people. Julius Caesar 1st century BC in his account of his campaigns in Gaul gives us a very clear picture of Celtic culture in one region in which it was dominant Gaul. He also makes a statement which perhaps deserves more attention than it has generally received - "The Druidic doctrine is believed to have been found existing in Britain and thence imported into Gaul: Caesar goes on to refer to the areas of Gaul under greatest Celtic influence but does not include the territory of the Belgae in the North. It is the Belgae who migrated in large numbers to the South and East of Britain. So Caesar associates a large area of Gaul with Celtic influence but again makes no reference to a Celtic homeland. A possible reason for the lack of information on this topic is that by the time of the authors quoted the Celts may have been losing ground in their homeland and were best known in the territories in which they had acquired influence. It is significant that it is the earliest account Herodotus circa BC which gives us a clue to an Upper Danube location. The earliest manifestation which can be specifically associated with the Celts is the Bronze Age Hallstatt culture, from post BC to around BC. This culture was a wealthy one being centred on a salt-mining region, therefore trading widely with European areas generally and even further a field. The use of iron was highly developed in this area by the end of the Hallstatt period. It would appear that this development was largely an internal cultural one - not necessarily fostered by newcomers. The use of iron ploughs made possible a greater volume of agricultural production. Skills in textile making were highly developed. The use of iron weaponry also gave military superiority. From an early period the influence of the Celtic culture was through the process of migration and commerce spreading Westwards across Europe, notably into Spain, France, North Italy. This influence would appear at this stage to be mainly due to peaceful penetration. Population growth in the Celtic area led to the need for more land for settlement. Spain in particular was a mineral rich country much in demand by Phoenicians, Greeks, Carthaginians, and later by Romans. The main players were the Carthaginians, Greeks, and Etruscans. Both Carthaginians and Greeks had established a chain of settlements and coastal trading stations along the shores of the Mediterranean and outside the Pillars of Hercules. The Celts were in a position to make full use of such river systems as the Danube, Rhine, and Rhone to access markets and sources of supply. Recent discoveries in Asia along the Silk Road have indicated that along this route were bases occupied by people akin to the Celts from at least BC. The Tokharian language as spoken in the Turkestan area has links with Celtic. So early Celtic influence based on settlement and commerce extended from the Atlantic to Asia.

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Chapter 7 : Survival Training Courses | Bushcraft & Survival Courses

Books Advanced Search Today's Deals New Releases Best Sellers The Globe & Mail Best Sellers New York Times Best Sellers Best Books of the Month Children's Books Textbooks Kindle Books Livres en français.

Share Shares 1K Every weapon is made with a specific purpose in mind. Weapons are constantly evolving to meet the needs of the warriors who wield them. Sometimes though, these needs produce weapons that, while no less efficient at executing their purpose, are ultimately quite unique. Hyakuraiju kakute were spiked rings used in ancient Japan. A user would generally wear either one or two rings—one for his middle or index finger and another on his thumb. The spikes were usually turned inward and applied to pressure points by gripping limbs or even the neck, which would stun an opponent and cause a nasty puncture wound. Turned outward, kakute became spiked knuckledusters, though since the purpose of kakute was generally to subdue enemies rather than harm them, this style was not the standard. Ninjas also used kakute. They were favored by female ninjas, called kunoichi, for whom it was natural to wear rings. Worn inward and tipped with poison, they could use their kakute for quick, fatal attacks. For the female ninja, they proved to be one of her deadliest and most efficient weapons. The samurai of India, Rajput lived a lifestyle dedicated to fighting and honor, using weapons like the doubled-bladed haladie knife to cut down their enemies. Haladie had two double-edged blades connected to the ends of a single handle. It was believed to be a thrusting weapon, although the slightly curved blade could just as easily be used for slashes and parries. Some types of haladie had a metal band similar to knuckledusters covering one side of the handle, where yet another spike or blade could be attached. An army of ancient Indian warriors would have proven quite intimidating, equipped with both the haladie and their famed double-edged scimitar, the khanda. A quick twist would entangle the fabric and allow officers to bring the offender down without causing too much injury. Often, one officer would attack from the front and another from behind, working together to pin the criminal to the ground by their neck. Having two sodegarami tangled up in your kimono made it almost impossible to escape. It was an important tool for arresting samurai, who by law could only be killed by other samurai. He would then bring the samurai down non-lethally to avoid unnecessary bloodshed. Zweihanders were two-handed swords that stretched upward of centimeters 70 in and weighed anywhere from 1. Primarily used against pikes and halberds at longer ranges, some also had an unsharpened part of the blade—called a ricasso—just above the primary guard. The ricasso could be gripped in close quarters combat. These kinds of Zweihanders usually had a smaller, secondary guard that protruded from the main blade. Soldiers who used these immense swords received double pay. The Landsknechts, a feared mercenary band so well respected they even received special exemption from sumptuary laws to maintain their flamboyant dress, helped make them famous. Despite their popularity, however, Zweihanders eventually gave way to the easier-to-handle pike and became mostly ceremonial. Though they had once been a frontline weapon, advancements in technology eventually regulated them for use by shock troops and mercenaries. In some cases, Zweihanders were even officially prohibited from battle. Karthik Nadar Fakirs—ancient Muslim and Hindu ascetics and mendicants—were not permitted to carry weapons, so they had to improvise to protect themselves. They created the madu, which was apparently not officially considered a weapon. The style of fighting with the madu is still practiced today. Called maan kombu, it is a part of the larger art of silambam: The art form is dying, however, as current laws prohibit the use of deer or antelope horns. There are several variations of the weapon, including one with added steel tips and a shield, making the madu an even more efficient weapon. The earliest form was a simple bamboo tube packed with sand that was strapped to a spear. Such a weapon would have been able to blind an enemy and give the wielder the advantage in close quarters combat. As technology evolved, though, fire lances started to incorporate shrapnel and poison darts. But explosions strong enough to launch these projectiles required stronger housings, and fire lances began to be made first of a strong type of paper and then finally metal. While spears could only be thrown at limited speeds and distances, atlatl could launch darts at over kilometers per hour mph. It was a

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deceptively simple weapon, nothing more than a handheld stick with a protrusion or notch at one end where a dart could be set. Both the atlatl and the dart were made of flexible wood. The two parts bent simultaneously when the atlatl was fired, which allowed the energy stored in each to launch the dart at very high velocities. Archaeological evidence tells us that the use of the atlatl was also widespread, with examples found in every inhabited continent except Africa. Though they were eventually replaced with the easier-to-use bow and arrow, the atlatl stood the test of time, being used by the Aztecs even as late as the 16th century. Although sometimes called a sickle-sword, the ancient Egyptian khopesh was more of a cross between a sword and a battle ax. Even Ramses II was depicted wielding one. A Bronze Age weapon, the khopesh was usually cast out of a single piece of bronze and could be quite heavy. The blade had a pronounced curve, like a sickle, though only the outside edge was sharpened. Much like the battle ax, the khopesh could be used as a hacking weapon, though its shape also made it efficient at slashing. Some had small snares for that very purpose. Its shape made it extremely difficult to block with another sword or even a shield – a shotel would just curve around it to puncture the defender. Despite that and its vicious appearance, it was almost universally considered useless. The hilt was too small for a large, scythe-shaped blade, which made it an unwieldy weapon to hold or aim properly. Fighting with a shotel proved quite difficult. Because of the shape of the blade, even drawing it from its scabbard was somewhat awkward. Scabbards stretched a foot longer than the swords themselves and were worn pointing behind the owner, which meant drawing it with the blade facing the correct way required a large bend of the wrist. European accounts of the weapon were extremely negative, and even the Ethiopians themselves considered shotels little more than ornamental. They had a saying about the shotels that essentially deemed the weapons useful for nothing more than impressing women. We suppose some weapons were just meant for a different kind of battle. The blade itself was made of extremely bendable metal that, when not in use, could be wrapped around the waist like a belt. Blade lengths differed, but urumi could reach lengths of 3 to 5 meters (12 to 16 ft). Urumi were whipped in circles, creating a defensive zone difficult for an opponent to penetrate. With both sides of the blade sharpened, they were extremely dangerous even for the wielder and required years of training. Even simple things like stopping the weapon and changing directions were considered special skills difficult to master. Due to the unique fighting style, urumi could not be used in battle formations and were better suited for man-to-man combat and assassinations. Yet despite the stringent requirements for wielding one properly, they were an unstoppable force once mastered. Parrying proved almost useless against an urumi, because even if an opponent tried to stop it with a shield, the urumi would just bend around it to strike. Nathan keeps a Japan blog where he writes about the sights, expat life, and finds Japanese culture in everyday items. You can also find him on Facebook and Twitter.

Chapter 8 : Top 10 Discoveries Of Ancient Scotland - Listverse

Celtic Language The Celtic linguistic contribution to European culture seems to have been a major one. It is not that the megalithic peoples of early Europe did not have their own well-developed languages - that is evidenced in the case of Finnish, Hungarian, Basque and Etruscan.

Chapter 9 : The GERMANIC PEOPLES

People lived in Scotland for at least 8,000 years before Britain's recorded calendar. Science.com times during the last interglacial period (125,000 BC) Europe had a climate warmer than today's, and early humans may have made their way to Scotland, with the possible discovery of pre-Ice Age axes on Orkney and mainland Scotland.