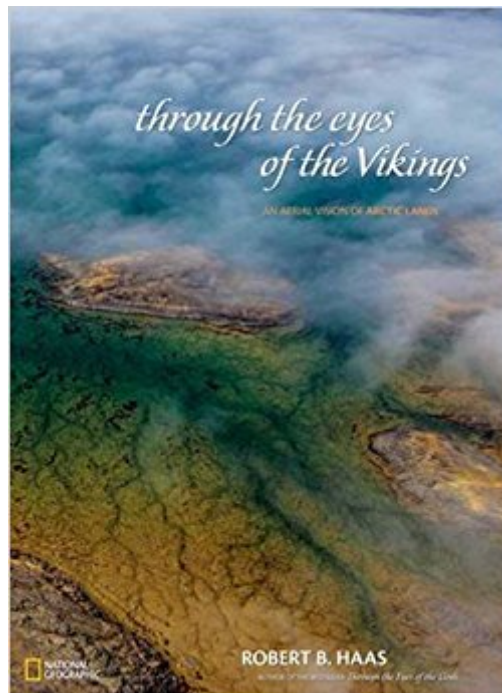




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# **Through The Eyes Of The Vikings: An Aerial Vision Of Arctic Lands**



## Synopsis

Continuing the aerial photography that gave such visual command to his previous National Geographic titles, *Through the Eyes of the Gods: An Aerial Vision of Africa* and *Through the Eyes of the Condor: An Aerial Vision of Latin America*, Haas now trains his lenses on the regions that transect the Arctic Circle. His latest project yields stunning images that show not a "blinding storm of white" as one might think— but rather, a dramatic and surprising diversity of brilliant colors and unexpected subjects. Photographing over a three-year period, Haas captured imagery that reflects three key elements of the region: the arctic landforms, the iconic wildlife, and the footprint of man. This book strives for and succeeds in producing a visual record that will reshape our ideas of what the Arctic has to offer and why we should protect it.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

From *Through the Eyes of the Vikings: Photographs* by Robert B. Haas Click on the photos below to open larger images.

Bay of Bothnia, Sweden Recycling pools beside a lumber facility near the port city of Karlsborg pock the landscape like shots through tempered glass. Red Glacier, Alaska Bergs and boulders form islands of ice and rock in the basin of the glacier. Kiruna, Sweden Snowmobile tracks crisscross the surface of a melting pond. Langfjella Island, Norway Industrial byproducts form a swirling palette at a waste-treatment facility on this island south of Oslo.

Aerial photographer Haas continues his magnificent Through the Eyes series, following volumes on Africa and Latin America with an on-the-wing tour of the Arctic Circle. Why through the eyes of the Vikings? Because of their “hardy and adventurous spirit of exploration and enterprise.” Not to mention pillaging. While humans are rarely in evidence in these dramatic aerial views, the fact is we are everywhere in this seemingly pristine realm in the insidious form of pollution and the rapidly increasing effects of global warming. That concern aside, Haas’s exquisitely patterned panoramas invite awed contemplation. The stunning variety of landscapes is a surprise, the grand spectrum of turquoises, whites, and earth tones an astonishment.

Haas’s gaze reaches whales beneath the sea, and caribou, polar bears, Dall sheep, and Icelandic horses on vast vistas of ice, peatland, and mountains. Haas invites us to contemplate the Arctic’s forbidding yet endangered glory in the belief that the battle between those who would exploit it and those who would protect this wilderness will “test the contours of the human spirit itself.” --Donna Seaman

What’s not to like about a NGS publication

One image tells more than one thousand words. By far the best book of the arctic lands! I highly recommend also through the eyes of gods and through the eyes of condor!

Robert B. Haas is a gifted artist who is so skilled in his chosen realm of aerial photography that he is able to focus the unspeakable grandeur of our planet with a conviction of spiritual conscience that it is almost impossible not to react emotionally to his images. In this book THROUGH THE EYES OF THE VIKINGS: AN AERIAL VISION OF THE ARCTIC LANDS he has captured the geometric abstractions of ice floes, vast expanses of frozen tundra, icebergs, imperious mountains, the junction of the sky becoming both water and land, while at the same time discovering herds of wildlife in flight or in grazing or simply as part of the landscape as it reveals its secrets to the exploring animals. He dallies with the jocular humor of the great whales spouting, with the order of polar bears in herds, the many animals of the various locations he shares in a manner that introduces the viewer to a world we are unable to view. Spending time with Haas’ views of mists and dazzling sunlight and reflective snow and ice light draws us into a relationship with the arctic like few other photographers have been able to achieve. The consistency of his art is likely the reason National Geographic has assigned him this his sixth venture (his like books include ‘A Vision of Africa’ (1998), ‘Predators’ (2001), ‘African Critters’ (2002), ‘Ten Days on the Chobe’ (2002), and the

other National Geographic publications 'Through the Eyes of the Gods--An Aerial Vision of Africa' (2005), and 'Through the Eyes of the Condor--An Aerial Vision of Latin America' (2007). After the initial splendor of Haas' work comes the startling but undeniable that these spaces, these miracles of nature are endangered by our current abuse of our planet. If ever there were a illustration to put before the Environmental Concerns committees this book serves that purpose. It is magnificent art and a reminder we must maintain what haas has shared. Grady Harp, January 11

I was disappointed in this book. The title says, "Vikings", yet there wasn't a single Viking ship, Viking mountain, or Viking home; in fact, there was nothing Viking about it. The pictures are all taken from the sky, of interesting mud flats, lakes, and mostly frozen rivers with snowmachine tracks on them. That would be fine, but over 60% of the pictures are from Alaska, where I live, and I wanted to see some Viking landscapes. Someone please tell me when the Vikings were ever here. Also, information at the back of the book about Alaska says our languages are English, Native American languages (should say Alaska Native), and Spanish. Nobody speaks Spanish here, there are like 2 Mexicans in town and they both work at the same restaurant. But there are thousands of Russians here in town. So I think Russian should be one of the languages listed. Map issues: the map in the front of the book is lovely and I loved the permafrost map, but both maps feature Alaska prominently with Canada, and I thought the second map would feature Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Russia, with Denmark, Germany, and other Northern European areas since the Vikings used those waterways more frequently than they used, for instance, Alaska's Cook Inlet or Redoubt Bay. Misleading title, disappointing book, mostly pictures and not much to read.

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