



Secrets of the Dark Ages



The search for evidence of the barbarians of the dark ages - The Huns, Vandals, Goths, Anglo Saxons and Vikings. This is a journey that takes us all across Europe, from the northern seas off Scandinavia to the heart of the Great Hungarian plain. We discover the secrets of forgotten empires, and of mighty clashes throughout Europe.

Presented by Richard Rudgley

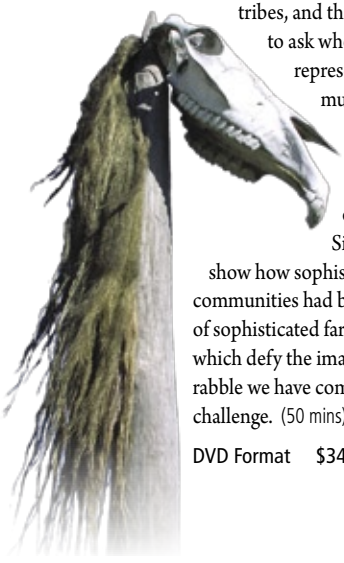
3 x 50 minute programs Produced by David Wason Directed by Mark Elliott ©2002 Channel Four Television UK

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Set of 3 DVDs \$165.00 PCD137

History's Hells Angels

In this first part of the journey through the Dark Ages we will be tracing the legacies of the Huns, Vandals and Goths. Our study will look at both the migrant tribes, and the pre-existing tribes, to ask whether the "dark ages" represent a resurfacing of much older tribal lines; suppressed, silenced, but not destroyed by five centuries of oppression.



Sites in Austria will show how sophisticated pre-Roman communities had become with evidence of sophisticated farming techniques which defy the image of a mindless rabble we have come to accept without challenge. (50 mins)

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In a Time of Shadows

It is the time when the Anglo-Saxons impose their culture and their authority on the Northern reaches of Europe. It is a time when we discover that the first Englishmen were, in fact, Germans. These Northern people enjoyed a golden age unaffected by Rome and just 30 years after the Romans relinquished Britain, the "Anglo-Saxons" made their move. We look at the lasting influence of Saxon leaders like Alfred the Great, whose blue print for social justice laid foundations for free speech, and impartial justice, later replicated in every European country. (50 mins)

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Out of the Darkness

So was it the "dark age" which failed Europe, or the stifling uniformity of the great Roman experiment? The third assault on the tattered remains of Roman civilisation came from even further North, where the melting glacial ice had created immense sheltered fjords, leaving its inhabitants little choice but the sea; making them the first naval power of Northern Europe. Long before Nelson, these fearless navigators understood that dominion over the oceans was the key to their ambitions. Where the Romans expanded incrementally, the Vikings adopted a bolder, more aggressive approach. (50 mins)

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