Should the Vikings have stayed in Britain?

There are many things in today’s world that the Viking did for us. Have you ever wondered where the name Scunthorpe came from? Or how we got the word cake? This is thanks to the Vikings. Should the Vikings have stayed in Britain, or should they have returned to Scandinavia? The following discussion text examines arguments both for and against this issue.

The Vikings, despite their numerous raids, were a people of peace and prosperity. They tended to their land and went about their business, without causing much trouble to Saxons. The Vikings had left their home in search of new lands and were therefore glad of somewhere peaceful in which to live, which did not involve violence and raiding. Due to the vast overcrowding in the Norse lands, the Vikings had to leave to find new land in which they could survive and found the mild climate of Britain with its tranquil surroundings and prosperous resources (like wool, wood and metal).

However, Britain is a tiny island with very limited resources and they could have run out. There is only room for a small amount of trees, a handful of hills and roughly a hundred large rivers. With all of these Vikings settling here, the Saxons could soon have run out of resources. Vikings consumed a vast amount of natural resources every day from the landscape: building fences, houses, huts and halls (for feasts and celebrations). These structures were an eyesore, which do not fit into the surroundings, like Saxon buildings did.

Although Vikings used resources, they did have a purpose – building towns and other settlements which fostered thriving communities. In order for Great Britain to grow, more people needed to come to live here. Having these towns and settlements grow, meant that more trade came in from overseas (Europe and Africa) and that people were more likely to stay and work here. The Vikings came to Britain because they wanted to find land for farming and agriculture. Even the Romans centuries before them, came to Britain to establish towns and cities (and perhaps steal some of the resources). Clearly Britain was a great location to live in.

However, Viking raiders were the scourge of the Saxon people: destroying villages, burning houses, stealing valuable objects like manuscripts and bibles and in some cases, they even killed those who stood in their way. This unnecessary violence and destruction they left behind them, did nothing to help the communities of Britain. Viking raiders were a bloodthirsty, barbaric people, who cared for nothing but the sheer enjoyment of witnessing families’ lives ruined by their mindless vandalism and petty pilfering. Did you know that in some cases, holy books and manuscripts were sold back to the monasteries, by the Vikings who stole them, for a cost? Some Vikings were only looking to trade the objects they had stolen for other goods in their homeland or on other shores. Other Vikings worked in fields farming or in towns as a blacksmith or a butcher.

In conclusion, I have seen how the Vikings established towns and cities, as well as being a peaceful people when they settled (and were not out raiding other towns or monasteries). However, they also stole from others in order to trade or sell those items for a much higher cost and took up our resources when coming here. It is my opinion that the Vikings should have left Britain and returned to Scandinavia. They have given us lots of words, towns and even objects (like a dragon boat) but they also caused a lot of people upset and their lives were torn apart by their senseless violence.