

Re: Cod Fish, Walrus, and Chieftains

Source: <http://sci.tech--archive.net/Archive/sci.archaeology/2005-11/msg00866.html>

- *From:* "deowll" <deowll@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Wed, 23 Nov 2005 15:33:11 -0600
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<sigvald@xxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:1132596953.326066.77920@xx

>

> Philip Deitiker wrote:

>> In sci.archaeology, Peter Alaca created a message ID

>> [news:4381d39e\\$0\\$76650\\$dbd41001@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:4381d39e$0$76650$dbd41001@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx):

>>

>>> The Icelanders drew upon an Iron Age heritage to

>>> intensify a staple goods economy based

>>> increasingly upon preserved cod-family fish that

>>> ultimately linked them closely to the expanding

>>> proto-capitalist economies of later medieval

>>> Europe.

>>> Greenlanders instead intensified the hunting of

>>> walrus to produce the prestige goods component

>>> of the Viking Age chiefly economy.

>>> As social and environmental change intensified in

>>> the later Middle Ages, Greenland's economy failed

>>> and the colony became extinct while Icelanders

>>> survived. New zooarchaeological approaches to

>>> the study of pre-state chiefly economics are

>>> transforming our understanding of the history of

>>> this key region.

>>

>> Iceland has trees although not a great many, Greenland did

>> not. Its hard to work Iron without wood.

>> Iceland was frozen in a few times, also population

>> collapses did occurred.

>

> It is estimated that ca 30-40% of Iceland was tree covered when it was

> settled but the tree cover declined slowly at first until the almost

> entire tree cover had disappeared by the end of the 19th century.

> (ca 2% of Iceland is tree covered today)

> Iceland was never "frozen" since the end of the last ice age, the

> glaciers started to grow after 1400 and reached maximum around 1880,

> they have been slowly retreating since then, with the exception of the

> period 1970-2000 when many of the glaciers started to grow again.

> The population of Iceland did never collapse, it is estimated to have

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- > been around 75 000 in 930 and slowly declined until the late 18th
- > century when the population was around 40 000 after a volcanic eruption
- > that devastated a large area in the south east of Iceland.
- >

Maybe Philip considered having almost the half the population die off as being a population collapse? I would.

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• *References:*

- ◆ ***Re: Cod Fish, Walrus, and Chieftains***
 - ◇ *From:* Philip Deitiker
- ◆ ***Re: Cod Fish, Walrus, and Chieftains***
 - ◇ *From:* sigvald
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