

PRESS RELEASE

1000 years of Danish history

Hygge, happiness and Hans Christian Andersen or the bleak dystopias of Nordic noir crime fiction? Like the Nordic region of which it is a part, the small northern European state of Denmark is associated with positive and negative images. This introductory volume to the history of the country, written by a group of historians from Aarhus University, goes beyond the stereotypes to explore the nuances.

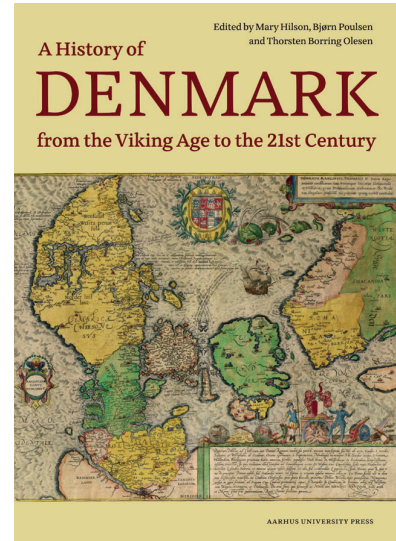
Beginning with the emergence of a Danish kingdom during the Viking Age, the focus is on the history of Denmark as a political entity, from the eighth century to the present day. It shows how what we know as 'Denmark' has evolved – from Cnut the Great's North Sea empire in the eleventh century, through disintegration and civil war in the Middle Ages, the Kalmar Union of 1397-1523, the establishment of the absolutist state and its overseas colonies in the seventeenth century, to the emergence of the modern nation state during the nineteenth century. The book deals with the most important economic, social and cultural historical developments that have shaped Denmark, and sheds light on complex problems such as Denmark's relationship with its Nordic neighbours, the origins of the current border with Germany, and the historical development of the Danish welfare state.

A History of Denmark from the Viking Age to the 21st Century is the companion to an open access online course in Danish history available at www.danmarkshistorien.dk/en/ooc.

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