

CHRONICA

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DISCOVERING
**HOW THE GREAT
PYRAMID WAS REALLY
BUILT**

VIKINGS
**FEARSOME WARRIORS OR
SMART TRADERS?**



HISTORY

HISTROY

By upmaster

Editor's Note

History has a bad habit of dressing itself up in dust and footnotes. School textbooks often make it feel like a slow march of kings, wars, and dates to memorize. But the past wasn't boring—it was loud, messy, hilarious, terrifying, and weird. People before us laughed, gossiped, cheated at games, and sometimes set pigs on fire to win battles (yes, really).

That's why Chronica exists: to tell history the way it deserves to be told—like the greatest, strangest story ever written. We're here to peek behind the marble statues and battlefields and show you the human side of the past: the lost libraries, the “what-ifs,” the everyday oddities, and the spectacular failures that shaped our world.

So, settle in. You'll meet Atlantean dreamers, Viking schemers, samurai gamers, and plenty of forgotten geniuses along the way. Because history isn't dead—it's just waiting for a better punchline.





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THE LIBRARY OF ALEXANDRIA



✿ WHAT KNOWLEDGE
WAS LOST
FOREVER?

Imagine a place where the greatest minds of the ancient world gathered, where scrolls filled with centuries of knowledge lined the walls. This was the Library of Alexandria—the most famous library of the ancient world. But one day, it vanished in flames, taking priceless knowledge with it. What was lost forever? And who was responsible?



Founded in the 3rd century BCE by Pharaoh Ptolemy I, the Library of Alexandria aimed to collect all the knowledge of the world. Scholars, scientists, and philosophers from Greece, Egypt, India, and beyond contributed to its vast collection.

What Did It Contain?

Historians estimate the library held between 40,000 to 400,000 scrolls, covering topics like:

Mathematics – Early studies in algebra, geometry, and calculus.

Geography – Maps and theories about the shape of the Earth.

Science & Medicine – Early surgeries, disease treatments, and anatomy studies.

Philosophy – Works of Plato, Aristotle, and other great thinkers.

Literature – Lost Greek tragedies and epics. One of the greatest minds at the library was Eratosthenes, who calculated the Earth's circumference with incredible accuracy—using only shadows and measurements.

THE BIRTH OF A KNOWLEDGE EMPIRE

The Mystery of Its Destruction

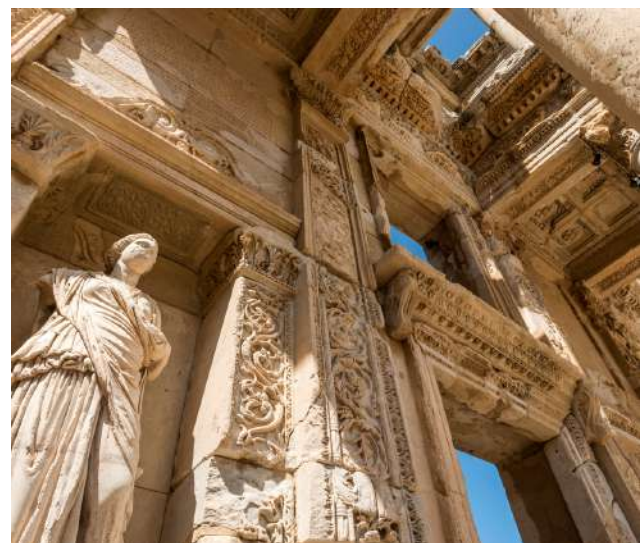
How did such a treasure trove disappear? The truth is, no one knows exactly when or how the Library of Alexandria was destroyed. But historians have some theories: Julius Caesar's Fire (48 BCE) – During a battle in Alexandria, Caesar's forces accidentally set fire to the docks, possibly burning parts of the library.

Roman Raids (270 CE) – Emperor Aurelian's attack on Alexandria may have led to further destruction.

Religious Conflicts (391 CE) – Christian mobs, under orders from Emperor Theodosius, reportedly destroyed pagan institutions, including the library.

Muslim Conquest (642 CE) – Some sources claim that Caliph Omar ordered the burning of the remaining scrolls.

While no single event can be confirmed, the library likely declined over centuries until nothing remained.



WHAT WAS LOST?

The secrets of ancient medicine – Could we have had cures for diseases centuries earlier?

The real history of lost civilizations – Did we lose firsthand accounts of Atlantis or other forgotten cities?

Groundbreaking scientific theories – What if ancient scholars had already begun developing ideas that were rediscovered centuries later?

THE LEGACY OF THE LIBRARY

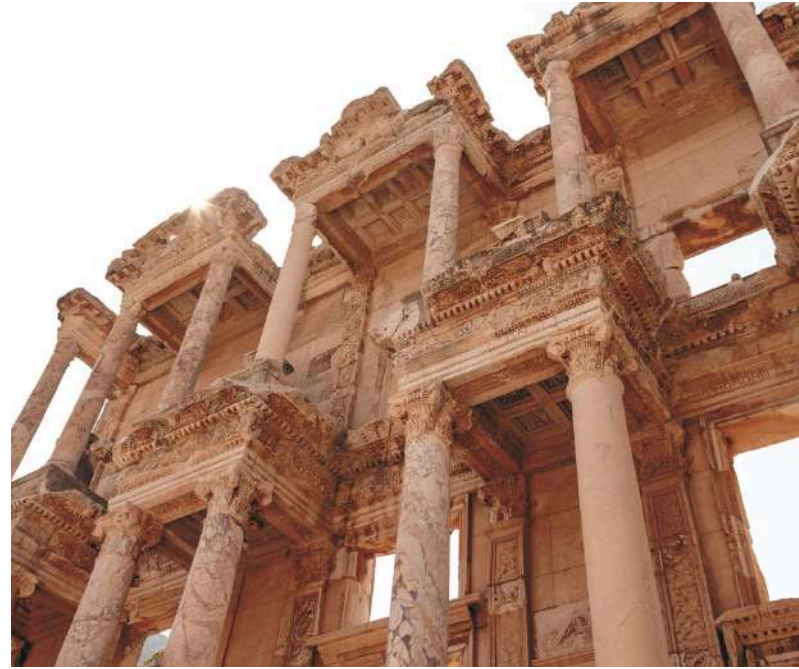
Though lost, the spirit of the Library of Alexandria inspired future institutions, including:

The House of Wisdom in Baghdad

Modern universities and libraries worldwide

Today, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, built in Egypt in 2002, serves as a tribute to the lost library—though it can never truly replace what was once there.

The Library of Alexandria was more than just a collection of scrolls—it was a symbol of human curiosity and knowledge. Its destruction remains one of the greatest tragedies in history. Imagine what our world might be like today if its wisdom had survived. Would history have unfolded differently? We may never know.





A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A ROMAN GLADIATOR

The roar of the crowd. The glint of steel. The smell of sweat and sand. Life as a Roman gladiator was brutal, dangerous, and often short. But what was it really like to be one of these warriors? Let's step into the sandals of a gladiator and experience a day in their life—from dawn to the moment they step into the arena.

Morning: The Harsh Routine Begins

As the sun rises over Rome, the ludus (gladiator training school) comes to life. Gladiators—many of them slaves, prisoners of war, or criminals—begin their day at sunrise.

Training & Discipline

Their morning routine consists of:

Strength training: Lifting heavy stones, pulling weighted carts, and practicing weapon strikes.

Combat drills: Fighting against wooden dummies and sparring with fellow gladiators.

Endurance exercises: Running, dodging, and practicing agility moves to avoid deadly strikes.

Trainers, often experienced former gladiators, are harsh. Disobedience means punishment—sometimes a whipping or worse.

Breakfast: Fuel for Battle

A gladiator's diet is surprisingly healthy. Their meal, called *puls*, is a thick barley porridge mixed with beans and vegetables. Meat is rare, but they drink a special calcium-rich tonic made from charred bone ash to keep their bones strong for battle.





ATLANTIS

THE ORIGINAL CONSPIRACY THEORY

Picture it: a glittering city beyond the horizon, built with technology so advanced it makes Wi-Fi look like stone tools. Towers of marble, fleets of unstoppable ships, philosophers sipping wine while planning world domination. This is Atlantis—or at least, the version people keep arguing about.



The story begins not with an archaeologist or an explorer, but with Plato. Around 360 BCE, he wrote about a mighty island empire that tried to conquer Athens but was ultimately swallowed by the sea “in a single day and night of misfortune.” To Plato, it wasn’t an adventure tale—it was an allegory about hubris, a moral lesson wrapped in a watery disaster.

But humans love a good mystery, and we’re terrible at leaving stories alone. Ever since, people have treated Atlantis like history’s greatest treasure hunt.

WHERE WAS IT SUPPOSED TO BE?

That depends on who you ask. The Mediterranean? The Caribbean? Antarctica? (Yes, really.) Every century seems to spawn a new “definitive” theory:

Some argue it was inspired by the volcanic destruction of the island of Thera (modern Santorini).

Others insist it was a memory of ancient seafaring civilizations now lost to time.

And then there are the wild takes: aliens, crystal energy, or a secret underwater society still out there, waiting.



WHY IT WON'T DIE

Atlantis is the ultimate historical “what if.” Unlike the Library of Alexandria, which definitely existed, Atlantis lives in the hazy twilight of maybe, maybe not. It feeds our hunger for the idea that the past was stranger and grander than we realize. And let’s be honest—who wouldn’t want an ancient civilization with hover-boats and psychic crystals hiding under the waves?

THE VERDICT

So, was Atlantis real? Probably not. Was it philosophy disguised as history? Almost certainly. But the allure of a lost world keeps pulling us back. Atlantis may not exist under the sea, but it lives rent-free in our imaginations—proof that humans are wired to chase mysteries, even if the map is a doodle from Plato’s notebook.

DID YOU KNOW?

01

DISNEY'S ATLANTIS (2001)

wasn't based on real archaeology—it borrowed more from Jules Verne's 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea and pulp adventure comics.

02

THE "ATLANTIS IN ANTARCTICA" THEORY

Comes from 20th-century writers who claimed shifting ice sheets hid the ruins. No, they didn't find frozen Atlantean Wi-Fi routers.

03

THE NAZI EXPEDITION TO FIND ATLANTIS (1938–39)

- went to Tibet. Spoiler: they didn't find it there either.
- The Santorini Connection: The eruption of Thera (Santorini) around 1600 BCE is the most plausible inspiration for Plato's story—an advanced island civilization wiped out by volcanic fury.

VIKINGS

Fearsome Warriors or Smart Traders?



When most people picture Vikings, they imagine hulking warriors with horned helmets (spoiler: the horns are a myth), storming villages with axes raised high, leaving nothing but smoke and fear behind. And yes, raiding was part of the package—but it's only half the story. The Vikings were also savvy merchants, explorers, and negotiators who knew how to profit as well as plunder.

The Warrior Side

From the late 8th to 11th centuries, Viking longships appeared like nightmares on the coasts of England, Ireland, and France. Monasteries were favorite targets—rich in gold, poorly defended, and conveniently located on rivers. Their fast, shallow-draft ships let them strike deep inland, vanish with the loot, and be home in time for dinner. No wonder the word Viking still sparks visions of terror.

The Trader Side



But between raids, those same longships carried goods instead of warriors. Vikings sailed to Byzantium, Baghdad, and beyond, trading furs, amber, slaves, and walrus ivory. In return, they brought back silk, spices, silver, and ideas. Archaeologists have found Arabic coins buried in Scandinavian soil and Viking-style jewelry unearthed in Russia—proof that their trade networks stretched across continents.

— VIKINGS —

The Smart Strategists

Vikings weren't just muscle. They founded settlements that grew into major cities: Dublin in Ireland, York in England, and Kiev in Ukraine all owe their origins to Norse settlers. They also cut deals when swords weren't the best option—like the Danegeld, a "protection payment" made by English kings to keep the raiders away. In other words, the Vikings practically invented the mafia racket.

The Verdict

So, were Vikings fearsome warriors or smart traders? The answer is: both. They thrived because they could adapt—raiding when it paid, trading when it profited, and settling when it suited. Their legacy is more than battles; it's a web of cultural connections that helped shape medieval Europe.



VIKINGS

Myths Busted



Horned Helmets?

Total myth. Stage designers in the 1800s added horns to make Vikings look scarier in operas. Actual Viking helmets were practical, not cosplay.

Dirty Barbarians?

Nope. Archaeologists keep finding combs, tweezers, razors, and even ear cleaners in Viking graves. They bathed weekly—far cleaner than most Europeans at the time.

Endless Raiding?

Vikings didn't spend all their time pillaging. Most were farmers, fishermen, and traders who only raided seasonally (like a very aggressive summer job).

Savages with No Culture?

Wrong again. They had rich myths (Thor, Loki, Odin), runic writing, and even law codes—complete with assemblies called Things where disputes were settled.

Berserkers as Supernatural Warriors?

They fought fiercely, sure, but the “invincible rage” might've been fueled by drugs, alcohol, or just clever intimidation tactics.



The Samurai Who Loved Board Games

When you hear the word samurai, you probably picture a stoic warrior, katana gleaming, honor-bound by the code of bushidō. Fierce duels, loyalty to their lords, ritual seppuku—it's all very dramatic. But beneath the armor, samurai were still human. And some of them had a softer obsession: board games.

Shogi: Japan's Chess (But Trickier)

One of the favorite pastimes of the samurai was shogi, often called "Japanese chess." Like chess, it's a battle of strategy—but with a twist. When you capture an opponent's piece, you can drop it back onto the board as your own. Imagine if pawns in chess could suddenly switch teams mid-game. Brutal, but brilliant. Samurai loved shogi not just as entertainment, but as mental training for real warfare. Outsmarting an opponent on the board was practice for outmaneuvering them on the battlefield.

Go: The Game of Endless Patience

Another hit was go, a deceptively simple-looking game played with black and white stones. The rules are easy—surround your opponent’s territory—but the strategy is infinite. Entire treatises were written on it, and masters spent lifetimes refining their play. For a samurai, go wasn’t just a game—it was a test of patience, focus, and the art of knowing when to strike and when to hold back.

These games show us that samurai weren’t mindless fighters. They valued cunning as much as courage, calculation as much as the cut of a blade. In fact, a warrior who could balance swordplay with shogi strategy or go mastery was seen as truly cultured. It was part of a broader ideal: to be a warrior-scholar, equally at home in battle and in the quiet contest of the mind.

The samurai weren’t just sword-swinging icons of violence—they were gamers. Their “consoles” may have been wooden boards instead of PlayStations, but the obsession was real. The next time you sit down to a chess match or a board game night, imagine a samurai doing the same, sharpening his mind between duels.





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