

DAUGAVPILS UNIVERSITY ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC  
CONFERENCE OF HUMANITIES "JANUARY READINGS"  
2024



# Intereuropean Slave Trade & Migration in Medieval Arabic and European texts

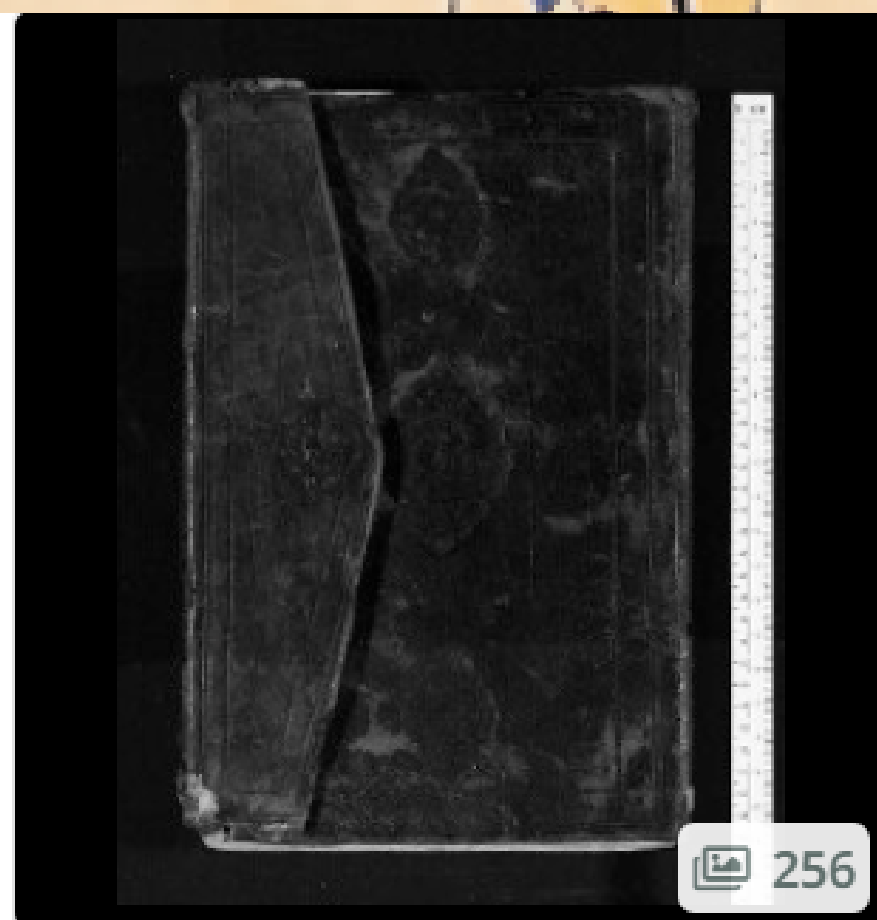
DIANA KRASNOVA & MARIA GRINAVICA





**Source: Paoella, C. (2020). Human Trafficking in Medieval Europe: Slavery, Sexual Exploitation, and Prostitution. Amsterdam University Press.**





Bodleian Library MS. Arab. e.  
92

Riḥlat al-shaykh Muṣṭafá al-  
Laṭīfī wa-jamī' mā ra'āhu fī...

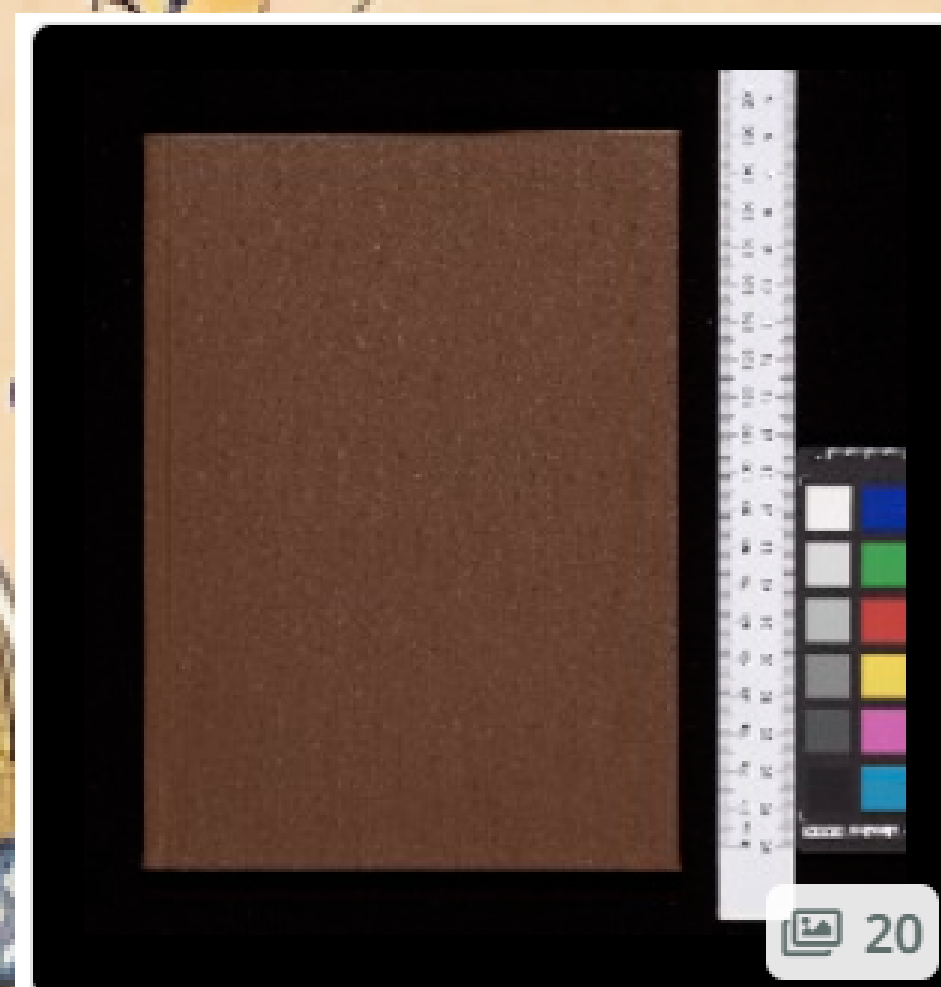
✓ Fully digitized



Bodleian Library MS. Greaves  
2

Taqwīm al-buldān

✓ Fully digitized



Bodleian Library MS. Bodl.  
Or. 822

Notes by J. Greaves on Abū al-  
Fidā 's Geography [ Taqwīm ]

other viewers



fol. 1a



Image 6 of 514



About

Contents

Search contents

al-Jaghrāfiyah

fol. 1a-fol. 89a

Titles:

al-Jaghrāfiyah

Author:

Zuhrī, Muḥammad ibn Abī Bakr, fl. 12th century

Date Statement:

1533

Contents Note:

Copied from a MS. dated 1293.

Ḥikāyāt wa-qīṣaṣ wa-gharā'ib wa-'ajā'ib

fol. 89a-fol. 155a; fol. 189a-fol. 199b

A kind of sermon on asceticism (al-zuhd)

fol. 156a-fol. 182a



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fol. 1a



fol. 2a



fol. 3a





### **Sources translated and transcribed:**

- “Muqaddimah” by Ibn Khaldun
- "Book of Roger" by Al-Idrisi (only the written commentaries)
- "Rihla” by Ibn Battuta
- “Journey in the Quest for Hadith” by al-Khateeb al-Baghdadi
- Most importantly - The “Risala” by Ibn Fadlan

### **Primary sources (untranslated and untranscribed):**

- Copy of Taqwīm al-buldān - “The Almanac of Countries” - by Abū al-Fidā’ Ismā’īl ibn ‘Alī (1273-1331)
- Riḥlat al-shaykh Muṣṭafá al-Laṭīfī wa-jamī’ mā ra’āhu fī siyāḥatihi min al-‘ajā’ib ‘alá al-tamām wa-al-kamāl - “The Journey of Sheikh Mustafa al-Latifi and All the Wonders He Saw in His Travels to Perfection and Completeness” (translating literally) - also known as Siyāḥah (c. 1595-1714)
- Al-Jaghrāfiyah by Muḥammad ibn Abī Bakr Zuhri (1293?), and as a secondary source - Rasā’il by Ikhwān al-Ṣafā’ (1560)



# Copy of Taqwīm al-buldān by Abū al-Fidā' Ismā'īl ibn 'Alī, 1273-1331.

Date Statement:  
1560

Holding Institution:  
Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford

والى الأندلس [ بعد العودة ] وهو المغرب الأوسط والاقصى وما افريقيه فيكون قبالتها صقلية منها إلى الأندلس وهي من افريقية "فيكون من بر [ العودة ] ايضا

"To Andalusia [after the return], which is the central, eastern, and even parts of North Africa, opposite it is Sicily, from there to Andalusia. And it is part of Africa, and from the land [of return] as well."



# Results this far:

Transcribed and translated approx.:

- 120 pages of Taqwīm al-buldān and researching Andalusia as a slave trade destination.
- 50 pages of the Riḥlat al-shaykh Muṣṭafá al-Laṭīfī, researching sheykh's observations of slavery, if any.
- 50 pages of Al-Jaghrāfiyah, researching slave trade routes.
- Started analysis of Rasā'il - the manuscript collection.
- Translating The "Journey in the Quest for Hadith" by al-Khateeb al-Baghdadi.
- Identifying solitary manuscripts on slavery.



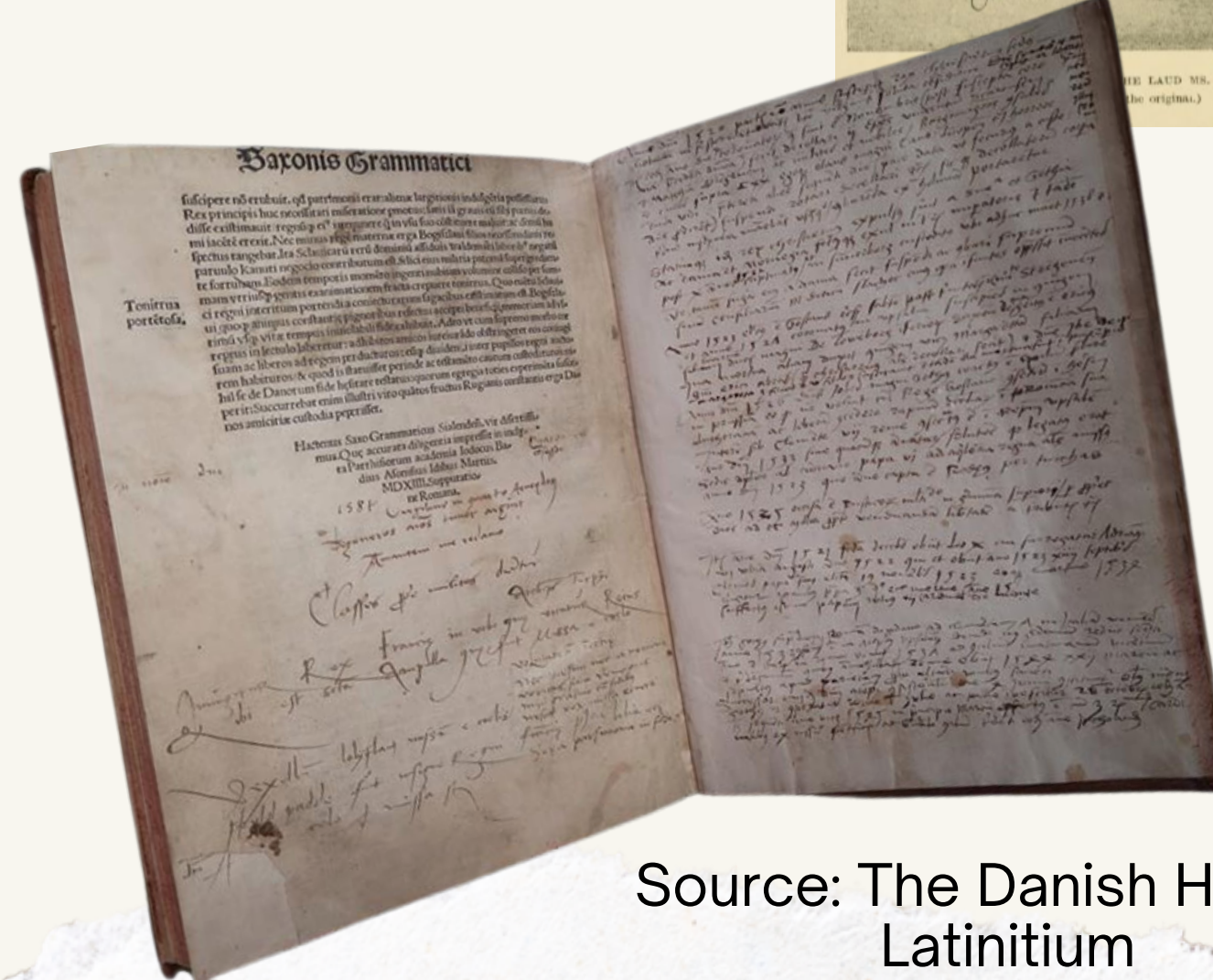
# Medieval European sources

In this study authors examined -

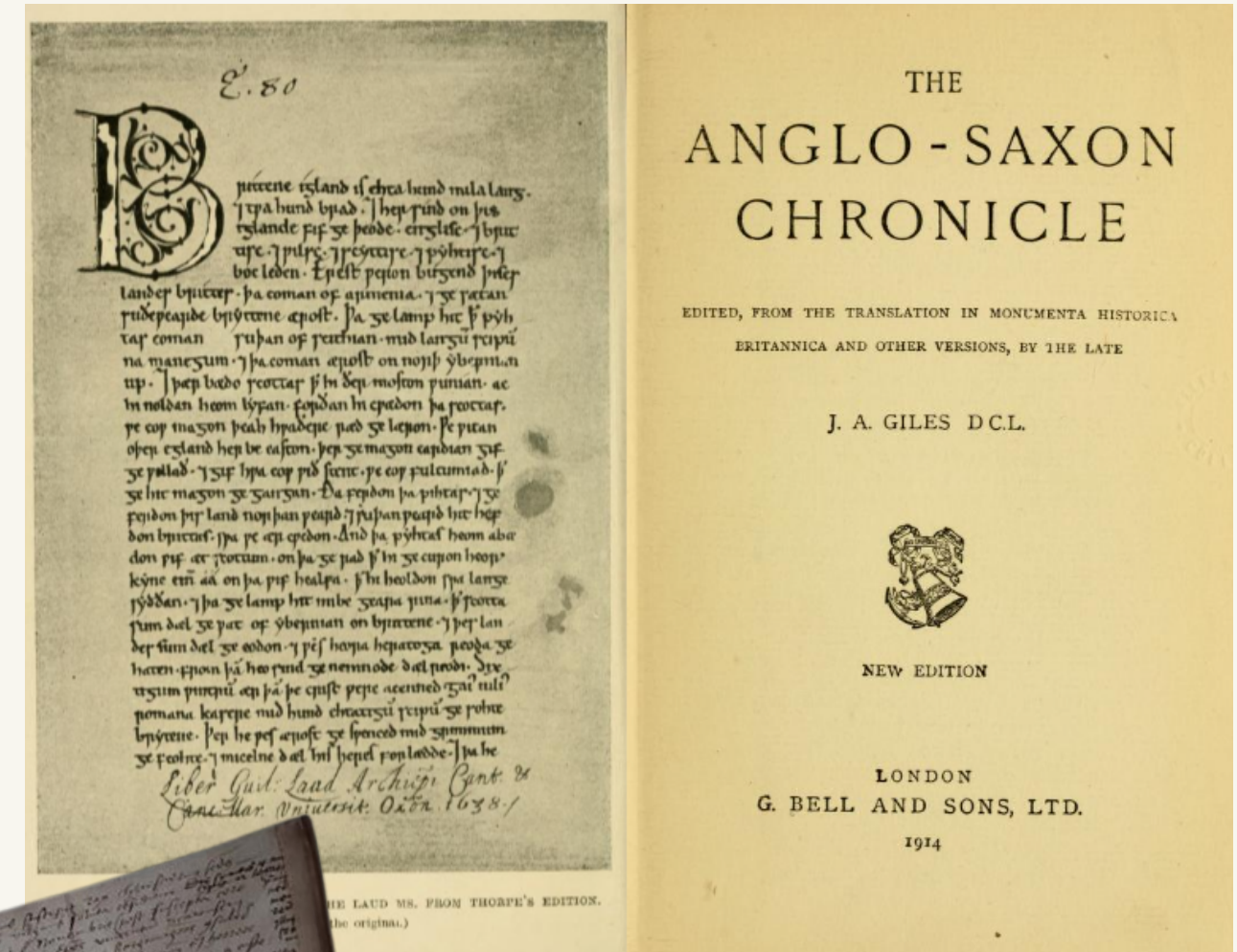
- The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle
- The Life of Saint Findan
- The Chronicle of Ireland; The Annals of Ulster and The Annals of Clonmacnoise
- The Danish History, Books I-IX, “Gesta Danorum” (“Deeds of the Danes”)



Source: The Annals of Ulster, Medievalists.net



Source: The Danish History, Latinitium



Source: The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, Internet Archive



# Medieval European sources - Comparative Analysis

The research is currently in progress and will be further explored, but the main findings from the study so far are as follows:

Medieval European source	Main findings
The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Limited direct mention of Viking slave raids;</li><li>• Offers insights into Viking strategic use of captives in England;</li><li>• Emphasizes economic benefits for Vikings.</li></ul>
The Chronicle of Ireland; The Annals of Ulster and The Annals of Clonmacnoise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Records numerous Viking raids in Ireland;</li><li>• Captures high-status figures and women for economic purposes;</li><li>• Systematic approach to Viking slave trading evident.</li></ul>
The Danish History, Books I-IX, “Gesta Danorum” (“Deeds of the Danes”)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Insights into societal views and treatment of slaves in Viking society;</li><li>• Illustrates class division and harsh slave realities, especially women.</li></ul>
Life of Saint Findan:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Personal narrative of captivity and enslavement;</li><li>• Reflects societal impact of Viking raids;</li><li>• Offers a unique perspective on Viking practices.</li></ul>

Source: Created by authors, based on the study



# Comparative Analysis of Medieval European sources

During the study comparing different Medieval European texts, it was found that:

- Viking activities prominently involved strategic slave-taking, often targeting high-status individuals and women, as part of a systematic and economically driven approach to slavery.
- Medieval texts provide evidence of a methodical system of slave trading within Viking society, underlining the importance of slavery in their economic and social structure.
- The conditions for slaves were harsh, characterized by clear class divisions, lack of rights, societal biases, and severe punishments, reflecting the challenging and cruel realities slaves faced in Viking society.

a) "Slaves had, of course, no right either of honor, or life, or limb. Captive ladies are sent to a brothel: captive kings cruelly put to death. Born slaves were naturally still less considered, they were flogged: it was disgraceful to kill them with honorable steel..."

b) "As many women as they could Lay hands on, noble or ignoble, young or ould, married or unmarried, whatsoever birth or adge they were of, were by them abused most beastly, and filthily, and such of them as they liked best, were by them sent over seas into their one cuntryes there to be kept by them to use their unlawfull lusts"

Examples from a) "Gesta Danorum" and b) The Annals of Clonmacnoise (spelling and capitalization irregularities are from the 1627 English translation of the lost Irish original).



# Conclusions

- Andalusia as a focal point - requires further research.
- The most richly analysed source is the Risala of Ibn Fadlan and works of Ibn Hawqal, while untranslated or undigitalised sources lack analysis, therefore further research is required.
- Chronicles and sagas often mention slave trade and migration more than other sources.
- While early Viking Age writers frequently avoided detailed descriptions of individual slaves, the importance of slave-taking in Viking society was acknowledged
- Research into medieval texts revealed the extent of Viking invasions, captive taking, and slavery's socioeconomic impact, highlighting the Vikings' strategic use of slavery for economic gain and cultural attitudes towards slaves.