

Chapter 1 : Mercenaries and Paid Men: The Mercenary Identity in the Middle Ages - Google Books

This book is a collection of 21 studies on "Mercenaries and Paid Men" during the middle Ages, with an introduction from John France, the author of a superb book on medieval warfare, among other publications.

The runestone U at Orkesta commemorates the housecarl of a local lord. Housecarls were free men, not to be confused with thralls slaves or serfs ; to this effect, the Icelandic laws also calls them einhleypingar "lone-runners" and lausamenn "men not tied". Both terms emphasise that they were voluntarily in service of another, as opposed to thralls. This meaning can be seen, for instance, on the Turinge stone: These brothers were the best of men in the land and abroad in the retinue [lid], held their housecarls well. Conversely, retainers were expected to avenge their leader if he was killed. But even after the Danish kings had lost England, housecarls continued to exist in Denmark. From the annals it is not clear whether other paid men were types of housecarl or simply just a subdivision. There were groups known as lithsmen [b] and butsecarls who were mercenaries that were equally adept in land and maritime warfare. As Tostig was fighting against the king at the time then the use of the term housecarl seems to have been a synonym for a mercenary or retainer rather than just royal bodyguards. It also would have been used to differentiate between that of the paid warrior and the unpaid militia known as the fyrd. Their organisation in a band or guild was Scandinavian in character, but the legal process the Witherlogh defines is mainly derived from canon law, directly or through Anglo-Saxon laws. They could be disgraced by being moved to a lower place; this was punishment for minor offences, such as not giving proper care to the horse of a fellow housecarl. After three such offences, the offender could be seated at the lowest place, and no-one was to talk to him, but everyone could throw bones at him at will. Murder of another housecarl was punished by outlawry and exile, whereas treason was punished by death and confiscation of all property. Quarrels between housecarles were decided by a specific tribunal gemot , the Huskarlesteffne, in the presence of the king; depending on the nature of the quarrel, a varying number of testimonies would be required. A special tax was levied to provide pay in coin to the royal housecarls. At that last date, the Domesday Book records thirty-three landholding housecarls in the kingdom, a limited number; and furthermore, these estates were small. Cnut is said to have retained 3, to 4, men with him in England, to serve as his bodyguard. For instance, Charles Oman , in his book *The Art of War in the Middle Ages* , states that the main advantage of the housecarls at Hastings were their esprit de corps. However, more recently, historian Nicholas Hooper criticised Larson and stated that "it is time to debunk the housecarl"; according to Hooper, housecarls were not in effect distinguishable from Saxon thegns , and were mainly retainers who received lands or pay or both , but without being really a standing army. Hooper asserts that while the Housecarles might well have had superior esprit de corps and more uniform training and equipment than the average Thegn, they would not necessarily have been a clearly defined military elite. During the reign of Edward the Confessor, a number of sailors and soldiers, the lithsmen [b] , were paid wages and possibly based in London; those lithsmen [b] were, according to some, the main standing armed force, while the housecarls were only acting as a secondary one.

Chapter 2 : The Vietnam conflict and the Soldiers of Fortune who became involved.

Household Men, Mercenaries and Vikings in Anglo-Saxon England.. Richard Abels 9. *Merovingian Mercenaries and Paid Soldiers in Imperial Perspective.. Professor Bernard S. Bachrach* *The Early Hungarians as Mercenaries* Charles R. Bowlus

Hardcover *Mercenaries and Paid Men: The Mercenary Identity in the Middle Ages*, ed. It is volume 47 in the series *History of Warfare* from the publishers, Brill of Leiden. As with any collection, readers will find a number of items of greater and lesser interest, depending on their own areas of study. The exigencies of a limited agricultural economy prohibited the creation of regular armies. Short-term armies were made up of many different kinds of people enjoying complicated relationships with their commanders. We may talk of the army of this king or that, but most soldiers probably saw themselves as being the men of a whole host of lesser captains and lords. In these circumstances we might do well to regard mercenary as a term of art, a paradigm to which some approximated more than others, but which, in itself, had little contemporary reality. *Urban Military Forces of England and Germany c. Mercenaries, Mamluks and Militia: What does a Mercenary Leave Behind?* Index INTRODUCTION - John France "Mercenaries have never had a good press" This is both an introduction to the medieval mercenary and to the authors and their essays, introducing them into his introductory narrative at the appropriate place - "After the conquest of England in , a penance for killing was imposed on the entire Norman army, but it was markedly more severe for those who served William for pay than for those who were his subjects serving from obligation to their ruler. This distinction between duty and the desire for gain may strike us as highly artificial. Virtually all men who fought hoped to gain, and in this case the greater men who were subjects of William stood to gain far more than those who hired themselves for pay. However, this distinction was a very important one in medieval thinking and still forms the basis of modern perceptions of who was a mercenary and who was not. Cruelty, in particular is often seen as their defining characteristic. In the Third Lateran Council condemned mercenaries and all who employed them, calling even for a crusade against these destroyers of churches who killed the poor and the innocent without any distinction of sex or status. But this was hardly a special quality of mercenaries. The nobles and knights of medieval Europe tended to justify their privileged position in terms of their sense of social responsibility, and, in particular, the duty to defend the weak and helpless. By the end of the twelfth century, Davis Crouch suggests, this was a central plank of the newly emerging exclusiveness of the aristocrats to whom the knights were being assimilated. Taken all in all, we can say that William Marshal and the men of his circle were not in their day particular fans of mercenaries, and they especially did not like their captains. This paternalistic view found ready acceptance in the work of Hans Delbrück and has subsequently survived several decades of historical inquiry. First, the consideration of mortality implies that Henry foresaw combat e. Second, given that combat was likely, Henry apparently considered his mercenaries worthy substitutes for the native soldiers. Of course, one could argue that neither applies because Henry was either foolish enough to deploy inferior troops or nonchalant about human casualties, but both of these notions are absurd. Therefore, we must assume that Henry felt comfortable employing hired soldiers for potentially dangerous military campaigns, even during times of great peril to his realms. We may push the matter further by dispensing with headcounts for a moment But recruitment and fighting motivation remain two areas of medieval warfare that have been largely unexamined, or at least insufficiently examined. And of course, these characteristics also fit the archetypal medieval mercenary, John Hawkwood, the renowned English condottiere and leader of condottiere in fourteenth-century Italy But how well do they define the more common medieval mercenary, the one who does not stand out like a John Hawkwood? It is worth noting, however, that only a minority of such predators were foreign, and that it was the complex and bitter rivalries of small Italian states which provided mercenaries with their opportunities. It is now generally agreed that even in the later fourteenth century, when the presence of foreign - non-Italian - mercenary soldiers in the Peninsula and their political and military influence was at its height, the majority of mercenaries were in fact Italian. Though prisoners of war were numerous on building and demolition sites, the mercenary phenomenon gained in importance as the lack of

experts confronted princes and sultans with new problems. The importance of fortification in the crusading context and the high frequency of siege assaults provided a fertile ground for the genesis of a new social class. What is odd, however, is how little evidence there is for their presence in Britain between the end of the fifth century and the turn of the millennium. What makes this even stranger is that there is considerable evidence for soldiers who fought for wages throughout the period. These two kingdoms, of course, were organized on very different political and constitutional foundations, which has substantial influence on the organization of urban fighting forces. I am unaware of any successful attempt to create a typology of military service that could distinguish along a consistent and limited set of variables and in a cross-culturally valid way, between the varieties of paid and unpaid military service. This is what I will attempt in this article. Gilbert of Mons was a cleric who served, among other offices, as chancellor for Count Baldwin V of Hainault, who governed the county from to If those points of comparison do exist, then how prevalent are they and can we make any assumptions as a result? Equally important, however, for the study of the personality of the medieval mercenary is the question of what does a mercenary leave behind when he is employed to fight abroad; what archaeological evidence can be recovered relating to his estates and property, and what can they tell us about why he would chose the life of a mercenary. Pedro I of Castile , faced against his half-brother, Count Enrique of Trastamara, was a military event of extraordinary importance in the history of medieval Spain. Those mercenary troops, supporting both Pedro I of Castile and his stepbrother Enrique of Trastamara, introduced into the Iberian Peninsula a new way of waging war, which was rather different from the old standards of the chivalry. As well as being interesting in itself, a passage in his article throws up the very question - is there a pure mercenary? During the battle of Tannenberg, Luppold von Kockritz, a knight from Meissen, died attempting to kill the Polish king. He was a close friend of the Grand Master of the Teutonic order, Ulrich von Jungingen, In a letter, Luppold recorded that many aristocratic friends would fight the Lithuanians, who were perceived as pagans, on behalf of the Order, but would demand payment in the case of war against the Christian Poles. This raises the issue of identity again, for it suggests that those who fought for money could also be motivated by ideological consideration. Whilst other peoples, such as the Scots and the Swiss, were recognised for their mercenary activity, what characterises the Irish experience is the breadth and extent of their involvement: This paper is intended to explain the background to, and nature of, this mercenary tradition.

Chapter 3 : A Brief History of the Mercenary - Soldier of Fortune - and Contractors.

Mercenaries have always had a poor press. Theirs is one of the world's oldest professions, but the very word has profoundly negative connotations of infidelity and ruthlessness.

At first the French made it a protectorate while later they called it a colony. However, it was basically a foothold into that part of the world from which they could build up a trade route with the motherland. This colonisation upset the local Vietnamese who had strong anti-colonial feelings, and wanted to run their own country. This sentiment would grow and develop during the following years. With the outbreak of the Second World War the invading imperial Japanese Army expelled the French to occupy Vietnam, although they retained French administrators to run the country during their occupation. The Vietminh grew very quickly in strength, gaining power in both the North and South of the country. In it changed its name to the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. The British eventually defeated the Japanese in the country, receiving their surrender on 2nd September. Following the Japanese defeat, the French returned to take possession of their colony. Their entrance into Vietnam was only permitted by the Vietminh after assurances had been given that the country would gain its independence as part of the French Union. However, discussions broke down between the two parties and in December, the French shelled the city of Haiphong and forcibly re-entered the capital city Hanoi, starting a war between the two parties which went on to last 8 years. The war between the two sides ended with the signing of an Accord in Geneva, which left the Vietminh in control of the Northern part of the country, and the French and its Vietnamese supporters controlling the South. In the South led by Ngo Dinh Diem, experienced an uprising. These advisors were highly skilled in jungle warfare. They had been involved in the confrontation with Indonesia and had learned from Australian action in the jungles during World War Two. In, Ngo Dinh Diem was overthrown and killed during a military coup. After the assassination of President Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson was sworn into office and one of his first acts as President was to commit more American troops to the area. Australia responded and increased the number of its advisors to. However, by, the South was losing badly and so the US Military had to step up its commitment by sending more troops to the area. This presence grew as a response to the increasing success of the North-sponsored Vietcong. By early Australian advisor numbers had rose to over. After three years of providing military advisors to help train the Army of the Republic of Vietnam, Australia was now to send its own army the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment RAR, consisting of soldiers, who arrived in Vietnam during May. These were all career soldiers. Conscriptio had been re-introduced to Australia in November. It was called the National Service Scheme and required all men to register when they turned. Each year certain dates were drawn and those whose birthdays were on that date and who passed the medical and educational tests had to serve in the army for two years. Anyone who did not fulfil their National Service obligations without a good reason could be fined or imprisoned. The first army units containing National Service conscripts entered the Vietnam War in early. By December, there were almost half a million American personnel involved in the Vietnam War, and the death toll amongst its military had reached 16. Although most people believe that mercenaries were not used in the Vietnam War, this is far from the truth. The definition of a mercenary is somebody who fights for another country other than the one in which he is a citizen. If you want to check out an official agreement that was signed on 12th August formalising this definition, a copy is on this site. In another agreement that included a clause about the protection of victims of International armed conflicts was also signed. However, the American Government forgot to sign it, at a time when the CIA was involved in a couple of coups that were taking place in their own part of the world. This is true but they were all enlisted into the Foreign Legion which made them French for the duration of their service term, and indeed afterwards. Once they completed their military service they would have all received a French Passport. France was under a lot of pressure to control the country and to keep a presence in the area. While not wanting to send too many of their own young soldiers to their deaths in the country, instead they sent the Legion containing the ex-German soldiers. Problem solved all round, or so they believed. The book is basically about Hans Joef Wagemuller and describes what he and his German friends got up to while serving in Vietnam. What is less certain is who the

Northern Vietnamese military might have recruited. It is common knowledge that both China and the Soviet Union backed North Vietnam with armament and military personnel. South East Asia Treaty Organisation. To carry this out they needed a large military force on the ground, something they could not raise at that particular time from the USA, largely the US government had not informed their people of what would be involved if they became went to war helping out South Vietnam. This was a time when they had only just started telling the American public about the so called domino effect i. This was to a public who did not want to go to war so soon after witnessing horrors of the Korean War that had been fought in the early s. At first the American Government sent a few thousand of their military personnel to the country. Their main job was to train and recruit anybody from South Vietnam and especially neighbouring countries, like the Philippines, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Korea. There is a lot of evidence that they were all paid to fight. North Vietnamese who were recruited and paid to fight are also another group that cannot be classed as mercenaries as it can be considered that they were also fighting for their own country. Another group of people that were recruited was the Chinese Nung tribesmen who were a group of hill people who originally came from the southern part of China but some of them were by then living in Vietnam. They were hired and organised by the CIA as a mercenary force. They were fearsome and brutal fighters, and were employed throughout Vietnam especially along the Ho Chi Minh Trail. However, the Nungs proved a costly force to maintain since they refused to fight unless constantly supplied with both money and beer! After a complaint from a site visitor that the book was fiction, I removed the article immediately. However, since then somebody who is connected with this website has personally made contact with Gayle Rivers and had a long chat with him. He believes that the basic story is true and that as Rivers states the American military are doing everything in their power to play down the story because of the bad publicity and the way it portrays them. How wrong they are because their constant denials and refusal to talk about the raid has given Rivers far more publicity than his book did way back in when I first purchased a copy to read. With the recruitment of Korean mercenaries the The Republic of Korea ROK became involved and sent three divisions of troops to Vietnam, beginning in September of , with the "White Horse," "Blue Dragon," and the "Tiger" divisions which totalled , men over a twelve year period. They had around 45, troops on the ground at any one time, making it the second biggest army fighting in the country. For their help the American Government paid the Korean Government direct for their services. Someone once said it was the Korean Governments way of thanking America for the help they gave them during the Korean War in the early s. However, sadly just like in Australia they were not considered heroes upon their return home after the Vietnam War. Another area of large recruitment numbers was in the Philippines some 10, troops were dispatched to South Vietnam, while in Thailand the recruits numbered around 26, Once the Australian and New Zealand Governments became involved and sent troops to the area, it was quite easy for some selective British service men to be sent there under the guise of being citizens of one or other of the countries. Although it has to be noted that the British Prime Minister of the time Harold Wilson fell out with the American President Johnson after refusing to openly commit British Troops to the area or publicly back the Americans, as he was already involved in fighting in Brunei, Sarawak and North Borneo. While the figures for North Vietnam are around 1. But was released after a few weeks when it was discovered that his brother Roger the ex Congo Katangese Mercenary was believed to be running guns to the Vietcong in the Mekong Delta. Although it has to be mentioned that some of what John has claimed in the past has been a little exaggerated.

Chapter 4 : Mercenaries - Military History - Oxford Bibliographies

Mercenaries, stereotypically, are "paid" and "foreign", but as Kelly DeVries notes, these dual characteristics are flawed by anachronistic preconceptions and the modern constructs of contemporary language.

A Brief History of the Mercenary - Soldier of Fortune - and Contractors Still under construction and adding new information as it comes in Over the years Mercenary work has been regarded as the second oldest profession in the world. Although some might argue that it is a peculiarly male version of prostitution, it has effectively been around for as long as war has been waged. Well worth a read. Quote The armed forces of many nations have, at one time or another, used foreign volunteers who were motivated by political, ideological or other considerations to join a foreign army. These may be formed into units of a given nationality or may be formed into mixed nationality foreign units. Sometimes foreign volunteers were incorporated into ordinary units. The practice has a long history, dating back at least as far as the Roman Empire, which recruited non-citizens into Auxiliary units on the promise of them receiving Roman citizenship for themselves and their descendents at the end of their service. A tactic used by Alexander the Great BC was to employ mercenaries to work and fight alongside his men to pass on their trade. These were foreign nationals in high demand for the specific skills that they possessed, and they were well paid for their work. He trained more than just battle-hardened veterans. He took an army of mercenaries, men that came from all over the known world, and moulded them into a tough fighting force, and one of the first professional armies in the world. You know that as long as you have basic support, you can stand your ground. That fact helped to free up men who would otherwise be at the back of the phalanx. The phalanx is the name given to a particular military formation. The phalanx is a box formation made up of infantry soldiers. The number of men may vary from eight to thirty six. The men who made up the front ranks were required to carry spears measuring at least twelve feet in length. It was essential that all of them carried the spears in an upright position. This would create a wall of spears. Besides looking very formidable this formation had another function. The wall of spears served to conceal what was going on inside the formation. The soldiers inside could take aim and kill the enemies without disturbance, as they themselves would be practically invisible. And if the long spears were held horizontally then enemies could be killed from a safe distance. The phalanx was considered a very revolutionary development and was a very useful and potent strategy. The men used for this formation were given thorough and continuous practice in the form of drills. All the practice made them perfect in their job. The Romans made full use of mercenaries wherever possible. In return and providing that the villages did not complain and fight against the Romans, they were left in relevant peace. Once the press ganged villager had served a term of around 20 years they were allowed home and in some cases ended up in prominent positions. There are also records to prove that some of them were allowed to go to Rome and were even granted Roman citizenship. Many of his enemies changed sides and offered to fight for him. There was no pardon for either the people or their lands. People were ruthlessly massacred from one city after another, and their land was completely destroyed. After the Mongols had destroyed the Khwarezmian Empire in and moved on. Many Khwarezmians survived by working as mercenaries in northern Iraq. The Khwarezmiyyas, heading south from Iraq towards Egypt, invaded Christian-held Jerusalem along the way, on July 11, This triggered a call from Europe for the Seventh Crusade, but the Crusaders would never again be successful in retaking Jerusalem. After being conquered by the Khwarezmian forces, the city stayed under Muslim control until , when it was taken from the Ottomans by the British. As Scots, they were Gaels and shared a common origin and heritage with the Irish, but as they had intermarried with the 10th century Norse settlers of western Scotland, the Irish called them Gall Gaeil "foreign Gaels". They were the mainstay of Scottish and Irish warfare before the advent of gunpowder, and depended upon seasonal service with Irish chieftains. A military leader would often choose a gallowglass to serve as his personal aide and bodyguard because, as a foreigner, the gallowglass would be less subject to local feuds and influences. They were organised into groups known as a "Corrughadh", which consisted of about men. In return for military service, gallowglass contingents were given land and settled in Irish lordships, where they were entitled to receive supplies from the local

population. By , there were reported to be fifty-nine groups throughout the country under the control of the Irish nobility. Though initially they were mercenaries, over time they settled and their ranks became filled with native Irish men. The importation of gallowglass into Ireland was a major factor in containing the Anglo-Norman invasion of the 12th century, as their ranks stiffened the resistance of the Irish lordships. Throughout the middle Ages in Ireland, gallowglass troops were maintained by Gaelic Irish and Hiberno-Norman lords alike. Even the English Lord Deputy of Ireland usually kept a company of them in his service. In the year , "when the reformation of the country was taken in hand," it was reported that the Irish forces in Thomond were horse, kerne, and 6 "batayles" of gallowglas, the latter including 60 to 80 footmen harnessed with spears; each of these had a man to bear his harness, some of whom themselves carried spears or bows. The 16th century in Ireland saw an escalation in military conflict, caused by the Tudor conquest of Ireland. Gallowglass fighters were joined by native Irish mercenaries called buanadha literally "quartered men" and by newer Scottish mercenaries known as "redshanks". The flow of mercenaries into Ireland was such a threat to English occupation that Queen Elizabeth I took steps against them in . Around of them were executed after the first of the Desmond Rebellions. After the combined Irish defeat at the Battle of Kinsale in , recruitment of gallowglass waned, although Scottish Highland mercenaries continued to come to Ireland until the s notably Alasdair Mac Colla. Though the Gallowglass were abolished as military units, their Clan names endure to this day, often concentrated in areas where their ancestors were settled in the service of Irish lordships. The 6 oldest and most famous Gallowglass clans in Ireland along with their places of origin in Argyll, Scotland were: The regiment had been raised by an English Catholic William Stanley, in Ireland from native Irish soldiers and mercenaries, whom the English authorities wanted out of the country. Stanley was given a commission by Queen Elizabeth I and was intended to lead his regiment on the English side, in support of the Dutch United Provinces. However, in , motivated by religious factors and bribes offered by the Spaniards, Stanley defected to the Spanish side with the regiment. Since then it has become a house hold name. Swiss Guards is the name given to the Swiss soldiers who have served as bodyguards, ceremonial guards, and palace guards at foreign European courts since the late 15th century. They have a high reputation for discipline and loyalty to their employers. Apart from household and guard units regular Swiss mercenary regiments have served as line troops in various armies, notably those of France, Spain and Naples up to the 19th century. Various units of Swiss Guards existed for hundreds of years. This small force was complemented in by a Swiss Guards regiment. In the 18th century several other Swiss Guards existed for periods in various European courts. The institution reflects the situation of Switzerland at the time. Unlike the present, Switzerland was a poor country whose young men often sought their fortunes abroad. They were also one of the most professional and successful in what they did, and were highly sort after, and highly paid. It was made up of 1, men, mostly former Polish soldiers who had been captured or that had deserted. In when the regiment marched out of Poland, men deserted, and the regiment was disbanded. The remaining soldiers were transferred to other regiments. The Thirteen Colonies of North America banded together believing they were being bled dry by a British government that govern them miles away and had no idea as to the living conditions and problems within the new colonies. All they were concerned with was the collecting of taxes to help King George the 3rd live the high life. While the Colonialists could muster more than 50, volunteers the British were in a position where they only had around 30, men at arms, and half that number were manning permanent garrisons in Ireland. Therefore in the summer of they set about trying to hire a mercenary army. Their first contact was with Catherine the Great of Russia. However, Catherine was not to be trusted, not only did she not keep her word, but she kept the first installment of cash. Many referred to the unit as the Dutch Foreign Legion. However, the Dutch government was deeply split as to allowing them to be hired by Britain, so much so that in the end they told Britain that the deal had gone through but only on the condition that the men did not leave Europe. Frustrated and running out of time, in late the British turned to Germany who at that time had some of the most feared but highly trained mercenaries within its military. However the Germans knew they were good and whenever, they were hire out the price was very high. A Colonel Faucitt was dispatched to Germany where at first he was given the cold shoulder with several rebuffs. However he eventually managed to gather an army together from several of the German Counts, although it was a mix of

military assistance. These troops were feared wherever they fought and they fought well, but they did come at a high price, costing far more than the remainder of the other troops all added together. They boarded their ships and set sail for America on the 15th February. As a good a fighting unit as they were they were still defeated at the battles of Trenton and Saratoga Springs and later desertion and swelled the ranks of the German settlers already established in the colonies. This being the Americas first war it did not sit well that they had to fight mercenaries, something that has always been remembered in America to this day. In fact laws were later passed stopping their countrymen from becoming mercenaries and fighting for other governments. However, many did and still do to this day. Where most wars between the European countries were using mercenary soldiers. It was not part of the Royal Netherlands Army, but a separate military arm specifically formed for service in the Netherlands East Indies. Its establishment coincided with the Dutch drive to expand colonial rule from the 17th century area of control to the far larger territories comprising the Dutch East Indies seventy years later, which remain the present boundaries of Indonesia. The KNIL was involved in many campaigns against indigenous groups in the Netherlands East Indies including the Padri War " , the Java War " , crushing the Puputan the final resistance of Bali inhabitants to colonial rule of , and the prolonged Aceh War " In , Lombok and Karangasem were annexed in response to reports of the local Balinese aristocracy oppressing the native Sasak people. Bali was finally taken under full control with the Dutch intervention in Bali and the final Dutch intervention in Bali. During the Sepoy Mutiny in , the Gurkha regiments remained loyal to the British, and became part of the British Indian Army on its formation. Twelve Gurkha regiments also took part in the relief of Lucknow. The Brigade of Gurkhas is the collective term for units of the current British Army that are composed of Nepalese soldiers.

Mercenaries have never had a good press. One aspect of the poor press which mercenaries have received is that they are seen as the most brutal and degraded of soldiers.

Even go to war. Mercenaries have been fighting in wars for all of recorded history. Mercenaries do more than you think. Today they are called security contractors. Security contractors, commonly called mercenaries, perform security, intelligence, and combat across the globe for money. They can be found in every military hot spot – Afghanistan, Colombia, or Iraq. Security contractors are more than just guns for hire. They are professional soldiers who fight for money, not for a nation or a cause. The majority of these mercenaries are experienced ex-military or ex-law enforcement professionals. The government and global corporations hire private military companies to come to war zones to help train troops, provide security, or perform special missions. The private military industry is a multi-billion dollar industry. This makes for an elite force of experienced civilians, who can roam the jungles of South East Asia, take fire on the rooftops of Baghdad, provide convoy protection in Saudi Arabia, hunt terrorists in the mountains of Afghanistan, or destroy drug labs in Colombia. Security contractors have a controversial job. They perform their missions without justifications. They work hand in hand with the military and it makes it difficult to establish what can and cannot be done. Legally, security contractors cannot perform offensive maneuvers – that means they can only fire when fired upon. If you want to become a mercenary, the first thing you need to do is get military or law enforcement work experience. Join the military and put in your time. Follow orders, get fit, learn languages, and gain experience. Try to join a special operations branch of the military to become specialized in a niche like explosives, security, weapons, intelligence, or jungle combat. Basically become a tough, professional fighting machine. The next step is to apply to private military companies. The demand for mercenaries will depend on the world at the time. If they offer you a job, it will be contract based to complete a specific mission. Always remember what you are getting into. Your life is on the line. Is your life worth the reward of great paychecks? The pay for a security contractor is off the charts. Employer, experience, expertise, specialty, location, and danger potential ultimately determine the paycheck. Being a security contractor is a heart racing, adrenaline pumping career. If you have military experience and still enjoy taking sniper fire, removing landmines, training troops, or protecting politicians then put in your application to be a mercenary. The pay is outstanding. Military hot spots across the globe
Description: Military or law enforcement background
Necessary Skills: Specialized military skills, physically fit
Potential Employers:

Chapter 6 : List of mercenaries - Wikipedia

Mercenaries and Paid Men: The Mercenary Identity in the Middle Ages by John France *Mercenaries have always had a poor press. Theirs is one of the world's oldest professions, but the very word has profoundly negative connotations of infidelity and ruthlessness.*

While their precise description has varied over time, generally speaking, mercenaries are fighters who are not members of the group that hires them whether that group is a state, a city-state, or the followers of a feudal lord and are usually motivated by financial gain although this feature varies over time; the idea of motivation by financial gain makes little sense as a marker of a mercenary in the medieval period. This article focuses on mercenaries in the postclassical period, although there is an extensive literature on mercenaries in classical Greece and Rome. Moreover, the article focuses on mercenaries within the European tradition of war, as the use and impact of mercenaries are both extensive and distinct in the European context. Finally, this bibliography focuses specifically on the long lineage of entrepreneurial mercenaries whether or not the entrepreneur was the leader of a band of mercenaries or a leader of a state selling mercenaries to another state. Other forms of foreign service, including permanent subsections of the state military relying on foreign recruits such as the French Foreign Legion and volunteers such as those in the Spanish Civil War or mujahideen in Afghanistan also exist but are beyond the scope of this article. They have shifted from individual entrepreneurs able to sell their services to the highest bidder, either in groups or singly. This form of entrepreneurial mercenary was common roughly between the 12th and 16th centuries, and was gradually replaced by a more organized system, whereby states took control of the mercenary trade and bought and sold soldiers from one another, a system that began around the 15th century and ended after the Crimean War in the mid century. In the 20th century, mercenaries reappeared during the wars of decolonization in Africa, again as entrepreneurial individuals, nearly always fighting against the interests of newly decolonized states. In the late 20th century, private military companies appeared in conflicts in Angola and Sierra Leone. These companies sold a broad range of military services, including providing combat troops. They have disappeared and been replaced by private security companies PSCs , which again provide a variety of military and military support services stopping short of combat. PSCs appeared in large numbers during the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. There has been surprisingly little written about mercenaries, particularly preth-century mercenaries, as a category on their own, separate from studies about the overall organization of war in a given period. However, a number of these broader accounts of military organization are a good introduction to mercenary use, and they are featured throughout. General Overviews There are surprisingly few general overviews of mercenaries over a broad historical period. Most accounts focus on mercenaries in a particular era. Mockler provides a general history of mercenary activity from the medieval period through to mercenary involvement in the wars surrounding African decolonization, ending in the early s. Mockler summarizes in great detail the preth-century material in a chapter and examines the use of mercenaries in Africa, carrying the analysis through to the mids. Percy examines mercenaries from the 12th century through private security companies in 21st-century Iraq but does so with an explicitly international-relations focus, arguing that decisions to use private force have historically been influenced by a norm against mercenary use. France , an edited collection, provides a very clear overview of medieval mercenaries, considering cases from a wide geographic spread and temporal period. Kiernan provides an in-depth examination of mercenaries in European armies, linking the use of foreign fighters to the development of absolute monarchy. Parrott examines the use of private enterprise to fight wars throughout early modern Europe, including during the Thirty Years War, arguing that the use of state-recruited and state-administered militaries is anomalous in European history. Thomson focuses on the use of force by private actors in general, considering mercenaries alongside privateers and mercantile companies. Her main concern is the manner in which the state monopolized the use of force externally by controlling these actors, having first achieved an internal monopoly on the use of force. Singer provides a very broad overview of the history of mercenary use and its evolution into the private military and security industry. *Mercenaries and Paid Men: Leiden, The Netherlands, and Boston:* Also includes a

discussion of the definition of a mercenary in this period. Excellent for wide coverage of the medieval period, but as the book consists of conference proceedings, some pieces are less polished than others. Argues that mercenaries were essential in the transition from feudal states to absolute monarchies. Available online for purchase or by subscription. Comprehensive and readable, it was for a long time the only book available on the history of mercenary use; it has been a main starting point for historical investigations into mercenaries. Its scholarly utility is diminished by an absence of referencing or a bibliography, making it impossible to analyze sources. Sidgwick and Jackson, The book is still the definitive if not the only detailed source on this period and full of colorful anecdotes. Again, it suffers from an absence of referencing and documentation. The Business of War: Cambridge University Press, Has an unusual focus on the private provision of military support tasks, including the maintenance of armed men but also logistical supply chains, weapons and munitions, and even the building of fortresses. The History of a Norm in International Relations. Oxford University Press, It operates from an explicitly international-relations academic standpoint, considering the question of how norms against mercenary use have influenced state decisions about when and whether to use mercenaries. The Rise of the Privatized Military Industry. Ithaca, NY, and London: Cornell University Press, It contains a historical overview of mercenaries and is a good general introduction to the topic. The second addition adds a chapter to update the analysis to , considering the war in Iraq, but as with any analysis of contemporary events the newer sections become quickly dated. Mercenaries, Pirates, and Sovereigns: Princeton University Press, It focuses mainly on mercenary activity from the 15th to the 19th centuries and argues that the gradual monopolization of force in the hands of the state in the 19th century was responsible for the disappearance of mercenaries from European armies. Users without a subscription are not able to see the full content on this page. Please subscribe or login. How to Subscribe Oxford Bibliographies Online is available by subscription and perpetual access to institutions. For more information or to contact an Oxford Sales Representative [click here](#).

Chapter 7 : Mercenaries and Paid Men: The Mercenary Identity in the Middle Ages by John France

Brill's MyBook program is exclusively available on BrillOnline Books and theinnatdunvilla.com and scholars affiliated with an institution that has purchased a Brill E-Book on the BrillOnline platform automatically have access to the MyBook option for the title(s) acquired by the Library.

With Hawkwood at the helm, the White Company became known as one of the most elite mercenary armies in Italy. Its troops were a cultural hodgepodge of English, German, Breton and Hungarian adventurers were renowned for their skill with the longbow and the lance, and they terrified opponents with their lightning-quick surprise attacks and willingness to do battle during harsh weather or even at night. In an era when Italy was splintered between warring city-states and medieval lords, the men of the White Company made a killing auctioning their services off to the highest bidder. Between 1380 and 1406, they fought both for and against the Pope, the city of Milan and the city of Florence, but they were rarely out of the field even during times of peace. In fact, when unemployed, the adventurers often kept their coffers full by launching raids on nearby villages and towns. The Swiss Guard Today, the Swiss Guard is known as striped-uniformed protectors of the Pope in the Vatican, but their history stretches back to bands of mercenaries that flourished during the Renaissance. These troops were among the first European soldiers to master the use of pikes and halberds against more heavily armored foes, and by the 15th century, their revolutionary tactics and sheer ruthlessness had earned them a reputation as the best contract troops money could buy. Swiss mercenaries often worked for the French, and they fought and died in large numbers during the French Revolution. A small contingent of Swiss soldiers of fortune began serving as papal bodyguards in 1627, and the unit endured as the official watchmen of the Vatican even after Switzerland banned its citizens from working as mercenaries. Still clad in their brightly colored Renaissance-era uniforms, the Swiss Guards of today are required to be Roman Catholics, stand at least 5 foot 6 inches tall and have a military background. Their role is often ceremonial, but in the past they have been required to fight to protect the pontiff. The unit was first organized in 1627 in the months just before the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Roosevelt allowed former U.S. military aviators to serve as contract pilots in Burma in 1942, where they were assigned to protect a crucial supply road from Japanese attacks. Despite flying slower, less maneuverable fighters than the enemy, the Americans downed Japanese aircraft and destroyed more than 100 riverboats, all while only losing 69 planes and some two-dozen men. The group was officially disbanded in July 1945, but some of its members later rejoined their old units and served for the remainder of World War II. The 6,000 strong Catalans succeeded in sweeping the Turks away from Constantinople, but their penchant for wanton sacking and looting also drew the ire of the Byzantines. Rather than disband, the surviving Catalans embarked on one of the bloodiest and most bewildering adventures in medieval military history. Following an abortive attempt to establish an outlaw state in Gallipoli, they marched to Greece and found work as muscle for the Duke of Athens. But when a dispute arose over back pay, the Catalans once again went to war with a former employer. Amazingly, the mercenaries managed to consolidate their power and rule over large swaths of Greece for more than 75 years until an army from Florence finally defeated them in battle. The remnants of the Catalan Grand Company disbanded shortly thereafter. The Varangian Guard The descendants of Norsemen who originally ventured south as pirates and traders, the Varangian Guard were a band of Viking mercenaries paid to serve as the personal bodyguard of the Byzantine Emperor. The Guard first took up their post in the late 10th century for the Emperor Basil II, who preferred the axe-wielding barbarians to his more easily corruptible countrymen. The unit immediately proved useful in putting down a rebellion, and they went on to serve as the protectors of Constantinople for over two hundred years. At first, the Varangian Guard was almost entirely composed of hard-fighting, hard-drinking Vikings, but by the late 11th century their ranks began to be filled out by Englishmen, Normans and Danes. Winning entrance into the unit was no easy task. Initiates had to demonstrate their prowess in battle, and were forced to pay a small fortune in gold as an entrance fee. Still, the gifts showered on the Varangians ensured that its members left extremely wealthy, and some even went on to achieve positions of immense power. One of the most famous guardsmen was Harald Hardrada, who later claimed the throne of

DOWNLOAD PDF MERCENARIES AND PAID MEN

Norway. We strive for accuracy and fairness. Twice a week we compile our most fascinating features and deliver them straight to you.

Chapter 8 : Housecarl - Wikipedia

This is an offprint of: Mercenaries and Paid Men The Mercenary Identity in the Middle Ages Proceedings of a Conference held at University of Wales, Swansea, 7th-9th July

The employee has only one job; to kill members of ISIS. Lots and lots of them. But that will all change with what we are accomplishing over there fighting those bastards, I promise you that. That money would help my friends and family more than I ever could. Adams told reporters he force feeds bacon to captured members of ISIS since the teachings of the Quran do not allow it. And they need to be destroyed. We will be cruel to ISIS, and through our cruelty they will know who we are. And they will find evidence of our cruelty in the disemboweled, dismembered, disfigured bodies of their brothers that we leave behind us. And they will be sickened by us. And they will talk about us. And they will fear us. When members of ISIS close their eyes at night and are tortured by their subconscious with the evil they have done, it will be with thoughts of us they are tortured with. Fappy told reporters that when he is not fighting ISIS, he is traveling around the country speaking to elementary school children about the dangers and consequences of masturbation. The living conditions are horrible. All they do is fight and kill each other, and to top it off they have sand in their underwear all the time. Analysts speculate all of this could be a political ploy for a presidential win in Even though the group releases no data to the public or provides numbers of total ISIS members killed, Horner says it is in the tens of thousands with that number growing rapidly every day. With more than 20, mercenaries that have joined since the company was incorporated in November of , G7S is always looking for more recruits. To join, the group urges you to submit a resume along with why you want to kill members of ISIS by clicking here. The organization also has a direct number for those with any questions or comments at

Chapter 9 : 6 Legendary Mercenary Armies From History - HISTORY

This is a list of mercenaries. It includes foreign volunteers, private military contractors, and other "soldiers of fortune". It includes foreign volunteers, private military contractors, and other "soldiers of fortune".

Richard Abels This is an offprint of: What makes this even stranger is that there is considerable evidence for soldiers who fought for wages throughout this period. When I asked the midshipmen how many of them were attending the Naval Academy in order to serve the nation out of patriotic duty, all but a few raised their hands. When I followed up by asking how many of them would still be sitting in these seats if they were not going to be paid to serve in the Navy and would be responsible for their own sustenance, every hand went down. A number of students protested that I was creating a false dichotomy. Certainly, they expected to be paid for military service. How could they otherwise serve? Without pay they could not support themselves, let alone a family. By protesting the implication that they were mercenary troops, my students were underscoring the negative connotations that this term now possesses. *Celmertmonn* and *esne-man*, for instance, are found only in translations of the Vulgate, and one suspects that they may have been coined for that purpose. I could not determine the etymology of *celmertmonn*,⁶ but the term *esne* carries negative connotations of servility, which is appropriate given the denigration of *mercenarii* in John The good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep. In this paper I will draw a distinction between, on the one hand, mercenaries, that is, soldiers who lacked political or social ties to those who employed them, and, on the other, salaried household men and paid expeditionary soldiers whose duty to serve arose, at least in part, from the demands of lordship. In Old English this represents the difference between the *hyra-man*, the hired-man, and the *fyrð-man*: Although these categories in practice may have overlapped, the Anglo-Saxons regarded them as different and distinct. I hope to explain in this paper why paid military service was ubiquitous throughout the Anglo-Saxon era, while true mercenaries for whom military service was a commodity to be sold to the highest bidder were rare before the eleventh century. Or perhaps I should say that I hope to explain why few Anglo-Saxon soldiers or their masters before the late tenth century were willing to represent their relationship in purely, or even primarily, economic terms before then. This paper will examine the interrelated political, social, and economic factors that account for this apparent paradox. Given their subsequent rarity, it is ironic that Anglo-Saxon history begins with the coming of German mercenaries to Britain. This is, at least, how Gildas describes the *adventus Saxonum*. In doing so, Vortigern was following established imperial practice. Gildas underscores this by using technical Roman military terms to describe the terms of their contracted service. When the Britons refused to meet their demands, they broke their *foedus* and began to plunder the lands of their employers. The German *federates* whom Vortigern so unwisely invited to Britain may well have been the last mercenaries to ply their trade in England until the late ninth century. Both ranks served in expectation of rewards in the form of moveable wealth, most notably gold and silver rings. This was pay of a sort, but the coin of the realm was social prestige rather than economic power. The former were young, unmarried warriors who, having as yet no land of their own, resided with their lord, ate at his household men, mercenaries and vikings table, and accompanied him as he progressed through his estates. Their dependence upon the economic rewards of service led them to seek powerful and wealthy lords, wherever that search might take them. But he acknowledged the practical reality that if a king lacked the landed resources to do so, the young warriors of his realm would seek their fortunes elsewhere. Royal wealth in moveable goods and land translated into political capital and military power. But these were socially embedded exchanges in which the economic value of the gifts given was less important than the social prestige they symbolized. As a good lord, Hrothgar lavishly rewarded Beowulf for freeing Heorot from the monsters that haunted it. Like another hero from poetry, Widsith, Beowulf, having won treasure abroad in the service of foreign kings, returned to his native land, and, as is only proper, handed over the booty he had won to his royal lord. For gift-giving was a tool of governance. The offer of a gift and its acceptance established a social relationship; the recipient of the largess placed himself in moral debt to the giver and obliged himself to requite the favor. He conceived of his thegns and, in particular, his household men as his true companions. Only free men could willingly return love and

loyalty. The old distinction between *duguth* and *geoguth* persisted. The former possessed estates and households of their own, and Alfred attempted to lighten the burden of attendance upon his person by dividing them into three cohorts, each of which would serve in various capacities in court for a month, then return for two months to their own estates and attend to their private affairs. Nor were they simply warriors. The orthodox view, which owes much to the work of the archaeologist Richard Hodges, represents commerce in the seventh and eighth centuries as having been organized around large coastal trading sites. Emporia such as *Hamwic* and *Lundenwic* were, according to this model, created and regulated by kings, and served as the terminus points for estate networks through which lords, secular and ecclesiastical, extracted and disposed of surplus wealth in what was a redistributive, command economy. The very nature of the pre-Viking English economy thus militated against the employment of mercenaries. The emporia proved ephemeral. They withered and collapsed in the ninth century with the upsurge in North Sea piracy and repeated Viking sackings. The raids and ravaging of Viking heres disrupted the economy of the English hinterlands as well, affecting in particular the endowments of the great monasteries, which had been the hub of much economic activity in the seventh and eighth centuries. Once Vikings had acquired plunder and slaves, they became traders. In this way they restored into economic circulation large amounts of silver that had been stored in church plate and ornaments. In doing this, the Vikings helped move the focus of commercial activity away from long-distance trade in luxury items to domestic craft production and regional markets. Their demands for tribute also probably contributed to an increase in the amount of coins minted and to Richard Abels' estimate of the quality of that currency. Like all good Anglo-Saxon kings and lords before him, Alfred materially expressed his love for his hiredmen through gifts. By the late ninth century, however, these rewards came in the form of coins as well as rings and robes. By his own testimony, Alfred rewarded his household warriors with stipends of cash at regular intervals. From the middle of the ninth century on, Frankish and Breton rulers had been hiring Viking muscle, and at least one Viking mercenary captain, *Weland*, operated on both sides of the Channel. That ninth-century Anglo-Saxons were familiar with mercenary service and compared it unfavorably with the service of hiredmen is suggested by a passage in the poem *Beowulf*. During the tenth century England experienced an economic boom, aided by an aggressive royal monetary and economic policy. Numismatists estimate that tens of millions of silver pennies circulated in late tenth-century England, supporting what had become an increasingly commercialized economy and society. The commercialization of English society occurred in both town and countryside. The burghal system Alfred created and which his children extended to *Mercia* and the *Danelaw* worked so well that by the middle of the tenth century the West Saxon dynasty could reasonably claim to be kings of a consolidated kingdom that possessed the approximate boundaries of present-day England. Nonetheless, over the course of the tenth century, their burhs evolved into urban centers for craft production and commercial exchanges. From their inception, burhs served as centers for royal administration. There was a virtual explosion in the growth of towns and urban population. In there were probably over a hundred towns in England. Peasants were expected to pay rent to their lords and taxes to the king and church with money obtained from selling their surpluses in town markets. They and their lords also used cash to purchase craft goods, agricultural tools, and jewelry from specialized craftsmen. The elite foods they ate and the clothes they wore required the outlay of considerable cash. This had a profound impact upon the military organization of Late Anglo-Saxon England. Military service became, in all of its forms, paid labor. Some of the boroughs remained defensible, but none now had permanent garrisons. The royal army had been weakened. First bishops and abbots and then secular magnates secured royal privileges allowing them to raise and lead the troops owed from their lands. Notable among these was his decision to purchase the military services of some of these raiders to ward off others. This policy was being implemented as early as And each of those lands which affords protection to any of those who harry England shall be regarded as an enemy by us and by the whole here. This may not have proved a good bargain as matters turned out. That they had some sort of corporate existence and were salaried is beyond serious doubt. In the changed political circumstances of a conquered kingdom, however, they became something new: As a foreigner who had won the English throne by force, Cnut needed a standing army to discourage would be rebels, and the *lithsmen* served that function. He Richard Abels came from Denmark with sixty-two ships and immediately imposed a large tax on

his new subjects to pay the crews. It cost an enormous amount of money to maintain a standing mercenary naval force that at its lowest consisted of fourteen ships manned by about a thousand soldiers and which at its peak comprised sixty-two ships and some four thousand men. Their importance to Cnut and his Danish successors is indicated by how much they were willing to pay for their services. The money, indeed, was not sent to the king, but was given to the soldiers. A salary of 20 shillings for two months service compares favorably with the wages paid the lithsmen earlier in the century. This high level of pay established by the Crown ensured the quality of his fyrd soldiers. This is another reminder of the commercialized character of the English economy in The Berkshire miles brings us back to our initial distinction between stipendiary and mercenary forces. Like my students, the fyrdman was a stipendiary soldier whose obligation to service rested on more than the acceptance of wages. Domesday shire customs make it clear that he was either a landowner directly acquitting the military service due from his land, or the commended man of such a landowner. As a paid military retainer, a miles of the latter sort was obliged to serve his immediate lord rather than the king. The law codes and Domesday Book make it clear that he was answerable to his lord for any dereliction of duty, richard abels and that his lord, and not he, was accountable to the king. This is not to deny the existence of mercenaries in England in Domesday Book records military recruitment customs for the boroughs of Oxford, Warwick, and Malmesbury that allowed the burgesses to commute their military obligations at the rate of 20 shillings per fyrdman. Some have specu- lated that butsecarls were royal garrison troops in the Cinque Ports. This is the impli- cation of the Domesday custom of the borough of Malmesbury. With the exception of the Welsh marches, the kingdom had enjoyed relative peace for over a decade. But dedicated professional mercenary soldiers are quite another matter. Without war or the threat of war, they starve. Pace William of Malmesbury, it was the Conqueror and not King Harold whose fortunes rested in the hands of mercenary soldiers. To conclude, then, stipendiary soldiers, whether their pay was in cash or kind, played an important role throughout the Anglo-Saxon period.