

HISTORY AND SOCIETY OF ICELAND

Erla Ragnarsdóttir, Principal
Flensburg College

Flensburg

- Established in 1882
- Students in the age of 16-19 years old
- Major and minor programmes; Real science, Social science, Commerce and Open (own choice)
- Health promoting school





The proclamation of the Republic of Iceland

- 17th of June 1944

The image of Iceland

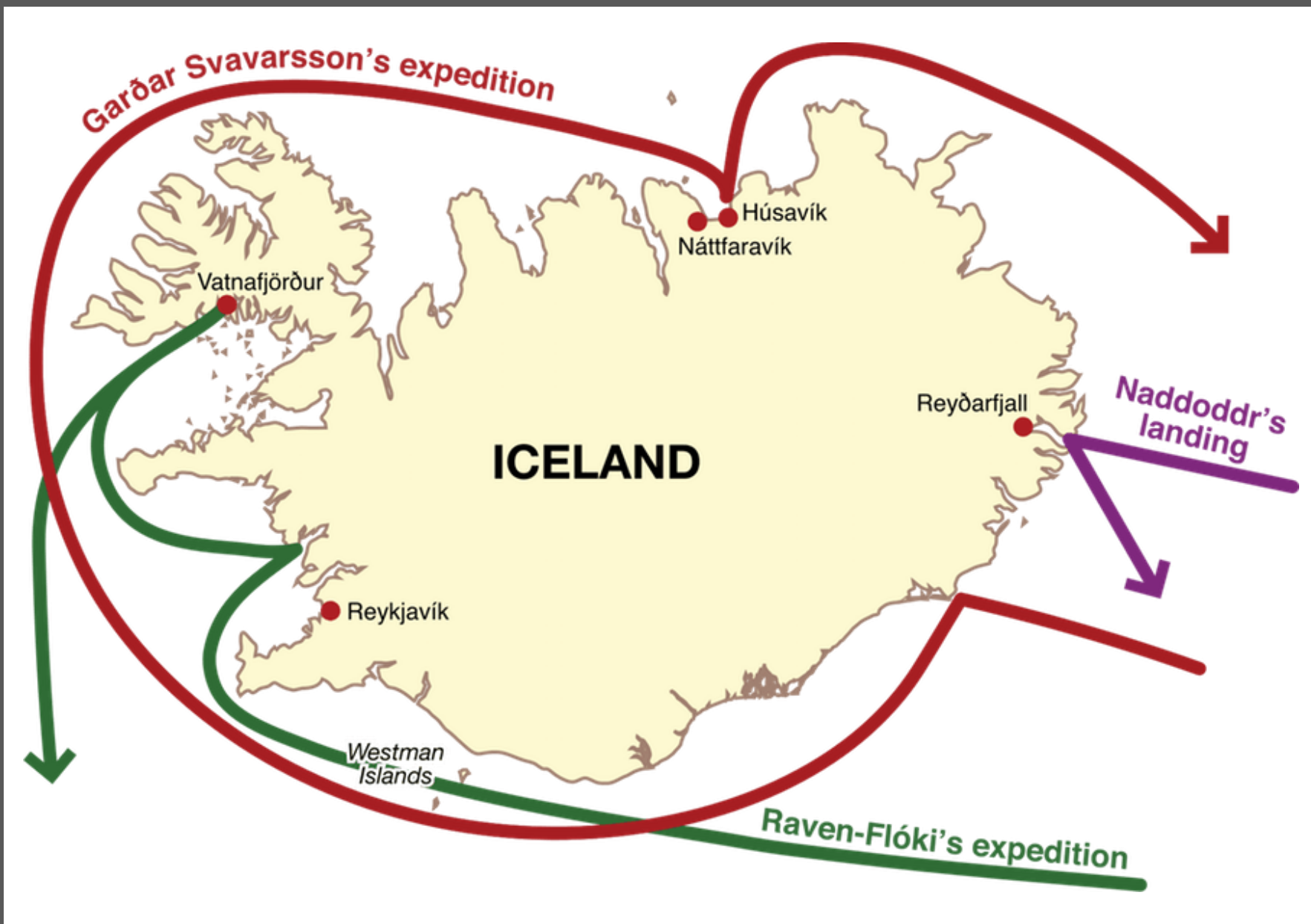
- A European
 - Utopia?
 - Distopia?
 - Paradise Island?
 - Hole in hell?



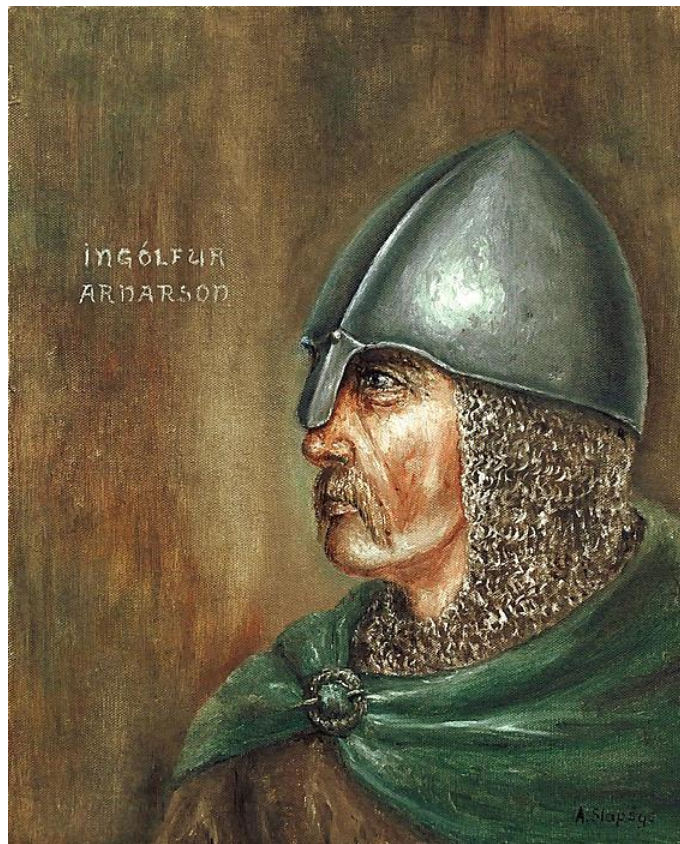


The settlement 870-930

- The Vikings
 - Norway
 - Celts
- Sailed in open boats with livestock and family
- Settled in lowlands and by the coast
- No central government



The first settlers





The Saga Age 930-1262

- 930 Althingi - the first Parliament in the world? Located at Þingvellir
- 999 Christianity adopted
- 1120-1230 – The Golden age of writing
- 1220 – Internal conflict - The Age of Sturlungs
- 1262 – Submission for peace



Under foreign rule 1262-1918

- Ruled by Norway, The Kalmar Union and Denmark
- Growing dependency on the foreign ruler:
 - Plaques
 - Climate shifts
 - Law enforcement – Absolute monarchy
 - The Reformation
 - Trade monopoly
 - Natural disasters



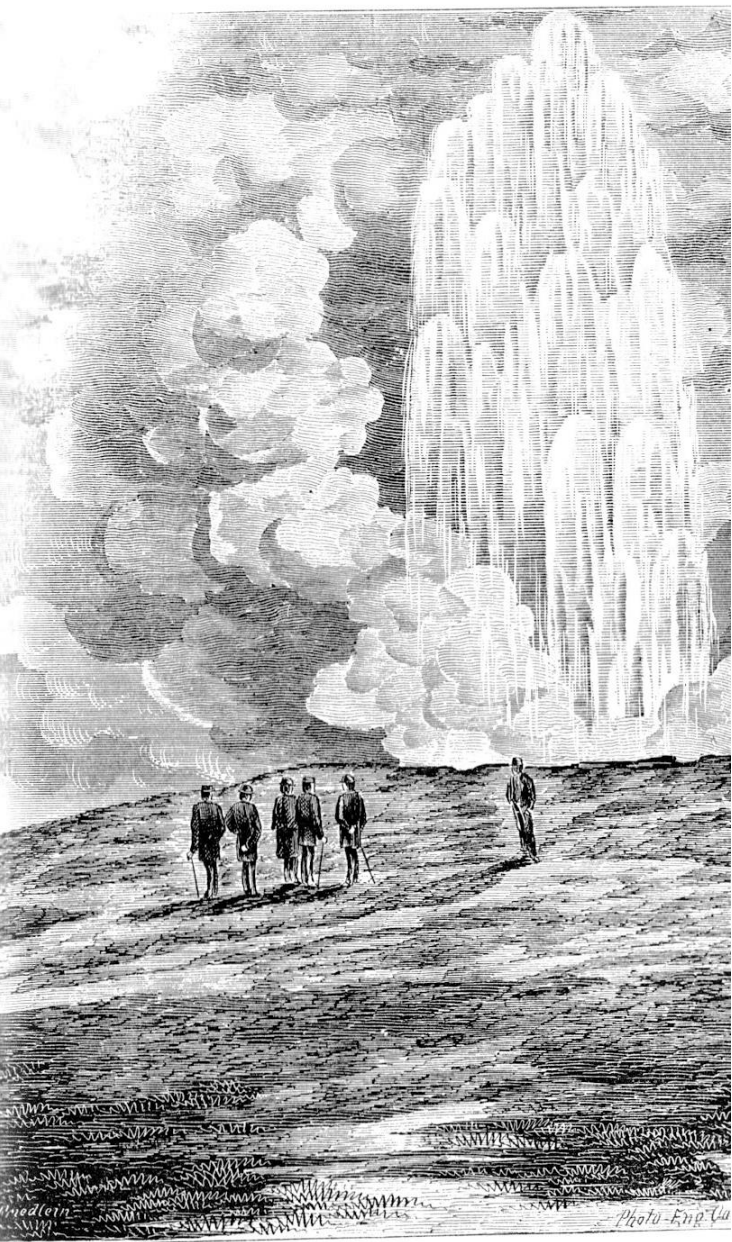
Laki eruption - Móðuharðindin

- 20% of the nation died
- Thousands in Europe
- The first climate change?



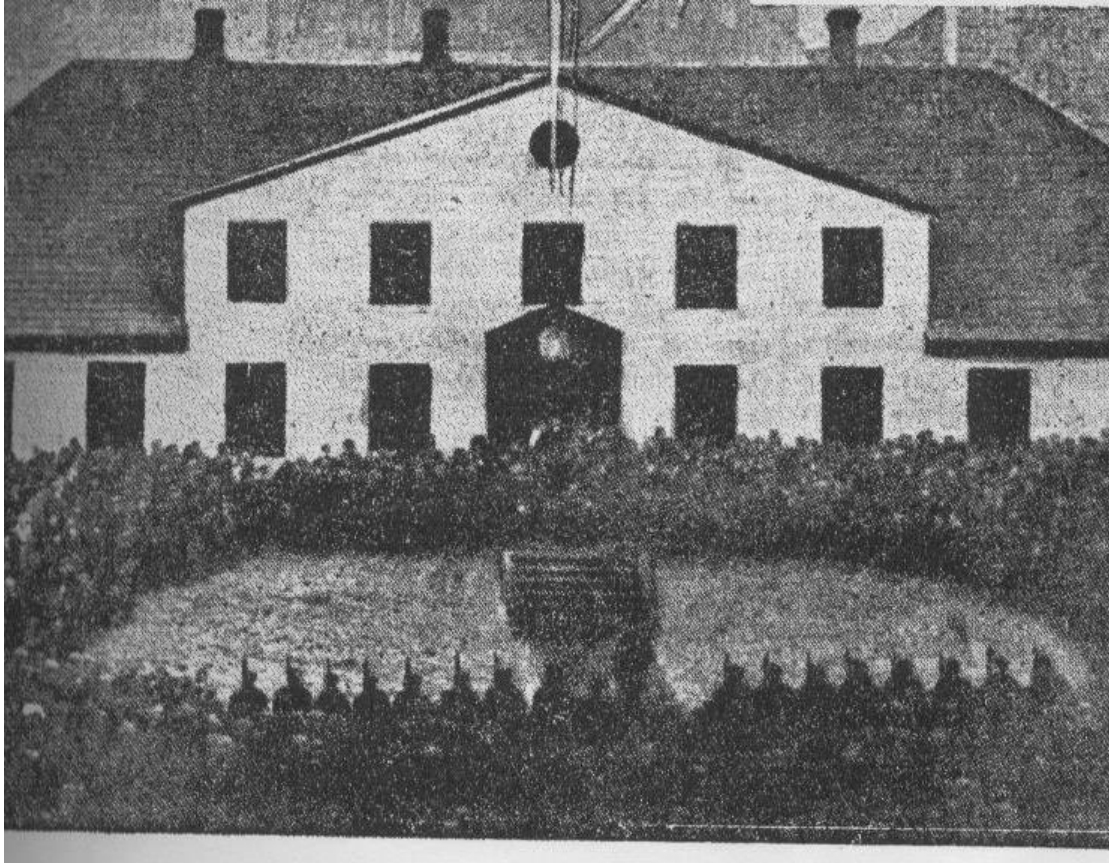
Towards independence

- 1800 – Althingi was resolved
- 1830 – New national consciousness;
 - Writing, handcraft, poetry
 - Independence heroes; Jón Sigurðsson
 - Reestablishing of Althingi



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- 1854 – Freedom of trade
 - 1855 – Freedom of press
 - 1874 – Iceland's first Constitution
 - 1904 – Home rule. Iceland's first minister

GREAT GEYSER IN ERUPTION, JULY, 1874.



- Iceland became a sovereign state - "Iceland and Denmark are free and sovereign states in the state of Denmark"

1. December 1918

Why
1918?

A wave of nationalism
in Europe

Internal conflicts in
Denmark – especially at
the border of Germany

The first World War



Modern day Iceland

- The nation prospered during the 20th Century
 - Fishing and agriculture industries
 - The Marshall Plan
 - Diverse industries; geothermal plants, hydro-electric power, tourism

- Backlashes;
 - The economy is sensitive to natural causes and outside factors
 - The collapse of the banking system in 2008-2011





As it is
today

- The Icelandic nation has been going through a transition era
- Changes in the:
 - Parliament
 - Trade-Unions
 - Judicial System
 - Debate and discussion

Icelandic culture

Three words:
Handmade, Headmade
and Homemade!

Local, traditional,
progressive,
cosmopolitan

For you to explore and
enjoy