

THE HANSA

ALIAS: HANSEATIC LEAGUE

REASON FOR FORMING:

Vikings are incredibly scary. Look at this guy! →
But by 1159, the “Vikings” weren’t really a problem anymore. Though part of the formation was mutual security, it is more likely that they formed for the mutual financial benefit of the members; specifically, between the Hamburg Salt Mines & the Lubeck Herring fisherman (see map).



RESULTS FOR THE MEMBERS:

Don’t think that this was an alliance between a bunch of weird sounding European cities. It actually began as a connection of the **GUILDS** in those respective cities. The Hamburg-Lubeck alliance served as a model for other alliances. At its peak, the Hansa included 60+ members! They even formed their own “Diet” or



Assembly to enforce its rules. It was a monopoly on trade of goods in North Europe. The beginning of the end for the Hansa was the rise of the Swedish Empire in the north, the Ottomans in the South, and the Holy Roman Empire in Germany. Only 9 people attended its final meeting in 1669.



The impact of the Hansa can be seen today all over Northern Europe. The most visible example is the German airline Lufthansa (“Air Hansa”). It is the largest airline in all of Europe. There is also the Rostock soccer team F. C. Hansa. There is also a Hansa brewery, a Hansa Bank, and a Hansa University.