



HISTORY & CIVILISATION 6x51min

Military history has been dominated by the story of men. Until now, as ground-breaking archaeological discoveries and the very latest scholarship fundamentally alter traditional views of women in warfare. The drama led documentary series presents history's most iconic female fighters from around the world. Each extraordinary tale of blood, sacrifice, and endurance centres on the life of a young woman warrior caught up in the bloody struggles of her time.

- 1) **AMAZONS** Ancient horse warrior women of the Steppe
- 2) **GLADIATRIX** Ancient Rome's female gladiators
- 3) **AFRICA'S AMAZONS** All-female regiments of the West African Kingdom of Dahomey
- 4) **SAMURAI** Takeko Nakano and Aizu women in the last war campaign of the Samurai
- 5) **VIKINGS** Warrior woman of Birka, commander and explorer of Eastern Europe
- 6) **SHANG QUEEN** Bronze Age Chinese general, priestess and Shang Dynasty queen Fu Hao



Each episode is supported by stunning dramatic re-enactments, original costumes, historic locations, and CG animation. Interviews with historians and archaeologists provide the background to each extraordinary story. Scripts and edit versions have been fact checked by independent academics from the Smithsonian Institute.

The series was filmed in Kazakhstan, Malta, West Africa, Mongolia, Turkey, Japan, China, France, Scandinavia, UK, USA, and Germany for Smithsonian Channel, ZDF, Arte, Planète, ORF, SVT, Bilibili and Viasat History, featuring BBC TV presenters Bettany Hughes and Janina Ramirez, Stanford University's Adrienne Mayor, and other historians.

EPIC WARRIOR WOMEN 6x52min (HD,4K)



Episode 1 – AMAZONS

The legendary Amazons of Central Asia are the world's most famous female warriors, immortalised by the mythology of the Greeks. For 1,500 years, the Scythians of Central Asia kept the great powers of Greece, Persia, and China apart. The drama driven episode follows the life of Alkaya who grows up to become a fearless horse warrior, leading her tribe into a battle against the Persians in 6th Century BCE.



Episode 2 – GLADIATRIX

Ardala is a Celtic warrior sold by the Romans into a Mediterranean gladiator school in 2nd Century CE. In the brutal school she transforms into a ruthless gladiatrix wanting to avenge the death of her friend and mentor Zonena, who is killed by the school's top female fighter Achillia. Based on the marble relief of Halicarnassus in the British Museum that depicts the epic fight of Amazon versus Achillea.



Episode 3 – AFRICA'S AMAZONS

The 6,000 strong Agooji regiments formed the terrifying all-female elite force of the Kingdom of Dahomey which was feared for its annual slave raids deep into its West African neighbours. After refusing an arranged marriage, Sukeoun and her servant girl Nansica are forced to join the palace guards, where Sukeoun rises to become a female officer fighting against the French colonial army in the 19th Century.



Episode 4 – SAMURAI

Samurai women stood their ground in many battles and castle sieges. This episode tells the true story of the Aizu martial arts master Takeko Nakano who fights for her clan's independence in a final battle that marks the end of the Samurai era. In 1853, the 6-year-old starts her formal Samurai education and relentless martial arts training in Edo, when the arrival of American gunboats changes the country forever.



Episode 5 – VIKINGS

For centuries, historians believed all Viking warriors were men. But the latest archaeological findings in Sweden reveal that some warriors were women - challenging centuries of presumptions about their role in the Viking Age. This episode tells the story of Signe, who driven by revenge for the murder of her chieftain father, sets out from 10th century Sweden on an incredible journey along the Russian river networks.



Episode 6 – SHANG DYNASTY QUEEN

Tells the dramatic story of the young Shang noble woman Hao who rises to become the favourite queen, high priestess, politician and general of one of China's earliest rulers, King Wu Ding of the Bronze Age Shang Dynasty in 13th Century BC. To be filmed with Chinese crew and cast in Hengdian Studios in August 2021 for Bilibili, Smithsonian Channel, ZDF, Arte and ORF.