



## Lingo: Around Europe in Sixty Languages

By Gaston Dorren



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Whether you're a frequent visitor to Europe or just an armchair traveler, the surprising and extraordinary stories in *Lingo* will forever change the way you think about the continent and may even make you want to learn a new language.

*Lingo* spins the listener on a whirlwind tour of 60 European languages and dialects, sharing quirky moments from their histories and exploring their commonalities and differences. Most European languages are descended from a single ancestor, a language not unlike Sanskrit known as Proto-Indo-European (or PIE for short), but the continent's ever-changing borders and cultures have given rise to a linguistic and cultural diversity that is too often forgotten in discussions of Europe as a political entity.

*Lingo* takes us into today's remote mountain villages of Switzerland, where Romansh is still the lingua franca; to formerly Soviet Belarus, a country whose language was Russified by the Bolsheviks; to Sweden, where up until the 1960s polite speaking conventions required that one never use the word "you" in conversation, leading to tiptoeing questions of the form: "Would herr generaldirektör Rexed like a biscuit?"

Spanning six millenia and 60 languages in bite-size chapters, *Lingo* is a hilarious and highly edifying exploration of how Europe speaks.

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### Editorial Review

#### About the Author

Gaston Dorren is a linguist, journalist, and polyglot. He speaks Dutch, Limburgish, English, German, French, and Spanish, and reads nine more languages. He is the author of two books in Dutch, and the creator of an app, Language Lover's Guide to Europe. Dorren lives in the Netherlands.

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