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Lingo: Around Europe in Sixty Languages

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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