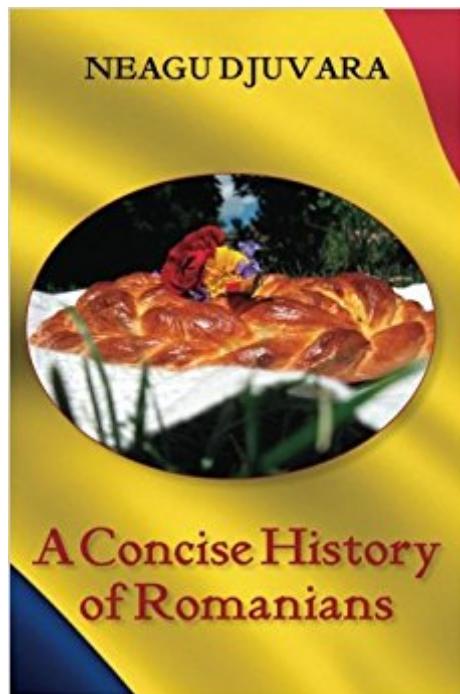


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A Concise History Of Romanians



Synopsis

This book presents captivating stories about Romania's past in the larger context of European and world history. Prof. Djuvara sets aside the academic tone to recount the story of Romanians, without taboos or prejudices. Common misunderstandings are brought to light and clarified, such as the story of Vlad the Impaler and the role played by Romania in World War II. Read about the wars between Dacia and Rome, barbarian invasions, the assimilation of other populations, the complex history of Transylvania, Moldavia and Wallachia and about great sacrifices made in defense of Christianity. This translation published by Cross Meridian (Canada) is dedicated to young people of Romanian descent who live in countries where English is spoken or understood.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Neagu Djuvara was always a free Romanian. He participated in World War II and lived abroad after 1944. A Ph.D. in Law and Philosophy of History (Paris), N. Djuvara worked in diplomacy before returning to Romania in 1990. As a professor of international law and history, he wrote on world cultures and Romanian history. His book *Civilisations et lois historiques* (Civilisations and Historical Patterns) received an award from the French Academy.

This is a very good book written by a great Romanian historian. It's well written, with the right amount of detail. It's marketed to young Romanians living abroad, but don't let that stop you from reading it if you are not that young anymore. I'm in my 40s and I loved the book. A lot of interesting facts about Romanian history that I didn't know. Excellent idea translating this book in English.

The book is an excellent choice for a translation. It is very easy to read, more like a story than a history lecture. It comes with new perspectives of some historical events, making use of a non-technical language. I like the initiative of the editors to give the side-by-side translation of some traditional words. I highly recommend it, not only for Romanian children who prefer to read in English, but also for a larger audience.

It's been so hard during all the Cold War years to get good Romanian history in English. This book is wonderful. I am matching what I read with what my deceased Grandfather lived and told stories about. Great closure.

No photos, just text. I am disappointed, I hoped to get my son interested in reading it, but it is not what I was looking for.

Very interesting coming from a Romanian
a great book

Strengths of the book: This is a good book for those interested in getting the Romanian perspective on their history. I would recommend this book for those of Romanian descent living abroad who want to feel proud of their cultural accomplishments and feel more connected to their historical roots. The author does in fact seem knowledgeable and presents the historiography in a concise and easy to understand lecture format. **Weaknesses:** With that said, the major weaknesses of the book is in the translation. Terms and names are spelled differently from one page to another. As the translator said, he is not a historian and many of the words he used were very awkward and took away from the book's overall quality (i.e. "balkanic" instead of Balkan, "Ottoman Gate" instead of Porte). I was also distracted by the original Romanian words in brackets and I benefited in no way from these. However, this may be a nice addition if I were Romanian and wanted to learn a few words. But, again, is this supposed to be a work of history or a language tutorial. As is evident from the lack of citations and bibliographic references, this work is indented to be read by Romanians not students of history. The book is intended to instill a sense of pride as the author chose to skip of explain away controversial aspects of Romanian history (for example, the whole entire Communist Period was skipped). More evidence that the book is not a work of academic history is apparent in the authors strong bias. One such example stated "It is a fact that the Greeks (all Greeks, not just

the Phanariotes!), too proud of their Byzantine past, always had a superiority complex toward all neighboring nations." He also explained away the plight of the Roma population by saying that they developed "bad habits" from years of mistreatment. Overall, I gave the book "three stars" since it was useful getting a sense of what Romanian history is like as they see it themselves. I don't recommend this book for history students researching Romanian or Balkan history.

This historical book aimed at young audiences, especially to correct the propaganda of the Communist period that severely influenced the writing of its history, provides a tapestry of the Romanian nation from long before its inception at all the way to modern life in its borders. Many iconic moments and figures are pointedly captured in the realms of religion, politics, and the average man's life, thus offering something for everyone. As a youth myself of almost 23 years, I have never really found a particular interest in general history, but feeling a need to connect with my native roots, having come to Canada at the age of 5, I endeavoured to start reading the book with an open mind. While I found myself bogged down at times in many names and details regarding things such as allegiances between voivodes (rulers) and other nations, there were numerous key and enlightening moments that captivated the imagination and the heart throughout. Standing out among these were the epic battles aimed at securing the independence for the three main pre-Romanian principalities (Muntenia, Transylvania and Moldavia) from the ever encroaching Turkish empire and the internal struggles to maintain the throne even during periods of relative peace and growth, as allegiances shifted quite fast. Personally as a Christian, the most poignant example is that of the Brancoveanu family's untimely deaths. It is suspect that they occurred to the ruler's (Constantin) own uncles snitching" on him regarding disillusioned alliances with the Austrians or Russians; enemies of the Turks. His dismissal from the throne of Muntenia (former Wallachia) was met without resistance from his court, further reflecting the weakness of allegiances and political strength of those times. After being tortured to reveal where he hid his wealth, he had to watch his closest advisor and four sons beheaded one by one before himself as they did not agree to convert to the Islamic faith. What really gave me goosebumps is how he had to convince his 12-13 year old son that it was better to die a martyr than to lose his faith, and reflects to me how Christians in the first world nations today have lost touch with the realization that we are not called to be "comfortable". Incidents like these alongside many others make one realize how worthwhile learning one's history really is, which is why this book provides such an enriching and stimulating read!

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