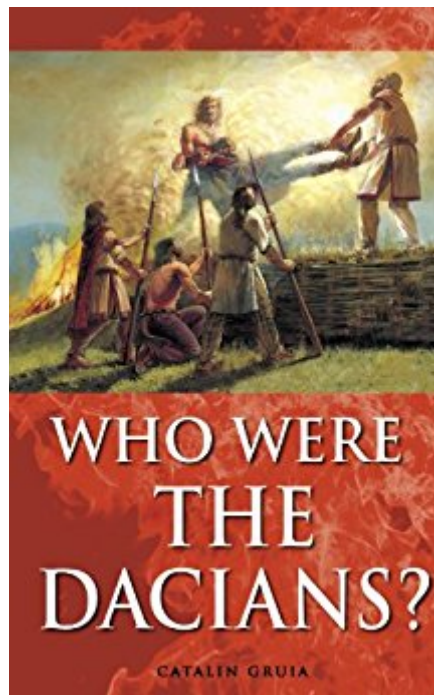


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# Who Were The Dacians? (Romania Explained To My Friends Abroad Book 5)



## Synopsis

Dear reader – “ stop here for a second, please! You should know from the very beginning this is not an exhaustive, academic paper. Author Catalin Gruia is a veteran journalist who has written and reported for the Romanian edition of National Geographic for over 10 years. What you’ll find here is a collection of myth-busting short essays on the Dacian civilization. Who were the Dacians? The Gradiste Hill. After the exhausting climb, a solitary cyclist, with black cycling pants and a yellow helmet, plopped down for an hour in the middle of the great circular sanctuary of Sarmizegetusa Regia, to absorb cosmic energies. Just one year earlier, I would have joined him in the feast of energies that I too, used to think, were concentrated here. Only in the mean time I had met professor Mircea Babes, to whom I owe almost all I know about the Dacians. Our schoolteachers taught us to love them as our ideal ancestors. Ancient historians described them as a mysterious people, barbarians who knew how to make themselves immortal. The modern “Dacomania” claim they were the first great civilization of the world. At the age of 16, I had even written a book on Burebista’s youth. That novel was as mushy and over-the-top as my writings on the subject today are sharply scientific, strictly historical and myth-busting. And all due to professor Mircea Babes, who took my hand like a Virgil right out of the Divine Comedy and walked me through his realm – “ the kind of history which relies strictly on documents and archeological discoveries regarding the almost 100 tribes (Apuli, Buri, Suci, northern Dacians, Costoboci, Carpi, Calipidi, Crobyzi, Terizi, Tyrageae a.s.o.) who for centuries lived in the area between the Black Sea, the Balkans, the Tisa and the Dniester. In fact, the very term “Geto-Dacian” is modern and artificial, a projection of the national ideology meant to present the current Romanian territory as united from ancient times. According to historian Lucian Boia, the Getae probably lived on both sides of the Danube and in Dobrogea, while the Dacians lived mostly in Transylvania. A century after Burebista, King Decebal repeated his feat by uniting the Geto-Dacian tribes. Trajan conquered half of Dacia in 106 A.D., turning it into a Roman province. In 271 A.D., after Rome called back its legions, Dacia became free, but no longer prosperous, and fell under the invasions of migratory nations. But this is not the proper place for details. I will only say that the “Dacian” subject has always been both important and delicate to Romanians. The Dacians and the Romans who conquered them are considered to be the ancestors of the Romanian people. Though for the past 150 years archeologists have been digging hard trying to get to the bottom of the subject, many aspects of the history of the Dacians remain shrouded in mystery. In the light of the most recent archeological finds and of ancient historical sources, I tried to lay down, as concisely as possible, a collection of short essays about the Dacians – “ who they were, how they lived, what they believed in and how this

people of mysterious barbarians, who supposedly knew how to make themselves immortal, faded out of history. For behind the scenes information about Gruia's books:

--><http://www.catalingruia.com/>--><https://www.facebook.com/ByCatalinGruia>

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Unless you are Romanian or very interested in the history of Romania, it is not an exciting book. And unfortunately as with all illustrations on my Kindle Paper White, the pictures are pretty much useless.

Ancient historians described them as a mysterious people of savant warriors who knew how to make themselves immortals. Modern "Daco-maniacs" claim they were the first great civilization of the world. Makes you wonder: who were, in fact, the Dacians? This book is an accessible collection of short essays bringing up the history behind the myths. I recommend this title to anyone that loves history stories in general, and is pursuing an understanding of Dacian history in particular. I must confess I wished the book was longer. But then again, the price is just 0.99.

I was hoping for a bit more in-depth historical accounts.. there are a few gems here and there.. but, not as many as I'd hoped. As the book is only 66 pages.. I can only guess that the author submitted all that is currently known about the Dacian society. The account of the four pound gold bracelets.. were just AMAZING! To think that they buried them in shallow holes.. in random areas.. leads me to believe that there is just so much more that we need to learn about the Dacians and their role in European history. I was fascinated by the description of their body types.. as it reminded me of mummies found in nearby China and Russia.. of men and women with reddish hair.. definitely Caucasian descent.. And, very tall. As I said before.. I truly think that there is much, much, MUCH more we have to learn about the Dacians. It's sad to think that so much was lost during the Communist years. I do hope as time passes.. that the population in this area decides it's "safe" to bring out hidden historical accounts of their past. It would be a huge travesty to even imagine.. that we've lost historical records of one of the first civilized people's.

This may be the finest general introduction to Dacian History for the non-specialist I've yet read. The author has a writing style that is easy to follow and makes for interesting reading. It is fun but in the same time dense with scientific information. The Romanianâ€™s collective conscience clogged by almost 50 years of communist propaganda need a good deal of drainage and this could be one of the first steps. I highly recommend this book!

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