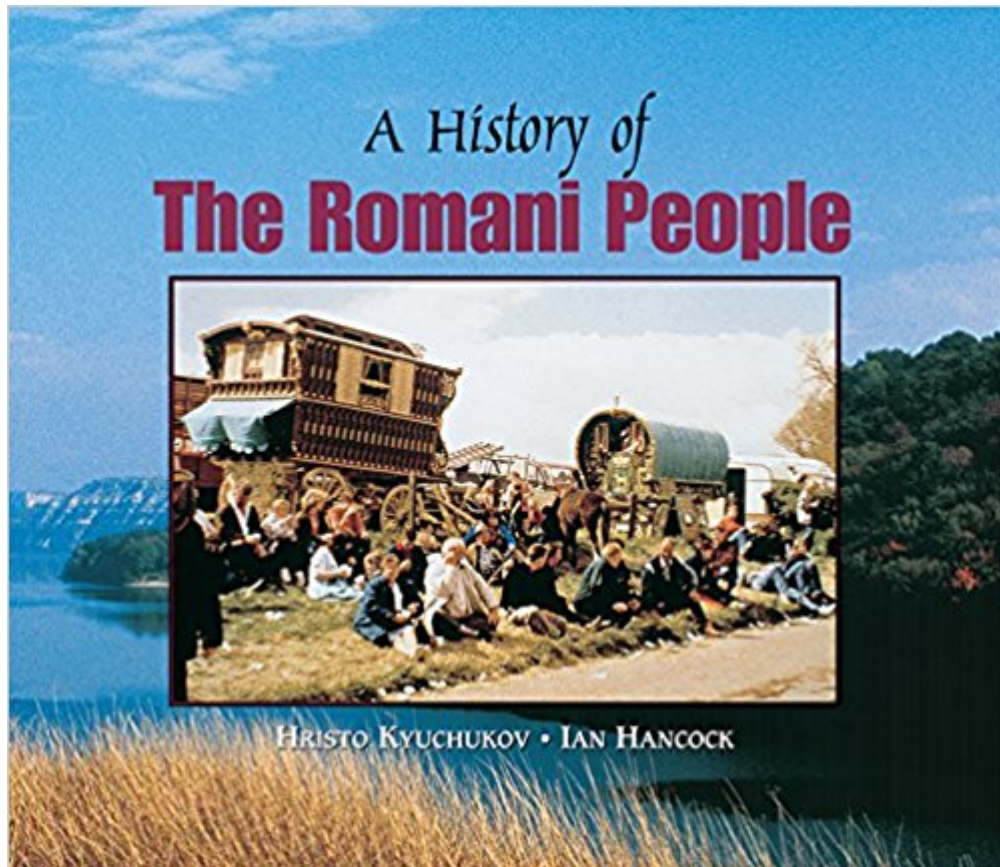




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# A History Of The Romani People



## Synopsis

A thousand years ago, a group of people who later became the Romani were drive out of northern India by an invading army. This group then took to traveling the world, adopting words, cultural customs, and religious beliefs from the people they encountered throughout their journeys. Little by little, the Romani integrated these new beliefs with their old ways, eventually creating the unique Romani culture known today. Now Hristo Kyuchukov and Ian Hancock give readers the insider's perspective to this fascinating group of people. The Romani authors explain why "Gypsy" is a scornful name, and why they prefer to be called Romanies, as they call themselves. They enlighten readers to Romani traditions, such as those surrounding weddings, the arrival of a baby, and the death of a family member. Readers learn how the Romani work to keep their language and traditions alive while living in cities and towns just like the rest of us. With precision and grace, this book gives readers a glimpse into the lives lived by the Romani in the past and present, helping us to understand and appreciate this distinctive culture.

## Book Information

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Age Range: 7 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Grade 4-6—Kyuchukov and Hancock, both Romanies, offer a brief, useful introduction to their people. Misnamed Gypsies since the 15th century because they were mistakenly thought to be Egyptians, the Romani, and their customs, have been deeply misunderstood. In clear language, the

two-page chapters explain their way of life. Marriage, childbirth, occupations (fortune-telling, woodworking, bear-training), traditional law, and death are touched upon. Historical hardships, from mistrust by local populaces to persecution by the Nazis, are also discussed. One statement, Even today....In some places we are forced to live with curfews in walled ghettos with no running water or electricity, lacks documentation. It would be helpful to know where and why these abuses occur. Endpapers show Romani population around the world. Plentiful, full-color photographs, both contemporary and archival, show these people as hardworking, celebratory, and family-oriented. A boxed sample of the Romani language is included. Anne Wallace Sharp's *The Gypsies* (Gale, 2003) offers more in-depth information. Anne Chapman Callaghan, Racine Public Library, WI  
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Gr. 3-5. Authored by two celebrated voices in the struggle to advance Romani rights, this title offers a brief introduction to Gypsy history, culture (wedding traditions, occupations, modes of travel, etc.), and hardships--both historical and contemporary. The text is short; each spread features only a few paragraphs, and in some cases the language is so abbreviated that it is abrupt and confusing. The photos, many contributed by the authors, are often poorly reproduced, although the images themselves are fascinating. Still, there are few resources available for this age group about Romani life, and this title offers a very basic outline, which will help dispel stereotypes, introduce the tragic history of persecution (including the Holocaust), and, perhaps, move children to seek out more substantive material. The authors' wrenching personal notes begin the book, and maps showing the distribution of Romani populations around the world close it. Gillian Engberg  
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This is somewhat like a shortened version of "We Are the Romani People". Some parts are overly abbreviated and, if I didn't already know the history, I wouldn't understand what the authors were talking about. This is not an introductory book on Romani history for the uninitiated. It is probably best for discussing the subject with children. I bought it mainly for the pictures and the format friendly to children. It fulfills the goals there more or less but the text could have been better, livelier, more specific and could have been made somewhat story-like to capture the interest of children. Most historical events are passed over with a vague sentence or two that allude to events but don't explain or set out facts enough. That said, it is a great resource and much appreciated, given how little there is. Ian Hancock does it again.

2005, maps may be dated, but still gives a good idea of world populations. Easy read, informative, wide book makes it easy to hold, many pictures, good for all ages.

United Methodist Women are participating in a mission study called The Roma of Europe. This book is an excellent resource for that study. It summarizes most everything you need to know about the Romani people. I highly recommend it.

ANOTHER GREAT RESOURCE FOR MY ROMA PROGRAMS FOR 2014-2015. GREAT FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN TO READ AS WELL. ANY BOOK BY IAN HANCOCK IS A MUST FOR ANY LIBRARY

An ideal summary of the Romani people. Although written for elementary children, as an adult I found the information helpful. The pictures were good and I really like the map.

Well done

A thousand years ago a group of people, the Romani, were driven out of northern India by invaders: they became world nomads, adapting to local culture and customs but always moving - eventually creating their own unique culture. The Romani authors explain these 'gypsy' peoples, why 'gypsy' is a scornful name for them, and they explore their heritage and traditions. Little is written about these peoples for this age grade of 2-4, making for an exceptionally valuable history.

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