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We Are The Romani People



Synopsis

Written by a Romani (Gypsy), this introduction to Roma life, health, food, culture, and society provides an insightful look at this despised by mysterious minority originating in India. Extensively illustrated, it looks at the people, their history since leaving India 1,000 years ago, and their rejection and exclusion from society in the countries where they settled. It offers candid advice on rejecting prejudices and stereotypes and getting to know the Roma as individuals, with short biographies of Roma in many different walks of life.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ian Hancock received his Ph.D. from London University and teaches Romani studies at the University of Texas, Austin, where he is the director of the Romani Archives and Documentation Center. He was born in Britain but descends on his father's side from the Benczi Imre family, which left Hungary in the second half of the 19th century. In 1998 President Clinton appointed him to represent Romanies on the United States Holocaust Memorial Council. he is the author of over 300 books and articles, mostly on the Roma.

A people that spread over Eastern and later Western Europe and everywhere between India and North America. A hard , sometimes sad story. It explains their behavior without dodging the negative side and their part in creating that negative view. It's also a call to political action without being overly pushy. I'm 17% Roma and never knew till a DNA test by NativeDNA. Maybe you have some Roma too. No I'm not trying to sell a test. Just telling my story. Book was very insightful.

Dr.Hancock did a scholarly,thorough work in compiling the information that he presented in this book.I have always been very impressed with Dr.Hancock's ability to provide understandable perspectives about a complex,extraordinary people.he was a Linguistics Professor of mine at UT in the 1970's & is quite remarkable himself.

Hancock is able to summarize and clarify a lot about the Romani that I have previously read. One thing that bothered me at first but got past it quickly, is that when he talks about the Romani he uses the personal possessive, i.e.was done to us, we don't like...., But I think that heightens the personal perspective and in the final analysis doesn't compromise the scholarship.I think it is an easy book to read and is well referenced. I also recommend Isable Fonseca's book, "Bury Me Standing" for additional information.

YES! I do remember this book from some years ago!! am of Gypsy/Roma background, and know about Ian Hancock. =He is Gypsy/Roma and very articulate!

.Reviewed by C J Singh (Berkeley, CA).The Romani people, the long-forgotten children of India, number about 16 million worldwide. In Europe, the 12 million Roma constitute its largest ethnic minority, a marginalized and much maligned minority whose contributions to Western culture are often ignored.Ian Hancock, himself of Romani heritage, and currently a professor of linguistics at the University of Texas, Austin, introduces his book: "One purpose of this book is to deconstruct the stereotype of fictional 'gypsies' and to replace it with a picture of the real population -- the Romanies." In a later chapter, Hancock presents brief biographies of more than a hundred Romani luminaries, such as:*Sonya Kavalesky, who, in 1884, became the first woman university professor in Sweden, teaching mathematics;*Charles Chaplin, the legendary filmmaker;*Patricio Lafcadio Hearn, who in the late nineteenth century "was one of the first to establish the modern-day journalistic style of writing

What a fabulous book; I'm referencing it already. It was shipped in perfect shape and arrived ahead of schedule. Thank you.

This book is a very good overview of the Romani culture for people living with Romani neighbors and working with Romani people. We are helping sponsor a Romani refugee family from Kosova

and found this book invaluable in helping us help them feel more comfortable in the U.S. It is written with a focus on helping teachers, social workers and others working with Romani people understand the culture. We learned a lot by reading it. It helps Americans understand the extent and roots of anti-Gypsy bias in Europe, and how many of those negative stereotypes crossed the oceans with the ancestors of European Americans!

Needless to say, there are many mis-informations out there about the gypsy people. I recently began reading about the situation in Germany prior to World War 2. This caused a renewed interest in the gypsy people. This book of course is in very simple language but it is filled with information about the origin of these people, the treatment they were subjected to in their travels, and also recommendations of how to relate to them. This is a wonderful contribution to the libraries of the world.

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