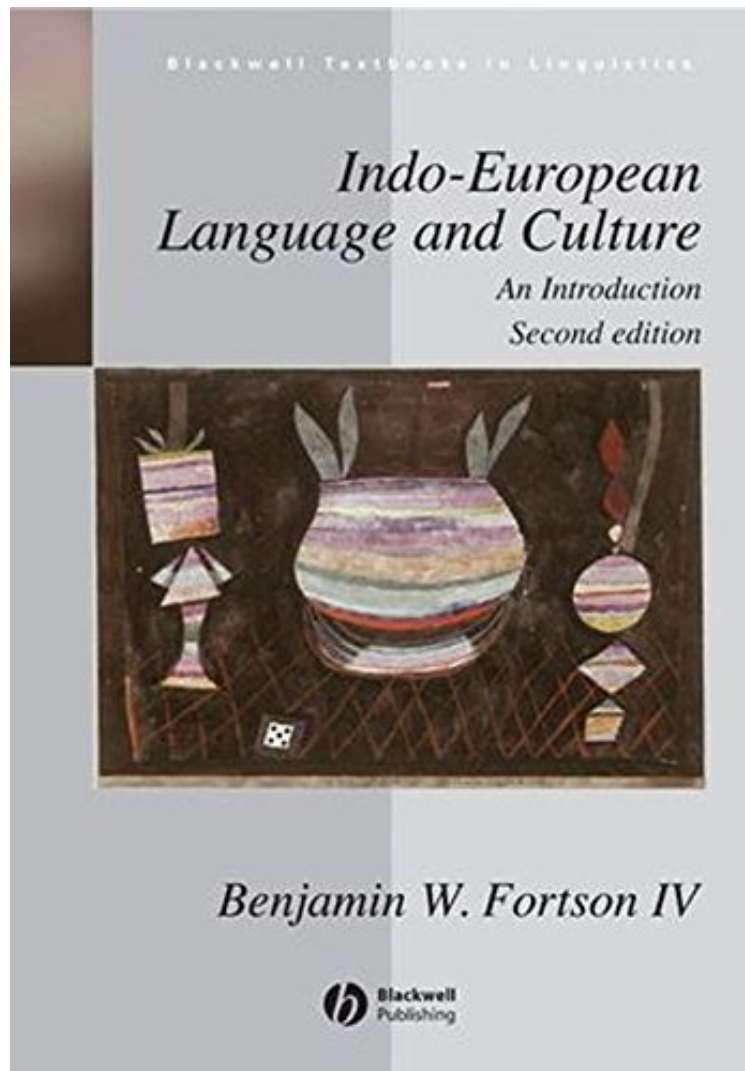


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## Indo-European Language and Culture: An Introduction

*Benjamin W. Fortson IV*

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**Benjamin W. Fortson IV : Indo-European Language and Culture: An Introduction** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Indo-European Language and Culture: An Introduction:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Kindle version has trouble with IPA symbolsBy C.A.J.The Kindle version of this book has difficulty displaying IPA symbols. They are always displayed in Times New Roman and at the smallest possible font size. So even if you increase the font size of the text, the IPA symbols just become tiny little dots in the middle of the large text. I could not find any setting that would change this.For a non-linguist, this is a hard slog, but if you have any interest in the development of Indo-European languages, it is essential.1 of 1 people found

the following review helpful. Informative, Useful, Interesting  
By Arthur Kilgore  
Great starting point for IE linguistics, albeit not as thorough about some of the different theories (little info on Glottalic Theory, none on the uvular hypothesis, hardly any on the Indo-Hittite model, etc). That said, it provides material on not only PIE itself, but also the daughter languages (although again, not in detail), as well as some ancient texts that were used to build PIE with the accompanying transliterations. Great read in any case, and a step in the right direction for IE linguistics.  
17 of 19 people found the following review helpful. Valuable Introduction for the Curious  
By Nelson Goering  
This book comes in two parts, an overview of Proto-Indo-European (including cultural as well as linguistic considerations), and a survey of each branch of the family. The first part serves its purpose fairly well as an introduction, although I'm not sure how much sense the discussion of (say) the verbal system makes without experience in at least one old IE language. Still, the discussions of IE grammar are relatively clear and accessible. If you want a more elegant view of this material, I recommend James Clackson's *Indo-European Linguistics: An Introduction* (Cambridge Textbooks in Linguistics), which covers much the same material in a crystal clear style, and navigates the controversies of reconstruction a bit more masterfully (unsurprising, since Clackson's book is explicitly designed to cover the controversial aspects of the field for a relative beginner). I highly recommend using these two books together (especially since Clackson has no survey of the branches as Fortson does). The second half is where Fortson really shines. Each chapter covers one particular branch, and they can easily be read independently of each other in any order. If some reviewers aren't interested in all the branches, or in some of the more recent languages which Fortson discusses, then they can just skip those sections; Fortson makes it easy. Each chapter contains sections on history and culture, outlines the main characteristics of each branch, and then discusses the grammatical features each sub-family within the branch. These are hardly complete grammars, of course, but Fortson generally does an excellent job of capturing some of the most striking features of each family, and whetting your appetite for more. The text samples for you to work through are very nice features. Fortson ends each chapter with a Further Reading section, which often contains some important reference grammars, dictionaries, and articles for the family. The main lack is that Fortson generally does not suggest pedagogical grammars, which is a shame since the book introduces languages so well that I (at least) often want to follow up study with a good, reliable teaching resource. It would save a great deal of uncertainty and searching if Fortson had offered some recommendations to begin with (though I can appreciate the difficulty this would have created for the author, since recommending pedagogical grammars is so often a matter of explaining the pros and cons of a number of imperfect resources). I'm giving this book five stars since I feel that it's intended audience--interested students or dilettantes--will find this an amazingly valuable introduction which really does contain a wealth of information. Read this in conjunction with Clackson, and you will get an excellent overview of Proto-Indo-European, as well as nice introductions to each of the sub-families (which are usually fascinating even internally, regardless of their value for PIE reconstruction). There's a lot more to IE linguistics than can possibly be covered in these two books, but they provide very solid foundations for further language study or reading about the field.

This revised and expanded edition provides a comprehensive overview of comparative Indo-European linguistics and the branches of the Indo-European language family, covering both linguistic and cultural material. Now offering even greater coverage than the first edition, it is the definitive introduction to the field. Updated, corrected, and expanded edition, containing new illustrations of selected texts and inscriptions, and text samples with translations and etymological commentary  
Extensively covers individual histories of both ancient and modern languages of the Indo-European family  
Provides an overview of Proto-Indo-European culture, society, and language  
Designed for use in courses, with exercises and suggestions for further reading included in each chapter  
Includes maps, a glossary, a bibliography, and comprehensive word and subject indexes

Praise for the Previous Edition: "Superb [Fortson's] short general discussions of the histories and ecologies of the individual languages are the best I have ever read." (Recensiones - Salesianum, 2008) "I would like to conclude by stressing that this is an excellent textbook. I have taught from it, and the students in my class not only learned a great deal from it, they also seemed to enjoy the book almost as much as I did." (Bryn Mawr Classical ) "Finally, there is a reliable, engaging and accessible presentation of the communis opinio. And there are even exercises! Fortson has produced an excellent book that fulfills its goals admirably. I hope it will inspire a renaissance of Indo-European linguistics in English speaking countries." (Journal of the American Oriental Society) "Ben Fortson's book is the best existing introduction to Indo-European linguistics: up-to-date and comprehensive, accessible without being oversimplified. Students and interested laypersons will find it indispensable." Don Ringe, University of Pennsylvania "Fortson's Introduction continues to be the textbook of choice for introductory Indo-European. In its presentation of both fact and theory, it is a marvel of accuracy, completeness, and sound judgment." Brent Vine, UCLA "The perfect book for an introductory Indo-European course, lively and engaging throughout, yet detailed, accurate, and authoritative. The hands-on exercises at the end of each chapter are a unique and valuable feature." Jay Jasanoff, Harvard University "This is an excellent introduction to Proto-Indo-European and its study. Both the chapters on various aspects of PIE grammar and those describing the various Indo-European branches are masterly précis of their

subjects. As a Tocharianist I'm pleased to see that all branches of Indo-European are given the same thoughtful, substantial treatment. Both novices and the experienced Indo-Europeanists will read this book with profit; more than one of the latter group will wish he had written himself." Douglas Q. Adams, University of Idaho

**From the Back Cover**

**Indo-European Language and Culture: An Introduction** provides a comprehensive overview of comparative Indo-European linguistics and the branches of the Indo-European language family, covering both linguistic and cultural material. Opening with an introduction to the comparative method of linguistic reconstruction and discussion of the culture and homeland of the Indo-Europeans, the volume provides detailed overviews of the phonology, morphology, and syntax of reconstructed Proto-Indo-European. Each branch's development from ancient to modern times is outlined, and illustrative text samples are given along with translations, etymological commentary, exercises and suggestions for further reading in all chapters. This new edition contains illustrations and photographs of inscriptions illustrating the ancient writing systems, and enhanced and new coverage of dozens of languages. Corrected, revised, and with greater coverage than the first edition, *Indo-European Language and Culture* is the definitive introduction to the field.