

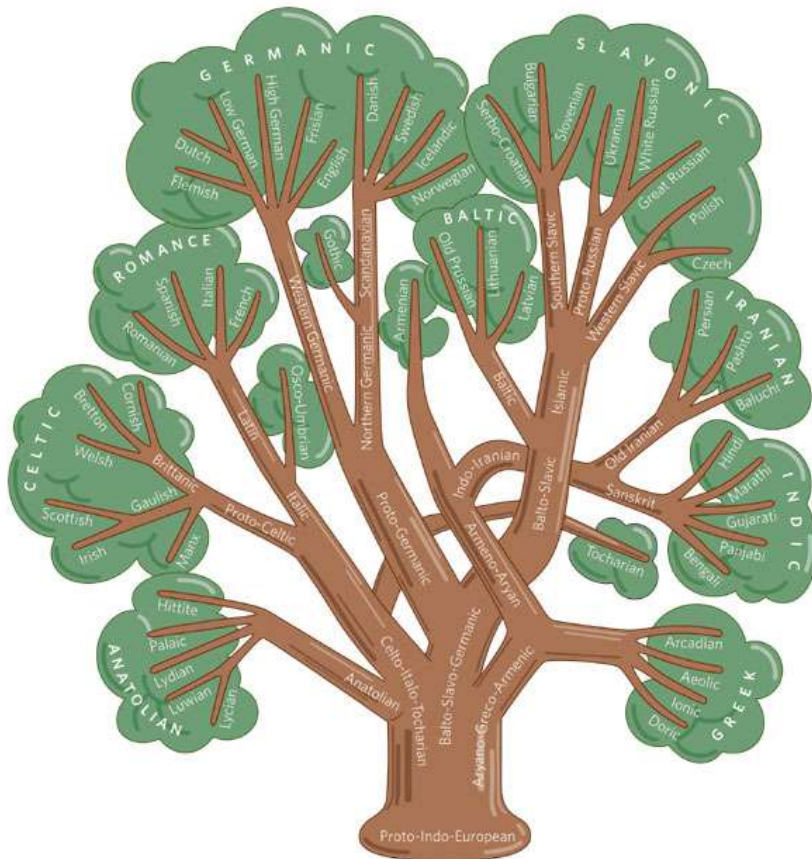
Indo-European Migrations, c. 4000 BCE-1000 BCE

© MAPS.COM

# Indo-European Languages

FAMILIES,  
BRANCHES  
AND GROUPS

乱 = 舌 + 乚  
 Confusion = Tongue + Mystery



Languages are often related.

A mother language is spoken by groups of people who become separated by time and distance. Those groups then form new languages based on a common origin.

**LANGUAGE FAMILY:** a collection of languages related through a common ancestral language that existed before recorded history. (Indo-European is the world's most extensive language family.)

**LANGUAGE BRANCH:** a collection of languages related through a common ancestral language that existed several thousand years ago. (A language family divides into a number of branches.)

**LANGUAGE GROUP:** a collection of languages within a branch that share a common origin in the relatively recent past and display relatively few differences in grammar and vocabulary.

THE  
INDOEUROPEAN  
FAMILY

乱 = 舌 + 乚

Confusion

Tongue

Mystery

The Indo-European FAMILY is divided into eight language BRANCHES.

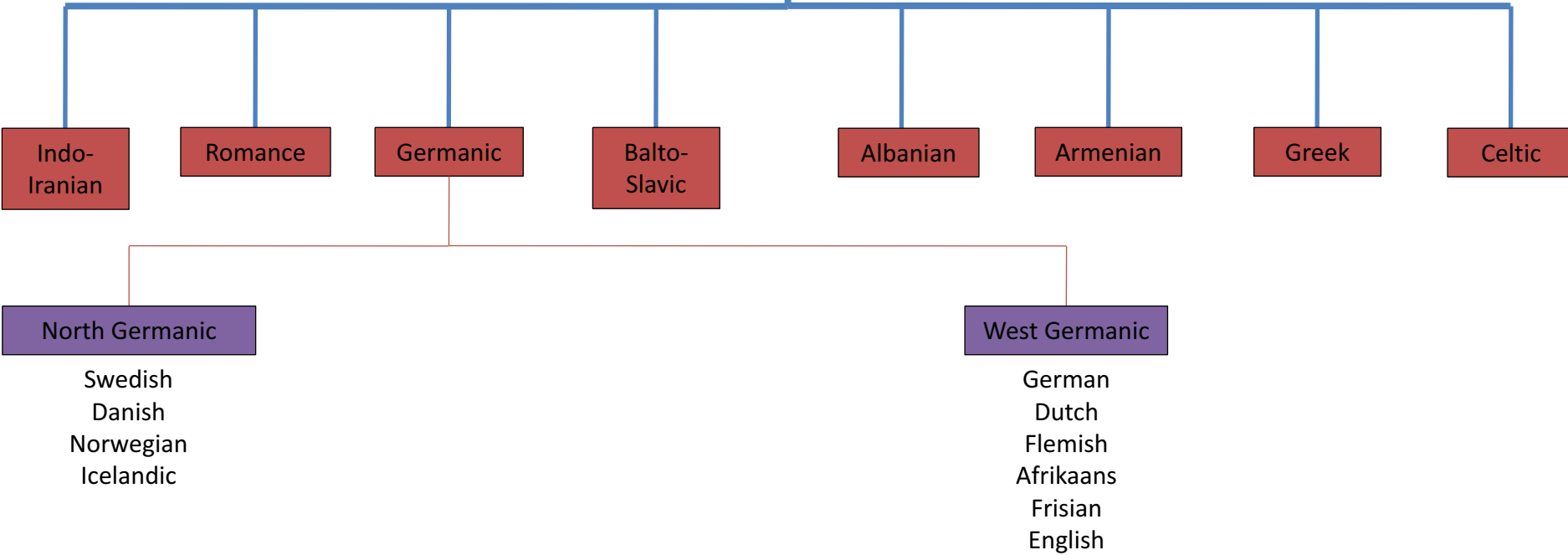
The first four branches are widely spoken.

The second four branches are less common.

English belongs to the Germanic Branch.

The Germanic BRANCH splits into two GROUPS.

Indo-European



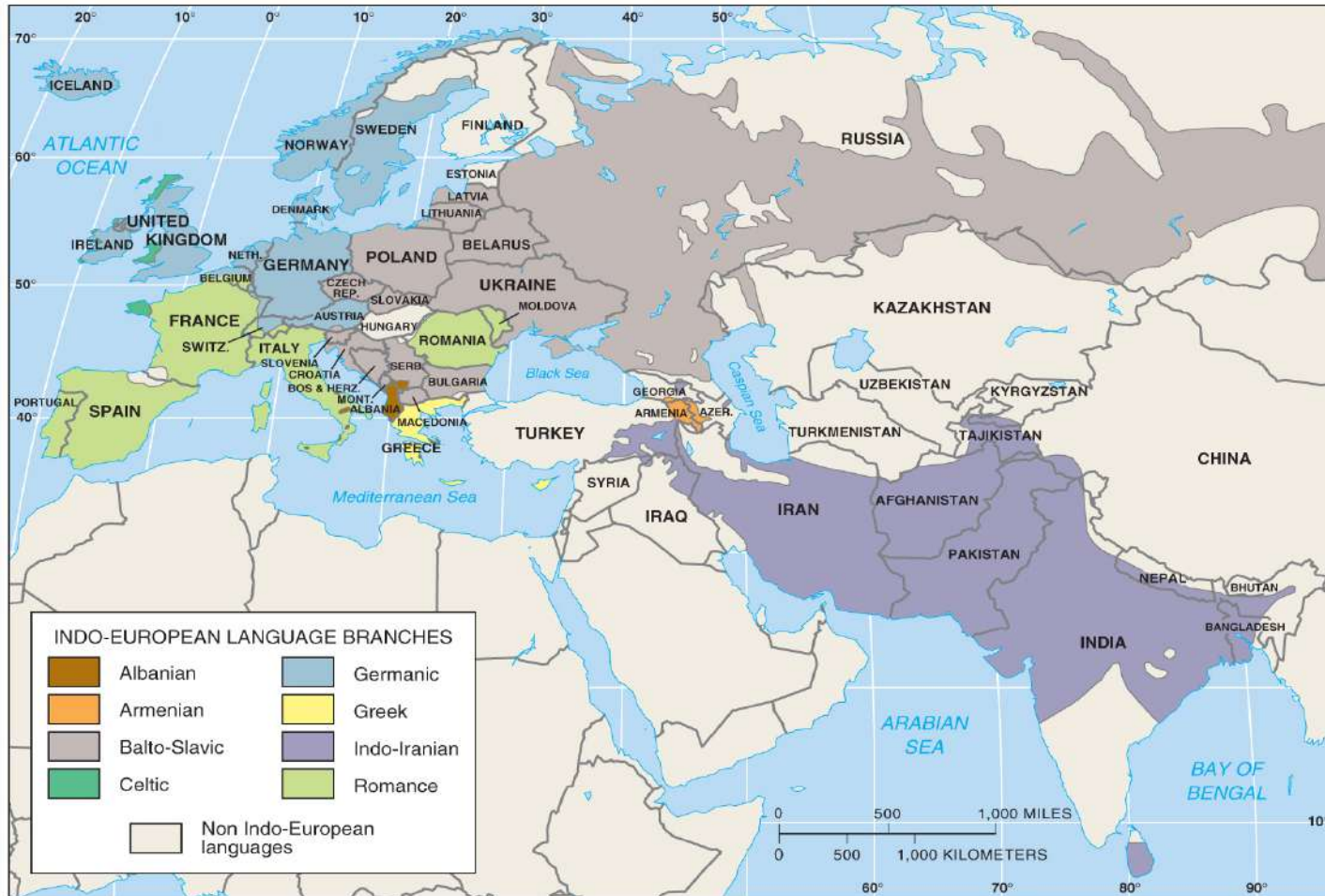
THE  
INDOEUROPEAN  
FAMILY

乱 = 舌 + 乚

Confusion

Tongue

Mystery



Most Europeans speak languages from the Indo-European language family.

In Europe the three most important branches are Germanic (north and west), Romance (south and west), and Slavic (east).

The fourth major branch (Indo-Iranian in southern and western Asia) has 1 billion speakers, the greatest number of any Indo-European branch.

THE  
INDO-IRANIAN  
BRANCH

乱 = 舌 + 乚

Confusion

Tongue

Mystery

Indo-European

Indo-  
Iranian

Romance

Germanic

Balto-  
Slavic

Albanian

Armenian

Greek

Celtic

Eastern  
(Indic)

Hindi  
Bengali  
Punjabi  
Urdu

Western  
(Iranian)

Persian (Farsi)  
Kurdish  
Pashtuo



Indo-Iranian is the branch with the most speakers and contains over 100 individual languages.

The BRANCH is divided into two GROUPS: Eastern (Indic) and Western (Iranian)

The Indic Branch contains dozens of languages spoken in South Asia: India, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

The Iranian Branch contains a number of languages spoken in Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Turkey

THE  
INDO-IRANIAN  
BRANCH

乱 = 舌 + 乚

Confusion

Tongue

Mystery

EASTERN  
GROUP  
(Indic)



**INDO-EUROPEAN:**

- Dialect of Hindi
- Other Indo-European
- HINDI** Official language of India
- KACHI** Other language

**OTHER:**

- Sino-Tibetan
- Austro-Asiatic
- Dravidian
- Burushaski

South Asia has four main language families--Indo-European, Dravidian, Sino-Tibetan, and Austro-Asiatic.

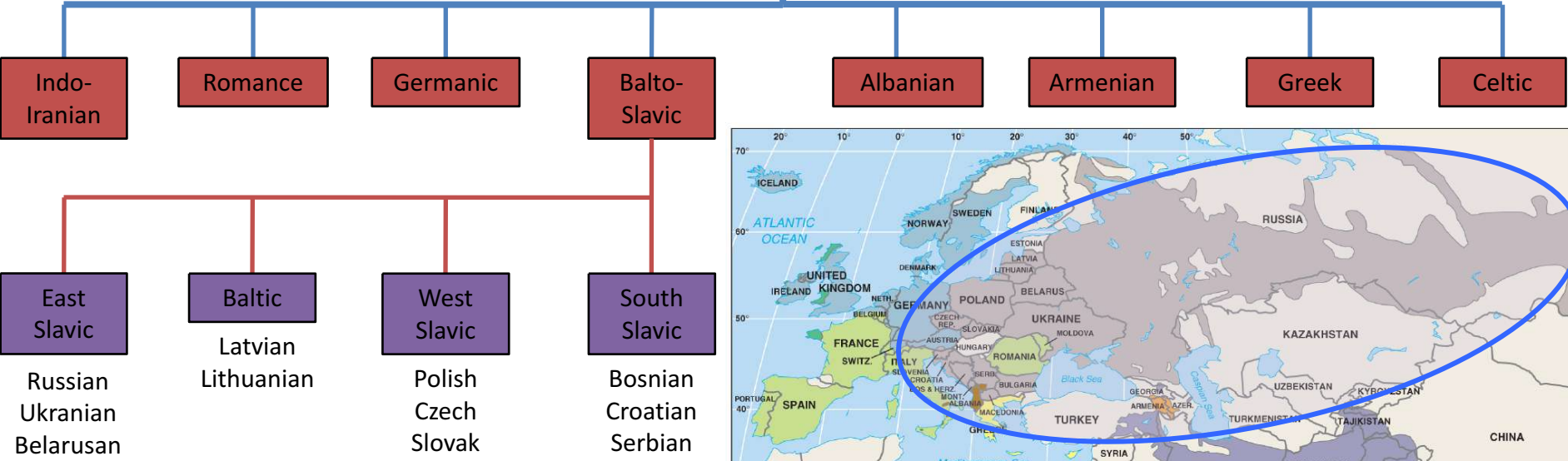
More than 90 percent of the people of India speak at least one of the country's 18 official languages, 17 of which are written in red on the map.

The eighteenth official language Sanskrit is primarily a language of religion and literature.

THE  
BALTO-SLAVIC  
BRANCH

乱 = 舌 + 乚  
 Confusion = Tongue + Mystery

Indo-European



Balto-Slavic also has a large number of speakers.

It divided into several languages and four groups fairly recently (700s AD).

THE  
ROMANCE  
BRANCH

乱 = 舌 + 乚

Confusion

Tongue

Mystery

Indo-European

Indo-Iranian

Romance

Germanic

Balto-Slavic

Albanian

Armenian

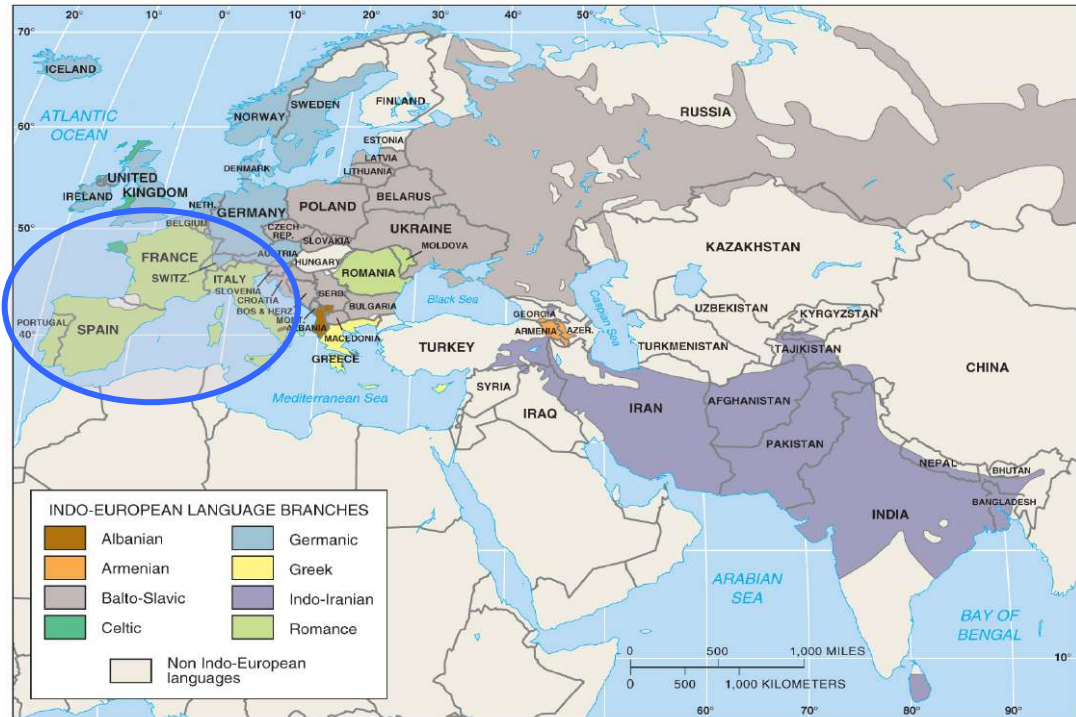
Greek

Celtic

Spanish  
Portuguese  
French  
Italian  
Romanian  
Romansh  
Catalan

The Romance Branch evolved from Latin as it spread and then became isolated in pockets.

The Romance language regions in Europe often correspond to the countries that speak them.





THE  
ROMANCE  
BRANCH

乱 = 舌 + 乚

Confusion

Tongue

Mystery



The Spanish Speaking World

The Portuguese Speaking World

All Romance languages developed from Latin, the language of the Romans (hence: Romance).

At its height in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BCE, the Roman Empire from the Atlantic to the Black sea and included all the land bordering the Mediterranean.

The Latin in the Empires time varied slightly from province to province, and most people learned vulgar, not standard, Latin.

The Roman Empire collapsed in 476 CE, so communication between its provinces declined and regional variation in the language increased.

Distinct languages had evolved by the 700s CE.

Many Romance languages also have several dialects.

Spanish and Portuguese are two of the world's most widely spoken languages due to the colonial activities of their European hearths.

90% of Spanish and Portuguese speakers live outside of Europe.

The division of Latin America into Spanish and Portuguese regions is the result of a 1493 decision by Pope Alexander VI.

It is often difficult to determine whether two languages are separate or just dialects of the same language.

A CREOLIZED LANGUAGE is a language that results from mixing a colonizer's language with the indigenous language (ex. French Creole).

PROTO-  
INDO-EUROPEAN

乱 = 舌 + 乚

Confusion

Tongue

Mystery



Can't be  
proved?!  
I'm fo-real!



If the Germanic, Romance, Balto-Slavic and Indo-Iranian language branches are all related, then they much have descended from a single, common ancestral language...

The OG language , so to speak.

That language is referred to as Proto Indo-European.

PIE's existence cannot be proved because it would have existed thousands of years before recorded history.

The evidence of its existence is internal, deriving from common traits of existing languages.

Most linguists agree that PIE must have existed, but they disagree on when and where it originated and how it diffused.

Competing hypotheses:  
The Kurgan Hypothesis  
The Anatolian Hypothesis

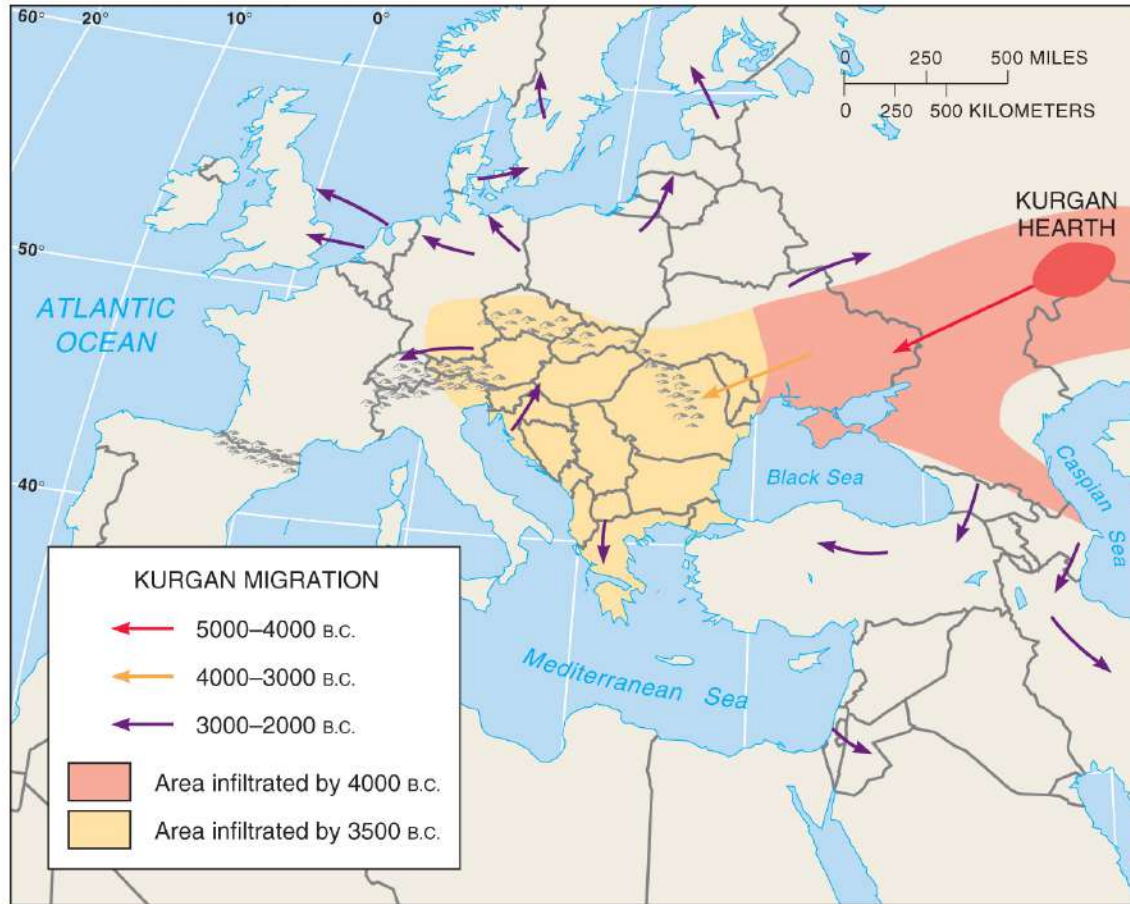
# THE KURGAN HYPOTHESIS

乱 = 舌 + 乚

Confusion

Tongue

Mystery



Copyright © 2008 Pearson Prentice Hall, Inc.

The Kurgans lived on the steppes near the border between Russia and Kazakhstan around 4300 BCE.

They were nomadic herders who first domesticated horses and cattle, and they migrated in search of grassland.

From their hearth, they moved west, east and southeast, and between 3500 and 2500 BCE, they conquered much of Europe and South Asia.

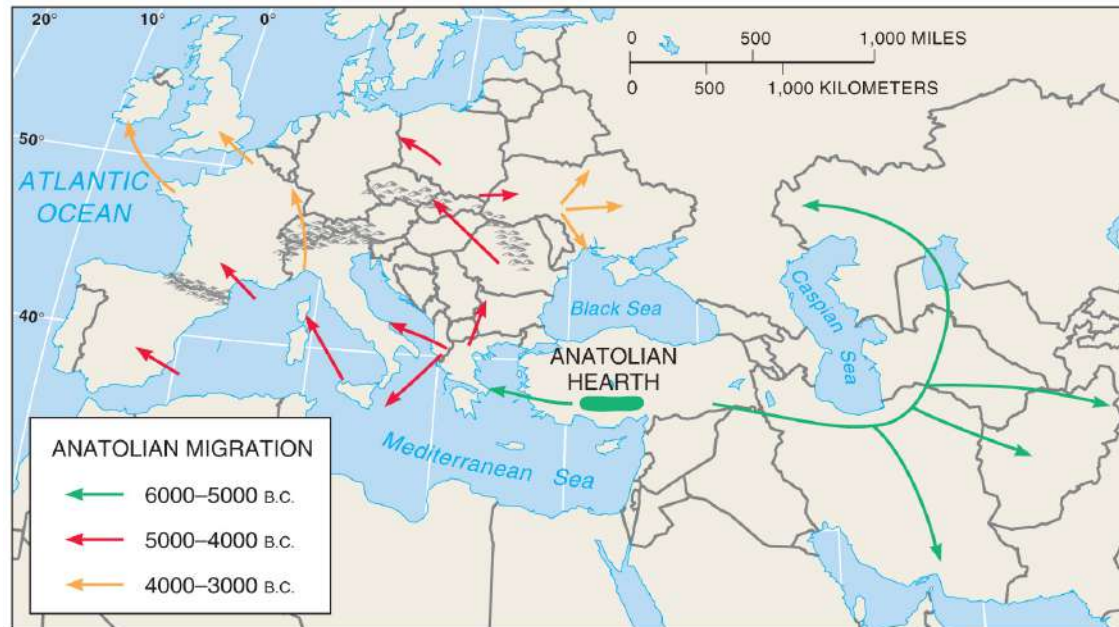
# THE ANATOLIAN HYPOTHESIS

乱 = 舌 + 乚

Confusion

Tongue

Mystery



Copyright © 2008 Pearson Prentice Hall, Inc.

A second theory centers around a group of people who lived 2000 years before the Kurgans in Anatolia (present day Turkey).

From Anatolia, the Anatolians spread East and West, then North.

The language spread with the spread of agricultural practices, not the spread of conquest.

Regardless of when, by whom and how, the isolation of peoples at the time allowed for different languages to evolve.