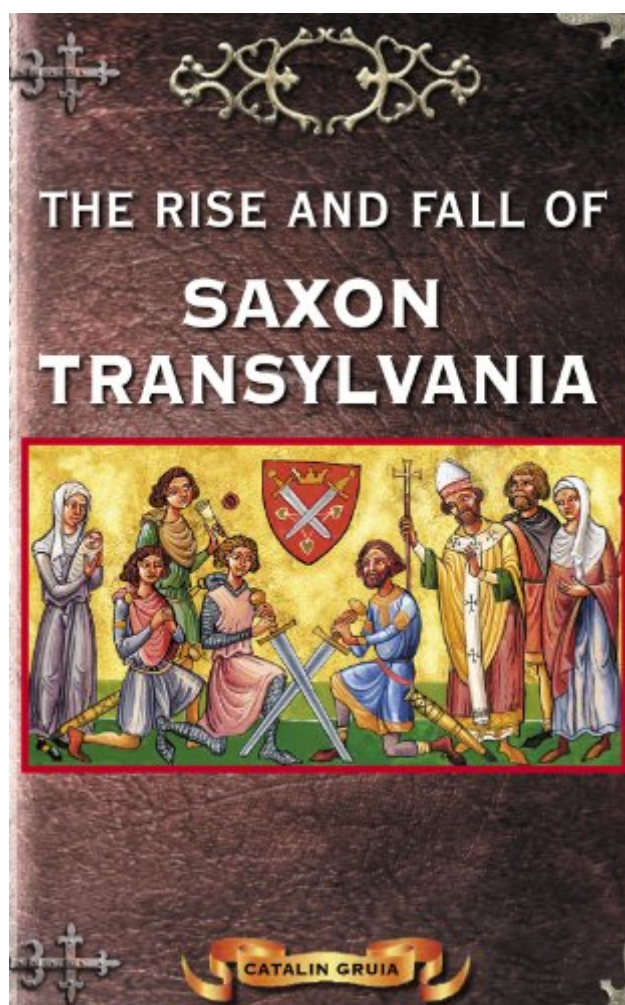


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# The Rise And Fall Of Saxon Transylvania (Romania Explained To My Friends Abroad Book 2)



## Synopsis

Transylvanian Saxons The saga of a civilization in 4 parts: colonization, splendor, decline and today's touristic heritage Underdeveloped country seeking investors – this was the slogan of Eastern Europe after the fall of Communism. Like flowers competing for pollinators, its states outdid each other in advertising economic privileges and legislative facilities to attract Western investors. The different governments which took turns in the last 15 years in the Victoria Palace from Bucharest did not bother to go beyond mere declarations of good intentions; but, while TV channels broadcast their formal speeches, the exodus was underway for the most enterprising part of the population, the only one related to the West: Transylvania's German guests. The Saxons: 800 years of history in Transylvania 800 years ago, like managers looking for personnel to recruit, the first Hungarian kings invited guests from the West to develop the Transylvania they were gradually conquering. Although it lay at the edge of the known world, the Saxons let themselves be lured by this promised land, a natural fortress full of riches, with the Carpathians for walls. They came, they worked, and they built in Transylvania a civilization which reached its apogee in the sixteenth century. Pandora's Box opened wide for the Saxons after the Second World War, too. Less than 15.000 stayed in Romania. Most of them returned to the West, seeking the same thing that had brought their ancestors here: prosperity. Their heritage, however, remains and calls us to discover it. The Rise and Fall of Saxon Transylvania is a concise journalistic of the Saxon civilization, following its history through: • The Colonization: The Promised Land. Like managers with vacancies in the organizational chart, the first Hungarian kings invited guests from the West to develop a Transylvania that was in process of being conquered. • The Rise: Sibiu, Grand Square, no. 8. The Hecht House was the home of a great medieval merchant. Its metamorphoses and the series of its owners shape the story of the rise of the Transylvanian Saxons. • The Decline: Pandora's box. The star of the Saxons began to fade in the 18th century, when they failed to obtain the 23rd validation of their privileges. In the era of nationalism, they dealt with a new kind of ruler – the nation state – who was determined to assimilate them at any cost. • The present: Romania's German heritage. The majority of the Saxons returned to the West, seeking the same thing that had brought their ancestors here: prosperity. Their heritage, however, remains and calls us to discover it. 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 concise journalistic account of the Saxon civilization. "For almost a year and a half, I traded in Bucharest for a little country house in Mures. During that time, taking

advantage of the trips in which I followed the Saxonsâ™ traces for a National Geographic documentary, I discovered in Transylvania a foreign country. And I fell in love with Siebenbürgen!"

\* For behind the scenes information about Gruia's books

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

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This book is the account of 800 years of Germans living in Romania's Transylvania region. Romania has developed a tourist industry around the remnants of the Saxons, or Sash as they call them.

Anyone visiting the region would do well to read this book and gain insight to the people who made their home in Transylvania for eight centuries. The fortified churches, and finely crafted homes are all that remain as a tribute to the disciplined, hard working people that came to Transylvania so many years ago.

The little book, only 52 pages of text, is one of only a very few books in English on the topic of Saxon Transylvania. It is written by a Romanian so the prose is at times stilted. Only pages 9-30

deal with their history up to 1918. There is a travelogue quality to this book which, with the help of Google and Wikipedia, opens up historic Saxon Transylvania. I did learn something new, namely about how the Reformation came to Transylvania. I admit to being disappointed with the book, but I know of no other resource in English to compare it. This is a self-published booklet.

This is a nice work on the history of the Saxons in Transylvania. As someone of Anglo-Saxon descent, I found it quite interesting to find out the rich history of the Saxons in Transylvania. Personally, I didn't find issue with the translation to English. 856 locations long. Picked it up while free, but worth paying for.

I believe the author could have expanded more in each of the chapters. I felt the length of each was a little short and could have provided more information. Also, in certain areas it was a little hard to follow. This may be since this English version was a translation from the original. The book was an easy read since it was a short synopsis of the time period being covered..

This book answers a lot of the questions I have about where my mom's family came from. My grandparents on my mother's side came over from Transylvania and were Saxon German. I grew up thinking I was German then I was told my grandparents came from Transylvania. That confused me. As much as my Uncle tried to explain, I didn't "get it" until I read Catalin Gruia's book *The Rise and Fall of Saxon Transylvania*. I wish my grandparents were alive. Great book. Easy quick read. I appreciate the Time Line. Thank you, Catalin Gruia.

I found this publication of interest. My parents both come from Siebenburgen (Saxon Transylvania). I enjoy reading on this subject, so the book was naturally of interest to me. My biggest regret about this book is that it is so short in length. Still, I would recommend it to anyone seeking a very high level/brief read in this subject.

I purchased the download because I am particularly interested in the socio-political advancement of post-communist occupied countries in central Europe. This was more of a travelogue. It was pleasant to read once I realized it had been jerkily translated from the language into English. As I continued with the travels and descriptions I could visualize the places and villages. There is a bit of disconnected references but once I stayed with the descriptions all was fairly well revealed.

I really thought this book would teach me about the Saxons in Romania. But I learned very, very little. Poorly written, overly expensive, badly translated, I wish I'd walked by this one.

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