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Most of the languages spoken in Europe were descended from various groups of the Indo-European linguistic family. To the south and west of the Alpine mountains (Galia, Italy, Iberian Peninsula) the Romanesque group dominated, to the north of the Alps and the British Isles the Germanic group was more common.

The Baltic Group was where it is today, and felt significantly influenced by the Germanic languages from the west, and by the powerful Slavic group of languages from the east. Albanian and Greek were also under strong pressure, and yet they all managed to survive despite the influence of the Indo-European languages.

Particularly noteworthy is the preservation of the Basque language, which was then spoken by a negligible number of people. Of course, much has changed since then with regard to the spread of languages and the population of its speakers. You can find best essay writers on [Custom Writing Service](#).

This period made significant adjustments in linguistic geography. Three factors played an important role in this: consolidation of national kingdoms, reforms and the invention of the printing press.

The consolidation of national kingdoms, especially in Western Europe, was essential to strengthen some languages at the expense of others, mainly for political reasons. In addition, much more effort was now required to recognize and support the existence of linguistic minorities within the new State.

Especially given the active stabilization of political systems and the tight fixation of borders. The existence of linguistic diversity within a single State was perceived with disapproval, and at times interpreted as creating conditions for separatism. At the same time, linguistic groups that received political support strengthened their positions in relation to other, even dominant, communities much more seriously.

The reforms, on the contrary, had a strong impact on the support of many European small languages. For example, the disputes between Roman Catholicism and Eastern Orthodoxy led to the emergence of "national" churches opposed to the universalism dictated by Rome.

In addition, both Catholics and Protestants were eager to translate scripture into local languages and use it in liturgies and creeds, which also strengthened the position of linguistic minorities.