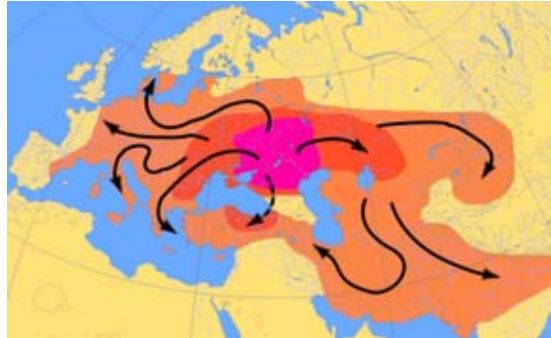


## The Origin of Proto-Indo-European The most popular hypothesis

The Kurgan hypothesis (also theory or model) is a model of early Indo-European origins, which postulates that the Kurgan culture of the Pontic steppe (the steppe region north of the Black Sea<sup>1</sup>) were the most likely speakers of the reconstructed Proto-Indo-European language. Though described as "attractive" and "the single most popular" model of early Indo-European, alternate theories such as the Anatolian urheimat<sup>2</sup> have some support.



Map of Indo European migrations from ca. 4000 to 1000 BC according to the Kurgan model. The Anatolian migration (indicated with a dotted arrow) could have taken place either across the Caucasus or across the Balkans. The purple area corresponds to the assumed Urheimat (Samara culture, Sredny Stog culture). The red area corresponds to the area which may have been settled by Indo-European-speaking peoples up to ca. 2500 BC, and the orange area by 1000 BC.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kurgan\\_hypothesis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kurgan_hypothesis)

<sup>1</sup> Another sources say, "between the Caucasus and Vistula River [southwestern USSR] around 7,000 years ago."

<sup>2</sup> The Anatolian urheimat hypothesis says, "The original \*IE language was spoken around 5,000 BC by a people who live...in Anatolia in modern day Turkey."