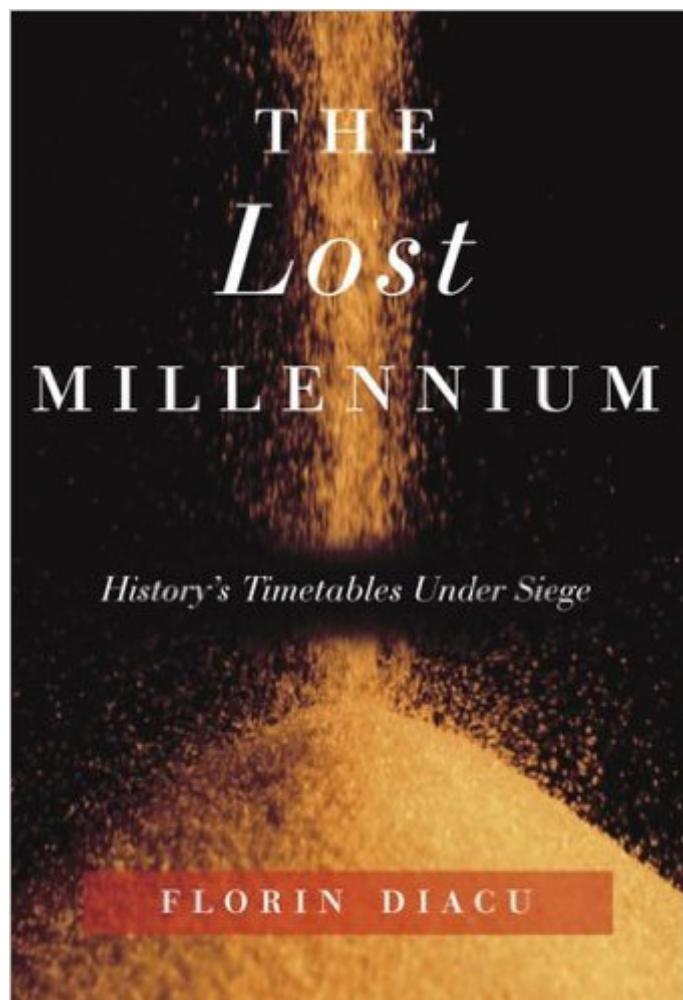


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# The Lost Millennium: History's Timetables Under Siege



## Synopsis

Have you ever wondered how we really know what year it is? Part detective story, part conspiracy theory, part scientific history, *The Lost Millennium* explores the astonishing possibility that our calendar is out by a thousand years. A chance conversation at a conference in Mexico started mathematician Florin Diacu on an amazing journey to make sense of one of the strangest – and if true, most revolutionary – theories you'll ever encounter. To understand how scientists could be sceptical about what year it is, Florin Diacu explores the fascinating history of chronology – from Egyptian horoscopes to the work of Isaac Newton, with cameos by Voltaire and Edmund Halley – making the startling discovery that our calendar is far from ironclad. It all depends, rather, on the dating of ancient events – about which there is real controversy. At once accessible and profound, *The Lost Millennium* examines the arguments of present-day chronological revisionists such as the Russian scholar Anatoli Fomenko, who claims that our system of dating is horribly askew. Fomenko cites evidence from ancient astronomy, linguistics and cartography, and a crucial manuscript by Ptolemy, staking his scientific prestige on a theory so controversial that it will change the way you think about time, history and the calendar on your wall. The field has also inspired its share of now-discredited cranks, such as Immanuel Velikovsky, a media celebrity of the 1950s. His notorious book *Worlds in Collision* argued that biblical events are incorrectly dated. Beautifully written and peopled with fascinating characters from past and present, *The Lost Millennium* is essential reading for anyone who believes they're living in the year 2005.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Being an avid reader of history books, especially ancient history, I have always taken for granted that when a historian stated that an event occurred in a certain year in the distant past, that that year was correct - especially if conventionally accepted among historians - within, perhaps, a small margin of error. Before reading this book, I was not aware of the challenges that have been made in the past, and that are still being made today, to conventional historical chronology - challenges that propose to shorten recorded history by as much as one thousand years! The main reformist in this field these days is Anatoli Fomenko, a well-respected Russian mathematician on whose work most of this book is based. The author, also a mathematician, uses an unbiased and objective approach in analyzing Fomenko's theories and methods. He also discusses the traditionalists' reactions to Fomenko's results. Although it is easy to sense that history's timetables are not about to be overturned any time soon based solely on Fomenko's work, the author does suggest ways in which some traditional dates can be confirmed. Observing the scientific method at work is always interesting for me. This is a fascinating book. It is very well written in a clear and engaging style; and, for me, it was quite a page-turner.

A must read for anyone who wants an objective account on Fomenko's views. there are also brief accounts on Peter James and David Rohl. maybe in a second edition professor Diacu will venture into the minds of the German revisionists Uwe Topper, and Herbert Illig. so far they sound more convincing to me than Fomenko, although Fomenko's results for the almagest do destroy the main pillar of traditional chronology. Diacu speaks of the dark ages in the middle ages but never really gets into it. Herbert Illig for example proposed that 300 years should be taken out of the chronology, according to him the years between 600 AD and 900 AD. if anyone was convinces by Peter James Centuries of Darkness, he should be convinced by Illig. the proofs are very similar, and they were very convincing to me. in conclusion, Diacu has managed to summarize Fomenko in mere 200 pages and he did it in a fun way. there is still space for lets say 100 pages exploring the views of the German revisionists, this would give the reader more places were to choose from.

This book filled my winter holidays with joy! I always thought mathematicians cannot write, but Diacu proved me wrong. He succeeded to grip my attention from the beginning and kept me focused until I read the very last line. Now I am reading this book for the second time because I want to fix the ideas, and I find it as fresh and engaging as the first time. Diacu's quest to learn the truth, his enthusiasm and care for detail are worth noting. A read that made me think more intensely than I did in years.

Florin Diacu's *The Lost Millennium* approaches the issues of revising chronology from an astronomy perspective. He shows how our present understanding of chronology doesn't line up with our knowledge of astronomy. He quite rightly shows that there are issues with Fomenko's reconstruction of Chronology. However what is perhaps most valuable about Fomenko is the mass of evidence showing that our existing chronology is unscientific. It would be good to see Florin Diacu concentrate more on that. If we examine the history of different texts we see that until the 'Revival of Letters' and the printing press, works like the Bible appear to have been practically non-existent as far as the historical record shows. People were not really familiar with the classics, bible, and church fathers till the era of printing. In English one can also refer to Edwin Johnson for more information. Wikipedia has links to his works, including *The Pauline Epistles*. In many ways the classics reflect the concerns of the renaissance, while the bible reflects the religious arguments of the different sides in the reformation era. (Just as the *Book of Mormon* shows a current understanding of 19th Century theological arguments in New York State.) The further one examines the subject the less clear it is what one really knows about the past prior to the age of publication. This book is important because it shows that there is solid evidence that our knowledge of the past is dubious.

Having read some other reviews of this book, I was excited when I finally got my hands on it, hoping that it would be as enlightening as some other books that question orthodox chronology. Sadly, I was rather disappointed. This book is almost entirely focused on Fomenko and his wacky mathematical (and/or statistical) approach to history. Very briefly, Fomenko claims that our written history is not as long as we think it is, and attempts to shave about a 1000 years from it (hence the title of the book). But while the author of this book seems to question the validity of Fomenko's revisionist theories, he nevertheless tries to be "fair" to the Russian mathematician, by acknowledging that some of the dates he got from interpreting ancient astronomical "data" was thorough and perhaps needs to be considered. Huh? How can a TRANSLATION and COPY (who can even guess of which order) of some ancient writer who made observations WITHOUT any astronomical instruments or tools be considered hard evidence to come up with PRECISE dating, and furthermore to attempt to use these new dates to completely undermine ancient and medieval history. Nonsense. A good critique of Fomenko could have been written in a short article, using only logic to topple his assertions. If you are looking for something that challenges traditional chronology, but actually makes sense, consider reading Emmet Sweeney's books.

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