# Scottish Tartan and Highland Dress: A Very Peculiar History

The sight of a Scottish person in full Highland dress is one that is instantly recognizable and iconic. The kilt, the sporran, the sgian-dubh, the bonnet, and the dirk are all instantly recognizable symbols of Scotland and its people.



#### Scottish Tartan and Highland Dress A Very Peculiar

**History** by Michael Dante DiMartino

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But what is the history of these garments? How did they come to be so closely associated with Scotland? And what is the significance of the different tartans that are worn?

### The Origins of Tartan

The origins of tartan are unclear, but it is thought to have first been developed in the Highlands of Scotland around the 16th century. The first tartans were simple, woven from the natural wool of the sheep that were raised in the Highlands. Over time, these tartans became more elaborate, with different colors and patterns being used to distinguish between different clans and families.

By the 18th century, tartan had become a symbol of Scottish identity and pride. The Jacobite risings of the 18th century saw tartan being worn as a symbol of defiance against the British government. After the Jacobite defeat at the Battle of Culloden in 1746, the wearing of tartan was banned by the British government.

#### The Revival of Tartan

The ban on tartan was eventually lifted in the 19th century, and tartan began to experience a revival. Queen Victoria was a great admirer of Scottish culture, and she often wore tartan clothing. This helped to popularize tartan among the British upper classes, and it soon became a fashionable fabric for both men and women.

Today, tartan is still a popular fabric for clothing and accessories. It is worn by people all over the world, and it is still a symbol of Scottish identity and pride.

#### **The Different Tartans**

There are hundreds of different tartans, each with its own unique history and significance. Some tartans are associated with particular clans or families, while others are associated with specific regions of Scotland. There are also tartans that are designed for specific occasions, such as weddings or funerals.

The most famous tartan is the Royal Stewart tartan, which is associated with the Scottish royal family. Other popular tartans include the Black Watch tartan, the Campbell tartan, and the MacDonald tartan.

#### The Significance of Tartan

Tartan is more than just a fabric. It is a symbol of Scottish identity and pride. It is a reminder of the country's rich history and culture. For many Scots, wearing tartan is a way to connect with their heritage and to show their love for their country.

Tartan is also a symbol of unity and community. When people wear tartan, they are showing that they are part of something larger than themselves. They are part of a clan, a family, a community, and a nation.

Scottish tartan and Highland dress are iconic symbols of Scotland and its people. They have a long and fascinating history, and they continue to be worn by people all over the world today. Whether you are Scottish or not, you can appreciate the beauty and significance of these garments.

#### **Buy the Book**

If you are interested in learning more about the history of Scottish tartan and Highland dress, I encourage you to buy my book, *Scottish Tartan and Highland Dress: A Very Peculiar History*. This book is a comprehensive guide to the history, symbolism, and cultural significance of these iconic garments.

Buy the book now



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