Nicholas Ostler grew up in Tonbridge, Kent, England. He first visited Turkey as a roving schoolboy linguist between Trabzon and Istanbul in 1968. He later went to Oxford University (BA in Latin, Greek, Logic and Economics 1975) and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Linguistics 1979).

He first worked at the Universities of Toyama, Kanazawa and Meiji Gakuin in Japan. He was also a consultant in machine translation for Fujitsu. From 1982 to 1991, he became a management consultant in Europe, working for various companies. In 1991 he founded Linguacubun Ltd, and represented the Department of Trade and Industry (UK) and DG-XIII (European Union) in language technologies for the rest of the decade. He was active in corpus linguistics, and on the board of the British National Corpus. At NMSU (New Mexico) and Bilkent University, he contributed "Linguistic Aspects" to Kemal Oflazer's *Language Engineering for Lesser-Studied Languages* (2003).

In 1996 he became the founding Chairman of the UK charity Foundation for Endangered Languages, a post he still holds.

He wrote three books in the 2000s: *Empires of the Word* (a language history of the world); *Ad Infinitum* (a biography of Latin); and *The Last Lingua Franca* (about the dynamics of English and major lingua-francas). He is now writing *New Passwords to Paradise*, on the effects on world faiths of their need for translation. He has pursued research into the extinct language Chibcha of Colombia, and its relatives (e.g. Uwa).

He is married, with one daughter and numerous stepchildren, and lives in Bath, England.

(More detail at www.nicholasostler.com)