

= Macedonia ( terminology ) =

The name " Macedonia " is used in a number of competing or overlapping meanings to describe geographical , political and historical areas , languages and peoples in a part of south @-@ eastern Europe . It has been a major source of political controversy since the early 20th century . The situation is complicated because different ethnic groups use different terminology for the same entity , or the same terminology for different entities , with different political connotations .

Historically , the region has presented markedly shifting borders across the Balkan peninsula . Geographically , no single definition of its borders or the names of its subdivisions is accepted by all scholars and ethnic groups . Demographically , it is mainly inhabited by four ethnic groups , three of which self @-@ identify as Macedonians : two , a Bulgarian and a Greek one at a regional level , while a third ethnic Macedonian one at a national level . Linguistically , the names and affiliations of languages and dialects spoken in the region are a source of controversy . Politically , the rights to the extent of the use of the name Macedonia and its derivatives has led to a diplomatic dispute between Greece and the Republic of Macedonia . Despite mediation of the United Nations , the dispute is still pending resolution since 1993 , but as a result it was admitted under the provisional reference of the " former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia " , sometimes abbreviated as FYROM .

= = Etymology = =

The name Macedonia derives from the Greek ????????? ( Makedonía ) , a kingdom ( later , region ) named after the ancient Macedonians . Their name , ????????? ( Makedónes ) , is cognate to the Ancient Greek adjective ????????? ( makednós ) , meaning " tall , slim " . It was traditionally derived from the Indo @-@ European root \* mak- , meaning ' long ' or ' slender ' ( attested in Homer , and recorded by Hesychius of Alexandria as a Doric word meaning " large " ) , or makros ( ' long , large ' ) , as well as related words in other Indo @-@ European languages . It is commonly explained as having originally meant ' the tall ones ' or ' highlanders ' . However , according to modern research by Robert S. P. Beekes , both terms are of Pre @-@ Greek substrate origin and cannot be explained in terms of Indo @-@ European morphology .

= = History = =

The region of Macedonia has been home to several historical political entities , which have used the name Macedonia ; the main ones are given below . The borders of each of these entities were different .

= = = Early history = = =

= = = = Ancient Macedonia = = = =

Macedonia or Macedon , the ancient kingdom , was centered on the fertile plains west of the Gulf of Salonica ; the first Macedonian state emerged in the 8th or early 7th century BC . Its extent beyond the center varied ; some Macedonian kings could not hold their capital ; Philip II expanded his power until it reached from Epirus , across Thrace to Gallipoli , and from Thermopylae to the Danube . His son Alexander the Great conquered most of the land in southwestern Asia stretching from what is currently Turkey in the west to parts of India in the east . However , while Alexander 's conquests are of major historical importance as having launched the Hellenistic Age , Macedon as a state had no significant territorial gains due to them . Alexander 's kingdom fell apart after his death in 323 BC ; several of his Successors attempted to form a kingdom for themselves in Macedonia ; the kingdom formed by Antigonus Gonatas contained all the land Philip II had started with and controlled much of what is now modern Greece ; it lasted until the Romans divided it into four republics in 168 BC .

===== Roman Macedonia =====

The ancient Romans had two different entities called Macedonia , at different levels . Macedonia was established as a Roman province in 146 BC . Its boundaries were shifted from time to time for administrative convenience , but during the Roman Republic and the Principate it extended west to the Adriatic and south to Central Greece .

Under Diocletian , Thessaly , including parts of West Macedonia , was split off to form a new province , and the central and southern Balkan provinces were grouped into the Diocese of Moesia . At some point in the 4th century ( first securely attested in 370 ) this was divided into two new dioceses , the mostly Latin @-@ speaking Diocese of Dacia in the north and the mostly Greek @-@ speaking Diocese of Macedonia in the south . Under Constantine the Great , the western part of the province of Macedonia was also split off to form the new province of Epirus nova . After Constantine 's death , the western Balkans , Macedonia included , became part of the praetorian prefecture of Illyricum .

With the exception of a short @-@ lived division between Macedonia Prima in the south and Macedonia Salutaris in the north towards the end of the 4th century ( attested only in the Notitia Dignitatum ) , Macedonia formed a single province until re @-@ divided into southern and northern parts sometime in the late 5th century ( the division is first securely attested in 482 ) , although the province seems to have been reunified by 535 . According to the 6th @-@ century Synecdemos , Macedonia Prima , with Thessalonica as its capital and governed by a consularis , counted 32 cities , and Macedonia Secunda in the north , with Stobi as its capital and governed by a praeses , only eight . The approximate boundary between the two ran on a rough line from north of Bitola ( which belonged to Macedonia Prima ) to the area of Demir Kapija .

===== Byzantine Macedonia =====

During the 7th century , most of the Balkans were overrun by Slavic invasions , which left only the fortified towns and the coasts in the hands of the Greek @-@ speaking Byzantine Empire . " Macedonia " was then used for a new theme in the late 8th century under Irene of Athens . Geographically however it was located in Thrace and not in Macedonia , which was under the themes of Thessalonica , Strymon and other smaller commands such as Boleron or Drougoubiteia . Themes were not named geographically and the original sense was " army " . They became districts during the military and fiscal crisis of the seventh century , when the Byzantine armies were instructed to find their supplies from the locals , wherever they happened to be . Thus the Armeniac theme was considerably west of Armenia ; the Thracesian Theme was in Asia Minor , not in Thrace . The Macedonian dynasty of the Byzantine Empire acquired its name from its founder , Basil I the Macedonian , an Armenian by descent , who was born in the theme of Macedonia .

The interior of Macedonia remained in Slavic and later Bulgarian hands until the campaigns of Basil II , which ended the existence of the Bulgarian state and extended Byzantine authority across the central and northern Balkans . Thereafter Macedonia remained under Byzantine control until the Fourth Crusade ( 1204 ) . A short @-@ lived Latin Kingdom of Thessalonica was established which survived until 1224 , when it was captured by Epirus . Most of Macedonia then came under the control of the Empire of Nicaea in 1246 , although its northern regions remained disputed with the Serbs and the Bulgarians . Most of the region was conquered by the Serbs under Stephen Dusan during the Byzantine civil war of 1341 ? 1347 . Only Thessalonica and its environs remained in Byzantine hands . By the late 14th century , the Ottoman Turks in turn had conquered the region , although Thessalonica held out under Byzantine and later Venetian control until 1430 .

===== Ottoman Macedonia =====

The Ottomans did not keep Macedonia as an administrative unit : since 1864 parts of geographical Macedonia lay in three vilayets , which also comprised some non @-@ Macedonian areas . Northern Macedonia was part of the Kosovo vilayet and then of Skopje ; the Thessaloniki ( south

Macedonia ) , and the Monastir ( Central Macedonia ) vilayet were also created . This administrative division lasted until 1912 ? 13 , when Macedonia was divided among the Balkan states .

= = = Modern history = = =

Since the early stages of the Greek Revolution , the provisional government of Greece claimed Macedonia as part of Greek national territory , but the Treaty of Constantinople ( 1832 ) , which established a Greek independent state , set its northern boundary between Arta and Volos . When the Ottoman Empire started breaking apart , Macedonia was claimed by all members of the Balkan League ( Serbia , Montenegro , Greece and Bulgaria ) , and by Romania . Under the Treaty of San Stefano that ended the Russo @-@ Turkish War , 1877 ? 78 the entire region , except Thessaloniki , was included in the borders of Bulgaria , but after the Congress of Berlin in 1878 the region was returned to the Ottoman Empire . The armies of the Balkan League advanced and occupied Macedonia in the First Balkan War in 1912 . Because of disagreements between the allies about the partition of the region , the Second Balkan War erupted , and in its aftermath the arbitrary region of Macedonia was split into the following entities , that existed or still exist in this region :

Macedonia ( as a region of Greece ) refers to three regions in northern Greece , incorporated in 1913 , as a result of the Balkan Wars between the Ottoman Empire and the Balkan League .

Macedonia ( as a People 's Republic within Yugoslavia ) used to refer to the People 's Republic of Macedonia established in 1946 , later known as the Socialist Republic of Macedonia , one of the constituent republics of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia , renamed in 1963 . Between 1929 and 1941 this region was part of Vardar Banovina province in the Kingdom of Yugoslavia .

Macedonia ( as a contemporary sovereign state ) refers to the conventional short form name of the Republic of Macedonia , which held a referendum and established its independence from Yugoslavia on 8 September 1991 .

= = Geography = =

Macedonia ( as a current geographical term ) refers to a region of the Balkan peninsula in south @-@ eastern Europe , covering some 60 @,@ 000 or 70 @,@ 000 square kilometers . Although the region 's borders are not officially defined by any international organization or state , in some contexts , the territory appears to correspond to the basins of ( from west to east ) the Haliacmon ( Aliákmonas ) , Vardar / Axios and Struma / Strymónas rivers , and the plains around Thessaloniki and Serres .

In a historic context , the term Macedonia was used in various ways . Macedonia was not an administrative division of the Ottoman Empire ; its entire territory was part of the beylerbeylik of Rumelia . The geographer H. R. Wilkinson suggests that the region " defies definition " but that many mappers agree " on its general location " . Macedonia was well enough defined in 1897 for Gladstone to propose " Macedonia for the Macedonians " ; philhellenes argued that the phrase could not be used by a man of impartiality , while Turcophiles asserted that there are six different kinds of Macedonians , and only Turkish rule could prevail total anarchy in the region . The Balkan nations began to proclaim their rights to it after the Treaty of San Stefano in 1878 and its revision at the Congress of Berlin .

Many ethnographic maps were produced in this period of controversy ; these differ primarily in the areas given to each nationality within Macedonia . This was in part a result of the choice of definition : an inhabitant of Macedonia might well have different nationalities depending on whether the basis of classification was denomination , descent , language , self @-@ identification or personal choice . In addition , the Ottoman census , taken on the basis of religion , was misquoted by all sides ; descent , or " race " , was largely conjectural ; inhabitants of Macedonia might speak a different language at the market and at home , and the same Slavic dialect might be called Serbian " with Bulgarian influences " , Macedonian , or West @-@ Bulgarian .

These maps also differed somewhat in the boundaries given to Macedonia . Its only inarguable limits were the Aegean Sea and the Serbian and Bulgarian frontiers ( as of 1885 ) ; where it

bordered Old Serbia , Albania , and Thrace ( all parts of Ottoman Rumelia ) was debatable .

The Greek ethnographer Nicolaides , the Austrian Meinhard , and the Bulgarian K?n?ev placed the northern boundary of Macedonia at the ?ar Mountains and the Crna hills , as had scholars before 1878 . The Serb Gop?evi? preferred a line much further south , assigning the entire region from Skopje to Strumica to " Old Serbia " ; and some later Greek geographers have defined a more restricted Macedonia . In addition , maps might vary in smaller details : as to whether this town or that was Macedonian . One Italian map included Prizren , where Nicolaides and Meinhard had drawn the boundary just south of it . On the south and west , Grevena , Korçë , and Konitsa varied from map to map ; on the east , the usual line is the lower Mesta / Nestos river and then north or northwest , but one German geographer takes the line so far west as to exclude Bansko and Nevrokop / Gotse Delchev .

= = = Subregions = = =

The region of Macedonia is commonly divided into three major and two minor sub @-@ regions . The name Macedonia appears under certain contexts on the major regions , while the smaller ones are traditionally referred to by other local toponyms :

= = = Major regions = = =

The region of Macedonia is commonly split geographically into three main sub @-@ regions , especially when discussing the Macedonian Question . The terms are used in non @-@ partisan scholarly works , although they are also used in ethnic Macedonian literature of an irredentist nature .

Aegean Macedonia ( or Greek Macedonia ) is a term that refers to an area in the south of the Macedonia region . The borders of the area are , overall , those of ancient Macedonia in Greece . It covers an area of 34 @,@ 200 square kilometres ( 13 @,@ 200 sq mi ) ( for discussion of the reported irredentist origin of this term , see Aegean Macedonia ) .

Pirin Macedonia ( or Bulgarian Macedonia ) is an area in the east of the Macedonia region . The borders of the area approximately coincide with those of Blagoevgrad Province in Bulgaria . It covers an area of 6 @,@ 449 square kilometres ( 2 @,@ 490 sq mi ) .

Vardar Macedonia ( formerly Yugoslav Macedonia ) is an area in the north of the Macedonia region . The borders of the area are those of the Republic of Macedonia . It covers an area of 25 @,@ 333 square kilometres ( 9 @,@ 781 sq mi ) .

= = = Minor regions = = =

In addition to the above named sub @-@ regions , there are also two smaller regions , in Albania and Serbia respectively . These regions are also considered geographically part of Macedonia . They are referred to by ethnic Macedonians as follows , but typically are not so referred to by non @-@ partisan scholars .

Mala Prespa and Golo Brdo is a small area in the west of the Macedonia region in Albania , mainly around Lake Ohrid . It includes parts of the Korçë , Pogradec and Devoll districts . These districts in whole occupy about 3 @,@ 000 square kilometres ( 1 @,@ 158 sq mi ) , but the area concerned is significantly smaller . Gora ( part of the municipality of Draga? ) and Prohor P?injski are minor parts in the north of the Macedonia region in Serbia .

= = Demographics = =

The region , as defined above , has a total population of about 5 million . The main disambiguation issue in demographics is the self @-@ identifying name of two contemporary groups . The ethnic Macedonian population of the Republic of Macedonia self @-@ identify as Macedonian on a national level , while the Greek Macedonians self @-@ identify as both Macedonian on a regional ,

and Greek on a national level . According to the Greek arguments , the ancient Macedonians ' nationality was Greek and thus , the use of the term on a national level lays claims to their history . This disambiguation problem has led to a wide variety of terms used to refer to the separate groups , more information of which can be found in the terminology by group section .

The self @-@ identifying Macedonians ( collectively referring to the inhabitants of the region ) that inhabit or inhabited the area are :

As an ethnic group , Macedonians refers to the majority ( 64 @. @ 7 % , 2002 ) of the population of the Republic of Macedonia . Statistics for 2002 indicate the population of ethnic Macedonians within the country as c . 1 @, @ 300 @, @ 000 . On the other hand , as a legal term , it refers to all the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia , irrespective of their ethnic or religious affiliation . However , the preamble of the constitution distinguishes between " the Macedonian people " and the " Albanians , Turks , Vlachs , Romanics and other nationalities living in the Republic of Macedonia " , but for whom " full equality as citizens " is provided . As of 2002 the total population of the country is 2 @, @ 022 @, @ 547 .

As a regional group in Greece , Macedonians refers to ethnic Greeks ( 98 % , 2001 ) living in regions referred to as Macedonia , and particularly Greek Macedonia . This group composes the vast majority of the population of the Greek region of Macedonia . The 2001 census for the total population of the Macedonia region in Greece shows 2 @, @ 625 @, @ 681 .

The same term in antiquity described the inhabitants of the kingdom of Macedon , including their notable rulers Philip II and Alexander the Great who self @-@ identified as Greeks .

As a regional group in Bulgaria , Macedonians refers to the inhabitants of Bulgarian Macedonia , who in their vast majority self @-@ identify as Bulgarians at a national level and as Macedonians at a regional , but not ethnic level . As of 2001 , the total population of Bulgarian Macedonia is 341 @, @ 245 , while the ethnic Macedonians living in the same region are 3 @, @ 117 . The Bulgarian Macedonians also self @-@ identify as Piriners ( ??????? , pirintsi ) to avoid confusion with the neighboring ethnic group .

Macedo @-@ Romanians can be used as an alternative name for Aromanians , people living throughout the southern Balkans , especially in northern Greece , Albania , the Republic of Macedonia and Bulgaria , and as an emigrant community in Northern Dobruja , Romania . According to Ethnologue , their total population in all countries is 306 @, @ 237 . This not very frequent appellation is the only one with the disambiguating portmanteau , both within the members of the same ethnic group and the other ethnic groups in the area . To make matters more confusing , Aromanians are often called " Machedoni " by Romanians , as opposed to the citizens of Macedonia , who are called " Macedoneni " .

The ethnic Albanians living in the region of Macedonia , as defined above , are mainly concentrated in the Republic of Macedonia ( especially in the northwestern part that borders Kosovo and Albania ) , and less in the Albanian minor sub @-@ region of Macedonia around the Lake Ohrid . As of 2002 , the total population of Albanians within the republic is 509 @, @ 083 or 25 @. @ 2 % of the country 's total population .

= = Linguistics = =

As language is one of the elements tied in with national identity , the same disputes that are voiced over demographics are also found in linguistics . There are two main disputes about the use of the word Macedonian to describe a linguistic phenomenon , be it a language or a dialect :

The origins of the Ancient Macedonian language are currently debated . At this time it is not conclusively determined whether the language / dialect was a Greek dialect related to Doric Greek and / or Aeolic Greek dialects among others , a sibling language of ancient Greek forming a Hellenic ( i.e. Greco @-@ Macedonian ) supergroup , or viewed as an Indo @-@ European language which is a close cousin to Greek ( and perhaps somewhat related to Thracian and / or Phrygian languages ) . The scientific community generally agrees that , although sources are available ( e.g. Hesychius ' lexicon , Pella curse tablet ) there is no decisive evidence to exclude any of the above hypotheses .

Modern Macedonian language , a south Slavic language , is unrelated to the Ancient Macedonian

language . It is currently the subject of two major disputes . The first is over the name ( alternative ways of referring to this language can be found in the terminology by group section and in the article Macedonian language naming dispute ) . The second dispute is over the existence of a Macedonian language distinct from Bulgarian , the denial of which is a position supported by nationalist groups , Bulgarian and other linguists and also by many ordinary Bulgarians .

Macedonian is also the name of a dialect of Modern Greek , a language of the Indo @-@ European family . Additionally , Macedo @-@ Romanian is an Eastern Romance language , spoken in Southeastern Europe by the Aromanians .

= = Politics = =

The controversies in geographic , linguistic and demographic terms , are also manifested in international politics . Among the autonomous countries that were formed as a result of the breakup of Yugoslavia in the 1990s , was the ( until then ) subnational entity of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia , by the official name of " Socialist Republic of Macedonia " , the others being Serbia , Slovenia , Croatia , Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro . The peaceful break @-@ away of that nation resulted in the change of its name to " Republic of Macedonia " .

Republic of Macedonia is the constitutional name of the sovereign state which occupies the northern part of the geographical region of Macedonia , which roughly coincides with the geographic subregion of Vardar Macedonia . The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia ( FYROM ) is a term used to refer to this state by the main international organisations , including United Nations , European Union , NATO , IMF , WTO , IOC , World Bank , EBRD , OSCE , FIFA , and FIBA . The term was introduced in 1993 by the United Nations , following a naming dispute with Greece . Some countries use this term as a stop @-@ gap measure , pending resolution of the naming dispute .

Greece and the Republic of Macedonia each consider this name a compromise : it is opposed by some Greeks for containing the Greek self @-@ identifying name Macedonia , and by many in the Republic of Macedonia for not being the short self @-@ identifying name . Greece uses it in both the abbreviated ( FYROM or ??? ) and spellout form ( ????? ????????????????? ????????????? ????????????? ) .

Macedonia refers also to a geographic region in Greece , which roughly coincides with the southernmost major geographic subregion of Macedonia . It is divided in the three administrative sub @-@ regions ( regions ) of West , Central , and East Macedonia and Thrace . The region is overseen by the Ministry for Macedonia ? Thrace . The capital of Greek Macedonia is Thessaloniki , which is the largest city in the region of Macedonia ; Greeks often call it the " co @-@ capital " of Greece .

= = Ethnic Macedonian nationalism = =

Ethnic Macedonian irredentists following the idea of a " United Macedonia " have expressed claims to what they refer to as " Aegean Macedonia " ( in Greece ) , " Pirin Macedonia " ( in Bulgaria ) , " Mala Prespa and Golo Bardo " ( in Albania ) , and " Gora and Prohor P?injski " ( in Serbia ) .

Loring Danforth , a professor of anthropology at Bates College , asserts that ethnic Macedonian nationalists , who are concerned with demonstrating the continuity between ancient and modern Macedonians , deny they are Slavs and claim to be the direct descendants of Alexander the Great and the ancient Macedonians . Danforth stresses , however , that the more moderate Macedonian position , publicly endorsed by Kiro Gligorov , the first president of the Republic of Macedonia , is modern Macedonians have no relation to Alexander the Great , but are a Slavic people whose ancestors arrived in Macedonia in the sixth century AD . Proponents of both the extreme and the moderate Macedonian positions stress that the ancient Macedonians were a distinct non @-@ Greek people . In addition to affirming the existence of the Macedonian nation , Macedonians are concerned with affirming the existence of a unique Macedonian language as well . They thus emphasize that the Macedonian language has a history dating to the Old Church Slavonic used by Saints Cyril and Methodius in the ninth century .

Although ethnic Macedonians agree Macedonian minorities exist in Bulgaria and Greece and these minorities have been subjected to harsh policies of forced assimilation , there are two different positions with regard to what their future should be . These were summarized by Danforth :

The goal of more extreme Macedonian nationalists is to create a " free , united , and independent Macedonia " by " liberating " the parts of Macedonia " temporarily occupied " by Bulgaria and Greece . More moderate Macedonian nationalists recognize the inviolability of the Bulgarian and Greek borders and explicitly renounce any territorial claims against the two countries . They do , however , demand that Bulgaria and Greece recognize the existence of Macedonian minorities in their countries and grant them the basic human rights they deserve .

Schoolbooks and official government publications in the Republic have shown the country as part of an " unliberated " whole , although the constitution of the Republic , especially after its amendment in 1995 , does not include any territorial claims .

= = = Greek nationalism = = =

Danforth describes the Greek position on Macedonia as follows : because Alexander the Great and the ancient Macedonians were Greeks , and because ancient and modern Greece are bound in an unbroken line of racial and cultural continuity , it is only Greeks who have the right to identify themselves as Macedonians . According to Danforth , this is why Greeks generally refer to Ethnic Macedonians as " Skopians " , a practice comparable to calling Greeks " Athenians " . Danforth asserts that the negation of Macedonian identity in Greek nationalist ideology focuses on three main points : the existence of a Macedonian nation , a Macedonian language , and a Macedonian minority in Greece . More specifically , Danforth says :

From the Greek nationalist perspective there cannot be a Macedonian nation since there has never been an independent Macedonian state : the Macedonian nation is an " artificial creation " , an " invention " , of Tito , who " baptized " a " mosaic of nationalities " with the Greek name " Macedonians " . Similarly Greek nationalists claim that because the language spoken by the ancient Macedonians was Greek , the Slavic language spoken by the " Skopians " cannot be called " the Macedonian language . " Greek sources generally refer to it as " the linguistic idiom of Skopje " and describe it as a corrupt and impoverished dialect of Bulgarian . Finally , the Greek government denies the existence of a Macedonian minority in northern Greece , claiming that there exists only a small group of " Slavophone Hellenes " or " bilingual Greeks " , who speak Greek and " a local Slavic dialect " but have a " Greek national consciousness " .

Thus from the Greek nationalist perspective the use of the term " Macedonian " by the " Slavs of Skopje " constitutes a " felony " , an " act of plagiarism " against the Greek people . Greek nationalists believe that , by calling themselves " Macedonians " , the ethnic Macedonians are " stealing " a Greek name , " embezzling " Greek cultural heritage , and " falsifying " Greek history . Greek fears that the use of the name " Macedonia " by the ethnic Macedonians will inevitably lead to the assertion of irredentist claims to territory in Greek Macedonia are heightened by fairly recent historical events .

From a different point of view , Demetrius Andreas M.-A. Floudas , of Hughes Hall , Cambridge , a leading commentator on the naming dispute from the Greek side , sums up this nationalistic reaction as follows : the Republic of Macedonia was accused of usurping the historical and cultural patrimony of Greece " in order to furnish a nucleus of national self @-@ esteem for the new state and provide its citizens with a new , distinct , non @-@ Bulgarian , non @-@ Serbian , non @-@ Albanian identity " . The Republic emerged thus to Greek eyes as a country with a personality crisis , " a nondescript parasitic state " that lived off the history of its neighbours , because it allegedly lacked an illustrious past of its own , for the sake of achieving cohesion for what Greeks regarded as an " unhomogeneous little new nation " . Floudas criticizes Greek stance as follows :

What appeared to go unquestioned in Greece nevertheless was whether there was indeed substance in the claims of FYROM that their citizens do feel members of a distinct ' Macedonian ' nationality . To answer this appropriately , neither the decades of persistent indoctrination [ during Tito 's time ] should be left out of consideration , nor Greece 's violent struggle since 1991 in contrast

to her complacency for the 45 years before this . If it was a common bond that the people in Skopje wanted , they found it by claiming this name and rallying the whole population in a united resistance front under a common cause against pugnacious Greece . After this bitter and protracted struggle , even the ones in FYROM who might have not initially been infused with any distinct Macedonian ethnic identity must be feeling very Macedonian now , thanks to Greece

As of early 2008 , the official position of Greece , adopted unanimously by the four largest political parties , has made a more moderate shift towards accepting a " composite name solution " ( i.e. the use of the name " Macedonia " plus some qualifier ) , so as to disambiguate the former Yugoslav Republic from the Greek region of Macedonia and the wider geographic region of the same name .

= = Names in the languages of the region = =

Albanian : Maqedonia

Armenian : ????????? ( Makedonia )

Aromanian : Machidunia / Machedonia

Bulgarian : ????????? ( Makedonia )

Georgian : ????????? ( Makedonia )

Greek : ????????? ( Makedonia )

Ladino : Makedonia , ???????

Macedonian : ????????? ( Makedonija )

Romany : Makedoniya

Serbian : ????????? , Makedonija

Serbian ( archaic ) : ????????? , Ma?edonija

Turkish : Makedonya

= = Terminology by group = =

All these controversies have led ethnic groups in Macedonia to use terms in conflicting ways . Despite the fact that these terms may not always be used in a pejorative way , they may be perceived as such by the ethnic group to which they are applied . Both Greeks and ethnic Macedonians generally use all terms deriving from Macedonia to describe their own regional or ethnic group , and have devised several other terms to disambiguate the other side , or the region in general .

Bulgarians and ethnic Macedonians seek to deny the self @-@ identification of the Slavic speaking minority in northern Greece , which mostly self @-@ identifies as Greek . Extremists on all sides have been known to fabricate and reproduce falsified information , along with denying genuine information and propagating unscientific and pseudoscientific theories .

Certain terms are in use by these groups as outlined below . Any denial of self @-@ identification by any side , or any attribution of Macedonia related terms by third parties to the other side , can be seen as highly offensive . General usage of these terms follows :

= = = Bulgarian = = =

G?rkomani ( ????????? ) is a derogatory term used to refer to the largest portion of the Slavic @-@ speaking minority of Macedonia in Greece who self @-@ identify as Greeks .

Macedonian ( ????????? ) is a person originating from the region of Macedonia ? the term has only regional , not ethnic meaning , and it usually means a Bulgarian , or a clarification is made ( Greek , Albanian ... ) .

Macedonian ( ????????? ) and the Slavic dialects of Greece are considered dialects of Bulgarian by Bulgarian linguists ; not independent languages or dialects of other languages ( e.g. Serbian ) . This is also the popular view in Bulgaria . The Bulgarian government , therefore , has officially recognized the language merely as " the constitutional language of the Republic of Macedonia " . Translations are officially called " adaptations " .



Macedonism ( ????????? ) is a term referring to the political ideology or simply views that the Slavs of Macedonia are an ethnic group separate from Bulgarians , with their own separate language , history and culture . It is also used to describe what Bulgarians view as the falsification of their history whether by Macedonian or foreign scholars who subscribe to the Macedonist point of view . It carries strong negative connotations .

Macedonistics ( ????????? ) is a term , generally synonymous with disciplines such as study of the origins of the Macedonian language and history of the Macedonian people conducted in the Republic of Macedonia and in former Yugoslavia . It is generally considered in Bulgaria to be a kind of pseudoscience .

Macedonist ( ????????? ) is a term for a person ( typically Macedonian Slav ) who believes that Macedonian Slavs are not ethnic Bulgarians but a separate ethnic group , directly descended from the ancient Macedonians . It is a more negatively charged synonym of " Macedonian nationalist " . More rarely it is used for someone associated with the study of the origins of the Macedonian language and history of the Macedonian people ( not necessarily from the Republic of Macedonia or Yugoslavia ) , whose studies support the official historical doctrine of the Republic of Macedonia or former Yugoslavia .

S?rbomani ( ????????? ) is a derogatory term used to refer to people in the Republic of Macedonia self @-@ identifying as Serbian , or having a pro @-@ Serb orientation . It is also used pejoratively by Bulgarians to refer to Macedonians who refuse the Bulgarian national idea .

Old Bulgarian ( ????????? ) is the name Bulgarians give to the Old Church Slavonic language used in the Ohrid Literary School among others . In contrast , Old Church Slavonic is rarely referred to by ethnic Macedonians as " Old Macedonian " or " Old Slavic " .

= = = Greek = = =

Macedonia ( ????????? ) can refer to the region of Macedonia or to Macedonia in Greece depending on the context ? usually the first being disambiguated .

Macedonian ( ????????? ) refers to an ethnically Greek Macedonian .

Ancient Macedonian ( ????????? ) refers to an Ancient Macedonian .

Macedonian Slav , Slavic Macedonian or Slavomacedonian ( ????????? ) refers to a member of the Macedonian ethnic group .

Macedonian Slavic , Slavic Macedonian or Slavomacedonian ( ????????? ) refers to the Macedonian language .

Republic of Skopje ( ????????? ) refers to the Republic of Macedonia .

State of Skopje ( ????????? ) refers to the Republic of Macedonia .

Skopje , or Skopia ( ?????? ) refers to either the Republic of Macedonia or its capital city of Skopje .

Skopjan , or Skopian ( ????????? ) refers to a member of the ethnic Macedonian ethnic group living in the Republic or outside it , but not to any group native to Greece .

Skopiana or Skopianika ( ????????? or ????????? ) refers to the Macedonian language .

Slavophone ( ????????? ) refers to a member of the Slavic speaking minority in Greece .

Bulgaroskopian ( ????????? ) is a term used to refer to ethnic Macedonians , implying Bulgarians ethnic affiliation .

Pseudomacedonian ( ????????? ) is a term used to refer to ethnic Macedonians , and asserts their nationhood is contrived .

The last eight terms are often considered offensive in the Republic of Macedonia .

= = = Ethnic Macedonian = = =

Macedonia ( ????????? ) can refer to either the region of Macedonia or the Republic of Macedonia .

Macedonians ( ????????? ) generally refers to the Macedonian ethnic group associated with the Republic of Macedonia , neighbouring countries and abroad .

Aegean Macedonia ( ???????? ???????????? ? Egejska Makedonija ) refers to Macedonia in Greece ( as defined by the administrative division of Greece ) .

Pirin Macedonia ( ???????? ???????????? ? Pirinska Makedonija ) refers to the Blagoevgrad Province of Bulgaria ( as defined by the administrative division of Bulgaria ) .

Bugarashi ( ????????? ) or bugarofili ( ???????????? ) are derogatory terms used to refer to people in the Republic of Macedonia self @-@ identifying as Bulgarian , or having a pro @-@ Bulgarian orientation .

Egejci ( ??????? ) refers to people living in the Republic of Macedonia and abroad that are originating from Aegean Macedonia ( Greek Macedonia ) , mainly refugees from the Greek Civil War , also knowns as Aegean Macedonians .

Grkomani ( ????????? ) is a derogatory term used to refer to the largest portion of the Slavic @-@ speaking minority of Macedonia in Greece who self @-@ identify as Greeks .

Srbomani ( ????????? ) or srbofili ( ????????? ) are derogatory terms used to refer to people in the Republic of Macedonia self @-@ identifying as Serbian , or having a pro @-@ Serb orientation .

The first three terms are often considered offensive in Greece .