

History of Greek-Macedonian name dispute

For 27 years, Greece and Macedonia have been bedevilled by one of the oddest disputes in international diplomacy – what the smaller, younger and landlocked country of 2.1 million people should be called



■ 5th to 19th centuries CE

Slavic and Turkish invasions muddle ethnicity of population, but name of Macedonia endures in area now including Republic of Macedonia, parts of Greece – whose northern region of Macedonia includes heart of ancient kingdom – and Bulgaria

■ **1991:** Ex-Yugoslav **Republic of Macedonia** declares independence. Greece says name implies territorial claim to its own region and amounts to appropriation of Greek heritage

■ **1993:** Macedonia joins UN under provisional reference of **Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**

■ **2008:** Macedonia expresses readiness to accept name **Republic of Macedonia (Skopje)** in exchange for joining NATO. Greece refuses

■ **2017:** Macedonian government under **Zoran Zaev** pledges to work for compromise to enable country's NATO and EU accession

■ **June 2018:** Greece agrees to recognise Macedonia under name **Republic of North Macedonia**, but hopes of swift end to dispute evaporate as deal faces barrage of criticism in both countries. Accord must be passed by both parliaments and referendum in Macedonia