There is no doubt that ancient Macedonians were Greek. It is thoroughly proved by historic documents and archaeological discoveries which can be found in history books and museums in Greece and around the world. The most important archeological discovery in Macedonia is the tomb of King Philippos II. It was excavated in Vergina, Greece in 1978 and it proves beyond any doubt the Greekness of ancient Macedonia. All the findings are characteristic of the Greek culture and all the inscriptions are written using the Greek language. Among the discoveries of this tomb is the "Vergina sun" the symbol that FYROM attempted to use on its flag initially.

Some facts which prove that ancient Macedonians were Greek.

- Macedonians spoke a dialect of the Greek language
  All the monuments and inscriptions found in the Macedonia region are written in the Greek language.
  It is also clearly stated by the Latin historian Titus Livius:
  "Aetolians, Acarnanians, Macedonians, men of the same language..."
  (T. Livius XXXI,29, 15)
  and the Greek historian Herodotos:
  "Since they speak the same language, they should end their disputes by means of heralds or messengers..." (Herodotos, The histories 7.9.2)
- Macedonians had Greek names
  All the ancient Macedonian names mentioned in history or found on tombs are Greek. All the kings of Ancient Macedonia had Greek names. Nobody discovered ancient Macedonian names ending to -ov or -ovski or whatever.
  Alexander's name is Greek. The word "Alexandros" is produced from the prefix alex (=protector) and the word andros (=man) meaning "he who protects men". The prefix "alex" can be found in many Greek words today (alexipto=parachute, alexisfairo=bulletproof - all these words have the meaning of protection).
  Philip's name is also Greek. It is produced from the prefix Philo (=friendly to something) and the word ippos (=horse) meaning the man who is friendly to horses. The prefix "philo" and the word "ippos" are also found in many words of Greek origin today (philosophy, philology, hippodrome, hippocampus).

Some more ancient Macedonian names can be found here

- Macedonians fought together with the rest of the Greeks.
Macedonians always fought along with the other Greek city-states against enemies from Asia.
- Macedonians took part in the Olympic games
It is well known then ONLY Greeks were allowed to take part in the ancient Olympic games. The first Macedonian who took part in the Olympic games was Alexander I, King of Macedonia between 498-454 bc

- Macedonians celebrated the same festivals as the rest of the Greeks. Examples of festivals which were celebrated in Macedonia as well as in other Greek states are the "Hetaireidia", the "Apellaia" and many more.

- Macedonians worshiped the same Gods as the rest of the Greeks. Several temples dedicated to the Greek Gods have been discovered in Macedonia and especially in Dion the religious center of ancient Macedonians. It is obvious that the Macedonians worshiped the 12 Olympian Gods as the rest of the Greeks. The Gods were "living" on Mount Olympus which happens to be located in Macedonia. Would that be possible if there was hostility between Macedonians and Greeks? This is another proof that Macedonia was considered a part of Greece.

- The regions of ancient Macedonia had Greek names. The regions which formed ancient Macedonia had Greek names. Most of these names are used in Greece even today. You can see a list of the regions of ancient Macedonia:


I listed them here for two reasons:

1st. Because all of them are obviously Greek,

2nd. The Slavic propaganda insists that the Greeks changed the Slavic names of regions in Agean Macedonia in order to eradicate its "Slavic identity". This list proves that the Greek names originate from the ancient times and consequently they are much older than the Slavic alternatives. Most of these names are used even today by Greece.

- Macedonian architecture was similar to the Greek architecture. All the buildings found in the Macedonia region have many common characteristics with the ones found in the rest of Greece. Palaces, temples, theaters markets are characteristic samples of ancient Greek architecture.

Some more evidence from history

1. The famous ancient Greek play writer Euripidis wrote and originally presented most of his plays in Pella, the capital of Macedonia. How that possible if the audience was spoke a different language?

2. After the battle of the Granikos Alexander the Great sent to Athens some pieces of armor captured from the Persians with the following inscription: "Alexander, son of Philip and the Hellenes, except the Lakedaimonians, offer these spoils taken from the barbarians of Asia".

3. Macedonia was a member of the Delphic Amfictiony, an institution which was open only to Greeks.

4. When Alexander arrived in Asia he visited the ancient Greek town of Troy (Troia), where he sacrificed to the Greek Gods to help him in his quest.

A part from the "Treaty of Alliance" between king Philip V of Macedonia and Hannibal.

"This is a sworn treaty made between us, Hannibal the general, Mago, Myrkan, Bar-mokar and all other Carthaginian senators present with him, and all Carthaginians serving under him, on the one side, and Xenophanes the Athenian, son of Kleo-
machos, the envoy whom King Philip, son of Demetrios, sent to us on behalf of himself, and the Macedonians and allies, on the other side. 'In the presence of Zeus, Hera and Apollon; in the presence of the Genius of Carthage; ...and in the presence of all the gods who possess Carthage; and in the presence of all the gods who possess Macedonia and the rest of Hellas; and in the presence of all the gods of the army who preside over this oath. Thus said Hannibal the general and all the Carthaginian senators along with him and the Carthaginian soldiers: ...That King Philip and the Macedonians and the rest of the Hellenes... (Polybios 7.9.1-7)

Alexander's speech to his solders one year before his death
I wish all of you, now that the wars are coming to an end, to live happily in peace. All mortals from now on shall live like one people, united, and peacefully working towards a common prosperity. You should regard the whole world as your country, a country where the best govern, with common laws, and no racial distinctions. I do not separate people, as many narrow-minded others do, into Hellenes and barbarians. I am not interested in the origin or race of citizens; I only distinguish them on the basis of their virtue. For me, each foreigner is a Hellene, and each bad Hellene is a barbarian. If ever there appear differences among you, you must not resolve them by taking to arms; you should resolve them in peace. If need be, I shall act as your negotiator.

The speech of Alexander I when he was admitted to the Olympic games
"Men of Athens... Had I not greatly at heart the common welfare of Hellas I should not have come to tell you; but I am myself Hellene by descent, and I would not willingly see Hellas exchange freedom for slavery.... If you prosper in this war, forget not to do something for my freedom; consider the risk I have run, out of zeal for the Hellenic cause, to acquaint you with what Mardonius intends, and to save you from being surprised by the barbarians. I am Alexander of Macedon."

(Herodotus, The Histories, 9.45)

What was the origin of ancient Macedonians?
"The name of the ancient Macedonians is derived from Macedon, who was the grandchild of Deukalion, the father of all Greeks. This we may infer from Hesiod's genealogy. It may be proven that Macedonians spoke Greek since Macedon, the ancestor of Macedonians, was a brother of Magnes, the ancestor of Thessalians, who spoke Greek."

(Professor N G L Hammond, University of Cambridge, UK, 1993)
"This was Macedonia in the strict sense, the land where settled immigrands of Greek stock later to be called Macedonians"

(Professor W J Woodhouse, University of Sydney, Australia, 1917)

Are FYROM's residents Macedonians?

My opinion is that they are so confused that they don't even know themeselves. The following opinions are expressed though their web sites:

- Some of them believe they are descendents of ancient Macedonians
- Some of them believe that they can consider themeselves Macedonians since they live in a part of what used to be ancient Macedonia
- Some of them believe they are Macedonians but not directly linked to ancient Macedonians
• Some of them believe they are Macedonians because they are free to call themselves as they like (!!!)

I will assume that their official position is the one given by their president Mr. Kiro Gligorov:

"We are Slavs who came to this area in the sixth century ... we are not descendants of the ancient Macedonians."

(from the Foreign Information Service Daily Report, Eastern Europe, February 26, 1992, p. 35.)

"We are Macedonians but we are Slav Macedonians. That's who we are! We have no connection to Alexander the Greek and his Macedonia. The ancient Macedonians no longer exist, they had disappeared from history long time ago. Our ancestors came here in the 5th and 6th century (A.D.)."

(from the Toronto Star newspaper, March 15, 1992)

The following questions arise immediately

• Why do you call yourselves Macedonians then?
• Why do you use ancient Macedonian symbols if they don't belong to you?

The historic truth is that the Slavs descended into the region not before the 6th century long after ancient Macedonia was homogenized with the rest of Greece. They don't have any historical cultural or linguistic ties with ancient Macedonia and they would be really foolish if they officially claimed that they did. There is no historic or archaeological evidence connecting them with ancient Macedonia.

In any case occupying 25% of ancient Macedonian land does not give them the right to steal the Greek-Macedonian history and culture. The Macedonian civilization was part of the ancient Greek civilization. It is part of Greece's national inheritance and it can not be used by anyone else.

What do the scholars say?

From "A History of Macedonia"
by Malcom Errington (Philipps-Universitat in Marburg, Germany)
Page 3
"That the Macedonians and their kings did in fact speak a dialect of Greek and bore Greek names may be regarded nowadays as certain."


From "Alexander's empire"
by John Pentland Mahaffy (University of Dublin, UK)
Page 8
"... for with Alexander the stage of Greek influence spread across the world."

(John Pentland Mahaffy, Alexander's empire, G Putnam's sons, London, 1881)
From "Alexander the Great"
by Peter Green
Page 20
"Macedonia as a whole was tended to remain in isolation from the rest of Greece."
Page 24
"For the first time he (Philip II) started to understand how Macedonia’s outdated insitutions of feudalism and autocratic monarchy, so despised by the rest of Greece, might prove a source of strength when dealing with such opponents."
Page 29
"In less than four years he (Philip II) had transformed Macedonia from a backward and primitive kingdom to one of the most powerful states in Greece."
Page 37
"It was now that the veteran Athenian pamphleteer Isokratis published his Adress to Philip calling for a Panhelleinc crusade against Persia under Philip’s leadership."
Page 40
"Like most intelectuals with a racialst axe to grind, Aristotle, drew facts from geopolitics or ‘natural law’ in support of his thesis. In a celebrated fragment he counselled Alexander ‘to be a hegemon [leader] to the Greeks and a depot to the barbarians to look after the former as after frinds and relatives and to deal to the latter as with beasts and plants’."
(Peter Green, "Alexander the Great", Weidenfield and Nicholson, 1971)

From "The Western Experience"
by Mortimer Chambers (University of California),
Raymond Grew (University of Michigan),
David Herlihy (Harvard University),
Theodore Rabb (Princeton University) and
Isser Woloch (Columbia University),
Page 79
"THE MONARCHS OF MACEDONIA:
Macedonia (or Macedon) was an ancient, somewhat backward kingdom in northeren Greece. Its emergence as a hellenic power was due to a resourceful king, Philip II (359-336), whose career has been unjustly overshadowed by the deeds of his son, Alexander the Great".

What do the ancient historians say?

The propaganda against Greece is often based on quotes from ancient historians (mainly Greek) who seem to consider Macedonia as a different nation. These quotes usualy consist of one or two isolated lines which is misleading. If the reader reads the
whole document the meaning is completely different. Furthermore there are cases where the translation is not accurate or even cases where some words have been carefully altered to change the meaning.

History is harsh to those who try to manipulate it. Here is a small collection of quotes that proves what was the ancient Greek's opinion about the Macedonians.

**Polybios**

"In the past you rivaled the Achaians and the kinsmen Macedonians and their ruler, Philip, about the hegemony and glory, but now that the freedom of the Hellenes is at stake at a war against an alien people (Romans), ...but now if you invite them do not you see that you invite them against your ownself and the whole of Hellas. ...And does it worth to ally with the barbarians against the Epeirotans, the Achaians, the Akarnanians, the Boiotians, the Thessalians, almost all the Hellenes with the exception of the Aitolians who are a wicked nation... So Lakedaimonians it is good to remember your ancestors, ... be afraid of the Romans... and do ally yourselves with the Achaians and Macedonians. And if the most influential amongst yourselves oppose that then stay neutral and do not side with the unjust. (Polybios 9.37.7-39.7; Speech of Lykiskos, the representative of Akarnania)

"How highly should we honour the Macedonians, who for the greater part of their lives never cease from fighting with the barbarians for the sake of the security of Hellas? For who is not aware that Hellas would have constantly stood in the greater danger, had we not been fenced by the Macedonians and the honorable ambition of their kings?"

(The Histories of Polybios, IX, 35, 2)

**Herodotos**

"Now that the men of this family are Hellenes, sprung from Perdiccas, as they themselves affirm, is a thing which I can declare on my own knowledge, and which I will hereafter make plainly evident. That they are so has been already adjudged by those who manage the Pan-Hellenic contest at Olympia"

(Herodotus, The Histories 8.43)

"Tell your king who sent you how his Hellenic viceroy of Macedonia has received you hospitably... "

(Herodotus V, 20, 4)

"Now that these descendants of Perdiccas are Hellenes, as they themselves say, I myself chance to know"

(Herodotus V, 22, 1)

**Thoukididis**

"The country by the sea which is now called Macedonia... Alexander, the father of Perdiccas, and his forefathers, who were originally Temenidae from Argos"

(Thucididis 99,3)

"In all there were about three thousand Hellenic heavy infantry, accompanied by all the Macedonian cavalry with the Chalcidians, near one thousand strong, besides an immense crowd of barbarians."

(Thukididis 4.124)

**Arrian**

"He sent to Athens three hundred Persian panoplies to be set up to Athena in the acropolis; he ordered this inscription to be attached: Alexander son of Philip and the Hellenes, except the Lacedaemonians, set up these spoils from the barbarians dwelling in Asia", 

6
(Arrian I, 16, 7)
"Your ancestors invaded Macedonia and the rest of Hellas and did us great harm, though we had done them no prior injury;... I have been appointed hegemon of the Greeks..."

(Arrian, Anabasis of Alexander II, 14, 4)

Aeschines

....at the congress of the Lakedaimonian allies and the rest of the Hellenes, in which Amyntas, the father of Philip, being entitled to a seat, was represented by a delegate whose vote was absolutely under his control, he joined the rest of the Hellenes in voting...."

(Aeschines, On the Embassy 32)

Plutarchos

"But he said, 'If I were not Alexandros, I should be Diogenes'; that is to say: 'If it were not my purpose to combine barbarian things with things Hellenic, to traverse and civilize every every continent, to search out the uttermost parts of land and sea, to push the bounts of Macedonia to the farthest Ocean, and to disseminate and shower the blessings of the Hellenic justice and peace over every nation, I should not be content to sit quietly in the luxury of idle power, but I should emulate the frugality of Diogenes. But as things are, forgive me Diogenes, that I imitate Herakles, and emulate Perseus, and follow in the footsteps of Dionysos, the divine author and progenitor of my family, and desire that victorius Hellenes should dance again in India and revive the memory of the Bacchic revels among the savage mountain tribes beyond the Kaukasos...'"

(Plutarchos, On the Fortune of Alexander, 332 a-b)

"Yet through Alexander, Bactria and the Caucasus learned to revere the gods of the Hellenes ... Alexander established more than seventy cities among savage tribes, and sowed all Asia with Hellenic magistracies ... Egypt would not have its Alexandria, nor Mesopotamia its Seleucia, nor Sogdiana its Prophthasia, nor India its Bucephalia, nor the Caucasus a Hellenic city, for by the founding of cities in these places savagery was extinguished and the worse element, gaining familiarity with the better, changed under its influence.'

(Plutarchos Moralia. On the Fortune of Alexander, I, 328D, 329A)

"When he (Alexander the Great) arrived at Ilion he sacrificed to Athena and offered libations to the Heroes."

(Plutarchos, Alexander 15)

Isokratis

"It is your privilege, as one who has been blessed with untrammeled freedom, to consider all Hellas your fatherland, as did the founder of your race."

(Isokratis, To Philip 127)

Pausanias

"They say that these were the tribes collected by Amphiktyon himself in the Hellenic Assembly: ... the Macedonians joined and the entire Phocian race ... In my day there were thirty members: six each from Nikopolis, Macedonia and Thessaly ..."

(Pausanias Phokis 8,2 & 4)

The Phocians were deprived of their share in the Delphic sanctuary and in the Hellenic assembly, and their votes were given by the Amphictyons to the Macedonians. (Pausanias Description of Greece 10.3.3)
Diodoros of Sicily

"Such was the end of Philip ... He had ruled 24 years. He is known to fame as one who with but the slenderest resources to support his claim to a throne won for himself the greatest empire among the Hellenes, while the growth of his position was not due so much to his prowess in arms as to his adroitness and cordiality in diplomacy."

(Diodoros of Sicily 16.95.1-2)

"Along with lavish display of every sort, Philip included in the procession statues of the twelve Gods wrought with great artistry and adorned with a dazzling show of wealth to strike awe to the beholder, and along with these was conducted a thirteenth statue, suitable for a god, that of Philip himself, so that the king exhibited himself enthroned among the twelve Gods. (Diodoros of Sicily 16.92.5)

Every seat in the theater was taken when Philip appeared wearing a white cloak and by his express orders his bodyguard held away from him and followed only at a distance, since he wanted to show publicly that he was protected by the goodwill of all the Hellenes, and had no need of a guard of spearmen."

(Diodoros of Sicily 16.93.1)

"After this Alexandros left Dareios's mother, his daughters, and his son in Susa, providing them with persons to teach them the hellenic dialect,..."

(Diodoros of Sicily 17.67.1)

"Alexandros observed that his soldiers were exhausted with their constant campaigns. ...The hooves of the horses had been worn thin by steady marching. The arms and armour were wearing out, and the Hellenic clothing was quite gone. They had to clothe themselves in materials of the barbarians,..."

(Diodoros of Sicily 17.94.1-2)

Flavius Josephus

" And when the book of Daniel was showed to him (Alexander the Great) wherein Daniel declared that one of the Greeks should destroy the empire of the Persians, he supposed that himself was the person intended"

(Flavius Josephus 11.8.5)

Titus Livius

"The Aitolians, the Akarnanians, the Macedonians, men of the same language, are united or disunited by trivial causes that arise from time to time; with aliens, with barbarians, all Greeks wage and will wage eternal war; for they are enemies by the will of nature, which is eternal, and not from reasons that change from day to day."

(Titus Livius, From the Foundation of the City 31)

The Slavic propaganda

During the 2nd World War period the president of Yugoslavia at the time General Tito launched the plan of the creation of the "Macedonian nation".

The long term goals was:

- to acquire the rest of the Macedonian land which is occupied by Greece (55%) Bulgaría (15%) and Albania (5%) as a result of the treaty of Bucharest.
- to give an ethnic consciousness to the mixture of people living in this region
The southern part of Yugoslavia was renamed from Vardarska to "Socialist Republic of Macedonia" (August 1944) and the Yugoslav historians (Kriste Pitoski, Alexander Trayanovski, Risto Poplazakov and Ivan Katardziev are some of them) started their attempt to establish the existence of the Macedonian nation during the last 1000 years. In December 1948, the "National History Institute of the Macedonian People" was founded in Skopje.

"It was an effective way for Tito to integrate Macedonia into Yugoslavia since it served to delegitimate both Serbian and Bulgarian claims to the area. (This approach is similar to the way that Tito handled Bosnia, Serbia and Croatia. It also dovetailed nicely with Tito's ambition to create a Balkan communist federation encompassing Yugoslavia, Albania, Bulgaria, and Greece.)"

(International Research & Exchanges Board, Macedonia: Ethnic and international issues, Washington, DC, April 27, 1995)

More on the creation of the "Macedonian nation".

In order to justify even more the claims against Greece and Bulgaria Tito created the issue of the "Macedonian minorities" and so the Slavophone Greeks became an "oppressed Macedonian minority"

Today FYROM insists that there is a large "Macedonian minority" in Greece and there are various estimates ranging from 100 thousand to 1 million. Of course these number are extremely exaggerating.
The only "Macedonian minority" in Greece is a small group of propagandists from FYROM who are trying to establish the existence of a Macedonian minority by founding various "Macedonian" institutions. They even created a political party to express the Macedonian minority. This party took part in the latest general elections in Greece (September 1996) gathering all together less than 3,500 votes in a region of more than 2 million people. The people who are behind this movement are well known to Greece for their actions. Some names are: Traianos Pasios, Hristos Sideropoulos, Tasos Boulis, Pavlos Voskopouls and Nikodimos Tsarknias.

The propaganda against the history of ancient Macedonia

From the mid 1980s the Slavs have launched an enormous operation against Greece and its word wide respected history. The objective of their propaganda is to prove that ancient Greeks and Macedonians were different nations and that there was a mutual hostility between them and the rest of Greeks. They usually use extracts from ancient historians (mainly Greek) which seem to consider Macedonians as a different nation. However:

- The translation of the original documents into the English language is often inaccurate and misleading.
- The extracts are chosen in such a way that the meaning is completely different if the reader reads the whole document.

**History is based on facts and in the case of Macedonia the facts are obvious.** The archaeological discoveries and the ancient historians prove beyond any doubt the "Greekness" of ancient Macedonia.

Even by proving that ancient Macedonia was independent of Greece the Slavs still can not establish a connection between them and Macedonia. Even if we accept that they are right and Macedonians was a different nation there is no way to prove that the Slavs that live today in FYROM are descendents of these Macedonians. IF there was a "Macedonian nation" it had very strong ties with the Greek nation and IF there was a "Macedonian language" it was very closely related to the Greek language. So the obvious question is were do they fit in? Why do they claim to be Macedonians? Greece has proved its relation with ancient Macedonia but what is their relation? IF ancient Macedonia wasn't Greek it was certainly not Slavic. **Occupyng 25% of ancient Macedonian land does not give them the right to name their country "Republic of Macedonia".**

**Why FYROM should not be name Macedonia**

- FYROM's residents have no historical cultural or linguistic ties with ancient Macedonia.
- The heart of ancient Macedonia was not in the territory which FYROM occupies but in the Greek part of Macedonia were all the major archaeological discoveries took place.
- The name "Republic of Macedonia implies a territorial threat against Greece and other countries and it creates a great risk of renewed ethnic conflict in the Balkans.
- FYROM was NOT named Macedonia before the 2nd World War. This name was given to the Southern Yugoslavian providence by General Tito aiming to create con-
flicts in the region and to obtain Greek and Bulgarian territories. Before the 2nd World War FYROM was named Vardarska

- FYROM's population is a mixture of many different ethnic groups. Only 60% of them are "Macedonians". There is also a large minority of Albanians (30%) and smaller groups of Serbs Turks, Greeks and others.
- Ancient Macedonia and its civilization was part of the ancient Greek civilization.

More convincing information can be found on the sites of N. Martis and C. Stergiadis

Suggestions

Some suggestions on FYROM's permanent name:
- The name this region used since the 2nd world war - Vardarska
- The ancient name of the region - Paionia
- A name which describes the country geographically - Central Balkan Republic
- A name which characterizes the population of the country - Albanoslavia

Some facts about FYROM

The United Nations has NOT recognized FYROM as "Republic of Macedonia"

Read the whole document

- Until World War II the "Republic of Macedonia" was called Vardarska
- The population of FYROM consists of 65% "Macedonians" (Slavs), 25% Albanians and 10% other nationalities (Turks, Greeks, Serbs, Bulgarians etc)
- Their "Macedonian language" is actually a Bulgarian dialect with some Serbo-Croatian influences. That's why the Bulgarians claim that they speak and understand "Macedonian".
- The Albanian population of FYROM are very unsatisfied with the government's treatment and they are trying to have closer ties with neighbor Albania.
- During the independence referendum in FYROM in 1990 only 70% of the population voted in favor of an independened state. However in the other ex-Yugoslav Republics (Croatia, Slovenia) the result was much higher (more than 90%)
- The religion of the majority of FYROM's residents is Christian Orthodox. However their Orthodox church has not been yet recognised by any Orthodox authority.

Greece's answers to "Macedonian" arguments

- Greece officially denied the use of the name Macedonia after the Balkan wars

This is the most inaccurate Slavic argument.
There are several examples of state institutions and private businesses carrying the name Macedonia which operate in Greece since the early 1900s.

- The society of Macedonian studies (1939)
- The "Macedonia" newspaper (1912)
- The museum of the Macedonian struggle
- The museum of ancient Macedonia
- The Macedonian theatre
- and hundreds more

Greece has been actively using the name Macedonia since its liberation from the Ottoman empire. If Greece's official position was to "deny the existence of Macedonia" how would it be possible for hundreds of private companies to be named after Macedonia?

- Greece has changed the "Macedonian" names of locations in the Macedonia region.

The Greek names are older than the Slavic ones and most of them have their roots in ancient Greece. A characteristic example is Thessaloniki. This city was founded in 315 BC by the Macedonian general Kassandros and it was named after Alexander's sister - Thessaloniki. How did the Greeks change the name from Solun to Thessaloniki if that was the original name? The name Thessaloniki is even mentioned in the bible by St Paul. Why did he address his letters (epistles) to the people of Thessaloniki and not the to the people of Solun?

What about the Greek names of towns inside FYROM used during the Ottoman times? Did Greece change them as well?

- Today's "Greeks" and ancient "Hellenes" have no relation between them.

How is it possible for the people who live in the same region, speak the same language and have the same names and culture not to be descendants of the ancient inhabitants of the region? Similarly we could say that today's Egyptians are not descendants of ancient Egyptians and today's Chinese people are not descendants of ancient Chinese.

The simple truth which some people refuse to accept is that Greece is the international name of the country while Hellas is the name in the native language. There are many examples of countries which use two different names such as:

Deutschland - Germany
Nederland - Holland
Suomi - Finland
Switzerland - Helvetia

- There is a large Macedonian minority in Greece

There is no "Macedonian minority" in Greece because there is no such nationality. There is a small group of people who speak a Slavic dialect which is in fact different from what is claimed to be the "Macedonian language" These people are not a "Macedonian minority" as they consider themselves Greeks. There is also an even smaller group of Slav propagandists who are trying to create a Macedonian minority in Greece. Anyone who didn't consider him/herself Greek could and should have left Greece during the exchange of populations in 1919.

- One million people in Greece believe that they are Macedonians

During the last general elections (1996) their political party gained 3.485 votes (official result). Of course there is no doubt of the integrity of the election procedures since Greece is a member of the European Union. If there was such a large number of
"Macedonians" in Greece wouldn't be easy for them to stand up against the "Greek occupation"?

- **Greece acquired illegally Aegean Macedonia in 1913**
  
  Greece acquired 51% of Macedonia in 1913 as a result of the treaty of Buchurest. I don't think that an international treaty is illegal. Furthermore Greece in 1913 was not a powerful country to acquire any land it desired. This land was "given" to Greece because it historically belonged to Greece and its residents were Greek.

- **What gives Greece the right to name another country? This issue is straightforward, every country has the right to call itself whatever it wishes.**
  
  This is a misleading statement. The author knows very well why Greece is objecting to the use of the name Macedonia. In fact every country has the right to choose its own name as far as it does not belong to another country's history. The name Macedonia belongs to the Greek history. Greece has the right to protect its history and national heritage.

- **Saints Cyril and Methodje (or Kirl and Metodi) were not Greeks but Macedonians.**
  
  Saints Cyrilos and Methodios were Greeks born in Thessaloniki and this is well known to all Christians. Pope John Paul the B’ in an official apostolic homily to the entire Catholic Church proclaims that Methodios and Cyril "Greek brethren born in Thessaloniki" are consecrated as "heavenly protectors of Europe". John Paul B’ repeated this statement in a speech delivered in the church of Saint Clements, in Rome. You can see the original document [here](#).

- **Ancient Macedonians were not Greek**
  
  This is answered elsewhere in this site.

- **Ancient Macedonians fought against Greece thus they were not Greek**
  
  This argument is very commonly used. However those who use it seem to forget that the ancient Greek city states were largely independent of each other which often led to wars between them. Some well-known examples are the Peoloponisan was between Athens and Sparti, the Athenians quest in the island of Mitilini, the brutal war between Sparti and Thebes and many more. A war between two ancient Greek regions does not mean that one of them was not Greek.

- **Greece stole the Macedonian history**
  
  Greece does not 'steal' history. It has its own lengthy and respected history. It is the only thing that Greece has plenty of it. The Greek history and culture is respected by all the countries in the world. People who don't have their own history need to 'steal' someone else's...

- **"Linguistic science has at its disposal a very limited quantity of Macedonian words. A very limited quantity in this case is a quantity indeed, that Greeks cannot ignore."**
  
  This argument proves the Greek point that the "Macedonian language" was a Greek dialect. There only exists "a limited quantity of Macedonian words" because the Macedonian dialect had "limited" differences from the Greek language. It would not possible for the ancient "Macedonian language" to disappeared after what Alexander achieved.

- **"If Philip united and not conquered the Greeks why did Alexander leave 25.000 men of his army in Macedonia when he is about to face the strongest and most numerous army in the world?"**
  
  Simply because no sensible leader would go on a quest taking ALL his army with him and leaving his homeland unprotected! And of course he did not leave 25.000 men in Macedonia because he was afraid of
the Greeks. Macedonia had lots of real enemies at its northern border (Illyrians, Dardanians, Paionians etc).

- "If Macedonians were Greek then why only 30% of Alexander's army were Greek?"
  The right question to ask is 'why as many as 30% of Alexander's army were Greek?' How many Illyrians or Dardanian were in Alexander's army? After all Macedonians and Greeks were supposed to be 'enemies'. The Macedonians 'conquered' the Greeks according to the Slavic version of Macedonian history. The fact that Alexander took so many Greeks with him shows if he considered Greeks enemies or not.

- "Alexander I was the only Macedonian who took part n the Olympic games"
  As Ernst Badian says
  "No Macedonian appears on the list of Olympic victors that have survived (a fair proportion of the whole) until well into the reign of Alexander the Great."
  which proves that long after Alexander I, Macedonias took part and won the Olympic games.
  There is also evidence that King Archelaos took part in the Olympic games as well. This information comes from the Thessalian Thrasimachos.

- There are no ancient monuments written in the Macedonian language because Greek archaeologists destroy them when they are recovered.
  Even if we accept that this is true what happened to the monuments in the rest of Macedonia?
  What about the monuments found in FYROM and Bulgaria?
  What about the monuments found on Alexander's route in Asia?
  Why aren't there any "non Greek Macedonian monuments"?
  Oh, I know why! The Greek archaeologists must have destroyed them as well !!!

- If in fact, "Macedonia is Greece", how come they feel the need to emphasize, to shout, and to proclaim over and over again? After all, we never hear them proclaiming that "Thebes is Greece", or "Sparta is Greece".
  I would say that this argument is at least stupid if I hadn't found it on the web site of someone who looked rather smart. Anyway, if FYROM wanted to be named "Republic of Thebes" or "Republic of Sparta" who would shout out "Thebes and Sparta are Greek". But they are claiming to be Macedonians so we shout that
  "Macedonia was Greek"
  "Macedonia is Greek"
  "Macedonia will be forever Greek"

**Comments on the "Macedonian" web sites**

I looked to a lot of the "Macedonian" web sites which I found on the WWW and I observed the following:

- There is great inconsistency between them. Arguments which are raised on one site are considered as untrue or Greek propaganda to another.

Here are some examples:

- Alexander the Great was not Greek but Macedonian
- Alexander the Great was Greek ruling over Macedonians
- Alexander the Great was of Greek descent but after so many generations he became a Macedonian
- Alexander the Great was of Slavic(!) origin
- Alexander spoke the Macedonian language
- Alexander did not speak the Macedonian language because "the Macedonian language of his day was not used as a literary idiom".
- Only the Macedonian Royal House came from Greece (city of Argos)
- The tradition in Herodotus that the Macedonian kings were descended from Argos is probably a piece of Macedonian royal propaganda.
- Ancient Macedonians spoke the "Macedonian language"
- Ancient Macedonians had their own language but they just "used" the Greek one to communicate.
- Ancient Macedonians had their own language but they "did not leave any written record of their language" (how strange).
- Ancient Macedonians had their own language but they "used the Greek alphabet"
- The philosopher Aristotle was Macedonian
- The philosopher Aristotle was Greek but he spoke the "Macedonian language"
- Their theories on the origin of the "Macedonian language" are also very interesting:
  We are told that the ancient Macedonian language was a pre-Slavic language and its origins were Indo-European, Sanscritic and Phoenician. It was also related to the Illyrian, Thracian Scythian and Sarmatian languages. However the Macedonians "used the Greek alphabet" and some times they "used the Greek language just to communicate". This was because "the Macedonian language of their days was not used as a literary idiom". Unfortunately the ancient Macedonians "did not leave any written record of their language"

It is obvious that they interpret history the way they like.  
(If anyone has doubts on the above the URLs are available)

- Some of them are overdoing it!
  - The Greek mythology was Macedonian
  - The Greek ancient Gods were Macedonian
  - The famous Greek poet Homer was Macedonian
  - The famous Greek philosopher Aristotle was Macedonian
  - The Olympic games were founded by the Macedonians.
  - and so on ...

Everything that the whole world knows to be Greek is actually Macedonian!

- They are referring to "prominent scholars" to support their arguments. However the "prominent scholars" who clearly support that ancient Macedonians were not Greeks are always the same three people (Borza, Badien, Wilcken).
- They seem to hate Greeks very much. This is probably what they are being taught and they act like that. They also seem to believe that Greeks are very very stupid (!) and ignorants for some strange reason.

15
Questions to "Macedonians"

The "Macedonians" base their arguments purely on speculations and they usually avoid to answer some simple questions which reveal the truth. I am looking for a "Macedonian" who can answer the following simple questions:

- If ancient Macedonians were not Greek,
  - can you explain why ALL the ancient monuments found in Macedonia have Greek writings on them?
  - Can you explain why on all the ancient Macedonian coins the word Macedonia is written in Greek?
  - Can you explain why all the inscriptions in King Philip's tomb are in Greek?
  - Can you explain why there are no ancient monuments with the "Macedonian language" on them?
  - Can you explain why Alexander's successors were known as 'diadochoi' or 'epigonoi' (both Greek words)?
- Did the ancient Macedonians use the terms "Aleksandar", "Makedonski" or "Solun"?
- If Cyrilos and Methodios were "Macedonians from Solun" why did Pope John Paul III called them "our Greek brothers from Thessaloniki"? Is he wrong or is he spreading "Greek propaganda" as well?

(You can see the original document here)

- Why aren't there any ancient Macedonian historians who wrote about the Macedonian history?
- If the philosopher Aristotle was a Macedonian can you explain why all his work is written in Greek?
- If there are one million people in Greece who believe that they are Macedonians why did their political party get less than 3.500 votes during the latest general elections?
- Do you have territorial claims against Greece?

Other points of view

U.S. State Department, Foreign Relations (vol. viii) Washington, D.C., Circular Airgram (886.014/26 Dec. 1944)

"The Secretary of State to certain Diplomatic and Consular Officers. The following is for your information and general guidance, but not for any positive action at this time. The Department has noticed with considerable apprehension increasing propaganda rumors and semi-official statements in favor of an autonomous Macedonia, emanating principally from Bulgaria, but also from Yugoslav Partisan and other sources, with the implication that Greek territory would be included in the projected state. This Government considers talk of Macedonian "nation", Macedonian "Fatherland", or Macedonian "national consciousness" to be unjustified demagoguery representing no
ethnic or political reality, and sees in its present revival a possible cloak for aggressive intentions against Greece.

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**Extract from the article "The World According to George Soros"
By Connie Bruck, New Yorker Magazine, 23 January 1995**

..... The Macedonia that excited Soros was a province of Yugoslavia once known as Vardar Banovina; it was renamed the Republic of Macedonia in 1945 by Marshal Tito. Its populace varied, the largest portion being Slavs, whose ancestors had arrived in the region a thousand years after the most famous Macedonians of all, Philip II and his son, Alexander the Great. However, Tito—coveting the large Greek region of Macedonia—encouraged the irredentist idea of all Macedonians sharing a distinct identity. He then supported the Communist-led Democratic Army in the Greek Civil War, a brutal conflict that tore the country from 1946 to 1949. ..... Gligorov says that Macedonia has no territorial ambitions, but the Greeks have not been comforted. In 1992 and 1993, Gligorov's government issued new school textbooks that showed "geographical ethnic boundaries" encompassing the whole of Greek Macedonia; the country's flag carries the symbol of the empire of Alexander the Great; and a preamble to its 1991 Constitution pledges it to protect Macedonians everywhere. ..... The executive director of the Soros foundation in Skopje, Vladimir Milcin, maintains that he, too, is committed to the principles of an open society. But it is difficult to reconcile a dedication to pluralism with the demagogic passion that Milcin exhibits on the question of Macedonian ethnic identity. He gave me propagandist literature on Macedonia and Greece (including a pamphlet of excerpted texts entitled "Modern Greeks Are Not Descended from the Ancient Hellenes"). ..... 

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**John Foster Fraser in his book *Pictures From The Balkans* (published in 1906) describes his experience from his visit to Monastiri (today Bitola). The extracts are from chapter 20.**

The town of Monastir, capital of the vilayet of Monsastir, lies just about half way between Bulgarian and Greek territory. North, the majority of Macedonians are Bulgar, south the majority are Hellenes. The villages meet, cross, and mix in the Monastir vilayet. The reason, therefore, we hear so much about disturbances at Monastir is not because the Turks there are more wicked than Turks elsewhere, but because there is a persistent feud between Greek and Bulgarian political religionists.

.....

Monastir is an undistinguished, motley sort of town of some 60,000 inhabitants, 14,000 of them Greek, 10,000 of them Bulgarian, four or five thousand Albanian, two or three thousand Jew, and the rest Turk.

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**Archaeological discoveries in Macedonia**

*(Please wait a while for all the images to load)*

The archaeological discoveries form the Macedonian land are the stongest proof that ancient Macedonia was part of the ancient Greek world. All the ancient monuments and inscriptions use the Greek alphabet. There are no ancient monuments with a different language on them. Furthermore there is a large number of discoveries in Asia in the route of Alexander the Great. All these monuments, discovered in Pakistan, Kuweit, India and many more countries, prove that Alexanders quest was Greek and
that his goal was to spread Greek civilization all over the world. The items shown here and many more can be seen in the Macedonian Museum of Thessaloniki, Greece.

Here are some samples of archaeological discoveries in Macedonia.

**Ancient Macedonian coin**

Bronze coin of Macedonia under Philip V and Perseus (221-168 BC). The obverse shows a head of the god Apollo, and the reverse a tripod, the inscription "MAKE-DONWN" ('Macedonians') and general monograms in the form of Greek letters.

The Greek writings are clearly shown once again.
The names of the Macedonian kings Arhelaos, Amyntas and Perdikas are written in the back in Greek. They are currently on display in the British Museum in London.

Ancient tombstones from the Macedonia region

The first one is from the tomb of King Philippos and the other two from two ordinary Macedonians.

Points of interest:
- The Greek writings are obvious once again
- The names Deukalion and Xenokratis are Greek
- The architectural style is similar to the rest of ancient Greece

The golden *larnaka* of King Philippos II of Macedonia

This is the *larnaka* which was found in King Philippos' tomb. It is decorated with the Macedonian emblem known as the *Vergina star or Vergina sun* because it was recovered in Vergina in Greece.

Vergina was the first capital of ancient Macedonia.

Part of the archaeological site in Vergina, the first capital of ancient Macedonia...
... and Pella, the later capital of ancient Macedonia