

**NATIONAL UNION OF  
GREEK AUSTRALIAN STUDENTS  
(NUGAS)**

**POLICY**

**MACEDONIA**

**PREPARED BY:  
PETER ANDRINOPOULOS  
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**REVISED BY:  
PETER ANDRINOPOULOS  
CON VATMANIDIS  
1998**

## **1.0 BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) has sought world recognition as the independent “Republic of Macedonia” in the wake of the political and territorial changes that have occurred in Yugoslavia.
- 1.2 At issue is FYROM’s use of the name “Macedonia”.
- 1.3 Macedonia is a Greek region that dates to ancient times and is steeped in Greek culture and heritage.
- 1.4 The people of FYROM are predominantly Slavic - they are not Greek.
- 1.5 The territorial land in which these people currently reside is not within the borders of the Greek Nation state.
- 1.6 Recognition of FYROM as “Macedonia” has incensed Greeks worldwide because it usurps Greek history.
- 1.7 The Slav - Macedonians are trying, amongst other things, to perpetuate the myth that Macedonia was carved up by Greece, Bulgaria and Serbia in 1913, when in fact it was simply returned to Greece from Turkey - it has always been part of Greece.
- 1.8 The Slav - Macedonians insistence on the use of the name “Macedonia” has fuelled Greek fears about future territorial expansion into Greek Macedonia.
- 1.9 The United Nations, together with most countries, including Australia, have now qualified their recognition of the new Republic by referring to it as the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) until the issue is resolved.

## **2.0 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Ancient Times**

The issue in question is Macedonia, the ancient kingdom of Amyndas, Philip and Alexander the Great, inhabited by Hellenes (Greeks) since the dawn of history. In fact all books of history written before 1944 confirm and verify the following facts:

- 2.1.1 That historical evidence and Archaeological finds point to the existence of Greek Speaking inhabitants in the region of the north Pindus Mountains in the period 2200 - 2100 BC;
- 2.1.2 That these Greek speaking tribes are thought to have spread throughout the area known today as Northern Greece around 2000 years before the birth of Christ;
- 2.1.3 That these Greek speaking tribes formed the state of Macedonia;

- 2.1.4 That ancient Macedonia was another Greek state with a Greek population and Greek religion, language and customs:
- 2.1.5 That it was because of their unflinching “Greekness” that the Macedonians acted for centuries as guardians for the rest of Greece from any foreign invasion from the north;
- 2.1.6 That, as genuine Greeks, the Macedonians participated in the Pan - Hellenic Athletic Games at Olympia;
- 2.1.7 That the Greek Macedonians invited prominent teachers and dramatists, including Euripides, to their royal court and theatres:
- 2.1.8 That it was because of their kinship to Greece that Greek states acknowledged and accepted Macedonian leadership, and began, under Alexander the Great, the campaign against Persia (334 - 323 BC), a campaign that transformed the Near East culturally, united its people and opened the road to the new religion of Christianity, of which three of its four gospels were written in Greek;

These achievements, accomplished under leadership and guidance of the Greek state of Macedonia, have been recorded and confirmed by the world’s greatest authorities. Furthermore, the recently conducted excavations at Vergina and Dion give the world a convincing picture of ancient Macedonia as a Greek state. Each year every square meter of Macedonian soil reveals statues, inscriptions and irrefutable proof of the people of Macedonia and their Greek culture.

## **2.2 Slavonophone Arrival**

- 2.2.1 Around the 7th century A.D, being about two thousand seven hundred years after the first Greek settlement. and one thousand years after the Golden Age of the Kingdom of Macedonia, various Slavic races consisting of Drogovites, Strumonites and Sagoudites began to settle in the area of Macedonia;
- 2.2.2 Throughout the 8th century the Slays fought the Byzantine empire and made repeated unsuccessful attacks on Thessaloniki, Greece’s second largest metropolis and most culturally significant city during the past centuries. Slowly, as the Slavic people became more civilized they began to live in harmony in the provinces of the Byzantine empire. As a result many of them were Hellenised.

## **2.3 Modern Times**

- 2.3.1 In 1926 the League of Nations conducted the following population census of the northern Greek region of Macedonia. These results clearly demonstrate an overwhelming Greek culture existing in the region of Macedonia.

<b><u>BACKGROUND</u></b>	<b><u>NUMBERS</u></b>	<b><u>COMPOSITION</u></b>
Greek	1,341,000	88.0%
Muslim	2,000	0.1%
Bulgarian	77,000	5.1%
Others (mainly Jews)	91,000	6.0%

- 2.3.2 The question of a separate state of Macedonia did not exist prior to 1944, for the simple reason that this issue did not exist. Macedonia was part of Greece and thus, all issues pertaining to Macedonia were taken to be issues pertaining to Greece.
- 2.3.3 At the end of World War II, Marshall Tito named Vardanska Banovina, or South Serbia, into the Federal Socialist Republic of Macedonia, with political motives that aimed to claim that a people called Macedonian existed in the region of Greece. Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Albania, who supposedly were one Macedonian race. This would effectively give Yugoslavia valuable access rights to the Aegean Sea.
- 2.3.4 With these rights in mind, Yugoslavia put in motion a gigantic mechanism of propaganda world-wide that produced books, journals and maps which contained unimaginable lies, distortions, forgeries and falsifications of historical facts.
- 2.3.5 Such propaganda aimed to convince various nations and Governments that the southern republic of Yugoslavia consisting of a mix of Serbs, Bulgarians, Albanians and Gypsies had a separate “Macedonian” nationality; that their language. an artificial recent creation should also be called “Macedonian” and that their founding father was Alexander the Great. All this was asserted when in fact their primitive ancestors lived as shepherds beyond the Carpathians in southern Russia.

## **2.4 The 1990's**

- 2.4.1 On 16 December 1991. the twelve member states of the European Community asked that three requirements be met by FYROM in order to achieve recognition of their independent state:
- (i) To show all the borders of the new independent State.
  - (ii) To stop threatening and provocative propaganda against Greece.
  - (iii) Not to use the name Macedonia as the new independent state north from Greece.
- 2.4.2 Despite these requests, FYROM has continued to lobby for the creation of the “Macedonian Republic” north from the true Hellenic Macedonia.
- 2.4.3 If the pseudo state of “Macedonia” becomes recognised internationally then this could lead to future territorial claims and unavoidable military conflict in the Balkans.
- 2.4.4 There is unmistakable evidence from Slav - Macedonian currency notes depicting Greece's White Tower of Thessaloniki as “Macedonian”. Stamps and maps found in the Slav -Macedonian region also proclaim Thessaloniki as the capital of a Slav - Macedonian nation.
- 2.4.5 In 1992 FYROM replaced its traditional emblem of the Bulgarian Lion with the Star of Vergina, the Greek symbol taken from the tomb of Alexander the Great's father, King Philip of Macedon. This emblem now adorns FYROM's proposed national flag.

- 2.4.6 Slav Macedonians are teaching their young children they are descendants of famous Macedonians such as Aristotle and Alexander the Great - who were Greek and part of the ancient Hellenes.
- 2.4.7 FYROM's propaganda openly threatens Greek territory. FYROM's posters and literature talk of a "Liberation Army" and of a "Greater Macedonia", with the Greek port of Thessaloniki as its capital.
- 2.4.8 The unqualified and exclusive use of the term Macedonia by FYROM is an affront to Greece's history and heritage.
- 2.4.9 FYROM's highly provocative adoption of Greek symbols and landmarks is compounding Greek concerns about future territorial claims on Greece.
- 2.4.10 In July 1992 due to the unquestionable proof of Macedonia's Hellenic past, the European Community agreed that the name Macedonia could not be used to describe the Slavic state. This decision will have a significant impact on the future peace of the region, since this will effectively end a pseudo Slavic national identity based on an indisputable Hellenic past.

### **3.0 THE AUSTRALIAN CONTEXT**

- 3.1 Of the 800,000 Australians of Greek origin, 35% are of Greek Macedonian decent.
- 3.2 Greek-Macedonians are Greek but the Slav immigrants from FYROM settled in Australia as Yugoslavs, erroneously calling themselves "Macedonians".
- 3.3 In over forty years of Australian settlement, the Slav - Macedonian propaganda has deceptively managed to take advantage of Australia's fair multicultural policy whereby an ethnic group can foster its culture and traditions. Thus the Slav - Macedonians have abused this system by promoting a false non - existent culture that bases itself on Hellenic history instilling in the Australian psyche the idea that there exists a so called Slav - Macedonia.
- 3.4 These Slav Macedonians have created "Macedonian" football teams, clubs and restaurants.
- 3.5 As a result of all of the misleading and unacceptable behaviour of Slav - Macedonians, many Australians are confused and ill informed as to who the true Macedonians are.
- 3.6 Australian Greeks, whilst anxious and irritated by the Slav Macedonians calling themselves "Macedonians" in the past, did not object because the Slav - Macedonians were effectively Yugoslavs and were not perceived as a threat to Greece or to its culture.
- 3.7 The media persists in portraying the Macedonian issue as a dispute between Greeks and Macedonians. IT IS NOT!

- 3.8 The conflict is between Greeks and Slav Macedonians over the hijacking of the Macedonian name and symbols, which are Greek.
- 3.9 Macedonia is as much a part of Greece as Victoria is a part of Australia. One can be Macedonian and still be Greek, just as a Victorian is always an Australian.

#### **4.0 NUGAS ACTIONS**

- 4.1 NUGAS acknowledges that FYROM is now a nation state and its inhabitants must somehow be formally identified.
- 4.2 NUGAS supports the decision taken by the twelve member states of the European Community in 1991 that FYROM must meet the three requirements, as stated below, in order to achieve recognition of their independent state:
- (i) To show all the borders of the new independent State.
  - (ii) To stop threatening and provocative propaganda against Greece.
  - (iii) Not to use the name Macedonia as the new independent state north from Greece.
- 4.3 The name Macedonia unquestionably invokes images of Hellenism and the misrepresentation and corruption of history should not be accepted.
- 4.4 Expansion into territory and annexation of people who are and will continue to be GREEK should not be allowed by the international community.
- 4.5 Slav Macedonians have promoted a false non - existent culture that bases itself on Hellenic history. NUGAS does not oppose the independence of these people, but it does oppose the dissemination of false information.
- 4.6 NUGAS believes that any recognition or assistance to FYROM as an independent state will add credibility to attempts by Slav - Macedonians to falsify expansionist claims, hence increasing the instability of the region and the possibility of a military confrontation in the future.
- 4.7 NUGAS states that Macedonia is not a Slavic term and Slav - Macedonians using the name Macedonia have ulterior motives and long term policies that threaten the security of the Balkans and Europe.
- 4.8 NUGAS undertakes to lobby both the Australian State and Federal governments to prevent the Slav - Macedonian propaganda from mass circulation within Australia
- 4.9 NUGAS undertakes to:
- (i) promote the true identity of Macedonia as being part of the Greek nation state.
  - (ii) promote Macedonia as a culturally, politically and historically significant region of Hellenism.