One of the issues evoking the most passionate of discussions within the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) was always the divide between the concepts of the endonym and the exonym. It had already defined these two terms in the first (1984) edition of its Glossary of Terms for the Standardization of Geographical Names. Later these definitions were modified three times, most recently in 2007. Soon after their implementation, the 2007 definitions were again called into question. The papers presented in this book highlight the final stage of the discussions, and perhaps display all the arguments and positions in their most comprehensive form. They clearly show the dichotomy between advocates of all-comprehensive umbrella terms and those preferring terms which meet the practical needs of standardization, as well as the dichotomy between linguistic and cultural-geographical (space-related) approaches.

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