

12. THE ROLE OF THE UN

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UN policy towards exonyms

- UN recommendation to reduce the use of exonyms (1972, 1977)
- UN recommendation to produce lists of current exonyms

Arguments used within the UN

- **Nationalistic approach:** maintain all exonyms to preserve national cultural heritage (including history)
- **Idealistic approach:** use only endonyms for better international communication
- **Intermediary approach:** as each language's vocabulary is changing anyway, exonyms are also subject to change, and are due to disappear after a certain lifecycle

(Safety aspects, revanchism, pronunciation difficulties, ever increasing multitude of names mainly in Eastern Europe)

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