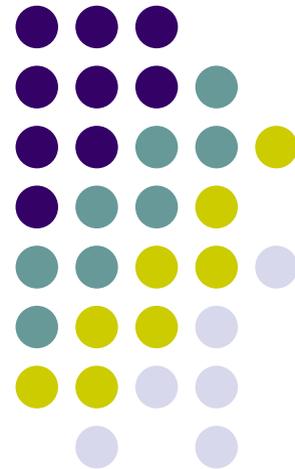


Some reflections on extending the notion of exonyms/endonyms into history

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Main question:

- **How to write toponyms in history atlases and in texts dealing with history?**
 - excluding modern well-established exonyms
- **Problems caused by:**
 - changing political borders
 - changing official languages
 - changes in names:
 - renamings
 - changes in spelling conventions, romanization, etc.
 - changes in language orientation



Two basic options

- “Turning the clock back”, i.e. to use the endonyms (official names) of any given period, according to the current definition of endonyms/exonyms.
- To use modern names, irrespective of the political or linguistic changes that have happened over the time, except:
 - renamings,
 - using any available names if modern names are not known.

Using historical official names



- This would mean reconstructing for any given period the political and linguistic status of the named feature, and use the names accordingly e. g.:
 - using Latin names for Roman cities,
 - using Turkish names for 18th century South Eastern European cities,
 - using Russian names for 19th century cities in Poland, Baltics, Ukraine, etc.

Problems in using historical official names



- Frequently changing borders
- Changes in language status, e.g.:
 - Swedish, then Swedish-Finnish, then Russian-Swedish-Finnish in 19th c. Finland,
 - German, then Russian in 19th c. Estonia.
- Difficulties in defining official languages and names
- Underlining historical injustice
- Open to too much interpretation



Using modern names

- This would mean applying modern names for all periods in history.
- Problems:
 - renamings (e.g. Tsaritsyn-Stalingrad-Volgograd)
 - changes in ethnic/linguistic composition of the region, e.g.:
 - Kaliningrad region / Eastern Prussia,
 - Karelian isthmus in Leningrad region (Russia)
 - availability of modern names for features occurring in distant past



Types of name changes

- “pure renamings” (language of names remains unchanged):
 - EE Kuressaare > Kingissepa > Kuressaare
 - DE Chemnitz > Karl-Marx-Stadt > Chemnitz
 - TM Guşgy > Serhetabat
- “endonymizations” (names in local language are adopted for international use):
 - IN Bombay > Mumbai, Madras > Chennai
 - Moldavia > Moldova, Byelorussia > Belarus
- status changes (names in languages do not change)
 - EE de Reval / et Tallinn, de Arensburg / et Kuressaare
 - MD ru Кишинёв (Kišinëv) / mo Chişinău



Conclusion

- It seems less controversial to use modern names in speaking about historical periods. Exceptions should be made:
 - if the place has been renamed (cf. preceding slide!),
 - if the ethnic composition of the place has changed significantly,
 - if modern names are not available.
- Actual practice in history atlases seems to be a mixture of the two basic options with some inclining more towards modern names, and some to historical official names.