Wikipedia is afraid of governments

...more accurately: English Wikipedia naming conventions are obliged to local governments

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The problem: page title edit wars

- Page title edit wars of geographical locations
  - Especially places of multiple or disputed heritage
- Danzig or Gdańsk?

Talk:Gdansk/Vote

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

< Talk:Gdansk

This page is an archive. **Do not edit the contents of this page**. Direct any additional comments to the current talk page.

This vote has ended. Please do not vote any more.

The voting period was 18 February 2005 to 4 March 2005. Comments and discussions should be added to Talk:Gdansk/Vote/discussion.
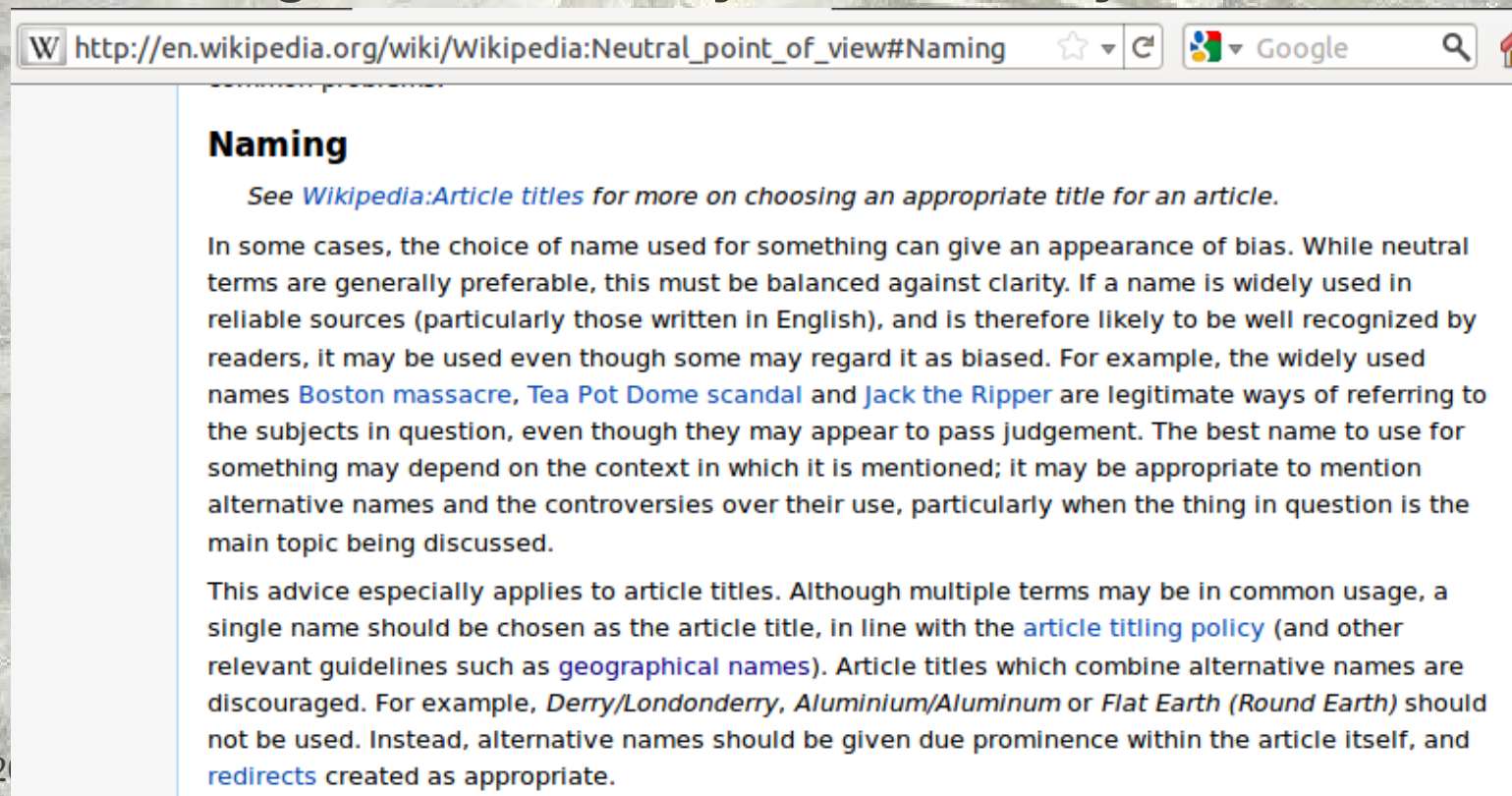
This page is affected by the Gdańsk (Danzig) Vote. [hide]
The following rules apply in the case of disputes:

- For Gdańsk, use the name *Danzig* between 1308 and 1945
- For Gdańsk, use the name *Gdańsk* before 1308 and after 1945
- In biographies of clearly German persons, the name should be used in the form *Danzig (Gdańsk)* and later *Danzig* exclusively
- In biographies of clearly Polish persons, the name should be used in the form *Gdańsk (Danzig)* and later *Gdańsk* exclusively.
- For Gdansk and other locations that share a history between Germany and Poland, the

Written policy

- WP:Neutral point of view, section "Naming":
  - "While neutral terms are generally preferable, this must be balanced against clarity."
  - **Read: Ignore neutrality if necessary**

W http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Neutral_point_of_view#Naming   ☆ ▾ C   ▾ Google   🔍
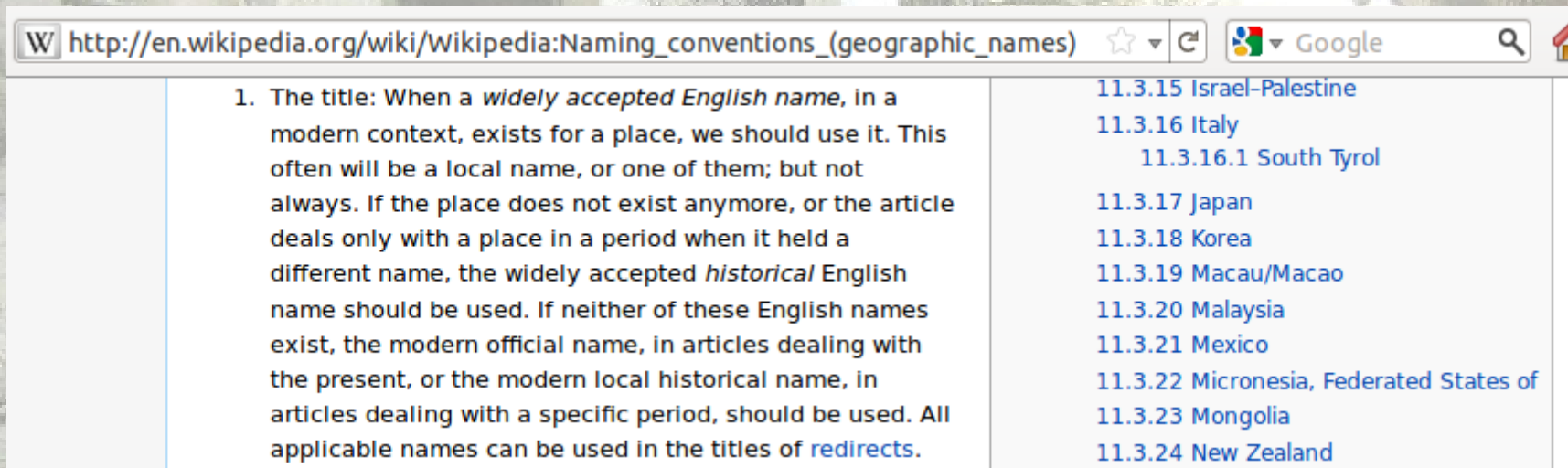
Naming

See Wikipedia:Article titles for more on choosing an appropriate title for an article.

In some cases, the choice of name used for something can give an appearance of bias. While neutral terms are generally preferable, this must be balanced against clarity. If a name is widely used in reliable sources (particularly those written in English), and is therefore likely to be well recognized by readers, it may be used even though some may regard it as biased. For example, the widely used names Boston massacre, Tea Pot Dome scandal and Jack the Ripper are legitimate ways of referring to the subjects in question, even though they may appear to pass judgement. The best name to use for something may depend on the context in which it is mentioned; it may be appropriate to mention alternative names and the controversies over their use, particularly when the thing in question is the main topic being discussed.

This advice especially applies to article titles. Although multiple terms may be in common usage, a single name should be chosen as the article title, in line with the article titling policy (and other relevant guidelines such as geographical names). Article titles which combine alternative names are discouraged. For example, *Derry/Londonderry, Aluminium/Aluminum* or *Flat Earth (Round Earth)* should not be used. Instead, alternative names should be given due prominence within the article itself, and redirects created as appropriate.

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Written policy

- WP:Naming conventions (geographic names)
  - "When a widely accepted English name, in a modern context, exists for a place, we should use it."

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Naming_conventions_(geographic_names) ▾ C ▾ Google

1. The title: When a *widely accepted English name*, in a modern context, exists for a place, we should use it. This often will be a local name, or one of them; but not always. If the place does not exist anymore, or the article deals only with a place in a period when it held a different name, the widely accepted *historical* English name should be used. If neither of these English names exist, the modern official name, in articles dealing with the present, or the modern local historical name, in articles dealing with a specific period, should be used. All applicable names can be used in the titles of redirects.

11.3.15 Israel–Palestine
11.3.16 Italy
11.3.16.1 South Tyrol
11.3.17 Japan
11.3.18 Korea
11.3.19 Macau/Macao
11.3.20 Malaysia
11.3.21 Mexico
11.3.22 Micronesia, Federated States of
11.3.23 Mongolia
11.3.24 New Zealand

- What I'll try to show:
  No, no, it's all about the government!

Observed practice

- Voivodeships of Poland

  - Issue raised in Wikimania 2010

  - "English" word invented by the Polish government

  - Even official translation guides recommend "province"

Voivodeships of Poland

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The **voivodeship** or **province**[1] (Polish: *województwo*) has been a high-level administrative subdivision of **Poland** since the 12th century. The word "voivodeship" appears in some larger English dictionaries, such as the OED and Webster's Third New International Dictionary, but it is not in common usage. Thus, to facilitate understanding outside Poland, the word "province" is a recommended translation.[2][3][4][5]

Administrative division of Poland

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Senkaku Islands

🔒

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

"Diaoyutai" redirects here. For the Chinese state guesthouse, see Diaoyutai State Guesthouse.

The **Senkaku Islands** (尖閣諸島 *Senkaku Shotō*[?], variants: *Senkaku-guntō*[1] and *Senkaku-rettō*[2]), also known as the **Diaoyu Islands** or **Diaoyutai Islands** (simplified Chinese: 钓鱼岛及其附属岛屿; traditional Chinese: 釣魚台群島; pinyin: *Diàoyútái Qúndǎo*) or the **Pinnacle Islands**, are a group of disputed uninhabited islands in the East China Sea. They are located roughly due east of mainland China, northeast of Taiwan, west of Okinawa Island, and north of the southwestern end of the Ryukyu Islands.

Japan controlled these islands from 1895 until her surrender at the end of World War II. The United States administered them as part of the United States Civil Administration of the Ryukyu Islands from 1945 until

Senkaku Islands

Disputed islands
Other names: Japanese: 尖閣諸島
Chinese: 釣魚台列嶼 or 钓鱼岛及其附属岛屿
Pinnacle Islands

Observed practice

- Prasat Preah Vihear (Khmer [Cambodia]) Prasat Phra Viharn (Thai)
  - Disputed territory, UNESCO heritage site
  - Nominally Cambodian; occasional military conflicts
  - UN adopts "Preah Vihear" in official listings

Preah Vihear Temple - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia - Mozilla Firefox

W Preah Vihear Temple - Wikipe...

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Preah_Vihear_Temple

Google

Nomenclature   [edit]

Prasat Preah Vihear is the compound of words Prasat, Preah and Vihear.
Prasat (ប្រាសាទ) mean "castle", sometimes "temple"; in Sanskrit प्रासाद.
Preah (ព្រះ) mean "sacred". "*Vihear*" (វិហារ) mean "shrine" (the central
structure of the temple). The word Vihear could be related to the Sanskrit
word Vihara (विहार) which means "abode."

Preah Vihear is transliterated into Thai as *Prasat Phra Viharn* (ปราสาทพระ
วิหาร) or *Prasat Khao Phra Viharn* (ปราสาทเขาพระวิหาร). *Prasat* (ប្រាសាទ)
has the same meaning in Khmer, Thai, and Sanskrit ("castle", sometimes
"temple"; in Sanskrit प्रासाद), and *Khao* is the Thai word for "hill" or
"mountain" (in Khmer: "*phnom*" ភ្នំ). Cambodians occasionally refer to it
as "Phnom Preah Vihear" (ភ្នំព្រះវិហារ) and Thais usually call it "Khao Phra
Viharn"). The words "*Preah*" (ព្រះ) and "*Phra*" (พระ) mean "sacred", and

The temple is located on a hill, oriented along a north-south axis and facing the plains to the north in what is now Thailand.

Observed practice

- Guangzhou (Mandarin)
  Canton City (Cantonese)

  - "Canton" is losing popularity, but still in use

  - Endorsement of government usage over local usage

Guangzhou

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Coordinates: 23°08′N 113°16′E

For other uses, see Guangzhou (disambiguation).

Guangzhou (simplified Chinese: 广州; Mandarin pronunciation: [kùàŋʈʂóʊ]), known historically as **Canton** or **Kwangchow**,[4] is the capital and largest city of the Guangdong province in the People's Republic of China. Located in southern China on the Pearl River, about 120 km (75 mi) north-northwest of Hong Kong, Guangzhou is a key national transportation hub and trading port.[5] One of the five National Central Cities,[6] it holds sub-provincial administrative status.

Guangzhou
广州

— **Sub-provincial city** —

广州市

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Observed practice

- Côte d'Ivoire, Ivory Coast
  - Their government insists that the French name must be transliterated phonetically, not translated semantically
  - BBC and CNN still use Ivory Coast exclusively
  - **… in disregard for common usage!**

Côte d'Ivoire

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The **Republic of Côte d'Ivoire** (🔊[i]/ˌkoʊt dɪ'vwɑr/; French: [kot di'vwaʁ]) is a country in West Africa. It is commonly known in English as **Ivory Coast** (🔊[i]/ˌaɪvəri 'koʊst/).[4][5] It has an area of 322,462 square kilometres (124,503 sq mi), and borders the countries Liberia, Guinea, Mali, Burkina Faso and Ghana; its southern boundary is along the Gulf of Guinea. The country's population was 15,366,672 in 1998[6] and was estimated to be 20,617,068 in 2009.[1] Côte d'Ivoire's first national census in 1975 counted 6.7 million inhabitants.[7]

Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
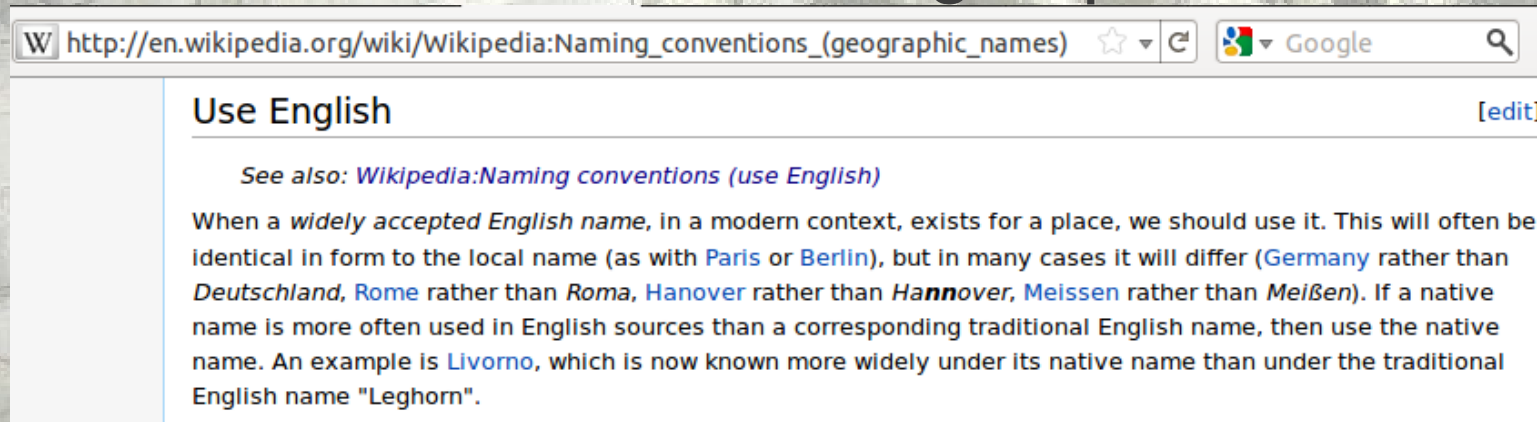*République de Côte-d'Ivoire*

| Flag | Coat of arms |

Observation

- Article names always follow the name used by the governmental regime of the place

- **In disregard for <u>neutrality</u> and English <u>common usage</u> if necessary**

Caveat

- "Use English"
  - Cologne, not Köln
  - Rome, not Roma
- <u>Correct observation, wrong explanation!</u>

W http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Naming_conventions_(geographic_names) ☆ ▾ C Google 🔍

Use English   [edit]

See also: Wikipedia:Naming conventions (use English)

When a *widely accepted English name*, in a modern context, exists for a place, we should use it. This will often be identical in form to the local name (as with Paris or Berlin), but in many cases it will differ (Germany rather than *Deutschland*, Rome rather than *Roma*, Hanover rather than *Ha**nn**over*, Meissen rather than *Meißen*). If a native name is more often used in English sources than a corresponding traditional English name, then use the native name. An example is Livorno, which is now known more widely under its native name than under the traditional English name "Leghorn".

- **Governments of these places use the English form of the name in their official English communication**

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Observation, revised

- Article names always follow the **official English name** used by the governmental regime of the place

- In disregard for neutrality and English common usage if necessary

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Solution: policy

- <sarcasm> ~~Let's go and mass-edit articles!~~ </sarcasm>
  - No, enough people have been banned by ArbCom for behavioral issues while enforcing policies
- Policies are descriptive, not prescriptive
  - Change the guidelines – a painful process
  - Volunteers, anyone?

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Solution: technical

- Automatic character conversion: Did the Chinese and Serbian Wikipedias offer a way out?

- Opens up a new can of worms

  - Automatic dialect conversion

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Conclusion

- War is damaging, hence dispute resolution
- Consensus wants commonly accepted, neutral names
- Actual practice uses government-endorsed names
- Rule change is costly
  Technical allowance is more costly
- Description not prescription:
  Every rule has exceptions
- **What do you think?**

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