

Nationalism, today (Klaus-Jürgen Nagel)

*"Nationalism seems to me the strongest force in the world today."
(Isaiah Berlin 1980)*

The aim of the course is to present and discuss classical theoretical explanations and current approaches on 'nation' and 'nationalism', as well as on 'self-determination' and 'secession'.

During this course, the student will learn about

- the different elements of defining a "nation" and the difficulties to translate the topic
- the etymology of the term and its different meanings from its origins until today
- the different traditions to think the nation from the French revolution until today
- the contrasting definitions of Sieyès, Herder and Renan
- the development of thinking the nation during the 19th and 20th centuries (in particular Mazzini, John St. Mill, Marx/Engels, Barrès and Maurras, fascist and national socialist thinking, communist thinkers, nationalism and anti-colonialism)
- the Hayes and Kohn typologies (ethnic and civic nationalism)
- approaches to the concept of the Nation based on ethnicity (socio-biology, ethno-nationalism, ethnic boundaries and markers, "ethnie" as strategic choice; ethno-mythological approach – A.D. Smith)
- the Hroch approach to the bases and phases of nationalist movements
- the differences between primordialists and modernists
- the functionalist and instrumentalist approaches (Deutsch, Rokkan, Gellner), including Marxist and non-marxist thinking on "internal colonialism" (Hechter, Nairn), "inventing" the Nation (Hobsbawm), nationalism as an instrument to fight for state power (Breuille) and conceptualising the Nation as an imagined community (Anderson)
- the philosophical and political bases of the concept of self-determination and current normative theories on secession (primary right and remedial right or just cause theories).
- some of the problems of current liberal thought on the nation (Tamir, Miller, Kymlicka, Taylor).

1. The Nation

1.1. The origins of the term and its history up to the French revolution

1.2. Classical thought on the Nation

Nagel, Klaus-Jürgen/Requejo, Ferran: Nations and nationalism, in: Encyclopedia of Democratic Thought, ed. Paul Barry Clarke/Joe Foweraker, London/New York 2001, p. 453-458.

Stalin, Josep, Marxism and the National Question (1913), excerpt

Renan, Ernest, ¿Qu'est-ce qu'une Nation? (1882) excerpt.

Sieyès, Emmanuel: ¿Qu'est-ce que le tiers état? (1789) excerpt.

2. First academic interpretations

Kohn, Hans: Western and Eastern Nationalism, in: Hutchinson, John/Smith, Anthony D. (eds.): Nationalism, Oxford/New York 1994, p. 162-165.

Canovan, Margaret: What is a Nation?, in: id., Nationhood and Political Theory, Cheltenham/Brookfield 1996, p. 50-67.

3. Current theories to explain Nation and Nationalism

3.3.1. “The ethnic phenomenon”, or primordialist and other ethnicist approaches

Smith, Anthony D.: The “myth of the modern nation” and the myths of nations, Ethnic and Racial Studies 11, 1988, 1, p. 1-15 (...folktales); 16 (But even...)-26.

Anthony D. Smith’s opening statement, Nations and Nationalism 2, 1996, 3, p. 358-365.

3.3.2. Modernist approaches

3.3.2.1. Functionalists

Deutsch, Karl W.: Tides among Nations, New York/London 1979, excerpt.

Deutsch, Karl W.: Nationalism and social communication, in: Hutchinson, John(Smith, Anthony D. (eds.): Nationalism, Oxford / New York 1994, p. 26-29.

Gellner, Ernest: Nationalism, 1997. Excerpts.

Gellner, Ernest: Nations and Nationalism, 1983. Excerpts.

3.3.2.2. Instrumentalists

Avineri, Shlomo: Marxism and Nationalism, in: Reinhartz, Jehuda/Mosse, George L. (eds.): The Impact of western nationalisms, London et al. 1992, p. 284 (Of all the historical...)-299 (...by the Austro-Marxist tradition), 300 (Socialism has thus been burdened...)-301 (footnote 33).

Hobsbawm, Eric J.: Pròleg a l’edició catalana, in: HOBBSAWM, Eric J./Ranger, T. (eds.): L’invent de la tradició, Vic : Eumo 1983, p. 7-9, 13-25.

Hobsbawm, Eric J.: Nation, State, Ethnicity, Religion: Transformations of Identity, in: Os nacionalismos en Europa. Pasado e presente, Santiago de Compostela 1994, p. 33-45.

Breuilly, John: Nationalism and the State SECOND EDITION Manchester 1993, excerpts.

3.3.2.3. The Nation: an Imagined Community?

Anderson, Benedict: Imagined Communities, 1991. Excerpts.

3.4. National Movements of Stateless Nations

Hroch, Miroslav: Social conditions of national revival in Europe, 1985. Excerpts.

4. National Self-Determination and Secession

Beran, Harry: A democratic theory of political self-determination for a new world order, in: Lehning, P. (ed.). Theories of secession, 1998, p. 32-59.

Buchanan, Allen: The Morality of Secession, in: Kymlicka, Will (ed.): The rights of minority cultures, Oxford 1995, p. 350-374.

5. Nationalism and the Liberal State. Thinking the Nation today

Miller, David: The nation-state: a modest defence, in: Brown, Chris (ed.): Political restructuring in Europe, London/New York 1994, p. 137-162.

Canovan, Margaret: Nationhood and Political Theory, Cheltenham/Brookfield 1996. Excerpts.

Further readings:

BEINER, R. (ed.): Theorizing nationalism, Albany 1999

BILLIG, M.: Banal nationalism, London 1995

CANOVAN, M.: Nationhood and political theory, Cheltenham/Brookfield 1996.

CONVERSI, D. (ed.): Ethnonationalism in the contemporary world, London/New York 2002

DAHBOUR, O./ISHAY, M. R. (eds.): The nationalism reader, Atlantic Highlands 1995

HUTCHINSON, J./SMITH, A.D. (eds.): Ethnicity, Oxford/New York 1996.

HUTCHINSON, J./SMITH, A.D. (eds.): Nationalism, Oxford/New York 1994

McCRONE, D. The Sociology of Nationalism, London/New York 1998

MOTYL, A.J. (ed.): Encyclopedia of nationalism, 2 vols., San Diego 2001.

REQUEJO, F. (ed.): Democracia y pluralismo nacional, Barcelona 2002

SENTMARTÍ, R. (ed.): Clàssics del nacionalisme, Barcelona 2001

TAMIR, Y.: Liberal Nationalism, Princeton 1993

WOOLF, S. (ed.): Nationalism in Europe, 1815 to Present, London/New York 1996