

Week 11: Civic and Community Engagement

Origins and Impacts of Nationalism

Introduction

- **Nationalism:** Belief that the interests and values of a nation are superior to others.
- **Etymology:** Comes from Latin "natio" (meaning "something born"). Modern use (love for a nation) first appeared in 1798. ↴
- **Definition:**
 - A political ideology and movement advocating **popular sovereignty** (shared citizenship). a political principle that people hv ultimate authority in a government
 - Influenced by French Revolution (inclusive nationalism) and German Romanticism (exclusive ethnic nationalism).
- **Core Idea:** Every nation has a right to self-determination (control its own destiny), known as the **principle of national self-determination**.

What is Nationalism?

200 year old so quite young

- **Nations:** Groups with shared language, culture, history, and a sense of common destiny.
- **Key Features of Nationalism:**
 1. Human society is divided into nations.
 2. Nations are communities formed by bonds beyond biology or personal connections.
 3. **Self-determination:** Nations have the right to govern themselves.
 4. Often leads to feelings of national superiority.
- **Imagined Communities:** Nations exist partly in the mind, built through **shared symbols** (flags, anthems, history) to create loyalty and unity.

common bond that holds people creating a community

Discriminatory when it's taken one nation is better than another

Origins of Nationalism

- Before the 1700s, people identified with **villages** or **towns**, not nations.
- Nationalism spread during the **French Revolutionary Era** and the **Napoleonic Wars**:
 - Napoleon unified France and extended French identity across Europe.
 - Other nations resisted French rule, developing their own sense of nationalism.
- **Contributing Factors:**
 - ideas through images Growth of **literacy, urbanization, and print culture** (spread of ideas).
 - Influence of the **Enlightenment**, promoting education and intellectual connections. devoted nationalists in 19th century were actually secondary students and university students in urban areas
 - **Peasants** (majority population) were slower to adopt nationalism but eventually influenced by broader changes. (other reasons)

It was like being bullied by someone who ends up showing you enough wrestling moves that you are able to defeat them

Napoleon ended king queen system

These factors contributed to nationalism by creating conditions that encouraged the development of shared identity, culture, and political awareness among people

Other Historical Reasons

1. Decline of Religious and Dynastic Loyalties:

- o Enlightenment reduced the power of religion.
- o Criticism of monarchies weakened absolutism.

for years after split of the Christian church into Catholic and Protestant, wars were fought over religious and dynastic loyalties
enlightenment weakened hold of religion, king and queen system weaken

2. Defining Differences:

- o Nationalism often arose by opposing "the other."
- o Example: **Russian Nationalism** rejected Western European ideas to preserve its rural and religious traditions.

a form of monarchical power that is unrestrained by all other institutions, such as churches, legislatures, or social elites.

3. American Nationalism:

- o Influenced by Enlightenment ideals.
- o Early examples: **United States** (1776) and **Haiti** (1804).
- o Colonized populations began prioritizing local loyalty over European rulers, fueling **national liberation** and **decolonial movements**.

shared colonial languages, and revolutions like those in the U.S. and Haiti. Benedict anderson

In 1804, Toussaint L'Ouverture led Haiti to independence. Mixed identities from colonization fostered local loyalty

Ethnic Nationalism vs. Civic Nationalism

Nationalism, the sense of identity and loyalty toward one's nation

Aspect	Civic Nationalism	Ethnic Nationalism
Definition	Based on shared values and political principles.	Based on shared ancestry, language, or religion.
Inclusivity	Open to anyone adopting national values.	Exclusive; membership often requires heritage.
Unity Factors	Liberty, democracy, tolerance, shared history.	Blood ties and cultural homogeneity.
Multiculturalism	Supports diversity; values coexistence.	Often opposes diversity; can cause conflicts.
Examples	Modern Western nations (e.g., USA, Canada).	Former Yugoslavia, Kurdish struggles.

Summary:

- **Civic Nationalism:** Inclusive, unites through shared values. Ideal for multicultural states.
- **Ethnic Nationalism:** Exclusive, can lead to conflicts and tensions.

Conclusion

Nationalism has shaped modern identity and politics over the last two centuries. Its forms—civic or ethnic—reflect different paths nations take to build unity, define themselves, and pursue self-determination.