The rise of nationalism is a very active debate within political science and history.[[1]](#footnote-1) Ever since the world wars historians have tried to reckon with the reasons and origins of nationalism.[[2]](#footnote-2) This studies from this period were deeply tied with the political climate of the time.[[3]](#footnote-3) Throughout the 60s and 70’s theories began tying nationalism with modernity, attributing nationalism to modernity.[[4]](#footnote-4) Within this school of thought Imagined Communities by Benedict Anderson stands out. It has become a fundamental text within the various disciplines like history, sociology, political science, etc.[[5]](#footnote-5) Anderson's work creates a meta-theory which explains the rise of nationalism and provides a specific conceptualization of nations. Particularly Anderson looks at the creation of nationalism as a result of processes like the decline of religion and the rise of modern capitalism.[[6]](#footnote-6) These developments challenged the dynastic and religious foundations upon which power stood, allowing for a new way of thinking.[[7]](#footnote-7) According to Anderson these processes span the globe and are prerequisite for nationalism.[[8]](#footnote-8) In effort to build a meta-theory Anderson compares many countries and their circumstances to explain his reasoning. His use of comparative history allows him to explain how these processes took place across the world. The use of comparative history is diachronic and does not stick to one single continent. As a complimentary text this assignment uses Chapter 4 of *Theories of Nationalism* to contextualize Anderson within the larger nationalism scholarship.[[9]](#footnote-9)

**Sources**

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1. (Storm 2018, 114) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. (Lawrence 2005, 110) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. (Lawrence 2005, 123) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. (Lawrence 2005, 133) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. (Calhoun 2016, 15) [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. (Burke 2013, 21) [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. (Anderson 2006, 22; 2006, 36) [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. (Anderson 2006, 46) [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. (Ozkirimli 2010) [↑](#footnote-ref-9)