

Theories and Practices of Nationalism

11. 8. 2020

Overview

- Early conceptions of nationalism.
- Many came from marxist concepts
- lots from 1960s
- 3 imp theoreticians for this course
 - Benedict Anderson ————— Imagined Communities (Book)
 - Ernest Gellner ————— Nationalism and Modernisation
 - Eric Hobsbawm ————— Nation as "invented Tradition"
- Nationalism in India
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 -
 - Javed Alam
- Nationalists and their views
 - how various people in India during the colonial period perceived nationalism.
- Zionism
- Globalisation and Nationalism
Contradictions, etc.

Logistics

- Term paper: need to put in effort
- small quizzes
- About 1 week / assignment

Why Study Nationalism

- most pervasive ideology in modern world.
- kind of paradoxical {
 - All other ideologies, there is splintering, and variation all over.
eg.:
 - Differing shades of capitalism, liberalism, vegetarians, etc. } BUT There are commonalities
 - Differing ideologies.
 - An Indian nationalist will not have commonalities with any other
- Everything is impacted by nationalism } figure out how
- Be aware of positive, negative aspects
- Understand how it affects personal, public, professional lives.

Assessment

• 6 short class test (30%)

- Random days, topics
- Short answers. Based on that class / classes given before.

• 4 assignments (40%)

- max: 1500 words
- show: listened to lectures, read readings

• Term Paper (30%)

- 3 months to do
- Show different lectures
- 2500 +

Plagiarism

- > 15% : grade drop
- > 25% : F
- 2 instances: F

Next Class:

Nation, Nation State, National, Nationalism

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Nation and its synonyms

Common synonyms: Country,
Kingdom,
State,
Land,
Region,
Polity,
People,
Community,

diff: - not united
+ self refer.

- State also includes apparatus. Is not necessary.
- again, unclear. Can exceed a nation, or include multiple
- Similar ^
-
- Closest. But not necessary.
- self referential.

Definition of Nation?

Saejas suggests: a mixture of the above

• Root: Latin nationem "birth"

• Historian: the word only starts getting used in the 18th century. And still, rarely so.

Common use: 19th Century.

• Giving 3 definitions:

- a race of people, an aggregation of persons of the same ethnic family and speaking the same language

Does not necessarily work.
eg: India

- a political society composed of subjects or citizens with
 - common territory
 - history
 - laws
 - culture

members of a

note the distinction republic (indiv. sovereignty)
members of a kingdom

not necessary:
- Britain
- France
- etc.

can be contentious

can change by definition

abandons the "political society" defn.

- A nation is a community of people, whose members are bound together by a sense of
 - solidarity
 - a common culture
 - a national consciousness → kind of a cop-out.

• Features of a Nation:

• Common

all heavily contested

- Ethnicity, Language, Territory, History, Laws, Culture.
- Sense of Solidarity.
- National Consciousness (is that "ism"?)

• Multiple fights over nations despite

- similar languages (Punjabi, Bengali, English)
- similar religion (Pakistan and Bangladesh)
- similar territories

Consider:

- Korea: 1 nation, 2 territories, maybe 2 cultures, histories?
- Pakistan: formed on the basis of religion
Bangladesh: formed on the basis of language
- Great Britain: Eng, Wales, Scotland all consider themselves separate nations.

• Questions

- Is membership of a Nation voluntary or involuntary?
- Who decides membership to a nation?
- States can grow, weaken, die, etc. Can nations? has a nation ever died?
- Do people of a Nation have common economic interests?

• Sovereignty

- are all nations equal members?
 - IR says yes, but does it work that way?
 - Are there laws transcending national boundaries?
- Can a nation survive without political autonomy?
 - eg: Scots
 - eg: Catalonia?

- Is every nation sovereign?
- What happens to a nation which does not have political independence?

• Going back to the "Scientific Definition"

- All scholars agree: there is no "scientific definition"
- nation exists if a significant no. of people consider such.
- there is no set number
- they possess "national consciousness"

an "ism" is an ideology.

• What is an Ideology

- System - justifying worldview.
- eg:
 - Capitalism: everything should be controlled by the free market.
 - Nationalism:
- - prepackaged units of interpretation
- spread because of:
 - human motives to understand the world
 - avoid existential threat
 - maintain valued interpersonal relationships

?? :

SOCIOLOGY: - - cultural beliefs that justify particular social arrangements

Basically: - A political belief system.

• Nationalism

- As an Ideology
- As a practice

focus on this >>>

18.8-2

What is an ideology

- A system-justifying worldview.

Often in real life, we don't only follow one ideology

eg: Our interpretation of an action: "A mother slapping her child"
can be looked at as either - mother's love
- abuse

We fit our systems to the ideology.

- These are cultural beliefs that justify particular social arrangements.
 - passed on by social institutions: media, education, religion, friends, etc.
- hence, it is a political belief system.

Nationalism as an Ideology

IN IDEOLOGY

- primacy has to be given to the nation.

A state can have multiple competing ideology.

– eg: America: – WASP

– Civic

IN PRACTICE

- national community first.
- constant work: ID the strengths, weaknesses, keep working on them keep building.

Aside: Government employees need not be nationalist?

Other

Global Ideologies

Liberalism and Socialism

Socialism

Marxism

Ideologies that claim to surpass National Boundaries.

- Incredibly pervasive, you don't need to be Marxist/Nationalist/Liberal to believe in core principles of the same.

} All prominent from 19th century.

- foundation: humans are all equal.
- claim universal applicability
 - Comes from the idea: all humans have universal attributes.
 - FREE
 - EQUALITY
 - + BROTHERHOOD (French)

→ this implies: all authority is open to critique.

→ brings about the idea of Universal History (all humans on the same plane)

Universal Humans

- ideas not limited to territorial limit
 - aggressively universal.
- Napoleon, Tipu Sultan

Liberal Limits

- Early ones were kinda hypocritical. (colonial empires, etc)
- These states had growing nationalism
 - Liberalism confined within the nation.

The Classic Marxist Position.

- on the basis of liberalism but faster.

Starting line is the same.

Need to see outcomes are important, conditions should be shaped so.

- "Marxism carries the true universal values that liberalism lost" and Liberalism → Nationalism, is a false ideology that posits an artificial solidarity between the classes, and allows for more exploitation.
- The interests of the nation are false, of the workers is truth.

• Cracks in the Position

- no explanation for the "oppressed nationalities" (Irish, Poles, Indians)

• Lenin

+ Stalin, puts together an idea of nationalism that is now hugely influential

- starts with classic position
- Despite opposition to nationalism, as nations are a reality. equality of nations, hence removing proletarian divides.
- Still does not consider oppressed nations

- the Right to Secede.

- by persecuting the others, nationalists are upholding privilege of the Russian Landlords, and the communist party is opposed to all privileges, so they uphold the right to nations to self-determination
- They do not advocate secession, but countries have the right to do so
- After the revolution, groups were given the option to secede. The party would campaign against them, but they were allowed to.

- Significant impact in Asia

(slides)

- The Leninist Line