

# Theories and Practices of Nationalism - Assignment 3

Zubair Abid, 20171076

**Question: Explain the concept of “invented traditions” in your own words. How does it link with nationalism and the nation-state? Use examples of invented traditions which have become a part of national cultures, and some invented traditions which have not.**

*Word count:* 0

- A key feature is that Invented traditions are often used to establish continuity with some *suitable* historic past. Even for invented traditions built on revolutions/progressive movements, there is some historic past that is (has to be) constructed for acceptance (elaborated later). This historic past does not need to be real, and is almost always embellished.
- This allows invented traditions to be held as symbols of “invariance” in times of rapid change in social patterns.
- What invented traditions are:
  - Invented traditions are traditions that are claimed to be old, or are perceived as old, but are in fact new(er than people assume them to be)
  - Invented traditions are either intentionally created through political directive, or originate organically over time through regular practice of certain customs among people.
  - It is not entirely clear how Traditions are invented, either intentional or organic, as it has not been studied in to much detail.
- Their use for
- Invented tradition:
  - Commonly, claim to be old/are perceived as old but are actually new
  - Can be invented, either intentionally or organically
  - All the time, there is a past for continuity. It is factitious
- Tradition vs Custom:
  - Traditions come from custom
  - Tradition seems invariant, but depends on custom. Which is variant
  - Consider the customs of a conservative regimented army vs traditions of big game hunters
- Symbolic use as traditions once no longer practical
- Invention as a thing accompanying any change in society
- Can make their own, co-opt, or expand
- “Hobsbawm’s point, however, is not to mock such fictions, but to highlight the ideological importance of at least the perception of continuity with the past.” (Buchanan 2018)
- ...
- Invented Tradition and Nationalism:

- Nationalism getting its history wrong
- Requires linking of National, Political, Social
- Bring aspects of Gemeinschaft to modern society
- European Examples:
  - \* New rules have to be put for social change
  - \* « Examples »
  - \* « Indian Equivalents »
- Non-examples:
  - \* « Examples »

Buchanan. 2018. *A Dictionary of Critical Theory*. Bloomsbury Publishing.