

Theories and Practices of Nationalism - Assignment 1

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Question: *How are nations like communities? Is there is a difference between the communities which are formed by civic and ethnic nationalisms?*

(Write an essay (800-1200 words) explaining your answer. Draw on examples of at least two nations and nationalisms other than India.)

Points

- How are nations like Communities (Benedict Anderson):
 - Conceived as horizontal
 - Conception of a connect, even if most will never meet
 - Not exactly Gemeinschaft. There's millions, not thousands. There is individual movement, and family does not define social status, economic role, etc. We're still in Society, but we imagine there is a connection between random people we will never meet, cannot possibly ever meet, because we're born within the same arbitrary plot of land. Sometimes not even that.
 - Kohn - people consider themselves to be "of" a place, as opposed to "in" a place

Random thoughts

- "Western nationalism" As Kohn calls it arises from the Englishman's need to have liberty. England, the first "new nation", Nationalism from the religious matrix, the self consideration of "new Israel". John Milton:

With him nationalism was not a struggle for collective independence from an "alien yoke"; it was the affirmation of individual freedom from authority, the self-assertion of personality is face of its own government or church, "the deliverance of man from the yoke of slavery and superstition." Liberty to Milton was religious, political, and personal.

- India is a nation due to the political partition by the British?
- Civic nationalism: Follow the Constitution and you're a national

- Ethnic nationalism: Be something
- Israel allows citizenship by return, descent, naturalization, etc. Exclusionary policy, and many have termed it as such, and UN creation marked it as “Jewish State”. It also allows for nationals from the lands.
- Also, all Jewish people (as defined) can be Jewish nationals easily.
- Kuwaiti law requires one to be muslim. But there are no other restrictions on ethnicity per se.
- Bhutan has a strict citizenship law, immigration is based on parents/long servitude.
- There is an ethnic bleed into the Civic nationalisms
 - WASPs in America, the idea of immigrants not being American, especially if not white.
 - All nations seem to have a constitution allowing for naturalization
- There is a difference of sorts between communities of civic nationalism and communities of ethnic nationalism. Kinda. Now, most modern states have a constitution, but some are significantly more ethnic than others, while some display characteristics of wanting to be ethnic nationalist but are strictly civic till date
 - But america for example is a split community. Half want ethnic considerations? Does “white” count? It’s a request for elimination of other ethnicities from the state. Others abide by the civic model.
- Han Chinese want to be more ethnic? Elimination of non-Han
- China considers all Hans to be chinese.