Nationalism: Theories and Cases

Erika Harris
September 2009 224pp • Pb 978 0 7486 1559 9 • £19.99

'A major contribution to the growing literature on nations and nationalism. Seeking to look beyond the primordial/modernist debate and to expand the discussion beyond the boundaries of the state, Harris emphasizes that the functions performed by nationalism have changed over time. Harris's Nationalism is an imaginative treatment of an important subject, and full of insights. It should prove useful for both specialists and students alike.' - Sabrina P. Ramet, Norwegian University of Science & Technology, Trondheim, Norway.

This highly original contribution to studies of nationalism focuses on its ideological foundations, tracing its historical beginnings and charting its varied manifestations in world politics today.

Its broad theoretical and empirical inquiry explores the dynamics of nationalism and its theories and also considers the role of 'the nation' in political processes taking place beyond states. In addition to a wide-ranging review of traditional approaches to nationalism, this book is unique in its broad geographic and historical scope and in the appraisal of these approaches in contemporary international politics, including developments such as the increased role of non-state actors, regional integration, trans-national movements and diasporas.

A key element of the book is its case studies which range from the rise of national movements within the old Empires to contemporary ethnic conflicts, and which allow for a clearer understanding of the politics of nationalism, how its theories can be applied and which urge some searching questions about 'new' forms of ethno-national mobilization.

Key Features

- Only book to cover both historical and contemporary theories of nationalism
- Reviews classical theories of nationalism
- Shows nationalism to be integral to all political changes and demonstrates its relevance to democracy and globalisation
- Uses examples and case studies to demonstrate application of theories of nationalism in world politics
- Links classical and 'new' nationalism - continuities and discontinuities between the 'old' and current understandings of nationalism are highlighted
Nationalism is an idea and movement that promotes the interests of a particular nation (as in a group of people) especially with the aim of gaining and maintaining the nation's sovereignty (self-governance) over its homeland. Nationalism holds that each nation should govern itself, free from outside interference (self-determination), that a nation is a natural and ideal basis for a polity, and that the nation is the only rightful source of political power (popular sovereignty). It further aims to Nationalism is an ideology, a sentiment, a form of culture, or a social movement that focuses on the nation. It is a type of collectivism emphasizing the collective of a specific nation. While there is significant debate over the historical origins of nations, nearly all specialists accept that nationalism, at least as an ideology and social movement, is a modern phenomenon originating in Europe. Nationalism is a system created by people who believe their nation is superior to all others. Economic nationalism prioritizes domestic businesses. Kimberly Amadeo has 20 years of experience in economic analysis and business strategy. She writes about the U.S. Economy for The Balance. Read The Balance's editorial policies. Kimberly Amadeo. Updated November 13, 2019. Nationalism is a system created by people who believe their nation is superior to all others. Most often, this sense of superiority has its roots in a shared ethnicity. Other countries build nationalism around a shared language, religion, culture, or set of social values. The nation emphasizes shared symbols, folklore, and mythology. Shared music, literature, and sports m