

Why has Nationalism not Run its Course?

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Nationalism within Europe

Nationalist attempts at democratisation in post-socialist Europe resulted in turmoil, disintegration and violence (243)

Within a modern European context, nationalism continues to be entangled within major international humanitarian and political dilemmas

- Refugees and foreigners are scapegoats
- Europe continues to respond to political uncertainties or threats with nationalism

Meaning of nationalism

Nationalism can be civic or ethnic

- This dichotomy is challenged for its oversimplification, and by the concept of national self-determination, which "any self-differentiating people" are entitled to (244)

Nationalism is controversial because it claims to empower people, yet a nation-state is hardly ethnolinguistically homogenous

- Instead, nation-states often comprise one titular ethnonational group which assumes dominance

Why has nationalism not run its course?

Theory

- Nationalism varies greatly across regions, making general theorisation of the phenomena near impossible
- Ethnicity-driven competition for power is an integral part of geopolitics
- Nationalism is increasingly mitigated by the multitude of international treaties and agreements about the protection of minorities
- The nation state remains perceived as the main protector of cultural, economic and physical security of people, and the main framework for the distribution of material and cultural resources (245)

Factors

- European integration has failed to transcend nationalism, instead reinvigorating it
 - E.g. Viktor Orbán of Hungary
- There are many hybrid-democracies that instead are limited democracies or even semi-authoritarian regimes
 - E.g. confusing the will of the people with the will of a particular people
- International treaties and constitutions fail to dissolve ethnic divisions
- Sovereignty has been redefined in the era of R2P
- Ethnicity is played out in kin-states and more animated diasporas (246)
 - Efforts to reunite ethnic kin across geographical boundaries destabilise many border regions
 - This increased role of diasporic communities keeps nationalism alive (247)

Nationalism continues to serve as an identifier of people's place in the world and a political strategy for defining the relationship between the nation and the state

Ethnic Groups and Boundaries

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Introduction

Core discoveries (9)

- Categorical ethnic distinctions do not depend on an absence of mobility, contact and information
- Ethnic distinctions do not depend on an absence of social interaction and acceptance

'Ethnic group' designates a population which

1. Is largely biologically self-perpetuating
2. Shares fundamental cultural values, realised in overt unity in cultural forms (11)
3. Makes up a field of communication and interaction
4. Has a membership which identifies itself, and is identified by others, as constituting a category distinguishable from others

How to perceive ethnic groups

If one viewed culture-bearing as a primary characteristic of ethnic groups, this would entail a prejudged viewpoint that would lead to confusion

- Continuity: the cultural features that signal the boundaries of ethnic groups may change
- Factors: irrelevant factors that may influence behaviour are investigated, e.g. ecology

Ethnic groups seen as a form of social organisation(13)

- The critical feature is their self-ascription
 - Since belonging to an ethnic category implies being a certain kind of person, it also implies a claim to be judged and to judge oneself by those standards that are relevant in that identity (14)
- Solves continuity issue: dichotomisation between members and outsiders allow us to specify the nature of continuity and investigate the changing cultural form and content
- Solves the factors issue: only socially relevant factors become diagnostic for membership, members declare their own allegiance (15)

Ethnic groups' interactions

The boundaries of ethnic groups

- Social boundaries are prioritised, though they may have territorial counterparts
 - If a group maintains its identity when members interact with others, this entails criteria for determining membership and ways of signalling membership and exclusion
- Ethnic boundaries organise behaviour and social relations
 - Two members of the same ethnic group share a criteria for evaluation and judgement
 - When interacting with a member of another ethnic group, a limitation on shared understandings and differences in criteria for judgement are recognised

Polyethnic social systems (16)

- Ethnic identity implies a series of constraints on the kinds of roles an individual is allowed to play (17)
- Ethnic identity is superordinate to most other statuses, and defines the permissible statuses an individual may assume

Associations of identities and value standards

- Requirements for the coexistence of ethnic diversity
 - A categorisation of population sectors in exclusive and imperative status categories
 - An acceptance of the principle that standards applied to one such category can be different from that applied to another
- Each category can then be associated with a separate range of value standards (18)
 - The greater the differences, the more constraints on interethnic interaction
- All members of a polyethnic society can be expected to maintain dichotomies and differences

Interdependence of ethnic groups

The positive bond that connects several ethnic groups in an encompassing social system depends on the complementarity of the groups (18)

- This can give rise to interdependence

Complex polyethnic systems entail the existence of extensively relevant value differences and constraints on status combinations and social participation

- Within these systems, ethnic groups can make stable and symbiotic adaptations to each other because: (19)
 - The system consolidates important, complementary cultural differences
 - These differences are standardised within the ethnic group
 - The cultural characteristics of each ethnic group is stable

Ecologic perspective of interdependence

- Ethnic groups may occupy clearly distinct niches in the natural environment and be in minimal competition for resources
- Ethnic groups may monopolise separate territories, in which case they are in competition for resources
- Ethnic groups may provide important goods and services for each other
- Ethnic groups are in at least partial competition within the same niche - one would expect one such group to displace the other or increased complementarity to develop (20)

Demographic perspective of interdependence

- Whenever a population is dependent on its exploitation of a niche in nature, this implies an upper limit on the size it may attain corresponding to the carrying capacity of that niche
- If two populations are ecologically interdependent, any variation in the size of one must have important effects on the other
- Factors (21)
 - Conquest
 - Emigration
 - Immigration

Factors in identity change

China's Yao minority incorporates 10% non-Yao becoming Yao in each generation (22)

- Through
 - Uxorilocal marriage
 - Adoption and full ritual assimilation of children
- Conditions for assimilation
 - The presence of cultural mechanisms to implement incorporation
 - The incentive of obvious advantages to the assimilating household and leader

Sudan's Fur minority change their identity to that of the nomadic cattle Arabs (23)