

LECTURE / DISCUSSION / DEBATE
NATIONALISM

Terms and concepts to know:

Nationalism vs. racism

Civic nationalism

Nationalism and Mill

Marx, Engels, and nationalism

Soft ethnic nationalism

Immigration

Nation and nationalism

Ethnic nationalism

Nationalism and Herder

Universalism and particularism

Hard ethnic nationalism

Study and discussion questions:

1. What sort of emotions do you feel when you see images of nationalism on bumper stickers, at sporting events, or in the media? Are you more or less likely to feel a 'commonality' with others in America?
2. Is a multilingual nation [such as the U.S.] inherently unstable? How does a common language effect the feeling of unity among citizens of a particular nation?
3. Is nationalism compatible with individualism?
4. Are nationalism and socialism compatible? What would Marx and Engels probably say in this regard? (false consciousness?).
5. What is a fair immigration policy? Does the United States allow too many immigrants to come in? Too few? Are we stronger or weaker as a result of our immigration policies?
6. Lipset's article was written pre-9/11. If Lipset was writing today do you believe he would credit 9/11 (and the U.S. response) with the drastic reversal of his thesis in 2000 in the last decade?
7. What are the various aspects of American Exceptionalism proposed by Jouet and do you agree with the author that it is these aspects that are hastening our decline?
8. Does our own government predict our decline? What is the conclusion by analyst Dave Lindorff. What do you think of the various 'scenarios' the U.S. government see for the future?

Readings:

Hoffman and Graham: Chapter 12.

Video:

Capitalism (Episode 5) – Keynes vs. Hayek: A Fake Debate?