

Nations and Nationalism

Sociology 219

MW 1:50-3:00, F 2:20-3:20, Leighton 330

Nader Sohrabi

nsohrabi@carleton.edu

Office Hours: Thursday, 1-3, or by appointment, 228 Leighton Hall

507-222-4188

Emergence of national states has been one of the most consequential developments in the modern world in the last two centuries. How did national identities gain such an importance? How do nationalisms differ and on what basis do nations construct their identities? Is it language, culture, territory, race and ethnicity, or some other criteria? Are nations popularly demanded by the public, or are they ideological constructs imposed by states? What role colonialism plays in creating nations and engendering nationalism? Do differing colonial styles impact the nationalism of colonial territories? Is nationalism a force that will remain with us, or is it withering away in response to globalization? Can we guard against nationalism's dark side at the present? These are some of the questions that will be dealt with in this course. The course begins by considering some of the most influential theories of nationalism and then advances to investigate historical and contemporary empirical examples from Western Europe, the Balkans, Africa, and India, to examine these theories in context, and to advance our theoretical understanding.

Course Requirements:

- 1) Midterm exam (20%), Final exam (40%)
- 2) Class participation and submission of questions and discussion topics on a weekly basis (20%). These are to be submitted usually on Thursday for discussions on Friday. On a few occasions submission dates are different, as indicated on the syllabus.
- 3) One book report (20%), 3 pages. The book is to be decided in consultation with the instructor. The topic should ideally concern discussion of nationalism in an empirical context. More general theoretical approaches are also acceptable but require approval. Topics are to be finalized by the beginning of 7th week, Monday, Oct. 28, and are due at the end of 9th week, Friday, Nov. 15.
- 4) All submissions (with the exception of exams) are through moodle.

Required Books, available at campus bookstore:

Benedict Anderson Imagined Communities

Eugen Weber Peasants into Frenchmen

Partha Chatterjee The Nation and Its Fragments

Michael Hechter Containing Nationalism

Additional readings (indicated by *) may be found on electronics reserves.

Week 1 Introduction, Nations as Popular Social Constructs, Nations as Contingent Products

Monday Sept. 16, **Introduction**

Wednesday Sept. 18, *Ernest Renan, "What is a Nation?" in Becoming National: A Reader ed. G. Eley, R. Suny (New York: Oxford University Press, 1996) pp. 42-55.

Friday Sept. 20, Imagined Communities Chapters 1-3 (pp. 1-46)

Week 2. Nations as Organic, Popular Constructs (continued)

Monday Sept. 23, Imagined Communities Chapters 5-7 (pp. 67-140)

Wednesday Sept. 25, Imagined Communities Chapters 8-10 (pp. 141-185)

Thursday Sept. 26, (Discussion topics and questions due by 5 p.m.)

Friday Sept. 27, (Discussion)

Week 3. Nations as Creatures of States

Monday Sept. 30, Peasants into Frenchmen Chapters 1 (pp. 3-22), 3, 4, 5 (pp. 30-66), Chapters 6 (pp. 67-73 only)

Wednesday Oct. 2, Peasants into Frenchmen 7 (pp. 95-114), 12 (pp. 195-220), 15 (pp. 241-277), 17, 18 (pp. 292-338).

Thursday Oct. 3 (Discussion topics and questions due by 5 p.m.)

Friday Oct. 4 (Discussion)

Week 4. Ethnic vs. Civic Nationalism

Monday Oct. 7, *Rogers Brubaker Citizenship and Nationhood in France and Germany (Cambridge, MA, Harvard University Press, 1992) Chapters 4, 5, 6 (pp. 75-137)

Wednesday Oct. 9, *Jeffrey M. Peck "Rac(e)ing the Nation: Is There a German "Home"?" in Becoming National (pp. 481-492)

Thursday Oct. 10 (Discussion topics and questions due by 5 p.m.)

Friday Oct. 11 (Discussion)

Week 5. Nationalism and Colonialism: British Colonies, French Colonies. Is There a Difference?

Monday Oct. 14, *William F. S. Miles Hausaland Divided: Colonialism and Independence in Nigeria and Niger (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1994) Chapters 1, 2 (pp. 1-41)

Wednesday Oct. 16, Chapters 3 (42-59), 5 (91-116), 7 (145-174)

Thursday Oct. 17, (Discussion topics and questions due by 5 p.m.)

Friday Oct 18, (Discussion)

Week 6. Midterm, Colonialism and Nationalism in India

Monday Oct. 21, midterm break

Wednesday Oct. 23, **midterm exam**

Friday Oct. 25, *Bernard S. Cohn "Representing Authority in Victorian India," in The Invention of Tradition pp. 165-209

Week 7. Nationalism in India (Continued): Nation Against Religion?

Monday Oct. 28, Partha Chatterjee The Nation and Its Fragments: Colonial and Post Colonial Histories (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1993) Chapters 1-3 (pp. 3-75) **Paper topics finalized**

Wednesday, Oct. 30, Nation and Its Fragments Chapters 5, 6 (pp.95-134)

Thursday, Oct. 31 (Discussion topics and questions due by 5 p.m.)

Friday, Nov 1 (Discussion).

Week 8. Nationalism in the Balkans: Switching Identities

Monday Nov. 4, *Basil G. Gounaris "Social Cleavages and National 'Awakening' in Ottoman Macedonia," East European Quarterly, XXIX, No. 4 January, 1996, pp. 409-426.

*Anastasia Karakasidou Fields of Wheat, Hills of Blood: Passages to Nationhood in Greek Macedonia, 1870-1990 (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1997) Introduction (pp. 1-27).

Wednesday Nov. 6, *Fields of Wheat chapters 3, 4 (pp. 77-137).

Thursday Nov. 7, (Discussion topics and questions due by 5 p.m.)

Friday Nov. 8, (Discussion)

Week 9. Guarding Against Disaster

Monday Nov. 11, Michael Hechter Containing Nationalism Chapters 1-2 (pp. 1-34)

Wednesday Nov. 13, Containing Nationalism Chapters 3-4 (pp. 35-69)

Friday Nov. 15, Containing Nationalism Chapter 8 (pp. 134-159) (**papers due**)

Questions due Sunday Nov 17, 5 pm

Week 10.

Monday Nov. 18, (Discussion, Containing Nationalism)

Wednesday Nov. 20, (Summing Up, Book Reports Due)

Final Exam on scheduled exam time.