

Values and ideas

Identity politics - Political institutions, organisations and causes that are based on a sense of collective identity.

Nation - There are several rival concepts of the nation, but all agree that the nation is made up of a blend of cultural, psychological and political factors. The disagreement occurs on which factors are of more significance.

Nation-state - A sovereign political association within which citizenship and nationality overlap.

Sovereignty - The principle of absolute or unrestricted power expressed either as unchallengeable legal authority or unquestionable political power.

Patriotism - A psychological and emotional attachment to one's nation.

Organic community - Nations are natural divisions with each possessing distinctive character and identity.

Xenophobia - A fear or hatred of foreigners.

Ideological traditions

Civic nationalism

Places as much emphasis on political loyalty as on cultural unity. This tends to blur the distinction between the nation and the state, and nationality and citizenship.

Ethnocultural nationalism

Emphasis is placed on ethnic and cultural distinctiveness and the wish to maintain it.

Liberal nationalism

The oldest form of nationalism that encompasses concepts such as popular sovereignty, self-determination, self-government, equality of nations and international harmony.

Conservative nationalism

Tends to be developed in established nation-states. Nationalism's appeal to Conservatives is in its promise of social cohesion and public order. Conservative Nationalism makes an appeal for tradition and defence of traditional institutions.

National consciousness

Defining a nation and a nation-state - There are several rival concepts of the nation, but all agree that the nation is made up of a blend of cultural, psychological and political factors. The disagreement occurs on which factors are of more significance. The nation-state is also problematic in concerning the overlap of citizenship and nationality.

National sovereignty - The principle of absolute or unrestricted power expressed either as unchallengeable legal authority or unquestionable political power, being based in the nation.

History - The claim to nationhood can be based on an objective factor such as a shared History.

Language - A common language can be used as a criterion for claiming rights to nationhood.

Culture - Nations are regarded as cultural entities bound together by shared values and traditions.

National symbols - Constructivist critics of nationalism regard symbols as part of an invented tradition made in order to create nations.

Concepts of political nationalism

Government promotion of nationalist values and citizenship - Shared values and a common culture are necessary for a stable and successful society.

Ethnicity - A particular population, cultural group or people belonging to a geographical area. These bonds are more cultural rather than racial.

Institutions - Nationalism can be used as a defence for traditional institutions, reflecting past glories. Institutions become symbols of national identity.

Separatism - Nation-states can be created through the achievement of independence.

Self-determination - A form of political independence established by the creation of a nation-state.

