

PO 4107 Nationalism, Ethnicity and Conflict

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Aims and Objectives

This course explores how nationalism and ethnicity may be linked to conflict. In the course we discuss,

- How are collective identities formed?
- How does identity formation underpin ethnic and nationalist mobilization?
- What are the links between ethnic and nationalist mobilization, statebuilding, and violent conflict?
- How do ethnic and nationalist groups mobilize?
- How does globalization shape the manifestations of ethnic and national identity?
- In what ways might ethnic and nationalist mobilization be associated with a history of colonization?
- How can reconciliation between groups be forged after violent conflict, and how might reconciliation attempts be associated with nation building?

Cases from across the world such as Northern Ireland, South Africa, and Brazil will be studied to reach an understanding of how ethnicity and nationalism shape contemporary societies. By the end of the course students should be able to:

- Understand theories explaining the social construction of collective identities,
- Debate causes of 'ethnic' and 'nationalist' conflicts,
- Describe approaches to reconciliation after conflict,
- Critically examine theoretical arguments and apply them in the study of particular cases.



Contents

We explore questions such as the following. In our globalized world, why do nationalism and ethnicity remain influential in shaping politics? How and why does the politics of memory matter for identity formation? What are the dynamics of 'ethnic' conflict, and how can divided societies reconcile after conflict? What similarities and differences can we identify between cases of ethnic or nationalist conflict? Students read a range of academic texts for discussion in lectures and tutorials, and in preparation for a group presentation during the course and an essay at the end. Examples from the news media and films are also used to stimulate participation and discussion.

Core Readings

Anderson, B. (1991) *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*, London: Verso.
 Breuilly, J., ed. (2013) *The Oxford Handbook on the History of Nationalism*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
 Chatterjee, P. (1993) *The Nation and Its Fragments: Colonial and Postcolonial Histories*, Princeton: Princeton University Press.
 Guibernau, M. and Rex, J., eds. (2010) *The Ethnicity Reader: Nationalism, Multiculturalism and Migration*, 2nd ed., Cambridge: Polity.