

Nationalism: Issues and Concerns

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Abstract

Most Scholars contend that issue of nationalism is being challenged because of the rising globalization. Since most studies related to nationalism have focused on the contemporary issues in nationalism, this article examines the different verities, issues and concerns of nationalism. By employing document review, this article assesses the ethnic nationalism, civic nationalism, expansionist nationalism, romantic nationalism, cultural nationalism, post-colonial nationalism, liberation nationalism, liberal nationalism, religious nationalism and diaspora nationalism. The study finds that participation in international organizations as well as regional integration erodes nationalist ideology and because of the more interdependent world, not only economically, but politically and culturally as well leads the declining of nationalism. Finally, the article concludes with the concept that in homogeneous and uniformly global world, the ultra-nationalism may lead to further crisis and radicalization of Nationalism is not appreciated in the present world.

Keywords: Nationalism, ultra-nationalism, radicalization, classical nationalism, diaspora nationalism

Introduction

Etymologically 'Nationalism' means patriotic feeling, principles, or efforts or an extreme form of patriotism marked by a feeling of superiority over other countries. According to Scottish nationalism, it is the advocacy of political independence for a particular country. The Merriam Webster Dictionary defines nationalism as "the loyalty and devotion to a nation; especially, a sense of national consciousness exalting one nation above all others placing primary emphasis on promotion of its culture and interests as opposed to those of other. Nationalism is used to refer to political movements seeking or exercising state power and justifying such actions with nationalist arguments of an explicit and peculiar character, the interest and values of nation take priority over all other interests and values and the nation must be as independent as possible. For this the state requires at least the attainment of political sovereignty. Nationalism is a political, social, and economic system characterized by promoting the interests of a particular nation, particularly with the aim of gaining and maintaining self-governance, or full sovereignty, over the group's homeland. The political ideology therefore holds that a nation should govern itself, free from unwanted outside interference, and is linked to the concept of self-determination.

Nationalism is the ideology based on the premise that the individual's loyalty and devotion to the nation-state surpass other individual or group interests. Nationalism is a modern movement. Throughout history people have been attached to their native soil, to the traditions of their parents, and to established territorial authorities; but it was not until the end of the 18th century that nationalism began to be a generally recognized sentiment molding public and private life and one of the great, if not the greatest, single determining factors of modern history. Because of its dynamic vitality and its all-pervading character, nationalism is often thought to be very old; sometimes it is mistakenly regarded as a permanent factor in political behavior. Actually, the American and French revolutions may be regarded as its first powerful manifestations. After

penetrating the new countries of Latin America, it spread in the early 19th century to central Europe and from there, toward the middle of the century, to eastern and southeastern Europe. At the beginning of the 20th century nationalism flowered in the ancient lands of Asia and Africa. Thus the 19th century has been called the age of nationalism in Europe, while the 20th century has witnessed the rise and struggle of powerful national movements throughout Asia and Africa (Kohn,1955).

Verities of Nationalism

Human beings are divided by different means: geographically, ethnically, on the basis of race, etc. and geographic division of people is one of the major concerns that separate resident of one country from another. The feeling of being a resident of a particular country is geographical division of people and because of such division the feeling of nationalism can be found on the part of country dwellers who resides in particular country with the identity of being the citizen of that country. Many countries in the world are being separated from one another because of such feelings and one of the most significant examples can be taken from North and South Korea.

Analyzing the evolution of human beings, an interesting fact exist that all people used to stay at the same place before beginning human civilization but because of scarcity of food, water resources and tendency of being secure from wild animals, people started migrating from one place to another and later on those places have been demarked as a particular country. Even at present at the age of globalization and digital world people have been divided into different nationalities as we frequently hear someone saying that a person is Nepalese while another one is Japanese and so forth.

Some of the verities of nationalism are enlisted as Classical nationalism and Nationalism in wider sense. Classical Nationalism is the political program that sees the creation and maintenance of a fully sovereign state owned by a given ethno-national group as a primary duty of each member of the group. Starting from the assumption that the appropriate unit of culture is an ethno-nation, it claims that a primary duty of each member is to abide by one's recognizably ethno-national culture in all cultural matters. Nationalism in a wider sense is any complex of attitudes, claims and directives for action ascribing a fundamental political, moral and cultural value to nation and nationality and deriving obligations.

Issues of Nationalism

The issues of nationalism have been advocated by different scholars and political theorists that there are different schools and types in accordance to the way they are manifested. Nationalism may manifest itself as part of official state ideology or as a popular non-state movement and may be expressed on civic, ethnic, cultural, religious or ideological lines that nationalism is simply the desire of a nation to self-determine. Ethnic nationalism, civic nationalism, expansionist nationalism, romantic nationalism, cultural nationalism, post-colonial nationalism, liberation nationalism, left-wing nationalism, liberal nationalism, religious nationalism, Diaspora nationalism are some of the nationalisms that are dealt and often practiced. If the nationalisms are practiced in the good faith then that would be more conducive and work worth for the sake of the nation otherwise that may lead to conflict and struggle.

Ethnic nationalism defines the nation in terms of ethnicity, which always includes some element of descent from previous generations. It also includes ideas of a culture shared between members of the group and with their ancestors, and usually a shared language. Membership in the nation is hereditary. The state derives political legitimacy from its status as homeland of the ethnic group, and from its duty to protect of the partly national group and facilitate its family and social life, as a

group (Chan, 2013). Civic nationalism (or civil nationalism) is the form of nationalism in which the state derives political legitimacy from the active participation of its citizenry, from the degree to which it represents the “will of the people” (Shulman, 2002). For instance, Rwanda from Nation-building and modern tribalism between Hutus and Tutsi leads to Genocide, Yugoslavia from modern nationalism to disembodied violence.

Civic nationalism underlies the ideology of the nation as a community of equal, rights-bearing citizens. It gives sovereignty to all regardless of race, gender, language or ethnicity. State nationalism is a variant of civic nationalism, often combined with ethnic nationalism. It implies that the nation is a community of those who contribute to the maintenance and strength of the state, and that the individual exists to contribute to this goal. Italian fascism is the best example, epitomized in this slogan of Benito Mussolini: “Everything in the State, nothing outside the State, nothing against the State”. However, the term “state nationalism” is often used in conflicts between nationalisms, and may lead to secessionist movement and confronts an established “nation state.”

Expansionist nationalism is a radical form of imperialism that incorporates autonomous, patriotic sentiments with a belief in expansionism and in superiority or dominance. Nations are thus not thought to be equal to their right to self-determination; rather some nations are believed to possess characteristics or qualities that make them superior to others. Expansionist nationalism therefore asserts the state’s right to increase its borders at the expense of its neighbors. Cultural nationalism defines the nation by shared culture. Membership (the state of being members) in the nation is neither entirely voluntary (you cannot instantly acquire a culture), nor hereditary (children of members may be considered foreigners if they grew up in another culture). Yet, a traditional culture can be more easily incorporated into an individual’s life, especially if the individual is allowed to acquire its skills at an early stage of his/her own life (Conversi, 2008).

Post- Colonial nationalism existed since the process of decolonization that occurred after World War II, there has been a rise of third World nationalisms. Third world nationalisms occur in those nations that have been colonized and exploited. Religious nationalism is a particular religious belief or affiliation. This relationship can be broken down into two aspects; the politicization of religion and the converse influence of religion on politics (Chatterjee, 1986).

According to Liberation Nationalism many nationalist movements in the world are dedicated to national liberation, in the view that their nations are being persecuted by other nations and thus need to exercise self-determination by liberating themselves from the accused persecutors. Anti-revisionist Marxist–Leninism is closely tied with this ideology, which declares that nationalism can be used in an internationalist context i.e. fighting for national liberation without racial or religious divisions. Left-wing nationalism (also occasionally known as “socialist nationalism”) refers to any political movement that combines left-wing politics with nationalism. (ibid)

Religious nationalism is the relationship of nationalism to a particular religious belief, church, or affiliation. This relationship can be broken down into two aspects; the politicization of religion and the converse influence of religion on politics. In the former aspect, a shared religion can be seen to contribute to a sense of national unity, a common bond among the citizens of the nation. Another political aspect of religion is the support of a national identity, similar to a shared ethnicity, language or culture (ibid).

Diaspora nationalism refers to nationalist feeling among a diaspora such as the Irish in the United States, Jews around the world after the expulsion from Jerusalem. These days’ different communities in different parts of the world have their own nationalistic feelings and started to be united in the one

network. Traditionally 'Diaspora' refers to a dispersal of a people from a (real or imagined) 'homeland' due to a cataclysmic disruption, such as war, famine, etc. New networks - new 'roots' - form along the 'routes' travelled by diasporic people, who are connected by a shared desire to return 'home'. In reality, the desire to return may be eschatological or may not occur in any foreseeable future, but the longing for the lost homeland and the sense of difference from circumambient cultures in which Diasporic people live becomes an identity unto itself (Humphrey, 2004). The recent developed concept regarding nationalism is Post-nationalism or non-nationalism in the post-modern existential society of globalization. Economic, political, and cultural elements contribute much to it (Hackenberg & Alvarez, 2001).

Increasing globalization of economic factors; the expansion of international trade with raw materials, manufactured goods, and services, and the importance of multinational corporations and internationalization of financial markets have shifted emphasis from national economies to global ones such as Multinational corporations (World Bank, IMF, and WTO), the United Nations, the European Union, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and NATO. In addition, media and entertainment industries are becoming increasingly global. Migration of individuals or groups between countries contributes to the formation of post-national identities and beliefs, even though attachment to citizenship and national identities often remains important. So, it is also regarded as the Internationalism in the age of Nationalism (Hackenberg & Alvarez, 2001).

Sometimes an economic blockade imposed by the neighbouring countries can also be one of variables for national integration and nationalism. At the time of Economic blockade in the country, people didn't scold the government even if their life was heavily paralyzed but they tolerated it. Here it can be assumed that because of foreign interference on an issue, the people of the nation can be very united (Bharadwaj et al., 2007). More especially the people of North Korea can be taken as an example in this concern since they expressed their view that even if we are ready to eat grass but we do not insist our government to give up experiment of atomic energy

Concern of Nationalism

The most important concern of nationalism is to make all nationalists being united in a place like a garland can be made by compiling different flowers under the same thread (Gellner, 1996). Different nations in the world have different concerns about nationalism since people and the government has different aspirations in being the citizen of a particular nation but regarding the case of Nepal, the new transformation of political system the rising issues of ethnicity, regionalism, multiculturalism and plural societies the values of the nationalism is being threatened. The promulgation of the new constitution has created the structural conditions for consolidation of national unity among diverse cultural, linguistic and geographical entities. The principle of unity in diversity was a formulation which has remained the only valid principle to concretize national integration in the context of a vast diversity.

Dual Citizenship, Pseudo-nationalists, Religious extremists and Terrorism are the major threatening factors for the Nationalism (Snell, 2009). One of the major concerns of nationalism is of dual citizenship as a personal that got a permanent residence permit or citizen other than the country she/he belongs to, has a less love and affection towards the nation where s/he was born. It is so because whenever s/he faces an extreme difficult situation, s/he prefers to go to his/her new destination (PR country) which is one of the factors for weakening the nationalism.

Pseudo-nationalists are the group of people who have been living in the borders between two countries and most of the European nations have been facing its severe problems like there are

sequels of bombings and other attacks in one country and such people flee to other nations. Some of the Asian, Middle Eastern, European and American have been facing the problem of religious extremists which has direct impact of it that such groups are responsible for weakening the concern of nationalism.

Terrorism is also another concern of more than nationalism and it the most significant factor for either strengthening or weakening the feeling of nationalism. It is very important for strengthening nationalism in the sense that it makes people able to adore and respect their nation if the country is being attacked by terrorists and it can be proved by the Americans as was attacked by terrorists led to destruction of Twin Tower and hundreds of people's lives. After that attack, now each and every American loves their nation as though it is their own mother or family deity. On the other hand, if a group of people are in minority and whenever there is terrorist attack in the country and if they are blamed, the nation has low self-esteem to those people in one hand and the nation itself is vulnerable to further such attacks. Patriotism and nationalism is also one of the concerns on the nationalism that Patriotism contributes to nationalism. Nationalism is the most powerful ideology, which wins always against liberalism in their clashes.

Conclusion

There are a lot of existing threats that globalization poses towards nationalism. Participation in international organizations and the loss of parts of a state's sovereignty over its own territory, as well as regional integration erode nationalist ideology. The world is becoming more and more interdependent, not only economically, but politically and culturally as well. Because of the rise of formal international associations as of NATO, the European Union, the World Court, the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, and security blocs for every continent leads to the sovereignty in risk that the trend of declining of nationalism is being started. Now international bodies loom large in the domestic affairs of the world's countries. In the Homogeneous, uniformly global world sometimes the ultra-nationalism may lead to the further crisis like in Rwanda and Yugoslavia. More Radicalization of Nationalism is not good in the present context so nationalism in cosmopolitanism of modern intellectual life can flourish side by side with national differences in the intellectual reception of ideas, including ideas about nationalism.

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