

Nation and Nationalism

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Basic Concepts:

- ▶ (Modern) State: a form of political organization; a set of institutions
- ▶ Nation: a imagined human community which shares the same culture, language, history or collective memories among its members; they recognize certain mutual rights and duties to each other in virtue of their shared membership
- ▶ Nation state: the geographical coincidence of nation and state
- ▶ Nationalism: a political principle which holds that the political and the national unit should be congruent.

High Culture and Nationalism

Society	traits	culture
Agricultural society	Immobility and social hierarchy; regional identity; social, economic and political life within local confinement; low density of communication	Low culture: related with local dialects, regional identity, culture and superstitious beliefs; no systematic set of symbols, narratives and discourses; no standardized writing system; like wild culture
Industrial society	Higher mobility and anonymous urban life; expansion of social, economic and political realm; homogeneity; rising density of communication	High culture: standardized linguistic medium with a writing system; coherent, standardized culture scripts and symbols based on shared context; systematic storylines of a certain human community; related with a well-functioned education system; like garden culture

Structural and Cultural Background (2)

- ▶ Social entropy: the development of modern industrial society and the removing of entropy-resistance
- ▶ Inherent character of modern society and the promise of nationalism: homogeneity, egalitarianism and social equality

The Construction of Nation

- ▶ The industrialization gave rise to, and the state sustained a set of high culture on the very bases of universal educational infrastructure and communication system: the rise of nationalism
- ▶ Nationalism, which sees itself as a natural and universal ordering of the political life of mankind and which is ultimately a political and cultural construction, or a myth
- ▶ When nationalism fulfill its prophecy: assimilation of non-nationals
- ▶ When entropy-resistance institutionalized and social inequality persisted, nationalism fails to keep its promise: conflicts, resistance or the transformation of low cultures into new high cultures and the birth of new nations

Typology of Nationalism

	<u>P</u>	<u>~P</u>	
	<u>E</u>	<u>~E</u>	
1	A	A	early industrialism without ethnic catalyst
2	A	B	'Habsburg' (and points east and south) nationalism
	<u>E</u>	<u>E</u>	
3	A	A	mature homogeneous industrialism
4	A	B	classical liberal Western nationalism
	<u>~E</u>	<u>E</u>	
5	A	A	Decembrist revolutionary, but not nationalist situation
6	A	B	diaspora nationalism
	<u>~E</u>	<u>~E</u>	
7	A	A	untypical pre-nationalist situation
8	A	B	typical pre-nationalist situation

Alternative theories of nation and nationalism:

- ▶ Anderson: print capitalism and the construction of imagined community
- ▶ Greenfeld: Nationalism: Five Roads to Modernity

	<i>Civic</i>	<i>Ethnic</i>
<i>Individualistic-libertarian</i>	Type I	Void
<i>Collectivistic-authoritarian</i>	Type II	Type III

Figure 3 Types of nationalism

Summary of state and nation

- ▶ State and nation are constructs of our modern era; they are two historical contingencies of independent origins
- ▶ However, they come into reciprocal movement for each other; the state-making process and the nation-building process become mutual-reinforcing, intertwined and sometimes coupled
- ▶ Nationalism takes state and nation as destined for each other and inseparable from each other, which is largely a modern myth.
- ▶ Nationalism is both a blessing and a curse of our modern era

Chinese case:

- ▶ State-making started from the Warring period
- ▶ Nation-building only after foreign invasion in later 19th century and early 20th century
- ▶ State-making and nation-building process were coupled only since the Republican era and were greatly consolidated in the Socialist era