

List II, MT, SS

Nationalism in Modern Europe (Harrington)



Figure 1 Croatia's First President, Franjo Tudjman, kisses the Croatian flag

Few ideologies have had such a profound impact on human history as nationalism. Throughout the course of the twentieth century, millions of people were mobilised to fight, and ultimately sacrifice their for their nation. Although there was optimism that the significance of nationalism had diminished in the aftermath of the Second World War, the surge of ethnic violence that ensued after the fall of communism starkly underscored that nationalism remained a potent force.

Despite its considerable influence, defining nationalism proves to be a persistent challenge. Its tenets suggest a strong historical foundation, while scholars predominantly argue it is a modern phenomenon. Nevertheless, even within scholarly circles, substantial discord prevails. Some scholars perceive it as an outcome of industrialisation and increased literacy, while others emphasises its continuity with the past.

This module will introduce students to the main concepts and theories in the field of nationalism studies. We will examine important works in the field of nationalism studies, produced by scholars such as Anthony D. Smith, Ernest Gellner, and Benedict Anderson. We will also study a number of key case studies, such as the formation of nation states after First World War, the rise of fascism, and the ethnic conflicts that rocked Europe following the collapse of communism.