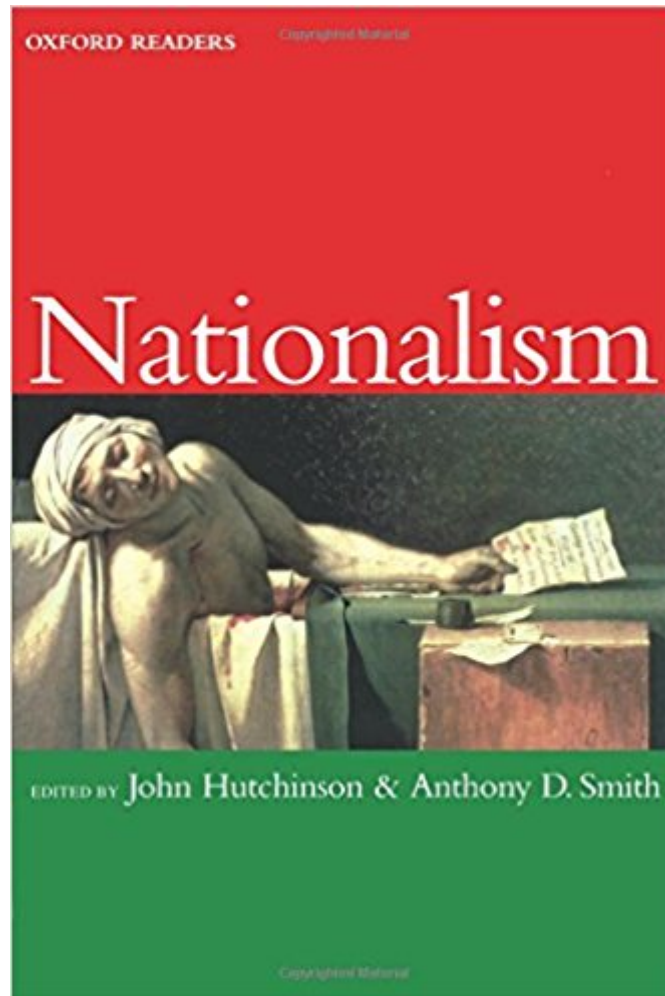




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Nationalism (Oxford Readers)



Synopsis

Achieving prevalence as an ideology in the political and social ferment of late 18th-century Europe and America, nationalism first found expression during the course of such historical upheavals as the American and French Revolutions. Its founders and early sponsors--Rousseau, Herder, Fichte, Korais, and Mazzini--looked to nationalism as the manifestation of modern humanity's most essential aspirations: autonomy, unity, identity. Born of notions regarding popular freedom and sovereignty that had been gathering momentum for generations, it conjured up images of a modernizing West at once hungry for change and yearning for a return to age-old concepts of fraternity and ancient heritage. Since that time nationalism, having taken on countless different dimensions, remains a vital and dynamic force for change--whether for good or otherwise. Despite only recently becoming the subject of scholarly debate, nationalism has been the focus of a truly prodigious amount of writing. This important Oxford Reader makes the topic more accessible by offering a broad, authoritative treatment of the key contributions to the subject, while giving unprecedented depth to recent debates and issues. Edited by two of the field's most influential scholars, the readings are representative of the vast array of experience and scholarship that have shaped the concept of nationalism for over two centuries. From Ernest Renan's *What is a Nation?*, written in the 1880s, to the more current views of the 1990s, *Nationalism* gathers under one cover an impressive array of writing on everything from imagined communities to ethno-regional movements. In no other volume will students of politics, history, sociology, anthropology, international relations, and cultural studies have access to such a definitive appraisal of one of the modern world's most influential--and explosive--ideas.

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Customer Reviews

"The most comprehensive and up-to-date selection of writings on nationalism, including many of the seminal authors. An excellent collection!"--Frank Tachau, University of Illinois at Chicago
"An amazing amount of information is included. This book contains excerpts from the works of some of the best scholars on nationalism. The authors have a diverse set of views, and...have selected the core parts of these writings for inclusion."--Dean McHeiry, Claremont College
"This type of reader is badly needed for courses that take a serious thematic approach to world history."--J. Michael Allen, Brigham Young University
"This is the first reader to be published on the subject of nationalism in many years. It is an invaluable collection of 49 expertly chosen extracts from the key authors in the field....[W]ill become the standard work in courses on nationalism. Its pithy extracts will introduce students to the breadth of the literature in the field..."--Choice
"Excellent collection of articles with good historical coverage and a useful bibliography. I will certainly adopt it."--Oriol Pi-Sunyer, University of Massachusetts at Amherst

For the last two centuries, nationalism has been a central feature of society and politics. Few ideologies can match its power and resonance and no other symbolic language has such worldwide appeal and resilience. However, nationalism is more than an ideological movement – it is also a form of public culture which draws on much older cultural and symbolic forms. This book provides a concise, accessible introduction to the concept of nationalism. It focuses on competing paradigms and theories of nations and nationalism, and analyses the subject in terms of ideology, theory and history. The approach is broadly comparative and interdisciplinary, with concrete examples and a time-scale stretching from the ancient world to the contemporary global age. The book concludes with an assessment of the prospects of nationalism and of the transcendence of nations and nation states. Anthony Smith's book will appeal to all those interested in this dynamic subject, including students and scholars of anthropology, sociology, history, politics and international relations. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Pros: In Depth Explanations
Cons: Mind Bender (Makes you think)
Purchased this book to use as some background information while completing a final degree program in college and found that is

book was very helpful in defining what "Nationalism" really is. There are plenty of historical examples given, which can be cross-referenced. This book was very helpful for more insight into what Nationalism really is while also being an interesting read for those interested in history, sociology, or just like reading.

This is an excellent resource for history students interested in the history of nationalism or the studies of nationalism. With excerpts from famous scholars of nationalism like Kedourie, Anderson, Hobsbawm, and Gellner, readers can see almost every aspect of the definition for "nationalism." Slow read, but this isn't for the easily bored either.

I haven't had a chance to read this book, but even a cursory glance allowed me to see that this is not a reader / anthology as some of the other reviewers suggested it to be. That is, it does NOT contain a collection of originary texts. It is instead a summary of various approaches to and theories of nationalism. It may still be useful to me, but is not what I was expecting at all.

Excellent work.

This book was purchased in the used category, but came in brand new condition. Extremely interesting book that I have digested for school.

The dearness of the book is due to the fact that it an anthology, not necessarily because it comes from a university press. I was looking forward to reading the book to look at the multiplicity of voices that grew out of the increased interest in the subject of nationalism in the post-colonial break up of the European powers. I have read several of these books in the last year as I have become a more interested amateur student in the subject: Nations and Nationalism (New Perspectives on the Past), Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism (New Edition), and Nations and Nationalism since 1780: Programme, Myth, Reality (Canto). However, for whatever reason, I was not able to dig into this book as a potential cover-to-cover reader. I think one of the strengths, the many voices, is a weakness for a casual reader. I borrowed this book from the library, so my personal investment in completing the text is less than one I had bought. That said, I would say that this book is better for one that is writing a paper or taking a class. Although it is intuitively laid out, the work is not a coherent argument like the previously cited texts. I would like to finish reading it, but the due date is approaching and I have

This book is a reader on nationalism that does an excellent summary - perhaps the best summary around - of all the key developments on thought about nationalism. This is a field that has rapidly expanded over the last few decades and thus profits greatly from this work of synthesis and comparative analysis. One of the great things about the book is its inclusion of extracts from the writings of luminaries in the field, from Joseph Stalin and Max Weber to more recent commentators like Eric Hobsbawm and Benedict Anderson. The book is divided into a number of chapters, each with an introduction and a selection of extracts from a number of writers. The chapter headings alone indicate the sheer breadth of the book: 1. The question of definition 2. Theories of nationalism 3. The rise of nations 4. Nationalism in Europe 5. Nationalism outside Europe 6. Nationalism and the international system 7. Beyond nationalism? Students will find this extremely useful as a general survey of the subject. General readers will also be interested in the issues flagged up, which bear immense relevance to contemporary politics, society and culture. A five-star contribution to the field.

This is a reader that covers the various theories of nationalism as well as varieties of nationalism itself. This makes it a largely indispensable supplement, handbook and reference work for anyone interested in nationalism. This is particularly true today as the scholarship on this social phenomenon continues to grow unabated, and since it is patently obvious that nationalism hardly seems about to disappear. The reader contains important extracts from the major works on nationalism by some of the most important early theorists such as Renan, Max Weber and Stalin (although the views of Marx and Engels themselves or Lord Acton and Friedrich Meinecke would have been welcome additions) and almost all of the most important contemporary scholars (Gellner, Anderson, Connor, A. Smith, etc.). The texts are well-selected and organized, and it really contributes to making a very complex subject and a daunting field of scholarship seem a little easier to grasp.

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