

# **Lesson 15 – Nationalism**

# Lesson 15. Nationalism

## Learning Objectives

**After this lesson, students will be able to:**

- Point out various things people of different nationalities like about their respective countries.
- Define what nationalism.
- Justify a stand on a nationalism-related issue.
- Recognize vocabulary from an audio using context clues.
- Differentiate nationalism from patriotism.
- Determine ways to express one's love for his country.
- Identify and correct errors found in sentences.

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1. What do you like most about your country?
2. What do you dislike about it?
3. Watch the video and talk about the things that the people in the video like about their own countries: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i1tEZpOVAz8>



# Lesson 15. Nationalism

## In a nutshell

Nationalism is an ideology by people who believe their nation is superior to all others. This sense of superiority often has its roots in a shared ethnicity.

How does nationalism work? Nationalists demand to be independent of other countries. They don't join global organizations or collaborate with other countries on joint efforts. If the people are part of another nation, then they will want freedom and their own state.

Nationalists' feeling of superiority differentiates their nationalism from patriotism. Patriotism equates to pride in one's country and a willingness to defend it.

***“Nationalism is an infantile disease. It is the measles of mankind.”***

**– Albert Einstein**

**Why is nationalism often referred as a negative idea?**

Source: <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/p/personalfinance.asp#:~:text=Personal%20finance%20is%20a%20term,and%20tax%20and%20estate%20planning.>

# Lesson 15. Nationalism

## Debate: Is Nationalism ever a force for good?

*Dalia Gebrial and Thomas Jeffrey Miley go head to head on this complex and topical issue*

- It requires awareness of how particular struggles for self determination are embedded in concrete constellations of local and global material and social power relations, as well as awareness of how given movements have been historically aligned with or against other emancipatory struggles.
- Movements dismissively branded as “nationalist” are often a response to exclusions by big-nation chauvinists



- The idea that nationalism is a neutral tool, used for good as well as bad, is a fantasy.
- Nationalism is ultimately a dead end for liberation struggle. Why? Because despite contextual differences, the *form* of nationhood entails constructing *who* belongs and *how* they belong on the basis of arbitrary, historical constructions – which are inescapably racialized, classed and gendered.

Source:

<https://newint.org/debate/2018/10/10/nationalism-ever-force-good>

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## Keen Listening

Take notice of the following vocabulary in the audio. Talk about your comprehension of each if you are familiar with them. While listening, jot down notes on how the each vocabulary is defined, used and connected to topic presented.

mythology

dictatorship

racism

genocide

French  
revolution

ethnicity

militarism

hostility

migrants

RSVP

backlash

footnote

dominate

Identify what part of speech each  
vocabulary is.

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Listening (15.2)

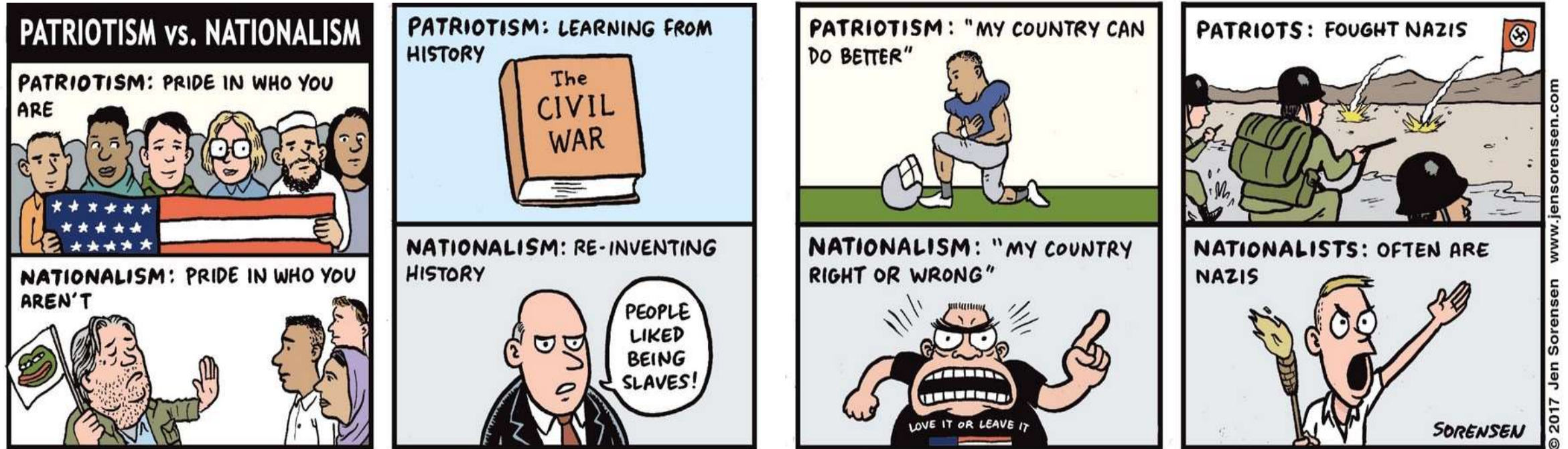
## ***National Identity is Made Up***

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/06/learning/teaching-activities-for-national-identity-is-made-up.html>

1. From where did people get their identities before the concept of a national identity emerged?
2. What three common elements are thought to comprise national identity? What evidence is there that this idea is made up?
3. What four big changes did the modern era bring that led to the creation of nationalities?
4. What positive and negative consequences did these changes have on the world?

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## Patriotism vs Nationalism



Discuss the comic strip with your teacher.  
Why is each slide referred as patriotism and/or nationalism?

Source: <https://wildernessofpeace.wordpress.com/2018/11/12/patriotism-vs-nationalism/>



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## Preview Questions:

1. What is the impact of having a strong sense nationalism among citizens?
2. Is nationalism common among your fellowmen?

## Reading:

It will never be an entirely heartwarming tale – a lot of infant bones went under the machinery of that revolution, for instance – but national pride without the maturity to recognize its violent elements is saccharine. Good nationalism is inclusive not because it constantly thumps on about how inclusive it is, but because it includes, by definition, every man, woman and child who contributed to the achievement.

Good nationalism does not resort to abstract self-asserted values – fairness, tolerance – that any nation could say about itself. It has concrete achievements that it can point to, whether of infrastructure or of living standards, and definable aspirations that it can work towards: green energy or universal lifelong education, say. It is not a creed of exceptionalism – in order to be proud of your sewage system, you don't need France not to have one, and you don't need to have had one first. It does not fear change, since generative political action always makes change. Indeed, that's the point. Good nationalism is not absolute: you do not need to be proud of Oliver Cromwell in order to be proud of Jessica Ennis-Hill.

The classic fissure on the left is whether or not there is any legitimate pride to be taken from the geographical happenstance of where you were born or made your home. I have no problem with a bordered civic identity: our borders describe the limits of our democratic agency. Patriotism is democracy, distilled: satisfaction and solidarity rooted in having created the conditions in which generosity and innovation could thrive. I could admire another country – it's most likely Denmark, let's face it – but I wouldn't take pride in it, except at the generic level of the species.

Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/may/08/nationalism-positive-case-immigration-counter-narrative-nhs>

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That was how I was expecting the panel debate to unfold: can nationalism ever be creative, or is it necessarily destructive? I need to get out more. Eric Kaufmann, professor of politics at Birkbeck, has a forthcoming book, *Whiteshift: Populism, Immigration and the Future of White Majorities*. He argues that what I would call “bad nationalism” – the global surge in rightwing populism – is driven by large-scale immigration, and the threat it poses to the cultural identity of the ethnic majority. Some people fear change; they prefer the monocultural landscape in which they grew up, and visible changes to it threaten their sense of belonging and security. Certain attitudes are, if not hereditary, baked in to the point where they may as well be. He supports this view with plentiful survey data, a favourite nugget being that the way you answer the question, “Would you prefer your children to be well-mannered, or to be considerate?” is a major predictor of whether you’d vote for or against Trump and [Brexit](#).

The question is a proxy for what the cognitive linguist George Lakoff calls the strict father (well-mannered) versus the nurturant family (considerate) model. These frames are the timeless and elemental organizing principles for our political divisions – authoritarian versus pluralist, right versus left – all the way back to Christ the Warrior versus Christ the Savior.

I believe people respond to authoritarian and pluralist arguments according to who’s making them, how trenchantly they are made, and the economic, media and political environment around them. Austerity soil has always been notoriously fertile for authoritarian ideas. Yet Kaufmann dismisses any economic factor, saying that had there been one, 2008 would have seen an upturn in rightwing nationalism, not 2017. My view is that depressions take years, not months, to grind people down.

The fundamental question, though, isn’t about the economics of nationalism, nor about whether a sense of cultural identity with an ethnic element can ever be accommodated, or will always be zero-sum. It is this: “bad nationalism”, the suspicious and anti-immigrant kind, the “hostile environment” kind, the static kind, the kind that, out of nowhere, thinks sovereignty is the burning issue of the day and that building a wall will solve anything, thrives not because the majority secretly thought this all along, but because there is no countervailing narrative of “good nationalism”.

The nation is defined not by its puffed-up declaration of values, nor by its tacit cultural exclusions, but by what it built together and what it seeks to build.

Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/may/08/nationalism-positive-case-immigration-counter-narrative-nhs>

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## ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

1. Why does the author say good nationalism is inclusive?
2. “Good nationalism is not a creed of exceptionalism .” Discuss the example mentioned.
3. What does Eric Kaufmann argue with regards to what the author believes to “bad nationalism”?
4. Why was Trump and Brexit mentioned in the passage?
5. As a conclusion, how was a nation defined by the author?

## VOCABULARY EXERCISE

- |  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| A. unity (as of a group or class) that produces or is based on community of interests, objectives, and standards.                | 1. self-assertion |
| B. is a form of government characterized by the rejection of political plurality   | 2. exceptionalism |
| C. coincidence.  | 3. solidarity     |
| D. vigorously or incisively.   | 4. hereditary     |
| E. is confidence that you have in speaking firmly about your opinions and demanding the rights that you believe you should have. | 5. trenchantly    |
| F. unfriendly; antagonistic.   | 6. happenstance   |
| G. sternness or severity of manner or attitude.  | 7. hostile        |
| H. of, relating to, being, or involving conscious intellectual activity (such as thinking, reasoning, or remembering)            | 8. saccharine     |
| I. the condition of being different from the norm also   | 9. austerity      |
| J. of characteristics or diseases) passed from the genes of a parent to a child  | 10. notoriously   |
| K. used to emphasize that a quality or fact, typically a bad one, is well known.   | 11. authoritarian |
| L. excessively sweet or sentimental.   | 12. cognitive     |

# Lesson 15. Nationalism

## How to Love Your Country

What are other simple ways to express your love for you country?



**Be an active citizen**



**Study the history of your country**



**Focus on current event**



**Read stories, tall tales, and patriotic legends**



**Have a hero**



**Wear patriotic colors**



**Fly a flag**



**Celebrate national holidays**

Source: [https://myplace.frontier.com/~maripaul/Love\\_your\\_country.htm](https://myplace.frontier.com/~maripaul/Love_your_country.htm)

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Identify the errors in each sentence and modify to make it correct.

1. Nationalism rightly understood means that no nation is an island, and that in the long run the wellbeing of ones nation cannot be decoupled from the fate of others  
A B C D
2. A nation is a community, united by sentiments of loyalty and mutual concern, that share a cultural heritage and belief in a common destiny.  
A B C D
3. It is possible to be a nationalist without belief that every nation has a right to political independence, but it isn't easy.  
A B C D
4. I tried to watch a TV show about physics last night, but I gave up. It was all Greece to me.  
A B C D
5. Sally said she wouldn't let a man pay for her meal at a first date. She prefers to go Dutch.  
A B C D

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6. Human rights defenders do not have more rights than other people but, as with journalists and media workers or lawyers, those holding power often aim on silencing them.

A

B

C

D

7. Having a great passion or love for your country can help you learn about your nation's history and become a best member of your national community.

A

B

C

D

8. Showing your patriotism to the National Anthem is important because most contain words that vividly describe a historical event in the country's past.

A

B

C

D

9. Joining the military is too important that, in some countries, like South Korea, the mandatory conscription may even lead to pro-military voting habits as an adult.

A

B

C

D

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1. Is it possible to define patriotism broadly enough to include protest and criticism?
2. Does patriotism require the belief that one's country is the greatest on earth?
3. Do the sacrifices of soldiers demand allegiance to the nation they have served?
4. Who are the modern heroes in your opinion?
5. Can patriotism be expressed outside the easily recognizable, public contexts?
6. How do we know when nationalism becomes an unhealthy idolatry of country?
7. What do you think is the most important political issue in your country at the moment?
8. People sometimes say, "If you don't vote, you have no right to complain about a government." What do you think?
9. George Orwell wrote a famous essay claiming that nationalism was the belief that your country was superior to others while patriotism was the expression of love for your country. Do you agree that there is a difference?

**The End**