

ANTH/SOCI 398-B, (De)Globalization & the Nation
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Reading Questions for Session 13

Ramesh Ponnuru and Rich Lowry, “For Love of Country”

1. How does the figure of Trump fit in with explanations of the failure of “global culture” to take hold?
2. On what grounds do the authors defend nationalism?
3. How is nationalism a problem for certain sectors of American conservatism?
4. According to the authors, why is it wrong to blame the world wars on nationalism?
5. Do you agree with the authors who classify Reagan and Thatcher as democratic “nationalists”?
6. Is “benign nationalism” similar to what A.D. Smith described of *all* nationalisms? Does it need to be “benign” to have those traits?
7. What would you note as being the valid points made by the authors about nationalism?
8. Is it *the nation* or *the state* that makes democracy possible? Do the authors confuse citizenship with nationalism?
9. What do these conservative authors think about the liberal world order?
10. How do the authors turn nationalism into a subject of left vs. right, liberal vs. conservative? Is their analysis consistent?
11. How do they evaluate Trump’s nationalism?
12. What is “enlightened nationalism”?

Andreas Wimmer, “Why Nationalism Works, And Why It Isn’t Going Away”

1. What is the difference between *patriotism* and *nationalism*? Is there any? Does it make sense to pull these two apart?
2. What is the difference between “civic nationalism” and “ethnic nationalism”?
3. How many different kinds of nationalism are there in this article?
4. How does the author defend nationalism?
5. What have been the benefits of nationalism, according to this author?
6. Note the author’s denigration of Syrian nationalism by misrepresenting the government as an ethnic dictatorship.
7. How does the author explain the alleged attraction of the US white working class to nationalism?
8. How does the author think nationalism should be made more “inclusive” and “benign”?
9. What evidence is there from this, and the previous article, that elements of the US political right are looking for ways to appropriate, tame, and redirect nationalism? Do these authors seem secure and content with nationalism?

Samuel Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations?"

1. What is Huntington's view about the importance of "culture" in the contemporary and coming world?
2. Huntington sees the world after the Cold War as a fundamentally different one. How does he describe it?
3. How is "civilization" defined in this article?
4. How many civilizations are there (according to Huntington)? How are they identified?
5. Why will civilizations clash? (Hint: six major reasons).
6. How is the West using international institutions, and to what ends?
7. Do you think that Huntington's thesis has been validated, and is it largely correct? If not, what are the substantial flaws in his thesis?
8. How much of what Huntington describes could in fact turn out to be a self-fulfilled prophecy?
9. How does Huntington's approach to "civilization" parallel or reflect the above authors' defenses of nationalism?