

# Who Are We The Challenges To America S National Identity

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national identity has been the subject of much controversy and debate some have even suggested

dropping the concept entirely one group essentialists argue that national identity is fixed cultural based on birth and ancestry another viewpoint is posited by postmodernists who argue that national identity is malleable invented or imagined as alternatives some have suggested that national identity is a hybrid of both essentialist and postmodernist views and still others bypass this argument and suggest that national identity should be based on civic factors such as shared values and norms about citizenship while controversy and debate are healthy exercises in any science at some point order must be established if science is to proceed the present volume is based on the idea that national identity is an ideal type concept it does not completely capture reality but is used for analytic purposes in addition rather than focusing on these theoretical debates we pursue research with the idea that results from research will contribute to the field of national identity three areas of national identity are discussed theoretical national and individual two chapters focus on the major theories about national identity provide critiques and make suggestions about the topic in section two six chapters provide case studies of national identity on scotland ireland russia bosnia herzegovina germany and france in section three two case studies focus on immigrants and the challenges they face in forming their identities especially identifying with their host countries belgium and the united kingdom several important conclusions may be gleaned from the contributions of the present volume to begin with while national identity is a slippery concept if the field wishes to move beyond debate about fundamentals it would be well advised to view the concept as an ideal type as suggested by the great german scholar max weber secondly the case studies included in the present volume indicate that national identity is not only based on ethnicity and culture but on such external factors as governance regimes and their changes economic crises wars and other forms of aggressive activity and social demographic changes in a population these factors affect a population at the national level for immigrants at the individual level developing national identity is greatly affected by four interrelated factors 1 the degree to which they are accepted by members of the host society 2 immigrants language skills and physical appearances 3 how well they are able to balance their host national identity their ethnic identity and acceptance of their native country 4 and their generational status generally at the national and individual levels context and circumstances matter in developing national identity

how to define a chinese national identity remains as hotly contested a question among today s chinese citizens as it has been among foreign observers this volume brings together ten new essays by an interdisciplinary group of leading sinologists and offers a comprehensive framework for understanding the nature of chinese national identity in past and contemporary settings

national identity is often cited as a contributing factor to many of the world s worst trouble spots for example the troubles in israel afghanistan and bangladesh this book addresses the issue of

how national identity differs from racial ethnic and regional identity

this book examines post secession and post transition state building in somaliland somalia south sudan and sudan it explores two intimately linked yet analytically distinct themes state building and national identity reconstruction following secession and collapse in somaliland and south sudan rearranging the state requires a complete metamorphosis of state institutions so that they respond to the needs and interests of the people in sudan and somalia the reconfiguration of the remains of the state must address a new reality and demands on the ground all four cases examined although highly variable involve conflict conflict defines the scope depth and momentum of the state building and state reconstruction process it also determines the contours and parameters of the projects to reconstitute national identity and rebuild a nation addressing the contested identity formation and its direct relation to state building would therefore go a long way in mitigating conflicts and state crisis

what is national identity what are the main challenges posed to national identity by the strengthening of regional identities and the growth of cultural diversity how is right wing nationalism connected to the desire to preserve a traditional image of national identity can we forge a new kind of national identity that responds to the challenges of globalization and other deep seated changes in this important new book montserrat guibernau answers these and other compelling questions about the future of national identity for guibernau the nation states traditional project to unify its otherwise diverse population by generating a shared sense of national identity among them was always contested and was accomplished with various degrees of success in europe and north america such processes involved the cultural and linguistic homogenization of an otherwise diverse citizenry and were pursued by different means according to the specific contexts within which they were applied at present the impact of strong structural socio political and economic transformations has resulted in greater challenges being posed to the idea that all citizens of a state should share a homogeneous national identity diversity is increasing and plans for further european integration contain the potential to generate significant tensions casting greater doubt on the classical concept of national identity as a result we are faced with a set of new dilemmas concerning the way in which national identity is constructed and defined the book offers a theoretical as well as a comparative approach with case studies involving austria britain canada and spain as well as the european union and the united states of america the identity of nations will be essential reading for advanced students and professional scholars in sociology politics and international relations

what is national identity can we forge a new kind of national identity that responds to the challenges of globalization and other deep seated changes montserrat guibernau answers these and other compelling questions about the future of national identity

over the course of the 20th century there have been three primary narratives of american national identity the melting pot anglo protestantism and cultural pluralism multi culturalism this book offers a social and historical perspective on what shaped each of these imaginings when each came to the fore and which appear especially relevant early in the 21st century these issues are addressed by looking at the united states and elite notions of the meaning of america across the 20th century centering on the work of horace kallen nathan glazer and daniel patrick moynihan and samuel p huntington four structural areas are examined in each period the economy involvement in foreign affairs social movements and immigration what emerges is a narrative arc whereby immigration plays a clear and crucial role in shaping cultural stories of national identity as written by elite scholars these stories are represented in writings throughout all three periods and in such work we see the intellectual development and specification of the dominant narratives along with challenges to each important conclusions include a keen reminder that identities are often formed along borders both external and internal that structure and culture operate dialectically and that national identity is hardly a monolithic static formation

investigates the concept of national identity based on twenty years of empirical evidence

policies intended to bring stability to fragile states tend to focus almost exclusively on building institutions and systems to get governance right simply building the state is often seen as sufficient for making it stable and legitimate but policies like these rené grotenhuis shows in this book ignore the question of what makes people belong to a nation state arguing that issues of identity culture and religion are crucial to creating the sense of belonging and social cohesion that a stable nation state requires

nationalism national identity and movements begins by presenting an examination of how forced migratory movements although seeming to question traditional national principles of the sovereign state as well as undermining or even eroding nationalist value systems ended up strengthening the power of the nation states during the period after the second world war in particular it will investigate how different waves of refugees contributed to the consolidation of one specific type of nationalism the ethnic one next the authors analyse the role of national narratives in the development of national identity this interdisciplinary approach offers a more complete and analytical understanding of how narratives of national identity are produced transmitted and finally consumed by the members of a nation also in this book detailed theoretical rationale for the relationships between identification and threat perceptions is presented exploring the issues related to causal direction and links to attitudes toward immigrants and immigration policies although having a national identity on its own is not troubling possessing an inflated sense of national identity referred to as national group narcissism may lead to biased perceptions of intergroup relations following this the authors describe three different types of artworks and the identities associated with each artist in order

to reveal the complex process through which korean identity is formed this research identifies the first type of artist as one who left south korea as an adult in order to be deterritorialized from the given territory and the individual s koreanness has been one rediscovered by dialectical play with the other usage of the colonial discourse is proposed as a way to represent social relationships providing additional opportunities for the analysis of the political situation in russia thus the work of contemporary intellectuals who identify themselves as russian nationalists is analyzed conclusions are made regarding the fundamental conflictual nature of intellectuals the construction of a unified mexican national identity is depicted in the concluding chapter in a territory originally divided by adversarial ethnic groups into one nation glued by a common language and history the authors conclude that nationalism in mexico must be understood within educational historical and contextual influences to assess costs and benefits

the handbook of scottish politics provides a detailed overview of politics in scotland looking at areas such as elections and electoral behaviour public policy political parties and scotland s relationship with the eu and the wider world the contributors to this volume are some of the leading experts on politics in scotland

papers contributed to a seminar on held in new delhi dec 1996

sport and physical activity represent fundamental aspects in shaping healthy dynamic and cohesive societies sport is not only a recreational activity but a vital element that influences health education social inclusion and local development this interest is reflected in various policies and programs that seek to encourage greater participation and equitable access to sports and physical activity the proposed research topic aims to address the complex interaction between sports practice physical activity active living walking mobility and the barriers and factors that influence people to be active this multifaceted topic becomes crucial for understanding how social structures urban design personal motivation and policy interventions can facilitate or impede active lifestyles this has highlighted the importance of designing cities that support active living however despite this knowledge there is still a substantial gap in knowledge about the specific barriers that dissuade people from participating in sports and physical activity

discussions about fundamental historical events of the past century have invaded the public domain public opinion and policy makers ask framers of the public image of the past to provide guidance reassurance and legitimisation increasing social heterogeneity and cultural difference force us to revise our traditional concepts of culture and examine the public social and pedagogical implications of multiculturalism in an explicitly comparative perspective this book explores how history has been used to support or oppose the political orders of our century as well as its great themes and how historians have dealt with issues of scholarly objectivity

personal beliefs and public commitment

concentrating on gender and cultural memory this study investigates the ways in which masculinities and the web of power relations that they entail worked during the interwar years in order to reconstruct the post first world war british society it focuses especially on notions of national identity class and sexuality and their representations in british visual culture in the aftermath of the great war

national identity plays an increasingly important role in western liberal democracies thus immigration and diversity are often considered a threat to national identities and restrictions on immigration and nation building policies are being implemented in response specifically it has been suggested that diversity drives down social cohesion and thus the ties that bind people together in stable democratic welfare states national identity and social cohesion considers the role of national identity in contemporary societies and in particular its significance for social cohesion national identity impacts perceptions of belongingness which again impact considerations of deservingness perceptions of deservingness in turn play an important role for solidarity within the framework of a welfare state furthermore immigration and the associated questions of belongingness have been a driver in processes of political polarization in some cases political leaders frame minorities as a threat to the nation state warranting a departure from liberal democratic institutions this book considers questions such as what role does national identity more precisely play for political polarization do national identities mediate moderate the impact of diversity on social cohesion including trust and solidarity has identity politics contributed to a politics of resentment and can more inclusive national identities serve to diminish polarization in the book these and other questions about the relation between national identity belonging and social cohesion are considered by a number of prominent scholars in the field

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