



# Discussing the ramifications of the global increase of **nationalism**

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**Forum:** Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

**Issue:** Discussing the ramifications of the global increase of nationalism

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## Introduction

Nationalism is both universal and elusive as it pervades the international system, nations, and human behaviour and poses a danger to the current state of affairs by acting both conservatively and revolutionarily. Rising nationalism has been observed in everything and everywhere during the past several years. From Donald Trump's election to Brexit, the nationalist stances of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, as well as the success of far-right parties in Italian, German, and Austrian elections in 2017 and 2018, and 2022 nationalism appears to be on the rise globally (Bremmer, 2017; Economist, 2016; Economist, 2017b). In many of the said cases, the ramifications of nationalism can not only be observed on personal political ideological bases but also in the ideologies of authoritarian and democratic governments. In order to be able to tackle the ramifications of nationalism, it's important to be able to comprehend and identify where and why it was born and how it evolved to what it is today, most importantly, what the trigger for that was. Case studies on real-life examples of the ramifications of nationalism are also highly important to observe, considering they set an example of what may cause a wave of radical nationalism or what may be caused by one. Nationalism, whether it's left or right wing, has consequences such as microaggressions, racism and hate crimes, and conflict bringing stability. This committee will be studying the ramifications of nationalism in all aspects.



## Definition of Key Terms

### **Nationalism**

“loyalty and devotion to a nation *especially* : a sense of national consciousness exalting one nation above all others and placing primary emphasis on promotion of its culture and interests as opposed to those of other nations or supranational groups” (Merriam Webster)

### **Patriotism**

“ love for or devotion to one's country” (Merriam Webster)

There is some overlap between the phrases patriotism and nationalism, with patriotism being defined as "love for or dedication to one's country" and nationalism being defined as "loyalty and commitment to a nation" in part. However, "exalting one nation above all others and placing a major focus on the promotion of its culture and interests as opposed to those of other nations or supranational groupings" is also included in the definition of nationalism. Patriotism does not have the same restrictive characteristics.

### **Ramification**

An unwanted consequence of an action. In this case, the unwanted and unwelcome consequences of globally rising nationalism will be discussed.

## General Overview

Nationalism's negative consequences include conflict, microaggressions and unfortunately even more commonly hate crimes, constant conflict, abolition of rights and rising racism and xenophobia. The reemergence of nationalism which has been fueled by heads of state and political leaders, such as Presidents Trump, Bolsonaro, Orban, and Erdogan has caused events that have had the greatest impact on Europe, during which nationalism has also had their worst effects, as seen by the two world wars and the most recent conflict in the former Yugoslavia. Due to its exclusionary nature, nationalism will always in some way result in someone's exclusion from a community leading



to marginalisation which is a concept cosmopolitanism and the developing modern world has been trying to avoid.

The French Revolution marked the beginning of modern nationalism. The pinnacle of this emerging French nationalism was the terror and Napoleonic empire. In Germany and throughout Europe, counter-reactionary nationalism rose as a result of Napoleon's nationalist imperialism. In their hate of the French invaders, Germans, Russians, Austrians, and other countries came to understand their own national identity and the value of their own cultures. Following that, nationalism erupted across the 19th and 20th centuries as a celebration of countries based on a shared historical experience, national culture, and language. Nationalism was specialised. Instead of the common humanity of Christianity, as it had been understood in the Holy Roman Empire, the Catholic Church, or even in the Enlightenment, it was populist and exclusionary while praising distinctions. The nation-state was the foundation of nationalism. The people who were represented by and in the name of the nation-state were the ones who were free and sovereign, not the people themselves. In the end, the state, not the people, held sovereignty. The state was not of, by, or for the people; it was above them.

Though in its primary rise nationalism did promote concepts which were necessary for the conservation of cultures during severe war periods and colonial invasions, in the modern and rapidly globalising world nationalism solely plays a grand role in holding countries back from cosmopolitanism and unity which are the concepts many nations have been striving towards achieving. Though the preservation of cultural values is still of vast importance, the exclusionary nature of nationalism makes it more about limiting the rights of those who are still citizens but don't necessarily share the same values. Minorities being held back from attending certain institutions and being withheld of certain rights are only a few of the many issues that have been brought upon them with modern-day nationalism, many of which include much more violent actions such as hate crimes.

Despite extremism mostly being associated with religious movements, some are based upon nationalistic principles. An example of such would be the PKK which was founded as the Kurdistan Workers Party but started reorienting its objectives in the 1990s away from outright independence and toward achieving autonomy and equitable treatment inside Türkiye. A large number of nations, including those that are a part of the European Union and others like the United States, Canada, and Australia, include the PKK on their list of terrorist organisations. In 2004, the European Union likewise recognized the PKK as a terrorist organisation. NATO labels the PKK as a terrorist organisation. More than 40 thousand people have died as a result of PKK terrorism since its founding in 1984. The PKK's philosophy is based on separatist ethnonationalism and revolutionary Marxism-Leninism. PKK seeks

to scare the local populace while stifling the variety of Turkey, preventing Kurdish-born Turks from participating in society and integrating.

## Timeline of Key Events

Events such as militias and extremist movement manifestations are the main events highlighting the actual consequences of nationalism on the rise. Nationalism may also increase due to regime changes, uprising wars and the concern for social and common values.

Date	Event
1775	The American Revolution
1787	The French Revolution
1848	Revolutions 1848
1930s	Rise of fascism in Europe
1990s	Former Yugoslavian cleansing and conflicts
1990s	Creation of the PKK

## Major Parties Involved

### Italy

During the 2022 general elections, the Brothers of Italy (Fratelli d'Italia, FdI) won the absolute majority of the seats in the Italian parliament. The current prime minister of Italy is Giorgia Meloni who has also led the FDI since 2014. The FDI may be traced back to the neo-fascist movement that continued Benito Mussolini's legacy after World War II. Foreign policy differences between the FdI and other conservative parties are unlikely, according to Valerio Alfonso Bruno of the Centre for the Analysis of the Radical Right, a British watchdog. However, it has very corporatist and protectionist views when it comes to economic policy. A large range of industries, including airports and railroads, are supported for nationalisation. It also emphasises small business protection rather than promoting larger ones. But the Brothers' philosophy may be most powerfully seen in domestic and social policies.

According to Francesco Giubilei, Ms Meloni's biographer, a change was made when the FDI joined the hard-but-not-far-right European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR) party in the European Parliament. According to him, the party adopted "a Latin template for conservatism, featuring a deeper connection to the welfare state than in English-speaking cultures." Populist-nationalist parties like Hungary's Fidesz are now frequently known for taking such a statist stance. The ECR features hard-right members like Spain's Vox party in addition to some Christian Democrats. The FDI's web booklet shows its fervent nativist position and includes a picture of young white individuals draped in the Italian flag. It is opposed to awarding citizenship to children of immigrants born in Italy. It seeks a naval blockade to discourage unauthorised immigration and a significant increase in child support to boost Italy's extremely low birth rate. The existence of "a more confined part that stays true to its roots in the [defunct, neo-fascist] Italian Social Cause (msi)" is concealed, in Mr Bruno's opinion, by Ms Meloni's desire to offer her movement a broader appeal. The three-colour flame symbol from the msi is still used by the FDI. Why would a moderate party want to have it in its emblem, Mr Bruno wonders. Europe could soon learn.

## Türkiye

Every aspect of Turkish society became more nationalistic as a result of the occupation of Türkiye following World War I. A nationwide resistance movement against the occupation was established by the Turks. The "National Freedom War" and the "National Powers" were the names given to the conflict in Türkiye. The previous Ottoman Parliament declared a "National Oath" to rescue the vast majority of Turkish-populated lands. The "Grand Turkish National Assembly" was eventually established and given that name. The national Turkish State was created as a result of all these patriotic movements. Fostering many minorities such as the Kurds, Syrian, Armenians and Greeks, Türkiye's nationalistic attitude towards the said groups not only marginalises them but also influences the Turkish nationalist citizens to commit a vast amount of hate crimes targeting them.

In terms of Turkish racism and Turkish-Kurdish relations, 2005 marked a turning point. In that year, rallies to "respect the flag" were held throughout Türkiye in the wake of the flag-provocation incident in Mersin, which was carried out by Turkish deep-state troops. These protests galvanised tens of thousands of Turks behind anti-Kurdish emotions, and ever since then, there have been many more racial mob assaults against Kurds in Türkiye.

## Iran

Dating to the early 20th century, Iranian nationalism first began as a secularist movement which had aimed to diminish Islam's effect on Iran. The majority of Iranian land being under tribal rule was a serious issue for Tehran following the First World War because of the necessity to

safeguard borders, where Iran shared cross-cutting identities with neighbouring nations, and in the face of a waning central government. Tribal identities were portrayed throughout this process as being opposed to national unity and turned into the internal other of Iranian national identity. Arabs and Turks, who were seen as contributing to the nation's backwardness, were given special consideration while drawing the exterior borders. In comparison to Persian, their languages and dialects were portrayed as being inferior, archaic, and foreign. The "tribal issue" was seen by Iranian nationalists as a major obstacle to Iran's progress. After the Islamic revolution in 1979, regular nationalism lost popularity due to its secular ideologies and left its place to religious nationalism.

### China

Chinese nationalists, who are indoctrinated from an early age to hate Japan for invading China in the 1930s and 1940s and the crimes it carried out, frequently target the country with their nationalism. But there are numerous targets, including Japan. The nationalists despise China's pro-Western population as well as all of America's allies. They seldom limit their hatred the way liberal opinion is frequently forced to. Nationalists who have millions of followers on social media are among China's largest internet superstars. Online mobs develop rapidly and fight ferocious rhetorical campaigns against "traitors," "spies," and "secondary demons", referring to the Chinese who support the West, utilising microblogs, brief films, and contacts apps. Chinese media is also a source of nationalistic propaganda and is owned by the Chinese government.

### United States of America

Americans have been adopting a more isolationist foreign policy over the past several years. The Trump administration implemented steel and aluminium tariffs in 2018, with the support of the majority of Republicans, to defend certain sectors of the American economy. Although it was anticipated that this policy would protect employment in the steel and aluminium industries, it was also anticipated that it would have a detrimental effect on other industries across all states. Although 58 per cent of Americans predict they will be unsatisfied with the level of immigration to the U.S. in 2022, 75 per cent believe that immigration is good for the nation. Immigration has also had a big influence on the growth of nationalism in the United States. Despite the fact that illegal immigration to the United States is on the decline and the number of naturalizations has remained stable, immigration policy has turned into a highly politicised issue. Extremism and hate organisations have increased along with nationalism in the United States. In 2021, there are projected to be 733 hate organisations countrywide, a huge rise from 1999, when 457 hate groups were identified on a national level. Additionally, since 2014, the number of murders linked to domestic extremism has varied, peaking at 78 in 2016. Right-wing extremists commit the great majority of homicides

attributed to extremism in the United States, with white supremacists accounting for 45% of the murderers in 2021. (statistics by Statista, September 2022)

## Possible Solutions

Ensuring the safety of those subjected to hate crimes and aggressions promoted by the nationalist should be the top priority while tackling the ramifications of nationalism. Creating an organisation which would work in collaboration with UNHRC to ensure the rights of the minorities who have been excluded from primary rights by nationalist regimes would be able to lighten the weight of the radical actions taken; however with many citizens of the said countries being influenced and “manipulated” by the media (which in many cases of these countries is regulated by the government), the said organisation might not be able to tackle the issue as well as expected and no satisfactory result may be achieved. These organisations may also not be able to function properly in countries like the USA whose citizens don’t necessarily support many organisations due to the lack of collaboration of the citizens which is a key aspect of the organisation's success in its mission.

One possible solution to the issue would involve urging for the privatisation of media so it to not enforce nationalistic propaganda. In countries where the media is owned and controlled by the government such as Russia and China where journalists are monetarily punished for not covering certain topics as the government wishes them to, the media plays a great role in the spread of nationalistic propaganda. Censorship is also correlated to the government's possession of the media and prevents outside information from being projected onto the citizens of the country. As can be seen in the current case of Iran; censorship, even if not as severe in the said case, is a powerful tool to prevent citizens from utilising outside sources and being influenced by them to play out acts that the government discourages. In countries such as Türkiye where censorship leads to penalties such as jail time for journalists; nationalism is correlational higher since the citizens only have access to such media, despite the media not being wholly owned by the government. While a legal framework or legislature would be able to tackle this problem, it's important to remember that not only authoritarian and nationalism-driven governments impose censorship on media but so do democratic ones. It's necessary to identify what is qualified as propaganda and what qualifies as censorship for the wellbeing of citizens (does the censorship of hate speech online qualifies as censorship for the wellbeing of citizens for instance?). Once this is identified the said legal framework regarding limitations on censorship may be put through though the government's control over the media may not necessarily be seized since stopping a sovereign government from





doing so would be interfering with their national sovereignty. Violations of the freedom of speech and the UDHR in cases such as Türkiye may be addressed which could potentially strengthen the argument and avoid a breach of national sovereignty.

Nationalistic propaganda in schools also is a very powerful and dangerous tool which is also being used by many nations in our current day to raise generations in accord with nationalistic ideologies authoritarian governments endeavour to attain. Limiting such propaganda in the school curriculums would not only stop the younger generations from falling in the footsteps of those who promote and support nationalism and would also prevent them from being conditioned to the propaganda. A legislature or framework regarding limitations of propaganda qualified (which would have to be specified and elaborated on) content being taught or discussed in school, which would set the tone for what is and what isn't acceptable in the school curriculum, therefore restricting nationalistic ideologizes being enforced on younger generations. As with the previous solution, the line between the breach of national sovereignty of the governments whose school curriculums are being amended and a simple legislature is quite thin so the solutions regarding this must be very detailed and elaborative in order not to cross it.

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