



Nations and Nationalism [4 volumes]: A Global Historical Overview

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Editorial Review

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Diverting from past nationalism resources, editors Herb (Middlebury College) and Kaplan (Kent State University) have organized this set by time period. Volume 1 covers 1770–1880; volume 2, 1880–1945; volume 3, 1945–1989; and volume 4, 1989–present. Each volume provides period-relevant thematic and country essays. This type of chronological arrangement works well for the most part, although (as the editors advise) there is overlap between volumes. Thematic essays average 6,000 words and outline different aspects of nationalism, including cultural, economic, ideological, and social perspectives. Examples of essay titles include “The Class Nature of Nationalism,” “Education and Nationalism,” “Nationalism and Music,” and “Terrorism and Nationalism.” Grouped by region, country essays are shorter, about 4,000 words. Not only are established countries such as Angola, Brazil, Egypt, France, Pakistan, and Russia included but there are also entries for other geographic designations such as Arab nationalism, Basque Country, and European Union. Altogether, there are 42 thematic and 104 country essays. A strong feature of this resource is its adherence to form. Thematic essays have five sections: “Relevance,” “Origins,” “Dimensions,” “Consequences,” and “Selected Bibliography.” Country essays also follow a standard format. Both thematic and country essays include black-and-white illustrations. Country essays also include maps and feature sidebars. For example, the country essay on Eritrea has two sidebars—one on the activist and politician Ibrahim Sultan and the other on Eritrean women. Each volume includes a separate introduction, a cumulative index (main entries in bold), a cumulative list of contributors, and a table of contents. A cumulative table of contents for each volume would probably be an improvement. Louis L. Snyder’s *Encyclopedia of Nationalism* (1990) has more but shorter entries. Alexander J. Motyl’s two-volume *Encyclopedia of Nationalism* (2001) has long overview essays (30-plus pages) in volume 1 and more than 500 entries on people, places, events, and concepts in volume 2. With its chronological as well as nation-by-nation approach, this new set should be a useful addition for academic and large public libraries. Also available as an e-book. --Stephen Fadel

Review

"With its chronological as well as nation-by-nation approach, this new set should be a useful addition for academic and large public libraries." - **Booklist**

"The weighty four-volume set *Nations and Nationalism* is a top pick for both high school and college-level libraries, offering a survey of the entire time period of modern nationalism from its 18th century origins to post-Cold War manifestations." - **Midwest Book Review**

"Highly recommended. Lower-division undergraduates and above; general readers." - **Choice**

"Geographers Guntram Herb (Middlebury College) and David Kaplan (Kent State) have made a valuable contribution with this distinctive work that admirably fulfills its objective of identifying 'major historical eras in the development of nations and nationalism' and examining 'characteristic themes and representative cases' thereof(xi)... In sum, this is an impressive and noteworthy work, also available in electronic format, which should prove a welcome addition to academic collections in political science, appealing to undergraduate and graduate students alike. It is suitable for reference collections, but because each volume can stand on its own, it could circulate as well." - **Reference & User Services Quarterly**

"The chronologies are especially useful. This is a unique tool that would be welcome in world history and

global studies programs. The most current of the volumes, 1989 to Present, would be helpful in understanding complicated, current international events. No other reference set covers this ground. Highly recommended.' " - **Pennsylvania School Librarians Association**

About the Author

Guntram H. Herb, Ph.D., is associate professor of geography at Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT.

David H. Kaplan, Ph.D., is professor of geography at Kent State University, Kent, OH, and is editor of *National Identities*.

Users Review

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