

Seminar week 11

Week 10- Lecture 10

Empires and sovereign states

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What was the Concert of Europe and why was it important?

What are nation states? How did they come into being in Europe?

How did the world move from empires to nation-states?

State is seen as making the nation more so than vice versa

“The state makes war and war makes the state”- Tilly

What is Tilly’s theory of the nation?

“War actually civilianizes the state”- What did Tilly mean by this?

“Modern institutions like citizenship are only possible in a capitalist economy where the relationship between worker and elite is governed by money/markets not violence”?

“The mass nationalism associated with total mobilization made it difficult to compromise (during WW2). Aldous Huxley argues that conservative foreign policy professionals would have engineered some sort of compromise peace 50 years before .” Do you agree?

Where does nationalism come from? Some other conceptions of the nation...

Primordialism: Cultural Naturalism

This interpretation goes on to say that nations as natural creations are the fruit of the historical and gender-blood relation of the humans themselves, and that their origin is in the very creation of the world, when a particular blood-related group of people begins to form separate clans, that is, hordes, which later spread naturally, turn into tribes, and eventually into separate biological genetic groups known as nations. Finally, the primordial understanding of the nation continues with theories and ideas that, when to the created as such, unified genetic groups, would be added attributes, such as their own particular language, culture, traditions, territory, and even religion, a modern nation will be created.

As an anthropologist, Clifford Gertz perceives nations as cultural, or ethnic, creations. (Also see A Smith if interested in this topic).

Perennialism: Nations have always existed, and are not a modern development. Some nations are more permanent (Greeks, Persians), others are repetitive and cyclic, and disappear and reappear. Have common destinies, culture and language formed from historical processes (not racial or tribal).

Modernism: The socio-economic way of interpreting nations has interpreted nations as the product of capitalism and the industrial revolution. Nations and nationalism are invented as a response to imperialism and colonialism. Contemporary modernists point out that the formation of nations is the result of the development of industrial production and the migration of the population from rural to urban areas. In this way, the linguistic link between the population itself is strengthened, and with the introduction of a centralized education system in the states for greater economic development, the nations are created. Thus, modernists consider the nation as a functional community whose only link is language and economic and industrial development. (For further interest see Anderson, Gellner, Hobsbawn)

Group exercise...

What are failed states?

The **Eurocentric big bang theory** presumes that in the first step Europe single-handedly broke through into modernity before in the second step it expanded outwards initially through proto-globalization between 1492 and c.1945 and subsequently through thick globalization after 1945. (Hobson in International Relations from the Global South)

The chapter explains the task of inverting the big bang trope by advancing the proposition that non-Western-led globalization preceded Western-led globalization.

Next Week: The Cold War....

Presentation: "My Favourite Cold War war"