

NATIONALISM: THE ECLIPTICAL THEORY OF NATIONALISM.

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ABSTRACT

Nationalism is a universal political phenomenon. People are guided by a forceful spirit of nationalism usually in the pre-independence and post-independence period. Even today people are still guided by the spirit of nationalism. Nationalism plays a vital role in molding a cohesive society for better socio-economic and political nation. It is the spirit of freedom, spirit of hope and spirit of vision that keeps on burning with emotional and rational integrity, hoping for better future. But this spirit of Nationalism is a fluid it depend upon the nature environment and circumstances that people are facing or going through such circumstances result to decrease or increase degree of Nationalism. This swing of Nationalism is 'Ecliptical Nationalism'.

KEY WORDS : NATIONALISM IS DYNAMIC.

Introduction

Nationalism is a part of political system that imbibes human being in the society. It is the political belief that some group of people represents a natural community which should live under one political system be independent of others, and often has the right to demand and equal standing in the world order with other.

The term "Nation" emerged only in the middle ages. But nationalism, the love of our country in the traditional sense can be traced back to ancient times. Due to the impacts of science and technology "Nationalism" has grow and become a very strong factor. Common language, religion or some genetic poll are some of the factors for the growth of Nationalism. But more important factor is the element of will, a will to form together. It is the desire of the people to form a Nation. Like all social phenomena, nationalism as a historical process which emerged in the social world at a certain stage of evolution of the life of the community when certain socio-historical conditions, both objective and subjective, matured. Before the emergence of nation state, people passed through many stages like Tribal state, then Greek city state, the Feudal state and then Modern Nation State. In such way Nation state came into being as a process of long historical and political process. Living in a distant territory having common economy which felt conscious of common economic existence, common language, culture and a psychological structure among its member, have a tendency to form a nation, hence nationalism.

The integration of community into a nation is a long process struggling through many obstacles. Usually, the members of the community have to struggle and fight for it. In the process different factors may act as supplementary factors to the growth of the spirit of nationalism. We may discuss some of the factors responsible for the growth of nationalism.

Some of the elements of nationality are as follows.

Purity of Race

The physical appearance and looks differences or affinities, and the prejudice of superior or purity of race has a feeling of racial segregation which contributes to the formation of nationality.

Community of Language

Language is the medium of the people through which they communicate and express their idea, culture and feelings. Diversity of language separates people. It prevents them from understanding and knowing one another. It is difficult to build the growth of national consciousness. Hence community of language plays a vital role in molding a nationality.

Geographical Unity

People occupying a unified territory feel to develop a common interests and common spirit that tend to have nationality.

Community of Religion

Religion is the most important elements that bond people together. Communities of religious belief unite the people physically, mentally and spiritually that gradually grows into nationality.

Common Political Aspiration

People who live under a common political authority for a long time develop a sense of national spirit and patriotism. These further develop into a desire for political independence. Therefore, common political aspiration is one of the elements of nationality.

Other Factors:

Economic Interests

Development and survival of the people depend upon the economic well being. Common economic ideology builds unity amongst them. Hence economic interest also plays a vital role in forming nationality.

Feeling of Like-mindedness

Like-minded people always go together. They can be easily grouped together and plan out more in unified. Therefore, feeling of like-mindedness is also one of the elements which abate in forming nationality.

Cultural Commonness and Identity

Broadly defining cultural means "way of life". When people have common cultural ethnic background, they identify themselves as common origin and common Nationality.

Identity of Historical or Political Heritage

A Nation is mostly identified with common Historical identity or common political Heritage. It give them a feeling or originated from the same root hence preserve it by forming a nationality.

Common Rivalry :

History has showed that common rivalry especially for a long period of time brought them together. As they have to face together the common enemy they can be more easily united and accepted one another. Therefore it is also one or potential elements of forming a Nationality.

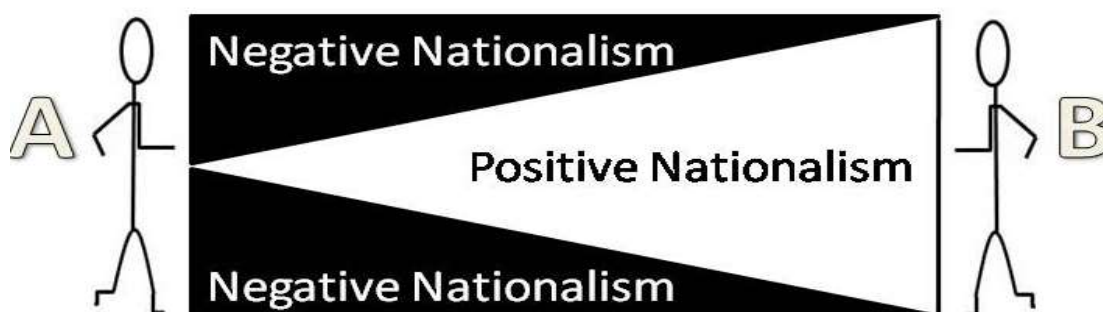
Common Social bond or interest.

Common social bond or interest builds social harmony and trust. This further leads to build up their interest to form nationality.

The development of Nationalism in different countries followed lines determined by its respective social and cultural history, with political, economic and social structures, and specific character of the psychological and economic traits of the social classes which were the vanguard of the struggle for a national social existence in those countries. Every nation was thus born and forged in a unique way.

Nationalism plays a vital role as it articulates clearly the conscience of nationality. It also brings unity and integrity with the sense of belongingness. It also draws out individual talents through self expression and self assertion because nationalism emerged in its own unique way in each separate country. Nationalism is a state of mind having far reaching implications. With the advent of nationalism, it unleashed sentiments and emotions and make them think as one people. Secondly, it bounds together diversity of culture, language and ethnicity (if any) and creates a sense of community and move forward as a unity of state, which result to the strengthening of the spirit of nationalism. Thirdly, nationalism involves the idolization of nationality. Fourthly, nationalism thinks of national security and well being, hence, unity economic stability and development can occur. Fifthly, nationalism submerged individualism for the sake of nationality; hence unity and integrity can be emerged. Today, nationalism is therefore a worldwide phenomenon and we are a part of it.

Ecliptical Theory of Nationalism



Ascending Nationalism

Descending Nationalism

Diagram showing “Ecliptical Theory of Nationalism”.

Nationalism is dynamic not static. It is a state of mind. Therefore, it keeps on changing according to time, places, circumstances and conditions of the people at a particular historical period.

Human being possessed certain range of feelings and activities during different phases of his life. Anything which is beyond that range or beyond his capacity to perform is just idealism or could be self withdrawal or self abstention. Therefore, human beings usually perform their activities in action and in thought within the given particular range. Since, political activities of human being are dynamic, so is nationalism. There are many factors which influences the growth of nationalism. The spirit of Nationalism is not constant; it moves upward or downward depending upon the time and circumstances that influences the group in general and individual in particular. Nationalism may be studied by adopting two approaches i.e. Positive or Ascending Nationalism and Negative or Descending Nationalism. There are many factors which promote the growth of Positive or Ascending Nationalism. The following are some of the factors promoting its growth:

Positive or Ascending Nationalism

Exploitation

When peoples are exploited taking due advantage of their social political or economic situation, hardship or crises, the victim usually has the feeling of revolution. Hence positive nationalism can be build up.

Violation of Rights

Human beings are conscious of their rights because without the rights our life is incomplete. Therefore violations of Rights have a tendency of growing nationalism because nation/ state are the custodian of rights.

Torture

Torture inflicting individual could be of various kind physical, mental and spiritual. Any form of such torture can trigger into a positive or ascending nationalism.

Victimization

It is a form of suppression, or unfair treatment, causing a severe harm to the peoples. Such act leads to fight for justice and hence can grow positive nationalism.

Force Labor

This is common phenomenon during the time of war or suppression. It is a kind of exploitation against the wishes of the peoples. Such act abates positive nationalism.

Subjugation

Such acts of conquer and bring under control are against the will of the peoples definitely there is uprising and create positive nationalism.

Historical basis

Historical basis is the foundation of national identity. This further encourage into ascending nationalism.

Cultural Heritage

Common cultural heritage is one of the binding forces of the unity and integrity of the people. Such common identity leads to encourage ascending nationalism.

Social Structure

Human being has a psyche of dividing into different caste, color, sex, race and social class. This social stratification sometimes plays a vital role in forming positive nationalism.

Political Aspiration

Man is social being by nature. He needs society and society needs him too. Thus political aspiration of the people is inborn nature to man. Hence this natural political being and common political aspiration grows into ascending nationalism.

Common Language

Language is the means of communication of the peoples of their ideas, thoughts and feelings. Common language provokes a stronger relation of the community. Hence it plays an important role in forming positive nationalism.

Common Ethnicity

Human beings are usually classified into their own ethnic group. And each group tries to assert its identity to secure in a society. Therefore common ethnicity encourages and leads to ascending nationalism.

Clear Ideology

Ideology is the guiding force of the political activities, clear and common ideology makes them moves together forward, hence it abates nationalism.

Religion

In spite of religion being the faith of the individual, its practices are mostly congregational. It has also an enormous potential of affecting the sentiment and feelings of the people. Hence religion can play a major role in ascending nationalism.

Common Belief

Common belief in social economic or political aspect make them united and set a common goal this encourage them to have positive nationalism

Education

Education is the process of teaching & learning. It is an art of making man ethical. Through education we are enlighten and we are more conscious of our rights and our life. When the rights of the individual and nation are violated and suppress positive nationalism emerged.

Role of Press

The advancement of information Technology make increased the important role of press in our generation. It plays a vital role in abating positive nationalism.

Common Economic Existence

Human being wants are unlimited, it is a natural interest of man that the more he has the more he would like to have. When there is scarcity of food his life and existence is threatened. Therefore human beings are very sensitive about economic well being. Common economic existence makes them unity and integrity. Therefore it is one of the factors which contribute into positive nationalism.

Psychological habits

Human mind is abstract, it is difficult to understand. Sometime people just believe or follow it without good reasons. This psychological habit of their own will sometime abate positive nationalism.

Negative or Descending Nationalism

Negative or descending nationalism means, a person or group or nation having patriotic feelings or love of a nation can be adversely affected due to many negative aspects. Such swinging of mood or feelings towards downward is negative or descending nationalism.

Some of the factors which causes descending nationalism are

Corruption

It is very common practice of man which is not only illegal, but is degrading the dignity of human being. Vary often corruption leads to negative nationalism.

Selfish

Thomas Hobbes believes that Human nature is self centre and selfish. This selfishness of human nature if not guided by ethical rational and morality it can leads to inhuman being. Therefore it affects others and cause negative nationalism.

Immoral

It means not following accepted standards of morality. If human being do not follows the principles of right and wrong behavior the society become jeopardize and the feelings of nationalism become descended.

Fatigue

Sometimes the Political movement or the revolution movement stress for too long that causes extreme tired physically and mentally, this may leads to descend nationalism.

Luxury

Inequality of man in materials and living luxury life by some at the cost of the others is the root of provokes for others. Such lifestyle of inequality is stumbling block for unity and integrity of the society. Hence it affects nationalism into downward.

Inhuman

Human being regards humanity and integrity of peoples. When humanity is not respected and inhuman treatments are made, it adversely affects the society which may sometimes leads to negative nationalism.

Dictator

When the opinion and voice of the people are ignored and suppress and establish dictatorship there is growth of descend nationalism.

Undemocratic

Democracy, in spite of having limitation and demerits, it is considered as the best form of government because it is a government of the peoples and whose power lies with the peoples. Any undemocratic norms or activities are against the wishes of the majority of the peoples. Hence it can leads to Negative nationalism.

Irrational

Human beings life and activities are guided by rationality. Any irrational act can affect nationalism into downward nationalism.

Lawlessness

Human being is unique in many ways. Each and every person has their own opinion and liking in their own way. The only way of uniting their diversity of thoughts and opinion are following the law, laid down by them. But if the law is disobeyed and there is lawlessness the society turns into chaotic and there can be negative nationalism.

Materialistic

Our life is driven by materialism we cannot completely ignore it because without it we cannot survive. We work better when there is incentive and material gain. But when we are too much materialistic, we became a slave of that want and the society is adversely effected which result into negative nationalism.

Deterrence

Our society is run by mutual consent and respect, not by force or deterrence using deterrence as a means to control hardly last long and it has side effect, it leads to negative nationalism.

Extortion

Positive or ascending nationalism can be affected when people use extortion as a means to obtain their want. This definitely result into degrade nationalism.

Nepotism

Nepotism and favoritism are injustice which does not help in building nationalism but rather they are some elements leading to descending nationalism.

In figure (A) shown in the diagram above, when a person is influenced by positive factors more and more, the Negative Nationalism which is represented by dark color 'eclipses' further and the vice-versa of figure (B). That's what I call it "Ecliptical theory of Nationalism".

Conclusion

Nationalism is inherent universal political phenomenon of human being. Their activities are guided by a forceful spirit of nationalism. It is found that nationalism is dynamic and is a growth depending upon various elements, factors and circumstances. All this factors contributes in molding the spirit of Nationalism either Positive or ascending Nationalism, or Negative or descending Nationalism. This swing of the degree of Nationalism is ecliptical in nature. Even today people are still guided by the spirit of nationalism; it plays a vital role in molding a cohesive society for better nation. Therefore Nationalism is a vibrant spirit in which it is dynamic and not static in nature.

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