Chapter 7, Key Issue 2

Inquiry Question: Why have ethnicities been transformed into nationalities?

Issue 2: Ethnicities into Nationalities

- Rise of nationalities
  - *Nation-states*
  - *Nationalism*

- Multinational states
  - *Former Soviet Union*
  - *Russia*
  - *Turmoil in the Caucasus*

- Revival of ethnic identity
  - *Ethnicity and communism*
  - *Rebirth of nationalism in Eastern Europe*

Rise of Nationalities

Nationality: is identity with a group of people who share a legal attachment and personal allegiance to a particular country.

Nation: is a group of people tied together to a particular place through legal status and cultural Tradition.

In the US this is confusing meanings are different:
- Nationality
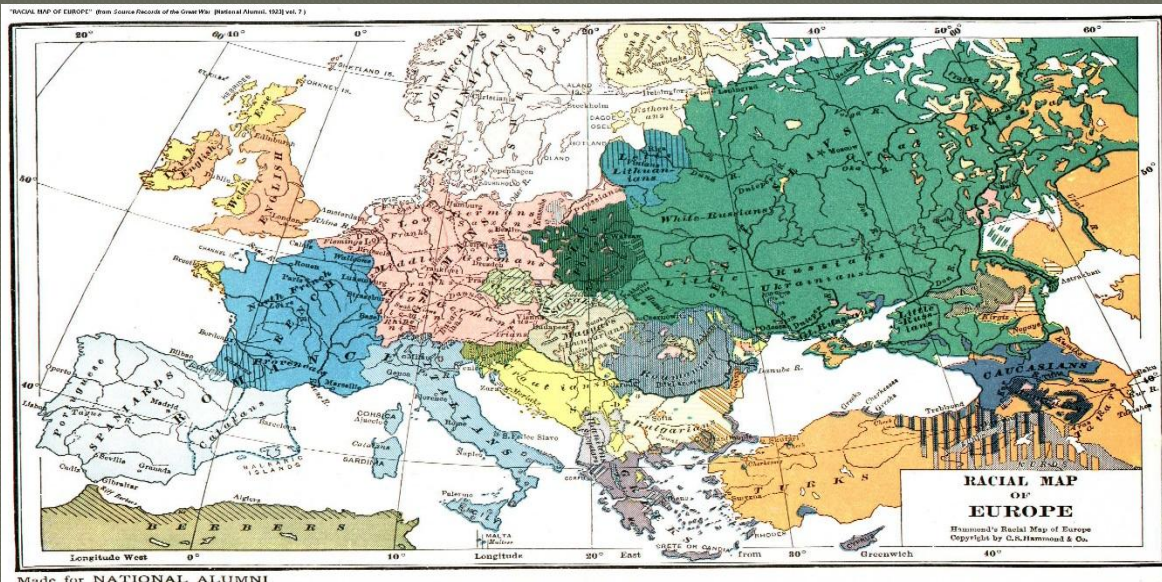- Ethnicity
- Race

An American can identify with all three

Rise of Nationalities

- Descendants of nineteenth-century immigrants to the United States from central and Eastern Europe identify themselves today by ethnicity rather than by nationality.
- These ethnicities lived in Europe as subjects of the Austrian emperor, Russian czar, or Prussian Kaiser.
- U.S. immigration officials recorded the nationality of immigrants.
- But immigrants considered ethnicity more important than nationality, and that is what they have preserved through distinctive social customs.
- The United States forged a nation in the late eighteenth century out of a collection of ethnic groups.
- To be an American meant believing in the "unalienable rights" of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

Nation-States

- The concept that ethnicities have the right to govern themselves is known as self-determination.
- During the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, political leaders have generally supported the right of self-determination and have attempted to organize Earth's surface into a collection of nation-states whose territory corresponds to a particular ethnicity.
- Yet despite continuing attempts, the territory of a state rarely corresponds precisely to the territory occupied by an ethnicity.

Made for NATIONAL ALUMNI

Nation-States in Europe

- **Ethnicities were transformed into nationalities throughout Europe during the nineteenth century.**
- **Most of Western Europe was made up of nation-states by 1900.**
- **Following their defeat in World War I, the Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman empires were dismantled, and many European boundaries were redrawn according to the principle of nation-states.**
- **During the 1930s, German National Socialists (Nazis) claimed that all German-speaking parts of Europe constituted one nationality and should be unified into one state.**
- **Other European powers did not attempt to stop the Germans from taking over Austria and the German-speaking portion of Czechoslovakia.**
- **Not until the - Germans invaded Poland (clearly not a German-speaking country) in 1939 did England and France try to stop them.**

Denmark: There Are No Perfect Nation-States

- Denmark is a fairly good example of a European nation-state.
- The territory occupied by the Danish ethnicity closely corresponds to the state of Denmark.
- But even Denmark is not a perfect example of a nation-state.
- The country's southern boundary with Germany does not divide Danish and German nationalities precisely.
- Denmark controls two territories in the Atlantic Ocean that do not share Danish cultural characteristics—the Faeroe Islands and Greenland.
- In 1979 Greenlanders received more authority to control their own domestic affairs.
- One decision was to change all place names in Greenland from Danish to the local Inuit language.

Nationalism

- A nationality, once established, must hold the <u>loyalty</u> of its citizens to survive.
- Nationalism typically promotes a sense of national consciousness that exalts one nation above all others.
- For many states, mass media are the most effective means of fostering nationalism.
- Consequently, only a few states permit mass media to operate without government interference.
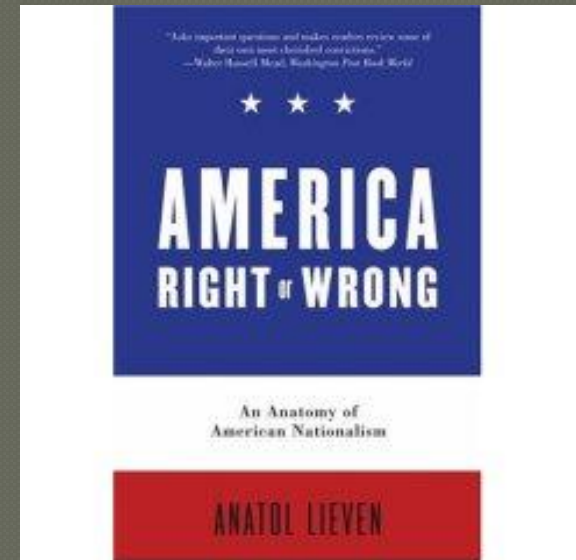
Nationalism's Negatives

Plane collision

- Nationalism can have a negative impact.
- The sense of unity within a nation-state is sometimes achieved through the creation of negative images of other nation-states.
- Nationalism is an important example of a centripetal force, which is an attitude that tends to unify people and enhance support for a state. (The word centripetal means "directed toward the center." It is the opposite of centrifugal, which means to spread out from the center.)

Multinational States

- In some multi-ethnic states, ethnicities all contribute cultural features to the formation of a single nationality.
- Belgium is divided among the Dutch-speaking Flemish and the French-speaking Walloons.
- Both groups consider themselves belonging to the Belgian nationality.
- Other multi-ethnic states, known as multinational states, contain two ethnic groups with traditions of self-determination that agree to coexist peacefully by recognizing each other as distinct nationalities.

The United Kingdom

- **One example of a multinational state is the United Kingdom, which contains four main nationalities—England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.**
- **Today the four nationalities hold little independent political power, although Scotland and Wales now have separately elected governments.**
- **The main element of distinct national identity comes from sports.**
- **Given the history of English conquest, the other nationalities typically root against England when it is playing teams from other countries.**
- **Ethnicities do not always find ways to live together peacefully.**

Republics of the Soviet Union

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- The Soviet Union was an especially prominent example of a multinational state until its collapse in the early 1990s.
- The 15 republics that once constituted the Soviet Union are now independent countries.
- When the Soviet Union existed, its 15 republics were based on the 15 largest ethnicities.
- Less numerous ethnicities were not given the same level of recognition.
- With the breakup a number of these less numerous ethnicities are now divided among more than one state.

The Soviet Union consisted of 15 republics that included the country's largest ethnic groups. These all became independent countries in the early 1990s.

Soviet Ethnicities

- **The 15 newly independent states consist of five groups, 3 Baltic, 3 European, 5 Central Asian, 3 Caucasus, (and) Russia.**
- **Reasonably good examples of nation-states have been carved out of the Baltic, European, and some Central Asian states (but not). . . in any of the small Caucasus states, and Russia is an especially prominent example of a state with major difficulties in keeping all of its ethnicities contented.**

Former Ethnic states of Soviet Union

Group	Location (States)	Ethnic Group(s)	Behavior towards one another
3 Baltic			
3 European			
5 Central Asia			
3 Caucasus			
Russia			

New Baltic Nation-States

- Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania were independent countries between 1918 and 1940.
- Of the three Baltic states, Lithuania most closely fits the definition of a nation-state, because 81 percent of its population are ethnic Lithuanians.
- These three small neighboring Baltic countries have clear cultural differences and distinct historical traditions.

New European Nation-States

Commonwealth of Independent States - European States

- To some extent, the former Soviet republics of Belarus, Moldova, and Ukraine now qualify as nation-states.
- The ethnic distinctions among Belarusians, Ukrainians, and Russians are somewhat blurred.
- Belarusians and Ukrainians became distinct ethnicities because they were isolated from the main body of Eastern Slavs—the Russians—during the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries.

The Crimean Peninsula

* Russians actually constitute two-thirds of the population in the Crimean Peninsula of Ukraine.
* After Russia and Ukraine became separate countries, a majority of the Crimeans voted to become independent of Ukraine.
* Control of the Crimean Peninsula was also important to both Russia and Ukraine because one of the Soviet Union's largest fleets was stationed there.
* The two countries agreed to divide the ships and to jointly maintain the naval base at Sevastopol.

Moldova

- The situation is different in Moldova.
- Moldovans are ethnically indistinguishable from Romanians, and Moldova (then called Moldavia) was part of Romania until the Soviet Union seized it in 1940.
- In 1992, many Moldovans pushed for reunification with Romania.
- But it was not to be that simple.
- The Soviet government increased the size of Moldova by about 10 percent, transferring from Ukraine a sliver of land on the east bank of the Dniester (River).
- Inhabitants of this area are Ukrainian and Russian.
- They oppose Moldova's reunification with Romania.

New Central Asian States

Commonwealth of Independent States - Central Asian States

Ethnic Groups in Russia

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Russia officially recognizes 39 ethnic groups, or nationalities, which are concentrated in western and southern portions of the country.

Russians in Other States

* Decades of Russian domination has left a deep reservoir of bitterness among other ethnicities once part of the Soviet Union.
* Russian soldiers have remained stationed in other countries, in part because Russia cannot afford to rehouse them.
* Other ethnicities fear the Russians are trying to reassert dominance.
* For their part, Russians claim that they are now subject to discrimination as minorities in countries that were once part of the Soviet Union.
* Russians living in other countries of the former Soviet Union feel that they cannot migrate to Russia, because they have no jobs, homes, or land awaiting them there.

Ethnicities in the Caucasus

The Caucasus region is extremely diverse ethnically. Ethnic groups are spread across several national boundaries.

Armenians

- More than 3,000 years ago Armenians controlled an independent kingdom in the Caucasus.
- During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, hundreds of thousands of Armenians were killed in a series of massacres organized by the Turks.
- Others were forced to migrate to Russia.
- After World War I the allies created an independent state of Armenia, but it was soon swallowed by its neighbors.
- Turkey and the Soviet Union divided Armenia.
- The Soviet portion became an independent country in 1991.
- More than 90 percent of the population in Armenia are Armenians, making it the most ethnically homogeneous country in the region.
- Armenians and Azeris have been at war with each other since 1988 over the boundaries between the two nationalities.

Revival of Ethnic Identity

- Ethnic identities never really disappeared in Africa, where loyalty to tribe often remained more important than loyalty to the nationality of a new country, perhaps controlled by another ethnicity.
- Europeans thought that ethnicity had been left behind as an insignificant relic, such as wearing quaint costumes to amuse tourists.
- But Europeans were wrong.

Ethnicity and Communism

- From the end of World War II in 1945 until the early 1990s, attitudes toward communism and economic cooperation were more important political factors in Europe than the nation-state principle.
- For example, the Communist government of Bulgaria repressed cultural differences by banning the Turkish language and the practice of some Islamic religious rites to remove obstacles to unifying national support for the ideology of communism.
- The Communists did not completely suppress ethnicities in Eastern Europe: The administrative structures of the former Soviet Union and two other multi-ethnic Eastern European countries—Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia—recognized the existence of ethnic groups.
- Units of local government were created designed to coincide as closely as possible with the territory occupied by the most numerous ethnicities.

Rebirth of Nationalism in Eastern Europe

AUSTRIA
• Ljubljana
SLOVENIA
HUNGARY
• Zagreb
CROATIA
VOJVODINA
• Novi Sad
ROMANIA
Banja Luka
• Bihac
BOSNIA
AND
HERZEGOVINA
• Tuzla
Belgrade
• Pale
Sarajevo
SERBIA
YUGOSLAVIA
BUL.
Adriatic
Sea
MONTENEGRO
ITALY
Dubrovnik
Podgorica
Pristina
KOSOVO
ALBANIA
Skopje
MACEDONIA
GREECE

The Balkan States
The main political divisions of
the former Yugoslavia.

- The breakup of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia has given more numerous ethnicities the opportunity to organize nation-states.
- But the less numerous ethnicities still find themselves existing as minorities in multinational states, or divided among more than one of the new states.
- Especially severe problems have occurred in the Balkans.
- Bulgaria's Turkish minority pressed for more rights, including permission to teach the Turkish language as an optional subject in school.
- But many Bulgarians opposed these efforts.
- The Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, and Czechoslovakia were dismantled largely because minority ethnicities opposed the long-standing dominance of the most numerous ones in each country.

Eastern Europe

- **Local government units made peaceful transitions into independent countries—as long as their boundaries corresponded reasonably well with the territory occupied by a clearly defined ethnicity.**
- **The relatively close coincidence between the boundaries of the Slovene ethnic group and the country of Slovenia has promoted the country's relative peace and stability, compared to other former Yugoslavian republics.**
- **Sovereignty has brought difficulties in converting from Communist economic systems and fitting into the global economy (see Chapters 9 and 11).**
- **But, problems of economic reform are minor compared to the conflicts where nation-states could not be created.**

Czechoslovakia in 1969

Prague

CZECH SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

SLOVAK SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

Bratislava