Nationalism: Key Concepts and Theories

Veronika Bajt

1. Group identity and the need to belong

- 'us' versus 'them' distinction
- social categorisation of others & selfcategorisation
- ethnocentrism

2. Terminology

- 'ethny' (ethnic group)
- 'race'
- nation
- narod / nacija cultural / political nation

3. Context and definition

- Modernity
- Historic origin of nationalism
- National elites
- What is nationalism?

4. Ethnicity and nationalism

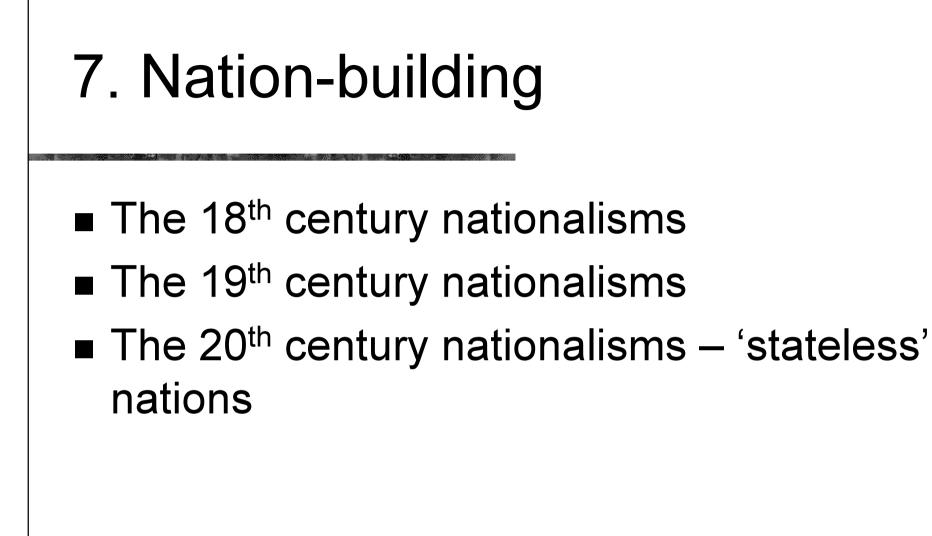
- Nation: ancient or modern?
- What is the nation?
- When is the nation?

5. Classical and contemporary theories of nationalism

- Are nations real or constructed?
- Primordialists
- Perennialists
- Ethnicists
- Modernists
- Constructionists...

6. Civic and ethnic nationalisms?

'Political' and 'cultural' nationalisms
'West' and 'East' nationalisms



8. Nation and state

- 'nation-state'
- nation as ethnic majority
- nationalism and state-building
- citizenship
- minorities

9. History and nationalism

- Inventing the past
- Myths, symbols, national memories
- Myths of shared origin
- National rituals
- National identity

10. Nationalism and postcommunism

- The fall of communism
- Renegotiation of social values
- Construction of new identities
- Break-up of multinational states
- Establishment of new states
- 'Nationalising' nationalism
- Contemporary intolerance

11. Nationalism and globalisation

- The end of 'nation-state'?
- Multiculturalism
- 'Jihad versus McWorld'

12. The future of nationalism

- EU: Europe without 'Europeans'?
- Proposals for moving beyond the 'nationstate'
- The future of national identities
- Citizens of the world?
- Preservation of minority languages

Next week's reading list:

- From the "Nationalism" Oxford reader (Hutchinson & Smith, 1994): Part I 'The Question of Definition': read the Introduction and among Renan, Stalin,Weber, Deutsch, Geertz, Giddens, Connor select at least three!
- Read the article by Anna Triandafyllidou 'National identity and the other' which I will put up on the info system for you.