

# Nationalism And Ethnic Conflict: A Consequence Of Globalization

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Nationalism refers to a political concept of national identity. In the context of globalization, nationalism may be viewed from two perspectives: as a reaction to globalization or as a result of globalization. Meanwhile, ethnic conflict is a type of internal state conflict. There are various elements that contribute to ethnic conflicts. They might be structural, political, social and economic, cultural, or perceptual issues. Both nationalism and ethnic strife have become prominent topics in world affairs. Nationalism resurfaced as a threat to global order, particularly following the conclusion of the Cold War. Many countries have fragmented as a result of ethnic strife, which has been seen as a struggle between different varieties of nationalism. Globalization has also contributed significantly to this condition. This article aimed to show the strong correlation between nationalism and ethnic conflict and assess the implications of globalization for them.

**Keyword**--Nationalism, Ethnic Conflict, Globalization

## Introduction

As we approach the first decade of the third century, global politics continues to be significantly shaped by matters of nationalism and the escalating ethnic conflicts followed by acts of violence. The recollection of recent incidents that can be classified as ethnic wars, such the South Ossetia conflict, acts of violence against the Uighur ethnic community in China, and oppressive activities against the Muslim minority in Southern Thailand, remains vivid and firmly imprinted in memory.

The prominent evidence suggests that the primary cause of these wars sprang from a sense of nationalism, which was further intensified by the successive waves of globalization. The urgency to tackle the challenges of nationalism arises from the assumption that nationalism is a catalyst for the occurrence of diverse ethnic conflicts in many regions of the world, particularly in Third World nations and both in Asia and Africa.

It is definitely true that although the idea of nationalism was created and developed in Europe, nationalism has been considered as a feature of Third World nations. By its proponents, nationalism is utilized as rhetoric against colonialism and imperialism (Diamond, Larry Jay; Plattner, 1998).

Nationalism, in various definitions, is typically defined as a belief in the love for the existence of a nation. Nationalism is a notion or concept regarding nationality that has a political dimension. Referring to the perspective of Ernest Gellner (1983), nationalism

becomes significant for debate since it contains a definite political orientation of a nation. Nationalism also refers to the identification connections of a nation that are founded on various characteristics held by the individuals connected within that group identity, such as values, history, culture, and language.

Why do nationalistic concerns and ethnic conflicts occur on a global scale, often becoming themes of discussion regularly addressed by political leaders in many regions of the world? This essay is an effort to show the aforementioned issue while also demonstrating the link between nationalism and ethnic strife in the arena of global politics.

### **Method**

The study is being conducted at a desk. The research employed secondary qualitative data acquired from books, articles, journals, newspapers, and online publications connected to the topic of this research. The illustrated technique is used to analyze the study's principal problem. To help analyze this issue, radical ideological input is required. The findings will then be matched to the issue. Several issues, including time constraints during data collecting and a paucity of papers or journals relevant to the topic of this research.

### **Nationalism Concept**

Nationalism is an idea or movement built around pride and love for the existence of a nation. This sense of pride arises from common identity, history, and culture. Thus, there comes a desire to protect and deepen these relationships within a group referred to as a nation.

In reference to the belief that the core tenets of nationalism are as follows: people believe that in order to be free and self-aware, they must belong to or favour a particular nation; nations believe that they are the source of all political and social power; and people believe that in order for the world to be peaceful and just, people must be free and secure in their nation of choice (Ryan, 1997: 139).

To completely understand the concept of nationalism, one must first identify a nation. A country is a group of people who meet objective criteria such as language or ethnicity, or a combination of characteristics such as language, similar territory, shared history, cultural elements, and so on (Hobsbawm, 1992). A nation is not the same as an ethnic group, however it is difficult to tell the difference. One of the reasons is that the phrases nation and ethnic group are very subjective, which means that each group of people choose how they define their identity in terms of nation or ethnicity. A nation is essentially a matter of identity, which is determined by a variety of elements such as race, ethnicity, religion, culture, shared historical experiences, or a mix of these. When that identification has political ramifications and becomes the primary source of national mobilization, the result is "nationalism" (Viotti, Paul & R. Kauppi, 2013).

Human identity is a significant feature in identifying one group of individuals from another in social situations. Similarly, while attempting to distinguish one nation from another, identity is something that is inherent in a certain nation. Although the phrases nation and ethnicity are sometimes used interchangeably to refer to a group of people, they really have different meanings.

An ethnic group is a collective of individuals who ascribe a common ancestry to themselves. Furthermore, a nation may be defined as a collective of individuals who possess

a shared cultural legacy and want to have a unified future, whereby language is a fundamental element. There are two types of countries: ethnic nations and social nations. An ethnic nation is based on a single ethnic group, whereas a social nation is built on a diverse ethnic group. Both ethnic nation and social nation are characterized by shared elements such as history, legacy, including language, and values, which typically provide the foundation for a feeling of national identity. It is the political elites that thereafter advocate for this feeling of national identity, commonly known as nationalism. Nationalism may be understood as a political construct, as it is a deliberate manifestation of political objectives by elites (Suryadinata, 2000). Nationalism has political implications. As a result, nationalism is defined as a sense of nationality that is employed as a socio-political movement to protect the nation's survival as well as to initiate the nation-building process.

### **Nationalism and Globalization**

Globalization has become a popular phrase for describing modern occurrences and the reality of international interactions. As we enter the third century, the world has changed so swiftly that it has generated highly complicated consequences, such as the growth of interdependence in practically all areas of existence in the ties between nation-states and transnational interactions (Winarno, 2009).

The definition of globalization according to Jan Art Scholte (2000), as rewritten by (Jemadu, 2008), encompasses five dimensions, including: First, the term "globalization" refers to the phenomena of "internationalization," which is the growth in cross-border connections between players as evidenced by the movement of capital, people, products, and services across national borders. Second, globalization involves a process of trade liberalization, which manifests itself in the form of lowering and removing obstacles to international commerce, such as tariff and non-tariff barriers. This trade liberalization intends to minimize the state's participation in international commerce, enabling the economy to become more open and managed by free-market structures and methods. Third, the notion of globalization refers to the idea of universalization, which entails the spread of universal principles like democracy and human rights, even down to lifestyle levels. There are signs of a worldwide cultural homogeneity process, regardless of religious, ethnic, or linguistic roots, as seen in fashion models and young people's lives in practically all major centres throughout the world. Fourth, globalization is viewed as a continuation of the modernization process that parallels westernization. The Western world, with its highly sophisticated civilization, is viewed as a model for emerging countries to imitate, even if such imitation sometimes ignores their genuine cultural foundations. The development of capitalism, rationalism, industrialism, and consumerism is a force that emerging nations find difficult to resist, resulting in a variety of detrimental effects on their social life. Fifth, globalization is thought to promote deterritorialization, often known as the expansion of territory. This definition means that as contemporary international relations issues become more complex, international regimes emerge in the form of regulations and institutions with authority that extends beyond nation-state sovereignty and territoriality. The national scope is no longer regarded as a relevant and capable area for decision-making or policy-making since there are a growing number of challenges that must be handled at higher levels, both

regional and international. This declaration pushes states to integrate into the global cooperative framework.

Globalization has far-reaching consequences for a country's survival. It has reawakened ethnic identities, which have the potential to undermine nationalism and the nation-state. Some experts believe that as globalization progresses, the function of the nation-state will decline dramatically.

Globalization is defined by the fast progress of communication, information, computer, and transportation technology in the modern world. That fact has resulted in a situation in which the borders that formerly restricted relationships between individuals, countries, and states have lost their relevance. Technological improvements have increased the intensity and frequency of these contacts, as well as the speed and cost effectiveness. The repercussions are felt practically everywhere, including politics, socio-culture, and economics, both on a global and local scale. In international politics, for example, a humanitarian crisis in one region can swiftly elicit worldwide outrage and compassion from all around the world. In the cultural arena, there occurs cultural infiltration and a shift in societal lifestyle. In terms of economics, technological innovation enables products and services to be created anywhere in the globe as long as technical and economic feasibility is fulfilled, and they may be sold wherever the greatest potential price is attained (Wibowo, 2007).

Globalization in information and communication technology provides major potential for ethnic communities to enhance their worldwide presence while lobbying for their social, economic, and political rights. Technological improvements have also increased ethnic groups' awareness of their identity and role within a nation. The explanation above suggests that globalization has a substantial influence on nationalism. Nationalism may be regarded from two distinct angles. Nationalism is perceived as both a reaction to and a result of globalization (Halliday, 2001).

In actual words, the spirit of nationalism as a group identity can increase and emerge when the globalization process disrupts and threatens the interests of certain ethnic communities. Meanwhile, in some contexts, nationalism is thought to be the outcome of the globalization process. Globalization has a major influence on the existence of states, and it may even be said that state construction has failed, as shown in the situations of the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, and Ethiopia, all of which are multi-ethnic countries. The four countries mentioned above disintegrated, resulting in 22 new countries with a new nationalist structure.

Nationalism in the context of a nation may be an ideology or a social movement. Nationalism is a normative ideology that holds that a nation may exist objectively and has the right to decide its own fate. As stated by (Halliday, 2001), nationalism is all about a moral principle which claims that nations do exist, that they should coincide with, i.e., cover the same people as political communities, and that they should be self-ruling. Meanwhile, as a social movement, nationalism is built to liberate or free oneself from the shackles of colonialism. The strong ideas and expectations to determine one's own fate serve as the foundation for the nationalist movement to become an independent nation without being controlled by colonial powers. In other words, nationalism can be used as a reason to separate from the mother country that is facing challenges in the state-building process, or

sometimes it is from this social movement that ethnic conflicts arise, especially in multi-ethnic nation-states.

### **Several Factors Causing Ethnic Conflict**

The emergence of various ethnic conflicts in global politics is not something that is instant and sudden, but rather a result of a long process influenced by various factors. Michael E. Brown classifies four clusters of factors that lead to the outbreak of ethnic conflict, including: structural, political, socio-economic, and cultural-perceptual (Brown et al., 2001).

First, the structural factor, the main cause of the emergence of ethnic conflict, is due to the weak structure of the state. Many countries, especially third-world countries that are former colonies, tend to lack political legitimacy and do not have strong political institutions capable of controlling their territorial power. This statement is also influenced by the lack of external support, both morally and financially, for domestic development. Furthermore, countries are often weakened by internal problems such as corruption practices, incompetent bureaucracy, and the inability to enhance economic development. A weak state is usually very vulnerable to violent conflicts among political elites vying for power, which ultimately will also involve ethnic groups within the country, especially in multi-ethnic nations. The consequence of a weak state structure is the emergence of security threats that must be a primary concern for the state. When a country is weak, every group and individual must strive to create their own sense of security independently. Such conditions certainly have the potential to lead to ethnic conflict, where the dominant ethnic group always seeks to dominate the minority group.

Secondly, politically, the main factor that stimulates the emergence of ethnic conflict is the practice of political discrimination against certain ethnic groups by political institutions. Another factor that can also trigger violent conflict is the exclusivity of certain ethnic groups in the formulation of national ideology. The construction of nationalism should be institutionalized democratically, respecting differences. Furthermore, the dominance of certain groups in the political system can also lead to violent conflict.

Third, social and economic factors. Every country certainly has economic problems to varying degrees. Economic problems faced include; slow economic growth, inflation, economic recession, currency crisis, unemployment. To address the economic issues, economic reform policies are needed; however, economic policy reforms do not always provide quick solutions to economic problems. In certain cases, economic reform policies can even lead to social frustration. Therefore, efforts to improve the economic conditions require economic development. However, the process of economic development that emphasizes modernization and industrialization can lead to social impacts that pose a significant threat to national security. In addition, a discriminatory economic system can exacerbate existing conditions, where access to an economy that leads to improved social welfare is not widely available to all individuals and groups. Statements like this can once again lead to conflicts between ethnic groups, especially for those who feel that their basic economic needs are hindered or unmet.

Fourth, the final identification of factors that can cause ethnic conflict is culture and perception. Cultural factors are the most sensitive issue. Cultural discrimination experienced by minority ethnic groups has a high potential to lead to violent conflict. The forms of

discrimination experienced include: unequal access to education, law, health, political barriers, minority languages, and freedom of religion. The factor of perception is both very determining and potentially dangerous. Because each group has the freedom to perceive themselves and other groups based on the historical heritage they believe in. This becomes dangerous because it can create conditions where certain groups feel most entitled to hold power within the social life system.

### **The Correlation between Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict**

There are two main tendencies following the end of the Cold War. First, there is global interdependence in the system of international relations, not only international cooperation in the economic field but also international cooperation in the fields of politics and security. A variety of actors, from countries and international organizations to the international community (civil society movements), are integrated into a reciprocal relationship that is mutually dependent in addressing or managing a shared agenda of interests (Viotti, Paul R. Kauppi, 2013).

Second, trend emerging in global politics is a crisis of authority at all levels of power organization (Jemadu, 2008). A crisis of authority occurs when individuals or parts of a system (particular ethnic groups) attempt to defy the central authority. This opposition arises because they frequently believe they are subjected to discriminatory treatment, which is aggravated by the denial of their existence as an entity inside the state. The problem of a crisis of authority mostly affects countries that then disintegrate and form several new states. The fall of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia, as well as the growth of ethnonationalist groups in nearly every corner of the world, are manifestations of the crisis.

Following the conclusion of the Cold War, nationalism resurfaced as a problematic and exciting element in the global order. Many countries have disintegrated as a result of ethnic and religious wars, which have been portrayed as fights between different nationalities. The disintegration of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia into multiple smaller countries is a practical example. The situation in the Balkans is frequently used as an example of national disintegration. Some argue that nationalism and religion are two major elements that have split the Balkans, while others attribute it to the march of globalization (Suryadinata, 2000).

In a multi-ethnic country, there is the possibility of violence between ethnic groups. Ethnic conflict arises when two or more ethnic groups are unable to live together peacefully within the framework of a nation-state. The terms country and state are frequently used interchangeably to express the identity of a group of people. However, the terms "nation" and "state" have quite distinct connotations. The term "state" is an official notion that refers to a population ruled by a government inside a specified sovereign area and acknowledged by other sovereign nations. Meanwhile, the term "nation" refers to a population with a shared identity, including language, culture, history, and philosophy.

Describe the link between nationalism and ethnic strife is a difficult assignment. When ambitions for country or state construction collide with ethnic variety, the relationship between the two becomes increasingly complicated and convoluted. To have a better understanding of the relationship between nationalism and ethnic conflict, it is vital to consider the question of democracy. The concept of nationalism cannot exist—or even be



considered—without the concept of democracy, and vice versa. The concept of popular sovereignty is central to democracy, implying that the will of the people must triumph. However, nothing in democratic philosophy specifies where the bounds of the state or the jurisdiction of the sovereign people are. Indeed, there is a concept of self-determination, but there is no clear criterion to define what and who is actually meant by "oneself" as having the ability to select its own political future (Nodia, 1998). However, nothing in democratic philosophy specifies where the bounds of the state or the jurisdiction of the sovereign people are. Indeed, there is a concept of self-determination, but there is no clear criterion to define what and who is actually meant by "oneself" as having the ability to select its own political future.

When a dominating group in a democratic society wields power and refuses to share it properly, ethnic conflicts will emerge. Especially ethnic groups who believe their political rights and fate are not accommodated within a patriotic bond proclaimed as the ideology of a certain state. The ideals of democracy should protect the rights and interests of every ethnic group within a given country. However, this cannot be accomplished when a country's government is dominated by one ethnic group while marginalizing others. This predicament is aggravated by structural causes such as social inequality, poverty, unemployment, oppression, and subpar government performance. This would undoubtedly incite insubordination among minority ethnic groups who believe that their social, economic, and political interests and rights are suppressed or even unrepresented in the nationalism that has emerged. As a result, these minority groups are more inclined to want to break away from their parent country and form their own nationalism.

Ethnic conflict, at least in its harsher expressions, has been considered as a feature of Third World countries—particularly Asia and Africa—that endured violent ethnic wars on a large scale during the Cold War. Ethnic conflicts have toppled constitutional democratic governments such as those in Sri Lanka, Lebanon, and Nigeria, resulting in civil wars (Diamond, Larry Jay; Plattner, 1998).

Meanwhile, globalization exacerbates the problem, particularly in third-world countries. Globalization has major ramifications. It turns out that globalization can reawaken the spirit of ethnic identity, which has the potential to exacerbate ethnic conflicts, particularly in multi-ethnic societies. Most Third World countries' progress has resulted in an uneven, unfair, and exploitative socio-political structure. This problem deepens as globalization spreads around the planet. This will undoubtedly weaken components of nationalism, eventually leading to the breakout of ethnic strife inside a country (Winarno, 2009).

### **Causes and Effects of the Emergence of Nationalism**

The return of nationalism in modern world politics is a fascinating phenomenon to watch. The theory of nationalism was initially conceived as a tool to oppose colonialism and imperialism. However, in today's politics, nationalism is used not just for that aim, but also to clarify the identities of specific ethnicities. The breakup of various countries is a logical result of the rise of nationalistic concerns in modern international politics. So, what circumstances are prompting nationalism to resurface?

First, any ethnic group that falls under a nationalistic umbrella is unable to retain the integrity of living and coexisting. (co-existences). This predicament typically begins with an ethnic group dominating political power and refusing to share power properly. As a result, the other group was ostracized, which prompted them to seek an escape by challenging the prevailing government; here is where ethnic conflict begins. If unsuccessful, there is a desire to split by establishing a new nationalism that will put them in a respectable position.

Second, unequal growth creates an unbalanced social structure, particularly in Third World nations. The results are obvious: societal inequality, with certain ethnic groups gaining financially from the development. However, there are ethnic groups (typically minorities) that are marginalized and exploited, and as a result, they do not enjoy the same prosperity as the majority ethnic group. Such circumstances can almost likely lead to conflict escalation.

Third, inadequate government performance is the most critical aspect that might lead to structural violence. As a result, discrimination and injustice will emerge in situations where people's social, political, and economic rights are not adequately addressed. This resulted in a loss of trust in the government among ethnic communities that felt marginalized by the discriminatory practices.

Fourth, globalization has exacerbated the dilemma. Globalization has made certain ethnic groups more aware of their identity and status within a country. As a result, they frequently seek rights that they have not acquired from the state, making this scenario very susceptible to the creation of inter-ethnic disputes followed by acts of violence.

The most visible result of ethnic conflicts caused by nationalism in current world politics is human rights breaches such as genocide and oppressive actions by dominant groups against minorities. Another influence is displacement, which occurs when an ethnic community believes their security is threatened at their area of origin. The most severe consequence is the occurrence of disintegration, in which particular ethnic groups feel unaccommodated within the prior bonds of nationalism, forcing them to form a new nationality and detach themselves from their parent country.

## **Conclusion**

The major point of this essay is to discuss the problem of growing nationalism and ethnic conflicts, which are becoming increasingly widespread in world politics. The issue of nationalism and violence has grown inextricably linked with the presence of Third World countries (Asia and Africa), particularly multi-ethnic ones.

National identity is a core subject. National identity is vital to define since it has political ramifications, particularly when it comes to confirming a nation's existence. The premise that nationalism is inextricably linked to ethnic conflict is valid, particularly in the aftermath of the Cold War and when the globe gets swept up in a wave of fast globalization. Nationalism is often believed as being the fundamental cause of ethnic hostilities. The ethnic conflict has grown increasingly unmanageable as a result of globalization, which has effectively raised ethnic groups' knowledge of their identity and place, allowing people to see and feel injustices and discrepancies. As a result, they engaged in resistance to assert their rights and interests, which eventually led to ethnic strife.



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