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Intellectuals and nationalist ideology Political modernism and ethnic history; Conclusion; 5 Political messianism; 'Political religion'; Marginal youth; The cult of the 'dark gods'; A millennial opiate; Colonialism and the intellectuals; Millennialism and progress; The religion of history; 6 Invention and imagination; Inventing nations; Ethnic and civic nationalisms?; 'Proto-national' bonds; The nation as construct?; Imagining the nation; An imagined community?; Print-capitalism and re-presentation; Mass self-sacrifice; Part II: Critics and alternatives; 7 Primordialism and perennialism

Primordialism I: inclusive fitness Primordialism II: cultural givens; The instrumentalist critique; Perennialism I: ethnic continuity; Perennialism II: perennial ethnicity, modern nations; The psychology of ethnic affiliation; The immemorial nation?; 8 Ethno-symbolism; 'Old, continuous' nations; Pre-modern nations?; Cultural and political nationalism; Myth-symbol complexes; A framework of national emergence; Culture and the border; 'Dual legitimation'; Ethnies and ethno-symbolism; Origins and types of nation; Ethno-symbolism considered; 9 Beyond modernism?; Polyethnicity, past and future The post-national agenda Fragmentation and hybrid identities; Gender and nation; Liberalism and civic or ethnic nationalism; Nationalism and globalisation; National identity and supra-nationalism; Beyond modernism?; Conclusion: problems, paradigms and prospects; Problems; Paradigms; Prospects; Notes; Bibliography; Index

Sommario/riassunto

The first major study in over three decades to explore the essential arguments of all the major theoretical interpretations of nationalism, from the modernist approaches of Gellner, Nairn, Breuilly, Giddens and Hobsbawm to the alternative paradigms of van den Bergh and Geertz, Armstrong and Smith himself. In a style accessible to the student and the general reader Smith traces the changing view of this hotly discussed topic within the current political, cultural and socioeconomic arena. He also analyses the contributions of such historians, sociologists and political scientists as Seton-W
