

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910450954703321
Autore	Cheah Pheng
Titolo	Spectral nationality [[electronic resource] ] : passages of freedom from Kant to postcolonial literatures of liberation // Pheng Cheah
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York, : Columbia University Press, c2003
ISBN	1-283-00835-1 9786613008350 0-231-50360-1
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (427 p.)
Disciplina	325/.3/01
Soggetti	Postcolonialism Decolonization Nationalism State, The National characteristics Nation-state Culture Liberty Internationalism Philosophy, German - 18th century Philosophy, German - 19th century Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- CONTENTS -- ACKNOWLEDGMENTS -- LIST OF SELECTED WORKS CITED AND ABBREVIATIONS -- Introduction. The Death of the Nation? -- PART I. CULTURE AS FREEDOM: TERRITORIALIZATIONS AND DETERRITORIALIZATIONS -- 1. The Rationality of Life: On the Organismic Metaphor of the Social and Political Body -- 2. Kant's Cosmopolitanism and the Technic of Nature -- 3. Incarnations of the Ideal: Nation and State in Fichte and Hegel -- 4. Revolutions That Take Place in the Head: Marx and the National Question in Socialist Decolonization -- PART II. SURVIVING

(POSTCOLONIALITY) -- 5. Novel Nation: The Bildung of the Postcolonial Nation as Sociological Organism -- 6. The Haunting of the People: The Spectral Public Sphere in Pramoedya Ananta Toer's Buru Quartet -- 7. Afterlives: The Mutual Haunting of the State and Nation -- 8. The Neocolonial State and Other Prostheses of the Postcolonial National Body: Ngg wa Thiong'o's Project of Revolutionary National Culture -- Epilogue. Spectral Nationality: The Living-On of the Postcolonial Nation in Globalization

---

Sommario/riassunto

This far-ranging and ambitious attempt to rethink postcolonial theory's discussion of the nation and nationalism brings the problems of the postcolonial condition to bear on the philosophy of freedom. Closely identified with totalitarianism and fundamentalism, the nation-state has a tainted history of coercion, ethnic violence, and even, as in ultranationalist Nazi Germany, genocide. Most contemporary theorists are therefore skeptical, if not altogether dismissive, of the idea of the nation and the related metaphor of the political body as an organism. Going against orthodoxy, Pheng Cheah retraces the universal-rationalist foundations and progressive origins of political organicism in the work of Kant and its development in philosophers in the German tradition such as Fichte, Hegel, and Marx. Cheah argues that the widespread association of freedom with the self-generating dynamism of life and culture's power of transcendence is the most important legacy of this tradition. Addressing this legacy's manifestations in Fanon and Cabral's theories of anticolonial struggle and contemporary anticolonial literature, including the Buru Quartet by Indonesian writer Pramoedya Ananta Toer, and the Kenyan writer Ngugi Wa Thiong'o's nationalist novels, Cheah suggests that the profound difficulties of achieving freedom in the postcolonial world indicate the need to reconceptualize freedom in terms of the figure of the specter rather than the living organism.

---