

1. Record Nr.	UNISA996202236603316
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Titolo	Nationalism and modernism : a critical survey of recent theories of nations and nationalism / / Anthony D. Smith
Pubbl/distr/stampa	London ; ; New York : , : Routledge, , 1998
ISBN	1-134-92333-3 1-280-10509-7 0-585-46025-6 0-203-16796-1 1-134-92334-1
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (285 p.)
Disciplina	320.54 320.5401
Soggetti	Nationalism International relations
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 (p. [244]-263) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front Cover; Nationalism and Modernism; Copyright Page; Contents; Preface; Introduction: The modernist paradigm; The rise and decline of nationalism?; The rise and decline of modernism?; Aims and plan; 1 The rise of classical modernism; The roots of classical modernism; The classical modernist paradigm of nationalism; Part I Varieties of modernism; 2 The culture of industrialism; 'Nation' and 'nationalism'; Agoliterate and industrial societies; From 'low' to 'high' cultures; Nationalism and industrialism; Nationalism and 'high cultures'; Nationalism and public education Nationalism and historical continuity Nationalism and the ethnic past; 3 Capitalism and nationalism; Imperialism and uneven development; Populism and romanticism; 'Nationalism-producing' development?; The social base of nationalism; Internal colonialism; Ethno-regionalism; Elite strategies of 'rational choice'; Interest and passion; 4 State and nation; Sources of political modernism; The reflexive state; The nation beyond the state; Nations and the inter-state order; The state and war; A political theory of nationalism?; State and society: bridging the gulf?;

Identity and politics

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 legitimization'; 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