

## **The Nature of Nationalism: Some Thoughts**

"Nationalism is not what it seems, and above all it is not what it seems to itself. The culture it claims to defend and revive are often its own inventions, or are modified out of all recognition." (Gellner)

"Nationalism is, essentially, the general imposition of a high culture on society, where previously low cultures had taken up the lives of the majority, and in some cases the totality of the population." (Gellner)

"[A nation] is an imagined political community—and imagined as both inherently limited and sovereign."  
(Anderson)

"Ultimately it is this [imagined] fraternity that makes possible, over the past two centuries, for so many millions of people, not so much to kill, as willingly die for such limited imaginings." (Anderson)

"A territorial political unit can only become ethnically homogeneous . . . if it either kills, expels, or assimilates all non-nationals. Their unwillingness to suffer such fates may make the implementation of the nationalist principle difficult." (Gellner)