



Nationalism (Short Histories of Big Ideas)

By R.J.B Bosworth

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Why do many of us swell with pride at the sound of the national anthem or sight of the national flag? Why do we use our nationalities to describe who we are? Why do politicians claim to stand for 'national values' above all else?

In his new critical study of nationalism, R.J.B. Bosworth explores the origins and purpose of the division of human kind into national groupings. The book explores the history of nationalism, arguing that the present is seeing a dangerous growth of what might be called 'national fundamentalism'. Bosworth suggests that nations work best when they possess the ability to criticize their nationalism. They become menacing when they demand the nationalization of people's empathy, lauding 'national values', for example, rather than humane or civilized ones. *Nationalism* demonstrates how the globalizing world is seeing a renaissance and adaptation of ideas that were prevalent in the inter-war period, and challenges us to decide whether we should reject nationalist fundamentalism in a civilized world.



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Editorial Review

Review

"A stunning account of how Europe... came to embrace nationalist attachments to land and flags and anthems and ancestry... Bosworth's grim tale of avaricious patriotism and chauvinist fealty gone feral is told with ironic grace and deftness."

David Lowenthal, Professor Emeritus, *University College London*

"Nationalism is a fresh and refreshing exploration of this seemingly inextinguishable phenomenon that deserves to be widely read and its message taken very seriously. [I]t is [both] deeply learned and unobtrusively analytical, [as well as] openly personal, spikily argumentative and; yes, critical of a current of ideology, culture and politics the author considers neither natural nor, over time, beneficial to the human species."

Martin Blinkhorn, Professor Emeritus of Modern European History, *Lancaster University*

"This is an intellectually stimulating and playful volume which many readers will find satisfying."

Atsuko Ichijo, *Kingston University*

From the Back Cover

So you think you know what makes the world go round? Read about the ideas that revolutionized the 20th century.

The twentieth century was a period of seismic change on a global scale, witnessing two world wars, the rise and fall of communism, the establishment of a global economy, the beginnings of global warming and a complete reversal in the status of women in large parts of the world.

Many of these changes were brought about thanks to powerful ideologies - 'big ideas' that irrevocably altered the way humans viewed their world. *Short Histories of Big Ideas* are brief, easy-to-understand introductions to the ideologies that shaped the twentieth century. Each volume explains the key aspects of an idea and provides a concise history of its growth and influence on our world perspective.

"Nationalism is a fresh and refreshing exploration of this seemingly inextinguishable phenomenon that deserves to be widely read and its message taken very seriously. [I]t is [both] deeply learned and unobtrusively analytical, [as well as] openly personal, spikily argumentative and; yes, critical of a current of ideology, culture and politics the author considers neither natural nor, over time, beneficial to the human species." Martin Blinkhorn, Professor Emeritus of Modern European History, *Lancaster University*

Should nationalism be rejected in a civilised world?

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R.J.B. Bosworth is the author of twenty books, the most recent of which, *Mussolini* (2002) and *Mussolini's Italy* (2005), have been multiple prize winners in his native Australia .

About the Author

R.J.B. Bosworth is Professor at the Department of History, University of Western Australia.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Marilyn Apperson:

As people who live in the particular modest era should be update about what going on or details even knowledge to make these people keep up with the era and that is always change and move ahead. Some of you maybe will update themselves by studying books. It is a good choice to suit your needs but the problems coming to you actually is you don't know what type you should start with. This Nationalism (Short Histories of Big Ideas) is our recommendation to make you keep up with the world. Why, because book serves what you want and want in this era.

Mora Miller:

Exactly why? Because this Nationalism (Short Histories of Big Ideas) is an unordinary book that the inside of the reserve waiting for you to snap the idea but latter it will shock you with the secret it inside. Reading this book next to it was fantastic author who all write the book in such incredible way makes the content on the inside easier to understand, entertaining approach but still convey the meaning entirely. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this anymore or you going to regret it. This phenomenal book will give you a lot of benefits than the other book get such as help improving your talent and your critical thinking technique. So , still want to hesitate having that book? If I were you I will go to the guide store hurriedly.

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Reading can called brain hangout, why? Because if you find yourself reading a book mainly book entitled Nationalism (Short Histories of Big Ideas) your thoughts will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in each and every aspect that maybe unknown for but surely might be your mind friends. Imaging every word written in a book then become one web form conclusion and explanation that maybe you never get just before. The Nationalism (Short Histories of Big Ideas) giving you an additional experience more than blown away your head but also giving you useful info for your better life with this era. So now let us teach you the

relaxing pattern is your body and mind is going to be pleased when you are finished reading it, like winning a sport. Do you want to try this extraordinary investing spare time activity?

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