

Nationalism: In the era of Globalisation

Astha

Student

Department of Political Studies

Central University of South Bihar, Gaya, Bihar, India

Abstract - The paper will explore nationalism as the conception is like how to sustain in the era of globalization. The paper addresses the essence of the uniqueness of the people belonging to the diverse cultural background in order to maintain their ethnic identity intact in the world of connected affairs among several nations- states. In the era of globalization, several amalgamations are taking place under several acculturation theory(ies) like salad bowl and melting pot theory practiced in multicultural nations like the USA. To begin with, the field of nationalist phenomena, which includes the growth of nations and the national state, as well as ethnic identity and community, is vast and ratified. As the concept of nationalism it spills over to other subjects such as race and racism, language, religion, ethnic conflict, international law, the issue of immigration..etc. all this concept having the implications due to globalization. With the several interventions of the different societies that mean from Greek to the modern world, society has shaped the different varieties of nationalism as the political subject. This article talked about some of the prominent cultural civilisations that depict whether different ethnicities would survive in the era of interconnectedness. In the light of globalization it will focus upon the ethnic nationalism and self-determination, reasserting the poly ethnic Norm, and some of the movements that took place to maintain the Ethno-linguistic identity via patriotism.

Keywords: Ethnic Identity, Nationalism, Globalisation, self-determination

1.INTRODUCTION

Nationalism refers to the belongingness of one's own culture among the several cultural and ethical identities that exist in the world. The feeling of nationalism always focuses on the superiority of one's own culture in front of the rest of the culture. Nationalism means the feeling of a person to preserve their own cultural identity from the dominance of another culture or ethnicity. Nationalism is an ideology that emphasizes loyalty and devotion to a particular country, or nation. It places national interests above either individual or other group interests. Nationalism has the essence of self-determination built within itself as it means the assertion of one's ethical identity on a particular land area and considering autonomy upon it. The 'self-determination' can be a detrimental concept in the era of globalization as this is the subject of the interconnectedness and amalgamation of several cultures due to various relations among all the nation- states viz. trade, technology, commerce, migration due to education, hospitality and tourism.

2.LITERATURE REVIEW

Nationalism was regarded as a component of national history rather than as a distinct subject. The great theorists of modern society –Marx, Weber and Durkheim have written little on this. Nationality was treated as something 'given' whether it is good or bad. The way nationalism is linked to state and the nation and the inevitable link between the nation and the people in the particular nation draws attention. 'It is only in the inter war period that nationalism became a subject of explicit and general analysis' (Gellner, 1983, p. XVII). Nationalism is not a new concept however the amount of attention it gained is something new. Elie Kedourie (1993), in his book Nationalism summarized that 'Nationalism is a doctrine invented in Europe at the beginning of the nineteenth century' (D.Smith, 1994). Gellner argues in the similar lines and further states that only during the interwar period did it gain more attention.

In Gellner's words 'Nationalism is primarily a political principle which holds that the political and the national unit should be congruent. Nationalism can be a sentiment and a movement. In brief, nationalism is a theory of political legitimacy, which requires that entire boundaries not cut across political ones, in particular that of

ethnic boundaries within a given state -separate the power holders from the rest'. (Gellner, 1983, p. 1) This means the way the idea of nationalism is driven is highly political and it can assume legitimacy and claim authority over a territory. The minute we call something as Political it already underlines the strategies and the mechanisms that it undertakes in order to gain legitimacy and legitimize the actions and the Political behavior of that particular issue. This means it uses cultures, languages, and several other issues which are actually not natural but it seems as if it is something which is already given. It is here he calls 'Nationalism as an ideology that suffers from pervasive false consciousness' (Gellner, 1983, p. 119). It inverts reality and it claims to defend folk culture, while in fact it forges a high culture. Nationalism is a manifest and self-evident principle, accessible as such to all and violated only through some perverse blindness. It preaches and defends continuity but owes everything to a decisive and unutterably profound break in human history. It preaches and defends cultural diversity but imposes cultural homogeneity both inside and outside and also between the political units. Its self-image and its true nature are inversely related. Hence it seems obvious that we can't learn too much from the study of its own prophets. What we need to deny is to accept nationalism on its own terms. As Elie Kedourie (1993) argues, what becomes crucial is to understand that nationalism imposes homogeneity; it is rather that homogeneity imposed by objective and inescapable imperative which eventually appears on the surface in the form of nationalism. Gellner puts that nationalism is indeed an effect of sequences of industrialism. Though nationalism is indeed an effect of industrial social organization, it is not the only effect of imposition of this new social form, hence it is necessary to disentangle it from those other developments. Gellner problematizes how nationalism is seen as something which is natural and universal ordering of the political life of mankind. Among the other aspects of Gellner's work, there are two crucial aspects which go into the 'construction of the theory of nationality – 'will and culture'. (Gellner, 1983, p. 52) If we define a nation as something in which the groups will have to come together, this brings us to a problem. Will, consent and identification were never absent from human history. Rather they were accompanied by fear and interest. 'Also, any definition of nations in terms of shared culture is another net which brings in far too rich a catch, human history is and continues to be well endowed with cultural differentiations' (Gellner, 1983, p. 53). It becomes easy to define nationality in terms of shared culture but what is often forgotten is the idea of how culturally plural all of us are.

III. Nationalism: A Concept

Nationalism, a powerful force in shaping human history, is a complex and often contentious concept. At its core, nationalism is a sense of belonging and loyalty to a nation, often defined by shared language, culture, history, or territory. It can be a source of unity, pride, and progress, but it can also lead to conflict, prejudice, and even violence. In its positive manifestations, nationalism can inspire people to work together for the common good, to defend their country against threats, and to build a better future for their nation. It can foster a sense of shared identity and purpose, and it can promote social cohesion and civic engagement. However, nationalism can also have negative consequences. When taken to extremes, it can lead to xenophobia, intolerance, and discrimination against other groups. It can be used to justify aggression, imperialism, and war. And it can contribute to the formation of ethno-nationalist movements that threaten peace and stability. The relationship between nationalism and globalization is a complex one. While globalization has led to increased interconnectedness and interdependence among nations, it has also challenged traditional notions of national identity and sovereignty. Some argue that nationalism is a relic of the past, a product of a time when nations were more isolated and self-sufficient. Others contend that nationalism is a fundamental human instinct that will continue to be a powerful force in the world, even in the age of globalization. Nationalism is a multifaceted concept with both positive and negative dimensions. It can be a source of unity, pride, and progress, but it can also lead to conflict, prejudice, and violence. Understanding the complexities of nationalism is essential for navigating the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century. The idea of nationalism on the one hand talks about the uniqueness and superiority of oneness in the world whereas on the other side, the globalization is totally different from the idea of nationalism as it talks about the dissolution of the boundaries among the nation-states for whatsoever purpose and states two of the concept having no connection with each other but it is not so, one can find the way for surviving nationalism in the era of globalization is possible or not and if possible then how ? The biggest question emerges when these two will stand in front of each other. Globalization is the increasing interconnectedness of the world's economies, cultures, and societies. It has been driven by technological advancements, particularly in transportation and communication. The Key aspects of globalization include, Economic globalization The flow of goods, services, capital, and technology across national borders. This has led to the rise of multinational corporations and global supply chains. Cultural globalization, The exchange of ideas, customs, and traditions between different cultures. This has resulted in a more diverse and interconnected world. Political globalization, The

growing interdependence of nations and the increasing influence of international organizations. Technological globalization, The rapid spread of technology and information around the world. The benefits of globalization include, Increased economic growth and development, Improved access to goods and services, Greater cultural exchange and understanding and Technological advancements. However, globalization has also raised concerns about income inequality and job losses, environmental degradation, erosion of cultural diversity and power of multinational corporations. Overall, globalization is a complex phenomenon with both positive and negative consequences. Understanding its impact is essential for addressing the challenges and opportunities it presents. The relationship between globalization and nationalism is complex and multifaceted. At first glance, globalization and nationalism might seem contradictory: globalization promotes interconnectedness and the breaking down of national boundaries, while nationalism emphasizes the importance of national identity and sovereignty. However, in practice, the interaction between these forces is dynamic, often resulting in both tension and synergy. Sometimes, the condition arises out of their connection- Globalization as a igniting force for Nationalism as it causes: firstly, Globalization can lead to economic dislocation and inequality, which may fuel nationalist sentiments. As global markets open up, local industries might struggle to compete with international competitors, leading to job losses and economic hardship. In response, people may turn to nationalist movements that promise to protect domestic industries and jobs from foreign competition. For example, the rise of populist and nationalist political movements in Europe and the U.S. has been partly driven by economic insecurities associated with globalization and trade liberalization. secondly, Cultural Threats means Globalization often involves the spread of global culture, which can be perceived as a threat to local traditions and identities. The proliferation of global media, multinational corporations, and cultural homogenization can lead to a sense of cultural erosion. Nationalist movements might emerge as a reaction against perceived threats to cultural identity, advocating for the preservation of local customs and values against the influence of global culture. This has been evident in various countries where nationalist parties have campaigned against the perceived cultural dominance of foreign influences. Thirdly, Political Backlash says about the political processes associated with globalization, such as supranational institutions and international agreements, can lead to a backlash from those who feel their national sovereignty is being compromised. Nationalists may argue that international organizations, such as the European Union or the World Trade Organization, undermine national decision-making and erode national control. This sentiment can lead to a rise in nationalist rhetoric and movements seeking to reclaim or reinforce national sovereignty. Next we can see how nationalism worked in the response to globalization as we can see that Nationalism can emerge as a way for individuals and groups to reaffirm their identity in the face of global homogenization. In a globalized world where cultures and economies are increasingly interconnected, people may feel a stronger need to assert their national identity as a means of maintaining a sense of belonging and continuity. For instance, movements advocating for national cultural revival or language preservation often gain momentum in response to the perceived erosion of local identity due to global influences. Nationalist governments may adopt protectionist policies to shield their economies from the adverse effects of globalization. By implementing tariffs, trade barriers, and other protective measures, these governments aim to safeguard domestic industries and reduce dependence on global markets. This form of economic nationalism reflects a desire to control economic outcomes and protect national interests amidst the pressures of global competition. Nationalism often intersects with populist rhetoric that emphasizes the need to prioritize national interests over international cooperation. Populist leaders may leverage nationalist sentiments to challenge global institutions, reject international agreements, and advocate for policies that prioritize national sovereignty. For example, Brexit, the United Kingdom's decision to leave the European Union, was driven by nationalist arguments about regaining control over national borders, laws, and trade policies. As opposed to some of the times when both of them come together the combination can show Globalization and Nationalism in a way of certain practices like; One, the Selective Engagement means the Countries can experience both globalization and nationalism simultaneously by selectively engaging with global processes while emphasizing national priorities. For instance, some nations might actively participate in global trade and investment while also pursuing policies that protect key industries or promote national culture. This selective engagement allows countries to benefit from globalization while addressing domestic concerns and maintaining national identity and stick to what is necessary for the self-interest of being a patriot for their country. Two, Regional and Subnational Nationalisms, that is, Globalization can also stimulate regional or subnational forms of nationalism. In regions that feel marginalized or disconnected from the central government, globalization might exacerbate feelings of regional identity and autonomy. For example, the rise of regionalist movements in Spain (e.g., Catalonia) and Italy (e.g., Northern League) reflects a desire for greater regional control in response to both domestic and global dynamics.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

The relationship between globalization and nationalism is dynamic and often contradictory. While globalization can lead to economic and cultural dislocation that fuels nationalist responses, nationalism can also act as a counterbalance to the pressures of globalization, emphasizing sovereignty and cultural identity. The interplay between these forces shapes contemporary political landscapes, influencing how nations navigate global interconnectedness while maintaining their distinct national identities. Understanding this relationship is crucial for analyzing current global trends and anticipating future geopolitical developments.

However, in the light of globalization one can question how the essence of nationalism can be treated? Whether it will fade away or it will persist, if persisted how it can be done through? Here, the role of globalization that came into effect in 19th and 20th century it gained its importance ('as Theodore Levitt, a former professor at the Harvard Business School credited with coining the term "globalization" and with championing the undervalued role of marketing) plays a critical role in the dissemination of the nationalist idea. The connection between nationalism and the facility of modern globalization is to a certain extent misleading. It gives the impression that a given idea happens to be there and the same will remain untouched. The most important and the persistent message is generated by the medium itself, by the prominence role of which inter-state relations have acquired in modern life. 'Nationalism is a very distinctive species of patriotism, one which becomes pervasive and dominant only under some social conditions which in fact prevail in the globalizing world' (Gellner, 1983, p. 132). According to Gellner, Nationalism is a species of patriotism which are marked by loyalty, culture homogeneity, which thrives on high culture and this will make the identity of the several ethnic intact for several generations and despite of several amalgamation in the multicultural world the people having their love for their motherland/fatherland will never destroy the essence of nationalism in the era of globalization. The paper explores the complex relationship between nationalism and globalization. Nationalism, a sense of belonging to a nation, can be a source of unity and pride, but also lead to conflict. Globalization, the interconnectedness of economies and cultures, presents both opportunities and challenges. While globalization can lead to economic hardship and cultural threats, it can also prompt individuals to reaffirm their identity. Nationalism can be a response to globalization, with governments adopting protectionist policies or populist rhetoric. However, countries can selectively engage with globalization, prioritizing national interests while benefiting from global trade. Regional and subnational nationalisms can also emerge in response to globalization. The interplay between globalization and nationalism shapes contemporary politics. Nations navigate global interconnectedness while maintaining their distinct identities. Understanding this relationship is crucial for analyzing current trends and future developments. The paper concludes by questioning the fate of nationalism in the age of globalization. Despite the homogenizing effects of globalization, nationalism may persist. The paper argues that a strong national identity, fostered by a common culture, allows nations to maintain their essence even amidst global interconnectedness.

REFERENCES

Books

1. Hobsbawm, E. J. (1990). Nations and nationalism since 1780: Programme, myth, reality. Cambridge University Press.
2. Stiglitz, J. E. (2002). Globalization and its discontents. W.W. Norton & Company.

Journal Articles

1. Rodrik, D. (2018). Populism and the economics of globalization. *Journal of International Business Studies*, 49(8), 1063-1074. <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41267-018-0186-5>
2. Huntington, S. P. (1996). The clash of civilizations and the remaking of world order. *Foreign Affairs*, 72(3), 22-49. <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/united-states/1996-06-01/clash-civilizations-and-remaking-world-order>

Websites

1. Kaldor, M. (2012). The 'global' in global politics. *Global Policy*. <https://www.globalpolicyjournal.com/articles/global-theory/global-global-politics>