

EDITORIAL NACIONALISMOS DO SÉCULO XXI | EDITORIAL NATIONALISMS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Mural Internacional volume 12, December - 2021 - **Dossier: Nationalisms in the 21st Century**

Contrary to the predictions of the liberal New World Order apologists, fashionable in the post-Cold War period, we have witnessed an unexpected rebirth of nationalism and identity politics. Just as globalisation has deepened, the eruption of conflicts gravitating around the national question, issues of identity, national liberation, xenophobia, ethnicity, and racism have permeated the agendas of international relations.

As Daniele Conversi had already theorised when the consequences of neoliberal globalisation were still uncertain, an historical period characterised by the unidirectional flow of economic goods, consumerist items and cultural products from the west to the rest produced enormous unbalance, which in turn led to the proliferation of all sorts of conflict.

These contemporary socioeconomic trends open up scenarios of conflicts that blend identity themes with religious and ethnonational issues, still relatively unstudied in the mainstream academic literature.

Furthermore, the themes of nationalism and collective identity cut across the resurgence of populism and the far-right in European and world politics. In this sense, this dossier aims to bring together reflections on the origins and possible consequences of the emergence of claims and disputes related to issues of collective identity, as well as the emergence of political leaders exploiting collective identity and nationalist conflicts, bringing to light new scenarios and instabilities in international relations.

In this special issue, selected contributions from Brazilian and Latin American authors in the study of nationalism bring together articles on a variety of debates on different continents.

On Latin America, Rodrigues, Ferreira and Silva highlight the inspiration of Spain's political parties and the model of the Bolivian plurinational state. From Syria, Pires and Zahreddine lead us to critically reflect on the relationship between religious, social and subnational identities in the country. Focusing on the relationship between identity and religion, Costa discusses Jihadism and the relationship between Islamic extremism and the challenges of contemporary non-Muslim nation-states. On India, the article by Carvalho, Gabriel, Mandelbaum and Artioli offers a historical and conceptual digression on the rise of Modi's far-right government in India and the role that Hindu nationalism has played in government strategy since the victory of the Bharatiya Janata Party in 2014. In Central and Eastern Europe, among relevant cases, we highlight Torres' article on the case of conflicts and disputes over national identity in Armenia and the historical trajectory that contribute to the understanding of contemporary issues. The conflict in Crimea and its annexation by Russia in 2014 is one of the cases prioritized in the dossier: Lima and Lima assess the relationship between nationalist issues and Russia's place in the international systemic scenario, alongside powers such as China and the USA. The case of Kurdistan, again in the Middle East, informs Campos' research analyzing the dispute for the leadership of the national Kurdish movement in the Shingal district. Finally, the case of Taiwan and the confrontation between opposing nationalisms in the country is the subject of Schutte's article. China, a country of great research interest in Brazil, is covered in two more articles. The article by Bueno, Junqueira and Santana presents an inside view of the challenges represented by Xi Jinping government's strategy for the digital control of nationalist movements. And, by considering the strategic articulation within the Communist Party, Vasconcelos highlights the legitimacy argument of the Chinese regime and state power project.

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In this way, this dossier promotes studies of nationalism in a wide variety of geographical and sociopolitical contexts, a topic that has not yet deserved the due scholarly attention in the Brazilian academic sphere.

Good reading!

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