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महाराष्ट्र राज्यशास्त्र व लोकप्रशासन परिषदेची संशोधन पत्रिका

## विचार मंथन

मार्गदर्शक

प्राचार्य डॉ. पी. डी. देवरे

संपादक

प्राचार्य डॉ. प्रमोद पवार

प्राचार्य डॉ. मनोहर पाटील । प्राचार्य डॉ. बाळ कांबळे । डॉ. रविंद्र भणगे । डॉ. विठ्ठल दहिफळे





- राष्ट्रवाद आणि मराठी कविता ..... १५७  
डॉ. सूर्यकांत आजगावकर
- लोकमान्य टिळकांचा सांस्कृतिक राष्ट्रवाद ..... १६१  
डॉ. शांता जाधवार (गीते)
- गांधीजींचा राष्ट्रवादविषयक दृष्टिकोन ..... १६७  
प्रा. डॉ. जे. व्ही. पाडवी
- आधुनिक काळातही राष्ट्रवादाचा प्रभाव ..... १७०  
प्रा. डॉ. संदीप भाऊराव नेरकर
- राजर्षी छत्रपती शाहू महाराज व ब्रिटिश सरकार यांच्या राजकीय संबंधातील राष्ट्रवाद ..... १७६  
अरविंद कैलास पाटील
- गांधीजींचा सत्याग्रहविषयक दृष्टिकोन ..... १८१  
छोटू एन. मावची  
प्रा. डॉ. जे. व्ही. पाडवी
- यथार्थस्थिति में गांधी राष्ट्रवाद कि प्रासंगिकता एक विश्लेषणात्मक अध्ययन ..... १८५  
छोटू एन. मावची
- **Prospects for India: Committal to Internationalism or International Realism?** ... १९०  
Miss. Sneha Kulkarni
- **Will the Legitimate Nationalism be counted ?** ..... १९३  
Mr. Liladhar Shivajirao patil
- **'Nation' in Amitav Ghosh's The Shadow Lines** ..... १९७  
Mr. Jitendra B. Patil
- **Nation, Nationalism and the Novel: A Reading of Two Bengali Novels** ..... १९९  
Mr. Nitin Patil
- **The Development of Nationalism** ..... १०६  
Dr. R. K. Kale
- **"Variables in Indian Nationalism"** ..... ११०  
Mr. Pandurang Sahebrao Patil
- **Contribution of Arya Samaj in the Indian Nationalism** ..... ११५  
Shashikant Bhalchandra Patil
- परिशिष्ट ..... १२०



## The Development of Nationalism

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### Introduction

Nationalism is one of the great ideologies of the 19th and 20th centuries, whose demise was widely expected with certainty at the end of the 20th century. Until recently, most social and political science researchers and politicians had no doubt that nationalism was doomed to disappear and was no longer a force determining the path of history. They were saying that nations were losing their old functions. The growth in the number of international and non-governmental organizations, the international economic and financial markets, new transport and communication technologies determine that 'nation' and 'nationalism' are no longer terms adequate to describe and analyse political formations or even sentiments that these words used to name.

Nations and nationalism, they believe, are only cultural artifacts socially created in a certain period in history, when modernization forced absolute monarchies to democratize. Social engineers used old and invented new political traditions in order to link the ruling powers and the masses by legitimacy relationship and excite their active involvement in civic affairs. Now, at the beginning of the 21st century, there is no more need to use relics of nationalism—nations were invented, they are a fiction, a fabrication, an illusion that will dissipate when the historical forces behind it disappear.

### Development of Nationalism

Nationalism is defined as the ideal or ideology that states that ethnic and political boundaries must coincide and that an ethnically

homogeneous state is the best form of political organization<sup>1</sup>. This definition of nationalism can only be endorsed. It is rational to define a nation as a politically organized ethnic group seeking to gain or maintain political autonomy or independent statehood. A nation state is a state where almost the absolute majority of its citizens belong to the same ethnic group. Most nations today (politicized ethnos) are new.

Nationalism (political ideology) is a modern phenomenon, as modernist theories of nationalism claim. However, it is important to note that the roots of nationalism go back to the prehistoric Neolithic period. And not all ethnoses, all the more ethnic differentiation, as phenomena, are specific to modernity only. The latter two phenomena can be described as primordial, but not as "perennial". It is because they developed as, through natural selection evolved human kinship recognition mechanisms had adapted to social and ecological environmental factors specific of the Neolithic period.<sup>2</sup> While nations are modern, there are exceptions—the ancient Egypt and post-Maccabees Israel and possibly the early Assyria.

These states almost coincided with ethnicity. But these exceptions were the result of relatively random geopolitical circumstances. Only modernization turns the nation into the norm of an international system. However, until modern times, the link between ethnicity and politics was rather sporadic and irregular, though one cannot deny that ethnic sentiments often played an important role in domestic and cross border conflicts. The opinion of A.