

## NATIONALISM

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Life is very difficult for the sixteen year old, decisions to make; what boy to date, which dress to wear, what color sipstick to use. Yet, one sixteen year old girl had to make a decision which quite literally meant her life or death. She was the daughter of English missionaries in the Congo, and when her village was attacked by Zimba warriors, she had to decide whether she would life with the Simbas or die with her family. She chose death.

Her death is a tragic comment on the evils loose in the world; yet, it is not an isolated example, two hundred whites have died in the Congo since last January, while millions of people died in the world wars. All these deaths have at least one thing in common, they were caused to a very great extent by the nationalism which existed, and still exists in the world. This highly volitile problem, nation-  
alism, which sporadically errupts into massive destruction, is a continuing threat to the world.

The problems created by nationalism need to be discussed on three planes; the persecution it causes minority groups, the way it disrupts alliances of power, and the barriers it creates against international cooperation.

Before examining the three levels of havoc wrought by nationalism, it would be wise to discuss some things which are characteristic of it. The first character-  
istic of nationalism is the master race theory as typified by Germany during World War II. The people of Germany felt that they were superior to the rest of the world; they considered themselves a people destined to rule the world.

A second characteristic of a nationalistic state is racism. The German people not only considered themselves better than the rest of the world in general; but they felt there were certain groups which were particularly inferior, the Jews, and they persecuted accordingly. Another, and very modern example of this is the butchering of whites in Africa today.

A third factor of nationalism is its great emphasis on the military, as in Italy during World War II.

The final characteristic of a nationalistic state is the strong leader. Hitler, Musolini, and DeGaulle all typify the powerful personality found heading a nation-  
alistic state. But, specificaly what evil do these powerful leaders with their great armies and obedient hordes accomplish? The first level of harm was that brought to the individual; the limitation of human rights and loss of life caused

by the persecution of minority groups. Approximately two million Jews were killed during the reign of the Third Reich; the persecution of those who were allowed to live is common knowledge. To say that those people's human rights were infringed upon is to be ridiculous; they were degraded, tortured, and slaughtered.

Another example of this is the killing of whites in the Congo today, a very important example because it represents a situation existing now. As the Department of State has pointed out, nationalism is not just a problem of the past: "As if by some concerted explosion, nationalism, which some experts had thought was or should be by now obsolete, is sweeping the world, from Warsaw to Algeria, from Budapest to Cairo. The impact of nationalism, as happened on the continent of Europe a century ago, is sapping the foundations of great empires - this time not only in Europe, but in the Middle East, in North Africa, and in those remote areas of Asia where nationalism aspirations have not yet been translated into coherent forms of government. At this turning point in history, where large areas of the world are smoldering aflame, literally as well as figuratively, prophecy as to the outcome is hazardous."

The persecution of minority groups because of nationalism is a modern problem; nationalism is a modern problem. In addition to harming the individual, nationalism disrupts regional alliances. This is a particularly modern problem, the best example being France, and France's DeGaulle.

When the United States offered NATO money to start an atomic fleet for the defense of the NATO nations, DeGaulle vetoed the idea for, as U.S. News and World Report puts it: "France's DeGaulle, bent on establishing its own nuclear fleet, is determined to kill the idea before it is born. He wants Western Europe to depend, not on the United States, but on France for its nuclear defense." His actions in the problem of Great Britain and the Common Market, and obviously enjoying his power, he arbitrarily refused them admission.

The threats nationalism presents to human liberty, and to regional alliances of power are very real, but in addition to these are the barriers it creates against international cooperation. This final problem is perhaps the most serious, for the very existence of the world depends upon international cooperation. As the noted historian Arnold J. Toynbee has stated, "The world will eventually see an international government or a nuclear war, one of the two alternatives is inevitable."

The prevention of nuclear war, if not of all types of war, could logically be accomplished today. Yet, countries are so jealous of their sovereignty that they fail to cooperate with one another, refuse to allow such things as extensive on-site nuclear inspections. Twenty-three thousand people were killed during the bombing of Hiroshima; the weapons used then are considered crude today. Yet, nations are willing to risk another nuclear holocaust rather than have a national right, the right to destroy the earth, taken from them.

Not only does nationalism make nuclear war highly possible; but it is a major cause of any type of war. The highly aggressive nationalism of Germany, Italy, and Japan during World War II not only caused the war, but made any lasting peace much harder to achieve after the shooting was over. As History of a Free People states: "Even those who were not progressives were slow to assess the actual causes of war. Slow to recognize the intensity of nationalistic feelings, which bred war; slower still in seeing how these emotions blocked a return to peace."

Patriotism, the love of one's country, is a noble thing. But when this patriotism destroys human beings, it loses its nobility. When sixteen year old girls are murdered, DeGaulle puts the pride of his nation above the safety of the western world, and the world would rather toy with its own destruction than have its nuclear status symbols taken away, then the chauvinistic patriotism, the nationalism, which causes these things can be recognized as evil. Then, a higher patriotism reveals itself, a patriotism to mankind. This may involve the loss of some political pride, some national sovereignty; but human beings, to preserve their very existence, can do this.