

NATIONALISM IN ASIA

UCM

Master in Nationalism Studies, 2023-2024

Instructor: Ph.D. Eva Borreguero

evabor01@ucm.es

Virtual Office Hours: Tuesday 6:00-7:00 pm.

Course Description: The 21st century has been coined by some respectful analyst as the “Asian century”, arguing that the future is Asian. What there is no doubt about is that what we call Asia, with 2/3 of the world population, is becoming hugely important in the global state in terms of its economy, politics, and finally, nationalist rivalries. This course will explore how nationalism is adopted, articulated and manifested in modern and contemporary Asia. It will focus on countries that play a central role in the region and the rest of the world. Topics will include the acting of modern makers of Asia and the nationalization of traditions. We will also examine the historical background of nationalism.

Course Objectives: To understand the germinal ideas in the formation of nationalism in Asia. Analyze the impact of colonialism and independence on the region. Evaluate contemporary issues such as territorial conflicts arising from nationalist demands. Develop critical thinking and analytical skill through discussions and writing assignments.

Course Requirements: The course will be taught online and divided between synchronous and asynchronous sessions. Each synchronous class meeting will have a discussion component, and students may be called on at random for their critical perspectives and interpretations of the reading at hand. The aim is to come to an understanding of each author's premise and purpose, and eventually to be able to compare the views of various authors on a particular theme. Students will be asked to make a presentation and/or short writing on a given reading and generate a discussion among classmates.

Asynchronous learning will take place through a Forum, a platform for students to have text-based discussions, Q&A, queries, and where weekly announcements will be posted.

Grading: Attendance to synchronous sessions (10%). Attendance to synchronous sessions is mandatory and more than two absences will lower your participation grade. Class Participation/Short Responses (25%). Final assessment (65%,) breaks down into written assignments and assignments to asynchronous tasks (30%) and final exam (35%).

Contents:

The course will address the study of five cases of relevant Asian nations that for different reasons play a central role in the region: China, India, Pakistan, Japan, Korea as well as the Indo-Pacific as the epicenter of the new world order.

- 1.- Introduction. Methodological aspects in the study of nationalism. Asia: geographical and historical framework.
- 2.- The formation of the idea of the nation. Colonialism and the creation of the nation-state. The founders of modern Asia and the evolution of its ideas.
- 3.- The past and its relevance in the present. Traumas, myths and symbols in the formation of national identity.
4. Domestic implications. Factors of integration and identity division. Dominant nationalism and minorities. Banal nationalism and contemporary culture.
5. International implications. The international projection of nationalist aspirations: foreign policy, conflicts and territorial disputes.

Course Outline:

Assignments for classes will be provided on the first day of class.

Additional texts or articles will be uploaded on the progress of the course.

CHRONOGRAM	
Session	
1.	Introduction. Asia in the theory of nationalism. Defining Asia.
Module I - INDIAN SUBCONTINENT: THE SEARCH FOR UNITY IN DIVERSITY	
2.	Colonialism, empire and modernity in South Asia.
3.	Gandhi and the Indian national movement
4.	India: partition and integration.
5.	Hindu nationalism: from <i>hindutva</i> to Bharat.
6.	Pakistan, a nation for Asian Muslims.
7.	Nationalist conflicts in international relations: Kashmir, a cornerstone of nationalism in the Indian subcontinent.
Module II – CHINA FROM THE MIDDLE KINGDOM TO THE NATION STATE.	
8.	The singularity of China.
9.	Mao’s idea of the nation.
10.	China’s modern identity and the transformation of the empire.
11.	Nationalist conflicts in international relations: Taiwan; Sino-Indian territorial disputes.

Module III – JAPAN, A REFERENCE FOR ASIA	
12.	Japanese nation building.
I- KOREA	
13.	Korea: dueling nationalisms.
Module III – THE INDO-PACIFIC	
14.	Convergences and divergences in the definition of maritime nationalism.

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SOUTH ASIA

India

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China

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