Nationalism

- An ideology based on the feeling of devotion, pride and loyalty to one's nation and/or state
- Nationalism does not necessarily have to mean a love of one's state - It does always mean a love of one's nation
- Usually, however, nationalism does involve a pride towards one's nation and state

The Huntington Thesis

- The most successful way to achieve national identity is by a society achieving a common, single political creed (ethos)
- This creed has to be based on the political ideas and cultural principles that initially founded and established that nation-state
- This is more likely when immigration is limited to those groups that are willing to assimilate (integrate, become immersed) and embrace the political creed, culture, language, etc.
- Argues that recent Latin American-based immigration movements in the U.S. have not engaged in political, cultural and linguistic assimilation and, thus, pose an obstacle to a true American identity, based on the principles and political values of the early settlers
- A point of logic from this thesis can be applied to the European-Muslim tensions; There are many nationalists from various European nation-states (namely, France, Germany and Holland) that have argued that the growing wave of Islamic immigration from North Africa, Turkey and the Middle East, in general, has threatened the national identity and unity of these various nation-states

Opposition to the Huntington Thesis

- There is growing evidence that Latino groups have made substantial progress towards becoming assimilated and embracing of American cultural and political values and ideals
- A large portion of Naturalized Latino immigrants have actively sought political enfranchisement - participation in voter registration, voter turn-out and other forms of mainstream political participation - is this not an example of taking part in the American political creed?
- There is plenty of evidence of successful and stable (and also Democratic) nation-states that are multi-national states - such as India, Switzerland, Belgium, etc.
- These are countries of groups of different languages, cultural norms and strong identity toward these norms; Yet, these multi-national states are among the most stable, successful and enfranchising democracies in the world.
- Levels of political participation, voting and embracing of the Democratic system are among the highest of the Democracies
- Evidence shows that major power states actually opened up and engaged in immigration liberalization during times of national security threats by a rival state
- This was so due to the logic that immigration created a diverse and more talented
labor force, able to contribute to the economy, military and, thus, provide a better national security situation against external threats

Alternative to Nationalism

(1) Sub-Nationalism (aka, “Etho-Nationalism”)

- Based on the idea of sub-cultural groups existing and co-existing within the nation-state
- Sub-cultural groups based on common characteristics, such as ethnicity, geography, religion, language, culture, political ethos – often a different political ethos than the rest of the greater nation
- Sub-cultural group will often face policies of marginalization by the natl. govt. of that state; ranging from persecution to discrimination to segregation to severe political and economic inequality and oppression to outright genocide
- These hostile govt. policies toward the sub-cultural group, along with the already existing feelings of pride, solidarity and identification with the group will cause the phenomena of sub-nationalism
- This is the desire of the sub-cultural group to break away and secede from the existing nation-state and form a separate nation-state, based on the localized values and characteristics of the group
- Another scenario of sub-nationalism: In a poor, developing country, there will be an erosion and decline in legitimacy and support for the authority of the central govt.; thus, the govt. collapses
- Poverty, lack of modernization/ industrialization, along with lack of established civil/ law making institutions cause this lack of legitimacy in the authority of the central/natl. govt. and, therefore, lead to the govt.’s collapse
- These are known as “failed states”
- The event of “failed states”, along with the feelings of identification and loyalty with different sub-cultural groups will cause a multiple # of sub-cultural/national groups to fight each other in violent civil war
- The objective of the fighting is to “fill the void” of the lack of central govt. authority and take over govt. rule, based on that sub-national group’s values
Socialism

- An economic system where the govt. (state) controls, owns and operates virtually all the means of production in an economy (Land, Labor & Capital)
- There exists no private property, ownership or industry
- All economic decision-making (what to produce, how much to produce, prices, wages, etc.) are all dictated by the state
- This is an effort to avoid Capitalist class exploitation between wealthy, land-owning classes and poorer working classes
- Socialism tries to redistribute wealth and land in a way that creates class equality
- Socialism>Communism; After class equality has been achieved, state socialism gives way from an industrial economy to a more agrarian economy
- The state gives way to a communallistic existence; an egalitarian paradise (Communism)

“Schools” of Socialism

(1) Marxism

(A) 19th Century Historical Influences

(1) The Scientific Movement

- The realization that human behavior could be predicted, explained and rationalized through statistical and rational scientific methods

(2) The Concert of Europe (1815)

- The post-Napoleonic re-arrangement in Europe
- Led to the creation of new states that consisted of brutal and oppressive absolute monarchies
- These monarchies were closely allied with aristocratic land-owning classes
- Thus, these post-Napoleonic states were capitalist monarchies

(3) The Industrial Revolution

- Led to the de-humanization of labor
- Labor went from being specialized, skilled and scarce to unspecialized, menial and abundant
- Advanced 19th Century machinery and technology meant that labor was no longer required to be specialized and skilled
- This meant that labor became not only more abundant but also more expendable and, therefore, more exploitable
- Factory owners (capitalist class) were able to maximize “profit squeezing” from the labor classes to themselves because it was so easy to exploit labor
(B) Marx’s Dialectical Materialism

- **Dialectic**: A debate, or dialogue, on ideas
- Ideas lead to events occurring; these events dictate the way society, the economy, govt., the culture, etc. is run
- These initial set of ideas lead to a reaction to these ideas and events (i.e., how can society, govt., etc., improve upon these ideas and events and make life better?)
- This leads to a new set of events and ideas; this new social modality is then challenged with new ideas and events and more questions on how society can be improved upon
- Lead to, yet, a new modality of ideas and events

- The Dialectic traces the progress of human development, evolution and history
- Marx applied the concept of the dialectic to economic/material themes, due to Marx’s belief that economic and material relationships were the essence and basis of society
- Thus, Marx tried to trace human economic history and development, as well as make predictions for future economic evolution:
  - Primitive economic state (hunting, fishing, primitive agriculture)>Domestic economic trade (early bartering)>World economic trade (more widespread bartering)>Feudalism>Pre-Industrial (Early) Capitalism>Industrial Capitalism> Proletariat uprising and revolutionary overthrow of the Bourgeoisie (Capitalist) class>”Temporary Dictatorship” of the Proletariat (Socialism)>”Withering away” of the state>Communalistic Paradise (Communism): The end of the dialectic

- Implications: (1) Believed that all these “stages” of the dialectic were historically inevitable based on what was the pace of capitalist-labor relations and behavior
- (2) Believed that especially the capitalist “stages” were inevitable and necessary for the dialectic and ultimate end result of Communism to be successful
- (3) Marx made his dialectic prophecies with the Western, industrial societies in mind (Western Europe, North America); these societies were ripe for Socialist revolutionary overthrow of Capitalism
(2) Leninism

- Tried to explain Marxist prophecies failing to come true
- Leninism is Marxism with a Russian perspective
- Accepts and supports the essential themes and ideas of Marxism with some variation
- These variations on Marxism were meant to, again, explain how Marx’s prophecies did not come true and also meant to have Marxism apply to the Russian experience
- (A) Imperial Capitalism, not industrial capitalism, was the ultimate and worst “stage” of capitalism
- Imperial Capitalism: Colonization, acquisition and conquering of land and territory beyond national boundaries
- 19th Century industrial capitalist powers used their wealth to build and develop great power, military capability
- Used this military capability to then conquer land and exploit labor and materials abroad at very little cost
- This overseas exploitation of labor and resources made capitalists even wealthier
- (B) The working classes were too ignorant to realize their own exploitation
- Therefore, revolution initiated by a proletariat uprising was impossible
- Working classes had to have a revolutionary movement organized for them
- This was to be done by a highly disciplined, highly organized revolutionary “vanguard”
- This “vanguard” organization was to be centralized decision making, led by elites and Socialist intellectuals loyal to Lenin and Leninist theory
- These were known as the Bolsheviks

(3) Central Economic Planning of the Soviet Union (USSR)

- The Soviet economy (after the NEP period) was a complete and total Socialist economic order; economic planning and decision making come from the top of the govt. hierarchy and filtered down to the various state/party agencies and state-owned factories
- All planning was made and carried out by the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU)

(A) Political/Governing System

1. Politburo – Chief governing body of the USSR; all public policy and laws originated with this chief executive body
- Leader of the Politburo was also the CPSU General Secretary, who, in turn, was also the Premier (or leader) of the Soviet Union
2. Party Central Committee
3. Supreme Soviet – The USSR’s national legislature
- However, this natl. legislature was more of a “window dressing” body that merely “rubber-stamped” the laws and decisions of the Politburo

(B) Economic Central Planning System

1. **Politburo** – Established broad “Five Year Plans”; these plans created “targets” for production, industrial/economic growth, GNP. etc.

2. **Gosplan** – Took the broad “Five Year Plans” and created specific production goals and targets for specific industries and enterprises; established quotas for each enterprise

3. **Enterprise Managers** – These were the heads who ran the state-run enterprises, businesses and factories
   - Appointed by the CPSU/Politburo
   - Took the quotas handed down to them by Gosplan and directed factory workers to fulfill the monthly quotas
   - Enterprise managers would then receive bonuses from the state upon fulfilling of the quotas
   - There tended to be a lot of political deal making between Gosplan and the enterprise managers’ this often led to artificially small quotas for the factories and enterprises to fulfill
   - Remember, all these industries and enterprises were state owned and controlled; there was no worry of competition from private alternatives
   - Thus, quotas were given on the basis of political deal making, not market competition or consumer demand or other market-driven factors
   - This led to: (a) **scarcity of goods**
     (b) low-quality of goods
     © under-employment

Once managers and workers met their monthly quota, there was no further incentive to work and produce more. Why bother?
Fascism

1. A right-wing, reactionary ideology
2. Early-mid 20th Century European Fascists called for drastic and violent retrogressive change
3. Wanted retrogressive change away from the democracy that was beginning to take place in Europe during this time
4. Fascists dislike Democracy; see it as dangerous
5. Democracy is dangerous because it jeopardizes the natl. security of the state
6. A leader cannot respond to an imminent security threat from another nation-state in a decisive and deterring way due to all the political actors the leader has to appease and seek approval from in order to act; public opinion, legislature, different members and party leaders of the legislature, members of the leader’s cabinet – especially if it’s a coalition cabinet of different parties
7. All this consensus building takes time and resources; meanwhile the threat gets bigger and more eminent and the security of the state is in greater jeopardy
8. Thus, democracy makes governing indecisive, unstable, inexpedient and, again, dangerous
9. Fascists believe in the absolute power of the state
10. Fascists value obedience and order to the state; the state and its security is more important than individual will or freedom

Other Ideological Features (differences with Socialism)

(1) Elitism

10. Rejection of equality
11. Human beings are innately unequal to one another
12. Policies that promote social, economic and class equality for those that are naturally unequal and inferior only deplete and exhaust the resources of the state.
13. This, therefore, only weakens the power of the state
14. Only the strongest, brightest, healthiest should survive to assist and promote the security and greatness of the state
15. The weak must be left behind and not be allowed to “drag down” the state

(2) Militarism and Imperialism

16. Imperialism is what is needed to expand the economic, military and political power of the state
17. Through policies of military expansion and conquest, the state is able to achieve its own security and prominence


(3) **Conditional Capitalism**

18 Fascism calls for a capitalist economy - under the condition that capitalist/industrial production is geared to specifically enhance the national interests of the state; state-gearaded capitalism
19 Helping the state economically and militarily – not individual profit gain – ought to be the motive for capitalist/industrialists

**Case Study – NAZI Germany and the Rise of Hitler**

(A) **Historical Influences**

(B) **The Rise of Hitler**

39 As incept as Weimar was, it did have one very dubious and tragic accomplishment - it helped facilitate the rise of Hitler
40 It was the Weimar Republic that gave the access the NAZI’s needed in order to win elections, gain seats and ultimately take power in Germany
41 1919-1920: Hitler joins and starts to build the National Socialist Workers’ Party (NAZI)
42 NAZI’s made very negligible gains in the Reichstag in the early 1920’s
43 NAZI seat gains started to increase as inflation started to worsen
44 Party is able to gain a broad base of support from a diverse group of voters and constituencies: “Junkers,” industrialists, military elites, labor and youth
45 Party is able to gain support by using extreme nationalist themes, Fascist ideological rhetoric and “anti-Versailles” campaign themes
46 NAZI’S also used “thug-like” tactics of threats, intimidation, violence and murders as a way to suppress voter and organization for political and ideological arch-rival Communist party
47 1930: NAZI’s go from 12 to 109 seats in Reichstag
48 1932: NAZI’s go from 109 to 230 seats in Reichstag to secure the largest plurality of any single party (37%)
49 January, 1933: Hitler is appointed Chancellor of Germany
50 March, 1933: Hitler pushes “Enabling Act” through legislature; This was the suspension of civil liberties and granting of dictatorial powers for Hitler
51 April, 1933: Anti-Jewish laws are passed; marks the beginning of the Holocaust
52 July, 1933: All political parties banned

**Theoretical Look at the Causes of Fascism**

(1) **Civil Society Theory**
(2) **Rational Choice Theory**
(3) **Anti-Socialist Theory**