

## Annotation #6

In *Nationalism and History Education* by Rachel Hutchins, the question of the connection of historical education and the idea of nationalism was raised. Hutchins used the example of the Paris Terrorist Attacks of 2015 and the 2016 Charleston Shootings as examples of how allegedly “civic” nations such as France and the United States have an education on history that is much more cultural than purely focused on the modern citizenry. After the attacks of both countries, the respective responses by the government were quite different, with France struggling to tackle the problem of an increasingly multicultural nation and the US government pointing out the lack of African American history taught in schools. Then there is the problem of a purely ‘civic’ nation, since a purely civic nation will have trouble teaching history based on the idea of a nation state, as the idea of ethnic nationalism is replaced with the vague and new concept of a multicultural country. The author also talks about the problem of nationalism in the history curriculum, as choosing that as a path for teaching history in schools will lead to the issue of cultural superiority.

I am heavily invested in this topic that the author wrote about for a long time. The idea of the modern nation state is a very new concept and comes from a European legacy from the Napoleonic Wars. However, the first nation states either adhered to a shared culture or loyalty to the republic, but as we can see as recently with the ongoing events in Afghanistan or the post-colonial nations of Africa, the implementation of this European system and having it forced onto cultural spheres that have never gone by the idea of a nation state can lead to severe consequences. And I believe that while it is important to allow students to learn about their own cultural history in schools, the context of nationalism must be clearly explained and that it is extremely important for them to learn that we cannot apply the view of a modern country to the political entities of the world prior to the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Hutchins, R. (2016). Nationalism and history education. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315754857>