

ABSTRACT

Ethnonationalism and the State in International Relations: The Case of Trinidad and Tobago (With a review of Canada, Northern Ireland and Sri Lanka.)

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This thesis examines the phenomenon and concept of ethnonationalism and its applicability as a tool of analysis for social realities in several countries.

The major postulation is that this concept is a valid one in the study of international politics, and that many states can be relabelled under the rubric of ethnonationalism. Walker Connor's description, as well as an individual dissection of the term, is the foundation for its usage.

Ethnonationalism (ethnic nationalism) has been responsible for the break-up of some states, and a readjustment of the global state structure, and has the potential for disrupting other states. The contention is, however, that ethnonationalism need not be cataclysmic. As such, the utility of this concept is important for understanding its potential and as a precautionary measure. Consequently, four multi-ethnic 'states' are examined -- Trinidad and Tobago (primarily), Canada, Northern Ireland and Sri Lanka. The involvement of external actors, and the potential for such are also explored.

This thesis relies generally on secondary sources of research. However, in Appendix 4, the results were arrived at through a primary investigation.

The results indicate that all four countries have been found to possess facets of ethnonationalism, in varying degrees. In Trinidad and Tobago's case, the label latent ethnonationalism was applied. In all cases as well, ethnonationalism varyingly affects the legitimacy of the 'states'. Thus, ethnonationalism, in many instances, affects the viability of the state and often involves external actors.

Keywords: Carla Roxanne Mathison; Ethnonationalism; Walker Connor; States; Trinidad and Tobago.