I. The Origins and End of the Nation-State
   A. Origins of the State and Its Possible Demise
   B. Origins of the Nation and Its Possible Demise
II. Attributes of the Nation-State
   A. Sovereignty and Territoriality
   B. A People
III. Nations Seeking Sovereign States
   A. Nationalist Mobilization and Movements
   B. Wars of National Liberation
   C. Institutional Alternatives to Independence
IV. Nations with States

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Participation. Please come prepared to contribute to each week’s discussion. If you periodically find that you can only complete all readings for a week by skimming, then read fewer of the assigned readings that week and set aside some time for reflection on these.

Writing Assignment. You should complete a ten-page sketch of an empirical research article. This is the beginning of a thirty-page article that you would write if you had the time to complete the empirical research. You should also prepare a one-page summary of the article and distribute copies to every member of the seminar before finals week. This assignment is described in a separate document. You will present your project to the seminar during a special meeting in finals week. The complete twelve-page sketch is due on the Friday of finals week.

Readings. You may want to order copies of the assigned books from one of the commercial internet sources. I will make electronic copies or a master photocopy available for individual chapters and articles.

For background reading you might pick up these two compendia of excerpts from some of the most important, traditional writings from a variety of disciplines:
You should probably also become familiar with the history of at least one successful or unsuccessful nation-state project. There is a bibliography appended to this syllabus.

If you wonder about my own views on some of these topics—not a very profitable use of your time—you may consult the following. I will not assign these (except for a couple of chapters from the first), but inevitably my own views will creep into seminar discussions:
Week 2. ORIGINS OF THE STATE AND ITS POSSIBLE DEMISE. (October 9)

Read for this meeting:


A. What is a state? Why were there no modern states before the modern era?

Why did the modern state prevail over alternative forms of political organization?


B. Which state projects succeeded?


C. What does this predict for the future?


Week 3. ORIGINS OF THE NATION AND ITS POSSIBLE DEMISE. (October 16)

Read for this meeting:

Renan. Ernest. “Qu’est-ce qu’une nation?” (Excerpt)

A. What is a nation? What is nationalism?


**B. Histories of the idea of nationalism and philosophical treatments**


**C. Were there nations before the modern era?**


D. Origins of the first nations and nationalisms


E. Does the European notion of nationalism travel well to other parts of the world?


F. What does this predict for the future? What are the major alternatives to the nation today?


Week 4. SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIALITY. (October 23)

Read for this meeting:


Also read this recent research article:


A. Sovereignty: What is the relationship between territorial sovereignty and popular sovereignty?


B. Recent research articles on sovereignty


C. Territoriality: Is a homeland just territory?


D. Boundaries and identities: Do states create nations?


E. Recent research articles on territoriality


Week 5. A PEOPLE. (October 30)

Read for this meeting:


Also read these recent research articles:


A. National identity


B. How does national identity differ from other forms of identity?


**C. Recent research articles**


Week 6. NATIONALIST MOBILIZATION AND MOVEMENTS. (November 6)

Read for this meeting:


Also read this recent research article:


A. Mobilization


B. Recent research articles


Week 7. WARS OF NATIONAL LIBERATION. (November 13)

Read for this meeting:


Also read these recent research articles:


A. State failure


B. Secession and national self-determination


C. Are wars of national liberation different from civil wars and ethnic wars?


**D. Recent research articles**


*Note: No meeting during the week of Thanksgiving. We will make up this meeting during finals week.*
Week 9. INSTITUTIONAL ALTERNATIVES TO INDEPENDENCE. (November 27)

Read for this meeting:


Also read these recent research articles:


A. Is it impossible to accommodate national diversity in a single state?


**B. Can consociationalism accommodate national diversity?**


**C. Are there better alternatives than consociationalism?**


**D. Electoral systems and elections: Are electoral systems powerful enough to make a difference?**


**E. Recent research articles**


Week 10.  NATIONS WITH STATES. (December 4)

Read for this meeting:


Also read these recent research articles:


A. Citizens, patriots, and others


B. Are Americans a nation? What does it mean to be an American?


C. Nationalism and foreign policy: hypernationalism, irredentism, and diasporas


Noteworthy Monographs on Nationalism in Specific Regions or Countries

**Europe—General or comparative**

**Great Britain**

**Ireland**

**Western Europe**
[Available on-line]
Edinburgh: Donald.

**Germany**

**Iberia**

**Eastern Europe**

**USA**

Latin America


East Asia


**South Asia**


**Southwest Asia**


**Africa**


