

WT17 – Nationalism and cosmopolitanism

Session 1

The Chinese vision

- Nationalism is a notion originating in the West
- Nationalism boosts declining ideology
- Nationalism is part emotional manifestation and part rational
- Nationalism is compatible with Confucianism
- Chinese civilization's role in saving Western civilization
- Nationalism can be based on the uniqueness of Chinese culture
- The Taiwan issue is one of the keys of extremist nationalism
- Traditional morals in opposition to the modernity of competition
- Economic nationalism bolsters the legitimacy of the regime

The European questions addressed to Chinese

- The meaning of the Chinese nation
- Relationships between ethnicities in the interior of the Chinese Nation-State
- Definition of the notion of “nation” as an exterior entity or to unify China's different parts
- The differences between empire and nation

- The relationships between communism and nationalism
- What are some sociological analyses of Chinese nationalism?
- Is nationalism not always an essential driver of modernity in China?

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The European vision

- The post-communist era has restarted the debate on nationalism in Central Europe
- National division continues in several European Union member states, including founding countries
- Must there be a distinction between nationalism in former and emerging countries?
- Differentiating between nationalism and patriotism
- The European Union: more economic than political
- Federalism is different from cosmopolitanism
- Is the new Chinese middle class nationalist?
- Does Chinese economic growth promote nationalism or not?
- How should the connection between China and communism be characterised?

The Chinese questions addressed to Europeans

- To what extent did federalism shape pre-modern Europe?
- The role of Christianity in European unity and division
- Isolation as a form of nationalism
- The need for a nationalist phase in the development of all countries
- Political moderation of the middle classes
- Tolerating, controlling or suppressing nationalism

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Similarities

- Questions of national importance, at the domestic and inter-state levels
- Comparison of Franco-German and Sino-Japanese relations
- Importance of economic development
- The decline of Communism, and economic globalisation as causes of nationalism
- The threat of globalisation for cultural identity
- An unclear future
- The importance of teaching history

Differences

- Chinese humiliation and nationalism

- National pride caused by economic development
- China portrayed as a victim in official history
- The link between humiliation and xenophobia
- The ideological vacuum in China post-1989
- The role played by intellectuals in legitimising nationalism
- Elitism in Chinese nationalism
- Official nationalism
- Nationalism among Chinese and foreign university students

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How to enhance the dialogue between China and Europe ?

- Continue to organise forums regularly
- Redefine workshop themes
- Observe mindsets
- Promote the teaching of history courses
- Development of standards and regulations
- Democratise China and the European Union
- Translate, preserve the plurality of language
- Interactive forum
- Increase discussion of European issues
- Compare Franco-German and Sino-European conflicts