



GLOBAL HUMANITIES

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Editors Frank Jacob and Francesco Mangiapane

Identity and Nationhood

Editorial by
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Texts by
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EDITORIAL

Frank Jacob and Francesco Mangiapane



he nation state is back, or, more accurately, it was never gone. It is striking that the end of the Cold War

did not lead to the world flourishing while liberalist ideas, which Francis Fukuyama had so prominently declared victorious at last, determined politics around the globe. The end of the “Soviet Empire” led to new nationalist struggles that seem to have determined the first two decades of the 21st century. With challenging and challenged ideas for national independence in all parts of the world, nationalism is again having a strong impact on political decisions and is stimulating the rise of nationalist populism and right-wing parties alike.

Nevertheless, every nation state is based on the idea of a nation that is, as Ernest Renan formulated it, created by a shared past and the consensus of the present. It is the root of each nation state, but it can also divide the latter and force them into secession. Therefore, the nation and its formulation are important topics to study from different angles and within different academic disciplines. The rise of nationalism is without any doubt a global phenomenon, and the present issue of *Global Humanities* therefore takes a closer look at the formation of nationhood and the symbols and figures involved and offers a broader view on the history and actuality of the nation and the states that

refer to this idea to legitimize their own existence. Considering that the history of nationalism is not over and will not be over in the near future, the articles in this volume will hopefully help to further the ways nationalism impacts our daily lives and also stimulate new research on relevant aspects related to the formation of nation states and their creation of national narratives to remember in the future.

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June 2021