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The Function of Iranian Nationalism Based on Constructivism Theory (Case Study of Azeri-Inhabited Areas)

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Abstract

Although the Western origin of nationalism has been emphasized in recent centuries, in social interactions, a sense of nationalism has existed between individuals since ancient times and is essentially cultural. Nationalism can be presented with a negative and positive approach. This study, with a positive approach and attitude, has examined the functions of Iranian nationalism in Azeri-populated areas with a descriptive-analytical method and library collection. Language, land, common culture, or a sense of belonging to a community and the like have always been a driving force and influential in strengthening and developing the positive dimension of nationalism. Reza Shahi's project attempted to revive the ancient values of pre-Islamic Iran. The combination of ideology and religious beliefs with Iranian nationalism in Azeri-populated areas created different capabilities and functions compared to other societies, which is inconsistent with its anti-religious approach. Expressing hatred of foreigners, confronting the occupation, not supporting the Azerbaijani and Persian goods, opposing the Russian-British agreement, forming social movements, resisting the occupiers, taking a stance against the arrest of Imam Khomeini (RA), opposing the establishment of provincial and provincial associations, taking the lead in joining Mossadegh's national movement, and taking the lead in accompanying the Islamic Revolution are among the functions of Iranian nationalism that have been built as a result of education, behavioral interactions, social connections, and interpersonal interactions of individuals in the communities. The research findings also indicate that positive dimensions of nationalism have been built in the Azeri-populated areas. In a way that it took on an anti-authoritarian form against

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internal tyranny and was built with a focus on preserving Iranian unity and identity.

Introduction

Nationalism is an ideology that has had a significant impact on the political and cultural landscape of most countries in the world since its birth and emergence in Europe. The emergence of concepts such as; nation, nationality, national identity, national state, country, etc. has been associated with the development and evolution of the idea of nationalism. It reached its peak during the 19th century and since then it has gradually entered other countries of the world, especially the Middle East, and has become widespread in various forms at the political and cultural levels of these lands. During this period, nationalism has taken on various manifestations and forms, and numerous types of this idea have emerged in the fields of politics, economics, and culture. At the same time, theories of nationalism address broader issues and broader trends in the social sciences, including the sociology of knowledge, the impact of ideologies, the formation of societies and movements, the role of the state, the directionality of modern history, or the lack of this directionality.

Methodology

In terms of methodology, this research, using the descriptive-analytical method and documental, historical, and library methods to collect data, has studied the function of Iranian nationalism in Azeri-populated areas based on the constructivist theory, based on the presented questions.

Result and discussion

The defenders of Iranian nationalism conceived of its negative and reprehensible aspect. The main and main goals of nationalism were to confront religion and de-religiousize Iran. Therefore, they focused their utmost efforts on the development and spread of archaism with an anti-religious and de-religious approach. Mirza Fath Ali Akhundzadeh considers Zoroastrianism to be a manifestation of Iranian ethnicity and superior to Islam, Mirza Agha Khan Kermani emphasizes the praise of pre-Islamic Iran and the nation and nationalism, and Mirza Malik Khan Nazim al-Dawlah also speaks highly of pre-Islamic Iranian civilization. Subsequently, Reza Shah also tried to revive the ancient values and archaism of pre-Islamic Iran. The main harms of nationalism are addressing its negative approaches and aspects. If the harms of nationalism are built upon, separatism, ethnocentrism, anti-

religion, de-religiousization, and social anomalies will emerge and manifest. Based on the theory of constructivism, concepts and practices related to environmental conditions are constructed over time through social interactions, social connections, the transmission of national feelings and historical background, interests, linguistic actions, etc., under the guidance of religious leaders and active actors in the cultural, social, and political arenas. The development and promotion of Iranian extremist nationalism can increase the idea of separatism. The continuation of this trend will lead to the creation of ethnic and social divisions and the development of differences in Islamic societies. Therefore, the development and strengthening of positive nationalism in Iranian societies, especially in the Azeri-populated areas, is emphasized.

Conclusion

It is suggested that by developing and promoting the positive components of nationalism, positive approaches should be seriously considered. This approach not only does not contradict national interests and the development of various aspects of national security, but also strengthens social relations between different ethnicities and strengthens social cohesion in Azeri-populated areas. Addressing any actions based on racial and ethnic aspects, individual, factional, and exclusive interests, which are negative aspects of nationalism, will not only lead to the expansion of social gaps, but will also turn existing social damage into a security threat. For this reason, it is necessary for experts, decision-makers, and managers in any planning related to cultural, social, and political issues not only to refrain from involving the negative aspects of nationalism, but also to strengthen and consolidate its positive aspects. They should also identify and manage cultural, social, and political harms that are effective in shaping social phenomena with an ethnic approach, in order to build nationalism with a positive approach. The outcome of this process will be social consolidation, social cohesion, socio-cultural convergence, and political convergence.

Keywords: Nationalism, Iranian nationalism, Azeri-populated areas, constructivism.

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