

What do nationalism, patriotism, and solidarity mean to  
citizens of the United States formed in a  
classical/traditional western educational framework?

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# My Perspective

South Dakota to Yale

- Knowledge of the tension between indigenous and western teachings
- Experience participating in the US education system

Key resources used for this presentation:

<https://stanleycenter.org/publications/americas-uncomfortable-relationship-with-nationalism/>

<https://democracy.psu.edu/poll-report-archive/there-are-many-ways-to-be-patriotic/>

<https://firescholars.seu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1019&context=classicalstudies>

<https://academic.oup.com/hrr/article/24/2/ngae011/7664528>

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/american-journal-of-international-law/article/solidarity-as-a-force-for-systemic-change/701FBAC5585B5AB6042B0E20FB97A4A2>

# Nationalism, Patriotism, and Solidarity

- Nationalism: how a country unites itself in order to maintain national sovereignty and independence
- Patriotism: loyalty and commitment to one's country
- Solidarity: collective action within a group in order to achieve shared goals

# Perspectives and Interpretation

Key tension: universal rights vs. loyalty to one's group

- Heavy individualist perspective
- Influenced by tradition and U.S. loyalty
- Colonial history of the U.S.

# Nationalism

## Major influences:

- Enlightenment thinkers (John Locke)
- Constitution, Declaration of Independence

## Manifestations

- Commitment to constitutional order, freedom, and liberty (patriotism)
  - Tension between American and foreign nationalism
- Adherence to traditional principles
- Tendency to equate American interests with world interests
  - American exceptionalism

# Patriotism

## Major influences:

- Christian and Jewish religious influences
- Founding fathers

## Manifestations:

- American pride
- Civic participation (military, jury duty, civil service, community engagement)
- Criticism of the country
  - Criticizing America is one way to make it better

# Solidarity

## Major influences

- Religious thought
- Social Contract Theory

## Manifestations

- Shared rights, responsibilities, and duties
- Encourages citizens to participate in collective action
- People in power stand with other citizens
  - Can drive social change