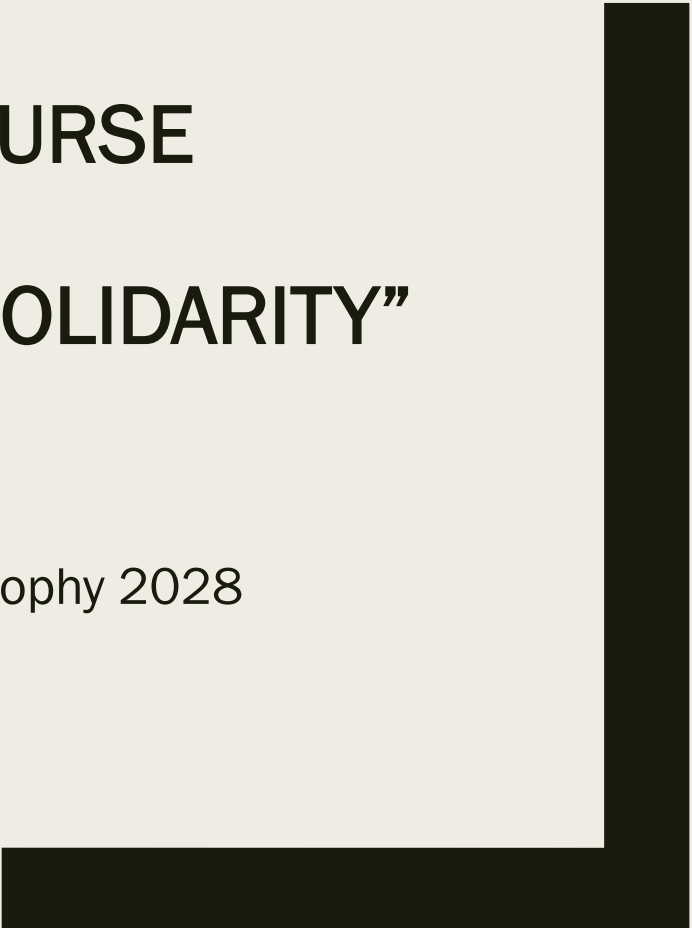




THE PURSUIT OF CIVIL DISCOURSE

“NATIONALISM, PATRIOTISM, AND SOLIDARITY”

PEDRO GIL GONZÁLEZ
UNIVERSIDAD PANAMERICANA – School of Philosophy 2028
MEXICO

Who or what
do you see
when you
look at the
mirror?



The eternal question: Who are you?

- "Know Thyself, and you will know the universe and the gods" is an ancient Delphic maxim highlighting that inner self-discovery is the key to understanding universal, divine, and natural mysteries. Everyone is called to pursue wisdom.



A little bit of my personal background:

- I was born in Villahermosa, Tabasco, México on the southeast region of the country, near the Yucatan Peninsula and in the border with Guatemala.



Tabasco role in Mexican History

Tabasco has played a pivotal role in Mexican history, serving as the cradle of the Olmec civilization (c. 1500 B.C.), the site of crucial 16th-century Spanish conquest, and a hub for oil production. It is known for early resistance against foreign invaders, including the French and US, and served as a "laboratory of revolution" in the 1920s.



Tabasco in chronological order

- **Birthplace of Civilization:** The Olmecs, Mesoamerica's "mother culture" established major sites like La Venta around 1500 B.C..
- **Spanish Conquest & Key Contact:** In 1519, Hernán Cortés fought the Battle of Centla against the Chontal Maya. Following his victory, he received 20 women, including Malinalli (La Malinche), who became his translator, mistress, and a key figure in the conquest.
- **"Laboratory of Revolution":** In the 1920s, radical leader Tomás Garrido Canabal implemented intense social, anti-clerical, and agricultural reforms, making the state a unique, almost socialist, political experiment, often compared with Yucatan.
- **Resistance to Foreign Invasions:** During the 1860s French intervention, Tabasco fought back under leaders like Gregorio Méndez, expelling the French by February 27, 1864.
- **Strategic Military Site:** During the Mexican – American War, local forces famously defeated US invaders in 1846.
- **Economic Significance:** Traditionally a major producer of cacao, the state became one of Mexico's main oil-producing zones following discoveries in the 1970s.
- **Modern Political Influence:** Tabasco has been a significant political hub, most recently as the birthplace of President Andrés Manuel López Obrador.



What do nationalism, patriotism, and solidarity mean to Mexican citizens formed in a classical/traditional Western educational framework?



Let's try to comprehend the question... word by word.

- Nationalism: an ideology that elevates one nation or nationality above all others and that places primary emphasis on promotion of its culture and interests as opposed to those of other nations, nationalities, or supranational groups
- Patriotism: love for or devotion to one's country
- Solidarity: 1. unity (as of a group or class) that produces or is based on community of interests, objectives, and standards. 2. According to doctor Michael Pakaluk it is treating others equally to us with dignity and respect and the development of this habit became the virtue of solidarity.

Classical traditional western education:

- aims to cultivate human virtue
- emphasizes the humanities, encompassing the general learning that should be the possession of all people
- is founded on logocentrism, the principle that truth exists and can be known through the exercise of reason, and that there are objective standards of truth, beauty, and virtue
- aims to cultivate moral character and civic virtue, grounded in prudence, justice, courage, humility, gratitude, perseverance, and compassion
- holds that the purpose of education is to enable human happiness. It seeks to engage the inquisitive nature and the need for purpose, which are innate in human mind and soul
- aims to instill appreciation and discernment of the good, the true, and the beautiful
- relies on traditional methods; it holds that teachers, instructing in classrooms, are indispensable as sources of inspiration and models of virtuous character
- is language-rich and employs a variety of instructional approaches including Socratic dialogue, seminar, lecture, debate, and recitation
- employs a rigorous, content-rich curriculum in the liberal arts and sciences; this includes the use of primary sources in the humanities to convey the stories and mysteries of the human condition as told by the great authors and thinkers

Answering your question... as a mexican.

- I believe that although the terms nationalism, patriotism, and solidarity are closely related because they revolve around a human community, the way in which they are implemented is very different.
- At some point in my life, when I was a teenager and trying to answer the question of who I was, I came to identify myself above all as Mexican, since I had such a deep-rooted love for my land and although I doubted many things, I did not doubt where I was born and the sense of duty that my community deserved.
- However, as I grew up, educating myself, studying in other countries like Canada or Italy, I began not only to admire and respect other nations but also to identify myself as part of them.
- This was because I no longer focused solely on the material values of each country, but also on the human values of my classmates and friends that I had acquired over time. "They" became "we."
- I also think that we all need the passage of years or some experiences, to see beyond what we know and - very importantly - to know how to communicate even with language barriers in order to generate empathy and defend not one's own country but our world that belongs to everyone.

It is important to remember who we are, where we come from and what our origins are, but also to understand that human history is one of transformations, everyone has something to offer and communication is key. Let´s learn together.

Thank you!

