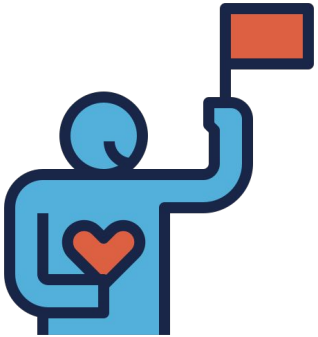
Nationalism, Patriotism, Solidarity: A Critical Framework

Shannon Arana, Immaculate Heart Central ‘27

The Framework

Nationalism

Runs the country



Patriotism

Fosters a sense of belonging

Solidarity

Advances the nation

The Analysis

“Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents” by Isabel Wilkerson

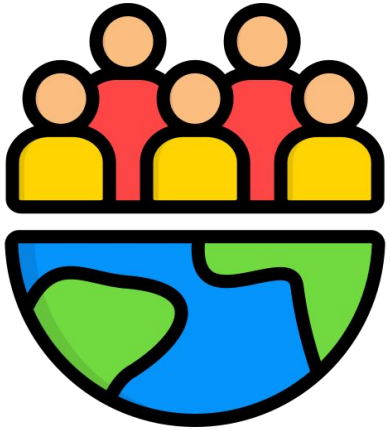
- Key Idea: The U.S. has a hidden social hierarchy (caste) that we must acknowledge before we have a civil discourse.

“An Indigenous People’s History of the United States” by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz

- Key Idea: We must include the “original” history of North America to understand our current society and identity.

The Path Forward

- Efficiency requires accuracy
  - We cannot build stable solutions on a faulty foundation
- **The necessary shift:** Blind nationalism → Critical informed engagement
- **Our responsibility:** To be a citizen means to actively knock down barriers to ensure everyone has a chance to succeed



Conclusion

The Goal: Moving from passive pride to active civic engagement.

- **Nationalism:** An administrative system that demands our constant scrutiny.
- **Patriotism:** A "critical love" that holds the nation accountable to its ideals.
- **Solidarity:** The essential tool used to dismantle systemic barriers.

True citizenship is not a status. It is the active, collective work of building a more equitable future.

Thank you!

Do you have any questions?

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