

# **Nation-State Building (1): Successful/Unsuccessful National Symbols**

**Multi-Ethnic Society (3)  
(May 1, 2014)**

# Necessity and Danger of Categorization/Classification

- Why is it complicated: non-exclusive concepts
- It is Necessary to be careful about how to call others (and yourself): right to definition can be power to dominate others
- Colonization and globalization of “races”: global hierarchical relation which has made Europe reference standard + local context

# Why Symbols?

- How can a political unit and a national unit be congruent?
- How can a nation/state create unity (oneness)? How can symbols function?
- (How are the ethnic majority-minority relations?)

# What are the “Imagined Communities”?

- “It is imagined because the members of even the smallest nation will never know most of their fellow-members, meet them, or even heard of them, yet in the minds of each lives the image of their communion.” (Anderson 1991: 6)
- He does not take it for granted that people share the same sense of belonging. Therefore, how is it possible?

- “Modular”: “capable of being transplanted, with varying degrees of self-consciousness, to a great variety of social terrains, to merge and be merged with a correspond-ingly wide variety of political and ideological constellations” (Anderson1991: 4)

→Nishikawa (1995: 31)’s modification of modular

=Nationalization of (1) space

(2) Time

(3) Customs

(4) Body

- Globalized nationalism
- Pirate nationalism (Niikura 2008) = no copyright, inter-imitation = “technology transfer”

# Case 1: Bosnia

- “The divisions in society come first.” (p. 697)
- Sovereign state of Bosnia-Herzegovina consists of:
  - Republika Srpska
  - Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina: its coat of arms abandoned in 2007 <http://p.tl/YcAA>

# Cases 2 and 3: Russia and Norway

- Russia: memories of tsarist regime and socialist regime → why nostalgic anthem (lyrics) and coat of arms got popularity  
<http://p.tl/LExe>
- Norway: division before WW II was between bourgeoisie and working class, potential present division around participation in EU



# Discussion (1)

- If I compare Anderson with Kolsto, Anderson's approach may be more functionalist (if 'modular' successfully functions for nation building, members of the nation are just objects who are influenced from the top), while Kolsto's approach may be more 'interactive' (there are possibilities of both success and failure of nation building depending on the reactions of peoples).
- It is interesting that Kolsto sees both function and dysfunction in one article.

# Discussion (2)

- What is lacking in Kolsto, is the point that there might have been possibility of failure even in established state.
  - There is still room for remembering Anderson.
- Making of majority is one side of the same coin: the other side is making of minorities.

# References

- Anderson, Benedict, 1991, *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism* (revised edition), Verso
- Niikura, Takahito (新倉貴仁), 2008, 「海賊版としてのナショナリズム®——ナショナリズムとメディアをめぐる理論的視座の構築」『マス・コミュニケーション研究』73
- Nishikawa, Nagao (西川長夫), 1995, 「日本型国民国家の形成」西川・松宮編『幕末・明治期の国民国家形成と文化変容』新曜社

## 【Email assignment】

When and how do you have a sense of belonging to your country/nation (how have you identified yourself as a member)? (if you do not have the sense of belonging, why and how?)

## 【Preparation】

We will deal with “assimilation” as one of the key concepts when we think about national unity. What does “assimilation” mean, how does “assimilation” take place?