

ENGLISH FOR POLITICAL SCIENCE

**Professional English for Political Science,
International Relations,
History and Related Subjects**

A Textbook

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2021

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Warm up

IBDIS | We know
How do people define their identity? Brainstorm identity categories and write them down in the graph.



Communication practice

Think about your own identity. How would you describe yourself?

Fill in the chart on the left (A) with information about yourself.

<i>A. Name:</i>	<i>B. Name:</i>
<i>Gender:</i>	<i>Gender:</i>
<i>Ethnicity:</i>	<i>Ethnicity:</i>
<i>Nationality:</i>	<i>Nationality:</i>
<i>Appearance:</i>	<i>Appearance:</i>
<i>Positive traits:</i>	<i>Positive traits:</i>
<i>Negative traits:</i>	<i>Negative traits:</i>
<i>Favorite movies:</i>	<i>Favorite movies:</i>
<i>Favorite music:</i>	<i>Favorite music:</i>

Favorite book:

EBRIS

We know books

Favorite book:

Interests:

Interests:

Political views:

Political views:

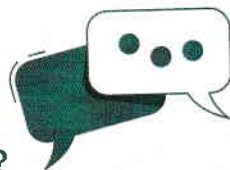
Anything else that defines you as an individual:

Anything else that defines you as an individual:

Using the table above, describe yourself to your speaking partner. Write down information about them in the chart on the right (B).

Find three things that you have in common.

Pre-reading discussion



What is the connection between identity and politics?

Look at the pictures. How do they relate to identity and politics?



Fig 1.



Fig 2.



Fig 3.



Fig 4.

Fig 1.: Photo by Marc Nozell via <https://www.flickr.com/photos/marnc/>

Fig 2.: Photo by Anadolu Agency via Getty Images

Fig 3.: <https://www.cocotbodol.com/Inhumansoflate1/status/1450942315527241731>

Fig 4.: Photo by Mohsin Raza via <https://www.tbsnews.net/world/south-asia-china/pakistan-gives-un-bossler-india-after-india-submits-one-pakistan-16281>

Can you think of examples from history where identity-related issues created political tensions?

Reading activity

The text below is about anti-Semitism in Romania. Read it and answer the questions below in your own words.

“Modern anti-Semitism, as a secular political and ideological phenomenon distinct from previous, religiously inspired anti-Judaism, appeared in Romania at the same time as in other countries in Europe, during the second half of the nineteenth century. A note should be made, however, that emphasizing the modern character of anti-Semitism in Romania and elsewhere does not preclude long-term continuities with pre-modern forms of religiously inspired anti-Judaism. In this respect, Romania had been the place of origin for some particularly notorious religious anti-Jewish tracts, some of which were distributed widely among Christian Orthodox communities, in South-Eastern Europe and beyond.”

What does the author claim about the rise of anti-Semitism in Romania?

“Modern anti-Semitism was from the outset an inextricable part of the nationbuilding process in Romania, with the so-called “Jewish question” acting as a permanent corollary of the “national question.” The first Romanian Constitution (1866) stipulated in its Article 7 that non-Christians could not be naturalized as Romanians, effectively barring the path to a Jewish emancipation that was being implemented in the neighboring Hungarian part of the Dual Monarchy at almost the same time. Another important moment in the evolution of anti-Semitism in Romania was the Congress of Berlin (1878), where international recognition of Romania’s independence was conditioned on granting equal civil and political rights to “all nationals of the Romanian state . . . without distinction of religion.” The ensuing parliamentary debates surrounding Jewish emancipation witnessed the crystallization of modern, political anti-Semitism in Romania, synchronic with and making reference to similar developments in Central and Western Europe, and resulting in an eventual failure to emancipate the Jews.”

What does the text explain about the birth of the Romanian nation and anti-Semitism?

“International pressures on behalf of the Jews, whether from the Alliance Israelite Universelle or the Great Powers, were framed as foreign intervention in the internal affairs of a (now-)sovereign state. Given that such international interventions were legitimated as attempts to protect a religious minority, emphasizing that anti-Semitism was “not grounded in religious difference” was important for Romanian elites, as it implied that

the right of humanitarian intervention could not be invoked against the state.” This particular moment in the historical evolution of anti-Semitism in Romania is worth particular attention, since it influenced decisively its further trajectory. Importantly, it yoked the “Jewish question” together with the “national question,” with the two becoming virtually inseparable: henceforth, any proposed solution to the latter would necessarily involve the former.”

What does the word “trajectory” refer to?

“Even more importantly, it did so in a particular manner that was to prove fateful for the later dynamic of the Holocaust in Romania, and to a certain extent reverberates until today. Thus, on the one hand, the issue of Jews in Romania was decidedly framed as an “internal affair,” whereby the fate of a group identified as “our Jews” was to be determined exclusively by the Romanian authorities. On the other hand, as subjects of the Romanian state but non-citizens, the Jewish minority in the country was effectively “denationalized,” cut off from the “nation,” however imagined, and linked decisively to “foreign interests.” This placing of “the Jew” beyond the boundaries of the Romanian “nation” was to have extremely negative consequences, resulting in legal discrimination that was tantamount to effective exclusion from political life, as well as from Romanian society.” (Cârstocea, 2014)

What does the paragraph above suggest about the relation between Jewishness and the Romanian state?



Fig 5.

Fig 5.: <https://www.hillel.org/about/news-views/news-views---blog/news-and-views/2021/04/14/hillels-respond-to-surge-in-antisemitism>

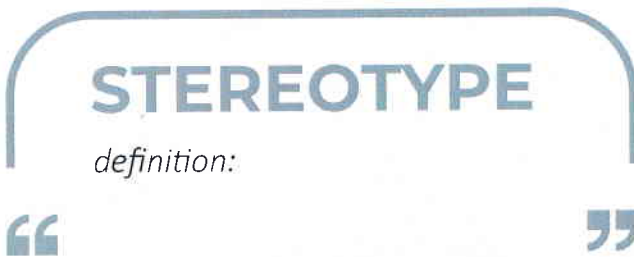
- To what extent is anti-Semitism condemned in the world today?
- How does the Romanian state take accountability for the role it played in the Holocaust?
- What do you think states and individuals should do to prevent such an atrocity from happening again?

Multimedia

Follow the link and watch the video about stereotypes:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0sBqCL9FoQs&ab_channel=TuftsUniversityTuftsUniversity

Write the definition of the term “stereotype.”



Communication practice

Think of five stereotypes you have heard. In groups, discuss where you think these come from.



Presentation

In groups, choose a country or event as a case study to discuss political tensions caused by discrimination. Prepare a 10-minute presentation on identity-based discrimination in the contemporary world.



NATIONAL IDENTITY: REBRANDING AND ADVERTISING THE NATION

ANDRADA FĂTU-TUTOVEANU

DESCRIPTION: National identity and nationalism as prominent realities; displays of patriotism, rebranding of national identity patriotism; nationalist visuals.

ACTIVITIES: warm up: listening comprehension and speaking; reading activities and comprehension; vocabulary practice; communication practice multimedia; case study; follow-up project

Speaking session: Do We Need a National Identity?

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=71Z0UXUV_qo

Activity: Watch the video and express your opinion on the question above.

Communication – practice

Based on the information below, discuss/debate the role of national identity, propaganda and nationalism.

- National identity and nationalism are still very prominent realities in today's world, despite the focus on globalisation or supranational constructs such as the European Union.
- The topic is very important to understand and become aware of as in recent history there is an emergence of nationalism and extremism (with a focus on national superiority).
- Parades, ceremonies, games are displays of patriotism (and sometimes nationalism). National identity has been rebranded recently in countries such as the UK for tourism and reinforcement of national pride and monarchy support.
- Nationalist propaganda or visuals are very important to understand and decode beyond the positive features of patriotism.

Reading activity

- A. "On-screen and online, informal language plays down notions of identity and belonging. Effectively, banal forms of nationalism reinforce a sense of being left behind by one's nation.
- B. The volatile media market and the highly polarised public debate over who-is-to-blame are a challenge to scientific rigour. In other words, an objective sampling of media discourses in quantitative terms is somewhat unlikely.
- C. The type of rhetoric commonly used by the Moldovans who happen to let slip that they do not obsess about the "hot nationalism" (Hutchinson, 2006) performed on the lavish scale of state ceremonies. Instead, they are concerned with making a better life for themselves. Such expectations entail the very same kind of banal nationalism first documented in Western nations. That being said, there is no doubt that banal forms of nationalism reproduce the multi and supra-national identities of Moldovan nationals in ways that the "overt, articulated and often fiercely expressed nationalism" (Billig, 1995, p. 16) cannot." (Colăcel, 2017)

Nationalism
 Performance – to perform
 Display
 Anthem
 Commodification
 Historiography
 transnational (networks)



Reading comprehension

Match the words according to how they appear in the texts A-C.

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| a. volatile | 1. nationalism |
| b. hot | 2. discourses |
| c. state | 3. identities |
| d. media | 4. nationalism |
| e. supra-national | 5. ceremonies |
| f. forms of | 6. media |

Find the noun/verb/adjective if applicable.

NOUN 1	NOUN 2	VERB	ADJECTIVE
commodification	commodity		
nationalism			
brand	rebranding		
		identify	
		advertise	

Vocabulary Practice exercises

Collocations

National hero		National heritage
National pride		National sport
National Academy		National traditions
National anthem		National symbols
National flag		National borders