

BIRKBECK
(University of London)

MSc/MRes EXAMINATION

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS

FULL-TITLE OF MODULE: Nationalism and Ethno-Religious Conflict

OFFICIAL MODULE NUMBER: POSO044S7

CREDIT VALUE: 30 credits

DATE OF EXAMINATION: Thursday 22nd May 2014

DURATION OF PAPER: THREE HOURS , 10:00am – 1:00pm

You must answer THREE of the THIRTEEN questions.

All questions carry equal weight.

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1. What are the problems of defining 'ethnicity' and why does this matter when debating ethno-symbolist views on the nation?
2. Is the creation of Western states a 'miracle' or the outcome of a 'natural' evolutionary process?
3. Is England a 'proto-type nation'? Compare and contrast debates about the 'revival' or 'construction' of national myths or identities.
4. 'All nations are both ethnic and civic'. Discuss.
5. 'We have Italy, now we must make Italians.' Discuss modernist views on the importance of deepening and extending the nation.
6. Is there an affinity between irredentist forms of nationalism and fascist movements?
7. What explains the existence of multi-ethnic states?
8. Review the debate over the 'political view' vs. 'private view' on the nature of civil wars.
9. Is there a link between nationalism and democratic transition?
10. Ethnic parties challenge the definition of parties as reconcilers of interests. Why?
11. How does Rational Choice Theory explain motivations for civil wars?
12. Do you agree with Steve Bruce's secularisation model? Discuss his thesis with reference to pro and contra arguments.
13. 'Religions are fundamental for the development of national collective identities'. Discuss.