

Title: Nationalism: a double-edged sword

Homi K. Bhabha says that national identities are constructed by myths and imaginations. The ethnic and regional affection, which shape nationalism, mutilate the origin of nations. Therefore, instead of respecting universal values, nationalism becomes exclusive and oppressive in nature. Philosophers ~~are~~ emphasize bridging the cultural differences. Al-Ghazali, in his works, emphasizes an inclusive nationalism that unifies all people, maintaining justice and patriotism. He is against the extreme nationalism that is exclusive in nature. As nationalism is constructive, it can have both positive and negative effects. It can be inclusive, based on equality and justice; or it can be exclusive, dominating the weaker by the stronger nations. Iqbal endorses that democracy, which is considered as a counter to oppression, is itself based on a desire to dominate the weaker nations. Democracy also promotes extreme nationalism. Although

nationalism can be both unifying and divisive, depending on the way it is perceived, it requires a careful approach to maintain patriotism and justice.