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Nationalism: Double-Edged Sword

Homi K. Bhabha says nations are built on stories, narratives shaped by myth and imagination. As a result, national identities can become rigid and exclusionary. Such rigid nationalism contradicts the universal humanism supported by thinkers, like, Socrates, Plato and Ghazali, in works like, *The Alchemy of Happiness* and *The Revival of Religious Sciences*, that emphasizes love for homeland must be balanced with justice and equality. The author's ideas promote inclusive citizenship as a alternative to narrow and hostile nationalism. The passage explains that modern nationalism often becomes aggressive and suppressive, in other words it has often led to macho patriotism and xenophobia. Although nationalism has brought some benefits, it has also caused domination and violence exemplified by Ratzel in his idea of organic borders that can be seen in events such as, the Bosnian

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massacre and the ongoing conflict in Palestine. Iqbal's criticism of democracy as a facade for imperial power, these words warn against blindly worshipping nationalism. Herder's notion of Volkgeist shows that national spirit can unite people but it can also divide them if misused. To conclude this, nationalism should be practiced with caution, that protects nation's pride and universal human rights.

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② Nationalism and Humanism