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**Humanistic Nationalism: an antidote to Rigid Nationalism**

Bhabha promotes a well-balanced notion of nationalism. He argues that nationalism is a combination of myths, imaginations, history, and local realities. Therefore, national identities often assumes extreme forms and contradicts humanistic ideals of western and Islamic thinkers. Al-Ghazali, through his writings, highlights a balanced approach to nationalism based on Justice and fairness. He sees extreme nationalism as a threat to humanism. Similarly, Bhabha suggest re-thinking nationalism and building global identities defined by universal values. However, the increased nationalism in the world has given birth to hyper-patriotism that curtails opposition and individual liberty. Nationalism proves to have both good and bad sides to it. It has allowed some nations to adopt<sup>an</sup> inclusive and egalitarian approach. While others use it to pursue imperialist expansion through force, as seen in Palestine and Bosnia. Moreover, democracy's failure to prevent such violence has frustrated masses and strengthened Iqbal's critique of it as a disguise for imperialism. Bhabha also argues that democracy and imperialism are two sides of a same coin. He says that imperialism birthed nationalism, leaving weaker states to struggle alone with self-rule. Herder also sees nationalism as a concept that can both divide and



unite people based on its application. Therefore, Bhabha argues for grounded nationalism that foster national spirit alongside humanism to prevent extreme nationalism.

Total word count: 215

Passage word count: 620