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Misusing National Identity in the Age of Globalization

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Abstract

Although our world is said to be postmodern and global, the notion of ‘national identity’ seems to matter tremendously in Western European societies, and it is used to determine who is involved and who is excluded in nationalistic discourses and actions. As Western Europe is witnessing an unprecedented scale of immigration, ‘national identity’ is used as a salient tool for demonizing some minorities. Hence, this article reviews the meaning of the concept of national identity and argues that in the age of globalization, the notion is highly problematic in multicultural societies. Furthermore, through taking some examples from recent European elections and referenda, the article argues that whereas the world is facing an unparalleled refugee crisis, the notion regrettably contributes to dreadful acts like prejudice, xenophobia, and terrorism to serve political purposes.

Key words: national identity, globalization, multiculturalism, immigration, Western Europe.