

Democratic Innovations in Nepal Essay

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Assess the degree to which late 20th century Nepal, as described by Burghart, could be characterized as a modern 'nation-state' in Gellner's sense.

'People in different parts of the world still utter different sounds, but nowadays they say more or less the same things everywhere' (Gellner in Eriksen, 2010. p.289).

For a long period of time, [nationalism](#) was regarded as 'one of Europe's most magnificent gifts to the rest of the world', 'a European import'(Chatterjee, 1993. p.4), until the breakout of the two World Wars. This paper will present Gellner's explanation over the [nation](#) and nationalism, considering Burghart's ethnographic study over [Nepal](#) as an example.

Moreover, it assesses how Nepal reached to be regarded as a state, how does the change from Gorkha stateless to Nepal state occurred and how is this change perceived by the Nepalese. In order to describe the 'evolution' of the Nepal as a state, the essay is divided into two main parts, as follows: the first part introduces the view of Gellner over nation, state and nationalism whereas the second deals with the three most important stages that Gorkha had to overcome in order to become Nepal. In the conclusion there will be a summary of the points mentioned, hopefully delivering the outcome that Gellner was is not entirely right about nationalism.

It can be considered uncontested the fact that nationalism created 'social systems of

enormous scale' and 'demands for individual equality and civil rights' (Eriksen, 2010. p.291), which gave the Western states the opportunity to hope for a more democratic system. However, countries in Asia and Africa were led by missionaries to adopt nation-state as 'a form of government that is [...] an expression of the will or character of a cu...

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