Research Report

Leiden Model United Nations 2017
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Forum: *Special Conference*
Issue: *The effect of rising nationalism on international peace and stability*

Position: *Deputy President*

Introduction

Today, nationalism is gaining popularity more than ever before, all around the world. This is not only dangerous for the maintaining of the rights of the people, but can also be catastrophic for the international peace, security and stability we have been trying to ensure the past decades. Therefore, it is clear that measures need to be immediately taken in order to prevent and minimise the possible implications of the rise of this extreme ideology.

Definition of Key Terms

Xenophobia
The irrational fear and aggression towards foreigners or strangers.

Discrimination
According to the Cambridge English Dictionary: "Treating a person or particular group of people differently, especially in a worse way from the way in which you would treat other people, because of their skin colour, sex, sexuality, etc."

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)
The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1948 and describes the basic human rights to which every human being is entitled. It is still the international moral and judicial standard, and most human right activists depend upon the declaration as it was set up in 1948.

Nationalism
An extreme form of patriotism marked by a feeling of superiority over other countries

Internationalism
The principle of cooperation among nations, for the promotion of their common good, sometimes as contrasted with nationalism, or devotion to the interests of a particular nation

General Overview

In contrast to what the majority of people seem to believe, nationalism is a relatively new ideology. Although people have always been attached to their native soil and traditions it was not until the end of the 18th century that nationalism began to be a generally recognised sentiment shaping public and private life and one of the great determining factors of modern history.
The American and French revolutions can be regarded as nationalism's first powerful manifestation. In the early 19th century, it spread to central Europe and then to eastern Europe. It was at the beginning of the 20th century that nationalism flowed in Asia and Africa. Thought the past centuries we have many times seen the catastrophic effects of nationalist ideologies, a great example being World War II.
Nationalism is an ideology based on the belief of superiority of a nation over the others, and therefore it holds that a nation should govern itself, free from unwanted outside interference. It is strongly connected to the concept of self-determination, and aims to the development of a national identity based on specific characteristics such as culture, language, race, religion, political goals or a belief in a common ancestry. This ideology goes strongly against the declaration of human rights, as it promotes discrimination, and the superiority of a certain group against all others. Nationalism is an ideology that usually gains popularity in periods of crisis and uncertainty. That is due to the poor education offered, as well as due to the general tension amongst people.

In today's world, we once again are called to face the rising of nationalist parities all around the world. In Europe, the past few years, we have seen extreme ideologies rising to an unprecedented degree. Marine Le Pen and the National Front party, gained a lot popularity, and were very close to winning Frances' last elections. In Greece, Golden Dawn is also very popular, and in Hungary the nationalist "Movement for a Better Hungary" held its position as the country's third-largest party in the 2014 parliamentary elections. Furthermore, Germany's AfD has gained representation in ten of the 16 German state parliaments since September 2016. USA and Australia also face the phenomenon of rising nationalism very boldly, and in general, we see a rising nationalist spirit globally.

But what does that mean for the international community?
As we know, a huge issue has always been international peace and stability. By that, we mean the minimisation and prevention of conflicts and tensions between states. In today's world, these are maintained with various mechanisms. UN peace keeping operations act in four basic ways:

- Conflict prevention, which includes diplomatic measures that aim to keep inter-state or intra-state tensions from escalating to violent conflicts;
- Peace making, that addresses conflicts in progress, and through diplomatic actions there are attempts to bring the hostile parties to a negotiated agreement;
- Peace Enforcement, referring to the application of coercive measures such as military force, in order to stop on-going conflicts or tensions, that require authorization of the Security Council;
- Peace Building, which aims to the minimisation of lapsing or re lapsing into conflict, by strengthening national capacities of conflict management and by laying the foundation for sustainable peace and development.

Overall, it is quiet obvious that maintaining peace and stability between nations require diplomacy and cooperation. Nationalist spirits, because of their nature, disrupt such attempts. Nationalist ideas of self reliance are prioritised over the global community and interdependence of states and therefore the balance and stability between them is disrupted. This can have catastrophic effects on the cooperation between nations and thus the maintaining of peace. Another side effect is the rise of xenophobia and racisms, which would also create great tensions between nations. Therefore, it is clear that efforts need to be made in order to prevent nationalism from rising globally, and thus maintaining peace and stability.

Major Parties Involved

USA
Today, in USA, there is a rising nationalist spirit. This can be extremely dangerous for the global community and may create great issues and conflicts.

Europa
In multiple EU countries we are seeing the rising of nationalist parties, as well as the rise of racism, xenophobia etc. This is extremely dangerous, especially now, that the European Union is going through a great crisis.

Developing countries
In multiple developing countries, both African and in Asian, we can observe strong nationalist movements. This, in combination with the general nationalist spirit globally as well as along with their underdevelopment and the poor living standards of their people, only tenses the global situation.

Timeline of Events

1789-1804	The French Revolution
1815	Congress of Vienna
1821-1829	Greek war against the Ottoman Empire
1848	Liberal revolution of France
1871	Balkan Area
1905	Slavic Nationalism
1914-1918	World War One
1939-1945	World War Two
1964	Creation of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)

Possible Solutions

Nationalism, like any extreme ideology, can and needs to be addressed primarily through education. That would mean creating educational systems that promote the importance of differentiation, of acceptance and the idea of internationalism. Furthermore, raising awareness for it's implications and effects is extremely important, especially when we're referring to uneducated, or poorly educated societies, like those of many countries globally.