

Liquid Nationalism and State Partitions in Europe

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This timely book offers an in-depth exploration of state partitions and the history of nationalism in Europe from the Enlightenment onwards. Stefano Bianchini compares traditional national democratic development to the growing transnational demands of representation with a focus on transnational mobility and empathy versus national localism against the EU project. In an era of multilevel identity, global economic and asylum seeker crises, nationalism is becoming more liquid which in turn strengthens the attractiveness of 'ethnic purity' and partitions, affects state stability, and the nature of national democracy in Europe. The result may be exposure to the risk of new wars, rather than enhanced guarantees of peace.

'... a masterful synthesis of the European experience of state partitions and nation-building from the early twentieth century to the present day. . . Bianchini's strength lies precisely in his appreciation of history as a field of open possibilities in which (European) leadership (or lack thereof) can make all the difference between prosperity and tragedy.'

- Veljko Vujačić, Slavic Review

'It is refreshing and unusual to read a work that combines breadth of coverage of historical time and geopolitical spaces with excellent, detailed analyses of specific moments and processes in both: history and geopolitics. Liquid Nationalisms and State Partitions in Europe is just such a book.'

- Robert M. Hayden, Southeastern Europe

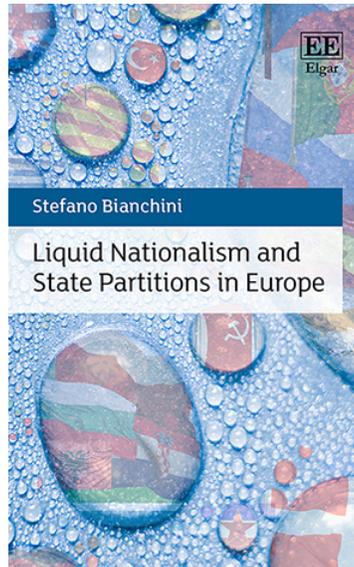
'This is a rich and suggestive book which asks key questions about nationalism, both in theory and in practice, adding to this several high-powered analyses of particular turning points in European history.'

- John A. Hall, European Review of International Studies

'Stefano Bianchini's book is a successful effort at building a broad and sturdy bridge between Central European spaces and memories whose grand narratives had long existed, separated from each other like non-connecting vessels. The shadows of the Habsburg, Romanov, and Ottoman empires still hinder an understanding of similarities between the Balkans and the Baltics and prevent us from seeing the bloody conflicts in Bosnia and Ukraine within one comparative perspective. The author puts to work the long historical and political experience of the spring of nations; tells a history enriched by the methods of political science; and helps the reader to gain a better understanding of the behavior of nations on both sides of the European Union's Southeastern boundary. This book gives back to a Central Europe long divided by borders and iron curtains its commonality, which doubtless was deeply felt by the 19th century collective heroes Bianchini describes. If academic wisdom can still help dispel the European fog, then this book comes at just the right time and place.'

- Egdijus Aleksandravičius, Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania

'The book by Stefano Bianchini is an excellent study of how the ideas of nationalism developed, empires disintegrated and new states appeared, how the contradiction between the globalized strata and those who prefer to live in a closed society formed, and what it can lead to. I strongly



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recommend this research not only to scholars and students, but to all those who think on the future of Europe.'

– Konstantin Khudoley, Saint Petersburg State University, Russia

'A majestic account of the travails of democracy's widening scope in the late twentieth and early twenty-first century.'

– Jean Blondel, European University Institute, Italy

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