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Dealing with the Elephant in the Room: U.S. Nationalism

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Imperative of Global Citizenship

Lost in the endless rationales and justifications for international education linked to *US* economic competitiveness, *US* national security, and *US* citizen diplomacy, is the notion that students (and others) should be taught and challenged to become global citizens. This, it seems to me, is the rather large 'elephant in the room' of our profession: so painfully obvious, so demanding of our attention, yet so utterly neglected. (MAA, UWN, 3-16)

Session Abstract

Nationalism stands in the way of creating global citizens, but it is the subject few involved in international education in the United States want to speak about. This session focuses on an essential yet neglected facet of international education, as it applies to both US American and international students: a mindset that transcends competencies and skill sets, how to overcome nationalism in pursuit of global citizenship.

"NATIONALISM IS AN INFANTILE DISEASE.
IT IS THE MEASLES OF MANKIND."
-ALBERT EINSTEIN



Discussion Questions

- Are most US Americans patriotic or nationalistic?
 - How do you identify yourselves?
 - What does it mean to be a global citizen?
 - Can a patriot be a global citizen?
- Is it possible to be an interculturally competent nationalist?
- How can international educators overcome nationalism as a barrier to the development of global citizenship?



Takeaways for University Leaders

Learn about the key differences between patriotism and nationalism.

Understand the power of nationalism as an ideology and obstacle to global citizenship.

Explore ways in which nationalism can be measured, identified, discussed, and ameliorated, with the ultimate goal being to replace a nationalistic world view with that of a global citizen.

Discussion Outline

Introduction of key concepts

Reflect upon the differences between patriotism and nationalism, and the implications for our profession, including teaching, learning, and professional development

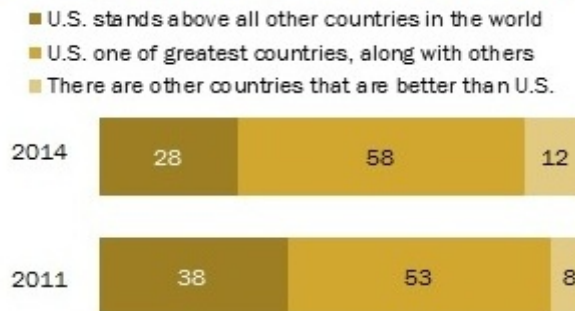
Moving forward

Introduction of Key Concepts

Patriotism: love for or devotion to one's country

Nationalism: loyalty and devotion to a nation; **especially a sense of national consciousness exalting one nation above all others and placing primary emphasis on promotion of its culture and interests as opposed to those of other nations or supranational groups.**

Views of U.S. Standing in the World: Declining Percentage Says 'We're No. 1'



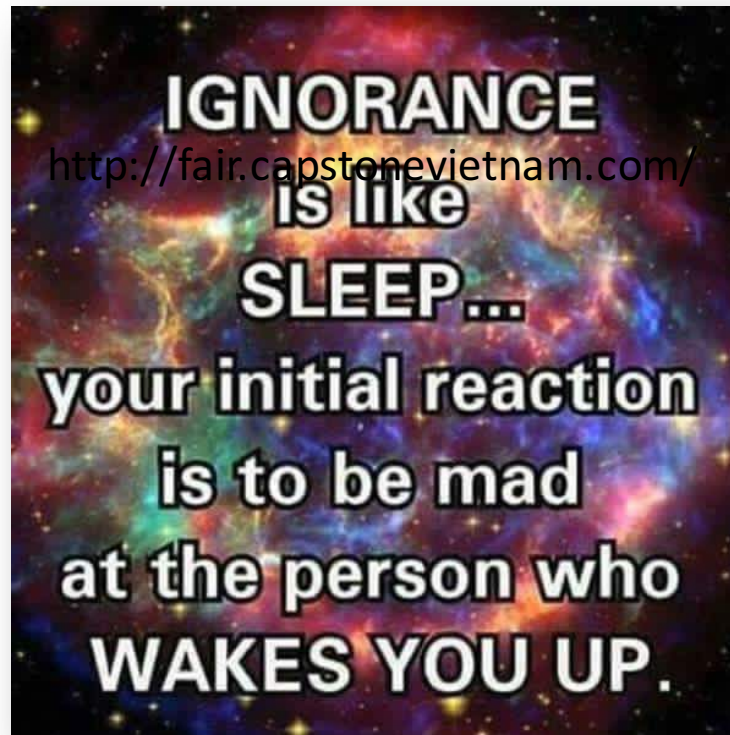
Survey conducted Feb. 27-March 16, 2014.
"Don't know" responses not shown.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER



Introduction of Key Concepts

Nationalism as an ideology (*a systematic body of concepts especially about human life or culture*)



Introduction of Key Concepts

Global Citizenship (mindset & skill set)

Values & actions demonstrate humility, openness, tolerance and empathy.

Global citizens take joy in and benefit from living in harmony with people who are different from themselves.

Rather than pledging allegiance to one nation-state, the global citizen's intellectual landscape, moral compass and sense of connectedness and belonging extend to all of humanity.



Reflections

Differences between patriotism & nationalism

How to initiate the discussion?

How to measure? A DMIS & IDI for nationalism?

Implications for our profession, including teaching, learning, and professional development

Current efforts to address the issue of nationalism?

Next steps? How to create global citizens? How to transform nationalists into patriots?

Patriotism vs. Nationalism



“Patriotism is proud of a country’s virtues and eager to correct its deficiencies; it also acknowledges the legitimate patriotism of other countries, with their own specific virtues. The pride of nationalism, however, trumpets its country’s virtues and denies its deficiencies, while it is contemptuous toward the virtues of other countries. It wants to be, and proclaims itself to be, “the greatest”, but greatness is not required of a country; only goodness is.”

~SYDNEY J. HARRIS

Patriotism vs. Nationalism



Patriotism is not a short and frenzied outburst of emotion but the tranquil and steady dedication of a lifetime.

(Adlai Stevenson)

izquotes.com



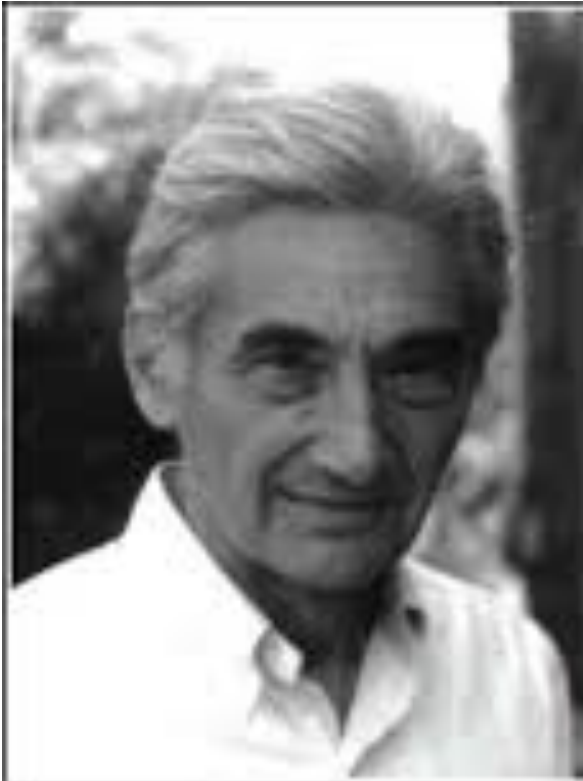
Patriotism vs. Nationalism

“The love
of one’s
country
is a splendid
thing.
But why
should
love stop
at the
border?”

Pablo Casals



Patriotism vs. Nationalism



Should we not begin to redefine patriotism?
We need to expand it beyond that narrow
nationalism which has caused so much
death and suffering. If national boundaries
should not be obstacles to trade-we call it
globalization-should they also not be
obstacles to compassion and generosity?

— Howard Zinn —

AZ QUOTES



Moving forward: Brainstorming

How can international educators overcome nationalism as a barrier to the development of global citizenship? (Attempt to apply to US Americans & international students.)



Recommended Readings

US nationalism – The elephant in the room, MAA, 18.3.16, *University World News* (UWN)

The turn to nativism hinders international education, MAA, 20.1.17, UWN

Most Americans think the U.S. is great, but fewer say it's the greatest, Alec Tyson, 2.7.14, Pew Research Center

"Developing Globally Competent Citizens: The Contrasting Cases of the United States and Vietnam," (with Duong Thi Hoang Oanh), *The SAGE Handbook of Intercultural Competence*, 2009 (ed. Darla Deardorff)

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