

Nationalism and Multiculturalism: A Strange Brew

Frank Cunningham

Abstract Endorsing both nationalism (in one of its versions) and multiculturalism, this paper acknowledges tensions between them and speculates on the conditions required to make them compatible. Perry Anderson's theory of the imagined nature of nations, Will Kymlicka's group-sensitive individualism, and Charles Taylor's quasi-communitarian defence of a politics of recognition are taken as offering useful perspectives for this purpose. Cultural attitudes, idiosyncratically labelled "irony" and "chaos," are seen as essential preconditions, as from a structural political-economic point of view are democracy and justice.