



International Journal of Innovative Technologies in Social Science

e-ISSN: 2544-9435

Scholarly Publisher
RS Global Sp. z O.O.
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ARTICLE TITLE THE NATIONAL IDENTITY AND ITS ELEMENTS

ARTICLE INFO

Munkhbaatar Purevsuren, Erdenechimeg Bor. (2025) The National Identity and Its Elements. *International Journal of Innovative Technologies in Social Science*. 1(45). doi: 10.31435/ijitss.1(45).2025.3180

DOI

[https://doi.org/10.31435/ijitss.1\(45\).2025.3180](https://doi.org/10.31435/ijitss.1(45).2025.3180)

RECEIVED

12 January 2024

ACCEPTED

14 March 2025

PUBLISHED

28 March 2025

LICENSE



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THE NATIONAL IDENTITY AND ITS ELEMENTS

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ABSTRACT

Throughout history, the united nation has consistently advanced the prosperity of their country, enhanced the well-being of their citizens, and reinforced the sovereignty of their nation. Democracy, freedom, and unity are principles that should be treasured by the populace. In the absence of unity, no amount of nationalism can be effective.

Nations must safeguard their national identity, shield it from outside forces, and maintain national unity and social stability that is resilient to any threats. This article will explore the essence of national identity and the elements that foster national unity.

KEYWORDS

National Unity, Nationalism, National Identity, National Character, National Values

CITATION

Munkhbaatar Purevsuren, Erdenechimeg Bor. (2025) The National Identity and Its Elements. *International Journal of Innovative Technologies in Social Science*. 1(45). doi: 10.31435/ijitss.1(45).2025.3180

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Introduction.

The Encyclopedia of Language & Linguistics (1993) defines national cohesion as the establishment of a collective identity and solidarity among individuals within a nation, typically achieved through the shared adoption of a national language and cultural norms. (Elsevier, 2006).

National unity, nationalism, national identity, national character, and values are all important aspects of a country's collective identity.

National unity is the feeling of togetherness and solidarity among the people of a nation, stemming from common values, history, and objectives. (Jilani, et al., 2012), (Shchetinina & Semyokhina, 2021)

National cohesion is crucial for social stability and progress as it fosters a sense of belonging, cooperation, and shared responsibility (Shchetinina & Semyokhina, 2021). Factors that influence national cohesion include shared traditions, territory, and socio-cultural unity (Jilani et al., 2012). Over time, the concept of national cohesion has expanded to encompass elements such as language, economics, culture, and psychology (Gu, 2021). Therefore, national cohesion is not just a symbolic expression but also involves tangible cooperation and mutual understanding among the diverse ethnic groups within a nation (Gu, 2021). It plays a vital role in promoting a sense of security, progress, and identity among the people of a country.

As mentioned earlier, national unity involves bringing together diverse groups with varying social and cultural backgrounds into a cohesive social structure, supported by state policies. The key idea is to integrate groups with different backgrounds, traits, and goals into a unified social system based on shared norms, values, and interests.

National unity is essential for establishing social order and fostering core concepts and values. It plays a crucial role in enhancing the stability of the nation, fostering prosperity, and uniting its people.

The foundation of unity lies in advancing the national interest to build a robust and cohesive state through the promotion of social and cultural harmony. National unity is vital for maintaining stability, which in turn enables the successful implementation of social and economic development initiatives.

Researchers have identified four key reasons why national unity is important in any country.

National unity is firmly established in the country:

1. Ethnic and racial tensions are minimized, fostering harmony among diverse ethnic groups and races coexisting within the same nation.
2. A sense of national pride is instilled, shifting focus from individual ethnic identities to a shared citizenship and love for the country.
3. Peace prevails, allowing all individuals to work and reside peacefully in every part of the nation.
4. Emphasis is placed on promoting unity by encouraging interethnic and interracial relationships, further solidifying national cohesion.

According to Dambajav (2010) in the "Comprehensive Dictionary of the Mongolian Language," a nation is a collective of individuals who share a common language, culture, and territory, and have evolved over an extended period of time. Dr. K. Demberel (2018) further elaborates on this definition, stating that a nation is a community of people connected by ethnicity, language, traditions, history, culture, way of life, and mindset.

In the realm of international relations, the idea of a "nation" is often associated with nationalism. Therefore, it is essential to analyze national issues in this context through the lens of two key concepts: national ideology and divided nation. The priorities and beliefs of a nation are typically of greater significance to its people than those of other nations. A nation typically seeks to maintain a high degree of independence, particularly in terms of political autonomy, which forms the foundation of its national ideology. (Demberel, 2018).

Table 1. National characteristics, rights and reflections

National characteristics	National Interests	Reflections of national interests
1. Homogeneous ethnicity and origin	1. Unity and indivisibility of the nation	These rights need safeguarding against external influences that could disrupt the nation's regular growth and operation.
2. They reside together in the same vicinity.	2. Ensuring the safety of the nation	
3. One nation united	3. Being of the same ethnicity and culture, united	
4. National economic and political ties and relationships	4. To have the chance to utilize and manage natural resources.	4. Promoting social stability, order, and unity within the nation.

Source: K. Demberel, p.135

The idea of "values" is intricately linked to the intrinsic essence and cultural identity of a nation. Establishing a commonality in the thoughts, goals, and core essence of its people is crucial for the existence and progress of nations. (Figure1).



Fig. 1. The concept of national unity within the framework of national security and international relations

National unity is the cornerstone of Mongolia's independence and development, with national values being a crucial element. (Figure2).

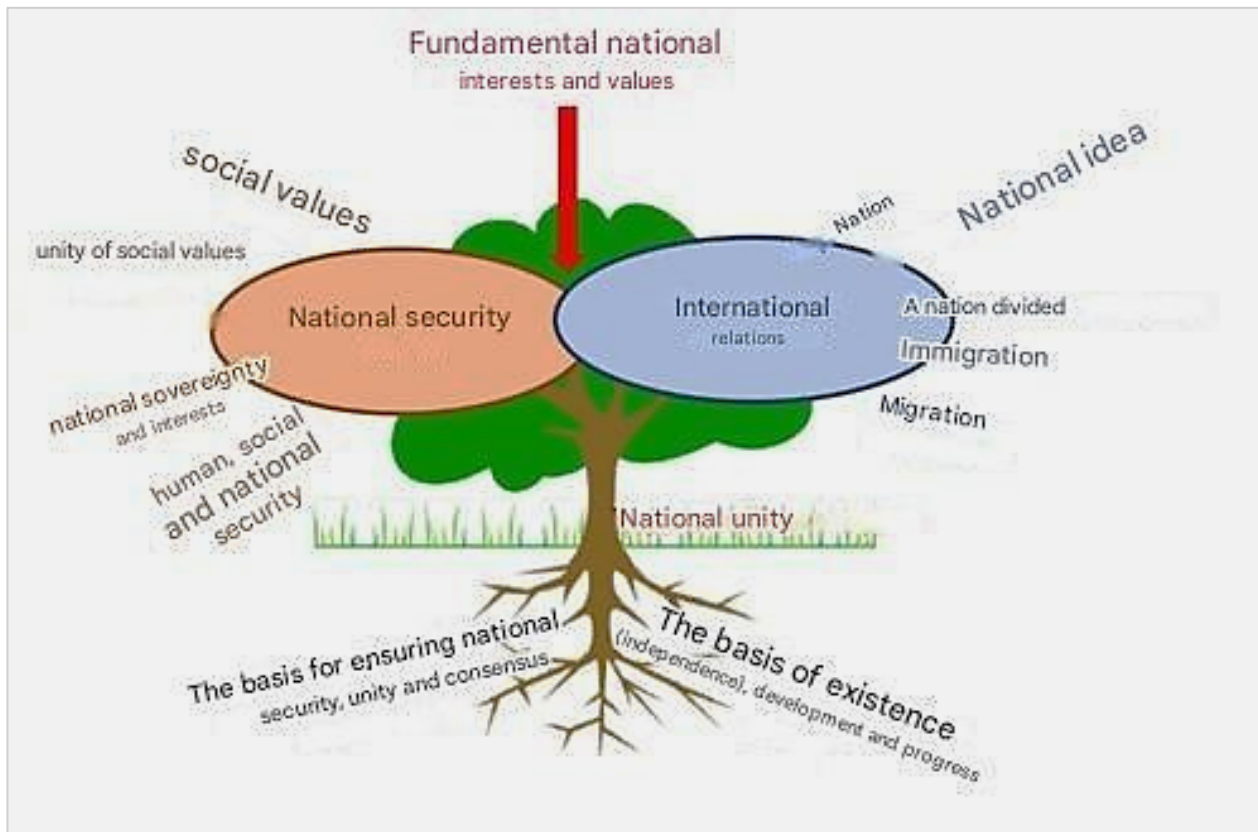


Fig. 2. National unity

National unity brings people together based on their shared love for their homeland, territory, traditions, customs, and socio-culture. This includes the Mongolian people, statehood, family, homeland, Mongolian language, education, morality, heritage, and nomadic wisdom that Mongolians hold dear. It enables individuals to express and uphold their national perspectives and principles. (SSI, 2021).

The National Security Concept highlights the importance of maintaining unity in social values as a key factor in ensuring national security, unity, and consensus. It also stresses the significance of preserving, protecting, and promoting Mongolia's national history, language, culture, heritage, and traditions as essential elements for the nation's well-being. The guiding principle for safeguarding national security emphasizes the importance of fostering patriotic nationalism among all citizens of Mongolia. It calls for pride in national values, their protection, and development, as well as active engagement in activities that contribute to the country's future prosperity. This is particularly crucial in the current context where Mongolian national identity is at risk of being diluted by external influences, such as foreign languages, cultures, ideas, and perspectives.

Preserving national identity is crucial to safeguard it from external influences and maintain national unity and social stability, which should be resilient against any potential challenges. Once a strong national identity is established, it diminishes the emphasis on nationalism and partisanship, allowing for a focus on national interests and fostering unity. This unity helps to uphold consistent state policies and enables a unified stance on national issues.

National Identity and Its Elements.

National identity and its elements are crucial in the face of globalization and information. Countries must safeguard their national identity, shield it from external pressures, and foster national unity and social cohesion that can withstand present and future obstacles.

The development and dissolution of ethnic groups are intertwined with various social dynamics. The concept of unity serves as a cohesive factor in the establishment and continuity of an ethnic group. As an ethnic group coalesces, the notion of national unity is shaped by shared economic, linguistic, cultural, traditional, and psychological traits. The Mongolian language dictionary defines unity as the harmonious union of ideas, events, and the formation of a nation (Tsevel, 2013).

Bromley (1983) and Delgerjargal (2005) suggest that people's awareness of belonging to a certain group contributes to the formation of a nation. Lev Nikolayevich Gumilyov, a Soviet and Russian scientist, writer, translator, and orientalist, emphasizes that ethnic formation occurs regardless of people's consciousness, and positive harmony and solidarity bring people together to form ethnic commonalities. He argues that what unites people is not their origin but the shared belief of being part of the same group (Gumilev L., 1994).

In essence, individuals derive their existence from their identification with a specific country's population and their inclusion within that group. Each ethnic group or nation is defined by a variety of factors, including their origins, history, language, culture, territory, resources, governance, and autonomy, all of which contribute to their ethnic or national identity.

The formation of a national identity eliminates regionalism and partisanship, prioritizing national interests and establishing unity to ensure the continuity of state policy. This fosters a national economic mindset and promotes a unified stance on national issues.

The idea of national identity encompasses a variety of interpretations. According to the Oxford English Dictionary, it refers to the unique features, emotions, or beliefs that distinguish a particular nation. (Oxford, 2015).

In essence, it pertains to the distinctiveness of the Mongolian people and their nation compared to others. The process of bringing together individuals with shared traits is known as national identification. (Davaadorj, 2016).

National identity is a complex concept that encompasses both ethnic and civic identities in a harmonious manner. However, this balance is often disrupted, leading to a narrow focus on ethnic or clan identities at the expense of a broader national identity. This neglect of civic identities can have detrimental effects. (Table 2).

Table2. The elements of National identity

Type of Identity	Classification of Identity	The elements of Identity			
Nationality/ethnicity	Biological	Origin	Genealogy	Ageing	Skin color
	Consciousness	Language	Cultural traditions	Religion worship	Opinion
Citizenship	Material	Territory	Natural resources	Economy	Tangible property
	Legal	Citizenship	Government	Constitution	Legal system
	Time	External rhythm /world/	Internal rhythm /system/	Group rhythm	Evolutionary stage

In terms of biological identity, a tribe, clan, ethnicity, or nation is defined by a shared origin and gene pool. These groups exhibit physiological characteristics, skin color, appearance, physical development, vitality, and health that are characteristic of their members. The field of "bio-politics" (Lemke., 2011) explores how political policies impact biological typology, including the effects of infectious diseases, genetic degradation, social aging, and aging on political decisions.

Consciousness identity is shaped by language, culture, behavior, tradition, religion, ideology, politics, and beliefs. Ethno politics plays a role in determining and implementing policies related to language, culture, gene pool, health, physical development, and population reproduction within a nation.

Material identities are influenced by factors such as land, natural resources, human resources, finance, economy, and production resources, which collectively form a system of national economic relations.

Legal identities are defined by inherent and derived laws, determining the extent to which individuals or citizens have the right to control their land, wealth, and resources. The government, social system, and legal norms of a society are crucial aspects of its legal framework.

Every nation operates within its own unique social system, characterized by a distinct rhythm of development known as the evolutionary rhythm. This system progresses through various stages, including formation, development, decay, and dissolution, each with its own specific rhythm. When different parts of a society or nation exhibit the same internal rhythm at a particular stage of development, it indicates the presence of a consistent time pattern aligned with that rhythm.

National identity encompasses both inherent aspects such as race, ethnicity, language, and culture, as well as derived aspects like ideologies, religion, and citizenship. Derived identities can be either legally

imposed or voluntarily accepted by individuals (Caputti, 1996). For example, changing one's religion may entail following the rules of the new faith or embracing it willingly. Within a social system, individuals or groups must acknowledge certain identities and refrain from showing bias towards other ethnic, social, citizenship, nationality, or religious groups.

Conclusions.

National unity involves bringing together diverse groups with varying origins, characteristics, and interests under a common social system built on shared norms, values, and goals. Essentially, it is the process of uniting different nations to create a cohesive and strong state through fostering social and cultural cohesion.

When all aspects of a nation, including biological, cognitive, material, legal, and temporal elements, are aligned, they can come together to form a unified state with shared origins, beliefs, territory, and laws, progressing at a similar pace of development to establish an independent nation-state.

The key distinction between "nation" and "national" lies in the fact that a nation encompasses not only individuals from the same nation residing in a specific area but also those from other nations and ethnic groups living within the territory of another nation or tribe. Conversely, "nationality" pertains to a group of people living in a single country with their own established state.

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