

Exploring Nationalism

Chapter Highlights

Chapter 16: Visions of National Identity

This concluding chapter explores possible visions of nation including the concepts of pluralism and diversity. Some possible visions of Canada are explored such as a pluralistic country, a nation among nations, North American integration, and globalization.

Chapter Issue: *To what extent should I embrace a national identity?*

In this chapter you will learn about the following concepts:

- That national identity is, in general, a collective or group identity that is based on linguistic, ethnic, cultural, religious, geographic, spiritual, or political understandings of nation;
- That even before Confederation, Canada was visualized as a country that embraced a degree of pluralism; and,
- That many people base their vision on understandings that include a combination of religion, language, geography, ethnicity, spirituality, and civic ideals.

Topics covered in this chapter include:

1. What are some possible visions of nation? (*pluralism and diversity*)
2. Some possible visions of Canada. (*a pluralistic country, a nation of many nations, implications of a nation of nations, asymmetrical federalism, North American integration, Canada and globalization*)
3. What is your vision of national identity? (*defining your vision,*)

You will apply these skills to your understanding of visions of national identity:

1. **Think** about the extent to which we should embrace nationalism.
2. **Examine** survey results for important factors when choosing a spouse.
3. **Identify** the issue you might address if you were to create a written pitch outlining an idea for a new TV show that derives its appeal from portraying an issue of national identity.
4. **Roleplay** a discussion that might have occurred between two Parti Québécois members on the party's referendum pledge.
5. **Examine** the information in a chart to determine if an Assembly of First Nations' initiative would have helped or hurt the cause of Aboriginal peoples.
6. **Explain** your response about asymmetrical federalism affecting Canadian national identity.
7. **Complete** a four-column chart to judge the success of multiculturalism.
8. **Rate** how close you think Canada and the United States are to political union.
9. **Discuss** who should be responsible for bridging the trust gap in ethnically diverse neighbourhoods.
10. **Hone** oral, written, and visual literacy skills by focusing on an issue concerning Canadian national identity.