

The paradoxes of nationalism : the French revolution and its meaning for contemporary nation building / Chimene I. Keitner

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Abstrak

An interdisciplinary study of nationalism drawing on the events of the French Revolution. This book is one contribution to the cumulative endeavor of deepening our understanding of national self-determination and its implications as a basis for international political order. While the substance of the first four chapters is largely historical, this is not a work of history. I spend more time examining French Revolutionary history than would most international relations theorists, and less time than would (and have) historians of the period. This is because I use the exegesis of key Revolutionary texts and events to ground the development of a theoretical framework for identifying and examining some of the persistent problems of nationalism and nation-building in the modern world. The purpose of the work is thus both theoretical and pragmatic: to interpret and distill past phenomena in an effort to better identify, and hopefully avoid, some of the pitfalls associated with building and legitimizing nation-states.