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Nationalism: Theory, Ideology, History (review)

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Anthony Smith D. Smith, *Nationalism: Theory, Ideology, History*. Cambridge: Polity Press, 2001, 182 pp.

This is an easy book to review. It will instantly take its place as the best general introduction to the subject. Still, it is worth underlining that the book has a particular character. It is less an attempt to reconstruct the social world of nationalism than an incisive, terminologically sophisticated analysis of the way in which a player assesses the state of play of the game to which he has contributed so much. Coverage of other positions is fair, interesting and very nearly exhaustive — albeit Smith really should take the work of David Laitin into account. If all this will attract readers, so too should the fact that Smith goes a little beyond the position that he has outlined in his recent spate of publications; differently put, we have in an encapsulated form Smith's fine tuning of his own theory. The ethno-symbolism he now espouses is solidly Durkheimian, with the nation seen as being nothing less than sacred. But Weber is with us too: ur-nationalism seems to be that of the Jews, with very great admiration being shown to *Ancient Judaism*.

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Pamela Wilcox, Kenneth C. Land and Scott A. Hunt, *Criminal Circumstance: A Dynamic Multicontextual Criminal Opportunity Theory*. New York: Aldine de Gruyter, 2003, 248 pp.

Since the late 1970s, the concept of opportunity has been regarded by most sociologists of crime and deviance as a valuable analytical tool. Early and formative contributions by Hindelang, Gottfredson and Garofalo, and by Cohen and Felson demonstrated that it was possible to understand crime in ways that did not restrict scholarly attention to the offender. From this first generation of opportunity theorists we learned that it was not just "types of persons" but also types of circumstances and temporal and spatial conditions which explained why, how, when and where crimes occur. In the intervening years, the influence of opportunity theory has been profound. However this influence has more often been empirical and programmatic than theoretical. An extremely large body of research evidence has accumulated with respect to the kinds of environmental and circumstantial factors which correlate with several types of crime and victimization. As well, crime prevention through environmental design, situational prevention and opportunity reduction have become standard tools among practitioners. In contrast, theoretical developments have occurred much more slowly. It is against this background that the publication of *Criminal Circumstance* by Wilcox, Land and Hunt needs to be assessed.