Nation and Migration provides a way to understand recent migration events in Europe that have attracted the world’s attention. The emergence of nations in the West promised homogenization, but instead the imagined nation-states are characterized by their own sense of insecurity. The authors reconstruct the historical development of xenophobia and argue that it has been shaped by the process of nation-building. They argue that the idea of a nation-state is an illusion and that European nations are divided into six regions, each with its own distinct identity and culture.

The book is inspired by the work of Jenő Szűcs on the ‘three regions of Europe,’ but the authors move beyond Szűcs by distinguishing six rather than just three regions of Europe. They see the ‘West’ as divided between the Center, the South, the North and Great Britain. As one could anticipate, the North (Sweden) was the most inclusive for ‘others,’ and Great Britain was more exclusive than the Eastern Europe and South Eastern Europe.

Ivan Szelenyi, William Graham Sumner Emeritus Professor of Sociology and Political Science, Yale University

The book provides a detailed overview of how citizens in Europe are coping with a xenophobia fueled by their own sense of insecurity. The authors use an in-depth analysis of survey data and case studies to argue that the way people in different regions of Europe think about migration and xenophobia is determined by their own sense of insecurity and the way they perceive their own identity.

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NATION AND MIGRATION

HOW CITIZENS IN EUROPE ARE COPING WITH XENOPHOBIA

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