THE NATION in HISTORY

Historiographical Debates about Ethnicity and Nationalism

Anthony D. Smith

THE MENAHEM STERN JERUSALEM LECTURES





PUBLISHED BY UNIVERSITY PRESS OF NEW ENGLAND
Hanover

BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY PRESS / HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF ISRAEL Published by University Press of New England www.upne.com

© 2000 by Historical Society of Israel All rights reserved

For permission to reproduce any of the materials in this book, contact Permissions, University Press of New England, Suite 250, Lebanon, NH 03766; or visit www.upne.com

ISBN for the paperback edition: 978-1-58465-040-9

Printed in the United States of America 5 4 3 2

University Press of New England is a member of the Green Press Initiative. The paper used in this book meets their minimum requirement for recycled paper.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Smith, Anthony D.

The nation in history: historiographical debates about ethnicity and nationalism / Anthony D. Smith.

p. cm. — (The Menachem Stern Jerusalem lectures) Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN I-58465-039-7 (cl: alk. paper)—ISBN I-58465-040-0 (pa: alk. paper)
I. Nationalism—Historiography. 2. Ethnicity—Historiography. 1. Title.

11. Series.

JD311.S5374 2000 320.54—dc21

00-21080

Contents

Foreword by Yosef Kaplan	vii
Introduction	I
 Voluntarism and the Organic Nation Organic and Voluntarist Nationalism 6 Cultural Determinism and the Political Ideal Ethnic and Civic Nations 15 Cultural Primordialism 21 Conclusion 25 	10
2. The Nation: Modern or Perennial? The Modernist Orthodoxy 27 Modernist Historiography 30 The Perennialist Critique 34 Continuous Perennialism 35 Recurrent Perennialism 40 Ancient Nations? 41 Conclusion: Problems with Perennialism 50	27
3. Social Construction and Ethnic Genealogy Invented Traditions, Imagined Communities A Critique of Social Constructionism 61 An Ethnosymbolic Account of Nations and Nationalism 62 Conclusion 76	52
Notes	79
Bibliography	89
Index	101