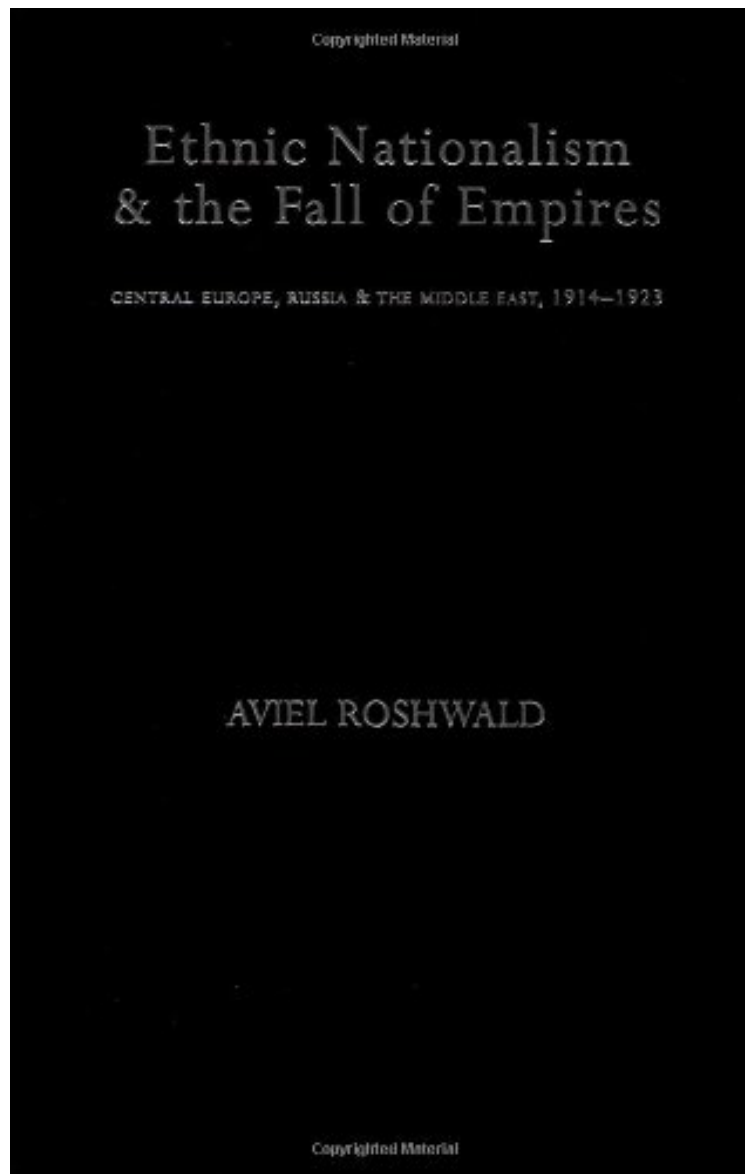


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Ethnic Nationalism and the Fall of Empires: Central Europe, the Middle East and Russia, 1914-23

Aviel Roshwald

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12 of 18 people found the following review helpful. the latest failures of multi-cultural empiresBy Mr. Larry L. StageThis book--'Ethnic nationalism and the fall of Empires' shows that under the stress of war, elitism, the failure to create and foster common causality, and with no real goal, empires like the Russian Romanov State, the Ottoman Empire, and the Austro-Hungarian Empire, just will NOT survive. The lessons to be learned is that when there is either no common language, or the no attempt to learn the official spoken tongue, any nation--especially the United States of America, loyalty will be, at best, illusive. America's strength is in diversity, yet there MUST also be common goals, from a common heritage. The Romanov Dynasty was never truly able to "Russify" its vast diverse populations. For the Ottoman Empire, the Turkish language was never accepted by the majority of its "citizens", and in the case of the growing Christian Armenian community, it was religion that helped "do in" the Turkish Ottoman "commonwealth". In the case of Austria-Hungary, the ruling Hapsburg dynasty tried to "Austro-Germanize" the growing Slovakian, Czech, Bosnian, and Croat minorities, but could not create a new Swiss-style confederation, with language, cultural, and political autonomy for its diverse subjects. Also, there never was a major threat or threats during its creation, that threatened all multi-national elements within its borders. The Hapsburgs were Vienna-born and bred. For the United States of the 21st Century, the growing Hispanic populations MUST be guided towards unity. America MUST be an Organic State, because not to as such will lead to national disintegration. Romanov Russia, Ottoman Turkey, and the Austro-Hungarian Empire had the "seeds of destruction" within their respective 'corpi-politici'. I recommend this fine book!! Nick Stage-PhD Indiana 4 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Untangling the Mess By Steve Marks Ever wonder how the messy borders and messy politics of Eastern Europe and the Middle East came into being? Ever try in vain to untangle for yourself or others the confusing and confused history of these regions? Ever try to understand anything about World War I and its aftermath? If you answered yes to these questions, you have come to the right place, the one-stop shop for the subject. Aviel Roshwald's book, "Ethnic Nationalism and the Fall of Empires" sets it all straight. And it does so in remarkably clear and elegant prose. The book is a stunning achievement in historical synthesis that is a "must-read" for anyone calling themselves educated.

Ethnic Nationalism and the Fall of Empires is a wide-ranging comparative study of the origins of today's ethnic politics in East Central Europe, the former Russian empire and the Middle East. Centred on the First World War Era, Ethnic Nationalism highlights the roles of historical contingency and the ordeal of total war in shaping the states and institutions that supplanted the great multinational empires after 1918. It explores how the fixing of new political boundaries and the complex interplay of nationalist elites and popular forces set in motion bitter ethnic conflicts and political disputes, many of which are still with us today. Topics discussed include: * the disintegration of the Austro-Hungarian empire* the ethnic dimension of the Russian Revolution and Soviet state building* Nationality issues in the late Ottoman empire* the origins of Arab nationalism* ethnic politics in zones of military occupation* the construction of Czechoslovak and Yugoslav identities Ethnic Nationalism is an invaluable survey of the origins of twentieth-century ethnic politics. It is essential reading for those interested in the politics of ethnicity and nationalism in modern European and Middle Eastern history.

The author shows how the interplay of nationalist elites and popular forces during the First World War ignited bitter disputes that have not yet been resolved.... Each chapter includes a discussion of the development of ethnic nationalism in the Middle East-- its seeding, growth, radicalization, suppression, and political expression in the form of the nation-state..--Middle East Journal A stimulating survey of First World War ethnic politics..--The International History , December 2003 Superb... well-conceived and elegantly written..--Nationalities Papers, June 2003 From the Back Cover HOW DID THE FIRST WORLD WAR SHAPE TODAY'S ETHNIC POLITICS? Ethnic Nationalism and the Fall of Empires is a wide-ranging, comparative study of the origins of today's ethnic politics in East Central Europe, the former Russian empire and the Middle East. Centered on the First World War era, Ethnic Nationalism and the Fall of Empires highlights the roles of historical contingency and the ordeal of total war in shaping the states and institutions that supplanted the great multinational empires after 1918. It explores how the fixing of new political boundaries and the complex interplay of nationalist elites and popular forces set in motion bitter ethnic conflicts and political disputes, many of which are still with us today. Topics discussed include: -- The disintegration of the Austro-Hungarian empire-- The ethnic dimension of the Russian Revolution and Soviet state building-- Nationality issues in the late Ottoman empire-- The origins of Arab nationalism-- Ethnic politics in zones of military occupation-- The construction of Czechoslovak and Yugoslav identities Ethnic Nationalism and the Fall of Empires is an invaluable survey of the origins of twentieth-century ethnic politics and provides an important reassessment of the First World War era in relation to the current turmoil in East Central Europe, Russia and the Middle East. It is essential reading for those interested in the politics of ethnicity and nationalism in modern European and Middle Eastern history.