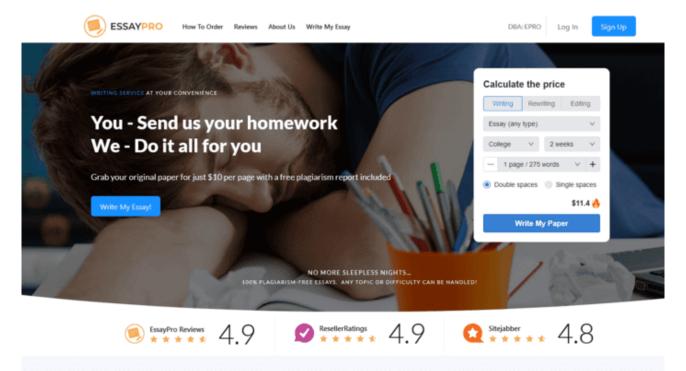
Patriotism: Use with Caution



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Patriotism has a different face for everyone. Some follow it blindly, some reject and oppose it, some stand indifferent, and others choose to follow it cautiously. Patriotism is also now a challenge for multi-cultural societies because the back bone of social unity can no longer be merely similarities in ethnicity, culture, or religion. In this essay, I shall state the risks of following patriotism blindly and the risks involved in rejecting patriotism completely. I will also show the practicality and correct motives for following moderate patriotism.

Patriotism is the love, <u>commitment</u>, and loyalty an individual feels for his or her country. In the U.S., patriotism started after English, Scottish, and <u>Dutch</u> settlers achieved their independence from England (Hibben 2). Later, a migration of multi ethnic people came to aid with the development of the country, adopting it as their own (3). Psychologically, patriotism is a result of people's definition of themselves according to the groups they love and belong to (Bar-Tal 216). I shall proceed to argue the limits of this love.

Blind patriotism is most popularly seen as harmless, or even a goal worthy of effort. How is

it possible that blind patriotism, something that strengthens communal unity, be harmful by any means? In Patriotism, Morality and Peace, Stephen Nathanson writes, "Most people think of patriotism as a trait that is <u>valuable</u> and worth encouraging. ... They expect other citizens to care about and support the country and assume that patriotism is a virtue... No society can endure and flourish without some degree of commitment to its overall good" (Nathanson 3). Thus, patriotism is often viewed as a commitment necessary for the stre...

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