

# Patriotism: Use with Caution

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## Patriotism: Use with Caution

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, [commitment](#), and loyalty an individual feels for his or her country. In the U.S. , patriotism started after English, Scottish, and [Dutch](#) 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 [valuable](#) 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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