

SUMMARIES

EUGEN LEMBERG'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE THEORY OF NATIONALISM

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The author follows a twofold approach to Lemberg's work on nationalism. For once, looking back on first reading the book in the mid-1960s, he relates what he thought inspiring at the time – the perspective encompassing Europe as a whole and the sense for social relations, among other things – and what he deemed unacceptable, such as Lemberg's definition of nationalism. In the second part, he places Lemberg's work in the broader context of nationalism research. Lemberg is to be credited with having introduced “nationalism” as an analytical term. The objective features of a nation were not negated outright, but rather relegated to the plane of the people's consciousness of what unites them. In his time, Lemberg, with his interdisciplinary approach combining methods from social and political science with those used in teaching politics, was an exceptional figure. With his focus on Europe as a whole, he stands out from the scientific mainstream as well. His work, however, has not had lasting influence in German research. In an Anglo-American context, it is almost unknown today.