

**European State Formation, Three Models of Nation-Building,
and the Variation and Change in State Policies Toward Ethnic Diversity**

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Abstract

How do state policies toward ethnic diversity vary across countries? How can one measure and conceptualize cross-national variation in state policies toward ethnic diversity? What explains such variation? I present cross-national data on nine state policies toward ethnic diversity in 42 European countries, collected through a global expert survey over four years, which is the empirical core of the current article. Second, I find that there is significant cross-national variation in state policies toward ethnic diversity, with three meaningful patterns clustering in particular countries. I identify and conceptualize three different nation-building patterns as antiethnic, monoethnic, and multiethnic nation-state models. Third, I argue that three waves of nation-building, roughly corresponding to French (1789), German (1871), and Soviet (1922) nation-building experiences, and the diffusion of these three models across Europe through chronological, geographical, linguistic, and ideological mechanisms, explain the cross-national variation in state policies toward ethnic diversity.

European State Formation, Three Models of Nation-Building, and the Variation in State Policies toward Ethnic Diversity

Modern nation-states demonstrate considerable variation in terms of the policies they pursue toward ethnic and religious diversity. In France, there is no ethnic or religious information in the national census or in personal identification documents, there is no ethnic-priority immigration or citizenship, no ethnic minority status, only one official language and no more than one ethnic group in the constitution, no ethnic territorial autonomy and no ethnically based affirmative action policies. In stark contrast, in neighboring Belgium, there are multiple official languages, more than one ethnic group in the constitution, ethnic territorial autonomy, ethnic information in the census, and ethnic affirmative action policies. On the other hand, Germany, the largest and most populous neighbor of both Belgium and France, lacks all of the aforementioned policies that Belgium has in place toward ethnic diversity, but instead maintains ethnic priority immigration and ethnic priority citizenship policies that favor ethnic Germans, along with ethnic minority status, none of which exist in Belgium or France. Located in the northwestern corner of the European continent, these three neighboring countries demonstrate radically different policies toward ethnic diversity.

How do state policies toward ethnic diversity vary across countries? How can one measure and conceptualize cross-national variation in state policies toward ethnic diversity? What explains such variation? What do these significant differences in state policies toward ethnic diversity tell us about the origins of nation-states and their

distribution across time and space? This article presents cross-national data on 9 state policies toward ethnic diversity in 42 European countries, collected through a global expert survey over four years (2011-2014), which is the empirical core of the current article's contribution. Second, it is demonstrated that there is systematic and significant cross-national variation in state policies toward ethnic diversity, with three meaningful patterns of policy clustering in particular countries. Three different nation-building patterns are identified and conceptualized as antiethnic, monoethnic, and multiethnic nation-state models, which is the conceptual contribution of the current article.

Third, an attempt is made to explain the distribution of these three nation-building models across Europe with reference to diffusion mechanisms shaped by chronological, geographical, and linguistic factors, which is the causal contribution of the current article. While the diffusion of the nation-state across the world has been systematically studied (Barkin and Cronin 1994; Meyer et al. 1997; Wimmer and Feinstein 2010), the global or continental diffusion of specific versions of nation-state models has not been studied, which this paper attempts to do. I argue that the antiethnic nation-building model was chronologically the first one to appear and is best represented by the French Republic that was founded after the French Revolution (1789). This model had a vast demonstration effect on the states that already existed prior to 1789, which are concentrated in Western Europe. This nation-building model also diffused through French-speaking elites that played the leading role in nation-building elsewhere. Monoethnic nation-building model appeared later, best represented by Germany that was founded in 1871, and had a vast demonstration effect on the states that were founded during the 19th and early 20th century, which are concentrated in Eastern Europe. This nation-building model also

diffused through German-speaking elites that played the leading role in nation-building. Multiethnic nation-building model was best represented worldwide by the Soviet Union that was founded in 1922, and had a legacy that continues in some of the successor states of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia, while diffusing through pro-Soviet elites that played the leading role in nation-building elsewhere during the 20th century.

These different but related empirical, conceptual, and causal contributions address important lacunae in the social scientific study of nationalism and nation-state formation, as the next section will elaborate.

NATIONALISM AND THE NATION-STATES: UNIFORM OF DIVERSE TRAJECTORIES?

There are many competing theories about the origins of nationalism and the rise of nation-states, but despite their differences otherwise, scholars agree that nationalism originated somewhere in Western Europe sometime in the early modern era (Anderson 1983; Gellner 1983; Hobsbawm 1990; Kedourie 1960; Tilly 1992). “Nationalism is a doctrine invented in Europe at the beginning of the nineteenth century,” avers Elie Kedourie (1960) in the very first sentence of his well-known book on nationalism. Both Anderson (1983) and Gellner (1983) emphasize that the rise of literacy in vernacular languages in Europe and the concomitant decline of Latin as the lingua franca of the elite in Christendom were key developments underpinning popular nationalism and nation-state formation. This consensus in the scholarship on the European origins of nationalism is the primary reason for the current article’s focus on 42 European states.

Common to all of these theories of nationalism is the expectation that one language becomes the national language, and in many cases, an ethnic group associated with that language is identified and elevated as the core of the new national community, although many scholars including myself consider such monolingual and/or monoethnic nation-building as one of several different alternatives to nationhood. Nation-states are often assumed to be monolingual, if not also monoethnic, and nationalism is sometimes assumed to have only one form, “ethnic nationalism,” thus creating ethnically based exclusions and grievances among minorities. “Nationalism demands that rulers and ruled hail from the same ethnic background” is the first sentence of Andreas Wimmer’s seminal book on nation-building around the world (2013: 1), where he develops a general theory of nation state formation as well as the global diffusion of the nation state form over two hundred years. In his later works, Wimmer (2018) also conceptualized a more supraethnic or multiethnic understanding of nation-building whereby precisely the political integration of different ethnic groups was taken as an indicator of successful nation-building. Nonetheless, Wimmer’s earlier conceptualization highlights the ethnic core of a particular nation-building model very well: “They can now evoke the very principles of nationalism—that ethnic likes should be ruled by ethnic likes—to legitimize their claims and mobilize followers” (Wimmer 2013: 24) Such ethnonational dynamics in turn generate and/or frame ethnic or ethnicized grievances: “All remain related, however, to the principles of legitimacy—ethnic self-rule—that the nation-state established, and circle around the issue of ethnic underrepresentation and the fear of political domination by ethnic others.” (Wimmer 2013: 29) Some scholars go even further and claim that pre-modern ethnic communities were the precursors of modern nations (Smith 1983; Gat

2013). Regardless of whether they think nations are relatively new formations (e.g., Gellner 1983), or more than a thousand years old (e.g., Gat 2013), most scholars maintain that nationalism creates ethnic inequalities, grievances and conflicts including ethnically motivated civil wars (e.g., Cederman, Gleditsch, Buhaug 2013; Wimmer 2013). Nonetheless, it has also been argued that, after controlling for per capita income and growth rates, the more ethnically diverse countries have not been more likely to experience civil wars (Fearon and Laitin 2003).

These accounts of ethnic exclusion rest on the assumption that each nation-state will favor one ethnicity or at least one language, which is an empirical claim that is systematically scrutinized across 42 nations in this article. For example, I find that only some nation-states have official ethnic favoritism in key policy areas such as citizenship and immigration (18 and 12 European states out of 42, respectively), and most others do not. While many states do have one official language, many others have multiple official languages at the local or even at the national level (24 out of 42 in Europe). Moreover, some nation-states explicitly mention multiple ethnic groups in their constitution (11 out of 42), while some provide for ethnic territorial autonomy (9 out of 42) and affirmative action policies and quotas for different ethnic groups (14 out of 42), which are policies in seeming contradiction with the definition of a nation-state based on one core or titular ethnic group. All of these examples of nation-states that are legally, institutionally, or even constitutionally multiethnic and multilingual contradict the assertion that nation-states are based on the principle of ethnic self-rule.

Some scholars challenged the assumed uniformity of the nation-state, giving rise to a discussion of the varieties of nation-states. Hans Kohn's (1944) classification of

“ethnic Eastern” and “civic Western” nationalism as the two subtypes has been popular and influential, but also widely criticized (e.g., Kuzio 2002). Nonetheless, Rogers Brubaker’s (1992) study of Germany and France as cases of ethnic and civic nationhood, respectively, followed Kohn’s classification and has been particularly influential. Liah Greenfeld (1993) identified different types of nationalisms based on whether they have ethnic or civic, collectivistic or individualistic characteristics, based on her study of England, France, Russia, Germany, and the United States. All of these valuable studies were exercises in conceptualization based on small-N research design with typically two to five country-specific case studies, with very limited operationalization of these concepts. Hence, they did not focus on developing a systematic measurement with cross-national applicability that could uncover the regional or global distribution of various types of nation-states, which is exactly what this article seeks to achieve with a fully operational new conceptualization of three types of nation-building based on nine observable policies and institutions.

It has been critically noted that social scientific studies of “identity” in general suffer from conceptual problems and “the lack of an analytical framework that is broad enough” (Abdelal et al. 2006). Related to the main puzzle of this paper, some recent scholarship problematized the very common conceptualization of ethnic diversity as an exogenous, independent variable, and instead suggested that ethnic and religious diversity may and should be studied as a historically contingent outcome dependent on political choices and particular state policies (Akturk 2020a; Darden and Mylonas 2016; Singh and vom Hau 2016), which highlights the critical importance of studying how and why different polities adopted different state policies toward ethnic diversity in the first place.

In other words, the origins, continuity and change in state policies toward ethnicity may explain, at least in part, the observed variation in ethnic diversity, which is often considered as an exogenous independent variable. Finally, cross-national variations in institutionalization of ethnocultural diversity have been found to have a decisive influence on many other outcomes of significance, such as the legislative representation of Muslim minorities across European polities, even though Muslim minorities are often of recent immigrant origin and were not part of the political historical institutionalization of ethnocultural diversity in these same European polities (Aktürk and Katliarou 2021).

The study of citizenship and immigration policies from the perspective of nation-building has been fruitful in identifying some cross-national variation in approaching ethnic diversity. For example, Stephen Castles (1995) suggested a typology consisting of three types of policy models vis-à-vis immigrants: The differential exclusion model, the assimilation model, and the pluralist model. Ruud Koopmans (2010) identified three different models depending on the combination of policies related to identity and socio-economic welfare of immigrants: Those that combine multicultural policies with a generous welfare state (Belgium, the Netherlands and Sweden), those that have “restrictive or assimilationist integration policies” (Germany, Austria, Switzerland, France) or “a relatively lean welfare state” (the United Kingdom). Working on early twentieth century nation building in southeastern Europe, Harris Mylonas (2012) also favored a tripartite typology whereby states have the options of exclusion, assimilation, and accommodation vis-à-vis “non-core groups” under their rule. Marc Morje Howard (2009) developed a “citizenship policy index” for 15 European Union (EU) members states based on the naturalization requirements for immigrants. Oxana Shevel (2011)

analyzed and classified migration and refugee policy in relation to state building in postcommunist Europe. These studies also indicate that there is no uniform set of policies that all nation-states employ but rather there are diverse trajectories of nation-building, whether one is speaking about immigration and citizenship policies (Brubaker 1992; Howard 2009; Koopmans 2010; Shevel 2011) or policies toward autochthonous minorities (Mylonas 2012), both at the moment of nation-state creation (Greenfeld 1993; Kohn 1944; Mylonas 2012; Shevel 2010) and also continuing at present (Castles 1995; Howard 2009; Koopmans 2010).

Despite these very valuable contributions, the extant literature on varieties of nation-building has three major shortcomings: First shortcoming is the limited number of countries considered in these studies, ranging from just two (Brubaker 1992) to as much as fifteen (Howard 2009), which are usually chosen on the basis of an independent variable such as economic development level, political regime type, or EU membership, and hence might arbitrarily narrow the variation in nation-building policies and the types of nationhood that are found. The second and more significant shortcoming is the limited number of policy areas studied. These studies typically either only focus on immigration and citizenship policies (Brubaker 1992; Castles 1995; Howard 2009; Koopmans 2010; Shevel 2011) or they focus on state policies toward autochthonous ethnic groups (Cederman, Gleditsch, Buhaug 2013; Mylonas 2012; Wimmer 2013). Third shortcoming is the lack of a fully operational conceptualization of the various ways in which ethnicity-nationality nexus can be governed, which would provide a theoretical frame for the research and relate it to studies of nation-building.

This article offers an integrated approach that takes into account state policies toward ethnic diversity in all fields that impinge on the internal and external definition of nationhood, including immigration and citizenship policy as well as policies that amount to official recognition of internal ethnic diversity such as ethnic federalism, multiple official languages, and the existence of multiple official categories in the constitution, census, and personal identification documents. As such, a fully operational conceptualization of three types of nation-building (antiethnic, monoethnic, and multiethnic) based on nine observable policies and institutions, which is a systematic “-measurement with cross-national applicability that can capture the distribution of various types of nation-states, is presented. This is followed by the presentation of the cross-national data on 9 state policies in 42 European countries collected through an expert survey (Aktürk 2015). Third and finally, a tentative explanation of the distribution of three nation-building models across Europe is provided in the last section, with reference to diffusion paths and mechanisms shaped or conditioned by chronological, geographical, ideological, and linguistic factors. In addition to the paradigmatic cases of France, Germany, and the Soviet Union, the cases of Belgium, Bulgaria, North Macedonia, Moldova, Portugal, and Turkey are briefly discussed in illustrating the relationship between various diffusion patterns and different nation-building models.

CONCEPTUALIZATION: ANTIETHNIC, MONOETHNIC, AND MULTIETHNIC NATION BUILDING

Ethnic diversity is related to two aspects of any modern political community, namely, “membership” and “expression” dimensions, which in turn are governed and

regulated through a number of policies in every country. First, “membership” dimension is primarily regulated by two policies, immigration and citizenship. The key question is whether the state limits citizenship and immigration (i.e., “membership”) to only one ethnic category, or not. Ethnic priority immigration, for example, was a widespread policy employed even by liberal Western countries such as Australia and the United States until the second half of the 20th century, as Christian Joppke (2005) demonstrated in his study of ethnic migration in the liberal state. A third policy that is also relevant for the membership dimension, but not as important as the first two, is whether there is an officially defined ethnic minority status, which would implicate the rest of the population as an “ethnic majority,” resembling the “titular ethnicity” (Martin 2001) or the “core group” of the nation (Mylonas 2012).

Secondly, the “expression” dimension is related to whether and how the state officially supports the expression of ethnic diversity among its citizenry. There are six policies through which the state can officially recognize and support the expression of ethnic diversity among its citizenry: The existence of multiple official languages, multiple ethnic categories in the constitution, ethnic federalism, ethnic information in the census, ethnic information in individual identification documents, and ethnically based affirmative action. These nine policies, the first three related to (mono)ethnic membership and the latter six related to (multi)ethnic expression dimension of nationality, conceptualized together indicate one of three different nation-building models, or hybrids thereof. This is a refinement of my previous conceptualization of three regimes of ethnicity, which was based on seven rather than nine policies (Aktürk 2012).

First, if the state does *not* limit citizenship and immigration to any one particular ethnic group, thus accepting people of many different ethnicities as immigrants and citizens, but also does *not* allow for the official expression of ethnic diversity through the six policies mentioned earlier, then this state pursues *antiethnic* nation-building. Among the three countries mentioned as examples in the introduction, France is an unmistakable example of a state that has pursued *antiethnic* nation-building.

Second, if the state privileges *one ethnic group* as the true core of the nation through discriminatory citizenship and immigration regulations, but also does *not* allow for the official expression of ethnic diversity through the six policies mentioned earlier, then this state pursues *monoethnic* nation-building. Among the three countries mentioned as examples in the introduction, Germany is an unmistakable example of a state that has pursued *monoethnic* nation-building.

Third, if the state does *not* limit citizenship and immigration to any one particular ethnic group, thus accepting people of many different ethnicities as immigrants and citizens, and also *supports* the official expression of ethnic diversity through the six policies mentioned earlier, then this state pursues *multiethnic* nation-building. Among the three countries mentioned as examples in the introduction, Belgium is an unmistakable example of a state that has pursued *multiethnic* nation-building (**Table 1**).

Table 1: Three Types of Nation-Building

	Antiethnic	Monoethnic	Multiethnic
Ethnic priority citizenship	No	Yes	No
Ethnic priority immigration	No	Yes	No

Ethnic minority status	No	Yes	No
Multiple ethnic categories in the constitution	No	No	Yes
Multiple official languages	No	No	Yes
Ethnic territorial autonomy	No	No	Yes
Ethnic information in the census	No	No	Yes
Ethnic information in individual IDs	No	No	Yes
Ethnic affirmative action	No	No	Yes

In the following section, systematic data on nine state policies toward ethnic diversity in 42 European countries is presented, which demonstrates the distribution of antiethnic, monoethnic, and multiethnic nation-building models across Europe.

DATA: EXPERT SURVEY ON STATE POLICIES TOWARD ETHNIC DIVERSITY

In order to answer the questions outlined earlier, a global expert opinion survey on state policies toward ethnic diversity was conducted with the support of the European Commission through a Marie Curie International Reintegration Grant (project no. FP7-MC-IRG-268392) between 2011 and 2014. The goal was to collect completed questionnaires on fifteen state policies toward ethnic diversity and religion from experts of 172 countries with a population over quarter million. 2,442 experts were contacted in total, and 485 completed surveys were received from experts of 172 countries, corresponding to a positive response rate of 19.9%. These completed surveys contained 7,275 policy-specific data points in total (15 policies evaluated in each of the 485

surveys). The results for 42 geographically European countries are presented in this paper. These include every country that has territory in the European continent (including Russia and Turkey) or in nearby islands that are conventionally considered European or are members of the European Union (including Cyprus, Iceland, and Malta), with a population over quarter million.

Country experts were identified by a team of research assistants in close consultation with the current author, primarily based on their publication record on ethnic politics or ethnic identity in the country for which their expertise was sought.

Publications were identified using online search engines in academic databases such as Google Scholar. Respondents were asked to provide their expert opinion on the existence or lack of nine state policies toward ethnic diversity and six state policies toward religion. They had a binary choice (“yes” or “no”) to indicate the existence or lack thereof for each policy, followed by the option of explaining their responses. The experts had the option to disclose their identities or remain anonymous in any future publications resulting from this survey. The names of 384 experts who agreed to the disclosure of their identities are publicly available in the project website (<https://regimesofethnicity.ku.edu.tr>). The remainder of the experts chose to remain anonymous.

POLICIES TOWARD ETHNIC DIVERSITY IN 42 EUROPEAN STATES

1. Policies of Monoethnic Membership

1.1 Ethnic Priority Citizenship

Officially sanctioned preference for one ethnic category in naturalization and citizenship acquisition is one of the two major policies that is an unmistakable sign of a monoethnic nation-building model. 18 of the 42 European countries (43%) including Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia have ethnic priority citizenship policies. It is significant that 15 of these 18 countries form a geographically contiguous territory extending from Denmark, Germany, Poland and the Baltic states in the north to Bulgaria, Greece and Cyprus in the southeast. A majority of European states, 24 out of 42 (57%), do not have ethnic priority citizenship policies, contradicting the ethno-nationalist assumptions prevalent in the scholarly literature on nation-states.

1.2 Ethnic Priority Immigration

Officially sanctioned preference for one ethnic category in immigration, sometimes in the form of a separate “repatriation” law or program, is the second major policy that is an unmistakable symptom of a monoethnic nation-building model. Ethnic priority immigration is in some ways the strongest symptom of a monoethnic nation-building model, since it shows the state’s interest in, if not active pursuit of, “ethnic brethren” around the world as prospective citizens. 12 out of 42 European countries (29%) including Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, and Slovenia have ethnic priority immigration policies. It is very significant that *all* of these 12 countries *also have* ethnic priority citizenship policies, making them very strong candidates for monoethnic nationhood.

Barring significant contradictory policies among the other seven policies, these 12 countries are strong candidates for monoethnic nationhood.

1.3 Ethnic Minority Status

Although it might appear counterintuitive, ethnic minority status is also a policy that is symptomatic of monoethnic nation-building, because designating a small (*minor*) segment of the population as an “ethnic” minority, identifies the rest of the population as the “ethnic majority,” akin to the “titular ethnicity” in particular Soviet republics (Martin 2001) or the ethnic “core group” of the nation (Mylonas 2012), by implication. However, ethnic minority status is the weakest symptom of monoethnic nationhood among the three policies of membership. 21 out of 42 European countries (50%), including Albania, Austria, Belarus, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Norway, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, and Ukraine have ethnic minority status. 8 of these 21 countries with ethnic minority status *also* have both ethnic priority citizenship *and* ethnic priority immigration, designating one ethnic category as the core or titular ethnic group of the country, making these 8 states the strongest candidates of monoethnic nationhood. These include Croatia, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, and Slovenia. However, as will be observed further below, a few of the countries that have two or three major policies symptomatic of monoethnic membership in the nation, also have a significant number of policies allowing for multiethnic expression, which will be the basis of their classification under the hybrid category of “monoethnic-multiethnic” nation-building.

2. Policies of Multiethnic Expression

There are six state policies directly related to the official recognition and promotion of ethnic diversity. Among these six, three policies are stronger indicators of multiethnic nationhood: Multiple ethnic categories in the constitution, multiple official languages, especially if these are recognized at the national level rather than at the local level, and ethnic territorial autonomy. The other three policies that are also indicative of multiethnic nationhood are ethnic information in the census, ethnic information in individual identification documents, and ethnic affirmative action policies.

2.1 Multiple Ethnic Categories in the Constitution

Mentioning more than one ethnic group in the constitution, the key document of any modern state, is an unmistakable indication of the multiethnic nation-building model at the highest official level. 11 out of 42 European countries (26%) have more than one ethnic group mentioned in their constitution, including Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Finland, Hungary, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Norway, and Slovenia. The number of ethnic groups mentioned in the Constitution varies significantly, from just one ethnic group in Norway (Saami) to twenty-three ethnic groups in Croatia.

2.2 Multiple Official Languages

Having multiple official languages, even at the local level, is another strong indicator of recognizing ethnic diversity among the citizenry. 24 out of 42 European countries (57%) have multiple official languages, including Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Finland, Ireland, Italy, Kosovo, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom. However, it is important to note that most of these countries recognize more than one official language

only at the local level. There are only 9 countries that recognize multiple official languages at the national level. Even within the smaller subcategory of nationally multilingual countries, four of the nine such countries are bilingual in great part because of their postimperial or postcolonial heritage (such as the official bilingualism of Belarus, Finland, Ireland, and Malta). Nonetheless, official multilingualism, even at the local level, is an important symptom of multiethnic nation building.

2.3 Ethnic Territorial Autonomy

Existence of ethnic territorial autonomy is perhaps the strongest indicator of multiethnic nationhood, since it often implies sharing sovereignty between two or more ethnic groups on a territorial basis. Only 9 out of 42 European countries (21%) have ethnic territorial autonomy including Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Denmark, Finland, Moldova, Norway, Russia, Spain, and Sweden. The size and the population of the ethnically autonomous territories vary considerably among these nine. It is notable that four of the nine European countries with ethnic territorial autonomy are Nordic (Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden) and three others are postcommunist (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, and Russia) countries. Belgium and Spain, however, do not fall under these two categories and yet they also have ethnic territorial autonomy. Belgium, Finland, and Norway are the three countries that also have multiple ethnic categories in the constitution, multiple official languages, *and* ethnic territorial autonomy, making these three countries as strong candidates of multiethnic nationhood. However, since Finland also has all three policies indicative of monoethnic nationhood, it presents us with a clear case of hybrid monoethnic-multiethnic nation-building.

2.4 Ethnic Information in the Census

Among the policies related to the expression of ethnic diversity of the citizenry (although sometimes non-citizens may also be included in the census), ethnic information in the national census is the most widespread one. 27 out of 42 European countries (64%), almost two-thirds, collect ethnically specific information in their national census. These countries include Albania, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Ireland, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Russia, Ukraine, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, and the United Kingdom. Neither antiethnic nor monoethnic nation-states would be expected to have ethnic information in the census. Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and Turkey do not have ethnic information in their national census. Therefore, these countries that do not have any ethnic information in the census are more likely to follow the antiethnic nation-building model that seeks to assimilate an ethnically diverse population or a monoethnic nation-building model that seeks to exclude all ethnic others from citizenship.

2.5 Ethnic Information in Individual Identification Documents

Some countries maintain records on every individual citizen's ethnic identity, often in their passports, birth certificates, or other government issued personal identification documents. This is also an important symptom of multiethnic nation-building, because through such records the state recognizes the ethnic diversity and ethnic identity of every one of its citizens. Moreover, such mandatory recognition often reinforces the ethnic identities of the citizens in their interactions with public authorities. Individual ethnic records can serve as the microfoundation of a vast multiethnic

institutional architecture such as in the former Soviet Union, where ethnically based affirmative action and dozens of ethnically autonomous territories with their respective official languages existed along with the codification of every citizen's ethnic identity in their internal passports (Akturk 2012; Martin 2001). 10 out of 42 European countries (24%) currently have individual ethnic records of their citizens, including Albania, Belarus, Croatia, Cyprus, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, and Montenegro. It is a very significant observation that 9 of the 10 states that keep ethnic records of their individual citizens are postcommunist states. Soviet Union, the first modern socialist state, began the practice of recording every individual's ethnicity and other socialist states such as Yugoslavia and the People's Republic of China also emulated this practice, which indicate that the prevalence of this policy in postcommunist countries might be a historical legacy.

2.6 Ethnic Affirmative Action

In a multiethnic nation-building model, the census codifies the ethnic demography of the citizenry at an aggregate level, while personal identification documents codify ethnic identities at an individual level, and based on either one or both of these policies, some states also implement ethnically based affirmative action policies. 14 out of 42 European countries implement ethnic affirmative action policies, including Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Finland, Hungary, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, and Slovenia. 13 of these 14 countries either have individual ethnic records or ethnic information in their census, or both. The only exception is Finland, which neither has ethnic information in its census nor individual ethnic records but it has ethnically based affirmative action. It is also a

significant observation that in half of the European countries where ethnic affirmative action exists, it is mostly or entirely targeted toward one specific ethnic category, the Roma ethnic group, and often with the specific goal of promoting their education. Roma are the intended beneficiaries of ethnic affirmative action in the Czech Republic, Finland, Hungary, Kosovo, Romania, Serbia, and Slovenia.

IDENTIFYING ANTIETHNIC, MONOETHNIC, AND MULTIETHNIC REGIMES

Based on the results of the cross-national expert opinion survey on state policies toward ethnic diversity in 42 European countries discussed above, we can identify and classify the differences in their nation-building strategies. Countries that pursue antiethnic nation-building are expected not to have any of the nine policies examined. Countries that pursue monoethnic nation-building are expected to have three policies of monoethnic membership, namely, ethnic priority citizenship, ethnic priority immigration, and ethnic minority status, since these designate one ethnic group as the titular, state-bearing ethnicity that is identified as the core of the nation, but they are expected not to have any of the six policies on multiethnic expression, since a nation defined as monoethnic is not supposed to have any ethnic diversity. Finally, countries that follow multiethnic nation-building are expected to have all six policies of multiethnic expression but they are not expected to have any of the three monoethnic membership policies. Looking at these nine policies as a whole, if any country fully conforms with or deviates in only one or two policies from the expected pattern for a particular nation-building model, then it is reasonable to classify that country as an example of that nation-building

pattern. Thus, any country that demonstrates conformity with a particular nation-building pattern in at least seven of the nine policies examined will be classified as belonging to that nation-building model.

Even displaying expected outcomes in seven of the nine ethnic policies may still not be sufficient for classifying a country as an example of a particular nation-building model if the country does not have neither one of the two membership policies for a particular nation-building model. For example, a country cannot be pursuing monoethnic nation-building if it does not have either ethnic priority citizenship or ethnic priority immigration. If a country deviates in three or more policies from the expected policy patterns of the hypothesized nation-building models, then it is labeled as a “hybrid” of two nation-building models depending on the particular constellation of policies.

If the number of countries labeled as “hybrids” exceed the number of countries that display the policy patterns of the three hypothesized nation-building models, this could decrease our confidence in the tripartite conceptualization of antiethnic, monoethnic, and multiethnic nation-building models discussed earlier. In contrast, if the state policies toward ethnic diversity in a majority of the 42 countries under investigation can be captured by one of the three nation-building models conceptualized in this article, then our confidence in this conceptualization would increase. Indeed, state policies toward ethnic diversity in 28 of the 42 European countries, or two-thirds of all countries, do fit neatly into the tripartite typology of antiethnic, monoethnic, and multiethnic nation-building, increasing our confidence in this conceptualization.

Antiethnic Nation-Building

9 of the 42 European countries (21.5%) conform to the antiethnic nation-building pattern, which is based on assimilation in its approach to ethnic diversity. Of these, France, Portugal, and Turkey perfectly fit into the antiethnic nation-building model since all nine of their policies toward ethnic diversity are in line with what one would expect in an antiethnic regime, not recognizing, codifying or institutionalizing ethnic identities in their policies on membership or expression. The remaining six countries (Italy, Malta, Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom) are in conformity with the antiethnic nation-building pattern in seven or eight of their nine policies toward ethnic diversity, but they do have one or two policies of multiethnic expression, which nonetheless does not jeopardize their overall antiethnic orientation in nation-building. Despite their varying levels of conformity with the antiethnic policy pattern, it is important to observe and emphasize that none of these nine countries has either ethnic priority citizenship or ethnic priority immigration policies, providing a stronger indication of conformity with the antiethnic pattern than a mere aggregate number of policies may suggest (**Table 2**). Another very notable observation on the distribution of antiethnic regimes is a geographical one: All of the antiethnic nation-states, except for Turkey, are located in Western Europe, which may indicate a geographical diffusion pattern or mechanism, as will be discussed in the next section.

While a discussion of every antiethnic nation-state is impossible due to the space limitations of this article, classification of Switzerland as an antiethnic state might appear anomalous and surprising at first, and thus it deserves a brief explanation. Switzerland does not have any of the monoethnic or multiethnic policies included in our survey except one, namely, multiple official languages, and hence was categorized as an antiethnic

regime (**Table 2**). Swiss constitution does not mention multiple ethnic groups, as all experts concurred, but rather it mentions four different language groups. Switzerland does not have ethnic territorial autonomy, although there is a kind of *de facto* linguistic autonomy since some cantons have a single predominant language, while some are more diverse. There is no record of ethnic or even linguistic or religious belonging in personal identification cards or passports. There is no ethnically based affirmative action. As to whether there is ethnic information in the census, the experts were evenly divided, but upon closer inspection, it appears that “language, religion, and nationality” are recorded in the Swiss census, but not ethnicity.

The only official policy of multiethnic expression in Switzerland is the recognition of multiple official languages, which is a very important and distinctively multicultural characteristic of the Swiss nation-state, but in the absence of the other five policies, does not suffice to define Switzerland as a multiethnic nation-state in terms of the official, legal, and institutional features examined in this article. However, Switzerland is a country with an unusually highly decentralized power structure (“confederation”) where most units of the confederation also have a predominant linguistic identity that in effect corresponds to an ethno-cultural identity, and this rather rare constellation resembles, *de facto*, multiethnic nation building, even though, as discussed above, there are no explicitly “multiethnic” power-sharing principles officially codified underpinning the national political architecture in Switzerland. Indeed, all five countries that deviate from the antiethnic pattern in only one policy, all deviate in recognizing more than one official language, which is a curious coincidence.

Table 2. Antiethnic Nation-States in Europe

Policies/ Countries	1.1	1.2	1.3	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.6
Antiethnic Pattern	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
France (9/9)	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Portugal (9/9)	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Turkey (9/9)	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Italy (8/9)	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Malta (8/9)	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Netherlands (8/9)	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Switzerland (8/9)	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Sweden (7/9)	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
United Kingdom (7/9)	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No

Monoethnic Nation-Building

12 of the 42 European countries (28.5%) conform to the monoethnic nation-building pattern, which is based on the exclusion of non-titular, non-core ethnic groups in approaching ethnic diversity. Paralleling extant literature on varieties of nationalism, Germany continues to appear as the most faithful approximation of the monoethnic nation-building model (Brubaker 1992; Greenfeld 1993). This is somewhat surprising given the historic citizenship reform of 1999, which allowed the naturalization of non-ethnic Germans born in Germany to immigrant parents who fulfill certain qualifications (Akturk 2012; Howard 2009). However, Germany still maintains ethnic priority citizenship and ethnic priority immigration for ethnic Germans throughout Eastern

Europe and the former Soviet Union, while also having ethnic minority status, and not having any of the six policies of multiethnic expression, which is exactly the constellation of policies that one expects from a state on a monoethnic nation-building trajectory. Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Romania deviate in only one or at most two policies from this monoethnic pattern, while conforming to that pattern in the other seven or eight policies. Moreover, nine of the twelve monoethnic nation-states (exceptions are Estonia, Poland and Romania) have both ethnic priority citizenship and ethnic priority immigration policies (**Table 3**). Another notable observation on the distribution of monoethnic regimes is a geographical one: Three-quarters of the countries (9 out of the 12) that have monoethnic nation-building policies are located in Eastern Europe (exceptions are Denmark, Iceland, and Ireland), which may indicate a geographical diffusion mechanism or demonstration effect, as will be discussed in the next section.

Table 3. Monoethnic Nation-States in Europe

Policies/ Countries	1.1	1.2	1.3	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.6
Monoethnic Pattern	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
Germany (9/9)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
Bulgaria (7/9)	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
Czech Rep. (8/9)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes
Denmark (7/9)	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No
Estonia (7/9)	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No

Greece (8/9)	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Iceland (7/9)	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Ireland (7/9)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Lithuania (7/9)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Latvia (7/9)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Poland (7/9)	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
Romania (7/9)	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No

Multiethnic Nation-Building

7 of the 42 European countries (16.5%) conform to the multiethnic nation-building pattern, which is based on the consociation of multiple ethnic groups that are officially recognized together as constituting the nation. These countries are Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, and Russia. However, none of these seven countries display the multiethnic pattern in all nine policies; they mostly deviate in one or two of these policies from the multiethnic pattern (**Table 4**). In the special case of Moldova, however, a country that has four of the six policies of multiethnic expression including the two most critical ones (multiple official languages and ethnic territorial autonomy), and does not have monoethnic citizenship or immigration policies but does have officially defined ethnic minority status, it is reasonable to classify Moldova as a multiethnic nation-state, rather than an antiethnic-multiethnic hybrid, even though it deviates from the multiethnic pattern in three policies.

All countries that conform to the multiethnic nation-building pattern except for Belgium are postcommunist countries that are located in Eastern Europe, which may

indicate both an historical institutional legacy and a geographical diffusion mechanism or demonstration effect, as will be discussed in the next section. Another observation is the relative scarcity of multiethnic regimes in Europe, compared to both antiethnic and monoethnic regimes. Moreover, there is also a rather interesting asymmetry in the size of these multiethnic nations. While Russia is by far the largest and most populous country in Europe, all the other multiethnic nations, perhaps again with the partial exception of Belgium, have significantly smaller territory and population than the European average.

Table 4. Multiethnic Nation-States in Europe

Policies/ Countries	1.1	1.2	1.3	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.6
Multiethnic Pattern	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Belgium (8/9)	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Bosnia Herzegovina (7/9)	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Kosovo (7/9)	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Macedonia (8/9)	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Moldova (6/9)*	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Montenegro (6/9)*	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Russian Federation (7/9)	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes

Monoethnic-Multiethnic Hybrid Nation-Building

6 of the 42 European countries (14%) combine unmistakably monoethnic citizenship and immigration policies with some of the policies of multiethnic expression,

which is a curiously counterintuitive combination. These countries are Croatia, Cyprus, Finland, Hungary, Slovenia, and Slovakia. Similar to monoethnic and multiethnic nation-states, monoethnic-multiethnic nation-states are also almost all located in Eastern Europe with the singular exception of Spain. Most strikingly, Croatia, Finland, and Slovenia have all three monoethnic membership policies and four of the six policies of multiethnic expression.

The policies pursued by these states give the impression that there is clearly a monoethnic “core” of the nation, its “titular” ethnic group (e.g., ethnic Croats), which is officially privileged in citizenship and immigration, but the state also supports some of the policies that give official expression to ethnic diversity of its citizenry. In an apparent case of monoethnic discrimination, state prefers one particular ethnic group in immigration, naturalization and citizenship acquisition, which we may call the titular or core ethnic group, but the state inherited a multiethnic citizenry historically and also implements some policies that give expression to that diversity. Taking into consideration such a configuration with a core, titular, privileged ethnic group at the top, and other ethnic groups that are nonetheless allowed official expression, it would be accurate to describe monoethnic-multiethnic hybrid nation-states as being closer to the monoethnic model than the multiethnic model, while not losing sight of their in-between status. The organizing principle in multiethnic nation-states is that of “consociation” between symbolically equal ethnic groups that together constitute the nation, which is not the case in monoethnic-multiethnic hybrids where one ethnic group is officially privileged as the core of the nation (titular group), while all other ethnic groups are relegated to a secondary status, even though the expression of their ethnic difference is officially

supported and institutionalized. Their chronological origins and geographical location likewise can be understood in between two nation-building models, while more closely paralleling that of the monoethnic nation-states. Seemingly incoherent for combining monoethnic discrimination with multiethnic expression, monoethnic-multiethnic hybrid nation-building is surprisingly common in Eastern Europe.

Antiethnic-Multiethnic Hybrid Nation-Building

8 of the 42 European countries (19%) combine antiethnic citizenship and immigration policies with some of the multiethnic expression policies. These are Albania, Austria, Belarus, Luxembourg, Norway, Serbia, Spain, and Ukraine. They have ethnically blind immigration and citizenship policies that allow people of different ethnic backgrounds to become members of the nation, and they have almost half of the policies of multiethnic expression. Unlike monoethnic-multiethnic hybrid, which is counterintuitive and incoherent for combining two opposing principles on the definition of the nation, antiethnic-multiethnic hybrid is not incoherent as such, and can also be defined as “semi-multiethnic” nation-building since it is halfway between assimilation of an ethnically diverse population in favor one overarching national identity and full recognition of ethnic diversity within the nation. Half of the antiethnic-multiethnic nation-states are post-Communist.

EXPLAINING THE ORIGINS AND THE DIFFUSION OF THREE DIFFERENT NATION BUILDING MODELS: THE ROLE OF CHRONOLOGY, GEOGRAPHY, IDEOLOGY AND LANGUAGE

How can we explain why countries display significant and observable differences in the nation-building policies that they follow? The empirical results of our survey presented in this article demonstrate that there are striking cross-national differences in nation-building policies. Two-thirds of European countries can be classified as following one of three policy patterns that are conceptualized as antiethnic, monoethnic, and multiethnic nation-building earlier in this article. How can one explain this variation? Although there are many theories on the origins and spread of nationalism, these theories lack specific causal mechanisms for explaining why countries adopt different kinds of nation building models with different policies toward ethnic diversity. In an already noted exception, Kohn (1944) suggested a dichotomous description with a geographical dimension when he argued that Western nationalisms and nation-states are civic whereas Eastern nationalisms and nation-states are ethnic. His argument came under detailed criticism both theoretically for his mystical construction of a “civic” nationalism, and empirically for the cases of nationalism that he mischaracterized or classified inconsistently (e.g., Kuzio 2002).

The implicit or default explanation for cross-national variation in nation-building policies is presumably historical contingency and the agency of nationalist leaderships in each country, which can be treated as a null hypothesis. If the policies toward ethnic diversity observed in each country as a whole did not fit into the antiethnic, monoethnic, and multiethnic nation building patterns outlined earlier, then the null hypothesis would have been vindicated. However, they mostly do fit into these three nation-building patterns, and furthermore, there are meaningful geographical, chronological, ideological, and linguistic clusters of countries pursuing similar policies toward ethnic diversity, and

therefore such patterns are in need of an explanation beyond historical contingency. Such a preliminary explanation is attempted below.

Three Waves of Nation-Building: Chronology, Geography, Ideology and Language

French Revolution (1789) and Antiethnic Nation-Building

Modern nationalism originated in Western Europe, possibly going as far back as the state-led religious homogenization and mobilization observed in early modern England, France, and Spain (Marx 2003). France, Britain, and the United States are often described as “the first national communities.” (Wimmer 2013: 37) The French Revolution in 1789, which idealized and pursued an assimilationist, *antiethnic* nation-building model, had a spectacular demonstration effect in much of Western Europe, and provided a blueprint for emulation by states that were already in existence by 1789. Only nine present-day European states were already in existence as of 1789: Portugal, Spain, France, Switzerland, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Denmark, Sweden, and Russia. It is a significant observation that, even though only around one-fifth of all European states (9 out of 42) pursue antiethnic nation-building policies, two-thirds of the states that already existed prior to 1789 (6 out of 9) pursue anti-ethnic nation-building policies at present. This observation strengthens my argument that the variation in nation-building patterns across Europe can be explained in part by chronology: The oldest states that already existed prior to 1789 mostly adopted antiethnic nation-building policies similar to France.

Part of the explanation for this initial emulation probably has to do with the resounding victories of French armies in the Napoleonic Wars, which is widely believed to have motivated military and political elites of France’s neighbors to emulate French

nation-building model. “This had obvious advantages, as the success of Napoleon’s armies demonstrated. The nation-state model was therefore ‘pirated,’ in Benedict Anderson’s terms, by ambitious political leaders across the world and across times.” (Wimmer 2013: 20) However, I would argue that the French model of antiethnic nation-building was only the first of three nation-building models to appear, and therefore different countries “pirated” different models depending on “when, where, and how” they “pirated” it, corresponding to chronological, geographical, ideological, and linguistic factors that account for the cross-national variation in state policies toward ethnic diversity.

In addition to the chronological dimension highlighted above, there appears to have been a geographical dimension in this diffusion process, since a large majority of antiethnic nation-states are located in Western Europe. To a certain extent, this is logical since those states most immediately threatened by the new French nation-state would be its neighbors in Western Europe, and hence this may have motivated their emulation of the antiethnic nation-building model.

The case of Portugal illustrates multiple patterns that predict an antiethnic model and is indeed one of the three states that has a fully antiethnic model by lacking all nine ethnic policies. Portugal, located in the southwestern tip of Europe, is one of the oldest states in Europe, founded by Afonso I as the Kingdom of Portugal (“Reino de Portugal”) in 1139. King Afonso knew Portuguese and Latin, the supraethnic language of Western Christendom, and an ethnically diverse population within the Portuguese polity continued constitute the Portuguese nation through assimilation since the medieval era. Napoleonic wars and the French occupation of Portugal presumably reinforced this French model of

assimilationist nation-building, which was also adopted by Brazil, at once the largest Portuguese colony and the largest Latin American nation. Present-day Portugal does not have any monoethnic and multiethnic policies.

States whose nation-building model seemingly deviates from the chronological and geographical patterns outlined above might still be explicable through the linguistic and ideological/educational background of their state founding elites. For example, the chronological and geographical mechanisms briefly discussed above cannot explain the origins of antiethnic nation-states that were founded much later than the French Revolution and are located far away from Western Europe. A clear example of such an outlier among 42 European polities is Turkey, which is located at the southeastern tip of Europe and was founded in 1923. However, the third linguistic and ideological diffusion mechanism may account for this outlier, whereby primarily French-speaking or French educated nation builders modeled their nation states after the French original that they knew best. Therefore, it has been argued that antiethnic nation-building model deeply influenced some of the Francophone nationalist groups such as the Young Turks, including French-speaking Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, who later spearheaded the founding of the Turkish nation-state (Hanioglu 1995, 2001, 2011).

German Unification (1871) and Monoethnic Nation-Building

The second, monoethnic, nation-building model originated in the early 19th century, right after the French Revolution, and its most spectacular example was the German Unification in 1871, which influenced likeminded monoethnic nation-builders across Europe. Monoethnic model conceived of ethnicity and nationality as being identical. Monoethnic nation-building trajectory developed, at least in part, in conscious

ideological reaction to the French-inspired antiethnic model following the victories of Napoleonic armies across Europe. It is also important to observe that German Unification of 1871 was achieved precisely at the moment of German victory over France, the country where the first, antiethnic, nation-building model originated.

The question of “why a second type of nation-building developed” goes beyond the scope of this article, since our goal here is to describe the cross-national variation in state policies toward ethnic diversity, conceptualize them as three different nation-building models, and uncover their historical origins and diffusion patterns. In other words, the question as to “why monoethnic and then multiethnic nation-building models emerged following the initial appearance of the antiethnic model” is beyond the scope of this article since it is a further step in the causal chain. Nonetheless, as many intellectual historians of nationalism highlight, German nationalism already began to take shape in philosopher Johann Gottlieb Fichte’s (2009) famous *Addresses to the German Nation* that he delivered in Berlin under French occupation in 1807-1808. Thus, the explicit reaction to French nationalism, both intellectually and practically, is apparent from the origins of German nationalism (Fichte’s *Addresses* under French occupation) to its triumphal achievement with German Unification through victory in the Franco-Prussian War.

As in the diffusion of the antiethnic nation-building model with the French Revolution in 1789, chronology, geography, and language also seem to have played a key role in the diffusion of monoethnic nation-building model. First, chronologically, many nationalist groups that established new nation-states in the 19th and early 20th centuries, that is, after the French Revolution (1789) but before the founding of the Soviet Union (1922), were influenced by this new form of monoethnic nationalism. Second,

geographically, most monoethnic nation-states form a contiguous territory extending from Germany, Poland and the Baltic states in northeastern Europe to Bulgaria and Greece in southeastern Europe, hinting at a spatial diffusion. Third, and perhaps most importantly, German-inspired monoethnic nation-building ideas had a significant influence across Central and Eastern Europe through German-speaking elites (in Habsburg and Prussian lands such as present-day Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Poland), German settlers (in the Baltic countries such as Latvia), and German monarchs (in Balkan countries such as Greece and Bulgaria), hinting at the importance of elite language and linguistic sphere of influence as key channels through which new ideas including nation-state models travel from their original birthplace.

The case of Bulgaria illustrates multiple patterns that predict monoethnic nation-building and indeed has an almost entirely monoethnic model. Bulgaria is located at the southeastern tip of Europe, and was founded as a Principality in 1878 with the Berlin Treaty, and became de jure independent state in 1908. The first monarch of Bulgaria was the German-origin Prince Alexander of Battenberg, who was educated in German in Kriegsschule Kassel (1873-1875) in central Germany.

Soviet Union (1922) and Multiethnic Nation-Building

The third, multiethnic nation-building model emerged as a distinct, well-known and influential option only after the founding of the Soviet Union in 1922, which had a world-historical demonstration effect. Its advocates presented multiethnic nationhood as the final and morally superior form of organization for the modern political community, in line with the messianic quality of Soviet socialism (Martin 2001). Soviet Union itself can be described as a radical reconstruction of the multiethnic Russian Empire with a

thoroughly new ideological legitimation, and a novel multiethnic institutional structure that subsequently influenced the entire world, and future socialist regimes in particular.

Chronology, geography and ideology along with language also underpinned the diffusion of Soviet-inspired multiethnic nation-building model, similar to the diffusion of antiethnic and monoethnic models. First, chronologically, out of seven multiethnic states in Europe today, only Russia itself dates back to the pre-1789 era and only Belgium was founded between 1789 and 1922, whereas five multiethnic states were established much later than the founding of the Soviet Union in 1922. Equally significantly, Belgium was originally established in 1830 as an officially monolingual (French-speaking) state following the antiethnic model, but a series of momentous legislative reforms between the 1920s and the 1970s redefined Belgium as a constitutionally multilingual nation state.

Second, geographically, all of the multiethnic nation-states in Europe, except for Belgium, are located in Eastern Europe. Third, linguistically and ideologically, all of the multiethnic nation-states in Europe, except for Belgium, are postcommunist states, all of which also had and still have at least one Slavic language as an official language, two significant observations that strengthen the hypothesized causal link between the influence of Soviet socialism and the multiethnic nation-building pattern.

The cases of post-Soviet Moldova and post-Yugoslav North Macedonia illustrate the patterns that predict multiethnic nation-building and indeed they have a multiethnic model. Both located in Eastern Europe, these two states both became independent within a couple of weeks in August-September 1991, through a peaceful transfer of power from a previously multiethnic, multilingual ethnic federal socialist states. The founding presidents of Moldova and North Macedonia, Mircea Ion Snegur and Kiro Gligorov,

respectively, were both bilingual and had a socialist education in the primary Slavic official language of the socialist federations in which they grew up (Russian and Serbian, respectively). For example, neither one is a Western educated (e.g., English, French, German) nation-builder of a nationalist regime in waiting in exile. Present-day North Macedonia and Moldova both have multiple official languages including Slavic (e.g., Macedonian, Russian) and non-Slavic (e.g., Albanian, Moldovan, Gagauz) languages, multiple ethnic categories in individual identification documents and in the census. In addition, North Macedonia has multiple ethnic categories in its constitution, and Moldova has a ethnic territorial autonomy for the Gagauz, a Turkic Christian ethnolinguistic group.

CONCLUSION

Significant cross-national variation is observed in state policies toward ethnic diversity in 42 European countries. This variation can be described through antiethnic, monoethnic, and multiethnic nation building patterns that were conceptualized earlier. Finally, there are meaningful geographical, chronological, ideological, and linguistic clusters of countries pursuing similar policies toward ethnic diversity, which strengthens the current author's hypothesis that there have been three waves of nation-state formation corresponding to three different nation-building models, which explain most of the variation observed in state policies toward ethnic diversity in Europe.

The patterns observed in the distribution of antiethnic, monoethnic, and multiethnic nation-states across Europe seem to suggest that chronological, geographical, and linguistic mechanisms played an important role in their diffusion. Two thirds of the states implementing antiethnic policies were established before 1789, whereas 11 of the

12 states implementing monoethnic policies were established between 1789 and 1922, and 5 of the 7 countries implementing multiethnic policies were established after 1922. There is an observable temporal pattern whereby 75% of the states founded before the French Revolution are antiethnic, 85% of the states founded between the French Revolution and the founding of the Soviet Union are monoethnic, and 71% of the states founded after 1922 are multiethnic (**Table 5**). Each wave of nation building corresponded to a different *Zeitgeist*, a distinct “spirit of the time.”

Table 5. Age of Statehood and the Nation-Building Model

Nation-building model/ Year of state formation	Antiethnic	Monoethnic	Multiethnic
Before 1789	6 (France, Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom)	1 (Denmark)	1 (Russia)
1789-1922	1 (Italy)	11 (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland,	1 (Belgium)

		Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania)	
1923-2008	2 (Malta, Turkey)	0	5 (Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Kosovo)

Note: 14 European states (out of 42) with a hybrid nation-building model (e.g., monoethnic-multiethnic or antiethnic-multiethnic) are not included in this table.

The countries that follow hybrid monoethnic-multiethnic or antiethnic-multiethnic policies are located at the fault lines between these three nation-building models. Five of the seven countries that follow monoethnic-multiethnic policies are located in Eastern Europe, combining Communist legacies of multiethnic nationhood dating back to the Cold War and legacies of monoethnic nationhood dating back as early as the 19th century.

An historical institutional assumption underlying my argument is that the kind of ethnic policies and institutions examined in this article, such as the existence of multiple official languages, multiple ethnic categories in the constitution, and ethnic territorial autonomy, very rarely change after the nation state is established, since they display a high level of path dependence. Indeed, such major state policies toward ethnic diversity as examined in this article very rarely change (Aktürk 2012), although there have been changes in an ethnically exclusionary direction even in major democracies such as India and the United States (FitzGerald and Cook-Martin 2014; Varshney 2019). Nonetheless,

even in the rare instances that ethnic policies change, it is often only one of the nine ethnic policies examined in this article (e.g., citizenship law, or multiple official languages) that changes, and such limited change in one policy alone, however significant, might not alter the overall nation building model classification offered in this article. The observation that a large number of otherwise assimilationist, antiethnic nation states recognize multiple official languages, often at the subnational or local level, corroborates the resilience of nation building models despite rare instances of change. Thus, the moment of nation state creation is of paramount importance, precisely because change in ethnic policies is excessively difficult after a specific legal institutional structure is put in place for a particular nation state. As mentioned earlier, Belgium, which was originally created as a monolingual (French) antiethnic nation-state in 1830, but over the 20th century gradually instituted multiple official languages, followed by language areas that amounted to ethnic territorial autonomy, and finally constitutional provisions safeguarding this multiethnic transformation, is the extremely rare case that is an outlier to the chronological, geographical, ideological, and linguistic patterns observed for the European countries as a whole.

In conclusion, while the French-inspired antiethnic nation-building model was the first option available, it faced competition from the German-inspired monoethnic model starting in the early 19th century, and both antiethnic and monoethnic models faced competition from the multiethnic nation-building model after the founding of the Soviet Union in 1922. As the number of available nation-building models increased over time, the predominance of any single nation-building model among new nation-states became less likely. Thus, the multiethnic model did not enjoy the temporal or geographical

predominance that the antiethnic (among pre-1789 Western European states) and monoethnic (among 19th century Eastern European states) models enjoyed earlier, because it faced competition from both of these models as some new states continued to be founded on the basis antiethnic or monoethnic nation-building policies.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

The Excel sheet containing the raw data of the survey results for all 172 countries coded anonymously in a binary format is deposited online at (Aktürk 2015). The names of the experts who agreed to be identified are also available online (Aktürk 2015).

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