



Gendering Nations

Martial Man and Chaste Woman

By Sikata Banerjee

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Examines how common ideas of manhood and womanhood shape dominant views of “we the people” that are integral to most nations in the world today.

In this book, muscular nationalism—a specific intersection of armed masculinity and nation—explores the manner in which nations are gendered. This view of nation relies on a martial man who protects the nation and the chaste woman who both reflects national honor and provides a moral ideal for proper womanhood in the nation. The book draws on secondary literature, cultural expressions encompassing film and social media, and public spectacles (i.e. sporting events, independence day celebrations, and cultural events to celebrate national unity) to argue that muscular nationalism, with some cultural variation, is a dominant global interpretation of nation. The empirical evidence will be drawn from a variety of national contexts (representing the major continents of the world) and shaped by a range of colonial experiences: settler colonialism, extractive colonialism, and those that were not directly colonized.

Readership

Students and scholars, and those interested in how nations are gendered.

Contents

Why Are Ideas of Manhood Important When Thinking of Nations?; Martial Man/Chaste Woman in the Nation; How Has Manhood Shaped Empire?; Where Were the Women in Empire?; Muscular Nationalism: Why Empire Matters in Today's Nations?; What Does Muscular Nationalism Mean for Folks on the Margins?; Conclusion.

About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

Sikata Banerjee is a professor of gender studies at the University of Victoria, Canada. Her work focuses on gender and nationalism in India.

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