

Herb, Guntram H. and David H. Kaplan. *Scaling Identities: Nationalism and Territoriality*. Lanham, Maryland Rowman & Littlefield, 2018. Viii +294 pages. Hardcover, \$95.

Scaling Identities: Nationalism and Territoriality, edited by Guntram H. Herb and David Kaplan, brings together a collection of eminent scholars to discuss the central theme that national identity is inextricably linked to territory and scale. To drive this point home, the book presents a series of case studies to help readers understand how national identity is navigated across spatial scales. More importantly, the book focuses on the significance of geography to national identity.

This book's major strengths are that it is theoretical in scope, comprehensive, and that it provides readers with new insights in a field that has been neglected by many geographers. Secondly, it presents readers with new insights into scale identities not based on Eurocentric norms but embraces issues of our time on nationalism in selected countries of the world, making the book non-Eurocentric in its scope. Thirdly, it highlights empirical analyzes of nationalism and identities. The book is fresh, sophisticated, interesting, provoking, and well-organized.

Scaling Identities is organized into sections. The first section of the book, titled, "Conceptual Issues," analyzes the complex relationship between national identity, power, and territory, and discusses some of the dominant factors that define national identity.

It then looks at the roles that define national identity and explains its formation. "Consolidating Identities" focuses on the new view of scale and its connection. The section outlines between identity and territory, how it operates. It emphasizes those strategies to keep all parts together through educational systems, minority policies, immigration control, and other means to keep the country united. Here, national identities take the shapes of citizens defining themselves against others often loaded with nostalgia of glorious past. Nationalism of this

nature is triggered by countries that experienced colonialism mostly in the third world countries, such as Tanzania. Furthermore, the section examines and synthesizes on nation building and its impacts on regional scale. Here, the authors present three case studies on nationalism. “Magnifying Identities” focuses on Europe and the Caribbean and the Middle-East, underscoring the case of Palestinian homeland. “Connecting Identities” deals with the resurgence of Native American, Takakashi Yamazaki on the Island of Japan, and on China’s challenges facing the indigenous people’s unification. “Fragmenting Identities” focuses on factors that impede unification and what contributes to disintegration of national identities. This section explains how the influence of diaspora on national and regional identities affects the unity of India in two ways: the diasporic money that promote agitators and a strong secessionist sentiment in Punjab. Finally, this section explores geopolitical reasons impeding unification of Kurdistan and Transylvania.

This book is important: it covers many disciplines such as political science, history, human geography, and international relations. The book is highly recommended to readers interested in nationality and identity. It would be a good teaching tool for graduate and undergraduates alike. *Scaling Identities* is fascinating; it offers readers account of some of the root causes of conflicts in many regions around the world. The book is an excellent addition to contemporary human geography.

Kofi Johnson, Ph.D.
Professor of Government and History
Fayetteville State University,
Fayetteville, North Carolina