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978-0-521-63324-6 - The State of the Nation: Ernest Gellner and the Theory of Nationalism

Edited by John A. Hall

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The State of the Nation

Ernest Gellner and the Theory of Nationalism

Nationalism is one of the major social and political sources of modern times, and a subject of intense intellectual debate. The most important and influential theory of nationalism is that of Ernest Gellner (1925–1995). This volume assesses every aspect of that theory, bringing together an exceptional set of scholars to explain, criticise and move beyond Gellner's work. In doing so the book establishes the state-of-play within the theory of nationalism, and complements Gellner's account by bringing political variables into consideration. The book is unique in offering sustained attention to a single powerful theory, and will be of wide interest to students and scholars of political and social theory, history, sociology and anthropology.

JOHN A. HALL is Professor of Sociology at McGill University, and has also taught at Southampton and Harvard Universities and the London School of Economics. His recent books include *Coercion and Consent* (1994), *International Orders* (1996), *Is America Breaking Apart?* (with Charles Lindholm, 1998) and *The Social Philosophy of Ernest Gellner* (co-edited with I. C. Jarvie, 1996).

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