

# Björklunden Fall Zoom Seminars

SEPT. 18 - OCT. 16, 2024



## The Power of Nationalism

### Course Description

*\*Class held online every Wednesday, 2 pm*

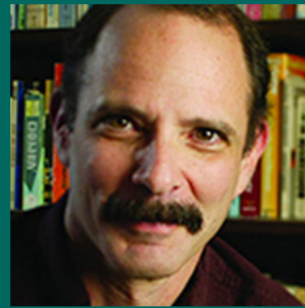
Nationalism is the most potent ideology of the modern era. At present, a populist strain of it—as represented by the likes of Narendra Modi in India, Victor Orban in Hungary, and Donald Trump in the United States—has become a major force in global politics. In this seminar, we will investigate the historical origins of nationalism by discussing texts from the French Revolutionary era, when mass nationalism first emerged, through its apotheosis in World War II.

Readings will include excerpts from the writings of:

- **Maximilien Robespierre**, the leader of France's Reign of Terror
- **Heinrich von Treitschke** the 19th century German nationalist
- **Theodor Herzl**, the father of modern Zionism
- **Mahatma Gandhi**, the leader of anticolonial Indian nationalism
- **Adolf Hitler**, the founder of National Socialism

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## Instructor



**Paul Cohen**

Cohen is a professor emeritus in history and Patricia Hamar Boldt professor of liberal studies at Lawrence University, where he taught for 37 years. He specializes in Modern European history but has also taught courses on film and history. Between 1996 and 1998, he was Director of Lawrence's Freshman Studies Program (currently 'First Year Studies'), which introduces students to the liberal arts. He helped oversee that program's transition from its great-works-of-the-West origins in 1945 to its current multi-civilizational and multidisciplinary orientation. While he is the author of two books on the intellectual history of modern France, Professor Cohen considers himself first and foremost a teacher. In 1999, Lawrence awarded him with the Lawrence University Freshman Studies Award, and in 2008 with the Lawrence University Excellence in Teaching Award. "Teaching," he writes, "has amounted to a calling more than an occupation for me. Being a spur to student growth has been the greatest joy of my career. That, I like to think, more so than the mastery of a field of study or the preparation for a career, is what characterizes a Lawrence education at its best."