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# Mediated nationalism: Press freedom, mass media, and nationalism

Pomeroy, Brent

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# MEDIATED NATIONALISM PRESS FREEDOM, MASS MEDIA, AND NATIONALISM



Naval  
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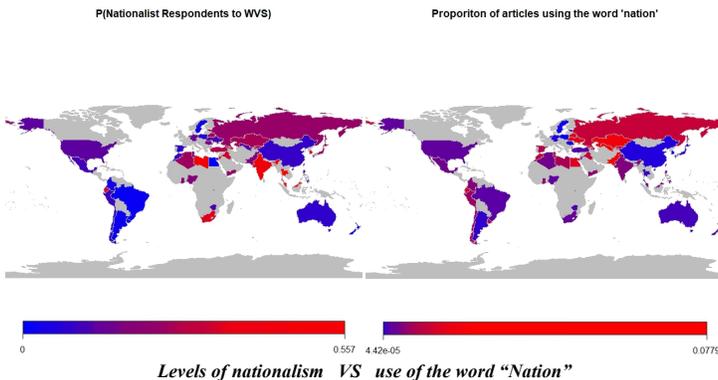
## Background, Question, Argument

- With rising nationalism, (Catalonia, Kurdistan, Brexit, etc.) it is important to understand the mechanisms driving this phenomenon.
- Research Question: How does state-sponsored censorship affect the production of nationalism through the images and narratives crafted by a nation's mass media and in turn what are the effects on nationalism within that nation?
- Hypothesis 1: A nation's press freedom level is correlated with the production of nationalist mass media narratives.
- Hypothesis 2: The media narrative concerning nationalism is correlated with levels of nationalism within a nation.



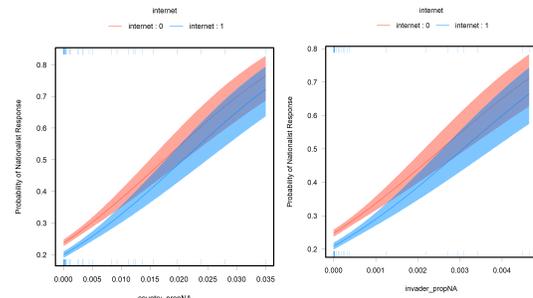
## Research design

- This thesis uses a qualitative and quantitative approach.
- I used research supporting the theory that media influences the public along with case studies looking at U.S. and German use of nationalist propaganda in WWII.
- This is followed by quantitative research demonstrating a statistically significant relationship between the news media's nationalist narrative and levels of nationalism.
- Quantitative data: WVS, World Bank, Polity IV, Freedom House



## Results

- Censorship is correlated to levels of nationalist word use.
- Nationalist narrative is correlated to levels of nationalism.
- Polity was found to influence nationalist word use more than press freedom.
- All control variables produced statistically significant findings.



Use of certain words are highly correlated with the production of nationalism

## The "So What"

- These findings are important to the U.S. if we continue to nation build after war. They provide us insight to what drives nationalism and how we can use nationalism to unite or separate a nation.
- Future research should attempt to overlap news media data and WVS data.
- Future research should attempt to conduct sentiment analysis of nationalist words in the media data.

## Next Steps



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