

# Review of: "The Three-Decade Journey of Nation-State Formation: Examining Strategic Planning Models and Policy Frameworks Tailored for the Sequential Stages of Nation-Building, Emphasizing the Significance of Each Phase in the Overall Development and Sustainability of a Nation-State"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Article "The Three-Decade Journey of Nation-State Formation: Examining Strategic Planning Models and Policy Frameworks Tailored for the Sequential Stages of Nation-Building, Emphasizing the Significance of Each Phase in the Overall Development and Sustainability of a Nation-State" represents a valuable contribution to the discussion on nation-building in several scopes and layers, covering especially the socio-political landscape, economic infrastructure, governance, and institutional frameworks. The whole process of nation-building is divided into 3 consecutive phases (based upon the Sequential Stage Theory of Nation-Building). Particular factors contributing to nation-building are further introduced in a more elaborated way. Several factors are illustrated by examples of different states and nations (Estonia, South Africa, Singapore); those examples are mentioned only in episodic form, without deeper analysis. In the second part of the article, several cross-themes covering all three developmental phases are discussed and introduced.

The following remarks and points we recommend taking into consideration:

- The title of the article is too long and slightly confusing; we recommend shortening it to „The Three-Decade Journey of Nation-State Formation: Examining Strategic Planning Models and Policy Frameworks Tailored for the Sequential Stages of Nation-Building.“
- The methodology of research is unclear; there should be a statement of whether the paper is based solely on desk research and comparative analysis, or if there are some other sources of information (e.g., interviews with scholars, policy makers, decision makers, etc.).
- The literature review is lacking some robustness and the necessary critical evaluation of the literature. The theory is based upon the Sequential Stage Theory of Nation-Building, but there are surely some other competing theories which should be mentioned, even in a brief overview.
- Attention is paid to some soft factors like social cohesion or national culture, but these factors might play an even more important role than stated. The national state is one of the most important categories in social identification with a reference group, and cultural specifics are one of the most important factors (see e.g., Hofstede's or Gullestrup's

theoretical work on culture). An interesting discussion might be focused on the mutual interlinks of leadership and culture (see the works of e.g., Edgar Schein).

- The introduction is too short, not covering all the relevant topics.
- The Sequential Stage Theory of Nation-Building should be introduced in the first part of the article, not in the final part.
- The abstract requires further precision in terms of the clarity of methodology and research outputs.