

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.

I fear I cannot recommend this paper for publication for reasons that have little to do with the intrinsic value of its scholarship... I have tried to think of the target audience, possibly a little more cohesive than the one this paper seems to address. For I believe that this paper is designed to reach practitioners, not academics, as I see the paper as a set of instructions on how to track the efforts leading to the building of a nation and turn the analysis into working clues and a roadmap (e.g., a tool designed to guide "policymakers in formulating strategic planning models"). I am a bit confused by the evidence from case studies... the paper analyses in short paragraphs all the policy areas affected by the process of nation building (phase 1) and picks one single case for each area (Rwanda for healthcare, Norway for resource allocation, Canada for social cohesion, etc.), implying that nation-building is a mechanical process in which the progress made in one area and one country can be generalized and, possibly, generate normative clues for future reference... again, this, I am tempted to argue, could work if this were a sort of dossier or report for practical or policy purposes, but I don't see how this could further scientific knowledge in the field, for one thing, of comparative politics... section 2.4.4 contains very general remarks in a nutshell, and one single line ("...challenges often revolve around establishing governance structures, social cohesion, and basic infrastructure") is meant to epitomize a vast body of literature... and, more generally, failure to engage with current debates and trends in scholarship supports the impression of a dossier, not an academic paper... In the following section (2.4.5), the Author maintains that "Comparative studies of nation-building journeys offer invaluable insights that shape strategies and decisions throughout a nation's developmental phases"; no indication, though, is given on the nature or existence of these insights. On the following page (15), the Author maintains that this work is grounded in an extensive and interdisciplinary body of literatures, but, again, contrary to standard academic practice, there's no indication that what is being presented here is either relevant or, for that matter, contentious. In the final pages, the Author puts forth an original theory, the "*Sequential Stage Theory of Nation-Building*," positing that "the process of nation-building unfolds in sequential stages, each with distinct characteristics and objectives. It recognizes three essential phases." But I am afraid I do not see a "theory" here but rather a policy recommendation, consisting of a linear roadmap structured in three steps...

