

Nations and States



Nation – a group of people with set of common biological and psychological characteristics – there is prestige to be considered a “nation” and suggests political viability as a state (e.g. Metis, French Canadians)

National Identity – usually a combination of race, religion, and government with subgroups:

- **Race** – biologically defined group whose members share a gene pool giving them common physical characteristics (e.g. skin, eye, and hair colour)
- **Tribe** – a defined group of people who are tied together psychologically by a myth of common ancestry and who think of themselves as blood relations (obviously includes elements of biological connection as well)
- **Ethnic Group** – a mixture of biological and psychological elements for a group of people who share a common descent (e.g. “Japanese-Canadian” or “Polish-Canadian”)

State – self-governing political entity

- Homogenous State – one culture e.g. United States
- Heterogeneous State – many cultures – “multinational” e.g. Poland, Israel

Nation-State – exists where common identities of a nation coincide with the boundaries of a sovereign authority

- Binational State – e.g. Canada (originally)
- Multinational State – e.g. India, former Soviet Union
- Multistate Nation – e.g. The Koreas

What is Canada?

- homogeneous v. heterogeneous
- one nation v. binational v. multinational?