Nationalism and the Transformation of the State

Following Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014, the recent conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East signal the return of geopolitics. This book challenges conventional approaches that ignore border change, arguing that geopolitics is driven by nationalism and focusing on how nationalism transforms the state. Using geocoded historical maps covering state borders and ethnic groups in Europe, the authors' spatial approach shows how, since the French Revolution, nationalism has caused increasing congruence between state and national borders and how a lack of congruence increased the risk of armed conflict. This macro process is traced from early modern Europe and widens the geographic scope to the entire world in the mid twentieth century. The analysis shows that the risk of conflict may be increased by how nationalists, seeking to revive past golden ages and restore their nations' prestige, respond to incongruent borders. This title is also available as Open Access on Cambridge Core.

Lars-Erik Cederman is Professor of International Conflict Research at ETH Zürich: He is the author of *Emergent Actors in World Politics* (1997), co-author of *Inequality, Grievances and Civil War* (Cambridge University Press, 2013), and *Sharing Power, Securing Peace?* (Cambridge University Press, 2022), as well as numerous articles in scientific journals.

Luc Girardin is a project leader at ETH Zürich and CTO at Macrofocus. He is a trained computer and data scientist with a foot in the social sciences. He co-created the Ethnic Power Relations (EPR) dataset, led the GROW^{up} federated data platform, and developed the GROWLab agent-based simulator.

Carl Müller-Crepon is Assistant Professor at the London School of Economics and Political Science and received his PhD from ETH Zürich in 2019. Published across leading journals, his research focuses on state building and ethnic politics in relation to local development and conflict.

Yannick I. Pengl received his PhD from ETH Zürich in 2018 and served as Senior Scientist there until 2023. His research focuses on political economy in sub-Saharan Africa, Europe, and beyond and has been published in leading journals.

Published online by Cambridge University Press

Published online by Cambridge University Press

Nationalism and the Transformation of the State

Border Change and Political Violence in the Modern World

Lars-Erik Cederman
ETH Zürich

Luc Girardin
ETH Zürich

Carl Müller-Crepon
London School of Economics and Political Science

Yannick I. Pengl
ETH Zürich



Published online by Cambridge University Press

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi – 110025, India

103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment,
a department of the University of Cambridge.

We share the University's mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of
education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781009527798

DOI: 10.1017/9781009527767

© Lars-Erik Cederman, Luc Girardin, Carl Müller-Crepon and
Yannick I. Pengl 2025

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions
of relevant collective licensing agreements, with the exception of the Creative
Commons version the link for which is provided below, no reproduction of any part
may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press &
Assessment.

An online version of this work is published at doi.org/10.1017/9781009527767 under a
Creative Commons Open Access license CC-BY-NC-ND 4.0 which permits re-use,
distribution and reproduction in any medium for non-commercial purposes providing
appropriate credit to the original work is given. You may not distribute derivative works
without permission. To view a copy of this license, visit
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0

When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI 10.1017/9781009527767

First published 2025

Cover image: Cover illustration: 'Völker und Staaten in Mitteleuropa' (People and States
in Central Europe), 1924, Wilhelm Winkler. Image courtesy of Library of Congress,
Geography and Map Division, https://www.loc.gov/item/2012593211/

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

A Cataloging-in-Publication data record for this book is available from the Library of Congress

ISBN 978-1-009-52779-8 Hardback
ISBN 978-1-009-52780-4 Paperback

Additional resources for this publication at www.cambridge.org/9781009527798

Cambridge University Press & Assessment has no responsibility for the persistence
or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this
publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will
remain, accurate or appropriate.

For EU product safety concerns, contact us at Calle de José Abascal, 56, 1°, 28003
Madrid, Spain, or email eugpsr@cambridge.org

Published online by Cambridge University Press