

Ethnicity and nation as the basis of Estonian identity

The author's previous studies have already dealt with the topic of identity and the factors influencing the national identity of Estonians. This study aims to describe the concepts of *ethnicity*, *nation*, *identity*, *ethnic* and *national identity*, since they do not show a semantically uniform image in the literature and often overlap. Approached from the point of view of ethnicity and nation, Estonians can be considered both an ethnicity and a modern nation. They are to be treated as an ethnicity in the Smithian sense that the social and cultural core of Estonians is based on the myths, memories, symbols and traditions of the previous ethnicity, but at the same time they form a modern nation because this common knowledge and experience is related to political, educational and economic factors, and the people are tied to a specific area.

An online questionnaire survey in English to map the national identity of Estonians has begun at the end of 2022. This paper focuses only on the last three open questions of the questionnaire, and through them presents the answers that examine the attitude towards the Estonian language and culture and the forms of attachment to the motherland. The author classifies the answers into thematic classes. The complete presentation of the research will be published in the form of a book.

Keywords: ethnicity, nation, Estonian identity, Estonian language

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