

**The national polity is the normal type of modern government. [A fragment.] ...
Francis Lieber. [n. p. n. d.].**

Nationalism.

THE NATIONAL POLITY IS THE NORMAL TYPE OF MODERN GOVERNMENT.

[A FRAGMENT.]

As the City-State was the normal type of free communities in antiquity, and as the Feudal System was one of the normal types of government in the middle ages, so is the National Polity the normal type of our own epoch; not indeed Centralism.

Large nations have been formed out of the fragmentary peoples on the continent of Europe, England alone dating the blessing of a national polity over a thousand years back; others are in the act of forming; others, already existing, are carrying out more distinctly or establishing more firmly the national elements of their polities. For this reason, and because the existence of many nations deeply influences our civilization, the present period will be called the National Period. It began plainly when so many other great things began—in the middle of the 15th century, but the process of Nationalization concerning the languages and the literature of the different countries commenced at an earlier time.

The three main characteristics of the political development which mark the modern epoch, are:

The National Polity;

The general endeavor to define more clearly, and to extend more widely, Human Rights and Civil Liberty;

And the decree which has gone forth that many Leading Nations shall flourish at one and the same time, plainly distinguished from one another, yet striving together, with one Public Opinion, under the protection of one Law of Nations and in the bonds of one common moving Civilization.

The Universal Monarchy whether purely political or coupled with the papacy; a single Leading Nation; Confederacies of petty sovereigns; a Civilization confined to one spot, or one portion of the globe—all these are obsolete, insufficient for the demands of advanced civilization; and attempts at their renewal are ruinous.

In ancient times one nation people always swayed and led. Hence the simplicity of chronologic tables presenting the events of that time; and all ancient states were short-lived. Once declining they

never recovered. Their course was that of the hyperbola. Modern nations are long-lived and possess recuperative energy, wholly unknown to antiquity. They could neither be the one, nor possess the other without national existence and comprehensive polities, and without the Law of Nations, as we know it now, which is the manly idea of Self-Government applied to a number of independent nations in close relation with one another.

The civilized nations have come to form a community of nations under the restraint and protection of the Law of Nations which rules *vigore divino* —they draw the chariot of civilization abreast as the ancient steeds drew the car of victory.

FRANCIS LIEBER.

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