

ABSTRACT

Deconstructing Naga Nation: Nationalism, Politics and Nature of State

The study of politics for long formalises the state as a sovereign legal authority. This concept of the state arose, gradually and contingently, during the Renaissance and Reformation; and is demonstrated to be remarkably powerful and resilient. It inspired political actors to remake the world in its image, most famously, in the Treaty of Westphalia (Kissinger, 2014), which is now enshrined as a principle of international relations; and well established in the contemporary political order. Bevir and Raw (2010) contend that the sovereign concept of state often fails to understand the contingent practical roles of culture in the state building. These cultural practices are the legacy of historical discourses and dilemmas, and are always unstable. Thus, to understand multiple images of state, it is necessary to explore the shifting concepts and constructs of state, especially in the (post) modern contemporary period where the existing ideas of state is contested and challenged, especially from the fourth world nations, with the neo-appearance of factors like culture, ethnicity, language, history and resistance, engaging with modern institutional landscape.

The aim of the research is to create an alternative debate on the world political order, focussing on the experience of the fourth world nations: the fourth world nations have a crucial role in political world order; denial of their right to self determination will be the key factor that will continue to challenge the idea of nation, state and nation-states, which will not only lead to continuous political and economic chaos, but also human rights violations. In the light of this, deconstructing the concepts of nation and its elements, and, then the nature of state will shed light to understand the complexity of political landscape; thereby allowing to engage forward to understand the dynamics of politics of state and nation, in the context of the fourth world nations.

The study explores the Naga, as a nation, in an attempt to understand, contest, deconstruct, interpret and engaged with Naga's (and fourth world nations) existence, universe, resistance and continuity. The research attempts an experiment of employing a confused multiple dialectical approach to explore all possible ways, at the same time, create a framework to understand the Nagas' attempt to create balance between 'self consciousness and reflection, the political discourse, sovereign identity and resistance continuity' and 'the world political order'.