



## Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*

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*Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism* is a study of the course of development of nationalism in the context of world history by Benedict Anderson, who specializes in Indonesian politics. According to Anderson, a nation is a product of the imagination. Our objects of attachment are also imagined. Then why do people become so attached to these socially constructed objects? As a key to solving this question, Anderson points to the proliferation of the vernacular language, print capitalism, and pilgrimage (journeys as meaningful experiences that require interpretation) as sources of people's imagination. Furthermore, in the augmented edition, he adds that the census, the map and the museum have penetrated deep into people's imagination in a visual way.

We imagine communities and become attached to them. Now that we can travel back and forth between countries with ease, perhaps we are all the more conscious of the boundaries of communities. Anderson's work embraces questions that we should stop to reconsider in the contemporary internationalized age.



**Source:**

- Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism* (Verso, 1983, 2nd edition, 1991, Revised edition, 2006).