

Study of the Day: The National Pride That Brings Happiness

January 05, 2012

The Atlantic:

Nationalism that's rooted in respect for laws and institutions, not race or religion, makes citizens the happiest, according to new research.

PROBLEM: Previous research has shown that national pride makes people feel good about their own lives. But does what you're proud of matter too?

METHODOLOGY: Tim Reeskens, a sociologist from Catholic University in Belgium, and Matthew Wright, a political scientist at American University, categorized national pride into "ethnic nationalism," which is tied to ancestry and religious beliefs, and "civic nationalism," which prioritizes respect for a country's institutions and laws.

They analyzed the responses of 40,677 people from 31 countries to questions that related to happiness and national pride in the 2008 wave of the European Values Study, and controlled for various demographic variables, including gender, work status, and per capita GDP.

Read the whole story: [The Atlantic](#)