Identity & Nationality

*If in need of a definition, one looks first to dictionaries. Here is the most relevant entry for “identity” in the OED (2nd edition, 1989): “The sameness of a person or thing at all times or in all circumstances; the condition or fact that a person or thing is itself and not something else; individuality, personality.” Note that this does not easily capture what we seem to mean when we refer to “national identity” or “ethnic identity,” for example.*

BC p. 74

According to BC, “Britishness since the 1707 union between England/Wales and Scotland was mainly associated with centralized state institutions such as the monarchy Parliament the law and the Protestant churches.

The Scotch, Welsh, English and Northern Irish regards their various identities as significant and it is argued that the ‘British’ today do not have a strong sense of a British identity.

GB has become a huge multinational society (and still contains multiple groups of ‘natives’ from the country’s early days) and therefore they have a hard time defining what Britishness is. *(M&K)*

BC p. 77

Let’s look at Scotland as an example; The Scotch people are conscious of their old traditions and there has been resentment against the centralization of political power in London and alleged economic neglect of Scotland. There are still different cultures within the boarders between Highlanders and Lowlanders, and between Edinburgh and Glasgow.

The same issues are to see in England between Northern England (Newcastle e.g.) and the Southern part.

**Check out these links**

What is Identity: <http://www.stanford.edu/~jfearon/papers/iden1v2.pdf>

Identity Game Show: <http://youtu.be/c3gqG48eokQ>