Patriotism Is Not an Optional Extra

by Robert Henderson (February 2016)

1. What is patriotism?

By patriotism I mean the sense of belonging to a people, of owning a land, of instinctively favouring your own country's men and women, of knowing that the interest of the "tribe" must come before everything else. By this definition patriotism is something which the vast majority of human beings can understand, — the only people who may be genuinely immune to such comprehension are the severely mentally retarded or those with a personality disorder such as autism which reduces their ability to understand social contexts. [more>>>](#)