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- **Confusion on Identity Among the Bhutanese**

taking the discussion further

Presented by : Tejman Monger & Prahlad Dahal
Cairns Bhutanese Community Inc.

Who are we?

- Bhutanese
- Nepalese Ethnic Bhutanese
- Lhotsampa (Inhabitants of the south)
- Nepali speaking Bhutanese
- Bhutanese Australian
- Bhutanese Aussie

From the Historical Angle

- Migration to Bhutan from Gorkha Kingdom in 1624
- Formation of Nepal 25th September 1768 (144 years after our ancestors' migration)
- Bhutan's Hereditary Monarchy established 17th December 1907 (383 years after the Lhotsampa settlement)
- General James Rennell first anglicized Bod (भोट) as Bootan.....popularised the distinction between it and greater Tibet (1764 - 1767) [The journals of Major James Rennell, first surveyor-general of India, written for the information of the governors of Bengal during his surveys of the Ganges and Braghmaputra rivers 1764 to 1767]
- Contrast: formation of Nepal after 144 years after the migration, and, the first use of the term Bhutan (Bootan) after ca. 142 years of the Lhotsampa settlement

Country vs Nation Notion

- **Country:**

- A nation with its own government, occupying a particular territory
- Geography
- Land and boundary
- More of nature

- **Nation:**

- A large body of people united by common descent, history, culture, or language, inhabiting a particular state or territory
- People
- Civilization
- Culture
- Harmony among the people
- Politics

- **What gives us an Identity?**

- **Examples to support: House of nationalities (Burma), Country (Sri Lanka) with two distinct nationalities**

What identifies us?

Nationality?

Country?

Culture?

Subcultures?

Religion?

Language?

Caste?

Citizenship?

Subcultures?

Debate if Bhutan is:

- Country
- Nation
- Kingdom

- *How do we see Bhutan?*
- *Absolute or Constitutional monarchy*
- *Oligarchy*
- *Democratic or autocratic*
- *Youngest democracy*
- *Independent, dependent*
- *Least developed, developing*
- *Harmony among the people*

Is Identity static or adaptive?

- Migration gives a new identity, eg. Deukisch/Deuken (Wilpert (2013, p. 110 & 111) 'IDENTITYISSUES IN THE HISTORY OF THE POSTWAR MIGRATION FROM TURKEY TO GERMANY
- Derives through crisis
- First Generation Migrants more concerned of retaining/maintaining identity
- Race, Caste, Clan (कबीला)