

Anàlisi del federalisme i altres textos | Post de Ronald L. Watts

Daniel Elazar's writing in *Anàlisi del federalisme i altres textos* is of interest for the many important issues relating to federalism which he raises. One point of particular interest is his contention that ethnic nationalism within federations makes them difficult to sustain and least likely to survive. He argues that where ethnic nationalism predominates federations run the risk of civil war, and that in such situations confederations, although they run the risk of secession, may have a better chance of success.

But is the evidence as one-sided as Elazar suggests? Account has to be taken of such multilingual federations as Switzerland, Canada and India which have survived and progressed for a century and half in the cases of the first two and 60 years in the third. These examples suggest that Elazar may have underestimated the extent to which, with appropriate institutions and supportive political cultures multiethnic or multinational federations can indeed be sustained and may be preferable to confederations which tend to be more fragile.

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