From the genocide in Rwanda in 1994 to the Indian Movement over Latin America, from the disintegration of former Yugoslavia to China's “3 • 14” and “7 • 5” events, the ethnic nationalist movements in developing countries has become one of the most notable international problems since the Drastic Changes of Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

Ethnic nationalism is a kind of ideology and social movement, based on ethnic identity, primarily from the cultural level (especially with the ethnic-related traditions, customs, language, etc.) to define themselves. This paper reviews the context of the development of nationalism theories, and put forward a classification map of the nationalism researches. Based on those theoretical analyses, this paper proposes a structured annalistic framework to explain the ethnic nationalism incidents emerged in developing countries since the 1990s. First, the paper argues that globalization is the structural determinants that promote the occurrence of ethnic nationalism in developing countries, especially the technological progress represented by the Internet provide the most convenient means of communication for them. Secondly, this paper argues that the rushing ahead democratic reforms in developing countries after the Drastic Changes of Soviet Union and Eastern Europe is one of the institutional causes of the ethnic nationalism incidents emerged in developing countries. Finally, the paper argues that a large number of international regimes related to minority groups is another important institutional cause of the ethnic nationalism incidents emerged in developing countries.

First, this paper takes the 1994 genocide in Rwanda as an example to illustrate the logical relations between democratic reforms under poor conditions and ethnic nationalist movements. Second, this paper takes Indian Movements in Mexico, Peru, Chile and Bolivia as cases study to explain the logical relations between international regimes and ethnic nationalism.
Finally, this paper also analyzes the ethnic issues in our country by the structured annalistic framework of the ethnic nationalism. The causes of ethnic problems in China are analyzed from history, reality and current backgrounds based on distinguishing the two types of ethnic issues, and some reflections have been made on the Regional Autonomy System for Ethnic Minorities.