

Patriotism

**Smart Americans
are uneasy with patriotism.**

**It's an unpleasant relic of a more primitive
time, like cigarette smoke or dog racing.**

**It stirs emotions
that can have ugly consequences.**

**The winners in Smart America
— connected by airplane, internet, and
investments to the rest of the globe —
have lost the capacity and the need for
a national identity, which is why they
can't grasp its importance for others.**

...

**The ... problem is that abandoning
patriotism to other narratives guarantees
that the worst of them will claim it.**

George Packer, *The Atlantic*, July/August 2021