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### **Careless talk about who we are supposed to be can throw us into a dangerous identity trap.**

Some may think that pinning down someone's identity is an unequivocal matter. But what is one's identity?

For example, pick any nationality, and there will be some who associate it with all that is noble and heroic.

Biological features could be relevant when referred to in specific contexts, but are likely to distort how people see us.

Equally unfounded, but just as commonly made, are identity claims formulated about people in connection with their profession.

The identity trap is one of the most insidious propagandist tools. To counter it, we should:

- [1] stress we have multiple characteristics and not any single one of these can be picked out as all-defining
- [2] expose any attempt to make arbitrary generalisations about what any partial identity label is supposed to mean
- [3] remind everyone that there are other characteristics that are all too often overlooked – e.g., the importance of individual experiences

**Humans are complex beings. We must never let others stick us down with a simplistic label.**  
<https://www.questionthepowerful.com/identity-trap.html>