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# Lessons from other contexts

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2 March 2018



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# Background

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During the interview and focus group discussions, aspirations based on country examples were highlighted by respondents. These aspirations were linked to the greater question of what a socially cohesive South Africa would look like and whether it would be attainable by 2030.

# Country

# Aspirations

1. USA: Cohesive national identity
2. Nordic Region: Social welfare coverage
3. Rwanda: Economic growth
4. China: Productivity

# Format of the presentation

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1. Aspirations and the countries connected to them.
2. What are the payoffs of these aspirations?
3. Where does South Africa stand?





**USA: Cohesive National Identity**



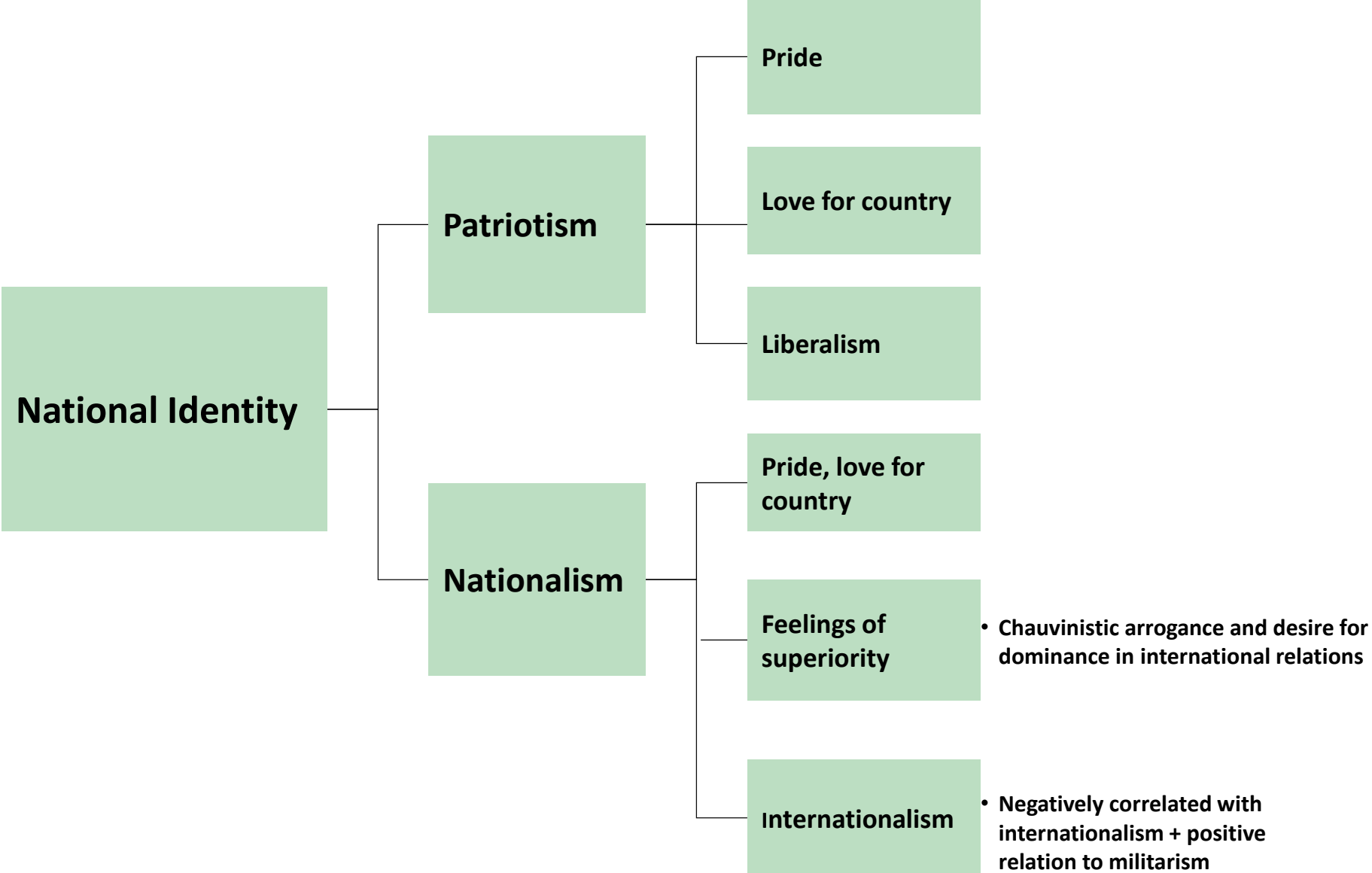
# What Is national identity?

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**A person's sense of belonging to a particular nation or country.**

- Inherent in this definition is the idea that this national identity is represented by distinctive traditions, culture, language and/or politics.
- The elements within national identity are flexible in that the basis for one nation's national identity may not necessarily be the same as that of another country.

# Defining national identity





# Stephen Shulman's Elements and Components of National Identity

## ELEMENTS

## COMPONENTS

**Civic identity**

- Citizenship
- Territory
- Will and consent
- Political ideology
- Political institutions and laws

**Cultural identity**

- Religion
- Language
- Tradition

**Ethnicity**

- Ancestry
- Race

# Grotenhuis' Modified Elements and Components of National Identity

## ELEMENTS

## COMPONENTS

**Civic identity**

- Citizenship: Rights and obligations
- Territory
- Will and consent

**Religion**

- Religion as social practice
- Religious belief

**Cultural identity**

- Language
- Tradition

**Ethnicity**

- Tradition
- Ancestry
- Race



# American national identity

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- Can be traced back to the first colonialists
- Forms part of their founding values

## Positives

- When people are more patriotic they are likely to place collective interests above individual ones
- People are infinitely happier when their country does well

# Negative aspects of American nationalism

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- Blind faith in nationalistic ideologies- these ideologies have been used to justify numerous wars.
- Examples of American rhetoric: *“They are trying to go against our beliefs,”* *“they will destroy the American way of life”* *“America first,”* and *“make America great again,”*
- Seeing people who are different as ‘other,’ ‘foreign’
- Forces people to discard their own beliefs especially if they clash with the ‘American way of life’

# A possible South African model?

## ELEMENTS

**History**

**Religion**

**Political  
ideology**

**Cultural identity**

## COMPONENTS

- Apartheid as a uniting force?

- Religious Belief (Ancestral belief)

- Rainbow Nation
- Madiba magic

# Where South Africa stands...

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South Africa has a fairly strong national identity which has manifested itself in:

## Positives

- 1996 Rugby World Cup
- 2010 Soccer World Cup
- A strong civil society >> “fees must fall” campaign, “black girl magic” campaign

## Negatives

- Xenophobic attacks
- Ethnic nationalism and particularism

# Questions to think about...

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1. How does this feeling of nationalism hinder or stimulate people?
2. Does the feeling of pride one has for their country mean that they despise other countries?
3. Is there a particular order in achieving social cohesion, i.e. do we have to be patriotic first and automatically cohesion forms or can we be cohesive which in turn will trickle down to us being patriotic?
4. South Africa like the US is a sort of melting pot for the rest of Africa. Can it afford to be nationalistic like the US? And what would that do to the relationships it has with these countries?



# Nordic Region: Social welfare coverage



# The Nordic Region

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- It is made up of eight countries- **Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Greenland, Faroe Islands, Aland, Norway and Iceland.**

## What is social welfare?

These are various social services provided by the state for the benefit of its citizens.

# Features of the Nordic Welfare System

**Big spenders**

**High degree of reliance on taxation to finance welfare provisions**

**High quality provisions**

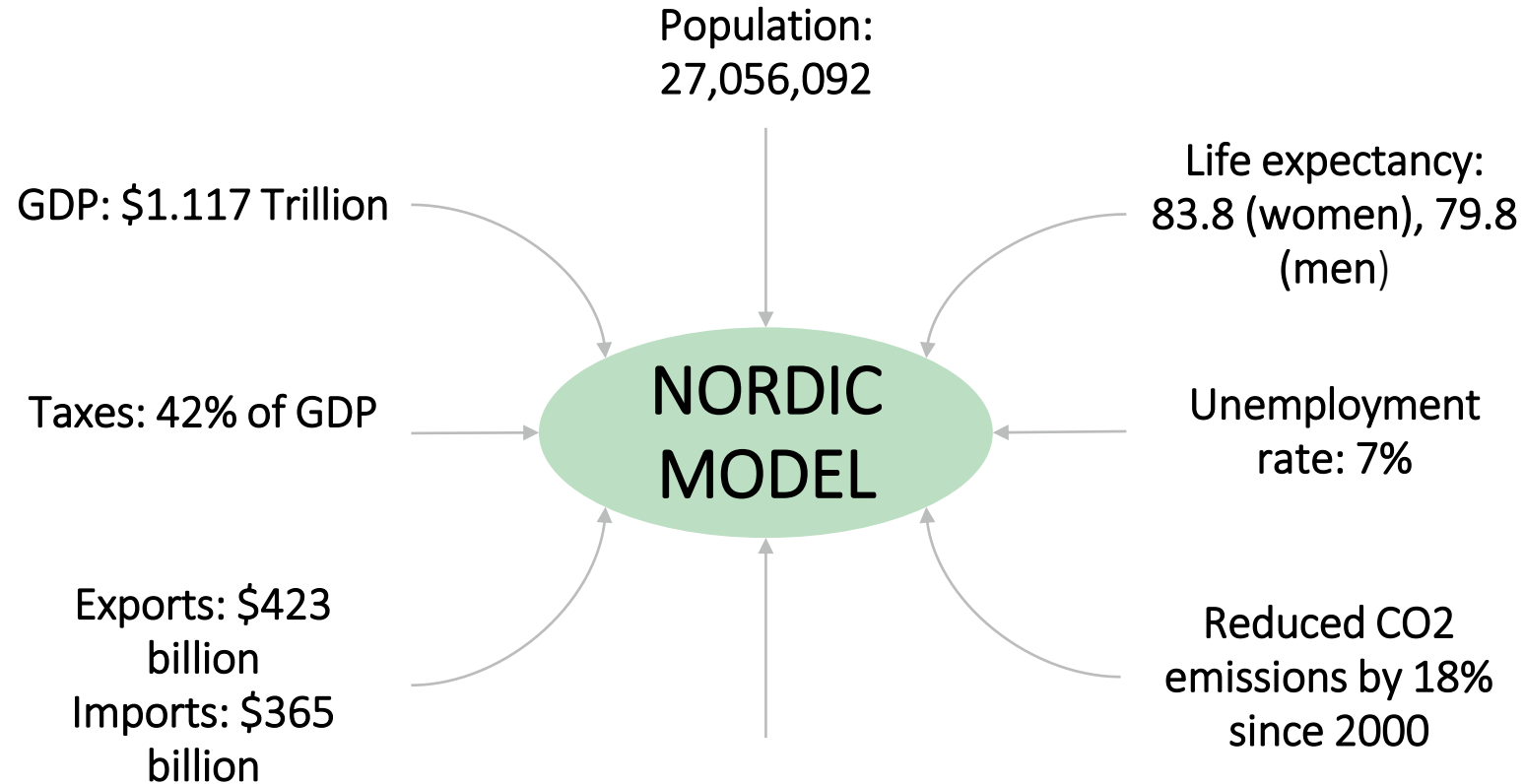
**Social policy is comprehensive**

**Social entitlement principle has been institutionalised**

**Solidaristic and universalistic nature of social legislation**



# Nordic statistics (Nordic Council of Ministers, 2017)



# Some drawbacks of the Nordic welfare model...

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- In some Nordic countries you're allowed unemployment benefits for up to a year and are cut off unless you can claim an injury of some sort
- People who haven't worked for a year or paid taxes for a year are not entitled to unemployment benefits or maternity or paternity leave benefits
- Education is free but living costs are not. Students take loans for living expenses.

# Where South Africa stands...

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- We are less homogenous>> Diversity in population
- We have a bigger population
- We have an aversion to 'dependency' >> however, dependency has helped the Nordic countries be where they are.

# Rwanda: Economic growth

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# Why Rwanda is revered

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It is heralded as a success story>> rise from a war-torn nation to an economic dynamo.

# Rwandan Statistics (2003 and 2017 census comparison)

## 2003

Population: 8.6 million

GDP: \$1.846 million

GDP Growth rate: 2.2%

Exports: \$51 million  
Imports: \$262 million

Life expectancy: 51.8  
years

## 2017

Population: 11,262,564

GDP: \$8.376 billion

GDP Growth rate: 5.9%

Exports: \$621.6 million  
Imports: \$1.778 billion

Life expectancy: 66.6  
years

# Five characteristics of developmental authoritarian regimes

1. Ascent to power following a major social rupture

2. Government intervention in the economy

3. Legal restriction on association, speech and identity

4. Party-organised, militaristic mobilisation of the population for developmental efforts

5. Uneasy relationship with foreigners

**DEVELOPMENTAL  
AUTHORITARIAN  
REGIMES**

# Some drawbacks...

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- There is a culture of fear in Rwanda
- Society has become self-policing
- Rumours of kidnappings and assassinations of people who go against the government
- Legal restrictions on association, speech and identity

# Where South Africa stands...

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1. South Africa prides itself in its free and fair constitution which boasts a strong judicial system, press (media) freedom. Would it be willing to give this up?
2. Considering the history of Apartheid, would the South African people be willing to give up their freedoms, even if it was for a greater good?



GIORGIO ARMANI

Founded 1934, Milan, Italy

PRADA

Founded 1913, Milan, Lombardy, Italy

iPhone

16GB

Designed by Apple in California Assembled in China  
Model No.: A1241 FCC ID: BCGA1241 IC ID: 579C-A1241



Made in China...

Abercrombie  
& Fitch  
NEW YORK

S

MADE IN CHINA

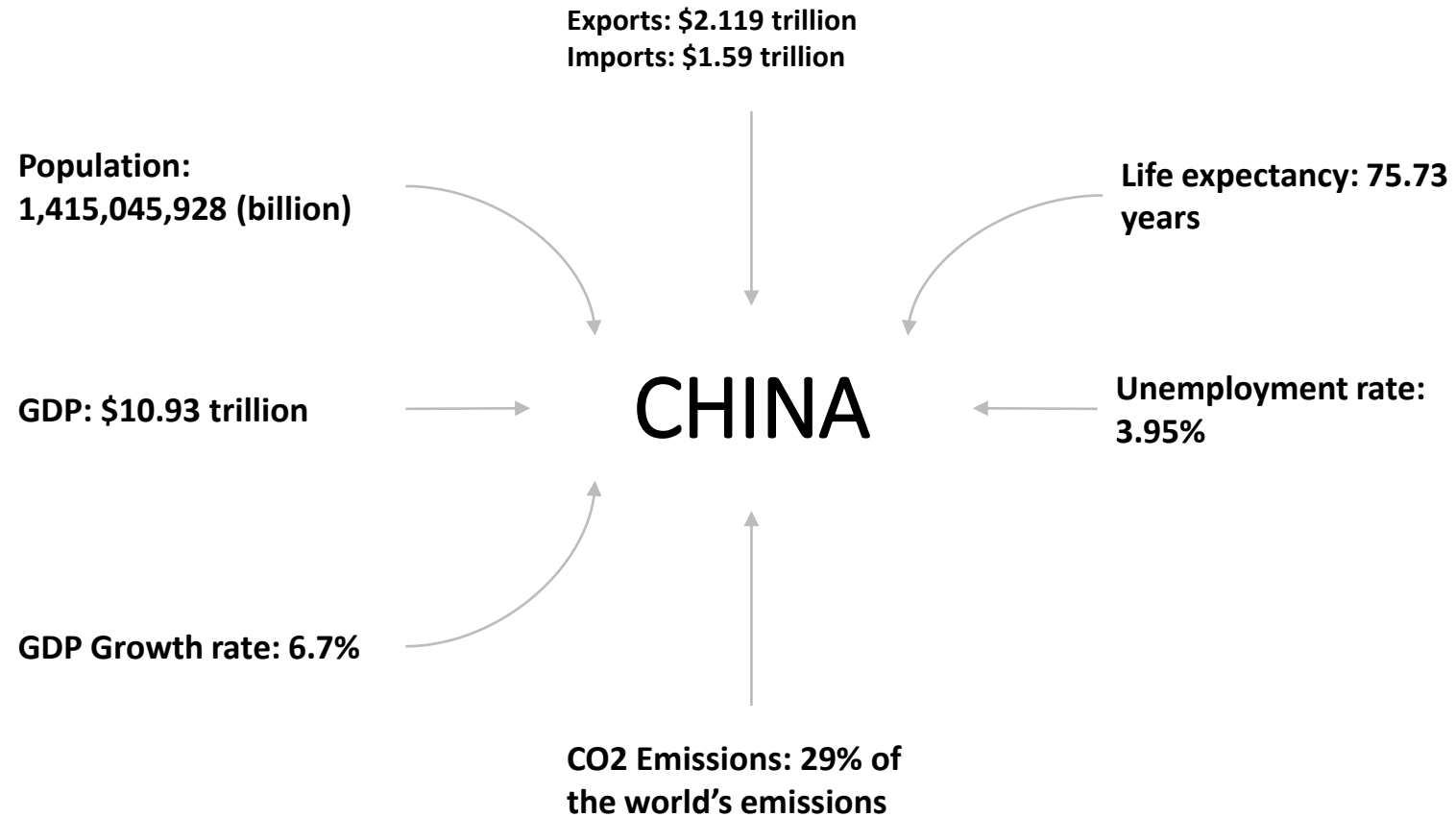


# Why China is revered...

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- **Second largest economy in the world**
- **Stable and industrious work force**
- **Hard work is part of the national effort**
- **Highly value education**

# STATISTICS



# Global monopoly in the following industries:

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## 1. Electrical machinery, equipment

- US\$557.1 billion (26.3% of total exports)

## 2. Furniture, bedding, lighting

- \$89.5 billion (4.2%)

## 3. Clothing, accessories

- \$72.8 billion (3.4%)

## 4. Plastics, plastic articles

- \$64 billion (3%)

## 5. Articles of iron or steel

- \$53.1 billion (2.5%)

## 6. Machinery including computers

- \$344.8 billion (16.3%)

## 7. Knit or crochet clothing, accessories

- \$75 billion (3.5%)

## 8. Optical, technical, medical apparatus

- \$67.9 billion (3.2%)

## 9. Vehicles

- \$60.4 billion (2.9%)

## 10. Footwear

- \$47.8 billion (2.3%)

**This is a 57 storey building in Changsha, Hunan Province. It took them 19 days to build.**

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# Chinese productivity is applauded but at what cost..?

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- Inhumane working conditions
- Safety issues
- Excessive overtime with 24 hour shifts
- Often living in crowded dorms
- High suicide rates in manufacturing plants
- High pollution

*Chi Ku- 'Eating Bitterness'*

# Where South Africa stands...

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- **Productivity in South Africa:**
- South Africa is rights focused
- South Africa has more stringent labour laws

# Conclusion

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## WHAT DO THESE ASPIRATIONS AND COUNTRY EXAMPLES SHOW US?

Social cohesion (or elements within it) is definitely possible however, planning is important.

- China has a 100 year plan in place
- South Africa thinks in 5 year cycles (connected to the change in leadership)
  - Regular government changes has meant regular changes in plans/ ideas
- For some of the countries, leaders are in power for long periods of time

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# Thank You

