Abstract
Ernest Renan, French thinker of the nineteenth century, built a theory to explain the existence of nations that still exists in the field of study of nationalism. With his lecture What is a nation? written in 1882 largely marked the direction that would take further research on the topic and put some of its concepts at the heart of classical political thought. This article seeks to clarify his theory and his stance on the nation.

Keywords
Nation, conference, political nation, cultural nation, will.