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QUESTIONS

1. How can a Lebanese retain or lose his or her newly acquired Nigerian citizenship.
2. Social Contract Theory explains the evolution of states, what other theories explain the same and their strengths.

ANSWERS

1. The ground on which a Lebanese can lose its Nigerian citizenship is known as involuntary loss. Involuntary loss of citizenship may occur due to either automatic lapse of citizenship from the citizen due to failure to take some action to retain citizenship, or active withdrawal of citizenship by the country. Involuntary loss of citizenship does not necessarily mean automatic and immediate loss. Even if a country's law states that under certain circumstances citizenship is automatically removed, until the officials of the government or embassy are informed that country's government will probably still retain that person's name in its citizenship records. Firstly, a Lebanese shall forfeit forthwith his Nigerian citizenship if not being a citizen of Nigeria by birth, he acquires or retains the citizenship or nationality of a country other than Nigeria of which he is not a citizen by birth. The President shall deprive a Lebanese of its citizenship if he is satisfied from the record of proceedings of a court of law or other tribunal or after due inquiry in accordance with regulations made by him that:

- ❖ The person has shown himself by act or speech to be disloyal towards the Federal Republic of Nigeria for example if he/she is caught committing a slander against the president or government or government officials ie acts of disloyalty to the country and its officials.
- ❖ The person has, during any war in which Nigeria was engaged, unlawfully traded with the enemy or been engaged in or associated with any business that was in the opinion of the President carried on in such a manner as to assist the enemy of Nigeria in that war or unlawfully communicated with such enemy to the detriment of or with the intent to cause damage to the interest of Nigeria.

- ❖ A registered or naturalized citizen voluntarily acquires the citizenship of a foreign country.
- ❖ Naturalized citizens, before seven years of residence, sentenced to prison for three years or more.
- ❖ Refusing to renounce previous citizenships.

2. Other theories that explain the evolution of states include:

- ❖ Divine Origin Theory
- ❖ Patriarchal Theory
- ❖ Matriarchal Theory
- ❖ Force Theory
- ❖ Marxian Theory

i) Divine Origin Theory: This theory was one of the earliest theories. It is a theory of political authority and not a theory of the origin of the state. The State, its advocates maintain, was created by God and governed by His deputy or Vicegerent. It was His will that men should live in the world in a state of political society and He sent His deputy to rule over them. The ruler was a divinely appointed agent and he was responsible for his actions to God alone. As the ruler was the deputy of God, obedience to him was held to be a religious duty and resistance a sin. The advocates of the Divine Origin Theory, in this way, placed the ruler above the people as well as law. Nothing on earth could limit his will and restrict his power. His word was law and his actions were always just and benevolent. To complain against the authority of the ruler and to characterize his actions as unjust was a sin for which there was divine punishment. There is sufficient evidence to prove now that early states were based on this conception and all political authority was connected with certain unseen powers. The earliest ruler was a combination of priest and king or the magic man and the king the authority and the reverence which a ruler commanded depended upon his position as a priest or as a magic man. Religion and politics were so inextricably mixed up in the primitive society that not a hazy line of demarcation could be drawn between the two.

STRENGTHS

- Metaphysical and objective: God is the origin and regulator of morality. Surely

there is no better source for deciding what is right and wrong than God's unchanging law.

- God knows us best: God is objective, as well as our creator. We may think that things are good for us such as having an affair but God's law is against this for a reason.
- Absolute rules: The laws we have to stick by are often clear such as the Ten Commandments.
- Takes away human responsibility: Goodness isn't subject to our misunderstanding of situations-our reasoning is fallible, and so following God's law safeguards against this.
- God is inherently good: The Bible describes God as 'holy' meaning separate from sin. Therefore, what he commands must be good.

ii) Patriarchal Theory: According to patriarchal theory of the state, the state is nothing but an expansion of the family. In the beginning, there was a husband, wife and children. The father was the chief controlling authority. With the passage of time, the family expanded and changed into clan which further developed into a tribe. This tribe occupied a village, each having a chief. Many such villages united in a single community, which was nearly self-sufficient. Aristotle has given the name of state to such a perfect community. The state was headed by a king. So the family place was taken by the state and the father's position was occupied by the king. The chief supporter of this theory is Sir Henry Maine who says that in every family the eldest male parent was the controlling authority. He had complete control over the lives of the members and the property of the family. Later on the family expanded and clans came into being. Further tribes were formed and finally the state.

STRENGTH Sociologists tend to see patriarchy as a social product and not as an outcome of innate differences between the sexes and they focus attention on the way that gender roles in a society affect power differentials between men and women.

iii) Matriarchal Theory: This is a hypothetical social system in which the mother or female elder has absolute authority over the family group; by extension, one or more women (as in a council) exert a similar level of authority over the community as a whole. It is a social system in which females (most notably in mammals) hold primary power positions in roles of political leadership, moral authority, social privilege and control of property.

STRENGTHS

- Women as leaders can show more competency toward education and growth

of culture due to their nature.

- Senses and tastes women have are more likely to be better than men. Due to the fact, they always seek for a better future and dream much more than men.
- Speaking about the relationship manner, they are fairer than men, because women are always suppressed by the authority of men.
- This theory ensures domestic tranquillity, secures the blessings of liberty, improves standards of living and establishes justice.

iv) Force Theory: This theory tell us that the state is primarily a result of forcible subjugation through long continued warfare among primitive groups and historically speaking as Jenks says 'there is not a slightest difficulty in proving that all political communities of the modern type owe their existence to successful warfare'. Force has indeed played an important role in the origin and development of the state as some of the greatest empires of today have been established through blood and iron.

STRENGTHS

- In so far this theory explains the origin and development of the state, it contains a considerable amount of truth because war and conquest have gone a long way in building of state in all ages.
- The theory brings to the forefront the fact that 'might' or force is indispensable to the state and without it a state can neither exist nor function.

v) Marxician Theory: This theory, beside liberal state, is perhaps the most prominent theory. It not only challenges the basic concepts of liberal state but also emphasizes that it enslaves majority men of society for the realisation of its aims, it is to be abolished or smashed without which the emancipation of common men will never be possible. Marx, Engels and their followers had no faith in the social contract theory as the origin of state. They have divided the development of society into old communist social system, slave society, feudal society and industrial society.

STRENGHT

- It analyses power and conflict in society.
- It helps explain conflict and change.
- It helps support the downtrodden and empower the powerless.