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**MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION STUDIES**

**QUESTION:**

* **HOW CAN A LEBANESE RETAIN OR LOSE HIS NEWLY ACQUIRED NIGERIAN CITIZENSHIP**
* **SOCIAL CONTRACT THEORY EXPLAINS THE EVOLUTION OF STATES, WHAT OTHER THEORIES EXPLAIN THE SAME, AND THEIR STRENGTHS.**

**ANSWERS**

1. The Longman Contemporary English Dictionary defines a citizen as "someone who lives in a particular town, country or state and has rights and responsibilities there…. Someone who belongs to a particular country, whether they are living there or not." Similarly Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy defines a citizen as "a member of a political community who enjoys the right and assumes the duties of membership." Thus, citizenship can also be defined as a concept denotes the legal rights or status of being a member of a particular state or country as well as one’s individual response to the attendant duties or obligations to that state or country. There are different kinds of citizenship namely:

a. Citizenship by birth (jus Soli i.e. Right of Soil): This is the case where one automatically becomes a citizen of a state of country because he/she was born there.

b. Citizenship by Marriage (jure matrimonii i.e. right of marriage). In this case citizenship is obtained by marrying a citizen of a particular state or country. This form of citizenship is facing challenges in the modern times

c. Citizenship through Naturalization: This is a situation where citizenship is granted to persons who have lawfully entered a country to reside or have been granted political asylum. After residing in this host country for not less than 15 years and exhibited reasonable knowledge of the language and culture of the place and being of good conduct without serious criminal record, the immigrant is granted citizenship upon application. This form of citizenship also called “contract of citizenship”, unlike that by birth, can be revoked by the legitimate authority in cases of serious crimes, hence it is conditional on having a reasonably good behavior. It also essential that he is of age and had demonstrated a clear intention to be domiciled in Nigeria. He or she would have to swear to an oath of allegiance as is contained in the seventh schedule of the constitution.

A Lebanese can lose his newly acquired Nigerian citizenship if:

* The president of the country is satisfied from the records of proceedings of a court of law or other tribunal that he was disloyal to the state either by speech or by act
* The person has, during war in which Nigeria was engaged, unlawfully traded with the enemy or assisting the enemy.
* The person has, within a period of seven years after becoming naturalized or registered, been sentenced to imprisonment of a term more than three years.

1. The social contract theory of government was the result of centuries of frustration with the unchecked power of monarchs. Under this theory, government is a kind of contract in which those in power has responsibility toward those they govern and the governed respect the power of the governing individuals. There are various versions of the social contract theory, ranging from an emphasis on maintaining a peaceful social order to a focus on using individual free will to determine what is best for the public good, or that which beneﬁts all people in a society. Although the social contract theory has numerous variations, at its core is the idea that government is an agreement between those who govern and those who are governed. The founders of the United States drew heavily on social contract theory in the construction of both the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. In doing so, they formed a democracy, which literally means "rule by the people." The ultimate aim of the social contract theory is to show that some members of a society have reason to endorse and comply with the social rules, laws, principles and/or institutions of the society. There are 3 others theories that also explain the evolution of states:

* **Evolutionary theory,** government originates from a family or clan-bound structure, which can explain the formation of the world's ﬁrst political structures. These earliest and very loosely formed governments were the result of a shift from hunter-gatherer societies to more settled agricultural societies. As families joined to form clans and clans joined to form villages, the need for leaders and a central organizational structure developed. These leaders helped determine how to address still unfamiliar issues, such as water rights for crop irrigation and the distribution of other resources. They also provided an increased sense of safety and security for the society. In many early societies, these ﬁrst states developed monarchies, with rule based on membership in a ruling family. In modern times, some governments continue to be led by a succession of members from the same family. For example, in the monarchy of Saudi Arabia, the king has been descended from the Āl Saʿūd family since 1744. The theory of evolution includes an explaination of humanity’s origins. It has had a profound impact on human societies. This has led to a vigorous conflict between creation and evolution in primary education. The evolutionary theory has strong evidence to back it up which has clarified and reinforced his idea on natural selection
* **Force theory:**  This is the idea that government originates from taking control of the state by force and is often found in a dictatorship—a type of government characterized by one-person or one-party authoritarian rule. Historically, this has been achieved in some cases through forcible invasion or occupation when a more dominant people or state takes control of the political system of a less powerful people or state, imposing its governmental system on that group. New governments can also be formed by force during revolutions or coups within a country. A coup is the overthrow of an established government, and the resulting leader or dictator is most often a military ﬁgure. The exponents of the force theory were of the view that the origin of state and its development was based on force, that is, force used by the strong over the weak and their consequent control over them. In such a way, wherever the strong group out did the weak the strong became the master and ruled the weak. The strong group became vested with ruling power and the fedeated were made their subjects. According to the Jenks “Historically, there is not even the slightest difficulty in proving that all political communities of the modern type owe their existence to the successful warfare”35. The warring clans and tribes established their authority in a definite territory. Their chief became the ruler on the basis of his physical force. The state is born out of force. Exist in force and die in the absence of force. According to Bluntschli, force is an indispensable element of the organization of the state36. In the two world wars, Great Britain defended its territory against the Nazi forces only with the military power. Further, the Russian military power stopped the aggression of the German forces. An example of the force theory occurred in Cuba in 1959, when revolutionary Fidel Castro and a small force of guerrilla soldiers defeated the national army and took control of the government. In some cases, governments created by force take on some characteristics of a monarchy, with government power handed down within the dictator's family. Examples are the Assad regime in Syria and the Kim regime in North Korea. Through “blood and iron” some greatest states have been established
* **Divine right theory:** This is the oldest theory among the origin of the state. It stated about the right of kings. The formal statement of this theory is that the state has been established by and ordinates of God; its rulers divinely appointed; they are accountable to no authority but God, as described in Bible. The combination of earlier rulers where of priest and king or the magic man and king. Government originates with power vested in an individual by God or gods. Generally, monarchs lead governments of this type. This theory was followed in ancient times, including by the ancient Egyptians and Maya. The idea of divine right experienced a resurgence in western Europe in the 16th to the 18th centuries, when King James I of England, several French monarchs, and other rulers asserted that their authority came directly from God—and thus could not be challenged. Russian czars, such as Peter the Great, believed their autocratic rule was God-given, and they used their power to gain territory, wage war, and impose taxation on their subjects. This theory has supporters only among the religious people. It has been nullified for being unhistorical, irrational and unscientific. Its merit was a powerful factor in preserving order and strengthening the respect of man, property and government and it reveals itself in the political organization.

There were various beliefs regarding the origin of the state, some believe that the origin of the state lie in the hands of God whereas others believe that they are based on social contract and some trust on single force, the family or the process of evolution. The research anthropology ethnology and comparative philosophy had tried to focus on the origin of the state but it was not adequate. Prof. R.N.Gilchrist aptly mentioned that “of the circumstances surrounding the dawn of the political consciousness, we know little or nothing from history, where history fails, we must restore to speculation”19. Historical method and evolutionary course of action failed to prove when mankind originally came under the control of state. It is only the imagination of the political scientist and historical researchers that various elements which might have made contribution for the origin of the state. As such, there was no agreeable and acceptable conclusion among the political thinkers regarding the fundamental question of origin and establishment of state.