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## **HOW A LEBANESE CAN LOSE HIS OR HER NEWLY ACQUIRED NIGERIAN CITIZENSHIP**

A Lebanese of full age (18 years and above) can renounce his/her newly acquired Nigerian citizenship by applying to the president. The president will register the application, upon which the person will cease to be a citizen of Nigeria. However, the president may reject the application if Nigeria is at war.

The president may deprive a person, other than a person who is a citizen of Nigeria by birth or by registration, of his citizenship, if he is satisfied that such a person has, within the period of seven years after becoming naturalized, been sentenced to imprisonment for a term not less than three years.

Any citizen of Nigeria by naturalization or registration can be deprived of citizenship if he/she has shown himself by act or speech to be disloyal towards the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The statement of his/her loyalty should be proved in a court of law.

The citizens of Nigeria by registration or naturalization can be deprived of citizenship if it can be proved that they are enemies of the country, or have collaborated with the enemies of the country. This includes conducting business deals with organizations who fight against Nigeria, and applies to traitors who have fought against Nigeria with the intent to cause damage to the interest of Nigeria.

## **HOW A LEBANESE CAN RETAIN HIS OR HER NEWLY ACQUIRED NIGERIAN CITIZENSHIP**

A Lebanese can retain his or her newly acquired Nigerian citizenship only if he satisfies the president that –

- ❖ He is a person of full age and capacity, which is the age of adulthood, 18 years and above.

- ❖ He is a person of good character.
- ❖ He has shown clear intention of his desire to be domiciled in Nigeria.
- ❖ He is a person who has made or is capable of making useful contribution to the advancement; progress and well- being of Nigeria.
- ❖ He is, in the opinion of the Governor of State where he proposes to be resident, acceptable to the local community in which he is to live permanently, and has been assimilated into the way of life of Nigerians in that part of the Federation.
- ❖ He has taken the Oath of Allegiance prescribed in the Seventh Schedule to this Constitution.
- ❖ He has immediately preceding the date of his application, resided in Nigeria for a continuous period of fifteen years; or
- ❖ Resided in Nigeria continuously for a period of twelve months, and during the period of twenty years immediately preceding that period of twelve months has resided for periods amounting in the aggregate to not less than fifteen years.

## **THEORIES OF THE EVOLUTION OF STATES AND THEIR STRENGTHS**

Political thinkers have attempted to explain the origin of state in various ways. When, where and how the state came into existence have not been recorded anywhere in history. Therefore, the political thinkers were compelled to adopt various hypotheses, many of which are now discredited in the light of modern knowledge. Among the many theories which are concerned with the origin of the state are explained below;

- HISTORICAL OR EVOLUTIONARY THEORY.
- FORCE THEORY.
- THE THEORY OF DIVINE ORIGIN.
- SOCIAL CONTRACT THEORY.

### **HISTORICAL OR EVOLUTIONARY THEORY**

Five theories in explanation of the origin of the state, but no single theory offers an adequate explanation. The theory which explains and is now accepted as a convincing origin of state, is the Historical or Evolutionary theory which is also known as sociological or correct theory of the origin of the state. It explains the state as the product of growth, a slow and steady evolution extending over a long period of time and ultimately shaping itself into the complex structure of a modern state. This theory is more scientific.

The state is neither the handiwork of God, nor the result of superior physical force, nor the creation of evolution or convention, nor a mere expansion of the family. The state is not a mere expansion of the family. The state is not a mere artificial mechanical creation but an institution of natural growth or historical evolution says professor Garner.

## **FACTORS OF EVOLUTIONAL THEORY OF STATE**

1. Kinship.
2. Magic and Religion.
3. Property and Defense.
4. War and Force.
5. Political Consciousness.

### **Kinship**

The state is based on the principle of command and obedience. In the earliest stages we find such a relationship in the family based on blood and birth. In this respect the matriarchal and patriarchal societies became the basis of the origin of the state. There were families, clans and tribes, whose memberships were based on blood relationship which was the first element of social unity and the first basis of organization and discipline. There used to be a council of elders with a chief as political authority whose command was obeyed by all the members of the tribe. In this way the path was paved for the development of the state.

### **Religion and Magic**

In ancient times, people were not civilized and advanced. So they did not understand the forces of nature. At that stage, man was at the mercy of nature. So he tried to control them by different practices which later on got the name of magic. Some people's tribes had the knowledge of these forces. So they acquired superiority over others and became their leaders. With the passage of time, such men became the priest- kings. Slowly and gradually religion became a powerful instrument for keeping control over the people. Even today, religion plays an important role in the state activities.

### **War and Force**

War and force also played an important role in the development of the state. Wherever force is used there is a definite purpose for it. In the beginning, force was used to capture animals, wealth and land of the neighboring tribes. So we can say that the wars in the beginning were for economic purposes. War changed the tribes into political entity. As a result, there came into being a permanent leadership. During the time of war, the tribal chose their leaders who led them in the war. Since war became a permanent feature of tribal life, leadership also became permanent. With the passage of time, a powerful tribal after many successful wars became the king. In this way, a tribal state was changed into kingdoms and in this way the modern state came into being.

## Property and Defense

Property and defense played a vital role in the evolution of state in ancient times particularly among the people who were nomads. This led to making adjustments in the social system and relationship between the members of different groups. The need to protect property ultimately compelled the ancient people to establish the state.

## Political consciousness

This means the thought of knowledge as to why political organization is needed. In the beginning, there was the need for defense and protection of life, liberty and property, regulation of social relations, etc. Political consciousness began in ancient times. It is a very slow process. It took a very long time for man to ask about the political authority. The day people asked the question why political consciousness began and about its progress and development. This also helped in the growth and development of the state and government.

### SOME OF ITS STRENGTHS

- Richard Dawkins, an eminent biologist, has shown that life can develop itself into increasingly complex forms and totally rejects the idea of an external designer.
- Evidence from geologists and paleontologists also support the process of evolution.
- Some Christians believe that God started the process of evolution. The probability of life starting by chance, they claim is virtually impossible, etc.

## FORCE THEORY

The force theory is the idea that government originates from taking control of the state by force and is often found in **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.

Once the state has been established, force, which had hitherto been utilized for subjugating others. Wars were used as an instrument for maintaining internal order and making

it secure from any kind of external aggression. But this alone was not sufficient. Force was used as the sinews of war and power and a bid for superiority, one state fought against another, eliminating the weaker and only those survived which either could not be conquered, or no venture was made to conquer them as they were comparatively powerful. The theory of Force, therefore, traces the origin and development of the state to conquest and justifies its authority, by the proposition that might is right.

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, Kim regime in North Korea, tyrannies of Greece and Sicily.

### **ITS STRENGTHS**

- In so far as 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 states 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.
- Force is not only a historical factor, but is the present essential feature of the state.
- States were born of force.
- Power is their justification and *raison d'être* and finally, that the maintenance and extension of power within and without is the sole aim of the state.

## **THEORY OF DIVINE ORIGIN**

The theory of divine rights of the kings also known as the Divine Origin theory is one of the oldest theory of the origin of the state. The theory explains about how the state came into being. The supporters of this theory believed that the state doesn't come into being by the people but it is the handiwork of God on the earth. The state was created by the God and the king were the representatives or agents of God on earth.

The king was given the divine power and he was to be responsible to God alone for his deeds and was not responsible to the people for any of his works. The king was given the supreme power to rule over the people through God. This theory has made the king above law and no subjects will have the right to question his authority or his action.

The theory prevailed in the old age where religion had dominated the minds of the people. The subjects believed that as the king is the agent of God so they have to obey the king

and to go against the king will be a sinful act. But in the twentieth century, this theory has been criticized or we may say it came under a criticism being an incorrect explanation of the origin of state.

The theory of Divine origin so enunciated, believed in and accepted, thus, implied;

- That God deliberately created the state and this specific act of his grace was to save mankind from destruction.
- That God sent his deputy or vicegerent to rule over mankind. The ruler was a divinely appointed agent and he was responsible for his actions to God alone whose deputy the ruler was. All were ordained to submit to his authority and disobedience to his command was a sin for which there was divine punishment.

The theory of divine right of kings was originally used in the middle ages to serve as a bulwark against the claims of the church, Fathers, were later used by kings and their supporters to defend their existence against the political consciousness of the peoples, when the people claimed that ultimate power and sovereign authority rested with them.

The main points in the doctrine of the Divine Right of Kings may, thus, be summed up:-

- Monarchy is divinely ordained and the king draws his authority from God.
- The king is answerable to God alone.
- Resistance to the lawful authority of a king is a sin.
- Monarchy is hereditary, that is, it is passed on generation to generation.

### **ITS 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.
- **ABSOLUTE RULES:** The laws we have to stick by are often clear, such as the ten commandments.
- **GOD IS INHERENTLY GOOD:** The bible describes God as holy, meaning separate from sin. Therefore, what he commands must be good.
- **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 any reason.

