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**Question 1**

How can a Lebanese retain or lose his or her newly acquired Nigerian citizenship?

**Citizenship,** as defined by Oxford Learners’ Dictionary, means the status or position of being a legally recognized member of a particular country who enjoys social and political rights. The concept of citizenship goes as far back as to the ancient city-states of Greece.

There are also many different definitions of citizenship given by academics, philosophers, scholars as well as political scientists over the ages and some of them include :

- Citizenship, according to Aristotle, is “he who has the power to take part in the deliberative or judicial administration of any state is said by us to be a citizen of that state”.

- According to Vattal, it is “the members of a civil society bound to this society by certain duties, subject to its authority and equal participants in its advantages”.

- Citizenships, according to Laski, “is the contribution of one’s instructed judgment to the public good”.

**Types of Citizenship**

The various types of citizenship include:

* Citizen by Birth
* Citizen by Marruage
* Naturalization
* Citizen by Registration
* Citizen by investment
* Honorary citizenship

**Citizen by Birth -** This refers to citizenship based on ancestry or ethnicity whereby a person may have a right to citizenship of a country or state because his or her parents are citizens of said state. This was previously and more popularly done more towards the patrilineal side but advancements in the movement for the equality of sexes has enabled for passing on of citizenship rights by both genders.

It is also known as *jus sanguinis.* Some countries in Europe limit the rights of this type of citizenship to a few generations while others do not.

**Citizen by Marriage -** This is a form of citizenship that is acquired by marriage to a person who is already a citizen of that state. This is sometimes subject to language skills and cultural integration. It is also known as *jus matrimoni.*

**Naturalization -** This is citizenship granted by the government of a country to people who have immigrated legally, are resident in the country for a particular period of time and uphold all conditions on good behavior, productivity and allegiance. This form of citizenship is granted on the belief that said persons have stayed long enough to inculcate certain behaviors and cultures of the country into their lifestyle as well as show patriotism and elements of productivity.

**Citizen by Investment -** This refers to citizenship offered to wealthy people who invest in properties, sticks or government bonds of a particular country. It is a form of encouragement to attract more FDI(Foreign Direct Investment) in a country.

**Citizenship in Nigeria**

Although “since 1979, there have been significant changes in the law relating to citizenship in Nigeria”(Okoli, 2009)[1], the current concept of in Nigeria is established by Chapter 3(Sections 25-32) of the 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria[2] and further enforced and promulgated by the Nigerian Citizenship Act[2]. The forms of citizenship recognized under this Act are Birth, registration and Naturalization.

However it is widely felt and expressed that although many Nigerians can be termed citizens on paper, most actually do not actually enjoy the political and social rights that come with being a citizen. This is to say that “the Nigerian constitution may have accepted in principle the prominent models of citizenship as well as the factors that determine it but in reality it is denied in various spheres of life”(Iwuagwu, 2015)[3].

The period of residence to be considered for Citizenship by naturalization in Nigeria is 15 years.

**Now, how can a Lebanese retain or lose his or her newly acquired Nigerian citizenship?**

Nigerian citizenship may be retained, subject to section 28(2)2 of the constitution, in the occasion that :

* (a) He is a person of good character; two people to testify to that which one should a religious minister
* (b) He has shown a clear intention of his desire to be domiciled in Nigeria; and
* (c) He has taken the [Oath of Allegiance](/wiki/Oath_of_Allegiance" \o "Oath of Allegiance) prescribed in the Seventh Schedule to this Constitution.

These provisions are subject to a person who :

* is or has been married to a citizen of Nigeria or every person of full age and capacity born outside Nigeria any of whose grandparents is a citizen of Nigeria.

A person may also retain citizenship of Nigeria in the occasion that :

\* He is a person of good character;

* He has shown a clear intention of his desire to be domiciled in Nigeria;
* He is, in the opinion of the Governor of the State where he is or 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 is a person who has made or is capable of making useful contribution to the advancement; progress and well-being of Nigeria.

A person may also however lose citizenship of Nigeria if, as evident in Section 29(1-3)[2], if:

- the person renounces his or her citizenship

- the President wit holds the declaration of citizenship holding that it was made during a time of war or is contrary to public policy.

A person may also lose his or her Nigerian citizenship if, as subject to Section 30[2], the person :

- within 7 years has been sentenced to imprisonment of not less than 10 years

- the person has committed an act of treason or disloyalty

- the person has disrespected the national symbols and authority of the federation

- the person has, during a time of war, aided the enemy.

All in all, these are the ways in which a Lebanese person may retain or lose his or her newly acquired citizenship.

**Question 2**

Social Contract Theory explains the evolution of states, what other theories explain the same, and their strengths

**Evolution of State**

A state, according to Oxford Learners’ Dictionary, is a nation or territory considered as an organized political community under one government.

Machiavelli deceived a state as “the power which has authority over man”.

According to Weber, a German sociologist, “A State is a human community that successfiilly claims the monopoly of the legitimate use of physical force within a given territory".

The essential features of a state include sovereignty, geographical territory, population and government.

Evolution can be defined as the gradual development of something. Everything that gradually develops must have an origin.

Thus, there are different theories about the origin of State. The Social Contract theory is one of them and apart from that we have:

* Divine Origin Theory
* Patriarchal Theory
* Matriarchal Theory
* Force Theory
* Marxist Theory

**Divine Origin Theory**

This is the most ancient theory concerning the evolution of states. It can also be, in some academic parlance, called theory of divine right of Kings.

This theory promulgated and proliferates the idea that the idea and concept of the state was created by God and not man. Scholars of this theory are of the belief that the King or any form of royalty or government derive their authority from God and are subject to no other law but God’s law.

The origin of this theory as a school of thought can be traced to where St Paul says **“**Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers; for there is no power but of God; the powers that be, are ordained by God. Whosoever resist the power, resisted the ordinance of God and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.”** The propositions of this theory were strongest when governance and religion were fused such as can be seen in the medieval age where the Pope was seen as Semi God status to Christians and the Calph to Muslims.**

**Over time, however, democratic rule came in and the people began to accept only things that stood the test of logic and reasoning.**

****Strengths of Divine Origin Theory****

**The theory postulates that “**the State was established by an ordinance of God; and its rulers/leaders are divinely appointed hence are not accountable to any authority but God.”(Maduekwe V.C, 2019).14]

**The theory of Divine right of Kings encouraged or rather enforced disciple in a time where there was a lot of anarchy. It also promotes the co felt of moral obligation as a form of checks and balances on both leaders and subjects by virtue of the fact that people obeyed law and refrained from crime because they believed all of those laws were from God himself. Hence, no one would like to disobey the heavens**.****

**The Patriarchal Theory**

The originator of this theory is Sir Henry Maine. According to him, everything evolved under the influence and authority of the eldest male member of a family or society. His analysis of the growth of the state was that ****“the elementary group is the family connected by the common subjection to the highest male ascendant. The aggregation of families forms the gens or the houses. The aggregation of houses makes the tribe. The aggregation of the tribes constitutes the commonwealth.”****

This obviously establishes three main foundations or principles of this theory which are kinship, marriage and paternal authority.

This theory has influence the structures of many societies in history as can be seen in the Jewish tribes of the Bible’s Old Testament and also the pre colonial Igbo Eastern Nigeria.

**Strengths of the Patriarchal Theory**

This theory promotes notions of tightly knit kinship groups and corporation in societies in such a way that all people stand by the members of their clan and are not swayed by external influences. It also promotes discipline enforced by a lone, certain head who is the father or eldest male member of the community.

**Matriarchal Theory**

The originator of this Theory was Edward Jenks through a study of Australian tribes. He was of the opinion that there was never anything like a patriarchal theory. In addition to this, he believed that all kinship originated from the mother of the family. This was during a time where there was sexual anarchy.

**Strengths of the Matriarchal Theory**

The theory enforces the fact that all states originate in families as explained by Stephen Leacock where he says, “ ****Here it may be a patriarchal family; there it may be a matriarchal family, but there is no denying the fact that family is at the basis of the state”[6].****

****Marxist Theory****

**This school of though was promulgated by Karl Marx who believed that the state was created by class struggles. The marxists believe that over time and as wealth of individuals grew, the people with the most resources controlled the mode of production and extended their dominance to creation and control of the created state. This will not be met well by lower class thus the state becomes an instrument of dominance over lower classes(proletariat) by higher classes(bourgeoisie)**

**According to** Fredrich Engels, ****“But in order that these antagonisms, classes with conflicting economic interests, might not consume themselves and society in sterile struggle, a power seemingly standing above society became necessary for the purpose of moderating the conflict, of keeping it within the bounds of ‘order’ and this power, arisen out of society, but placing itself above it and increasingly alienating itself from it is the state”** and this was the birth of government.**

**The theory also analyzed evolution from communalism to feudalism to capitalism to socialism to communism(an idea developed by V.I Lenin) which introduced force to this theory.**

****Strengths of Marxist Theory****

**This theory acknowledged societal inequality and how the creation of the state contributes to that. It aims to develop a utopian society whereby people are financially equal and hold no power over each other.**

****Force Theory****

**This theory spreads the idea that wars and aggression by certain tribes were the main factors in the creation of a state. This means that the strongest person in the tribe was made the Chief or leader. It is a theory that relied and built solely on physical strength or army size. After the conquering of a state by a powerful chief, he would then have to use his power to maintain law and order. Thus force was both responsible for the development and origin of the state. Increase in population led to advancements in warfare and this is captured in “Herbert Spencers’ doctrine of the “Survival of the Fittest” proves and upholds the theory.Through “blood and iron” some greatest states have been established.”1**

**Merits of Force theory**

This theory makes states conscious to the necessity of a good, efficient army for the protection of the lives of its citizens as well as territorial integrity and sovereignty. In modern times, a huge amount of national budgets is spent on Defence.

**Citations/References**

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