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QUESTIONS

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

Citizenship is the status of an individual recognized under the law as a legal member or entity of a sovereign state or belonging to a nation.

Citizenship is the capacity or ability of individuals to defend their rights in front of the governmental authority of a state, country or nation.

If a Lebanese man wants to be a legal member of Nigeria, he could only acquire it through three ways which are by birth, by registration and by naturalization.

Citizenship by Birth

Section 25 of the 1999 Nigerian constitution (as amended) states that the Nigerian citizenship is eligible to anyone who is born within the territory of Nigerian after 1st of October 1960, and that has at least a grandparent who belongs or belonged to a community indigenous to Nigeria, indigenous communities which are; Yoruba, Igbo, Hausa, Fulani, Kanuri, Igala, etc. Section 25 vividly states that one can only claim to be a citizen by birth if his/her grandparents or parents were born in Nigeria. Moving back to the Lebanese man, he can only claim citizenship by birth he was born in Nigerian or have parents or grandparents that are of the soil.

Citizenship by Registration

Section 26 of the constitution covers this topic. A person can be granted citizenship if he/she satisfies the president in the following ways;

1. Good character.
2. He/she most show a clear desire to belong.
3. He/she has taken an Oath of Allegiance.

For instance, if a woman who is or has been married to a citizen of Nigeria; or every person of full age and capacity born outside Nigeria can acquire citizenship through registration.

The Lebanese man can acquire citizenship by registration if he is should marry and indigenous woman of Nigeria.

Citizenship by Naturalization

For example,

If one is not able to obtain citizenship by birth or by registration, he/she could consider naturalization. In section 27 of the Nigerian constitution certain requirements should be provided to obtain the status;

* He/she most be of full age.
* He/she most have good characters.
* He/she most show a clear intension of his desire to have this status.
* He/she most be capable contributing to the well being of Nigeria.
* The governor of the state of the host community where the person applying for citizenship wants to reside has to confirm the willingness of that community to accept that individual into their fold.
* He/she has to be administered the Oath of allegiance.
* He/she most have lived in the country for over a period of fifteen years.

A person who intends on acquiring Nigerian citizenship by registration or naturalization are required to renounce their old citizenship. Moving back, the Lebanese man can acquire or retain his citizenship if he follows the above rules.

We wonder of the other hand, how can a Lebanese lose their citizenship? A Lebanese can lose their citizenship through;

* A naturalized citizen before seven years of residence is sentenced to prison for three years or more.
* Unless the person is a citizen of Nigeria by birth, he/she will lose citizenship if proven to be disloyal for example; unlawfully siding with the enemy against the country.
* Renouncing Nigerian citizenship.

QUESTION 2

Social contract theory

The concept of social contract theory is that in the beginning, man lived in the state of nature. They had no government and there was no standard or law put in place to regulate the people. There were hardships and oppression on sections of the society. To overcome from these hardships, they entered into two agreements which are; Pactum Union and Pactum Subjection.

The people sort for protection and came together in Union as a society then in Subjection to obey high authority and surrender their rights and freedom to an authority. The authority ensured the people protection of their lives and belongings but in process, continue to renounce their rights in the State of Nature and they must imbue some one person or assembly of person with the authority and power to enforce the initial contract.

Theories

Divine theory

This theory centers on political authority and not a theory of the origin of the sates. The state 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 the. The ruler was a divinely appointed agent and he was responsible for his actions to God alone.

This theory placed the ruler above all even the people. His actions were just and his words were law. The earliest ruler was a combination of a priest and king or the magic man and king the authority and reverence which a ruler commanded depended upon his position as a priest or a magic man.

The historical theory

This theory explains that the state is 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.

The state is not a mere artificial mechanical creation but an institution of natural growth or historical evolution.