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**COURSE: INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE (POL 102)**

**QUESTION 1: HOW CAN A LEBANESE RETAIN OR LOSE HIS OR HER NEWLY ACQUIRED NIGERIAN CITIZENSHIP**

**Introduction**

This work explains and sheds more light on citizenship, types of citizenships and how to acquire them, how to retain them and how it can be lost.

It also shows the definition of the state, the features of the state, the origin of the state and the theories of the origin of the state.

**WHAT IS CITIZENSHIP?**

Citizenship according to the Oxford dictionary is the position or status of being a citizenship of a particular country. It is also the status of a person recognized under the custom of law as being a legal member of a sovereign state or belonging to a nation by Wikipedia. According to sociologist Arthur Stinchcombe, citizenship is based on the extent that a person can control one’s own destiny within the group to influence the government of the group. The idea of citizenship has been defend their rights in front of the governmental authority.

**WAYS OF BECOMING A CITIZEN**

There are three major ways to be a citizen in Nigeria and they are:

1. By Birth

The conditions include:

1. People who were born in Nigeria before and after the date of independence, either of whose parents or any of whose grandparents belongs or belonged to a community indigenous to Nigeria; Provided that a person shall not become a citizen of Nigeria by virtue of this section if neither of his parents nor any of his grandparents was born in Nigeria.
2. Every person born in Nigeria after the date of independence either of whose parents or any of whose parents is a citizen of Nigeria.
3. Every person born outside Nigeria either of whose parents is a citizen of Nigeria.

These conditions were culled from ***chapter 3, section 25 of the 1999 constitution***

1. By Naturalization

The conditions include:

1. He is a person of full age and capacity.
2. He is a good person of full age and capacity.
3. He has shown a clear intention of his desire to be domiciled in Nigeria.
4. 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 assimilated into the way of life of Nigerians in that part of the Federation.
5. He is a person who has made or is capable of making useful contribution to the advancement progress and wellbeing of Nigeria.
6. He has taken the Oath of Allegiance prescribed in the seventh schedule to this constitution.

These condition was culled from ***chapter 3 section 27of the 1999 constitution.***

1. By Registration

A person can apply to become a Nigerian citizen by registration if he or she satisfies these conditions and these conditions include:

1. The person is of good character (This statement should be testified by two people and one of them should be a religious minister).
2. The person expresses and shows a clear intention of his inclination to be domiciled in Nigeria.
3. The person has subscribed to the Oath of Allegiance

These conditions were culled from ***chapter 3 section 26 of the 1999 constitution***

To answer the question of how a Lebanese can lose or retain his newly acquired citizenship, the following steps below show how

**How a Lebanese can lose his newly acquired citizenship also known as deprivation:**

1. If during a period of seven years of becoming a citizen, he is sentenced to imprisonment for a term of not less than three years.
2. If he has shown himself by act or speech to be disloyal towards the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
3. If he 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.

These were culled from ***chapter 3 section 30 of the 1999 constitution.***

How a Lebanese can retain his or her newly acquired citizenship is to not do any of the things listed above.

**QUESTION 2: SOCIAL CONTRACT THEORY EXPLAINS THE EVOLUTION OF STATES, WHAT OTHER THEORIES EXPLAIN THE SAME, AND THEIR STRENGTHS.**

WHAT IS A STATE?

According to Wikipedia, a state is a polity under a system of governance. The German sociologist Max Weber defines state as a polity that maintains a monopoly on the legitimate use of violence. Karl Max defines the state is the form in which the individuals of a ruling class assert their common interests-even the civil society is completely controlled by the bourgeoisie.

According to Jeffrey and Painter, “if we define the ‘essence’ of the state in one place or era, we are liable to find that in another time or space something which is also understood to be a state has different ‘essential’ characteristics” There is also no undisputed definition of a state.

The state is an artificial creation that can be related to an institution set up to make up decision as an organization and regulation of public demon. A state is seen larger than a political system i.e. political system is seen as a transitional movement of a state. This could be explained through the types of government that manages the welfares and the affairs of the state. Thus, it can be viewed on several system of government like:

1. Monarchial system : The system of government ruled by kings or queens
2. In the democracy: The people’s choice through the people’s votes.

Anarchy: No specific leader.

1. Under the oligarchy system of government: The system of government ruled by a few elite.

According to Dahl (1976), he viewed political system as any persistent pattern of human relationship that involves to a significant extent, control, influence, power of authority.

In addition to that, the state for MAN and not MAN for state; or in a better sense, state is greater than man or individuals and of its constituent units. State is created foe minimum standard of living for its citizens and for happiness through justice.

**Features of a State**

For an effective and organized state, there are certain features to the concept of the state and they are:

1. Effective Governmental Authority:

This means every citizen are subordinate to the state i.e. through the power of the state, the government has legal rights for decision. These decisions are required to be obeyed, due to its legal backup and constitution. In the case like Nigeria, there are several disobedience to the state because most people do not comply with the laws most times.

1. Sovereignty

Sovereignty is a term that is used to refer to the independence and autonomy which modern states have with respect to the decisions taken together in matters concerning their citizenry. Sovereignty means that states are free to decide their policies internally and externally.

Sovereignty further connotes not only complete political autonomy but also supreme legal authority of a state make laws and decisions and enforce them on the people within the territory without hindrance by internal or external sovereignty.

1. Territory

A state or country has certain boundaries. Countries can arise between states and countries over where borders should be placed. Boundaries can also be changed due to war, purchase or territory, or negotiations between governments. The boundaries between states should be guarded well to prevent international interference and keep the states sovereign.

1. Permanence

A state must be relatively permanent, unlike the government which changes from time to time. This permanence makes it possible for a state to develop as it should.

**The Origin of the State.** following theories explain the origin of the state:

1. The theory of Divine Origin
2. The Force Theory
3. The Historical/ Evolutionary Theory
4. The Social Conflict Theory.

N.B. The origin of man is different from the origin of the state.

1. The theory of Divine Origin

By divine arrangement, God himself started a state. Like when the children of Israel agitated and cried to God for a king. God created the state for him to achieve harmony, unity, good relationship on the community, for coordination within their territory. What makes a state are its features. The creation of states by God was a monarchical system of government but there was abuse (Saul abuse the authority, David also did the same). The kings are accountable to God only and resistance to the King’s rules were considered a sin. The divine origin was religious to some extent.

1. The Force Theory

In this theory, it was believed that the strong usually oppresses the weak. This had to do with conquest which will lead to the formation of a state, then a ruler is imposed on the state created. The exponents of this theory hold that war and aggressiveness by some powerful tribe were the principal factors in the creation of the state. They rely on the often quoted saying *“war begot the King”* as the historical explanation of the origin of the state,

The force or might prevailed over the right in the primitive society. A man physically stronger established his authority over the less strong persons. The strongest person in a tribe is, therefore, made the chief or leader of that tribe.

After establishing the state by subjugating the other people in that place the chief used his authority in maintaining law and order and defending the state from outside.

**According to Edwards Jenks, “Historically speaking, there is not the slightest difficulty in proving that all political communities of the modern type owe their existence to successful warfare”. As the state increased in population and size, there was a concomitant improvement in the art of warfare. The small states fought among themselves and the successful ones made big states.” Thus force was responsible not only for the origin but for development of the state also.**

The strengths and advantages of the force theory are:

1. In so far as the theory explains the origin and development of the state and that some states at certain points of time were definitely created by force or brought to existence by the show of force. It contains a considerable amount of truth because war and conquest have gone a long way in building of states in all ages. For example, when the Aryans came to India, they carried with them weapons of all kinds and horses to use in the war against the non-Aryans and by defeating the non-Aryans, they carved out a kingdom in India.
2. The theory brings to the forefront the fact that ‘might’ or force is indispensable to the state and without it, a state can either exist or function.
3. The other silver lining of the theory is that it made the states conscious of building adequate defense and army to protect the territorial integrity of the state.
4. In the modern state, we find a substantial amount of money used on defense budget. Every state in the modern world has got a defense minister which unmistakably recognizes the use of force in modern statecraft too.
5. The Historical/Evolutionary Theory

There is no particular method through the state is formed. It happened all of a sudden through evolution. When men gather, there is a tendency for them to create a leader amongst themselves to be a ruler. **These leaders are emerged into power and thus the state grows from nothing to something.**

Professor Garner says “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 artificial mechanical creation but an institution of natural growth or historical evolution”.

There were a number of factors which helped the evolution of the state and they are listed below:

1. Kinship

Kinship is the most important and was based upon blood relationship and **kinship was the first link in the process of the evolution of the state with the expansion of the family arose new families and the multiplication of families led to the formation of clans and tribes.** Kinship was the only factor which bound the people together. **Kinship creates society and society at length creates the state.**

1. Religion

Religion provided the bond of unity in early society. It also affected all walks of life. The worship of a common ancestor and common goods created a sense of social solidarity. There was fear in the hearts of men as far as religion was concerned. Even today we see religious practices, affairs and faith in uniting people. **In the early days, a number of races are united by religion and unity was essential for the creation of state.**

1. Force

Force also played an important part in the evolution of the state. **It was the use of physical force that was the growth of kingdoms and empires.**

1. 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 and vagabonds and tribal. Professor Laski has referred to **the necessity of acquiring property by the members of society and property acquired with reference to the population mentioned above.**

1. The Social Contract Theory

A contract is an agreement between two or more partners. There is a social agreement which brings up leaders. This most famous theory with regard to the origin of the state is the social contract theory. According to this theory, there were two divisions in human history- one period is prior to the establishment of the state called the **“state of nature”** and the other period is one subsequent to the foundation of the state called the **“civil society”.** The state of nature was bereft of society, government and political authority. There was no law to regulate the relations of the people in the state of nature.

There were three exponents of this theory. They were Thomas Hobbes, John Locke and Jean-Jacques Rousseau who differed about the life in the slate of nature, reason for the state of nature to civil society and the terms of the contract. They all, however, agreed that a stage came in the history of man when the state of nature was exchanged with civil society to lead a regulated life under a political authority.

The crux of the social contract theory is that men create government for the purpose of securing their pre-existing natural rights- that the government is created to protect these rights. **These ideas were based on the concepts of a state of nature, natural law and natural rights.**

In answering the above question, it is seen that the theories showing the evolution of the state in one way or the other are:

1. The Force Theory.
2. The Historical/Evolutionary Theory.
3. The Social Contract Theory.

The theories above show how evolution of the states were in their time with the proof shown in their bold form and how the theories proved how the states underwent evolution in different areas.

N.B. THE BOLDENED FORM IN THE THEORIES REFER TO THE ANSWERS TO QUESTION 2