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

* Social contract theory explains the evolution of states, what other theories explain the same, and their strengths

ANSWERS; First of all, I will start by defining who a citizen is. A citizen is a member of a sovereign group of people that have certain rights. Government protect these right or take advantage of them. Some government may exile people from citizenship laws on such matter very between countries.

People born in the country may be citizens by right of soil. Those having citizen’s parents may be natural born citizens. Some countries also recognize jus sanguinis, comes from Latin meaning “right of blood” which basically means one can inherit citizenship by descent from a parent and in some cases a grandparent or even more distant ancestors. \* foreigners can also be naturalized as citizens. Naturalization makes them citizens of their new country. Many countries require that they give up their citizenship of their old country, but some countries have permanent citizenship; you can quit such a citizenship. \* people who are citizens of more than one country, with approval of both governments, are dual citizens. They may legally enter and live in either country.\* A person who has no citizenship is called Stateless person. There are many causes of stateless; war, refugees, people whose birth was never registered, people born in a territory which is not recognized as a state, and so on. Some countries are very generous in giving stateless people citizenship, and some are not. The problem is well known, but there is no general solution. Citizenship may be permanent. Some countries remove citizenship for various reason, and some citizens renounce their citizenship.

Now we will go further to explain citizenship;

Citizenship is a legal relationship between a person and a country. Usually the country is the one he/she /they were born in, supports and in return gets protections. A person is usually a citizen of the country where he or she is born, but sometimes a person will apply a change his or her citizenship to become a citizen in another country. There are countries which allow dual (two) citizenship, and countries which do not. Citizenship, relationship between an individual and a state to which the individual owes allegiance and in turn is entitled to its protection. Citizenship implies the status of freedom with accompanying responsibilities that are denied or only partially extended to aliens and other noncitizens residing in a country. In general, full political rights, including the right to vote and to hold public office, are predicted upon citizenship. The usual responsibilities of citizenship are allegiance, taxation, and military service. Citizenship is the most privileged form of nationality. This boarders term denotes various relations between an individual and a state that do not necessary confer political right but do imply other privileges, particularly protection abroad. It is the term used in international law to donate all persons whom a state is entitled to protect. Nationality also serves to denote the relationship to a state of entities other than individual; corporations, ships, and aircrafts, for example, possess a nationality.

The concept of citizenship first arose in towns and city states of ancient Greece, where it generally applied to property owners but not to women, slaves, or the poorer members of the community. A citizen in a Greek city state was entitled to vote and was liable to taxation and military service. The romans first used citizenship as a device to distinguish the residence of the city of Rome from those people who territories Rome had conquered and incorporated. As their empire continued to grow, the romans granted citizenship to their allies throughout Italy proper and then to people in other Roman provinces, until in AD212 citizenship was extended to all free inhabitants of the empire. Roman citizenship conferred important legal privileges within the empire.

The principle grounds for acquiring citizenship (apart from international transactions such as transfer or territory or option) are birth within a certain territory, descent from a citizen parent, marriage to a citizen, and naturalization. There are two main systems used to determine citizenship as of the time of birth, whereby citizenship is acquired by birth within the territory of the state, regardless of parental citizenship; and jus sanguinis, whereby a person, wherever born, is a citizen of the state if, at the time of his birth, his parent is one. other countries generally adopt the jus sanguinis as their basic principle , supplementing it by provisions for acquisition of citizenship in case of combination of birth and domicile within the country, birth within the country of parents born there, and so on. The provisions of nationality laws that overlap often result in dual nationality; a person may be a citizen of two countries. Alternatively, the lack of uniform rules on citizenship acquisition and loss have sometimes produced lack of citizenship(stateless).

Explanation to the types of citizenship we have in Nigeria

Citizenship by birth, citizenship by registration, citizenship by naturalization, by marriage.

Explanation of naturalization: is the legal act or process by which a non-citizen of a country may acquire citizenship or nationality of that country.it may be done automatically by statute without any effort on the part of the individual, or it may involve an application or a motion and approval by legal authorities. The rules of naturalization varies from country to country but typically include a promise to obey and uphold that country law, taking and subscribing to the oat of allegiance, and may specify other requirement such as a minimum legal residency and adequate knowledge of the national dominant language or culture.to counter multiple citizenship, most country require that applicant for naturalization renounce any other citizenship that they currently hold, but whether this renunciation actually causes loss of original citizenship ,as seen by the original country, will depend on the laws of the countries involved. He or she must be of full age, must have good character, show a clear desire to be domiciled in the country. The governor of the state where the person apply for citizenship wants to reside has to comfirm the desire of the community to assimilate this person. the person should be capable of contributing to the wellbeing of Nigeria and its citizens. the person must have lived in Nigeria for 15years preceding the application date

Explanation of citizenship by birth; If your parent or grandparents were or are citizens of Nigeria, you can be or become a citizen of Nigeria by birth; this applies even if you were born in another country.people whose parent, grandparent or other relative belong to indigenous Nigerian communities. And what is meant by the indigenous community from Nigeria ?Nigeria is country with hundreds of tribe and if your parent or grandparent belongs to one of this tribe , you can be or become a citizen of Nigeria by birth.it includes Igbo, Yoruba ,Hausa ,Fulani,Efik,and many more tribes.

The provision of section 25 of the Nigerian constitution state that the following people are to be regarded as citizens of Nigeria by birth. A child both of whose parent at the moment of his or birth where citizen of Nigeria, shall be a citizen of Nigeria regardless of whether they were born on the territory Nigeria, or beyond its border.in some cases, the child may have two or more citizenships. A child at least one of whose parent was a citizen of Nigeria but died before the child was born, shall be a citizen of Nigeria regardless of whether they were born on the territory or beyond the border. A child, whose parent are people without citizen and are permanent resident in Nigeria, shall acquire citizenship of Nigeria regardless of whether they were born in the territory, or beyond his border, unless they acquire citizenship of another state by birth. A child one of whose parent at their permanent of their death was a person without citizenship and a permanent resident in Nigeria, and the other parent is unknown, is a citizen of Nigeria regardless of whether they were born on the territory or beyond its border, unless they acquire citizenship of another state by birth. A person is a citizen by birth if on the day of person birth, whether or not the person is born in Nigeria, either the mother or father of the person is a citizen.

Citizenship by registration: The person is of good character (this statement should be testified by two people, and one of them should be a religious minister). This person expresses and shows a clear intention of his declination /desire /wish to be domiciled in Nigeria. This person has subscribed to the oath of allegiance to Nigeria, which is provided by the 7 schedule of the Nigeria constitution. The provision of section 26 of the Nigeria constitution also state that the following categories of the citizen can apply for the Nigerian immigration. A woman who is or has been married to a citizen of Nigeria. It’s also includes every person who has parent or grandparent of any indigenous Nigerian tribe.

HOW CAN A LEBANESE RETAIN OR LOSE HIS OR HER NEWLY ACQUIRED NIGERIAN CITIZENSHIP?

Loss of citizenship; also referred to as loss of nationality, is the event of ceasing to be a citizen of a country under the nationality law of that country. It is a blanket term covering both involuntary loss of citizenship, such as through denaturalization, as well as voluntary renunciation of citizenship.

There are generally two categories of grounds for loss of citizenship. (INVOLUNTARY LOSS) and (VOLUNTARY LOSS)

They can lose this through deferent different ways example;

Through disloyalty; a citizen can lose his citizenship if his activities are prejudicial to the country’s corporate existence.

Supporting another country; if a citizen is found supporting another country engaged in war with his country, his citizenship may be deprived him.

Imprisonment; the individual can also lose his citizenship if within a period of say 5-7 years after of becoming nationalized, he gets involved in a criminal case, resulting in his incarceration for some years.

Treason; the nationalized citizen can equally lose his citizenship, if found guilty of his offence.

False declaration; if there is a fundamental breach of the citizenship agreement binding him e.g. false declaration.

Renouncement; the individual can lose his citizenship by renouncing it.

A person of full age can renounce his or her citizenship 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.

Also, any naturalized citizen of Nigeria can be deprived of their citizenship by a president if he or she gets imprisoned for more than three years within the seven years after the naturalization. Any citizen of Nigeria by naturalization or registration can be deprived of citizenship if he or she proves disloyal should be proved in a court of law.

The citizen 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 enemies of the country. This includes conducting business deals with organizations who fight against Nigeria, and applies to traitors who have fought against Nigeria.

The president can also make any decisions regarding the citizenship of anyone in the country, even though this is not written in the constitution. However, this kind of decision should be submitted to and approved by the national assembly.

Voluntary; voluntary renunciation of Nigeria citizenship is permitted by law…. Naturalized citizen, before seven years of residence, sentenced to prison for three years or more. It’s often called renunciation as I mentioned earlier on and its initiated by citizen. It’s not always easy to make a clean distinction between the two categories.

Involuntary loss; may occur due to either automatic lapse of citizenship from the citizen for failure to take some action to retain citizenship, or active withdrawal of citizenship by country.

So due to this they won’t enjoy some rights for example the right to security, right to life, right to fair hearing, right to education, freedom of religion, right to ownership of property, right of movement without restraints, right to vote and be voted for, right to freedom of forming and joining any political association.

Retaining

A good citizen should be

: Law abiding

: payment of taxes regularly

Law abiding: this is a citizen who always obeys the law and is considered to be a good and honest because of this. Law should also be able to protect decent law abiding citizens. A law abiding person doesn’t break the law. Obeying the law of the society, not a law breaker, without a criminal record. An individual or a citizen can only be law abiding or can only obey the regular law instructions if he/she doesn’t want to lose his/her citizenship.

Payment of tax; a good and loyal citizen is expected to pay tax and be loyal with it. Not that he or she will pay this month and won’t pay next month. Citizens by naturalization do this often so that they won’t lose their citizenship at all.

A tax is a compulsory financial charge or some other type of levy imposed upon a taxpayer (an individual or legal entity) by a governmental organization in order to fund various public expenditures. A failure to pay, along evasion of or resistance to taxation, is punishable by law. Taxes consist of direct or indirect taxes and may be paid in money or as its labor equivalent. According to most political philosophers, taxes are justified as the fund activities that are necessary and beneficial to society. When a person is taxed or a company is taxed, they have to pay a part of their income or profits to the government. When goods are taxed, a percentage of their price has to be paid to the government. Taxpayers must be registered with relevant tax office nearest to them and obtain taxpayer identification number(TIN), a taxpayer should render appropriate tax returns, a good taxpayer should obtain assessment and demand notices where applicable, a taxpayer should remit all taxes to the approved collecting banks in the various forms do designed for such purposes and obtain an electronic ticket (E- TICKET). Taxpayers should present the e-ticket for the insurance of FIRS official receipts. The effect can be divided into two categories namely; Taxes cause an income effect because they reduce purchasing power of taxpayers, taxes causes a substitution effect when taxation causes a substitution between taxed goods and untaxed goods. Tax is also known as the compulsory financial contribution imposed by a government to raise revenue, levied on the income or property of persons or organizations, on thr production costs or sales prices of goods and services, etc. its an amount of money that you have to pay to the government so it can pay for public services such as hospitals, roads and schools.

2)social contract theory explains the evolution of states, what other theories explain the same, and their strengths.

I will start by shedding more light to the explanation the evolution of state in Nigeria. The evolution of state; the southern phase, 1898-1914.

First of all evolution is defined as the process of growth, continuous change from a lower, simpler, or worse to a higher, more complex, or better state; growth; 2) a process of gradual and relatively peaceful social, political, and economic advance. The process of working out or developing. The evolution of state explains 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. This theory is more scientific.

Divine theory;

Divine theory is also known as theological voluntarism; is a meta ethical theory which proposes that an actions status as morally good is equivalent to whether it is commanded by God. The theory asserts that what is moral is determined by God’s commands and that for a person to moral he is to follow Gods commands. Followers of both monotheistic and polytheistic religions in ancient and modern times have often accepted the importance of God’s commands in establishing morality. It deals with the obedience to God’s word/ commands.

The available advantages of divine theory

The advocate of divine theory claims that morality requires faith in God and afterlife. According to kant, we must believe that God exist because the requirement of morality are too much for us to bear. We must be;live that there is a God who will help us satisfy the demands of the moral law. With such a belief, we have the hope that we will be able to leave moral lives. However, if there is a God and an afterlife where the righteous are rewarded with happiness and justice obtains, this problem goes away. That is, being moral does not guarantee happiness, so we must believe in a God who will reward the morally righteous with happiness. Kant does not employ the concept of moral faith as an argument for divine theory, but a contemporary advocate could argue along kantain lines that these advantages do accrue to this view of morality. Another possible advantage of divine command theory is that it provides an objective metaphysical foundation for mortality. For those committed to the existence of objective moral truths, such truths seem to fit well within a theistic framework. That is, if the origin of the universe is a personal moral being, then the existence of objective moral truths are at home, so to speak, in the universe. By contrast, if the origin of the universe is non-moral, then the existence of such truth becomes philosophically perplexing, because it is unclear how moral properties can come into existence via non-moral origins. Given the metaphysical insight that, the resulting claim is that out of the non-moral, nothing moral comes. Objective moral properties stick out due to a lack of naturalness of fit in an entirely naturalistic universe. This perspective assumes that objective moral properties exist, which is of course highly controversial.

FORCE THEORY

The theory is based on the well-accepted maxim of survival of the fittest. There is always a natural struggle for existence by fighting all adversaries. Think about where you live – the country, the state, the province or county. What do you know about where it came from? There are several different ways that countries and states can take their shape and define their borders. Sometimes this is done peacefully or naturally when a group of people decide to work together to make a society function. More often, though, it is done through the use of force when one group becomes dominant over the others.

This process of establishing a new state or government through the use of force is what’s known as **force theory**, which is also sometimes referred to as *conquest theory.* Force theory occurs when a person or a group of people take control of an area, such as a state, and make everyone in that area follow their rules and beliefs. For example, if you were to successfully invade Canada and make everyone in the country abandon their old ways and adopt my new rules, it would be a demonstration of force theory.

Although force theory is the way that most western countries have been formed, it is not the only way. An alternative to force theory is what is known as **social contrast theory**, which is when a group of people living in the same area agree to follow certain rules and expectations in order for their society to remain stable.