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*QUESTION.*

1. How can a Lebanese retain or lose his or her newly acquired Nigerian citizenship?
2. Social contract theory explains the evolution of states; what other theories explain the same, and their strengths?

Means of Retaining or Losing a newly acquired Nigerian citizenship.

Citizenship is the legal right of belonging to a particular country or countries, as in the case of dual citizenship, which is the legal right of being a citizen in two or more countries. In the Nigerian constitution, three ways of acquiring citizenship are spelled out by the Nationality law and these are: Birth, Naturalization and Registration.

An individual is eligible for Nigerian citizenship by birth if he is born in the territory of Nigeria and/or has at least a parent or grandparent that is Nigerian. To be eligible for citizenship by registration, a Lebanese individual should be married to a Nigerian or his/her grandparents are Nigerians and he/she has grown to an approved age. The last option for the Lebanese individual who cannot acquire Nigerian citizenship either by birth or registration is naturalization which involves the individual to have lived in Nigeria for a period of fifteen years and to be of full age and capacity, having being of good character.

If a Lebanese individual has acquired citizenship through one of these means, then retaining it would be something the individual should importantly do. In order for one to retain his or her citizenship, he or she should perform the following acts:

1. Act in accordance with the provisions of the constitution
2. Maintain citizenship with Nigeria and at most one other country due to the fact that Nigeria allows for dual citizenship only if you are a citizen by birth; but if one is a citizen by registration or naturalization, one would have to renounce his or her Nigerian citizenship once he or she acquires the citizenship of another country.
3. Avoid being sentenced to prison, especially in the case of a naturalized citizen who has not resided in Nigeria for seven years.
4. Obeying the law and the upholders of the law, i.e. police officers, soldiers, governors, custom officers etc.

But the way one acquires and retains a citizenship of a country, is the same way one can lose the newly acquired citizenship.

So, if a Lebanese individual were to acquire a Nigerian citizenship, he could and would lose it as well as all the rights and benefits that Nigerian citizens enjoy if he were to perform/commit the following act:

A.)Committing an act of treason or an attempt to overthrow the government by force

B.)Being convicted by a court of law or tribunal; ***See section 30 subsection 2 of the 1999 constitution***

C.) Such person has traded or assisted the enemy of Nigeria during the time of war with the intent to cause damage to the interest of Nigeria; ***See section 30 subsection 2B of the 1999 constitution***

D.) Pledging allegiance or loyalty to another country by joining the armed forces of the other country or accepting jobs in the other country where an oath of allegiance or other forms of declaration of allegiance is required

E.) The citizenship of an individual whose act and conduct in general has been confirmed to be inconsistent with the provisions of the constitution would be relinquished/deprived.

**It is important to note that these acts are liable to an individual who is not a citizen of Nigeria by birth, thus the use of a Lebanese individual.**

**THEORIES EXPLAINING THE EVOLUTION OF**

 **STATES**

The main theory explaining the evolution of states is social contract theory. However there are other theories explaining the evolution of states and they would be discussed, as well as their strengths.

Firstly, under *Social contract Theory,* government is a kind is contract in which those in rule or government have a responsibility towards those being governed, who in turn respect the power of the governing individuals. Other theories explaining evolution of states include:

A.)Evolutionary Theory: According to *Evolutionary theory,* government originates from a family or clan-bound structure, which can explain the formation of the world’s first political structures. These earliest and very loosely formed governments were the result of a shift from hunter-gatherer societies to more settled agricultural societies. As families joined to form clans and clans joined to form villages, the need for leaders and a central organizational structure developed. These first states developed monarchies, with rule based on membership in a ruling family. In modern times, some governments continue to be led by members of a family like in the case of England, or Saudi Arabia, where the king has been descended from the *Al Sa’ud* family since 1744

B.) Force Theory: The *Force Theory* is the idea that government originates from taking control of the state by force and is often found in a dictatorship. Historically, this has been achieved in some cases through forcible invasion when 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; and also during a revolution or a coup ( the overthrow of an established government, where the dictator is usually a military figure). In some cases, governments created by force take on some characteristics of monarchy, in which government power is held by members of the dictator’s family. Examples are the Assad regime of Syria and the Kim regime of North Korea. The strength and key point in this theory lies in dictatorship and/or forceful rule.

C.) Divine Right Theory: With the *Divine Right Theory,* government and states originates with power vested in an individual by God or gods. Generally, monarchs lead governments of this type. This theory was followed in ancient times, including by the ancient Egyptians and Maya. The idea of Divine right then experienced a resurgence in Western Europe in the 16th to the 18th centuries, when King James I of England, several French monarchs and other leaders asserted that their power came directly from God and therefore could not be challenged. Russian Czars such as Peter the Great believed that their autocratic rule was God-given, and they used their rule to wage war, gain territory and impose taxation on their subjects. The strength and key point in this theory lies in the God given power to rule.