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Course; Citizenship and the state

1. How can a lebanese retain or lose his newly acquired Nigerian citizenship.

First of all, we must establish the fact that citizenship can be acquired through several means namely;

\* BY DESCENT: A child, at least one of whose parents is a citizen of Nigeria, regardless of the child's country of birth is automatically a citizen of Nigeria.

\* REGISTRATION: The following persons are eligible to become citizens through registration; A foreign woman who marries a citizen of Nigeria, a person who is of adult age (17), born outside Nigeria, any of whose grandparents is or was a citizen of Nigeria and a foreign child adopted by Nigerian parents.

\* BY NATURALIZATION: Nigerian citizenship may be acquired upon fulfillment of the following conditions; The person is of full age (17), has resided in Nigeria for at least 15 years, is of good character, plans to remain in Nigeria, is familiar with Nigerian language and customs, has a viable means of support, and has renounced previous citizenship.

Any Lebanese who acquires citizenship by any of the following means might lose his/her newly acquired citizenship due to any of the following reasons;

A). IMPRISONEMENT; The President may deprive a person, other than a person who is a citizen of Nigeria by birth or by registration, of his citizenship, if he is satisfied that such a person has, within a period of seven years after becoming naturalized, been sentenced to imprisonment for a term of not less than three years.

B). DISLOYALTY; The President shall deprive a person, other than a person who is citizen of Nigeria by birth, of his citizenship, if he is satisfied from the records of proceedings of a court of law or other tribunal or after due inquiry in accordance with regulations made by him, that the person has shown himself by act or speech to be disloyal towards the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

C). SPYING DURING WAR; The President shall deprive a person, other than a person who is citizen of Nigeria by birth, of his citizenship, if he is satisfied from the records of proceedings of a court of law or other tribunal or after due inquiry in accordance with regulations made by him, that the person 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 of Nigeria in that war, or unlawfully communicated with such enemy to the detriment of or with intent to cause damage to the interest of Nigeria.

2. THEORIES THAT EXPLAIN THE EVOLUTION OF STATES AND THEIR STRENGTHS

1. The Force Theory;

According to this theory, the state is the result of superior physical forces; it originates in the subjugation of weaker by stronger. It is said that the state is the result of aggression and the saying that 'war begot the king' is offered as the historical explanation regarding the origin of the state. Thus through the process of conquest and domination, the institution of kingship came to be established. A state was formed when the leader of a victorious tribe, with his handful of warriors, secured an undisputed control over a definite territory of a considerable size. That led to creation of a state. According to Lcacock " The beginning of the state are to be sought in the capture and enslavement of man by man, in the conquest and subjugation of weaker tribes and generally in the self-seeking domination acquired by superior physical force "

History of the Force Theory

The Church Fathers gave indirect prominence to this theory in their controversy with the Kings of Europe regarding their supremacy. They tried to discredit the state by saying that it was the result of brute force and the Kings were force personified. The Individualist School of thought gives it importance by the application of the principle of the 'survival of the fittest' to human society. The theory of force found an all-out support at the hands of the German philosophers like Hegel, Bernhardi and Triestchki. Triestchki, ‘State is power: it is sin for a state to be weak State is the public power of offence and defence’.

Merits of the Force Theory

In so far as this theory explains the origin and development of the state, it contains a considerable amount of truth because war and conquest have gone a long way in building of states in all ages. The theory brings to the forefront the fact that 'might' or force is indispensable to the state and without it a state can neither exist nor function.

2. The Divine Right Theory

Divine Theory of Origin Of State, though one of the earliest, has a simple explanation to offer. It is a theory of political authority and not a theory of the origin of the State. The State, its advocates maintain, 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 them. The ruler was a divinely appointed agent and he was responsible for his actions to God alone. As the ruler was the deputy of God, obedience to him was held to be a religious duty and resistance a sin. The advocates of the Divine Origin Theory, in this way, placed the ruler above the people as well as law. Nothing on earth could limit his will and restrict his power. His word was law and his actions were always just and benevolent. To complain against the authority of the ruler and to characteristic his actions as unjust was a sin for which there was divine punishment.

STRENGTHS OF THE THEORY OF DIVINE ORIGIN

The theory of the Divine Origin of the State is as old as Political Science itself. There is sufficient evidence to prove now that early States were based on this conception and all political authority was connected with certain unseen powers. The earliest ruler was a combination of 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 . Religion and politics were so inextricably mixed up in the primitive society that not a hazy line of demarcation Could be drawn between the two.