Theory of Citizenship

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Meaning of Citizenship

Concept of citizenship is highly contextual theory in political science.

The word citizen means resident of a city who enjoys certain privileges of such residence.

In political theory word citizen derived Latin word civics, and civics is in wide meaning enjoys all rights and privileges.

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In fact in civics word has wider meaning as a citizen who is a member of a state who enjoys all rights and privileges and also he discharges their duties & obligations for the state.

Development of citizenship

Ancient Time-

Notion of citizenship narrow & Change in course of the according to Aristotle, "A citizen who has the power to take part in deliberative or judicial administration is said to particular citizen of state and thus according to Aristotle – the idea of citizenship is aristocratic".

Feudal Time

Citizenship confined to the privilege few as political Leadership, high officers & high place of honor. Thus citizenship in feudal time were monopolized and for privileged and for privileged class.

Modern Time

Citizenship is not direct participant in administration but allegiance to the state. allegiance means the respect for the basic ideals of the state &defend in hours of crisis and discharges certain duties toward the state.

Ways to get citizenship

Citizenship by Birth-

- If one or both of a person's parents are citizen of a given state, than the person may have the right to be a citizen of that state as well.
- Formerly this might only have applied through the paternal line but sex equality became common, since the late twentieth century. Country, one are both of whose parents are citizens of the country is also a citizen.

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Born within a country-some people are automatically citizens of a the country in which they born. This form of citizenship originated in England, where those who were born within the realm were subject of monarch and is common in common law of countries.

Citizenship by marriage- many countries fasttrack naturalization based on the marriage of a person to a citizen.

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Citizenship by Naturalization- States normally grant citizenship to people who have entered the country legally and been granted permit to stay or been granted political asylum, and also lived there for a specified period.

Citizenship by Investment or Economic Citizenship- Wealthy people invest money in property or businesses, buy government bonds or simply donate cash directly in exchange for citizenship and a passport.

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Citizenship by Excluded Categories- In the past there have been exclusions on entitlement to citizenship on ground such as skin color, ethnicity, sex, and free status(not being a slave) most of this exclusions no longer apply in most places moderns examples include some Arab countries which rarely grant citizenship to non- muslims e.g. Qatar is known for granting citizenship to foreign athletes, but they all have to profess the Islamic faith in order to receive citizenship. The United States grants citizenship to those born as a result of reproductive technologies and internationally adopted children born after February 1983.

Loss of Citizenship

Renunciation-is a voluntary act by which a person after acquiring the citizenship of another country gives up his nation's citizenship.

Termination- Takes place by operation of law. When citizen voluntarily acquires the citizenship of another county. He automatically ceases to be his citizenship.

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Deprivation- Is a compulsory termination of the citizenship of any country obtained by registration or naturalization. The citizenship is deprived on the basis of an order of the government of his country. In cases involving acquisition of citizenship by fraud, false representation and concealment of material fact or being disloyal to the constitution etc.

Conclusion

Citizenship is the blessing for a person. An alien have no right to claim their rights. So it is very strong power of an individual to make him a citizen and a good citizenship is the basis of successful democracy.