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CITIZENSHIP AND GLOBALIZATION IN CONTEXT OF NEW DIMENSIONS

KANWAL MARWAHA
RESEARCH SCHOLAR OF LAW
DEPARTMENT OF LAWS
PANJAB UNIVERSITY
CHANDIGARH

ABSTRACT

Global protest activity is on the rise. The world of the global citizen is a pluralistic world. It celebrates the diversity of the earth's people and cultures. However, it is not a relativist world. It recognizes that there are values that cut across religion and culture and help bind us together as a species. Global citizens seek to articulate such common values, promote their adoption. In dozens of other sites brought activists together from around the world and localized global issues in unprecedented ways. We examine global cities as active political, social, environmental or economic agents in an interdependent world in which new institution forms beyond nations are beginning to emerge.

KEYWORDS

global citizenship, globalisation, new dimensions, concept of citizenship, multiple citizenship.

INTRODUCTION

Conservatives forget that citizenship is more than a thing to withhold from immigrants. Progressives forget its more than a set of rights.

Eric Liu, American Writer, available at :Brainey quotes.com (Visited on April 4, 2017)

Globalisation is not something that has happened overnight.¹ It is an ongoing process that by trial and error is a part of human development, yet the last few decades have seen acceleration of changes in the global relations. These changes are certainly partially in the global trade. The global communication is much easier today as a large number of countries are used to be poor have developed into centres of economic growth and millions of people have been lifted out of poverty. Citizens feelings of uncertainty about the world around them which they seem unable to influence are compensated by relative security within their own small circle. In the words of Paul Scheffer² :

What is needed is a discourse that brings the concept of the inward-looking citizen and that of the global citizen together.

National Committee for International Cooperation and Sustainable Development (NCDO) considers it its responsibility to raise awareness amongst citizens of the growing connection and mutual dependency between people across the globe as well as to make them aware of the opportunities they have to help tackle global issues. In other words National Committee for International Cooperation and Sustainable Development (NCDO) aims to advance the global dimension of citizenship in the world. The citizenship not only refers to the legal relationship between citizen and state, but it comprises rights and obligations and various forms of social participations. The legal relationship between citizen and state is sometimes referred as the formal dimension of citizenship. In ancient Greece, according to Aristotle³ -

Active participation in the political debates are also part of citizenship.⁴

States are ill equipped to meet the challenges of a globalised world. The concept of citizenship with its rights and obligations including the allegiance owed is too narrowly defined to exist only between individuals and a state. Today, people identify with and pay allegiance to many organisations beyond the state. Citizenship could be extended further and be possible between individuals and quasi- governmental organisations as well as non-governmental organisations such as churches, clubs, interest groups, functional organisations and profit firms.

The globalisation of economic activities undermines many areas in which governments were traditionally active. At the same time, governments are in many ways as important as they were throughout the 20th century. A large share of Growth Net Profit (GNP) is politically allocated mainly through the government's redistribution. It has been found that privatisation needs governmental re-regulation, globalisation depends on rules enforced by governments and the development of transition economies urgently requires a well-functioning government.⁵

HISTORY OF CITIZENSHIP

The existing concepts of citizenship was devised in the 19th century in the wake of the French Revolution. Citizens are the subjects of one and only one nation. The concept remained unchanged in the 20th century with partly catastrophic consequences. Nations are responsible for the carnage of the First and Second World War and have forced their citizens to engage in other unwanted wars such as Vietnam. The proposals for a new concept of citizenship designed to be more adequate for the public sphere in a globalised economy and society. The new concept is called as Citizenship, Organisational and Marginal (COM) will at first sight appear rather unorthodox if not revolutionary compared to today's citizenship. It will certainly meet with strong opposition from the politicians in power as well as marketers. But the new concept of citizenship contains several features which in one form or other already exist in reality. Citizenship is Organisational in the sense that individuals may become citizens not only of states but also of other organisations such as non-governmental institutions, non-profit organisations and even profit- oriented firms. Citizenship is Marginal as it can be held temporarily may be multiple and even partial i.e. restricted to some functions only. The Citizenship, Organisational, Marginal (COM) in terms of voluntary contracts between individuals and organisations and the interaction extending to include all dimensions. The advantages of Citizenship, Organisational, Marginal (COM) compared to the existing form of citizenship. In particular the more adequate alignment of primary identification and citizenship and the induced increase in efficiency due to strengthening competition are pointed out.

CONCEPT OF CITIZENSHIP

The concept of citizenship goes back to the city-states of ancient Greece. Its modern meaning has been defined as follows by the Encyclopaedia Britannica⁶:
 Citizenship is a relationship between an individual and a state in which an individual owes allegiance to that state and is in turn entitled to its protection.

Three aspects of this definition have to be noted⁷:

- (a) The actors involved are the individuals (the citizens) and the state.
- (b) The citizens have both rights and obligations. The rights refer to :

¹ Paul Scheffer, "Globalisation: Dimensions & impacts, Global Studies, Vol.1 (IJOPEC Publication), available at: www.books. google.co.in.

² Ibid

³ Aristotle, Theory of Citizenship and Slavery, available at : www.yourarticlelibrary.com

⁴ Id. page 2

⁵ David Marshal, Citizenship and Social Class Cambridge University Press, 1950.

⁶ Ralf Dahrendorf, The Changing quality of Citizenship in the condition of citizenship, edited, Newbury Park, C.A. Sage, 1994.

⁷ Ibid

- (i) The civil sphere i.e. the citizens are protected against the state by the rule of law or Rechtsstaat and protected when they are abroad and they may take residence within the borders of their state.
- (ii) The political sphere i.e. the citizens have the right to vote and to hold public office.
- (iii) The social sphere i.e. the citizens are protected against economic hardship within the welfare state.
- (c) The relationship between an individual and the state goes beyond an exchange of taxes for public services. Rather the citizen owes allegiance to the state. The citizens are expected to be public spirited and to exhibit civic virtue. The relationship is thus partly non-functional and resorts to the intrinsic motivation of the citizens and to the community of people who share loyalty and identity. Most of the individuals are citizens of one nation. Only exceptionally it is possible to be a citizen of more than one nation but most of the governments strongly discourage or even forbid dual citizenship. Some people feel that they are citizens of the world but this is no more than a feeling rather having no legal identity.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF CITIZENSHIP AVAILABLE AROUND THE WORLD

1. THE TEMPORARY CITIZENSHIP

An individual could choose for a predetermined period to become a citizen of a particular nation because he or she is working and living in the respective country for a specified period.⁸ During that time his or her main preoccupation is with the new country but thereafter it is of little interest. Therefore, there is little sense in taking up the new citizenship for good which is the only possibility existing today.

2. THE MULTIPLE CITIZENSHIP

For persons simultaneously working and living in various countries a good solution might be to split up the citizenship into various parts. If the time and intensity of being in one country is approximately the same as in the other the split might be fifty-fifty. But if the person mainly lives or works in one country and occasionally present in the other country, does not mean that he or she have a multiple citizenship. As per the service conducted by the researchers 80% of citizens are having one citizenship and 20% are having multiple citizenship.

3. THE PARTIAL CITIZENSHIP

An individual might be a citizen of a country with respect to one particular function while being a citizen of another country with respect to other functions.

4. THE CITIZENSHIP IN VARIOUS TYPES OF ORGANISATIONS

A person need not be a citizen of a nation, but might be a citizen of another organisation. The following possibilities are conceivable⁹:

(a) Levels of Government

Citizenship might refer to the level of the nation which is the rule but also to a lower level such as the region, province or commune the latter being the case in Switzerland or to a higher level such as the European Union.

(b) Governmental Sub-Organisations

Individuals might choose to become a citizen of only part of a government such as the diplomatic service the military or the social security administration.

(c) Quasi-Governmental Organisations

There are many organisations close to the public sector in which individuals might become citizens. Universities are such an example. Indeed the institution of Universitätsbürger university citizen has commonly been used in the German-speaking academic system.

(d) The Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) Citizenship in the following types of organisations can well be envisaged such as –

i) Churches e.g. the Catholic Church whose high functionaries have indeed a citizenship of their own provided by the Vatican State.

ii) Clubs, e.g. the Rotary Club the Boy Scouts or even sport clubs such as Manchester United or FC Barcelona.

iii) Interest Groups, e.g. trade unions or action groups, such as the World Wildlife Fund the Medicines sans Frontiers or the Red Cross.

iv) Functional Organisations, e.g. the Internet Cooperation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) which is a virtual centre of the Internet providing web addresses and the Root Server establishing connections between the different web sites. This dimension of citizenship relates directly to the concept of Functional, Overlapping, Competing Jurisdictions.

v) Profit-Oriented Firms (POF) Citizens of firms have a special relationship, which goes beyond just being a customer or employee. To be a citizen of a firm is not the same as being a shareholder on the one side and being a stakeholder on the other side.

vi) The term corporate citizenship to indicate when employees have an intrinsically motivated relationship with their firm. The concept has been generalised to organisational citizenship. It includes such behaviour as co-operation, supporting superiors and co-workers, enhancing the reputation of the organisation, suggesting improvements as well as abstaining from harming the organisation e.g. by anti-social, counterproductive deviant and maladaptive behaviour. There is indeed a special psychological contract between the employers and employees in the organisation going beyond short-term egoistic motives. Individuals might choose to establish citizenship with a national firm particularly one in which they work themselves or with an international firm.

NEW DIMENSIONS OF CITIZENSHIP

1. GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP IS LESS DEFINED BY LEGAL SANCTION¹⁰

Since there is no global bureaucracy to give sanction and protect global citizens and despite intriguing models suggested by the European Union (EU) global citizenship remains the purview of individuals to live, work and play within trans-national norms and status that defy national boundaries and sovereignty. Associational status in this realm does double duty. It serves to explain a unique characteristic of global citizenship while it also expresses that particular lighthouse of post-modernity known as lifestyle politics so far comes closest to explaining this relationship between global citizenry and lifestyle politics as more sociological in composition. Rather than a technical definition of a citizen on his or her relationship to the state Steenbergen suggests that¹¹:

The global citizen represents a more wholistic version. you choose where you work, live or play, and therefore are not tied down to your land of birth.

The greater number of choices offered by modern life from consumer products to politics lies at the root of lifestyle politics. As Falk put it in global citizenship there is the rudimentary institutional construction of arenas and allegiance what many persons are really identifying with as no longer bounded by or centred upon the formal relationship that an individual has to his or her own territorial society as embodied in the form of a state. Traditional citizenship is being challenged and remoulded by the important activism associated with this trans-national political and social evolution. Traditional ties between citizen and the state are withering, and are replaced by more fragmented loyalties that explain lifestyle politics. Notions of ties between citizen and state that arose in the aftermath of the American and French Revolution and the creation of the modern state.

2. GLOBAL CITIZENS EXIST A COMMON THREAD TO THEIR EMERGENCE IS THEIR BASE IN GRASSROOTS ACTIVISM

The global citizens yet many of these categories are best summarized by their emergence despite a lack of any global governing body. It is as if they have spontaneously erupted of their own volition. Falk identified five categories of global citizens which he named as¹²:

- Global reformers
- Elite global business people
 - Global environmental managers
 - Politically conscious regionalists
- Trans-national activists

⁸ Dennis C. Mueller, "Different Degrees of Citizenship, Oxford University, Press, New York, 1996.

⁹ Andrew Dobson, "Citizenship and the Environment, Oxford University Press, available at : www.oxfodscholarship.com

¹⁰ New Dimensions of Citizenship, Fordham Law Review, Vol 75, Issue 5, available at : www.ir.lawnet.fordham.edu

¹¹ Bartran Steenbergen, "The condition of citizenship, available at : www.jura.uni.bielefeld.de

¹² Ibid

3. GLOBAL CITIZENS MAY REDEFINE TIES BETWEEN CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND GEOGRAPHY

The town hall meetings of New England and other regions of the United States seem increasingly supplanted by electronic spheres not limited by space and time. This heralds a potentially startling new mechanism in participatory democracy. If we return to the Spaniard living in Germany what can we say about the geography of community. An output of modernity is greater and greater choice placed upon the individual the social networks and systems that suited hundreds if not thousands of generations are breaking down in favour of personal choice and individual responsibility. No longer do we entirely rely on the social bulwarks of the past the family, the community, the nation. Life is continually being personalized.

4. THE RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS ACCORDED TO THE GLOBAL CITIZEN

Difference may exist on the cultural level but in bureaucracies, increasing favour is placed on uniformity. Efficiency and utilitarianism lie at the core of capitalism naturally a world that lives under its aegis replicates these tendencies. Postal agreements civil air travel and other inter-governmental agreements are but one small example of standardization that is increasingly moving into the arena of citizenship. The concern is raised that global citizenship may be closer to a consumer model than a legal one.

The lack of a world body puts the initiative upon global citizens themselves to create rights and obligations. Rights and obligations as they arose at the formation of nation-states e.g. the right to vote and obligation to serve in time of war are at the verge of being expanded. So new concepts that accord certain human rights which arose in the 20th century are increasingly being universalized across nations and governments. This is the result of many factors including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations in 1948 the aftermath of World War II and the Holocaust and growing sentiments towards legitimizing marginalized peoples e.g. pre-industrialized peoples found in the jungles of Brazil and Borneo. Couple this with growing awareness of our species impact on the environment and there is the rising feeling that citizen rights may extend to include the right to dignity and self-determination. If national citizenship does not foster these new rights then global citizenship seems more accessible to them.¹³

Like much of social change, changing scopes of modern citizenship tend to be played out in both large and minute spheres. Habermas tends to place global citizenship in a larger social context, arguing that nation-states can be central engines of citizenship but culture can also be a powerful spur. He regards the formation of the European citizen as a kind of natural epiphany of governmental conglomeration within the forces of globalization only remotely alluding to the corporate conglomeration that has been both the recipient and cause of worldwide economic expansion. Others including Iyer says¹⁴ :

Globalization and global citizens as direct descendants of global standardization which he notes for instance in the growing homogeneity of airports.

Standardization and modernity have worked together for the past few centuries. Ellul, Mumford and other scholars attack this as a form of oppression in the same vein that Barber saw the proliferation of carbon-copy fast-food chains around the globe. Why not a set of basic citizen rights followed the world over.

5. GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP MAY BE THE INDIRECT RESULT OF PAX AMERICANA

The 20th century, as well as the 21st may be a time dominated by the United States. America's domination of the World Trade Organisation, International Monetary Funds, World Bank and other global institutions creates feelings of imperialism among lesser nations. Cross national cooperation to counter American dominance may result in more global citizens. If economic, environmental, political and social factors push towards more global citizenry we must also within this camp consider the ramifications of the post cold war world or real politic.

In the corporate world conglomeration leads to larger and larger companies who merge to effectively work against other mega corporations. The evolution of the United States of Europe in theory if not in practice is in a similar vein a reaction to the dominating power of the United States. Other regional alliances may yet emerge. Within such trans-national ties may emerge greater acceptance of one another's citizens emulating the European model which Habermas and others so favour.

THE WORKING OF THE NEW CITIZENSHIP SYSTEM

Citizenship: Organisational and Marginal (COM) is based on voluntary contracts between the persons aspiring towards citizenship in a particular organisation and the organisation offering the possibility of citizenship. These contracts are necessarily incomplete because it is impossible to state all the contingencies the future might bring. The organisation expects a measure of citizenship behaviour from their members, where the members abstain from exploiting all short-term advantages. Rather, citizenship means that the members exhibit an intrinsically based motivation to support their organisation. The contract specifies the rules governing the relationship and the mutual obligations. This includes the taxes to be paid by the citizens in return for the public services rendered, as well as the political participation rights of the citizens e.g. the right to elect the organisation's directors and to initiate citizens initiatives and referenda. Political participation rights will be sought the more intensively by the citizens the larger is the pure public good part of the public activity provided by an organisation. It is to be expected that the most intensive participation will be sought in the case of governmental organisations as the very *raison d'être* of the state lies in the provision of public goods. But it is equally clear that it is not only governments which supply goods and services with public good characteristics but many other organisations also including profit-oriented firms. The contracts are also public in the sense that a citizen cannot contract for any individual service as would be possible on a market. Rather a citizen could participate in the consumption of the pure or impure public goods supplied by the organisation of which he or she is a member. Citizenship: Organisational and Marginal (COM) thus refers to goods where non-members can be excluded but where the consumption among the citizens has public good characteristics.¹⁵

DISADVANTAGES OF THE NEW CONCEPT OF CITIZENSHIP

Four major arguments may be raised against the new concept of citizenship.

i) Citizenship is not needed

It could be argued that the concept of citizenship is unnecessary because an individual can get all the services on the market by private contract. This argument does not hold as many of the goods provided by non-governmental organisations including profit-oriented firms have more or less strong public good characteristics for which the market does not function sufficiently well. Moreover citizenship entails more than just buying a good or a service. Citizens must be prepared to commit themselves to the organisation. They cannot behave in a purely selfish way and be solely extrinsically motivated. Rather they must be prepared to abstain from short-term opportunistic behaviour they must to some extent be intrinsically motivated. Only then will public activity of sufficient quantity and quality be forthcoming. The experience of the transition economies has made perfectly clear that such moral behaviour is required even when this does not seem to be the case at first sight.¹⁶

ii) The new concept of citizenship is too complicated

It might be argued that the transactions cost for the individuals would increase to too high levels when they could choose between many different suppliers of citizenship. It is certainly true that Citizenship: Organisational and Marginal (COM) enlarges the possibility set, and in this sense complicates the world. But the extended possibilities of choice just reflect a more complex globalised world. While Citizenship: Organisational and Marginal (COM) introduces some new evaluation and decision costs it should not be overlooked that the present monopolistic supply of citizenship also imposes costs and as has been argued here, these costs may be high and tend to rise sharply with increasing globalisation.

iii) The new system of citizenship is infeasible

It may be argued that the marginalisation of citizenship, and even more so the extension of citizenship to non-governmental organisations simply does not work. However, in many important respects, aspects of Citizenship: Organisational and Marginal (COM) are already in existence. Some examples are:

¹³ Taso G.Lagos, "Global Citizenship, towards a definition" available at: www.depts.washington.edu.

¹⁴ Pico Iyer, *The Global soul*, A.Knof, New York, 2000

¹⁵ Citizenship, "Stanford Encyclopedia" available at: www.plato.stanford.edu.

¹⁶ Id.page 13

- (a) Multiple national citizenship exists to a limited extent. But more importantly the citizens of federal states are in actual fact though not always legally already members of several governmental organisations.
- (b) In several countries, foreigners have voting rights on the local level. Thus, the citizens of an European nation have the right to vote in the local elections of another European country in which they reside. In this sense, multiple citizenship already exists.
- (c) Diplomats have an international status similar to a citizenship in the diplomatic world providing them with a number of goods with public good characteristics. A case is immunity, which could not be bought on the market.
- (d) The top persons in the Catholic Church the Pope, the Cardinals and other clerics active in the central administration have a citizenship of their own vested in the minute Vatican State.

The Citizenship: Organisational and Marginal (COM) would not require a sudden institutional change. It could be introduced in small steps. The first individuals who would probably take advantage of the new type of citizenship are the internationally very mobile managers, sports people, artists and academics. Persons satisfied with their present national citizenship would not have to take any action.

iv) **The new system of citizenship will be politically opposed**

Without any doubt, the politicians presently in charge will strongly reject Citizenship: Organisational and Marginal (COM) because it robs them of an important part of their monopoly power. The same holds for public officials who benefit from the fact that in many respects the citizens do not have any alternatives. For example what can a national citizen do if the public bureaucracy refuses to issue a passport? In many nations, recourse to courts is slow, costly in terms of time and money, or simply ineffective.

Citizenship: Organisational and Marginal (COM) will also be opposed by persons who as a matter of principle want to restrict the term citizen to the traditional meaning. It will certainly be difficult for many to modify such a time-honoured concept. Another group which will oppose Citizenship: Organisational and Marginal (COM) are the marketers, who want to improve the world by expanding the realm of the price system and pushing back the state whenever it's even remotely possible. Here the reverse approach is taken: non-market based allegiance and identification with the concept of citizenship is expanded to areas beyond the state including profit-oriented firms.

CONCLUSION

Citizenship with its rights and obligations can be marginalised and generalised. In addition to temporary, multiple and partial citizenship it makes sense to have citizenship in quasi-governmental and non-governmental organisations including churches, clubs, interest groups, functional organisations and profit-oriented firms. Indeed the notion of academic, corporate, organisational, industrial and functional citizenship can be observed in one form or another in reality. To extend citizenship to organisations beyond the state increases the choice set of individuals leading to better preference fulfilment and establishing more intensive competition between the many organisations able to provide public activities leading in turn to higher efficiency.

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