

Bases of citizenship – strengthening or weakening?

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13.2.2012, 11.00 – 11.30 hour lecture

11.30 – 12.00 discussion

1 CITIZENSHIP

Citizenship = membership in a particular political configuration (most often: a state). It includes a number of rights and duties. Primarily these rights and duties are political: one has rights to take part in decision-making in a given political unit.

In the history the notion of citizenship has been broadened to include new groups like poor, women and so on.

Elements of citizenship / different citizenships:

- Political citizenship = political rights and duties.
- Cultural citizenship = collective identity, shared cultural traits, education.
- Economic citizenship = rights and duties as employees, employers, consumers.
- Social citizenship = rights and duties in realms of social policy.

Citizenship is not based solely on certain values or legal norms it is also based on historical institutions, economic achievements and so on.

For instance, at present citizenship is often linked with certain nation-states but the connection between a certain state and its people is not necessity. In fact, state as a formal political organisation is independent of any “natural” human group like “people” / “nation”. Herein lays the evolutionary importance of the state as a form of political order.

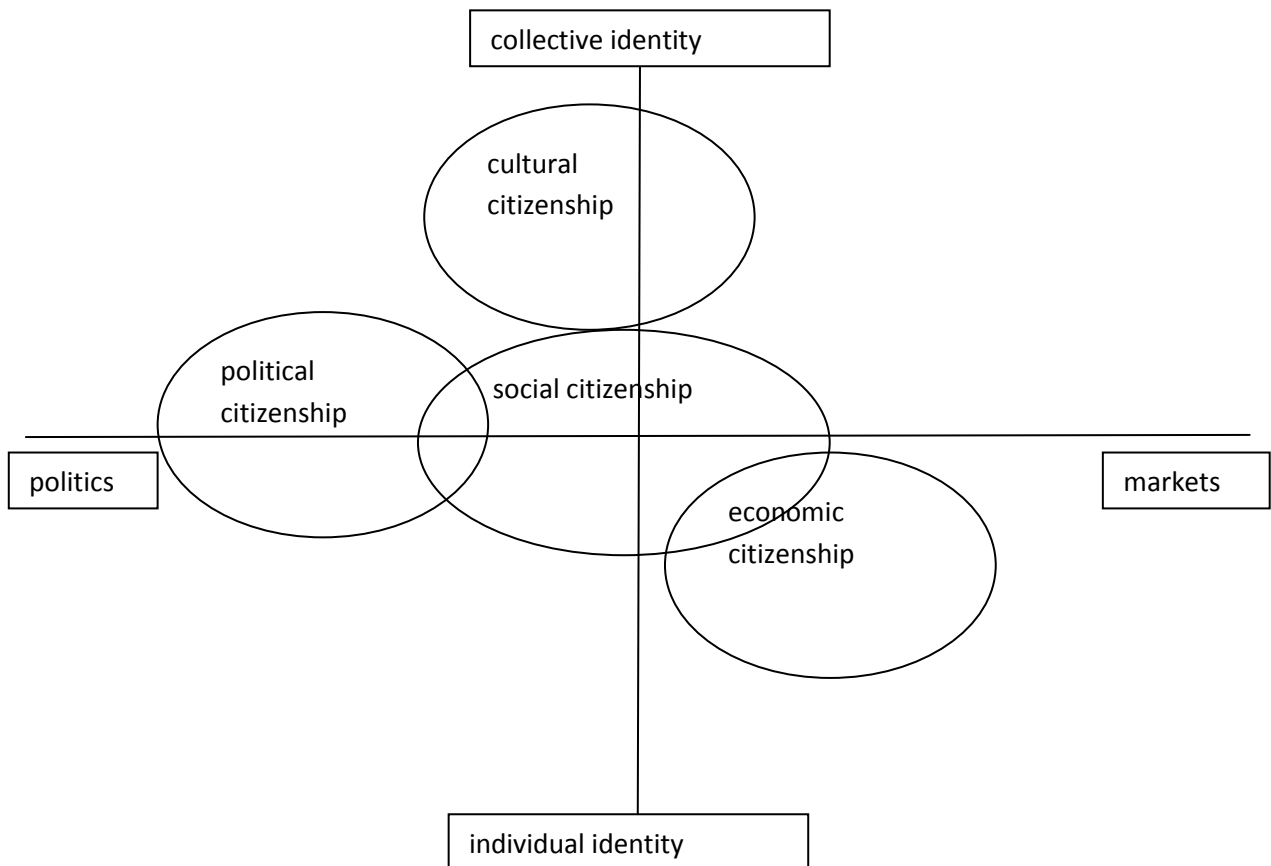


FIGURE 1. Elements of citizenship in politico-economic configurations

2 SOCIETAL FUNCTIONS / ROLES / CLASSES AND CITIZENSHIP

Changing socio-economic functions affect bases of diverse elements of citizenship. Individuals and groups may function as

- political citizens
- employees
- employers
- consumers
- investors
- members of diverse social groups

Present tendencies that erode the classical political citizenship:

1. Strengthening functions of consumers and investors.
2. Attempts to solve political problems via actions in markets (partial strengthening of economic citizenship).

3. Globalisation (immigration, global system of production and consumption) raises the question about global citizenship and rights and duties attached to it. Global citizenship would transform national citizenships into much more open sets of rights and duties.

3 DISCUSSION IN SMALL GROUPS

- To what degree the above described developments have taken place in diverse nation states?
- How would you assess the pros and cons of realised developments?
- What could or should be done in the present situation in relation to changing functions of citizenship?
- Other comments or questions

LITERATURE

Bellamy, Richard 2008. *Citizenship. A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Cabrera, Luis 2010. *The Practice of Global Citizenship*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Reich, Robert B. 2007. *Supercapitalism. The Transformation of Business, Democracy and Everyday Life*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.

DELETIONS

- see also previous Laurea idea about citizen-employee, employee-entrepreneur etc. these are more concrete categories and in this sense more easier to approach and comprehend

-> eroding / weakening of political citizenship and strengthening of functions of employees, consumers and investors

-> empirical evidence for this? see Robert Reich's book, world values survey, Nelli searches, web sites on democracy / citizenship etc.

Abstract

Lecture Bases of citizenship – strengthening or weakening? deals with changing roles and functions of citizenship in the present. In the beginning of the lecture a multi-dimensional definition of citizenship is given. Secondly, it is examined in what ways socio-economic changes have altered diverse elements of citizenship. It is argued that strengthened societal functions of wage work, consumption and investments have somewhat weakened political citizenship. The lecture is finished by general discussion concerning the weakening bases of political citizenship and its potential remedies.