

Reading/Discussion Questions for September 10

17.042 Citizenship and Pluralism

1. What, according to Marshall, are the different dimensions of citizenship? In what order did they develop? Have they been prioritized in any particular way? How should they be prioritized?
2. What has been the impact of citizenship on social class inequalities? Is equal citizenship consistent with the inequalities of social class?
3. Marshall discusses the development of civil, political, and social *rights* of citizenship. What, if any, are the *duties* of citizenship?
4. In Brubaker's view, what has been the relationship between conceptions of nationhood and the development of citizenship in France and Germany?
5. Why is the principle of territorial closure (i.e. that noncitizens be excluded or expelled from the territory) so vital to the modern state? What interests are served by sustaining domestic closure against noncitizens?
6. Every state ascribes citizenship to certain persons at birth. Brubaker points out that the ascription of citizenship is a striking exception to the secular trend away from ascribed statuses. Why historically has citizenship been ascribed at birth? Is the ascription of citizenship desirable? Some have suggested that citizenship should only be founded on individual consent. Is this possible? Desirable?
7. Is there any real value to citizenship? In his conclusion, Brubaker points out that noncitizens in many western societies enjoy civil and social rights comparable to those of citizens. So why should they want to naturalize?
8. What conditions, in Anderson's view, set the stage for the emergence of the modern nation?
9. How can we explain the attachment people feel for their nation? How is it that nations have been able to successfully demand colossal sacrifices from its members?
10. How should we conceive of the relationship between citizenship and national identity? Does citizenship require a homogenous nation?
11. Smith suggests that political leaders and activists deploy three different kinds of stories of "peoplehood" to inspire communal trust and allegiance: what he calls economic, political power, and constitutive stories. When are constitutive stories, such as appeals to particular racial or religious identities, likely to become more prominent?
12. Do you agree with Smith that the articulation of particularistic constitutive stories is an inevitable part of our political landscape? How can we ensure that such stories will not lead to unjust, exclusionary citizenship policies?

General:

How does each of this week's readings conceive of citizenship? What are the elements of citizenship? Why is it important? How do the different authors conceive of the relationship between citizenship and social class, between citizenship and nationality, and between citizenship and race?