

PLS 140 Intro to Comparative Politics

Week 3
Ethnic and national identities

Dr. H el ene Thibault
Fall 2016

Imagined communities

- People within the borders feel a sort of communion with each others even though they have not met, that is why it is imagined rather than absolute.
 - > Ex: Zhuz? Other Kazakhs?

National identity

- ◉ An institution that binds people together through common political aspirations.
- ◉ A sense of belonging to a Nation.
- ◉ Often but not always derived from an ethnic identity.
 - > Ex: “Ethnic” Russians in KZ.
- ◉ Can create **nationalism**: a pride in one’s people and the aspiration to have their own political sovereignty.

National identity

- Creation of national identities connected to the process of State formation:
 - > Colonization
 - > Modernization (development of capitalism + education systems = common identity).

James Scott 1

- Authorities initially did not “understand” the societies they governed.
- They lacked local knowledge and the people were not necessarily interested in being controlled.
- State’s endeavours to consolidate group and national identities in an attempt to render populations more legible.
- Attempt to homogenize and unify by attributing surnames to the population: cases of England, Canada, USA.

The case of Dutch surnames

In 1811, France under Napoleon occupied the Netherlands. They started having a census for the purpose of taxation, and forced everyone to have a family name.

- Zondervan (**without a surname**)
- Suikerbuik (Sugarbelly)
- Spring in t Veld (**Jump in the Field**)
- Uiekruier (Onion-crier)
- Naaktgeboren (Born naked)
- Poepjes (Little shit)
- Schooier (Beggar)
- Zonderkop (without a head)
- Rotmensen (Rotten people)
- Zeldenthuis (**Rarely at home**)
- Borst (breast)
- Piest (to urinate)
- Dick (penis)

James Scott 2

- Modern state seeks to develop a modern legal system, regime of property rights, taxation system, mode of military conscription, etc.
- Intentions are not always “bad”.
 - > Ex: education and healthcare systems.

Citizenship

- An individual's relation to the State.
- Intimates a sense of civic duty.
 - > Mutual responsibilities.
 - > Ex: Canadians in Lebanon in 2006. 15,000 rescued → 94 million dollars.
- Political and more easily changed.
- The basis for patriotism: pride in one's State and citizenship.

Citizenship

- It establishes who has membership—with all the rights and privileges—and who is a foreigner, the ‘other’ who is excluded.
- An instrument of social enclosure that enables states to control the entry of ‘undesirables’ that would deplete state resources.

How do you get a citizenship?

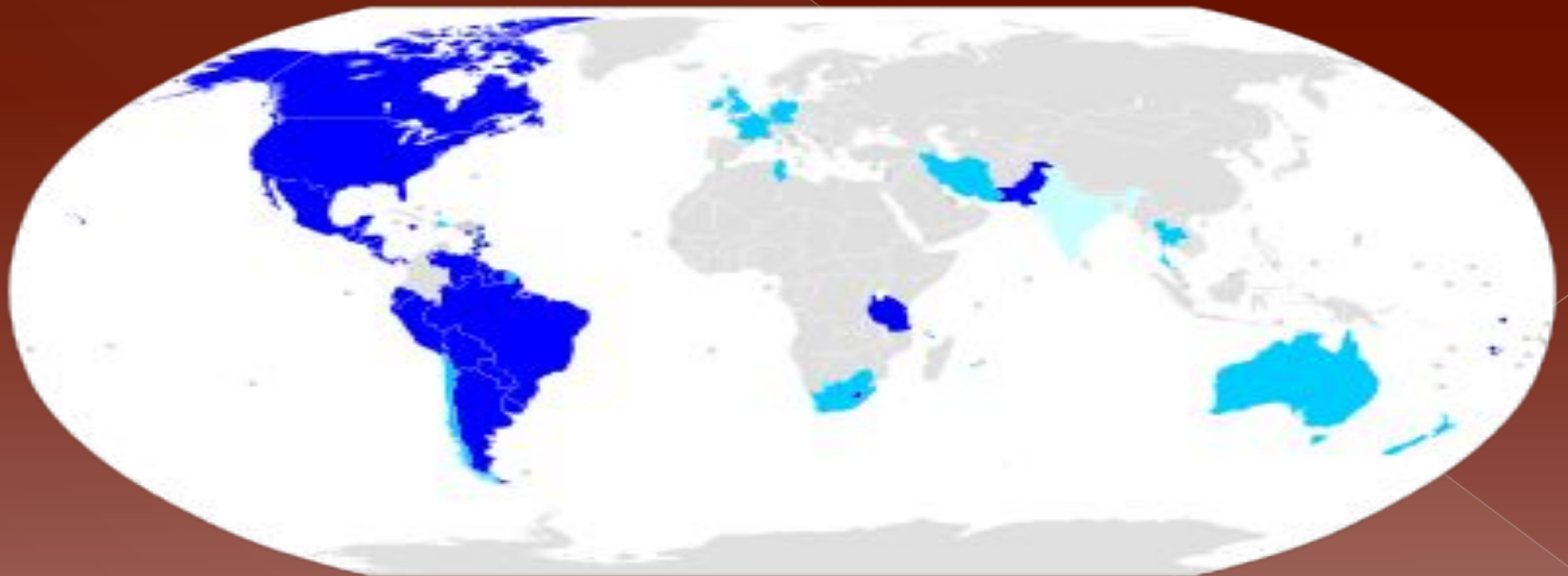
***Jus sanguinis* (right of blood)**

- Citizenship is not determined by place of birth but by having one or both parents who are citizens of the state.
- Children at birth may automatically be citizens if their parents have state citizenship or national identities of ethnic, cultural, or other origins.
- Ex: Italy, Germany, Japan, Israel, Ukraine, Greece, etc.

How do you get a citizenship?

***Jus soli* (right of soil)**

- Right of anyone born in the territory of a state to nationality or citizenship.
- Birth tourism?



How do you get a citizenship?

- You immigrate and apply!
- Some are harder to get than others:
 - Ex: Japan, Germany, Switzerland, Austria.

Revoking a citizenship?

- A process called "denaturalization."
- Applies almost only to "naturalized" citizens.
- Very controversial measure.

Revocation in Canada

- Since 2015 The Ministry of citizenship no longer needs the approval of the Federal Court.
- 1- false representation;
- 2- fraud; or
- 3- knowingly concealing material circumstances.

For citizens of two or more countries:

- 4- was convicted of terrorism, high treason, treason, or spying offences, depending on the sentence received; or
- 5- served as a member of an armed force of a country or as a member of an organized armed group and that country or group was engaged in armed conflict with Canada.

Trudeau government reversed the law in 2016.