
All readers in the field of citizenship, migration and refugees around the world are familiar with the high and constant quality of Stephen Castles’ work for about 3 decades. They will not be surprised with this book. Written with Alastair Davidson, Citizenship and Migration addresses most of the key issues related to migration, citizenship and globalization in the unstable era we are living in. It does so as is usual with Castles in a very clear way with a brilliant sense of enjoyable presentation.

The authors argue forcefully that basing citizenship on singular and individual membership in a nation-state is no longer adequate in contemporary world since the nation-state model is being seriously challenged. New forms of citizenship are needed that take into account the fact that a growing number of people actually being simultaneously to more than one political community.

Even if the book mainly discusses the issue of democratic belonging for immigrants and ethnic minorities, it makes clear that reshaping citizenship for minority groups affects the institution of citizenship as a whole. The authors also claim that the challenge of new forms of belonging concerns not only Western countries but also the entire world. They discuss the interesting example of the South-Pacific Region in some details and show what can be learn from that specific experience.

The book is divided into 10 chapters followed by a postscript. In chapter one, the authors examine globalization and the dilemmas it creates for nation-state and citizenship. Chapter 2 focuses on theories of citizenship and their adequacy in a situation of global change. Chapter 3 deals with the links between immigration, minority formation and citizenship. A wide range of different countries is examined
such as the USA, Australia, Germany, France, Britain, and Asian countries. The way immigrants become – or are turned into – citizens is studied in chapter 4. The next chapter discusses the meaning of citizenship by using the famous Marshall’s triad of civil, political and social rights as a starting point. The authors then move on to make sense of ethnic mobilization and the emergence of new political subjects. This lead them to argue in chapter 7, that new forms of citizenship are beginning to emerge in response to the problems posed by globalization and population movements. The forms of citizenship are incomplete and challenged but they nevertheless underline the possibility of post-national citizenship. Two main approaches are discussed. Firstly, the authors analyzed multicultural citizenship with reference to the US and Australia. Secondly, they examine the development and meaning of European citizenship as a form of supranational membership. Castles and Davidson find it useful to extend the analysis to non-Western societies. Therefore, they examine the development of citizenship in the Asia-Pacific region and the lack of such a development in Africa and Latin America.

The book by Castles and Davidson is a convincing synthesis of some of the main theoretical and policy issues in the field of migration and citizenship today. They again prove a remarkable theoretical solidity as well as an empirically grounded reflection, which transcends both geographical and disciplinary boundaries. For these reasons, it is a must read for all students in the area of migration, globalization, ethnicity and citizenship. Castles confirms to be one of the leading transnational researchers in the field of migration.

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