

Thread 9.3 Document B - History of Citizenship

The idea of citizenship developed in the cities of ancient Greece and Rome about 700 B.C. The early Greeks and Romans thought of cities mainly as communities, rather than as geographic places. These communities consisted of citizens linked by such ties as friendship, family relationships, and participation in government. Not all the people of cities had citizenship. For example, ancient Greek and Roman cities denied citizenship to slaves.

The rights of Greek citizens included owning land and taking part in government. Their duties included voting, attending the government assembly, sitting on juries, and giving military service.

The special rights of Roman citizens included owning property, making contracts and wills, and suing for damages. As the Roman government expanded its rule, Roman citizens traveled to other lands to fight wars, rule territories, and conduct business. They kept all their special rights when they traveled anywhere in the Roman Empire. The government also began to grant Roman citizenship to people who had never lived in Rome. In A.D. 212, the government granted Roman citizenship to most people throughout the empire, except for slaves.

During the Middle Ages, which lasted from about the late 400's to about 1500, citizenship remained connected with cities. By this time, people thought of cities mainly as geographic places where people lived. During the 1500's and 1600's, nations ruled by kings or queens developed. As a result, people began to think of citizenship as membership in a nation. The people of these nations gave their loyalty to their monarch and were often called *subjects*.

During the 1700's, democracies began to develop. People living in democracies gave their loyalty to the nation instead of to the nation's ruler. As a result, the terms *citizen* and *national* began to replace *subject*.

How to cite this article:

To cite this article, World Book recommends the following format:

MLA:

DeFrank, Thomas M. "Citizenship." *World Book Student*. World Book, 2014. Web. 18 Dec. 2014.

APA:

DeFrank, T. M. (2014). Citizenship. In *World Book Student*. Retrieved from <http://www.worldbookonline.com/student/printarticle?id=ar116260&ss=h15>

Harvard:

DeFrank, TM 2014, 'Citizenship', *World Book Student*, World Book, Chicago, viewed 18 December 2014, <<http://www.worldbookonline.com/student/printarticle?id=ar116260&ss=h15>>.

