

Naturalization of Aliens in Consideration of Turkish Constitutional Law: Recent Governmental Practices

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Abstract : Citizenship is a legal bond that binds a person to a certain state. How constitutions define 'the citizen' and how they regulate the elements of citizenship have great importance in terms of individuals' duties before the state as well as the rights they own. Especially in multi-segmented societies that contain foreign elements, it becomes necessary to examine the institution of naturalization in terms of individuals' duty of constitutional citizenship. The meaning of citizenship in Turkey has transformed due to the changes in practices of naturalization, in parallel to receiving huge amount of immigrants with the recent Syrian Crisis, the change in the governmental system and facing economic crisis. This transformation took place in the way of a diversion from the states' initial motive of building the bond of citizenship with the aim of founding/sustaining political unity. Hence, rising of the economic and political motives in naturalization practices are in question, instead of objective and subjective criterias, that are traditionally used on defining the notion of nation. In this study, firstly the regime of citizenship and the legal regime of aliens in Turkish legislation will be given place. Then, the transformation, that the notion of constitutional citizenship underwent, will be studied, especially on the basis of governmental practices of naturalization. The assessment will be made in the context of legal institutions brought with the new governmental system as a result of recent constitutional amendment.

Keywords : constitutional citizenship, naturalization, naturalization practices in Turkish legal system, transformation of the notion of constitutional citizenship

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