

Ethical Issues and Perspectives on Globalization and Citizenship

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The peoples of the earth have thus entered in varying degrees into a universal community, and it has developed to the point where violation of rights in one part of the world is felt everywhere. The idea of a cosmopolitan right is therefore not fantastic and overstrained; it is a necessary and international right, transforming it into a universal right of humanity. Only under this condition can we flatter ourselves that we are continually advancing towards perpetual peace.

--Immanuel Kant in *Perpetual Peace* (1798)

The bourgeoisie has through its exploitation of the world market given a cosmopolitan character to production and consumption in every country.

--Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels in *The Communist Manifesto* (1848)

Abstract

In a liberal arts context, how might we go about teaching the ethical issues inherent in emerging globalization -- whether understood primarily in economic, cultural, or political terms? What are key themes, teaching methods, and resources within the field of applied ethics? I focus on the issue of defining global citizenship and recent attempts to shape the evolving sense of civic engagement in an expanded global context. I am particularly interested in critically examining the current discourse about cosmopolitanism, world citizenship, and the moral ideal of instilling a sense of commitment to global community. A number of questions are explored: are there inherent limits to citizenship in nationalistic terms? Or, is citizenship limited to affiliation with a nation-state? What is the moral case in support of cosmopolitan citizenship? What are the moral or epistemological contradictions or tensions between cultural,

political and economic affiliation with one's one group and an expansive sense of civic engagement (i.e. cosmopolitanism) on a global scale?

In the context of "civic learning at the intersections" this theme cuts across the areas of political philosophy, sociology, economic theory, and ethics in particular and offers the opportunity for students to draw upon diverse disciplines and for multi-disciplinary teaching partnerships or guest lecturer and presentations from diverse disciplines.

Outline

I.) Introduction: Context and Goals

II.) Liberal, Communitarian, & Radical Critiques of Citizenship

III.) An Emerging Conception of Cosmopolitan Citizenship

IV.) Issues and Challenges

Human rights, the embodied self, and citizenship

What is globalization?

Nation-States: transforming or evolving?

European Integration and post-national citizenship

V.) Cosmopolitanism, Civic Engagement, and Global Citizenship

Multi-layered Citizenship

The Ideal and Practice of Civic Cosmopolitanism

VI.) Concluding Notes on Sources and Pedagogical Resources

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Selected Bibliography: Global Citizenship

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Criteria: these are works written and published within the past ten years which either directly focus on the questions of citizenship and “civic engagement” in a “global or planetary” context or indirectly raise ethical issues related to globalization and civic responsibilities and identity. Although most are scholarly works (often multi-disciplinary -- including political theory, economics, sociology, education, and philosophy), several books with an activist orientation have been included as well.

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Nussbaum, Martha. *Frontiers of Justice: Disability, Nationality, Species Membership*. (Cambridge, MA: The Belknap Press of Harvard Univ. Press, 2006).

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