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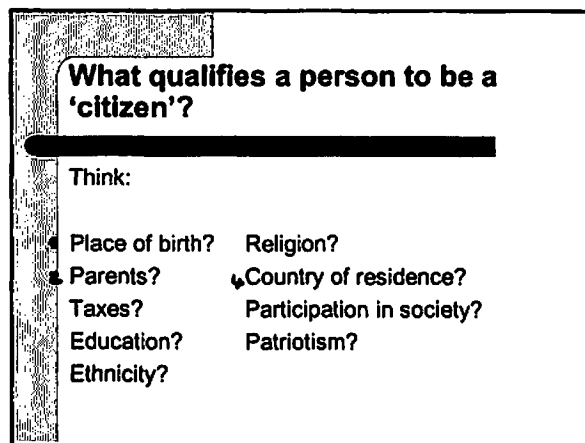
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Sociologist Anderson said that ~~nationalism~~ nationalism is an "imagined community".

common civic identity - social solidarity - "we" - school

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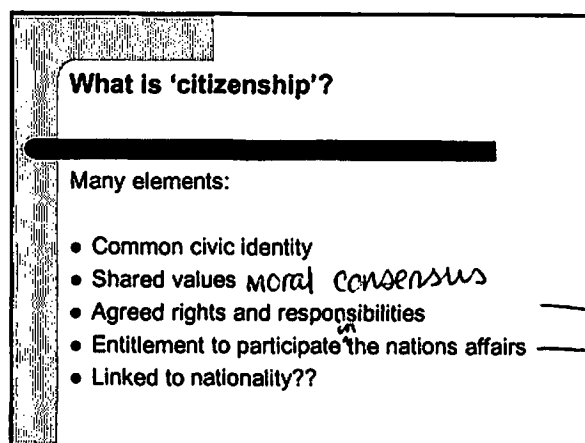
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in UK - free education etc ; mum + dad looks after kids.  
voting

West Lothian Question - why should Scottish MPs be able to vote on purely English issues. 9/27/2011

### The impact of the recent constitutional changes:

- EU membership
- Devolution
- Asylum seekers and other migrants
- Social disequilibrium *unbalance*
- Terrorism

Q: what do you think the impact of all this might have been on British Citizenship?

→ we are also citizens of Europe too  
→ the giving of powers to the regions of Britain - Scottish/~~English~~/Welsh etc.

→ riots; rich/poor differences;

### Ambiguity and contradiction

- We are not citizens - we are subjects
- British Nationality Act 1981 - 5 categories of citizen
- Devolution MORI Poll 1988

### Ideology and citizenship

- 'One Nation' Tories: active citizenship
- Major: Citizen as consumer: "Charters"
- New Labour: 'inclusion' ('stakeholder society', Human Rights Act, (FOI), Minimum wage, parenting classes, Citizenship classes, compulsory programme for those applying for 'naturalisation', homework clubs, ASBOs, identity cards)
- Cameron's Conservatives: 'Big Society'

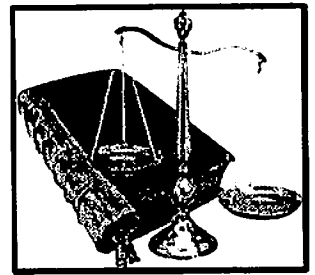
Question: what is the relationship between democracy and citizenship?

→ liberal Conservatives - everyone should be an active citizen

→ we all have rights  
→ feeling like you belong

→ more charities and voluntary work/orgs;  
less govt.

# Parliamentary Sovereignty



## **What is Parliamentary Sovereignty?**

Parliamentary sovereignty is a principle of the UK constitution. It makes Parliament the supreme legal authority in the UK, which can create or end any law. Generally, the courts cannot overrule its legislation and no Parliament can pass laws that future Parliaments cannot change.

## **History:**

- The idea that Parliament shared in sovereignty began in the 1700's.
- Arose from Acts of Union in 1707
- Parliament act of 1919 establishes supremacy of cabinet
- Parliament has, in the past, renounced its sovereignty over The Republic of Ireland and the legislatures of former dominions and colonies

## **Legal sovereignty:**

- Legal Sovereignty means the ultimate source of all legal authority
- Many bodies granted authority to exercise power: e.g. ministers, local authorities and devolved governments in Scotland and Wales
- But the ultimate source of that power is parliament – parliament can renounce those powers whenever they wish
- All laws in the UK are ultimately determined by Parliament
- Parliament either passes laws itself or grants authority for others to make law

## **Political Sovereignty:**

- This refers to the location of political power
- Instead of just thinking about where legal power lies, this makes us think about who really makes political decisions
- At elections, the people are politically sovereign because they decide who will form the next government
- Between elections, the prime minister and his/her government are politically sovereign
- Even though Parliament is sovereign, government controls it.

## **European Union:**

- Parliamentary Sovereignty has been compromised by the UK's membership in the EU
- While the UK is in the EU, its law cannot run contradictory to EU law. EU law is sovereign over UK law.
- EU law showed that it overrides UK law during the *Factortame* case
- The UK government attempted to bring in new requirements for fishing vessels
- A fishing company were granted an injunction by the European Court of Justice, overriding the British governments decision, and meaning these vessels could operate in British waters, against the will of the British government. 1990s

## **Other Issues:**

- The Monarch of the United Kingdom can technically overrule an act of Parliament – realistically she never would
- The enactment of the Human Rights Act in 1998 means UK courts can give a declaration of incompatibility where they believe that a law passed by Parliament is contrary to rights granted in the Human Rights Act. But, as with the EU, this doesn't remove parliamentary sovereignty, as at any time the UK government can vote to repeal the Human Rights Act

## Democracy in the UK

by  
Poppy, Charlie, Dylan, Taylor and Isabell

## Types of democracy

- **Direct democracy:** people make decisions on issues that affect them.
- **Representative democracy:** whoever governs does it in the interest of the people.
- **Liberal democracy:** pluralism.

## Pros of UK Democracy

- The right to vote.
- Free and fair elections.
- Many parties to represent everyone's interests.
- Freedom of expression.
- Freedom of association.
- Rule of law not rule of men.
- Human Rights.
- Benefits ;) including healthcare and education.
- Tolerance and acceptance of other faiths and cultures.

## CONS OF UK DEMOCRACY

- First Past the Post.
- Unelected head of State.
- Unelected second chamber.
- Unelected executive branch.
- Party system.
- Declining participation rates.



## UK democracy and the world

- EU membership.
- Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish assemblies.
- Immigration.
- Globalised economy and culture.
- War.
- Economic domino effect: if one falls, the rest will follow.