Citizenship in Europe or European Citizenship: Development of the Concept of Citizenship

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ABSTRACT

The question of what does European citizenship and European identity mean and how do these topics appear on the level of different member states is fairly relevant. It might prove interesting to whether we can talk about actual citizenship in the era of European integration theories in the 19th and 20th centuries, when the nation-states were formed. What could the European identity mean for the citizens of the 19th century, when nation-states were just in the middle of their formation? What can citizenship mean, looking at it in contrast to the denizen system and citizenhood of the feudal ages? The declaration of human and civil rights marked the beginning of progression, even in Europe, and this caused several nations to feel the need to define what constitutes the concept of one belonging to a state. And by that, I refer to nothing less than the codification of citizenship (for example, in France, England, Germany, Austria, Hungary). Taking into consideration that that was the era when the formation of the contemporary European integration plans begun (for example, Saint Simon, Augustin Thierry, Joseph Proudon), and more to this, in light of the Congress of Vienna and various international treaties (for example, the citizenship treaty signed by the USA and the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy in 1871), it is worth looking at what citizenship meant and how its contents changed, buttressing up the argument with specific examples.