

Global Citizenship as a Reflection of Cultural Diversity: A Sociopolitical Perspective

Dr. Ourida Khouni¹, Dr. Halim Azzaz²

¹Lecturer A, Specialization: Sociology of Education, Department: Department of Sociology, Echahid Cheikh Larbi Tebessi University of Tebessa, Algeria. Email: ourida.khouni@univ-tebessa.dz

²Specialization: General Sociology, Echahid Cheikh Larbi Tebessi University of Tebessa, Algeria. Email: halim.azzaz.socio@gmail.com

Received: 18/10/2025; Accepted: 13/03/2026; Published: 18/05/2026

Abstract

Citizenship represents a sense of belonging and loyalty to one's homeland, both in times of peace and conflict, as well as cooperation with fellow citizens to achieve social security. Citizenship is a socio-political construct that encompasses the rights and obligations associated with a person's nationality. Citizenship entails active and positive community participation within one's country. Individuals serve and defend their nation while engaging in political activities. They are fully aware of their social responsibilities, confident in their rights, and diligent in fulfilling their duties. Furthermore, individuals have the right to express their perspective on national and international issues.

Over time, the concept of citizenship has evolved. In the twenty-first century, the term "citizenship" is often associated with global citizenship. This form of citizenship is linked to cultural diversity, interculturalism, global culture,

globalization, and cosmopolitanism. We now use the terms "global citizenship" and "global citizen." Does this reflect globalization, cultural diversity, or cultural imperialism?

Keywords: Citizenship, Global Citizenship, Cultural Diversity

Introduction:

Citizenship is considered both a sociological and a political concept. A society cannot exist without citizens, nor can citizens exist without citizenship. Citizenship encompasses rights and obligations, freedom, active participation, equality, equal opportunities, solidarity, preservation of public property, commitment to democratic principles, freedom from prejudice and discrimination, belief in human brotherhood, a scientific approach to contemplation, adherence to the rule of law and the constitution, active political

...

participation, respect for human dignity, and acquisition of local, national, and global citizenship values. Good citizenship is based on respect for the rule of law, equality, tolerance, acceptance of others, and acknowledgment of pluralism and diversity within the community, whether social or cultural.

Cultural diversity is evident in rapid civilizational life, humanitarian affairs, political movements, and changes in values, customs, and traditions. Cultural diversity has emerged as a result of technological developments, globalization, and information and communication technologies, which have transformed society into a small village. We now encounter new terms related to identity, belonging, citizenship, global citizenship, and digital citizenship, all of which reflect cultural diversity within human societies. This research paper aims to explore the relationship between global citizenship and cultural diversity from a socio-political perspective. It relies on analyzing both concepts from social and political dimensions and addresses the following questions:

- What is the relationship between cultural diversity and global citizenship?
- Can global citizenship be considered a reflection of cultural diversity?

1. Sociology of Citizenship:

The term “citizenship” has not been precisely defined in language as it pertains to its inherent meaning. It is often

explained in relation to other terms, such as “homeland” or “abode” (Ladami, 2019, p. 80).

Linguistically, citizenship derives from the words “homeland” and “abode.” “Abode” refers to the “place where one resides” and the “home of individuals.” The plural form is “homelands,” while the dwellings for sheep and cattle are their shelters or places of refuge. Additionally, “abode” can refer to battle scenes (Manzur, Bab Al-Noun).

The British Encyclopedia formally defines citizenship as “the relationship between an individual and a state, as defined by the laws of that state. This relationship encompasses a degree of freedom accompanied by responsibilities and confers political rights, such as the right to vote and to hold public office” (Brasan, 2017, p. 26).

According to Mohammed (2007, p. 97), it embodies “the characteristics that define a citizen in society, such as public rights, assuming responsibilities, membership in community institutions, interest in public affairs, and engagement in political, economic, and social activities that benefit society.”

Abdul Rahim Wahabi defines citizenship as “active and positive participation in serving and developing the homeland,” which he says is closely linked to other values, such as freedom and democracy. Citizenship is closely tied to identity and culture; the true citizen can harmonize their individual and national identities. Thus, citizenship opens individuals up to the cultural and historical components of

...

society, making them positive contributors to defending these components and significant national issues. Furthermore, citizenship is manifested not only through commitment to major national issues, but also through small actions that embody the spirit of citizenship” (Wahabi, 2008, p. 97).

Plato, on the other hand, believed that people were fundamentally different, with some created to govern and others to be governed. Aristotle, on the other hand, believed that citizenship was limited to distinguished men among free individuals who actively participated in state politics. He described such individuals as soldiers in their youth, leaders in middle age, and priests in old age. They devote their lives to their homeland (Ladami, 2019, p. 81).

In summary, citizenship involves genuine and active social participation within one’s homeland. Citizens are dedicated to serving and defending their country while having the right to engage in political practices. They are aware of their social responsibilities, confident in their rights, and actively fulfill their duties. Citizens also have the right to express global public opinion on national and global issues.

2. Global Citizenship:

Global citizenship encompasses pragmatic dimensions that extend beyond social and political aspects. This is particularly evident in the practice of democracy in the face of contemporary challenges and the aspirations of global citizens.

One of the core principles of global citizenship is equality among citizens,

which respects cultural differences and diversity. Furthermore, an awareness of globalization and its implications requires global citizens to understand emerging issues such as political participation (Amani Ghazi Jarar, 2011, p. 45).

Global citizenship transcends political allegiance to individual nations, forming a global sense of belonging to the world and nature. It emphasizes the concepts of belonging, rights, responsibilities, and membership within a global society. Additionally, the degree to which citizens actively participate constitutes the various dimensions of global citizenship (Jarar, 2011, p. 46).

3. Principles of Global Citizenship:

- Declaration of rights and freedoms within a legal framework.
- Commitment to obligations.
- Preservation of shared and global identities.
- Citizenship necessitates equality among all citizens, regardless of race, language, or culture.
- Citizenship requires participation in civil and political life.
- Citizenship requires respect for one’s own dignity and the dignity of all human beings.
- Recognition of pluralism (Amani Ghazi Jarar, 2011, p. 356).

4. The History of Citizenship:

Early concepts of modern and contemporary political thought can be attributed to the ancient Greeks. These concepts are embodied in the principles of freedom, constitutional government, and

...

respect for the law. These principles were frequently discussed by Greek philosophers. When faced with unsatisfactory circumstances, the Greeks did not merely seek to replace those in power. Instead, they amended the constitution and changed the laws as necessary (Diab, 2007, p. 16).

Scholars agree that the ancient Greeks were the first to understand political organization as democracy. They viewed the city-state as the focal point of civilization, believing it could only thrive through such political and social organization within defined territories.

In the Greek city-state, there were three social classes: slaves and artisans; foreigners; and citizens. The first two classes were excluded from citizenship and political participation. Citizens monopolized most privileges, including membership in the city and political rights.

Moving forward to the Renaissance, which spanned from approximately 1400 to 1670, a significant development was the emergence of humanism, a philosophy emphasizing the value of humanity and making it the standard by which all things are measured. Humanism posits that human nature, along with its limits and interests, is the primary focus. According to this philosophy, humans have the right to shape their lives and define their position in the universe freely and independently of what the Church and its institutions promote as an integral part of the cosmic order ordained by God. According to this philosophy, humanity must accept this order without attempting

to change or modify it because belonging to this cosmic system and its institutions provides them with material and spiritual existence (Diab, 2007, pp. 17–34).

During this era, the capitalist bourgeoisie emerged, and nationalism became one of the foundational ideas of the Renaissance, replacing the concept of a global state centered on the authority of the Church. Following these developments, “citizenship began to mean freedom of contract, freedom of movement, freedom of property, labor rights, freedom of expenditure, and marriage. Citizenship replaced old ties of blood, land, family, and feudal alliances. Citizens became autonomous individuals who came together to establish governments, enact laws, and form bonds for the benefit of the local community.

When discussing citizenship in religious texts and traditions, we observe it reflected through the values they promote, which are fundamentally civic in nature. Ancient religions and laws “contributed to establishing a foundation for equality that surpasses the will of kings and the wisdom of empires, thereby establishing a basis for fairness, justice, and equality on earth.” The ancient Arab tribes provided a degree of political participation for free male citizens, which was necessary for the cohesion of the tribe and the relationships among allied tribes, requiring participation in their collective decision-making. The title most commonly given to the tribal chief was “Al-Sayyid,” chosen through free election among male individuals, rather than by inheritance.

...

For instance, Islam arose from an understanding of equality based on the belief that peace is fundamental to relationships among people. Based on this belief, Islam established reformative policies among Muslims and in their relations with other citizens and nations. Alongside equality, Islam emphasizes the principles of justice, equity, fairness, Shura (consultation), and social solidarity, all of which align with civic values (Mansur, 2018, pp. 157-159). Citizenship also emerged in the Islamic context through the “Constitution of Medina,” which established the foundations for a religiously diverse community including Jews, Muslims, and others during the time of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).

In Islamic thought, citizenship is manifested through sacred law, which establishes the authority of Muslims over non-Muslim inhabitants referred to as “Ahl al-Dhimmah” (Ladami, 2019, p. 83).

Over time, the concept of citizenship has evolved. In the twenty-first century, the term “citizenship” has increasingly been associated with global citizenship. The concept of citizenship is evolving towards globalization, encompassing interconnected behaviors that begin with the idea that we are all citizens of this world and share responsibility for preserving the planet and living with dignity (Al-Alawna, p. 27).

5. Values of Citizenship:

There are many different values of citizenship. Any behavior or practice that

positively impacts citizens and the nation, thereby enhancing their sense of belonging, can be considered a civic value. Accordingly, we have identified three main values, each of which encompasses a set of values: community participation, democracy, and national belonging.

- **Values of Community Participation:**

Participation means “having a role, either directly or through legitimate intermediary institutions that represent their interests” (Al-Alawna, p. 41). It is an ancient concept discussed by philosophers and politicians that refers to the provision of opportunities to participate in the democratic system of the state. Through this participation, citizens can express their opinions, vote, and encourage a specific political direction (Mansur, 2018, p. 165). Participation entails certain duties that citizens must adhere to, such as defending the homeland and its symbols and respecting the law.

Community participation involves citizens engaging in daily politics by regulating contracts and agreements between individuals, groups, and various active parties in society. This leads to integration into social life. Constructive criticism is another method of participation. Therefore, community participation is a broader concept than mere involvement; it involves sharing roles among various community stakeholders and organizations. Moreover, community partnerships strengthen bonds, consolidate efforts, and coordinate among social and professional organizations, fostering a climate of understanding, cooperation, experience exchange,

...

knowledge sharing, and trust building” (Mansour, 2018, p. 165).

The values of community participation are reflected in the behaviors of society’s members.

Volunteering or volunteer work: It is defined as the process of utilizing individuals and groups to provide unpaid humanitarian services outside the framework of government and private institutions. Volunteers perform this work without pay, profit motive, or coercion. Their sole objective is to assist others or fulfill a duty to their country and homeland. In doing so, they contribute to the overall development process (Al-Alawna, p. 37).

- Social Solidarity: Social solidarity is a humane and social value in which individuals and groups unite and support one another, ensuring cooperation in times of need when others cannot meet their own needs.

- **Values of democracy:**

The concept of citizenship cannot be realized without translating it into behaviors grounded in values. Citizenship values cannot exist in a non-democratic environment because democracy and citizenship depend on each other for representation and practice. The most important core values of these concepts are freedom, equality, and pluralism.

Democracy is fundamentally linked to equal participation in managing public interests. “The value of equality is at the heart of citizenship and is considered the

essence of democracy. Equality is the cornerstone of citizenship because it organizes relationships among citizens within the political and social community” (Ladami, 2019, p. 87).

Democracy is a way of thinking and a style of leadership that involves actions and statements that express appreciation for others’ abilities while respecting individual differences. Democracy allows individuals a degree of personal freedom to express their opinions within the framework of public order. It provides opportunities for critique while adhering to established systems and laws. Furthermore, individuals feel the necessity to understand and cooperate with others in setting objectives, thus contributing to the stability and welfare of society.

The dimensions of belonging work together in synergy, integration, and interaction. Each dimension complements or generates another, ultimately fostering and strengthening belonging among members of a community.

- **National Values of Citizenship:**

These values are reflected in feelings of love for and loyalty to the homeland, as well as a willingness to sacrifice for its sake. From an early age, children learn to live in a society where they are members and must be responsible and engaged in its growth, progress, and development through effort and hard work. They must cultivate loyalty, belonging, and love for their homeland, as well as values of community participation, which are crucial for building society” (Khalil Mikha’il

...

Muwaid, p. 244; Ahmad Zayed et al., p. 345).

National values are fundamental in shaping an individual's identity, particularly its political aspect. They cultivate responsible citizens who love and defend their homeland and enhance their sense of belonging and loyalty.

- **The Value of Loyalty:**

Loyalty is the driving force of citizenship and a key outcome that materializes as patriotism. It empowers individuals to claim their rights and motivates them to fulfill their obligations within the framework of citizenship values. Furthermore, loyalty fosters a sense of common identity, creating a moral bond between individuals and their communities (Ladami, 2019, p. 88).

6. Globalization and Global Citizenship:

Globalization has played a significant role in shaping global citizenship through outcomes that impact individuals, societies, and the world.

- Diversity and social and cultural exchange.
- Clarity of political, cultural, and intellectual exchange phenomena.
- Support for democratic movements and human rights.
- Dissemination of the benefits and products of scientific and technological revolutions, which facilitates the reduction of distances and crises.

Reliance on expertise, knowledge, and science to address economic, social, and religious problems.

- Promoting a single human civilization that unites people without dividing them.
- Respect for differences among civilizations, opinions, and cultural diversity.
- Increased scientific and cultural exchanges among educational institutions and centers across nations.

7. Cultural Diversity and Citizenship:

Global citizenship signifies an organic relationship between an individual and a nation. This relationship entails rights and duties outlined by laws that are aimed at achieving common purposes.

In the context of globalization and its political, economic, cultural, and scientific transformations, the world has become our larger homeland. This has led to the concept of global citizenship, which requires peace, tolerance, respect for other cultures, and cooperation with different systems and cultures.

Global citizenship does not negate national citizenship; rather, the two concepts support and complement each other. Without national citizenship, global citizenship would not exist. Both encompass moral citizenship, which is characterized by respect for rights, freedoms, and cultures (Amani Ghazi Jarar, 2011, pp. 300–303).

A global citizen believes in pluralism and accepts a plurality of values founded on moral responsibility toward the

...

environment. This includes accepting differences, diversity, equality, and respecting the resulting cultural diversity. The principles of diversity and difference must be reflected in social and political human actions in order to uphold a community that supports both equality and diversity and achieves social justice. This transforms diversity into values of tolerance, stability, and democracy.

Global citizens are required to contribute to necessary social, political, and environmental changes for sustainable human development. They must adopt humane ethical approaches and democratic behaviors. Building global citizenship and promoting genuine cognitive and cultural strategies is the solution to achieving a global civilizational accomplishment that becomes an integral part of history and a foundation for comprehensive humanitarian preparatory actions.

Furthermore, global citizens respect diverse cultures and acknowledge the rights and choices of others. Global citizenship necessitates a pluralistic cultural education and shared human ethics. Will Kymlicka introduced the concept of multicultural citizenship in his book *Citizenship and Multiculturalism*, emphasizing that countries vary in their cultural expressions. With approximately 184 countries and 600 languages spanning 500 ethnic groups worldwide, there is an urgent need to respect humanity and embrace global citizenship in its most comprehensive form, transcending cultural differences. This respect is rooted in the relativity and acceptance of diversity by

global citizens as they understand their relationships with others (Amani Ghazi Jarar, 2011, pp. 46–55).

8. Recommendations:

- Establish a relationship between citizens and citizenship, recognizing the duality of rights and duties.
- Clearly define citizenship, global citizenship, and digital citizenship while addressing the risks without compromising cultural privacy or national identity constituents.
- Develop an understanding of cultural pluralism and global culture and learn how to coexist with them without becoming immersed or neglecting cultural specificities.

Conclusion:

From the above, we conclude that citizenship is a sacred relationship encompassing a comprehensive system of political, social, cultural, and economic values. It fosters strong moral, social, political, and legal bonds between individuals and the state. Conversely, global citizenship emphasizes the individual's connection to the larger world and has become one of the essential requirements for advancement and prosperity in various societies. Today, citizenship has become a fundamental aspect of society.

This is evident through active community and political participation. Furthermore, global citizens respect diverse cultures and honor the rights and choices of others. Global citizenship necessitates cultural pluralism and shared human ethics.

...

Global citizens embody a belief in pluralism and acceptance of diverse values based on moral responsibility. They embrace difference and diversity and advocate respect for resulting cultural diversity. Furthermore, respect for diversity and difference must be reflected in the social and political actions of a community that upholds both equality and diversity.

References:

1. Khalil Mikha'il Mowaid. (1999). *Social Psychology*. 2nd ed., Dar Al-Fikr Al-Jami'i, Alexandria, Egypt.
2. Ahmad Zayed et al., n.d. *Family and Childhood: A Social and Anthropological Study*. Dar Al-Ma'arif Al-Jami'iyah, Alexandria, Egypt.
3. Brasan (2017). (2017). *The Problem of Citizenship in the Islamic Political Heritage*. Berlin, Germany: The Democratic Arab Center for Strategic, Political, and Economic Studies.
4. Khaled Mansur. (2018). "The Role of Social Networking Sites in Enhancing Citizenship Values Among Algerian Youth" (doctoral thesis). College of Social and Human Sciences, Batna University.
5. Ziad Al-Alawna. "Citizenship." Jordan: Ministry of Political Affairs.
6. Abdul Rahim Wahabi. (2008). *Educational Curricula and the Value System: Theoretical and Practical Suggestions for Instilling Values in Moroccan Schools*. Fes: Alfou Brant.
7. Qaid Diab. (2007). *Citizenship and Globalization: Questions of a Challenging Era*. Cairo: Cairo Center for Human Rights Studies.
8. Mohamed Arab Ladami. (May 14, 2019). "Citizenship as a Distinct Feature of the Nation-State: An Analytical Study of Citizenship in Its Dimensions and Values." *Scientific Horizons Journal*.
9. Amani Ghazi Jarar. (2011). *Global Citizenship*. Dar Wael, Amman, Jordan.