

**1 Seyla Benhabib, *The Rights of Others*  
A sociological mode of citizenship rights**

Citizenship in the modern world has meant membership in a bounded political community which was either a nation-state, a multinational state, or a commonwealth structure. The political regime of territorially bounded sovereignty, exercised through formal-rational administrative procedures and dependent upon the democratic will-formation of a more or less culturally homogeneous group of people, could only function by defining, circumscribing, and controlling citizenship. The citizen is the individual who has membership rights to reside within a territory, who is subject to the state's administrative jurisdiction, and who is also, ideally, a member of the democratic sovereign in the name of whom laws are issued and administration is exercised. Following Max Weber, we may say that this *unity of residency, administrative subjection, democratic participation, and cultural membership* constitutes the "ideal typical" model of citizenship in the modern nation-state of the West (see Weber [1956] 1978, 901-926). [...]

What is the status of citizenship today, in a world of increasingly deterritorialized politics? How is citizenship being reconfigured under contemporary conditions? How has the fraying of the four functions of the state – territoriality, administrative control, democratic legitimacy, and cultural identity – affected the theory and practice of citizenship? [...]

I want to illustrate this disaggregation effect with reference to the rights regimes of the contemporary European Union, in which the rights of citizens of member countries of the EU are sharply delineated from those of third-country nationals, within a patchwork of local, national, and supranational rights regimes. The unitary model, which combined continuous residency upon a given territory with a shared national identity, the enjoyment of political rights, and subjection to a common administrative jurisdiction, is coming apart.

One can have one set of rights but not another [...]. The danger in this situation is that of "permanent alienage," namely the creation of a group in society that partakes of property rights and civil society without having access to political rights.

(From: Benhabib, S. [2004] *The Rights of Others. Aliens, Residents, and Citizens*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 144-146) (313 words)