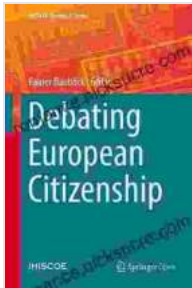


# Debating European Citizenship: Rethinking Inclusion and Belonging in Europe



## Debating European Citizenship (IMISCOE Research Series) by Graham Hancock

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 1501 KB  
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Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
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Print length : 334 pages



The concept of European citizenship has been a subject of ongoing debate and discussion for decades. As the European Union (EU) has evolved and expanded, so too has the need to rethink the meaning and implications of European citizenship. This article examines the debates surrounding European citizenship, focusing on the need to rethink inclusion and belonging in Europe. It explores the historical evolution of European citizenship, the challenges and opportunities it faces, and the ways in which it can be strengthened and renewed.

## The Historical Evolution of European Citizenship

The origins of European citizenship can be traced back to the ancient Greek city-states, where citizens enjoyed a range of rights and privileges. These rights included the right to vote, to hold office, and to own property. The concept of citizenship was further developed in the Roman Empire,

where citizens were granted a range of rights and protections under the law. After the fall of the Roman Empire, the concept of citizenship fell into decline, but it was revived in the Renaissance and Enlightenment periods.

In the 19th and 20th centuries, the concept of European citizenship began to take on a more modern form. The Treaty of Rome (1957), which established the European Economic Community (EEC), introduced the concept of European citizenship for the first time. The Maastricht Treaty (1992) further strengthened the concept of European citizenship, and the Lisbon Treaty (2007) expanded the rights and privileges of European citizens.

## **The Challenges and Opportunities of European Citizenship**

European citizenship has faced a number of challenges in recent years. These challenges include the rise of populism and nationalism, the increasing diversity of the European population, and the ongoing economic crisis. Populism and nationalism have led to a backlash against European integration and a questioning of the value of European citizenship. The increasing diversity of the European population has also posed challenges to the concept of European citizenship, as it has raised questions about who is considered to be a "European" citizen.

Despite these challenges, European citizenship also presents a number of opportunities. European citizenship can help to promote peace and stability in Europe. It can also help to foster a sense of belonging and solidarity among Europeans. European citizenship can also help to promote economic growth and prosperity in Europe. By providing citizens with a range of rights and privileges, European citizenship can help to create a more just and equitable society.

## **Rethinking Inclusion and Belonging in Europe**

In order to address the challenges and seize the opportunities of European citizenship, it is necessary to rethink inclusion and belonging in Europe. This means moving beyond a narrow understanding of citizenship that is based on nationality and legal status. It also means recognizing the diversity of European identities and experiences. By rethinking inclusion and belonging in Europe, we can create a more inclusive and welcoming society for all.

There are a number of ways to rethink inclusion and belonging in Europe. One way is to focus on promoting a sense of shared European identity. This can be done through education, culture, and the media. Another way is to focus on promoting social inclusion and cohesion. This can be done through policies that support diversity and equality.

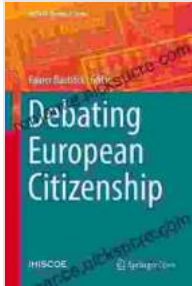
## **Strengthening and Renewing European Citizenship**

In order to strengthen and renew European citizenship, it is necessary to address the challenges and seize the opportunities it faces. This means rethinking inclusion and belonging in Europe, and it means promoting a sense of shared European identity and social inclusion. It also means protecting the rights and privileges of European citizens, and it means ensuring that European citizenship is a source of pride and empowerment.

By strengthening and renewing European citizenship, we can create a more inclusive and welcoming society for all. We can also create a stronger and more united Europe.

European citizenship is a complex and evolving concept. It has faced a number of challenges in recent years, but it also presents a number of

opportunities. By rethinking inclusion and belonging in Europe, we can strengthen and renew European citizenship, and we can create a more inclusive and welcoming society for all.



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