The Scramble for Citizens: Dual Nationality and State Competition over Immigrants

David Cook-Martín, Grinnell College
The Scramble for Citizens

Dual Nationality and State Competition for Immigrants

By David Cook-Martín

It is commonly assumed that there is an enduring link between individuals and their countries of citizenship. Plural citizenship is therefore viewed with skepticism, if not outright suspicion. But the effects of widespread global migration belie common assumptions, and the connection between individuals and the countries in which they live cannot always be so easily mapped.

In The Scramble for Citizens, David Cook-Martín analyzes immigration and nationality laws in Argentina, Italy, and Spain since the mid-19th century to reveal the contextual dynamics that have shaped the quality of legal and affective bonds between nation-states and citizens. He shows how the recent erosion of rights and privileges in Argentina has motivated individuals to seek nationality in ancestral homelands, thinking two nationalities would be more valuable than one. This book details the legal and administrative mechanisms at work, describes the patterns of law and practice, and explores the implications for how we understand the very meaning of citizenship.

"David Cook-Martín crosses the bounds of sociology, history, and anthropology to explain the practice and context of dual citizenship in the global twenty-first century. The Scramble for Citizens far-sighted analytical framework, based upon a detailed qualitative study of Spain, Italy, and Argentina, will become even more salient in coming years."

—Mark I. Choate, Brigham Young University, author of Emigrant Nation: The Making of Italy Abroad

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**David Cook-Martín** is Assistant Professor of Sociology at Grinnell College.

“David Cook-Martín’s *The Scramble for Citizens* has three remarkable qualities: it’s an innovative look at citizenship laws as shaped by interstate competition, the best available account of southern European citizenship, and a stimulating diagnosis of certain ‘re-ethnicizing’ and ‘lightening’ trends of contemporary citizenship. Excellent!”

—Christian Joppke, University of Bern

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