

Citizenship: Citizen, Born Citizen, Natural Born Citizen

By: [Mountain Publius Goat](#)

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Last Update: 06 March 2009

A simple citizenship chart I prepared showing and defining the various types of citizenship mentioned in the U.S. Constitution: The type of citizen you are, i.e., Natural Born Citizen, Born Citizen, or Citizen is determined by your parents and where you were born. The subset of all of a nation's citizens which is typically the largest subset or group of a nation's citizens, are usually the Natural Born Citizens. For it is that type of citizen and group, the largest group, which typically defines a country or a nation vs. its geography. The natural born citizens are the citizens of the country who are born of two citizens of the country on the soil of the country and have the strongest natural allegiance to the country and nation. These are the people of the country who will have the strongest allegiance to their country or nation and will be least influenced by foreign forces and/or have the least allegiances to any people and forces outside the country or nation. They will have the least recent familial attachment and influence from foreign citizens. This citizenship status is by nature itself, done by the natural law of the facts itself at the instant of birth of the child, and was not created or given by any law of man.

The definition of "natural born citizen" being a person born of two citizens of a country on the soil of a country was first codified in 1758 in the legal reference book, "Law of Nations". Those codified laws were from "natural law" of time eternal since there were countries and nations and thus the source of the term "natural" in the term "natural born citizen". The people who wrote the Constitution back then naturally new what "natural born citizen" meant just like they naturally new what the term "marriage" meant in those days. Only in today's twisting of language, it depends on what the term "is" means, etc., by those with a political agenda do these terms get obfuscated. That legal reference book (Law of Nations) was used by John Jay, a legal scholar, and a key adviser to the framers of the U.S. Constitution.

John Jay is the person who wrote to General George Washington, leader of the Constitutional Convention, and asked him to add the requirement to be a "natural born citizen" to the requirements to serve as President and Commander-in-Chief of our military in the interests of national security to minimize to the greatest extent any possibility of divided loyalties and allegiances with a future President by requiring that a person eligible to serve could only be a second generation American by both parents, i.e., a natural born citizen, except for the original citizens at the time the country was founded.

John Jay was also one of the writers of the Federalist Papers. John Jay frequently referred to the Law of Nations as a legal reference. The new first President, General George Washington, was found to have the book open on his desk and Washington was reading some portion of it on his first day in office when a visitor came by to see him. John Jay was a recognized legal scholar in those days and later went on to serve as the first Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

More about John Jay: <http://www.wallbuilders.com/LIBissuesArticles.asp?id=64>

Note: In the below chart in the Perkins vs. Elg case, the child Elg was born in the USA to two naturalized citizens, immigrants from Sweden, so the court rightly decided the case when it concurred that she was a natural born citizen at the time of her birth. The parents can be citizens of any category of U.S. citizen (naturalized or born in the USA) but the child must be born on U.S. soil to two U.S. citizens to be considered a natural born citizen at the instant of the child's birth in the USA. The natural facts of the events itself make the child a "natural born citizen". No law of man is required to confer that type of citizenship. And that set of facts fits Elg. The Elg decision reinforces the definition provided in the Law of Nations which was the original source legal reference book for the term when that term was put into our Constitution by John Jay and George Washington as a necessary qualification to serve as POTUS and CINC.

Citizenship Terms Used in the U.S. Constitution -- Defined & Some Legal References to Same						
Constitutional Term	U.S. Citizenship Status of the Parents at Time of Child's Birth	Conjunction (And, Or)	Location of Birth	Conjunction (And, Or)	Other	Legal Reference
"Citizen" of the United States (Referenced many places in Constitution)	Born to at least one U.S. citizen parent (citizenship given by law via Federal Statutes)	OR	Born in the USA.	OR	Naturalized Citizen (citizenship given by law via Federal Statutes)	U.S. Constitution, 14th Amendment, Section 1. U.S. v. Wong Kim Ark, 169 U.S. 649 (1898). Perkins v. Elg. 307 U.S. 325 (1939). U.S. Federal Statutes
"Citizen of the United States at time of Adoption of this Constitution" aka "the Grandfather Clause" aka "Original Citizen" (Stated in Article II)					Citizen of the United States at time of Adoption of the Constitution	U.S. Constitution, Article II, Section 1, Clause 5.
"Born Citizen" of the United States (Referenced, established, and rights clarified in the 14th Amendment)			Born in the USA.			U.S. Constitution, 14th Amendment, Section 1. U.S. v. Wong Kim Ark, 169 U.S. 649 (1898)
"Naturalized Citizen" of the United States (Referenced and rights clarified in the 14th Amendment)			Not Born in the USA	AND	Citizenship rights obtained by processes governed by Federal Statutes including person swearing an Oath of Allegiance to the USA & renouncing any and all foreign allegiances such as to any Prince or Potentate	U.S. Constitution, 14th Amendment, Section 1. U.S. Federal Statutes
"Natural Born Citizen" of the United States (Referenced only in Article II as one of the specific qualification requirements to serve as the President and Commander in Chief in the USA) Note: This type of citizen of a nation is a citizen via "natural law" and cannot be given by any man made law. The acts of nature itself gave this person natural born citizenship of the nation. This is typically the largest group in any nation which has been in existence for a couple generations or more. It is also the group which innately has the strongest natural allegiance to the nation and the least potential foreign familial or other foreign influences on them.	Both parents are U.S. citizens of any type when child is born	AND	Born in the USA.			U.S. Constitution, Article II, Section 1, Clause 5. Law of Nations, Book 1, Chapter 19, Section 212. Perkins v. Elg. 307 U.S. 325 (1939). Also, comments by Congressman and Judge John Bingham a framer of the 14th Amendment.

Originally Prepared in Fall 2008. New Version Prepared: 02 Feb 2009 Last Updated: 06 Feb 2009 Copyright © 2009 M Publius Goat. All Rights Reserved.

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<http://www.obamacitizenshipfacts.org>

A short video explaining "natural born citizenship":

<http://www.youtube.com/v/QEnaAZrYqQI&hl=en&fs=1>

P.S. Below is an image of the letter John Jay wrote in 1787 to George Washington requesting the term "natural born citizen" be inserted in the Constitution for the qualifications of future persons to serve as President and Commander-in-Chief of our military. George Washington was the President of the Constitutional Convention. The "natural born citizen" term was subsequently agreed to by the delegates and added:



New York 25 July 1787

Dear Sir

I was this morning honored with your Excellency's favor of the 22^d Inst: I immediately delivered the letter it enclosed to Commodore Jones, who being detained by business, did not go in the french Packet, which sailed yesterday.

Permit me to hint, whether it would not be wise & reasonable to provide a strong check to the admission of foreigners into the administration of our national government, and to declare expressly that the Command in Chief of the American Army shall not be given to, nor devolve on, any but a natural born Citizen. —

Mr. Jay is obliged by your attention, and assures you of his perfect esteem & regard — with similar sentiments the most cordial and sincere I remain

Dear Sir your faithful Servant
John Jay

His Excellency General Washington

Transcription of John Jay 1787 Letter to General George Washington



New York 25 July 1787

Dear Sir

I was this morning honored with your Excellency's Favor of the 22d Inst. & immediately delivered the Letter it enclosed to Commodore Jones, who being detained by Business, did not go in the french Packet, which sailed Yesterday.

Permit me to hint, whether it would not be wise & seasonable to provide a strong check to the admission of Foreigners into the administration of our national Government, and to declare expressly that the Command in chief of the american army shall not be given to, nor devolved on, any but a natural born Citizen. ---

Mrs. Jay is obliged by your attention, and assures You of her perfect Esteem & Regard—with similar Sentiments the most cordial and sincere
I remain

Dear Sir

Your faithful Friend & Servt

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Jay" followed by a long, horizontal flourish.

His Excellency General Washington