


**Freedom and Borders: A Theory of Citizenship for the Age of Globalization. Bingley: Emerald Publishing Limited. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1108/9781801179904> ISBN: 978-1-80117-990-4 (electronic) / 978-1-80117-994-2 (print)**

Halimah Sa'diyah \* 

\* Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta, Indonesia  
[halimahsadiyah.2025@student.uny.ac.id](mailto:halimahsadiyah.2025@student.uny.ac.id)

\*Corresponding Author

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### Abstract

Freedom and Borders: A Theory of Citizenship for the Age of Globalization, written by Dario Mazzola, challenges traditional notions of citizenship in light of our more interdependent global community. Through a philosophical and historical prism, Mazzola examines the interplay of human rights, freedom, citizenship, and world peace. Citizenship status is usually used to safeguard individual rights in modern citizenship systems, according to this book. This is because these systems are largely founded on the nation-state paradigm. In a world where people are increasingly on the move, migrating across borders, and becoming more connected, this situation poses many problems. Citizenship, as Mazzola points out, is a crucial political institution that establishes individual rights, social recognition, and political participation. This book proposes a more inclusive model of citizenship and discusses the tension between global and national citizenship. This discussion greatly enhances our comprehension of how a more equitable, inclusive, and human rights-oriented political system may be established in this age of globalisation, as well as the prospects for the future of citizenship.

**Article Link:**

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## Introduction

Freedom and Borders: A Theory of Citizenship for the Age of Globalization, written by Dario Mazzola, provides a fresh perspective on citizenship in today's interconnected world. Because modern citizenship systems are still based on borders between nations, a person's basic rights are frequently affected by their citizenship status. Since not everyone's rights are adequately protected in this era of greater migration, human mobility, and global interconnection, inequalities arise. Mazzola argues that participation in politics, social recognition, and individual liberties are shaped by one's citizenship status, as examined through the lens of political philosophy. This book also examines the conflict between national and global citizenship, arguing that they can work together to create a more inclusive, just, and capable political system to address global challenges in the globalised era.

### Chapter 1 Introduction: Theorizing Citizenship in Critical Times

This chapter establishes the book's theoretical framework by defining citizenship as a normative connection that determines individuals' rights and obligations within a political



community. Mazzola argues that although citizenship has traditionally been associated with the nation-state, the development of globalisation and the human rights system has fostered the emergence of citizenship concepts that transcend national borders. He also highlights the gap between the moral recognition of human rights and their implementation through global institutions, a distinction he refers to as the distinction between subjective and objective global citizenship. Through this discussion, the author asserts that the development of global citizenship does not entail replacing the nation-state but rather demands a reformulation of citizenship to address global challenges and support freedom, justice, and peace.

### **Chapter 2 Fundamental Rights: The Right to Have Rights**

This chapter discusses the relationship between human rights and citizenship in a global context. Mazzola asserts that human rights cannot stand alone without a political structure that guarantees their implementation. The author references Hannah Arendt's notion of "the right to have rights," asserting that the paramount human right is to hold a political standing that facilitates the acknowledgement and safeguarding of other rights. In truth, such security is mostly dependent on nation-states, leaving groups such as refugees and stateless people in perilous situations. This chapter emphasises the importance of international collaboration and the strengthening of global institutions in making the citizenship system more inclusive and effective in protecting the rights of all individuals.

### **Chapter 3 Citizenship or the Right to Be Equal**

This chapter investigates citizenship as the foundation of political and social equality and as a criterion for participation in the political community. Mazzola traces the evolution of the concept of citizenship from its origins in ancient Greece, through its advancement in the Roman period with greater legal safeguards, to the modern nation-state framework that defines citizens' rights and obligations. This concept creates a distinction between citizens and non-citizens, often resulting in exclusion. The author distinguishes two types of citizenship: subjective citizenship (identification and a sense of belonging) and objective citizenship (legal status).

### **Chapter 4 The Right to Freedom, World Citizenship, and Global Peace**

This chapter investigates the relationship between freedom, citizenship, and global peace as a normative framework for the evolution of citizenship in the context of globalisation. Mazzola explains that citizenship serves as a link between the person and the political society, defining rights and obligations typically grounded in the principles of *ius sanguinis* and *ius soli*. Citizenship has been significantly shaped by nationalism, which strengthens collective identity; yet this paradigm is currently viewed as inadequate for addressing an increasingly interconnected world. The author advocates for the notion of global citizenship based on freedom, human rights, and solidarity, primarily aimed at cultivating peace, not just the absence of violence, but a state that facilitates the flourishing of freedom and collaboration among societies.

### **Chapter 5 Conclusion: From Parts to Whole**

This last chapter emphasises that becoming a citizen is a process that encompasses not just people but also families, communities, countries, and all of humanity. In Mazzola's view, global citizenship seeks to resolve global concerns such as inequality, migration, and the refugee crisis, while national citizenship fosters solidarity and safeguards people's rights. If we want to create a political climate that is more welcoming, equitable, and peaceful, the author says we should work together internationally to increase human rights safeguards and broaden citizenship.

### **Relevance in the Indonesian Context**

Given the cross-border movement of people and the growing number of countries involved in international affairs, Mazzola proposes a global perspective and an emphasis on

human rights to improve civic education in Indonesia. Issues such as (1) migration and refugee protection, (2) global economic inequality, (3) international cooperation, and (4) human rights protection.

Freedom and Borders: A Theory of Citizenship for the Age of Globalization is a good read for Indonesians who wish to reconsider their citizenship considering global mobility and international relations. Citizenship education in Indonesia can benefit from Mazzola's viewpoints, which emphasise human rights, global knowledge, and national peculiarities.

### **Book Advantages**

#### 1. In-Depth Philosophical Analysis

This book examines the interplay between human rights, freedom, and citizenship from a philosophical perspective.

#### 2. Comprehensive Historical Perspective

The author traces the evolution of citizenship from its origins in classical Greece to its place in contemporary nation-states.

#### 3. Relevance to Global Challenges

Topics covered in the book include migration, the plight of refugees, and global injustice.

#### 4. A Critical and Reflective Theoretical Approach

Mazzola argues that safeguarding human rights for all people is difficult because of problems with the nation-state structure.

#### 5. An Innovative Concept of Global Citizenship

When discussing global citizenship, this book draws a line between a person's sense of national identification and their responsibilities as a global citizen.

### **Limitations of the Book**

#### 1. A Highly Theoretical Approach

Some sections may be difficult for the ordinary reader to grasp because the book primarily consists of philosophical analysis.

#### 2. Lack of Empirical Examples or Case Studies

There aren't many examples of the ideas in action, as the conversation is primarily theoretical.

#### 3. Limited Practical Implementation

The book doesn't go into much detail about how to use global citizenship in policy or political institutions.

### **Conclusion**

Political philosophy and the theory of citizenship are both advanced in Freedom and Borders: A Theory of Citizenship for the Age of Globalization. Human rights, freedom, peace, and citizenship are some of the topics covered in this globalising world. Through philosophical and historical analysis, the author demonstrates how worldwide social and political shifts impact citizenship. Addressing global concerns such as migration, inequality, and human rights requires a broader understanding of citizenship, as the book argues. This book is a valuable resource for academics, students, and policymakers interested in citizenship and global justice.