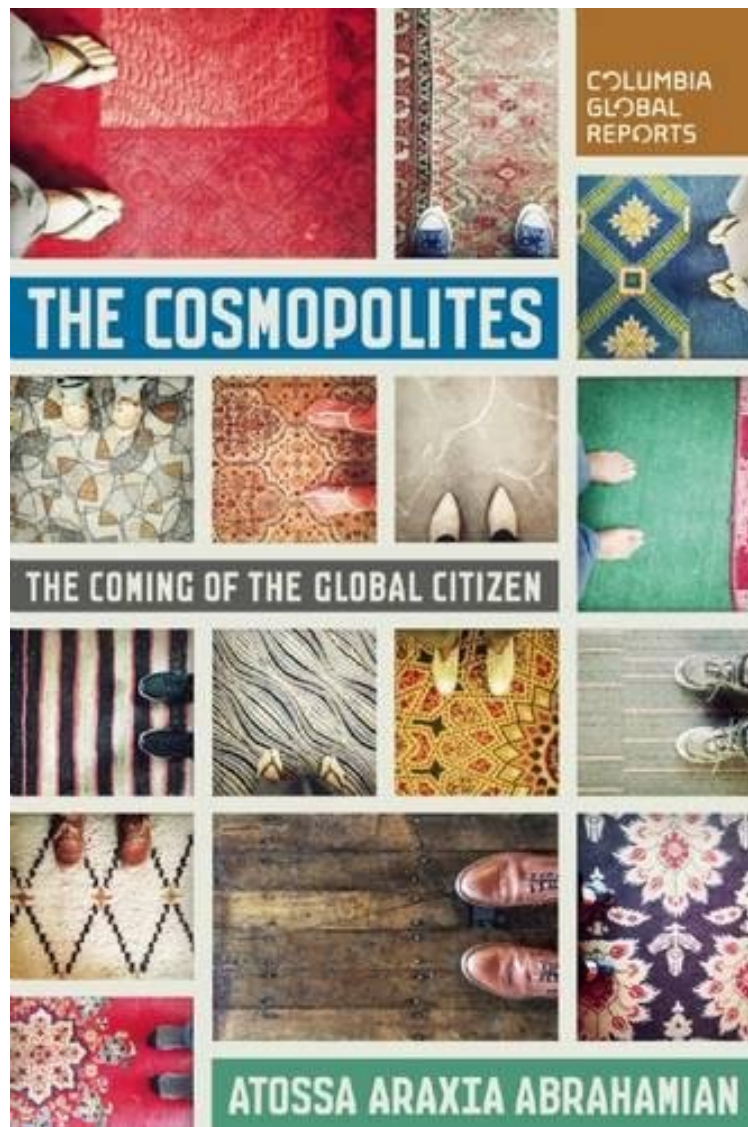


[Download pdf] The Cosmopolites: The Coming of the Global Citizen (Columbia Global Reports)

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Atossa Araxia Abrahamian

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Atossa Araxia Abrahamian : The Cosmopolites: The Coming of the Global Citizen (Columbia Global Reports)
before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Cosmopolites: The Coming of the Global Citizen (Columbia Global Reports):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Good book, but it only scratches the surfaceBy Steve B.Abrahamian could have covered so much more. The book provided a few good examples of statelessness (poor) and multiple

passport holders (wealthy), but left some of the larger questions unanswered. I would have enjoyed learning more about other groups of stateless people, the kinds of political and NGO pressure being placed on nations to formally accept their stateless citizens, and how things are changing in the 21st Century. The last point is the most interesting. The latter half of the 20th Century was about Eastern European, African, Asian, and South American "brain drain" but how have the changes in BRIC countries and spheres of influence 1) changed the flow of internationally mobile citizens and 2) how are those changes impacting global movement? All in all, a good book worth the read. Maybe Abrahamian will publish a second edition in a few years in which more is discussed.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A new development of capitalism in international relations

By Denis I-SCitizenship as a commodity poses serious challenges to the assumptions that underlie so many of our international systems, and this book is a very insightful examination of the parallel developments of the global elite who buy additional passports for convenience in travel and taxation and the stateless populations of the gulf states who have other passports purchased for them by governments that don't want to extend the generous financial support of being a citizen of a wealthy petro-state. It is tightly written and compelling, especially as a window into the beauty and dysfunction of the little-known islands of Comoros.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating Obscure Topic

By David AusmanI came across this book because of a flier I saw on a bulletin board. I never knew there were people who are born without citizenship papers...and lots of them, too. Also, it is interesting to discover how wealthy people can purchase citizenship. We learn what citizenship is now and how the concept of it and nationalism may change because of globalization. Since all our jobs can be exported at the whim of corporate owners then why should we be denied the ability to easily move to another country while corporate owners can buy a new passport whenever they feel like it?

The buying and selling of citizenship has become a legitimate, thriving business in just a few years. Entrepreneurs are renouncing America and Europe in favor of tax havens in the Caribbean with the help of a cottage industry of lawyers, bankers, and consultants that specialize in expatriation. But as journalist Atossa Araxia Abrahamian discovered, the story of twenty-first century citizenship is bigger than millionaires buying their second or third passport. When she learned that mysterious middlemen had persuaded the Comoro Islands to turn to selling citizenship as a new source of revenue, she decided to follow the money trail to the Middle East. There, she found that officials in the oil-rich United Arab Emirates had bulk-ordered passports for their bidoon, or stateless population, transforming these men, women, and children without countries into Comorian citizens practically overnight. In her timely and eye-opening first book, Abrahamian travels the globe to meet these willing and unwitting "cosmopolites," or citizens of the world, who show us how transactional and unpredictable national citizenship in the twenty-first century can be.

A New York Times Book Editor's Choice

"Writing with pace and passion, Abrahamian, an opinion editor at Al Jazeera America, weaves together her narratives with considerable journalistic flair. She intertwines [her narratives with] the ancient idea of cosmopolitan citizenship and its idealistic modern advocates. She sees the growing market in citizenship as the corruption and commercialization of this idea by a global business elite." Richard Bellamy, *The New York Times Book*

"A perceptive, brilliantly reported investigation into the ways in which the forces of globalization are fundamentally changing the conceptualization and practice of nationality. This is that rare thing: a book filled with news." -- Joseph O'Neill, author of *Netherland* and *The Dog*

Atossa Araxia Abrahamian is a 21st-century Diogenes of Canadian, Iranian, and Swiss citizenship who has written a sharp, compelling, and often humorous book about the evolution of citizenship and the rise of a new form of statelessness. As she contends in *The Cosmopolites*, if in the 21st century 'the nation is being called into question as a result of globalizing technology, trade and crisis, it makes perfect sense for our connection and allegiance to the nation to be challenged too.' A cosmopolite is a global citizen who manages to be 'of the world without belonging anywhere within it,' she writes, all the while exploring and challenging the parameters that determine who among us gets to be global." -- *The Nation*

"Can cosmopolitanism advance human rights and claim high-minded ideals, when muddled, exploitative politics often follow in its wake? Abrahamian's reporting is not a call to dispense altogether with the contradictions of the modern nation-state. Rather, it is a clearer demand for a better set of contradictions, which support the identities and participation of people who are now stateless living in societies that seek to expel them." -- *The New Republic*

"It's an intriguing, thoroughly reported look at the evolution of nationality and citizenship, and how the latter is quickly becoming a marketable commodity to the world's well-heeled jet set, while remaining heartbreakingly out of reach for those who need it most." -- Quartz

Abrahamian's meticulous and intricate examination excels, and not just in its focus on the capitalist middlemen...Instead, her story, like most modern tales of the global economy in the age of income inequality, vacillates between the haves and the have-nots, the 'one percent' and everyone else." -- *Pacific Standard*

"A fiercely reported case study of the 'financialization' of citizenship and the burgeoning global business of buying and selling passports." -- *Politico Europe*

"This fascinating and lucid bit of reportage investigates the birth of the citizenship industry, in which tax havens and micro-nations sell passports to Middle Eastern millionaires, stateless populations, and the new 'international' class which occupies a new world without boundaries or state-imposed limits." -- *Believer*

"A sharp, insightful expose of the world of the stateless....a fascinating, eminently readable exploration of contemporary

citizenship and concepts of statehood. Readers will be deeply intrigued by the connections she draws and the implications of the modern movement away from statehood and nationalism, and eager to learn more when this quick read is over."-- Publishers Weekly"Abrahamian's fluently told, fast-paced story takes her around the world, into dark corners such as the passport industry ('You can never be too rich, too thin, or have too many passports') and refugee processing centers, and it ends on a dark note suggesting that anyone seeking a new country who doesn't arrive with a thick wallet is likely to be turned away--or worse. A slim but powerful book of great interest."--Kirkus s