

Dual Citizenship as a Strategy for Global Upward Mobility

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Key points

- Citizenship transformations: global rise of dual and non-resident citizenship
- Global inequality drives demand for second citizenship
- Compensatory citizenship: second citizenship from a Western/EU country held by citizens of non-Western countries
- Acquired on the basis of ancestry, ethnic identity or migration history

The global rise of dual citizenship

1990: 25% of countries in Europe and the Americas permitted dual citizenship

2010: 75% of them permitted it

Legitimization of dual and non-resident citizenship

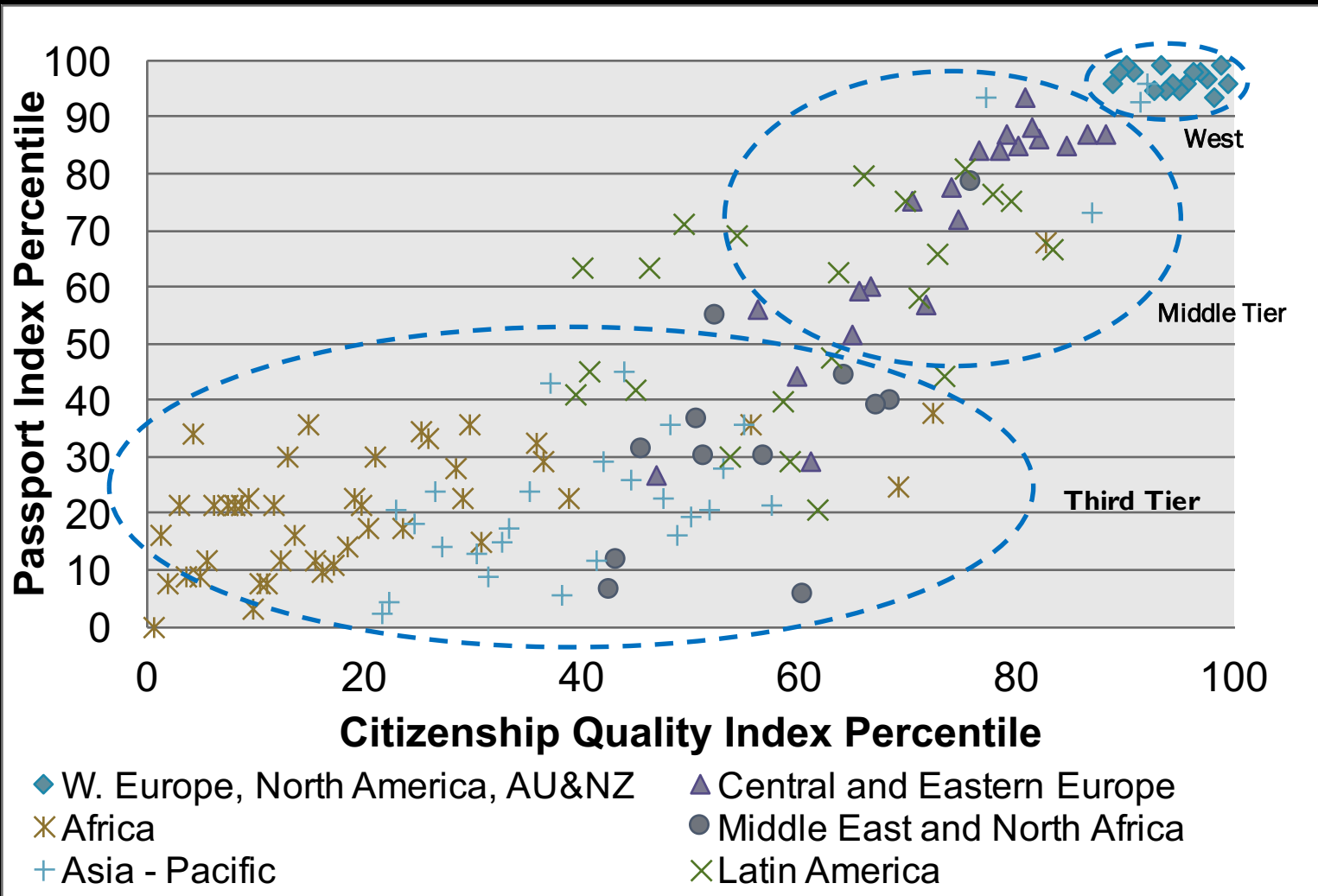
➔ Dual citizenship as an opportunity

➔ Value shaped by global inequality

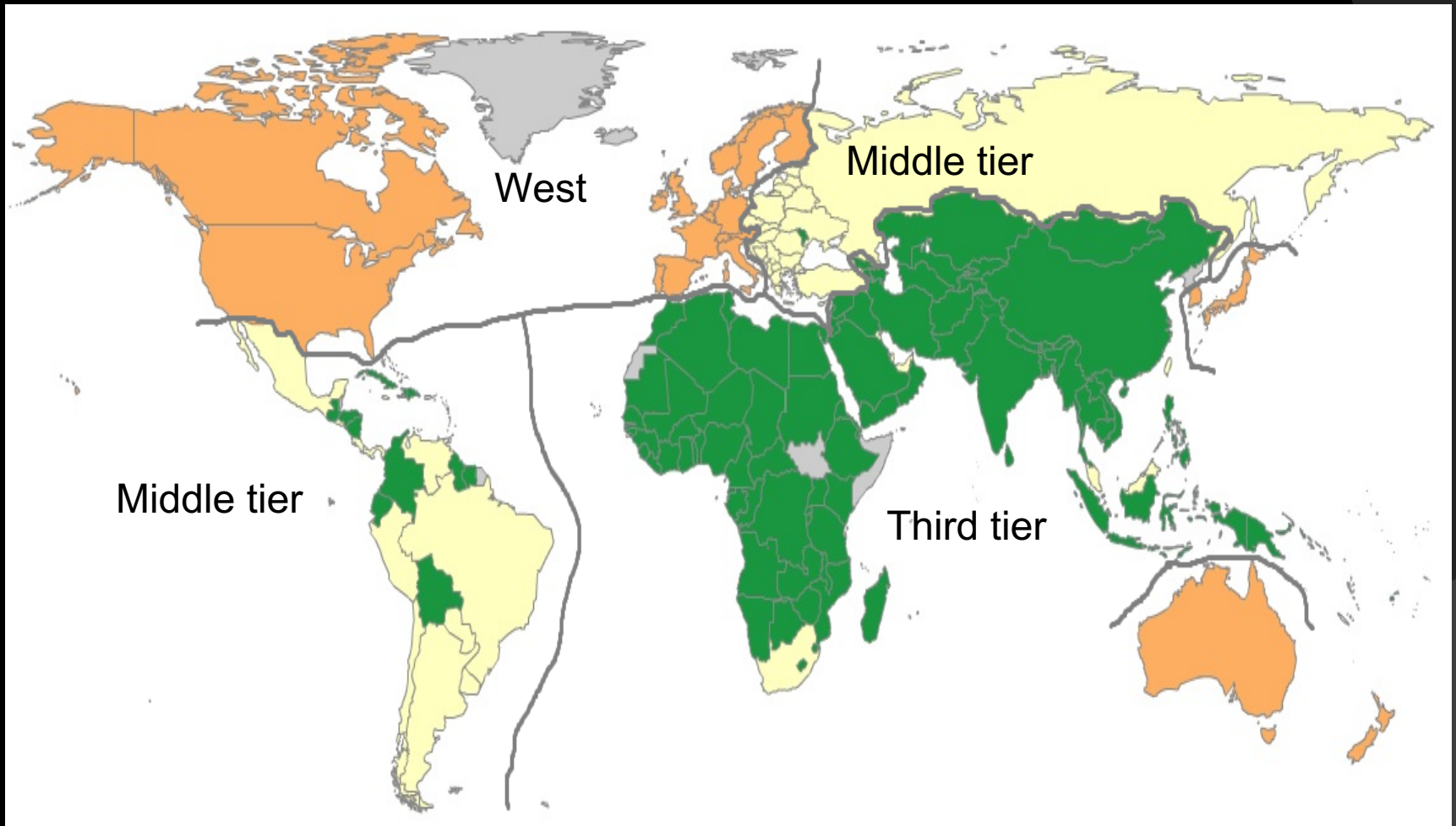
Global stratification by citizenship

- Citizenship – the most important status that determines one’s life chances
- A “non-Marxian world”
- Citizenship stratifies world’s population by
 - Economic opportunities, quality of life
 - Security
 - Political rights
 - Freedom of movement

Global inequality: a three-tiered structure



Citizenship tiers mapped



Dual citizenship: a matter of geography

Position in global hierarchy shapes attitude towards potential second citizenship

- Western countries – low demand
- Third-tier countries – low availability
- Middle-tier countries – millions obtain a second citizenship from Western or EU countries → *compensatory citizenship*

Pathways to compensatory citizenship

I) Ancestry

Over 2.5 million EU dual citizens in Israel, Argentina and Brazil

II) Ethnic identity

Over 1 million EU dual citizens in Romania, Serbia, Moldova and Ukraine

III) Circular migration and “birth tourism”

2 million U.S. dual citizens in Mexico

Strategizing a second citizenship

Findings from ~180 interviews in Mexico, Serbia and Israel:

- Capitalizing on ancestry, ethnicity, economic capital
- Emergence of “citizenship industry”
- Costs: between \$10 and \$20,000
- Acquired by families, not individuals

Uses of compensatory citizenship

- Does not typically lead to emigration
- Uses:
 - Insurance policy
 - Freedom of movement
 - Consumption
 - Status symbol
- Citizenship as property

Conclusions

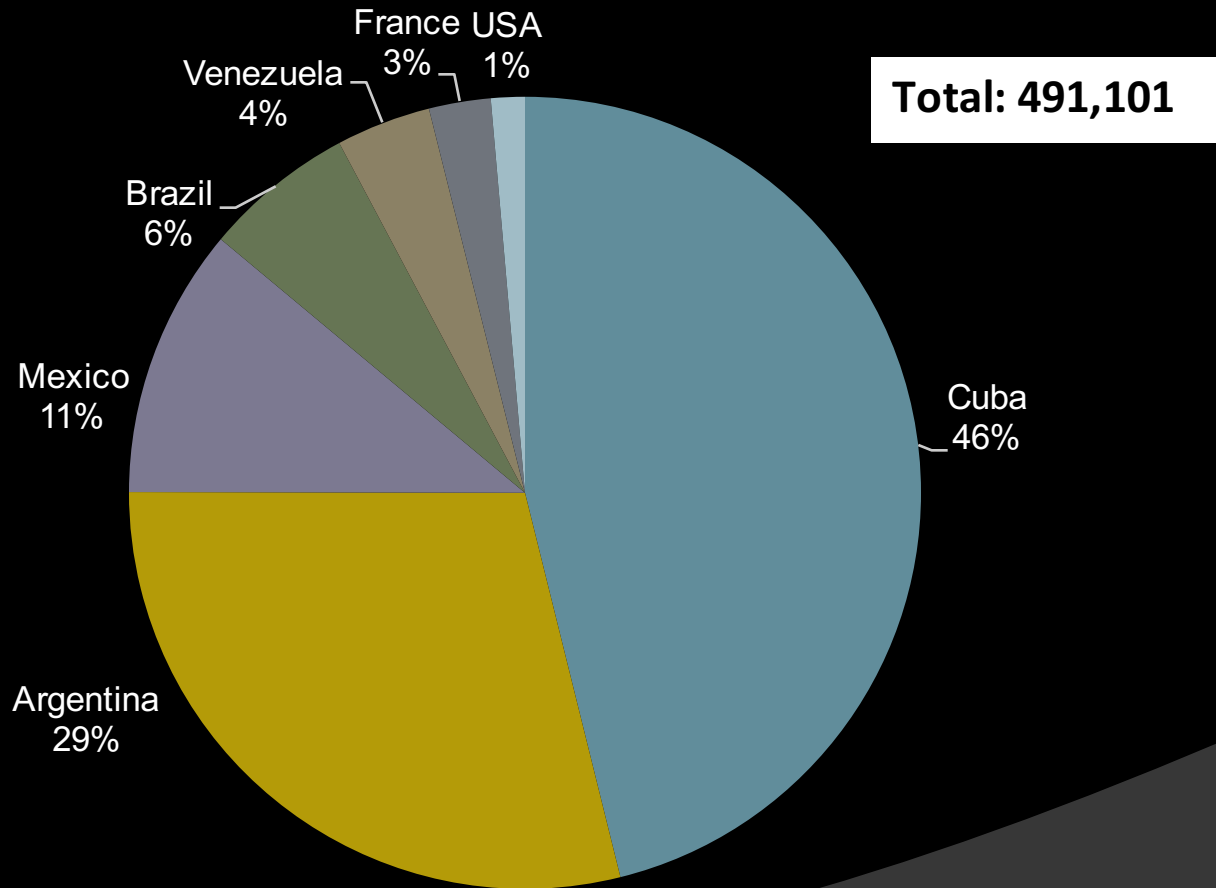
- Citizenship transformations create new opportunities for elites in middle-tier countries
- Interpenetration of local and global systems of stratification
- Citizenship increasingly disconnected from residence and identity
- A global backlash?

Further reading

- Harpaz, Yossi. 2013. Rooted Cosmopolitans: Israelis with a European passport – History, Property, Identity. *International Migration Review*, Vol. 47 No. 1 (Spring 2013), pp. 166-206.
- Harpaz, Yossi. 2015. “Ancestry into Opportunity: How Global Inequality Drives Demand for Non-Resident European Union Citizenship”. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*. Vol. 41 Issue 13, pp. 2081-2014.
- Harpaz, Yossi. 2016. Compensatory Citizenship: A Comparative Study of Dual Nationality in Serbia, Mexico and Israel. Unpublished Ph.D. Dissertation, Princeton University.
- Harpaz, Yossi. M.S. Compensatory Citizenship: Dual Nationality as a Strategy of Global Upward Mobility. Manuscript under review.

Spain: Law of Historical Memory

Citizenship acquisitions, 2009-2011



Spanish citizens abroad

- 2.3 million – of which 1.4 million were born outside Spain
- Leading countries of residence:
 - Argentina – 440,000
 - France – 230,000
 - Venezuela, USA, Mexico, Brazil, Cuba – 100,000-200,000
 - (Israel – 2,999 Spanish citizens)