

**There are TWO political status in the United States you should know about...**

**1. National**

**2. Citizen**

**The 14th Amendment, 1st Clause:** "All persons born or naturalized in the United States, *and* subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside."

PRIOR to the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment, all *persons* of the united states of America were ***nationals***, there were no citizens under the jurisdiction of the United States.

# What is a national?

As defined by Section 101(a)(21) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, “the term ‘national’ means:

**a person owing permanent allegiance to a state.”<sup>1</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/legal/travel-legal-considerations/us-citizenship/Certificates-Non-Citizen-Nationality.html>

Going back to the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment... the purpose of the U.S. Citizenship status was to *grant the freed slaves a citizenship that protected them from the actions and laws of the states.*

We then had two types political statuses in the nation:

1. The U.S. Citizens who were granted civil rights and protections under the 14th amendment
2. The “national” or “State Citizen” under the original Constitution and other founding documents of our nation which pre-existed the 14th amendment, who were the “People” of each state with full political rights.

**“Since the U.S.C. defines a “national” as an individual who owes permanent allegiance to a state, and is a holder of political power in our nation the term national fits very nicely.**

**A national is a member of the people, who as a body politic creates government for the enforcement of their will over things and persons in their territory, and for all intents and purposes is the nation.”**

*- A Nationals Citizenship Handbook*