

**„Their existence is on earth, but their citizenship is in heaven”**

**(Letter to Diognetus)**

**Citizenship from an Austrian perspective as a Catholic Theologian**

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From Early Christianity on citizenship for Christians is a controversial and critical term. With this perspective I try to interpret citizenship in three periods of younger Austrian history:

- In the Austro-fascism (1933-1938): The time before the Second World War, called “the corporate state” (Ständestaat)
- After the State Treaty (1955): The time of the “Second Republic”, called “the Austrian economic miracle”
- After EU Accession (1995): The time to be an European

The differences in understanding citizenship in different periods of younger Austrian history lead us to critical theological insights of citizenship in general.