



British Nationality and Status of Aliens Act 1914

1914 CHAPTER 17

PART I

NATURAL-BORN BRITISH SUBJECTS

1 Definition of natural-born British subject

- (1) The following persons shall be deemed to be natural-born British subjects, namely :—
- (a) Any person born within His Majesty's dominions and allegiance; and
 - (b) Any person born out of His Majesty's dominions whose father was, at the time of that person's birth, a British subject, and who fulfils any of the following conditions, that is to say, if either—
 - (i) his father was born within His Majesty's allegiance; or
 - (ii) his father was a person to whom a certificate of naturalization had been granted; or
 - (iii) his father had become a British subject by reason of any annexation of territory; or
 - (iv) his father was at the time of that person's birth in the service of the Crown; or
 - (v) his birth was registered at a British consulate within one year or in special circumstances, with the consent of the Secretary of State, two years after its occurrence, or, in the case of a person born on or after the first day of January, nineteen hundred and fifteen, who would have been a British subject if born before that date, within twelve months after the first day of August, nineteen hundred and twenty-two; and
 - (c) Any person born on board a British ship whether in foreign territorial waters or not:

Provided that the child of a British subject, whether that child was born before or after the passing of this Act, shall be deemed to have been born within His Majesty's

allegiance if born in a place where by treaty, capitulation, grant, usage, sufferance, or other lawful means, His Majesty exercises jurisdiction over British subjects:

Provided also that any person whose British nationality is conditional upon registration at a British consulate shall cease to be a British subject unless within one year after he attains the age of twenty-one, or within such extended period as may be authorised in special cases by regulations made under this Act—

- (i) he asserts his British nationality by a declaration of retention of British nationality, registered in such manner as may be prescribed by regulations made under this Act; and
 - (ii) if he is a subject or citizen of a foreign country under the law of which he can, at the time of asserting his British nationality, divest himself of the nationality of that foreign country by making a declaration of alienage or otherwise, he divests himself of such nationality accordingly
- (2) A person born on board a foreign ship shall not be deemed to be a British subject by reason only that the ship was in British territorial waters at the time of his birth.
 - (3) Nothing in this section shall, except as otherwise expressly provided, affect the status of any person born before the commencement of this Act.
 - (4) The certificate of a Secretary of State that a person was at any date in the service of the Crown shall, for the purposes of this section, be conclusive.