

## Native Born Versus Natural Born

A reader of this web site recently sent me an e-mail stating, "I believe that natural born means being born on U.S. territory." This was my reply:

Believing or wishing does not make something so. "Native born" means born on U.S. soil. "Natural born" means born on U.S. soil to two U.S. citizen parents. If the Founding Fathers had meant "native born," they would have written that in the U.S. Constitution. Words have meanings, and the Founding Fathers certainly knew, spoke, and wrote the language better than do most Americans today.

There are many historical documents that support the term "natural born" as meaning "born of two citizen parents." But even if one chooses to "believe" something else, one cannot explain the text of the U.S. Constitution if "natural born" means nothing more than "native born."

The Constitution states:

*"No Person except a natural born Citizen, or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the Office of President; neither shall any Person be eligible to that Office who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty five Years, and been fourteen Years a Resident within the United States."*

The above text makes no sense if natural born means nothing more than born on U.S. soil. If that is what one believes, the text could have been simplified to:

*"No Person except a natural born Citizen shall be eligible to the Office of President; neither shall any Person be eligible to that Office who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty five Years, and been fourteen Years a Resident within the United States."*

In other words, the grandfather clause ("or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution") would have served no purpose! There would have been no need to include the grandfather clause had the Founding Fathers thought that merely having been born on U.S. soil makes one a natural born citizen!

Because the term natural born citizen means "born on U.S. soil to two U.S. citizen parents," the grandfather clause had to be included in the Constitution because in 1789 there were *no* natural born citizens who were also 35 years old! Without the grandfather clause, the new nation would have to wait decades before any natural born citizens would turn 35 and become eligible to serve as president. Thus, the grandfather clause was included in order to ensure that there could be presidents until the day came when presidential candidates could meet the natural born citizen and the age and residency requirements. The simple truth is that the Founding Fathers did not want anyone like Obama to become president, because someone like that might feel an allegiance to the country of which his parent or parents were citizens. (That has been proven to be the case, with **Obama's** shameless actions that have offended England and his improper

backing of a new Kenyan constitution that expands Shari law in his father's country.)

The natural born citizen requirement has nothing to do with racism or political parties. The rule also prohibits Marco Rubio and Bobby Jindal from serving as president, and neither of them is black or a Democrat. Although Rubio and Jindal were both born on U.S. soil and are “native born,” they are not “natural born” because (as far as I can tell) their parents were not U.S. citizens at the moment of their births. (I believe that Rubio’s parents were still Cuban citizens and Jindal’s were still citizens of India, in the United States on student visas. If Rubio’s parents and Jindal’s parents became naturalized U.S. citizens *after* their births, they are still not natural born citizens because the status of their parents *at the moment of birth* is what is important. I may be incorrect about Rubio’s and Jindal’s parents, but I have been unable to confirm whether or when they became U.S. citizens. The media seems to have no interest in investigating that aspect of their pasts, likely because they cannot have Rubio and Jindal prohibited from serving as president without the same house of cards collapsing on Obama. In other words, the media is either ignorant or chooses to keep the American people ignorant.)

One must ask whether a President Jindal would be impartial if India and Pakistan engaged in war, or how a President Rubio would act if U.S. interests required a military invasion of Cuba and that invasion meant the possible loss of lives of his relatives. The logic of the Founding Fathers in including the natural born citizen requirement was to insure that a president was as far removed as possible from allegiance to another country. Clearly, someone whose parents came from India or Cuba is likely to be less impartial than someone whose grandparents were citizens of those nations. It is not racism to say we should not allow Mexicans to become president of the United States; it is national and cultural self-preservation. (Of course, many leftists do not care whether the United States or its culture is preserved.)

The Founding Fathers were not stupid men. The U.S. Constitution is a precisely-crafted document. It does not contain superfluous words. It also means what it says (not that most legislators and judges pay much attention to what it says).

I challenge anyone who believes that “natural born” means nothing more than “native born” to explain the inclusion of the grandfather clause in the U.S. Constitution.

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