

EVIDENCE : LAW_0011_EN

Title	Status of foreigners
Subtitle	French legislation
Reference	La France et ses migrations du XVIIe siècle à nos jours, Période de l’Ancien Régime au début de 20e siècle : Delphine Diaz, 2025.
Author	Delphine Diaz
Date / Historical era	Classic
Theme(s)	Exile and Foreignness
Type	Legal concept
Language	EN
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Excerpt

From the 16th century onwards, foreigners who settled in the country were subject to the royal absolutism (...). They were affected by the ‘droit d'aubaine’ (right of reversion), which allowed the king to seize the property of foreigners who died without heirs born in France: they were known as ‘aubains’. They were subject to certain employment restrictions, and a new tax was introduced in 1697. Some of



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them were able to escape these restrictions and taxes by requesting 'letters of naturalisation' from the king: he alone could make them French.



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