



The Cosmopolites: The Coming of the Global Citizen (Columbia Global Reports)

Atossa Araxia Abrahamian

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The cosmopolites are literally "citizens of the world," from the Greek word *kosmos*, meaning "world," and *polites*, or "citizen." Garry Davis, aka World Citizen No. 1, and creator of the World Passport, was a former Broadway actor and World War II bomber pilot who renounced his American citizenship in 1948 as a form of protest against nationalism, sovereign borders, and war. Today there are cosmopolites of all stripes, rich or poor, intentional or unwitting, from 1-percenters who own five passports thanks to tax-havens to the *Bidoon*, the stateless people of countries like the United Arab Emirates. Journalist Atossa Abrahamian, herself a cosmopolite, travels around the globe to meet the people who have come to embody an increasingly fluid, borderless world.

Along the way you are introduced to a colorful cast of characters, including passport-burning atheist hackers, the new Knights of Malta, California libertarian "seastealers," who are residents of floating city-states, *Bidoons*, who have been forced to be citizens of the island nation Comoros, entrepreneurs in the business of buying and selling passports, cosmopolites who live on a luxury cruise ship called *The World*, and shady businessmen with ties to Syrian dictator Bashar al Assad.

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