

Class-X Civics Chapter-1 Power Sharing

Ethnic Composition of Belgium and Sri Lanka



- 80% Speaks french
- 20% Speaks Dutch

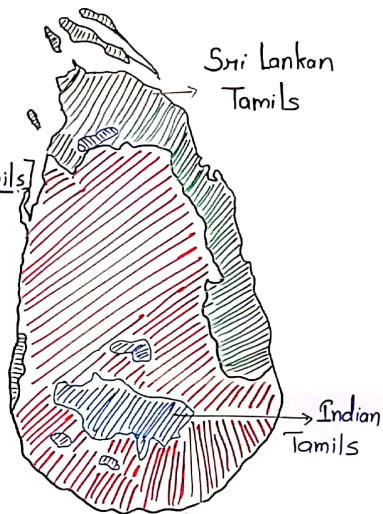
→ Dutch Speaking Constituted Majority in the Country but Minority in the Capital City. [vice versa for french speaking].

Sinhala - Speakers = 74 Percent

Tamil - Speakers = 18 Percent

[13% Sri lankan tamils, 5% Indian Tamils]

- Most of the Sinhala speaking people are Buddhists.
- Tamil speaking people are both Hindus and Muslims.
- 7% population is of Christians, they speaks Tamil and Sinhala.



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Majoritarianism in Sri Lanka

- Sri Lanka got independence in 1948 → Majority [Sinhala Community] → Sought domination through "Majoritarianism". what 😞?? How 😞??

→ Steps taken to establish Sinhala Supremacy are :

- In 1956, Act was passed to recognise Sinhala as The only official language, thus disregarding Tamils.
- Sinhala were given favours in university and government jobs.
- Buddhism was favoured and given special protection Constitutionally.
- This all increased the feeling of alienation among Tamils. They were denied political rights and were Discriminated.

∴ Due to all this, relation between Tamils and Sinhala got strained.

→ Tamils launched Struggles against Sinhala, demanding independent Tamil Eelam (State).

→ Distrust turned into "Civil war".

→ Thousands of people of both the Communities were killed.

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Accommodation in Belgium

→ Leaders in Belgium took different path. → Recognised diversity → Amended Constitution four times to accommodate diversity (1970 to 1993)

• Some elements of the Belgian Model of accommodation are:

- i. Constitution prescribes that the number of French and Dutch-speaking ministers should be equal in central government. Thus, no single community can make decision unilaterally.
- ii. Powers were given to the state government. They were not subordinate to central government.
- iii. Brussels has a separate government in which both the communities have equal representation.
- iv. Third kind of government "Community government" was formed. This government has power regarding, cultural, educational and language-related issues.

Brussels was chosen as headquarter for European union

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Why power sharing is desirable

(i). Prudential Reason

→ It Reduces the chances of Conflicts between various Social groups.

→ Conflicts → Violence and Political Instability

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∴ Power sharing is good way to ensure political stability.

→ Power sharing will bring out better outcomes.

(ii). Moral Reason

→ Power sharing is the very Spirit of democracy.

→ People have a right to be Consulted on How they have to be governed.

→ Moral reasons of power sharing emphasise the very act of power sharing as valuable

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Forms of Power Sharing

→ Changing notions regarding power sharing over a period of time [Emergence of Democracy]

∴ Some of Common arrangements of Power sharing:

i. Power Sharing among different organs of govt.

- Legislature × Executive × Judiciary
- Horizontal distribution of Power.
- System of checks and balances is developed.

ii. Power sharing among different levels of govt.

- Vertical distribution of power
- Central → State → local government
- federal division of Power [federalism]

iii. Power sharing among different Social groups.

- Sharing power between various religious and linguistic groups.
- Reserved Constituencies in state assemblies and parliament of our Country.
- "Community government" is a good example of this.

iv. Power Sharing among different political parties pressure groups and movements.

- Represent different ideologies and Social groups.
- Coalition government is an example of it.
- Interest groups influences decision Making.