

Political science

Chapter -1 POWER SHARING

INTRODUCTION- The chapter covers the importance of sharing power by giving comparison of two countries Belgium and Sri Lanka and it also discusses about different ways through which power is being shared.

Important terms

1. Ethnic - a social group sharing common language, culture, religion or common descent.
2. Majoritarianism- it's rule of majority in whatsoever way they want, they may even disregard minority.
3. Civil War- violent conflict (like war) between two different groups within country.
4. Prudential- Based on calculations of gains & losses
5. Moral - Based on moral/ethical considerations

CASE STUDY- BELGIUM

- ☆ it's the small country in Europe
- ☆ it has borders with France the Netherlands, Germany and Luxembourg
- ☆ Population- little over one crore

☆ ETHNIC COMPOSITION

At National/Central level -

Dutch Speakers- 59% (Flemish Region)

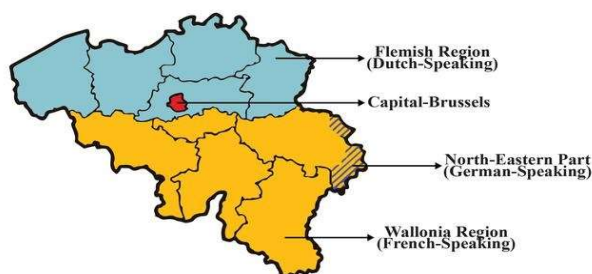
French Speakers- 40% (Wallonia Region)

German Speakers- 1%

In Capital/Brussels of Belgium-

French Speakers- 80%

Dutch Speakers- 20%



ACCOMMODATION IN BELGIUM/ BELGIUM MODEL

[Constitution was amended 4 times during 1970-1993]

1. Equal Ministership to Dutch and French speaking communities in the central government. That's why no single community can make decisions unilaterally.
2. State governments are empowered. The state governments are not subordinate to the central government.
3. Brussels has a separate government in which both the communities have equal representation.
4. Formation of Community Government- this was the third kind of government which is elected by people belonging to one language community, no matter where they live and this level of government had powers regarding culture, language and education related issues.

NOTE- Brussels became headquarter of EUROPEAN UNION because of peace in the country

CASE STUDY- SRI LANKA

- ☆ An island nation
- ☆ Population- 2 crore

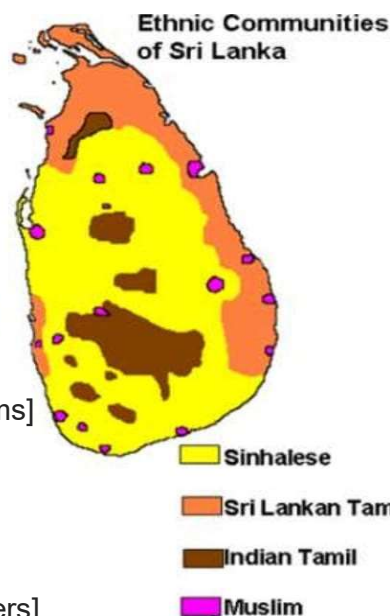
☆ ETHNIC COMPOSITION

SINHALA SPEAKERS- 74% [Buddhists]

TAMIL SPEAKERS- 18% [Hindus or Muslims]

Srilankan Tamils	Indian Tamils
13%	5%

CHRISTIANS- 7% [Tamil & Sinhala Speakers]



- Ethnic composition led to

MAJORITARIANISM in Srilanka

Sri Lanka independent-1948.

Sinhala community wanted to dominate the government by virtue of their majority.

* Democratically elected government adopted a series of MAJORITARIAN measures to establish Sinhala supremacy.

- In 1956, an Act was passed to recognise Sinhala as the only official language (disrespecting Tamil).
- Preferential policies for Sinhala community
- A new constitution stipulated that the state shall protect and foster Buddhism.

These measures created sense of alienation among the Sri Lankan Tamils.

* They felt discrimination in getting jobs, equal political rights being denied.

Tension started between Sinhala and Tamil communities. So Sri Lankan Tamils launched parties and struggles.

* By 1980s several political organisations were formed demanding an independent Tamil Eelam (state) in northern and eastern parts of Sri Lanka.

❖ DISTRUST INCREASED which turned into CIVIL WAR , thousands of people killed & many families forced to leave the country that finally led to loss of livelihood.

WHY IS POWER SHARING DESIRABLE?

Prudential Reasons-

1. To reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups
2. To ensure the stability of political order
3. To strengthen the unity of the country
4. To bring peace and prosperity

Objective of Prudential Reasons- to bring better outcomes & secure future

Moral Reasons-

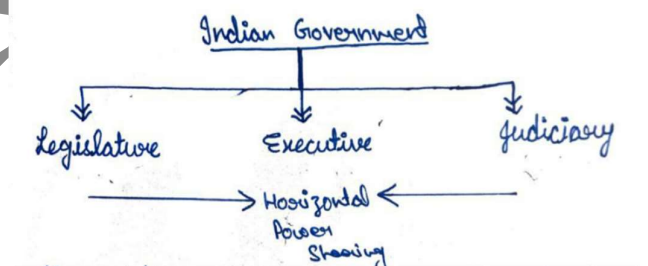
1. Power sharing is the spirit of democracy.
2. Power should be shared with those who have to live with its effect.
3. It is the right of the people to give their consent.
4. It ensures a legitimate government and popular participation.

Objective of Moral Reasons- it's important to keep people satisfied

FORMS OF POWER SHARING

Different power sharing arrangements are called forms of power sharing.

1. Horizontal Power Sharing- Power sharing among different organs or Institutions of government is called horizontal power sharing.



It allows different organs of government placed at the same level to exercise different powers by checking each other's powers and creating a balance of power.

2. Vertical Division of Power- Power sharing at different levels of government are called vertical power sharing. It is also called Federal division of power.



Vertical division of power involves the highest and the lowest levels of government.

3. Power Sharing among different social groups-

- a. Under this arrangement, govt. & administration gives space to the diverse social groups;
- b. In this way, minority communities get a fair share in power.

Example 'Community Government' in Belgium & 'Reservation Policy' in India

4. Power sharing among different Political Parties, Pressure groups & Movements-

- a. No political party enjoys power forever;
- b. It is for the people to decide who should be in power;
- c. With the emergence of coalition government many parties share power at the same time;
- d. Pressure groups and movements have share in power by exerting pressure on the government
- e. They influence media by giving attention to the different issues; organised protest activities and participate in official bodies that offer advise to the government.
- f. Sometimes political parties grow out of movements example DMK ; AIADMK;AAP

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