

DEMOCRATIC
POLITICS

CLASS

X

CHAPTER 1

POWER SHARING



INTRODUCTION OF POWER SHARING

Power sharing means the distribution of power among the organs of the government such as the legislature, executive, and judiciary. Power sharing helps in achieving the stability of political order. In power-sharing, power might even be shared at distinct levels such as union, state and local.

CASE STUDY OF BELGIUM

- ◉ SMALL COUNTRY OF EUROPE.
- ◉ CAPITAL – BRUSSELS
- ◉ SMALLER THAN STATE OF HARYANA.
- ◉ BORDERS WITH FRANCE NETHERLANDS, GERMANY
- ◉ AND LUXEMBOURG.

LOCATION

- ◉ LINGUISTIC STATE COMPOSITION-
- ◉ 59% FRENCH DUTCH LIVE IN FLEMISH REGION.
- ◉ 40% FRENCH AND LIVE IN Walloon Region.

ETHNIC COMPOSITION OF THE NATION

LOCATION OF BELGIUM(EUROPE) WITH ITS NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES:- FRANCE NETHERLANDS,GERMANY AND LUXEMBOURG.



COMPOSITION IN CAPITAL-BRUSSELS

80% IN THE CAPITAL SPEAK FRENCH BUT THEY ARE MINORITY IN THE COUNTRY.

20% IN THE CAPITAL SPEAK DUTCH BUT THEY ARE MAJORITY IN THE COUNTRY.

REASONS FOR THE TENSIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COMMUNITIES:

- The minority French were Rich and powerful .
- The majority Dutch got the benefit of Economic development much later.

ACCOMMODATION POLICY IN BELGIUM

From 1970 to 1993, the constitution of Belgian was amended four times. The idea was to work out an arrangement that would make everyone to live together. Key elements of the Belgian model are:-

- ◉ The number of Dutch and French-speaking ministers shall be equal in the central government.
- ◉ Certain powers of the central government were given to state governments of the two regions of the country.
- ◉ There was a separate government for Brussels in which both the communities had equal representation.
- ◉ There was a provision of 'community government' that was elected by people belonging to one language.

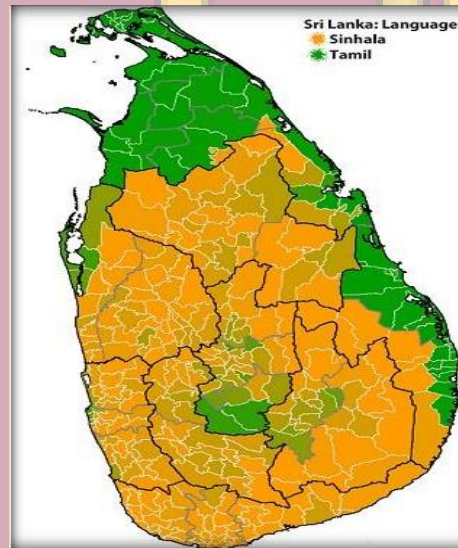
THE STORY OF SRI LANKA

- ❖ This island nation
- ❖ It has a diverse population of two crore people.



CASE OF SRI LANKA

The linguistic structure of Sri Lanka, based on language is as Following



Majority
:Sinhala
Speaking

Minority:Tamil Speaking

Buddhists (Religion
followed by majority
of Sinhalas)

Indian
Tamil

Sri Lanka
Tamil

Christians

Hindu

Muslims

In Sri Lanka, the democratically elected government opted for a series of Majoritarian policy measures because they desired Sinhala supremacy. Some of the measures taken were:

MAJORITARIANISM IN SRI LANKA

- Sinhala was the only official language.
- The governments followed preferential policies and Sinhala applicants.

This made the Sri Lankan Tamils feel alienated. As a result of this, the Sri Lankan Tamils launched parties and began struggles for the recognition of Tamil as an official language. By the 1980s several political organisations were formed. They demanded for an independent Tamil Eelam (state) in northern and eastern parts of Sri Lanka. All this soon turned into a Civil War, thereby, causing distress in the nation.

CONSEQUENCES - CIVIL WAR IN SRILANKA

COMPARING BOTH CASES

- Majoritarian Policy in Sri Lanka led to conflict while accommodation Policy led to peace in Belgium.
- Majoritarian Policy in Sri Lanka led to demand of separate state for a particular linguistic group while accommodation policy made all linguistic community to live together in same country.
- Political instability was there in Sri Lanka, but despite of complex constitution Political stability was obtained in Belgium.
- Development was hindered in Sri Lanka, While Belgium became one of the important places in Europe and got H Q of European Union.
- BY these two examples, it can be concluded that Power Sharing is a sustainable model for Governance, stability, peace and development.

**ACCOMODATION OF BELGIUM WAS
BETTER THAN THE MAJORITARIANISM
IN SRILANKA**

ADVANTAGES OF POWER SHARING

```
graph TD; A[ADVANTAGES OF POWER SHARING] --> B[Analytical]; A --> C[Moral]; B --> D["• Reduces Social Conflict<br>• Reduces chances of division<br>• Political Stability<br>• Open Path ways of development"]; C --> E["• Power sharing is the very spirit of democracy.<br>• A democratic rule involves sharing power with those affected by its exercise, and who have to live with its effects.<br>• People have a right to be consulted on how they are to be governed.<br>• A legitimate government is one where citizens, through participation, acquire a stake in the system."];
```

Analytical

- Reduces Social Conflict
- Reduces chances of division
 - Political Stability
- Open Path ways of development

Moral

- Power sharing is the very spirit of democracy.
- A democratic rule involves sharing power with those affected by its exercise, and who have to live with its effects.
- People have a right to be consulted on how they are to be governed.
- A legitimate government is one where citizens, through participation, acquire a stake in the system.

TYPES OF POWER SHARING

Horizontal distribution of power: In this, the power is shared among different organs of government such as the legislature, executive, and judiciary. This type of power sharing is prevalent in India.

Federal government (vertical distribution of power): In this, the power can be shared among governments at different levels. This type of power sharing is prevalent in the USA.

Power sharing among different social groups: Power can be shared among social groups such as linguistic and religious groups. For instance, Community government' in Belgium.

Other types of power sharing: Power sharing is also seen in political parties, pressure groups and movements control or influence those in power.

Terms you need to know:

1. **Majoritarian**: It is a belief that the majority community should be able to rule a country in whichever way it wants.
2. **Community Government**: A type of Government which is elected by people belonging to one language community is called community government.
3. **Prudential**: It involves decision making based on prudence, or on a careful calculation of gains and losses.
4. **Checks and Balances**: In this system, each organ of the government checks the others which results in a balance of power among various institutions
5. **Reserved Constituencies**: In this, the constituencies are reserved in the Assemblies and the **Parliament** for minorities in order to give them a fair share in power.
6. **Coalition government**: When the alliance of two or more parties gets elected and forms a government it is known as the Coalition Government.