



**NOTES**

# **SOCIAL SCIENCE**

**(POLITICAL SCIENCE)**

**POWER SHARING**



**REVISION NOTES  
CHAPTERWISE &  
TOPICWISE**

## Chapter 1: Power Sharing

### Concepts Covered:

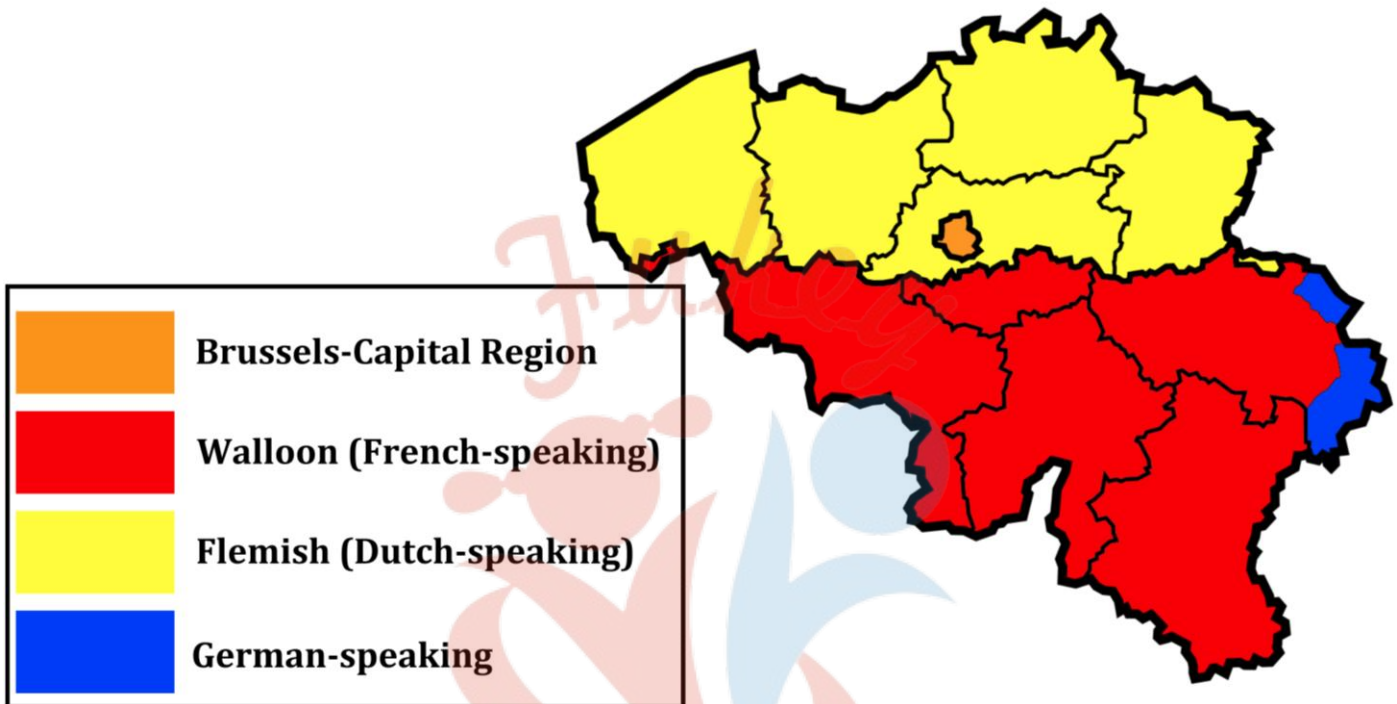
1. **Belgium and Sri Lanka**
    - Ethnic composition of Belgium
    - Reasons for Tension in Belgium
    - Ethnic composition of Sri Lanka
    - Religious Composition
  2. **Majoritarianism in Sri Lanka**
    - Steps taken to establish Sinhala supremacy
    - Impact of Steps taken to establish Sinhala supremacy
    - Reaction of Sri Lankan Tamils
      - Civil War
  3. **Accommodation in Belgium**
    - Elements of Belgian model of Accommodation
  4. **Why Power Sharing is Desirable?**
    - Prudential reasons
    - Moral reasons
  5. **Forms of Power Sharing**
    - Power is shared among different organs of government
    - Power can be shared among government at different levels
    - Power may also be shared among different social groups
    - Power can be shared by political parties, pressure groups and movements
  6. **Mind Map**  
(Colourful & Interactive/ Complete All Concept Covered)
- Practice Questions (All Topics Available)**

# Fukey Education

## BELGIUM AND SRI LANKA

### Ethnic composition of Belgium

#### Communities and regions of Belgium

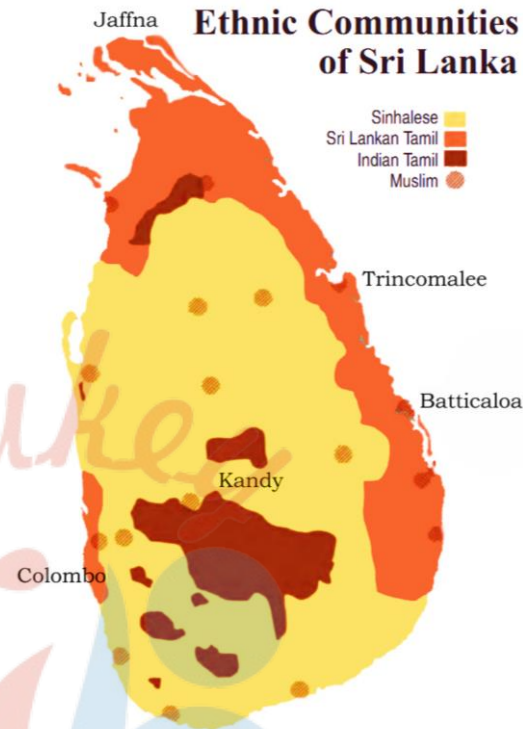


- 59 per cent lives in the Flemish region and speaks Dutch language.
- Another 40 per cent people live in the Wallonia region and speak French.
- Remaining one per cent of the Belgians speak German.
- In the capital city Brussels, 80 per cent people speak French while 20 per cent are Dutch speaking.

### Reasons for Tension in Belgium

- The minority French-speaking community was relatively rich and powerful.
- This was resented by the Dutch-speaking community who got the benefit of economic development and education much later.
- The tension between the two communities was more acute in Brussels.
- Brussels presented a special problem: the Dutch-speaking people constituted a majority in the country, but a minority in the capital.



**POWER SHARING****BELGIUM AND SRI LANKA****Ethnic composition of Sri Lanka**

- Sri Lanka has a diverse population.
- The major social groups are the Sinhala-speakers (74 per cent) and the Tamil-speakers (18 per cent).

**Among Tamils there are two subgroups.**

- Tamil natives of the country are called 'Sri Lankan Tamils' (13 per cent).
- The rest, whose forefathers came from India as plantation workers during colonial period, are called 'Indian Tamils'.

**Religious Composition**

- Most of the Sinhala speaking people are Buddhists, while most of the Tamils are Hindus or Muslims.
- There are about 7 per cent Christians, who are both Tamil and Sinhala.





## MAJORITARIANISM IN SRI LANKA

### Steps taken to establish Sinhala supremacy

Sri Lanka got independence in 1948.

Majority Sinhala sought to secure dominance over government by virtue of their majority.

#### Majoritarianism in Sri Lanka

##### **Majoritarianism**

A belief that the majority community should be able to rule a country in whichever way it wants, by disregarding the wishes and needs of the minority.

##### **Steps taken to establish Sinhala supremacy are :-**

- In 1956, an Act was passed to recognise Sinhala as the only official language, thus disregarding Tamil.
- The governments followed preferential policies that favoured Sinhala applicants for university positions and government jobs.
- A new constitution stipulated that the state shall protect and foster Buddhism.



### Impact of Steps taken to establish Sinhala supremacy

All these government measures increased the feeling of alienation among the Sri Lankan Tamils.

- They felt that the Buddhist Sinhala leaders were not sensitive to their language and culture.
- They felt that the constitution and government policies denied them equal political rights.
- Discriminated against them in getting jobs and other opportunities and ignored their interests.

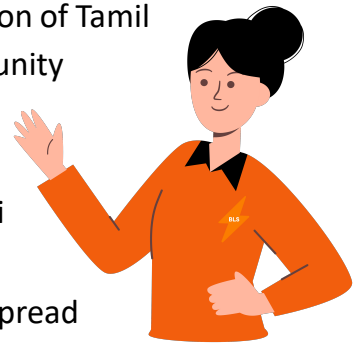
As a result, the relations between the Sinhala and Tamil communities strained over time.

### Reaction of Sri Lankan Tamils

## POWER SHARING

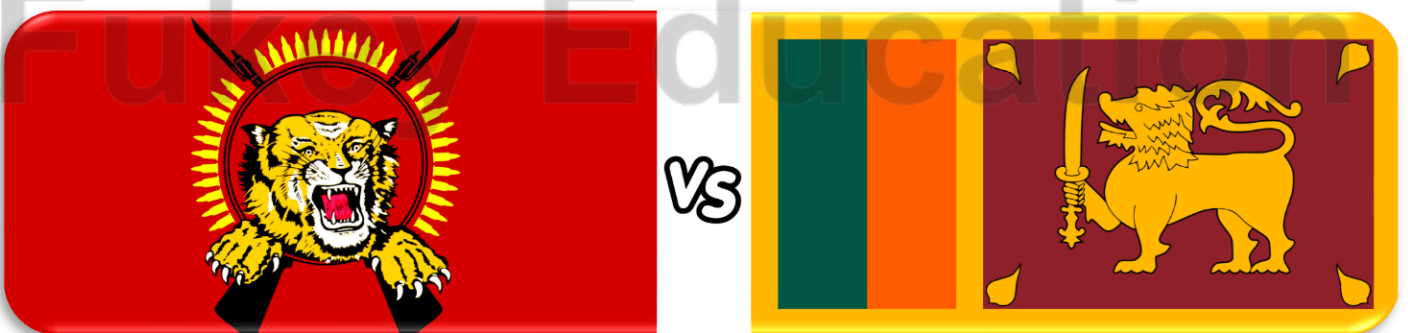
### MAJORITARIANISM IN SRI LANKA

- The Sri Lankan Tamils launched parties and struggles for the recognition of Tamil as an official language, for regional autonomy and equality of opportunity in securing education and jobs.
- By 1980s several political organisations were formed demanding an independent Tamil Eelam (state) in northern and eastern parts of Sri Lanka.
- The distrust between the two communities turned into widespread conflict.



### Civil War

A civil war is a violent conflict between opposing groups within a country that becomes so intense that it appears like a war. Due to the violent conflict between both these ethnic groups thousands of people of both the communities have been killed. The civil war has caused a terrible setback to the social, cultural and economic life of the country.



## ACCOMMODATION IN BELGIUM

### Belgium's Diversity Conflicts

- The Belgian leaders took a different path.
- They recognised the existence of regional differences and cultural diversities.



### Elements of Belgian model of Accommodation

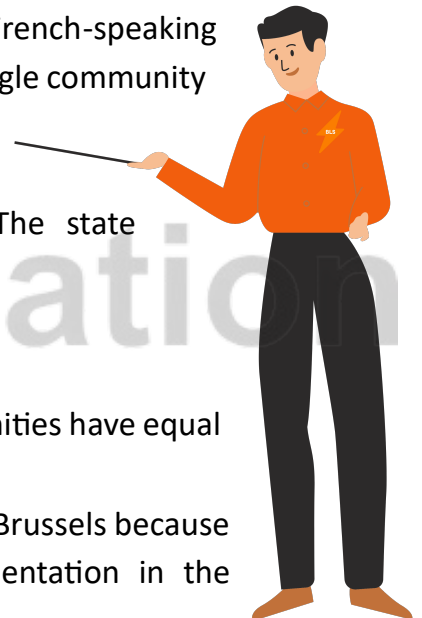
Between 1970 and 1993, they amended their constitution four times so as to work out an arrangement that would enable everyone to live together within the same country.

1. Constitution prescribes that the number of Dutch and French-speaking ministers shall be equal in the central government. Thus, no single community can make decisions unilaterally.
2. Many powers of the central government have been given to state governments of the two regions of the country. The state governments are not subordinate to the Central Government.

Some of the elements of the Belgian model of Accommodation are:

- Brussels has a separate government in which both the communities have equal representation.
- The French Speaking people accepted equal representation in Brussels because the Dutch-speaking community has accepted equal representation in the Central Government.
- Apart from the Central and the State Government, there is a third kind of government.

Community government' is elected by people belonging to one language community - Dutch, French and German-speaking - no matter where they live. This government has the power regarding cultural, educational and language-related issues.





**POWER SHARING****ACCOMMODATION IN BELGIUM**

**European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium**

But these arrangements have worked well so far.

- They helped to avoid civic strife between the two major communities and a possible division of the country on linguistic lines.
- When many countries of Europe came together to form the European Union, Brussels was chosen as its headquarters.

*Future's Key*

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**POWER SHARING****WHY POWER SHARING IS DESIRABLE?****WHY POWER SHARING IS DESIRABLE?****Prudential reasons**

Power sharing is good because it helps to reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups.

- Social conflict often leads to violence and political instability, power sharing is a good way to ensure the stability of political order.
- Imposing the will of majority community over others may look like an attractive option in the short run, but in the long run it undermines the unity of the nation.
- Tyranny of the majority is not just oppressive for the minority; it often brings ruin to the majority as well.

It is prudential to share power because it helps to reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups.

**Moral reasons**

- 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.

While prudential reasons stress that power sharing will bring out better outcomes, moral reasons emphasise the very act of power sharing as valuable.



**POWER SHARING****FORMS OF POWER SHARING****FORMS OF POWER SHARING**

All power of a government must reside in one person or group.

**Emergence of democracy**

- People are the source of all political power.
- Everyone has a voice in the shaping of public policies.

Political Power Should be distributed.



**Power is shared among different organs of government**

**THREE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT****Executive branch****Legislative branch****Judicial branch****Horizontal distribution of power**

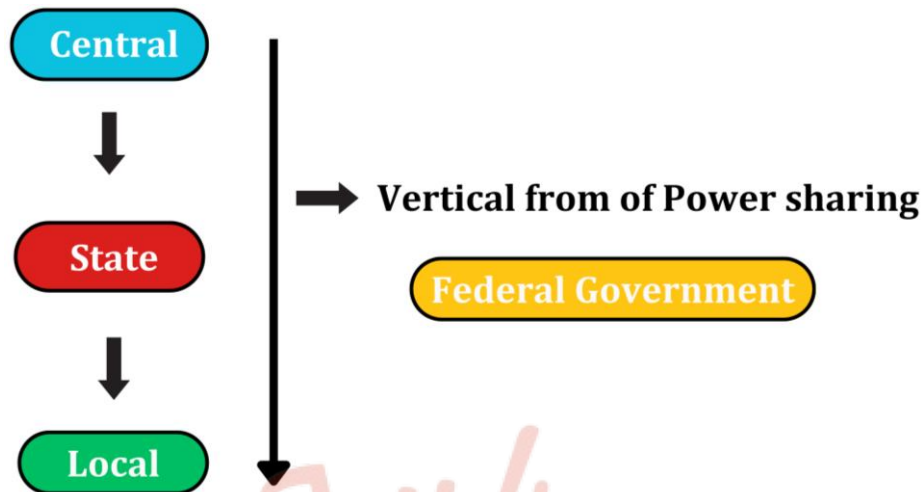
- Such a separation ensures that none of the organs can exercise unlimited power.
- Each organ checks the others.
- This results in a balance of power among various institutions.

**System of checks and balances****Executive****Legislature****Judiciary**

**Power can be shared among government at different levels.**

## POWER SHARING

### FORMS OF POWER SHARING



In a federal government power is shared between a general government for the entire country and governments at the provincial or regional level.

**Power may also be shared among different social groups.**

#### Social Group

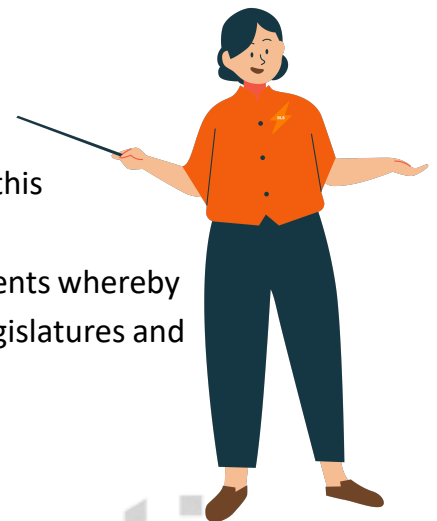
Groups based on the basis of religion and language.

- 'Community government' in Belgium is a good example of this arrangement.
- In some countries there are constitutional and legal arrangements whereby socially weaker sections and women are represented in the legislatures and administration.

#### Reserved Constituencies

Advantages of sharing power among different social groups

- This type of arrangement is meant to give space in the government and administration to diverse social groups who otherwise would feel alienated from the government.
- This method is used to give minority communities a fair share in power.



**Power can be shared by political parties, pressure groups and movements**

**POWER SHARING****FORMS OF POWER SHARING****Political parties****Competition**

- Such competition ensures that power does not remain in one hand.
- Power is shared among different political parties that represent different ideologies and social groups.

**Example –**

1. Coalition government.
2. In a democracy, we find interest groups such as those of traders, businessmen, industrialists, farmers, and industrial workers.



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**POWER SHARING****MIND MAP**