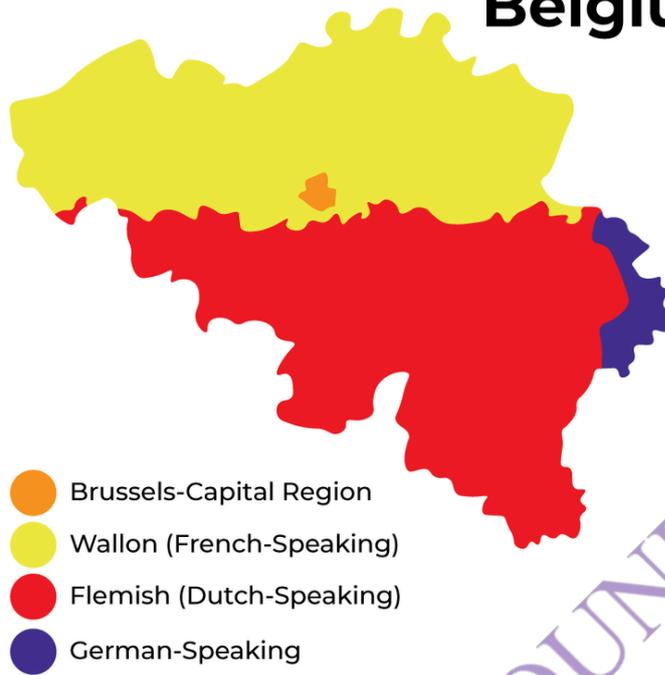




1. Story of Belgium

- **Location:** Small European nation
- **Population:** ~10 million people
- **Language Distribution:**
- **Dutch-speaking (Flemish region):** 59%
- **French-speaking (Wallonia):** 40%
- **German-speaking:** 1%
- **Historical Social Structure:**
- French-speaking population was wealthier and more influential.
- Dutch-speaking population later benefited from economic growth and education.
- **Conflicts:**
- 1950s–1960s: Tensions arose between French and Dutch-speaking groups.
- **Brussels:** A major area of conflict between the two linguistic communities.

Communities of Belgium



2. Story of Sri Lanka

Location: South of the Indian Subcontinent

Population: ~20 million

Ethnic & Linguistic Groups:

- **Sinhala speakers:** 74% (Majority)
- **Tamil speakers:** 18%
 - **Sri Lankan Tamils:** ~13%
 - **Indian Tamils:** Remaining percentage

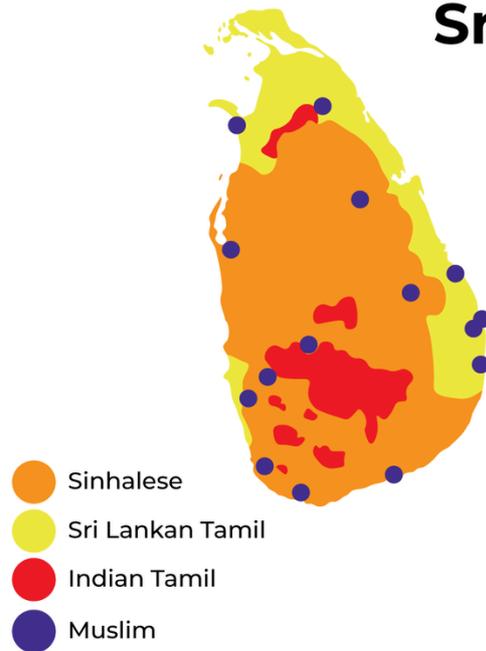
Religious Composition:

- **Buddhists:** Majority of Sinhala speakers
- **Hindus & Muslims:** Majority of Tamils
- **Christians (7%):** Both Sinhala & Tamil communities

Potential Conflict:

- Sinhala majority could impose its policies on minorities.

Communities of Sri Lanka



Comparison of Both Nations

- In both cases, **the majority community had the potential to dominate the minority groups.**
- **Belgium:** Dutch-speaking majority vs. French/German minorities.
- **Sri Lanka:** Sinhala-speaking majority vs. Tamil and other minorities.
- **Examining Outcomes:** Need to analyze what actually occurred in these nations.

3. Majoritarianism in Sri Lanka

Independence: Gained in **1948**

Majoritarian Policies:

- Government promoted **Sinhala dominance** through policies.
- **1956 Act:** Declared **Sinhala as the sole official language**, ignoring Tamil.

Tamil Grievances:

- Denial of **equal democratic rights.**
- **Discrimination** in employment and government policies.
- Neglect of Tamil concerns.

Rising Tensions:

- By the **1980s**, Tamil political groups demanded a **separate Tamil Eelam (state).**
- **Escalation into Civil War** between Sinhala and Tamil groups.



Impact of the Civil War:

- **Mass casualties** on both sides.
- **Severe damage** to Sri Lanka's **social, cultural, and economic stability**.
- War ended in **2009**.

4. Accommodation in Belgium

Constitutional Changes: Modified **four times (1970-1993)** to promote unity.

Key Features of the Belgian Model:

- 1. Equal Representation:**
 - **Dutch and French-speaking officials** in central administration are **equal** in number.
 - Prevents any **one group from dominating decisions**.
- 2. Decentralization:**
 - **State governments** handle many central government duties.
- 3. Brussels' Administration:**
 - **Equal representation** for both language groups.
- 4. Community Government:**
 - Elected by people who speak the **same language**.
 - Controls **cultural, educational, and linguistic** matters.

Outcome:

- Helped **prevent civil conflict** and national division.
- **Brussels** became the headquarters of the **European Union (EU)**.

Lessons from Belgium and Sri Lanka

1. **Different Approaches to Power-Sharing:**
 - **Belgium:** Adopted **inclusive power-sharing** to respect diverse communities.
 - **Sri Lanka:** Followed a **majoritarian** approach, leading to conflict.
2. **Key Takeaways:**
 - **Respect for Diversity:** Ensures **national unity** and **peaceful coexistence**.
 - **Imposing Majority Rule:** Can lead to **discontent, division, and civil unrest**.
 - **Decentralization & Equal Representation:** Strengthen democracy and stability.
3. **Conclusion:**
 - **Belgium's inclusive model** prevented conflict and strengthened unity.
 - **Sri Lanka's majoritarianism** fueled ethnic tensions and civil war.

5. Power Sharing

Power sharing is a democratic principle where power is distributed among different groups in society to ensure stability, representation, and inclusiveness. It prevents the dominance of any single group and promotes harmony.

Why is Power Sharing Desirable?

Power sharing is desirable for two main reasons: **Prudential** and **Moral** justifications.

1. Prudential Justification (Practical Benefits)

- **Reduces Conflict:** Prevents the dominance of one group over others, lowering the risk of civil unrest (e.g., Belgium's model).
- **Promotes Political Stability:** Ensures peaceful coexistence among different social groups.
- **Encourages Better Decision-Making:** Diverse voices lead to well-balanced policies.
- **Prevents Tyranny of Majority:** Protects minority rights and interests from being overruled by the majority (e.g., Sri Lanka's failure).

2. Moral Justification (Democratic Principle)

- **Essential for Democracy:** True democracy means giving all citizens a voice in governance.
- **Enhances Legitimacy:** A government that includes diverse groups gains more acceptance.
- **Encourages Participation:** Strengthens democracy by allowing more people to influence decisions.

In summary, **prudential reasons** highlight the practical advantages of power sharing, while **moral reasons** emphasize that it is a fundamental principle of democracy.

Forms of Power Sharing

Power sharing ensures that political authority is not concentrated in a single entity. It is a core democratic principle that allows different groups and institutions to participate in governance. There are **four main forms of power sharing** in modern democracies:

1. Horizontal Division of Power (Checks and Balances)

- Power is shared among different organs of government at the same level (e.g., Legislature, Executive, and Judiciary).
- Each organ has its own powers and can check the others to prevent misuse.
- Example: The judiciary can review laws passed by the legislature and block unconstitutional actions by the executive.

2. Vertical Division of Power (Federalism)

- Power is divided across multiple levels of government (e.g., central, state, and local governments).
- The constitution defines the responsibilities of each level to avoid conflicts.
- Example: In the U.S., the federal government handles national defense, while state governments manage education and local governance.

3. Social Division of Power (Community Representation)

- Power is shared among different social groups to ensure representation for minorities and disadvantaged communities.
- This is achieved through **reservations, quotas, and legal protections** in government and administration.
- Example: Belgium's 'Community Government' system ensures linguistic and cultural groups have representation.

4. Power Sharing Among Political Parties and Interest Groups

- Political parties compete in elections, and power is shared when coalition governments are formed.
- Pressure groups (e.g., trade unions, environmental activists) influence government policies.
- Example: In India, coalition governments have been formed when no single party wins a majority.

These power-sharing mechanisms ensure **stability, inclusivity, and democratic governance**, preventing the dominance of a single group or institution.