



POWER SHARING

Dear students

This is Part –I of the E-Module on the Lesson: Power Sharing.

Please also read the lesson from the NCERT Textbook. [//www.ncert.nic.in/NCERTS/l/jess401.pdf](http://www.ncert.nic.in/NCERTS/l/jess401.pdf)

For better understanding of the concept, please watch the You tube video as well.

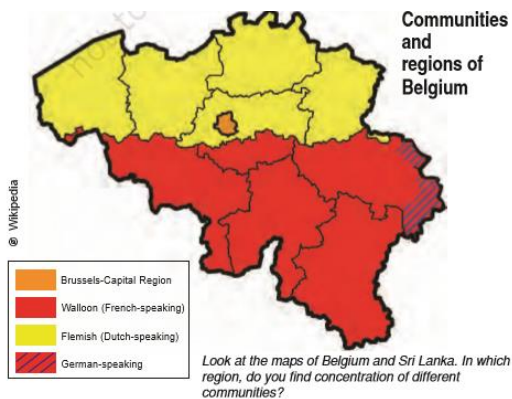
<https://youtu.be/dj2j7N1Atq4>

Do the Assignment Questions in the History/Political Science Notebook.

(Note: Use only one Notebook for both History and Political Science)

In a democracy, all power does not rest with any one organ of the government. An intelligent sharing of power among legislature, executive and judiciary is very important to the design of a democracy.

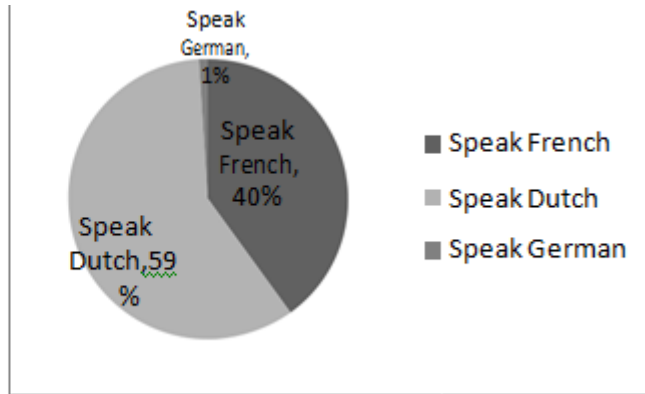
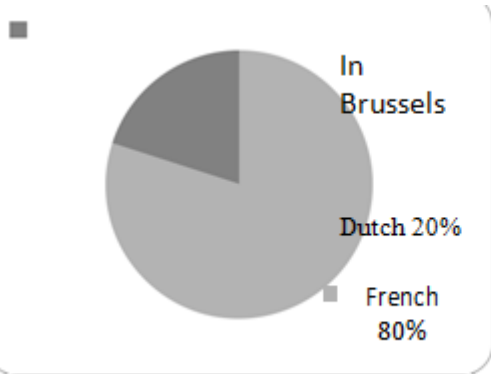
BELGIUM – A CASE STUDY



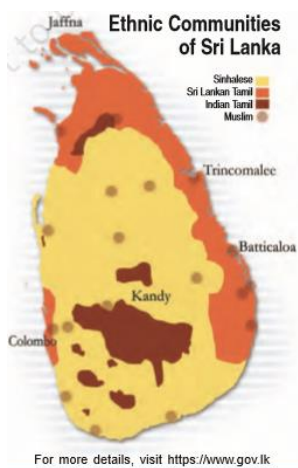
A small country in Europe bordered by Netherlands, France and Germany. Ethnic composition:

- 59% living in Flemish region -- speak Dutch (majority -but poor)
- 40 % living in Wallonia – speak French (minority -but rich)
- 1% speak German
- Capital : Brussels—80% speak French (majority)

20% speak Dutch (minority)



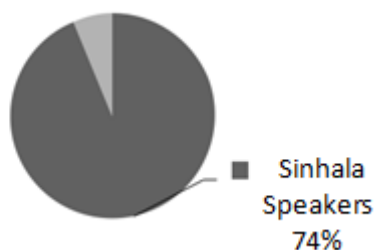
SRI LANKA – A CASE STUDY



A small island in Asia. Ethnic composition:

- 74 % speak Sinhalese -- Buddhists
- 18% speak Tamil – Hindus / Muslims
- 13 % (out of 18%) – Tamil natives of Sri Lanka, called Sri Lankan Tamils
- Rest – Tamil Lankans – descendants of plantation workers who went from India and settled there during the colonial period.

Tamils 18% in that 13% Srilankan tamils rest



COMPARISON OF THE TWO CASE STUDIES

OBSERVATIONS

Both countries share the ethnic problem of people speaking different languages and having different culture.

QUESTION

What can this problem lead to?

There can be tension and conflict between ethnic groups –can lead to civil war, division of the country and conflict between communities.

SOLUTIONS

HOW DID SRI LANKA SOLVE THE ETHNIC PROBLEM IN ITS COUNTRY?

SriLanka:

- Independent in 1948 – adopted a series of majoritarian measures to establish Sinhala supremacy. (**Majoritarianism** is a belief that 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).
- In 1956, an Act was passed to recognize Sinhala as the official language.
- The governments followed preferential policies that favoured Sinhala applicants for university positions and government jobs
- A new constitution stipulated that state shall protect and foster Buddhism.

RESULT:

- Tamils felt alienated – their culture, language, religion neglected, which led to a struggle for equality in jobs and education, entry to the university, recognition of their language and culture.
- Gradually it changed into a demand for regional autonomy. By 1980, several political organizations like the LTTE were formed demanding an independent Tamil state.
- As a result, a **civil war** was proclaimed and:
 - A. thousands of people were killed when their legitimate demands were denied by the Sri Lankan government
 - B. many families were forced to leave the country as refugees and many more lost their livelihoods

HOW DID BELGIUM SOLVE THE ETHNIC PROBLEM IN ITS COUNTRY?

Method of Accommodation – Amended constitution to accommodate every ethnic community, with the result- no civil war, demand for autonomy or partition of the country – unity of the country possible only by respecting the feelings and interests of different communities and regions –led to power sharing

- **Equal number of ministers:** The Government of Belgium has equal number of Dutch and French speaking ministers. This has been done to give equal power to the majority and the minority language speaking groups.

- **Setting up of Community Government:** A third kind of government, named the community government, is introduced in addition to the Central and the State Government. This government has the power regarding cultural, educational and lingual issues. This government comprises of members from all the three communities—Dutch- speaking, French-speaking and German-speaking.

- **Fair share of power:** Many powers of the Central government have been given to the state governments of the two regions of the country. The state governments are not subordinate to the Central government but are independent.

- **Equal representation:** In the State Government of Brussels—the capital city—both the French- and Dutch-speaking communities have equal representation.

CONCLUSION: A SHARP CONTRAST BETWEEN SRILANKAN AND BELGIUM DEMOCRACIES IN THE WAY THEY HANDLED THE ETHNIC ISSUES OF THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES.

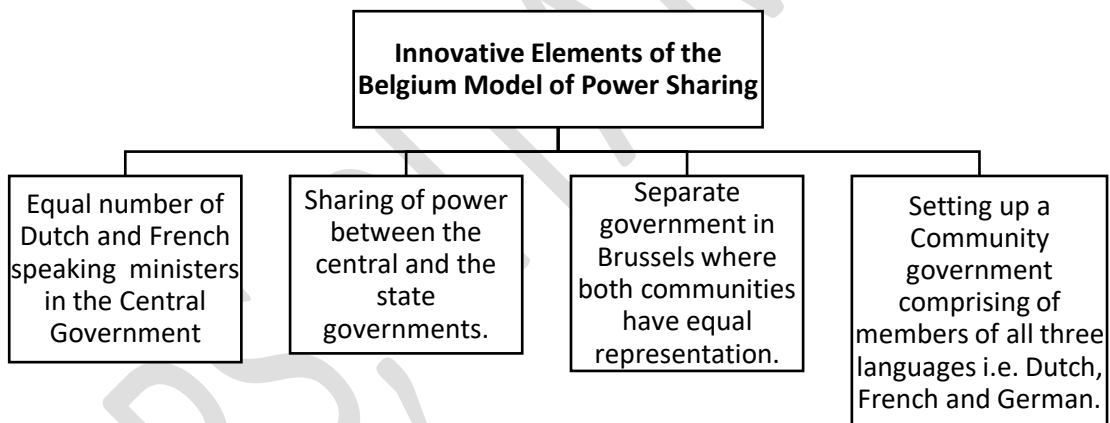
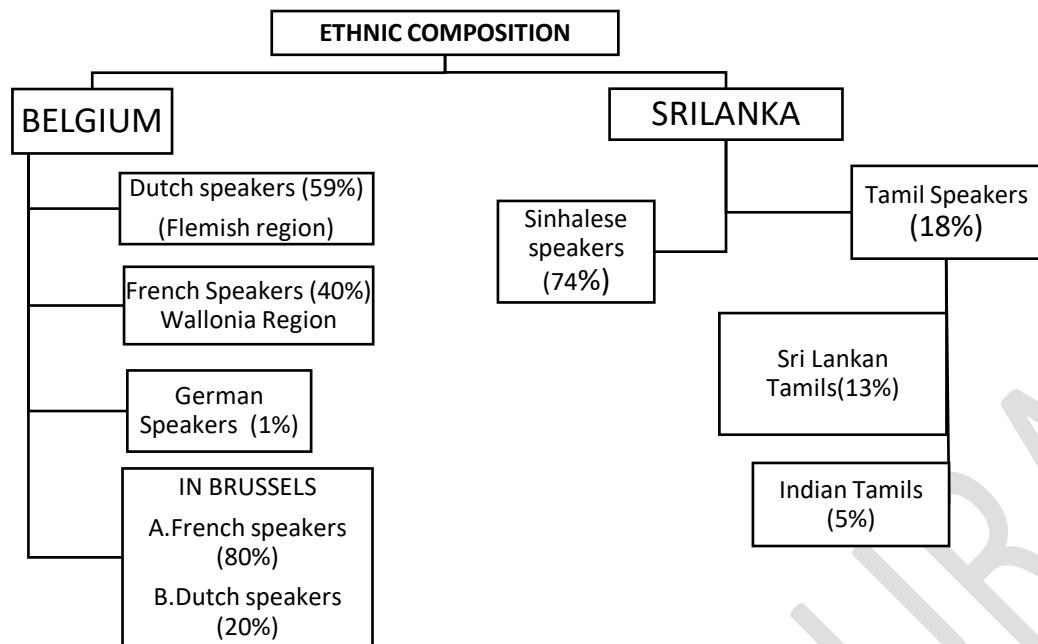
- Belgium produced an ideal example of democratic system. It adopted the policy of accommodation of social and ethnic division. On the other hand, Sri Lanka also adopted democratic system but followed majoritarian policies.

- Under the Belgium model of democracy, power was shared among two ethnic groups. Sri Lanka favoured the interests of the majority Sinhala community.

- In Belgium, both the groups had equal share in the working of the government but in Sri Lanka, the minority community was isolated.

- To maintain political stability and unity, equal representation was provided to both the groups. Apart from that, community government of both the ethnic groups also existed at the local level. Sri Lanka, however, had no such arrangement.

- Belgium constitution was amended four times before arriving at a final draft to prevent civil strife. In Sri Lanka, majoritarianism led to civil war for twenty long years.



ASSIGNMENT

- Q1** Examine the reasons that led to Civil War in Sri Lanka and enlist any two of its consequences.
- Q2.** Compare the ethnic composition of Belgium to that of Sri Lanka.
- Q3.** "Power sharing leads to better outcome." Explain.