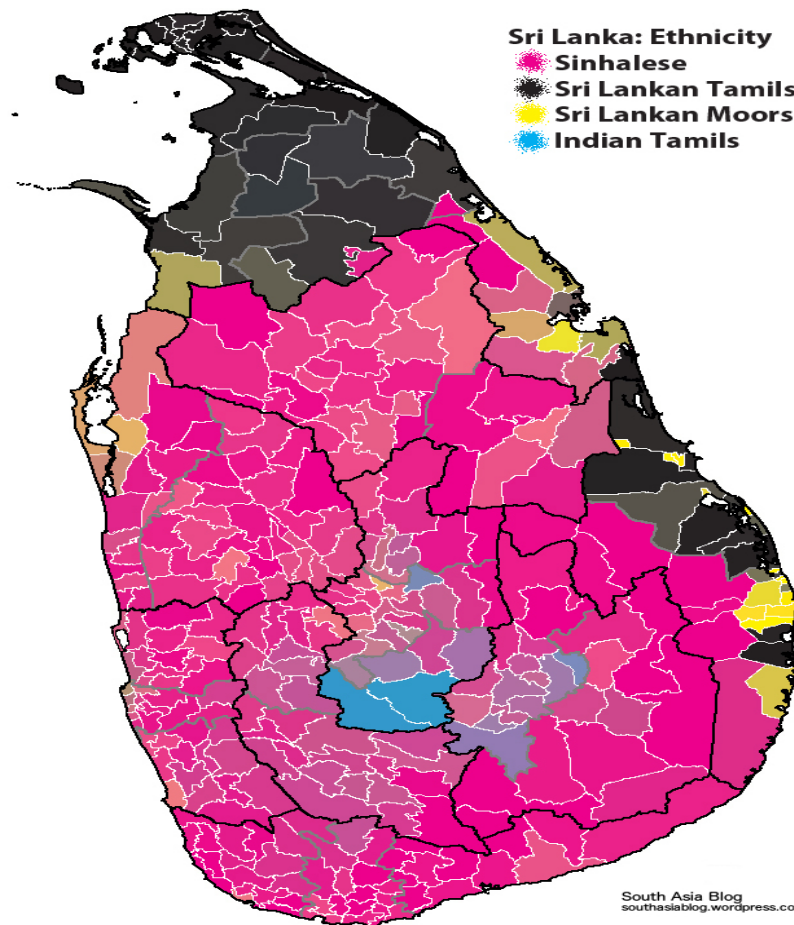
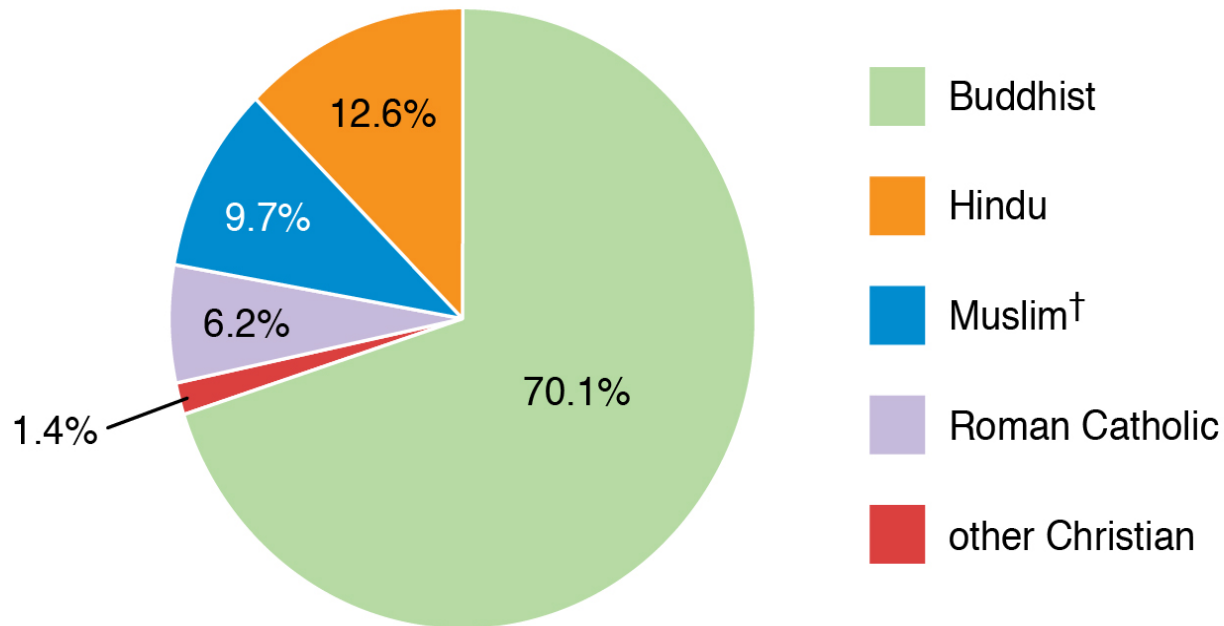


# Majoritarianism in Sri Lanka



# Ethnic composition in

## Religious affiliation (2012) Sri Lanka



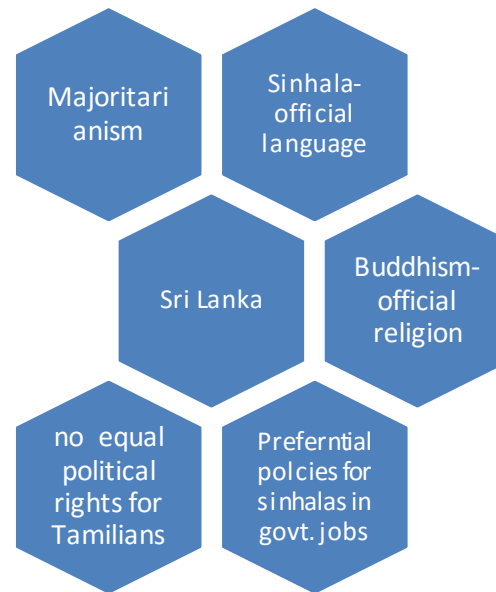
# Causes of the Ethnic crisis

- ❖ Sri Lanka emerged as an independent country in 1948.
- ❖ Majoritarianism was adopted by the democratically elected govt. With Sinhala supremacy.
- ❖ Act of 1956, recognised Sinhala as the official language by disregarding Tamil.
- ❖ Govt. followed preferential policies –favouring Sinhala applicants for University positions and govt. jobs.
- ❖ Constitution stipulated Buddhism as the official religion of the State.
- ❖ All these increased a feeling of alienation among the Sri Lankan Tamils.
- ❖ Constitution and govt. policies denied equal political rights to the Tamilians.

# Reaction of Sri Lankan Tamils against Majoritarianism

- Launched parties and struggle for the recognition of Tamil as an official language.
- They demanded regional autonomy and equal opportunity in securing education and jobs.
- Formation of several political organisations demanding an independent Tamil Eelam in northern and eastern parts of Sri Lanka.
- It led to Civil War and thousands of people were killed.
- Many families were forced out of the country as refugees and many more lost their livelihoods.

# Comparison of Power sharing between Belgium & Sri Lanka



# Why Power sharing is desirable ?

## Prudential reason

- It reduces the possibility of conflict between social groups.
- It ensures the stability of political order.
- It is the very spirit of Democracy.

## Moral reason

- decision making power
- legitimate govt..
- people rule through institutions of self governance.
- people express their views in shaping the public policies
- among many citizens as possible.