

## Module (3/3)

Acknowledgement:

1. Reference : Ncert Social Science Text Book of Class X
2. Web Page for maps.

### Case Study 2:

#### Powersharing in Sri Lanka (majoritarianism)

1. **Geographical location:**
  - Sri Lanka is an island country .
  - It has about two crore people.
2. **Ethnic composition in Sri Lanka**

Sinhala speakers	Tamil speakers (18%)		Christians(Tamil & Sinhala)
	Sri Lankan Tamils	Indian Tamils	
74%	(13%)	(5%)	7%
Buddhists	Hindus/ Muslims	Hindus/ Muslims	
Majority			

### 3. Ethnic crisis in Sri Lanka

Act passed in 1956

- Recognized Sinhala as the official language by disregarding Tamil.
- Preferential policies for the Sinhala applicants were followed in University positions & government jobs.
- New Constitution stipulated Buddhism as the official religion of the state.
- These were the majoritarian measures of the govt, to establish Sinhala supremacy.
- All these increased a feeling alienation among Sri Lankan Tamils.
- Constitution & govt. policies denied them equal political rights.

### 4. Reaction of Sri Lankan Tamils against Majoritarianism

- Sri Lankan Tamils launched parties & struggles for the recognition of Tamil as an official language.
- They demanded equal autonomy and equality of opportunity in securing jobs and & education.
- Several political organisations were formed demanding an independent Tamil Eelam State.
- This led to Civil War.

### 5. Comparison of power sharing in Belgium & Sri Lanka

BELGIUM	SRI LANKA
a) Power of Accommodation b) Political Equality for French and Dutch people c) Mutually acceptable arrangement for sharing power	a) Majoritarianism b) Denial of political rights for Tamils. c) Majority community wants to dominate the minorities & refusal to share power

# 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.