

CLASS – 10

SOCIAL SCIENCE

Democratic Politics - II

CH-1 : POWER-SHARING

Part – 1

Belgium & Sri Lanka: Same
Problems, Different Solutions

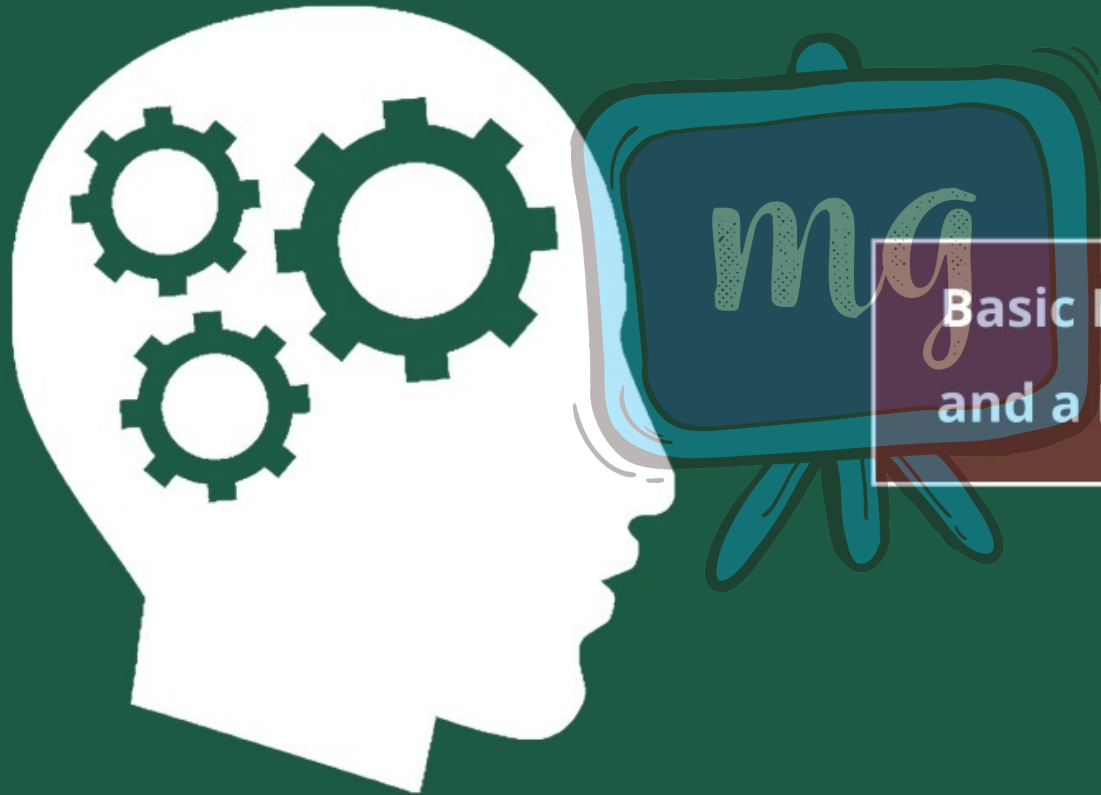
Varsha Thadani



OVERVIEW

- 
1. Belgium and Sri Lanka
 2. Majoritarianism in Sri Lanka
 3. Accommodation in Belgium
 4. Why Power Sharing is Desirable?
 5. Forms of Power Sharing

COMPETENCY BASED LEARNING



Basic Features of a Democracy
and a Democratic Government



Belgium & Sri Lanka

ETHNIC

A social division based on shared culture.

- ▣ People of same ethnic group believe in common descent.
- ▣ They have similar physical type or culture or both.
- ▣ They can have different religion or nationality.



BELGIUM

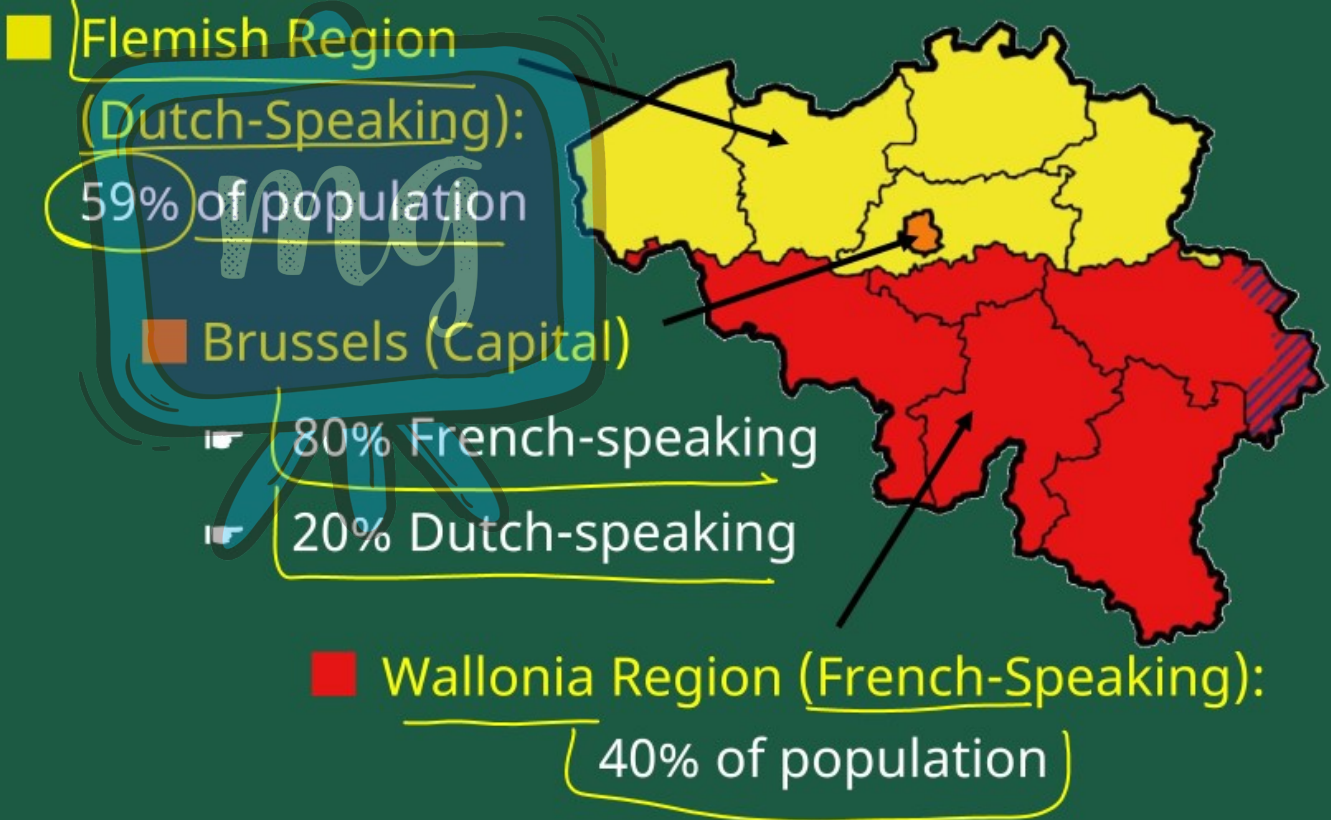
- ☛ Belgium is a small country in Europe
(Population: Approx. 1 crore)



- ▮ Belgium has borders with France, the Netherlands, Germany & Luxembourg.



ETHNIC COMPOSITION OF BELGIUM



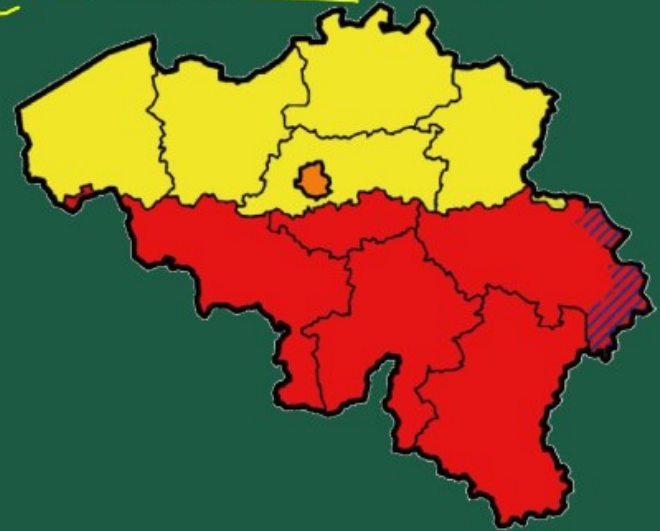
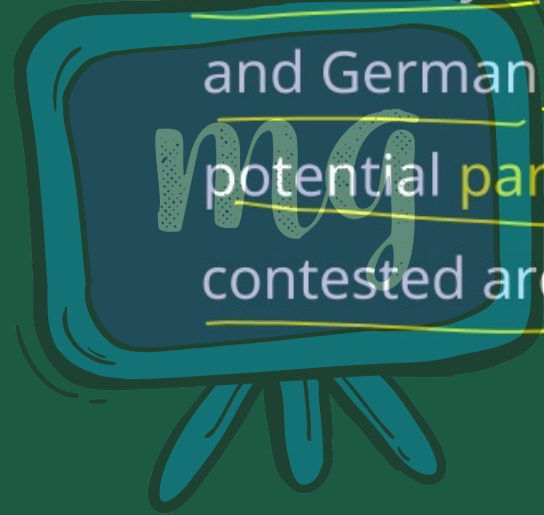
French-Speaking minority: Economically powerful and prosperous

Resentment within the Dutch-speaking community

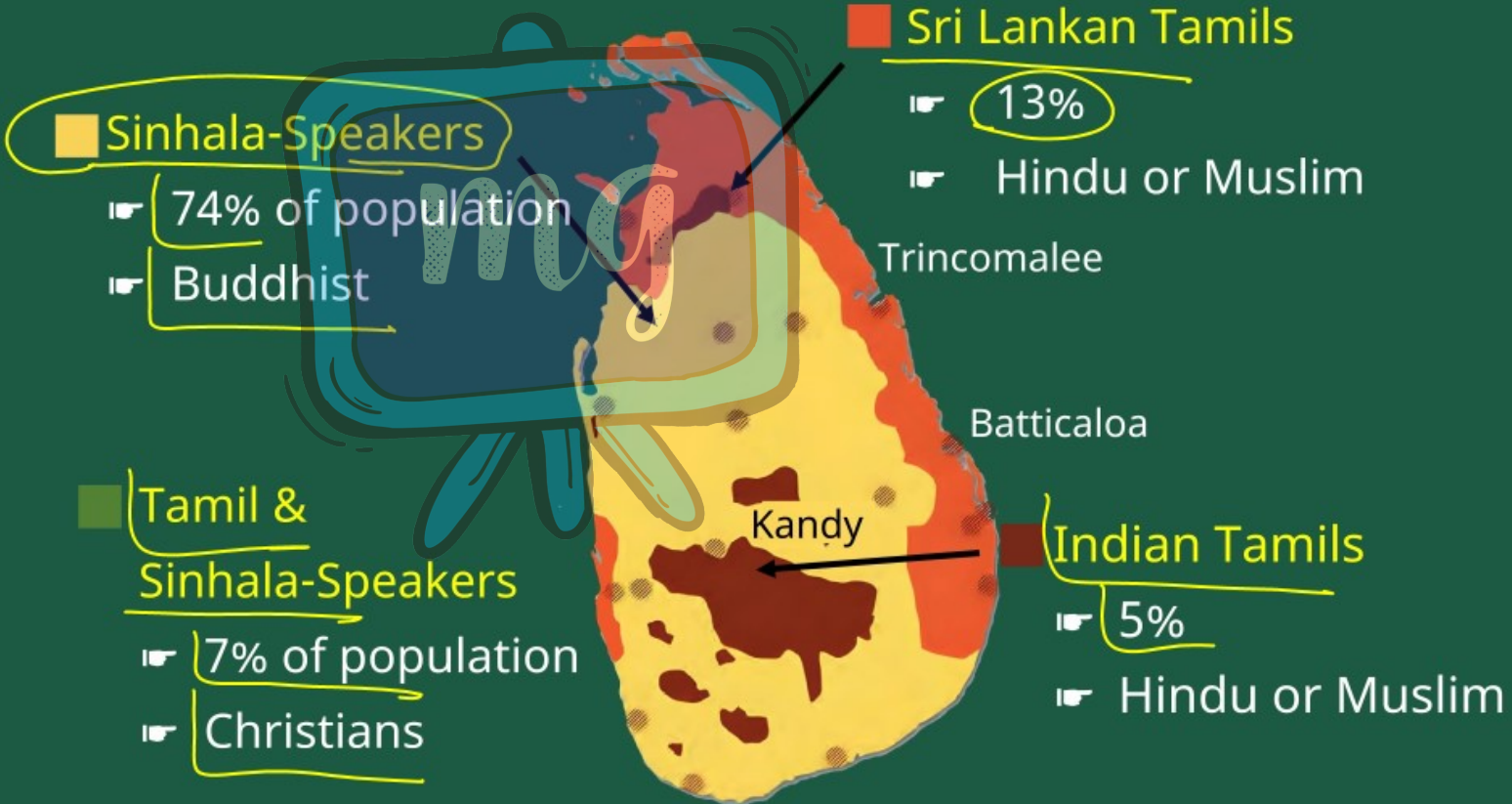
Significant tensions between French and Dutch communities (1950s - 1960s)

POTENTIAL FOR CONFLICT

- Dutch majority could **dominate** French and German minorities, leading to potential **partition** with **Brussels** as a contested area.



ETHNIC COMMUNITIES OF SRI LANKA



POTENTIAL FOR CONFLICT

- ☛ Sinhala majority could impose their
will on Tamil minority, leading to
unrest.

Conflict
between two
groups

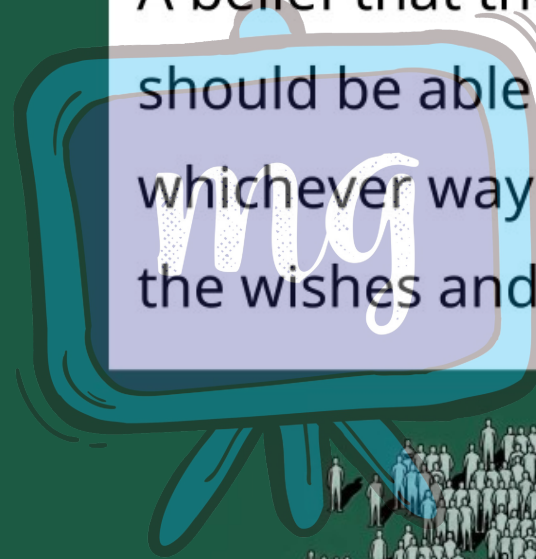




Majoritarianism in Sri Lanka

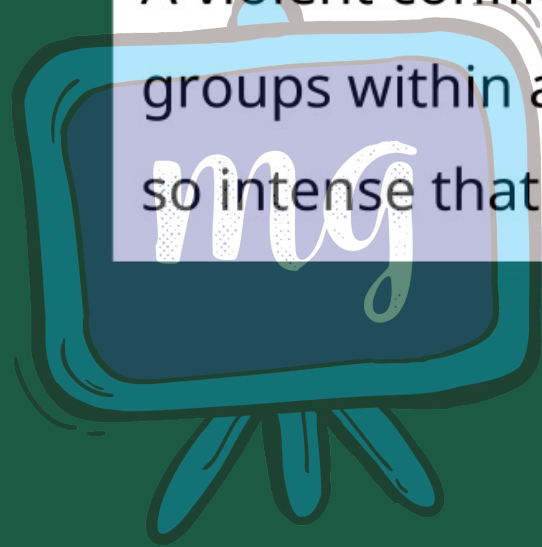
MAJORITARIANISM

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.



CIVIL WAR

A violent conflict between opposing groups within a country that becomes so intense that it appears like a war.



MAJORITARIANISM IN SRI LANKA

Sinhala Actions (Post-Independence)

Tamil Reactions

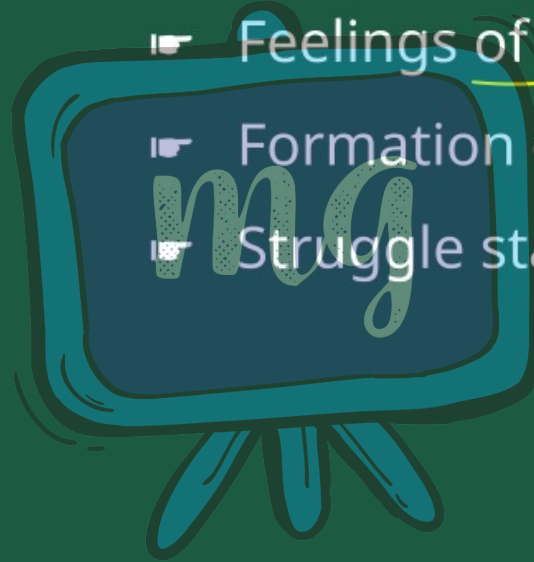
Tamil Separatism and Civil War

SINHALA ACTIONS (POST-INDEPENDENCE)

- Sought dominance in government.
- 1956: Sinhala became sole official language.
- Policies favoring Sinhala in jobs and education.
- Constitution promoted Buddhism.

TAMIL REACTIONS

- ▣ Feelings of alienation & discrimination.
- ▣ Formation of Tamil parties.
- ▣ Struggle started.



Demands:

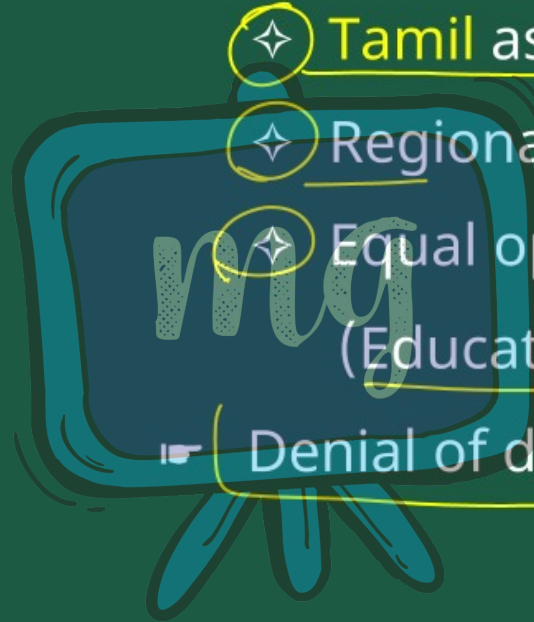
✦ Tamil as an official language.

✦ Regional autonomy.

✦ Equal opportunities.

(Education, Jobs)

✦ Denial of demands.



TAMIL SEPARATISM & CIVIL WAR (1980S-2009)

- ▮ Rise of Tamil Separatist
Movements.
- ▮ Demand: Separate state.
("Tamil Eelam")

- ▮ Deepening distrust between Tamil
and Sinhala communities.

- ▮ Brutal civil war.



Consequences

- Loss of life.
- Displacement of families.
- Setback to Sri Lanka's progress.
(Economic, Social, Cultural)
- Lasting scars (Even after 2009).





Accommodation in Belgium

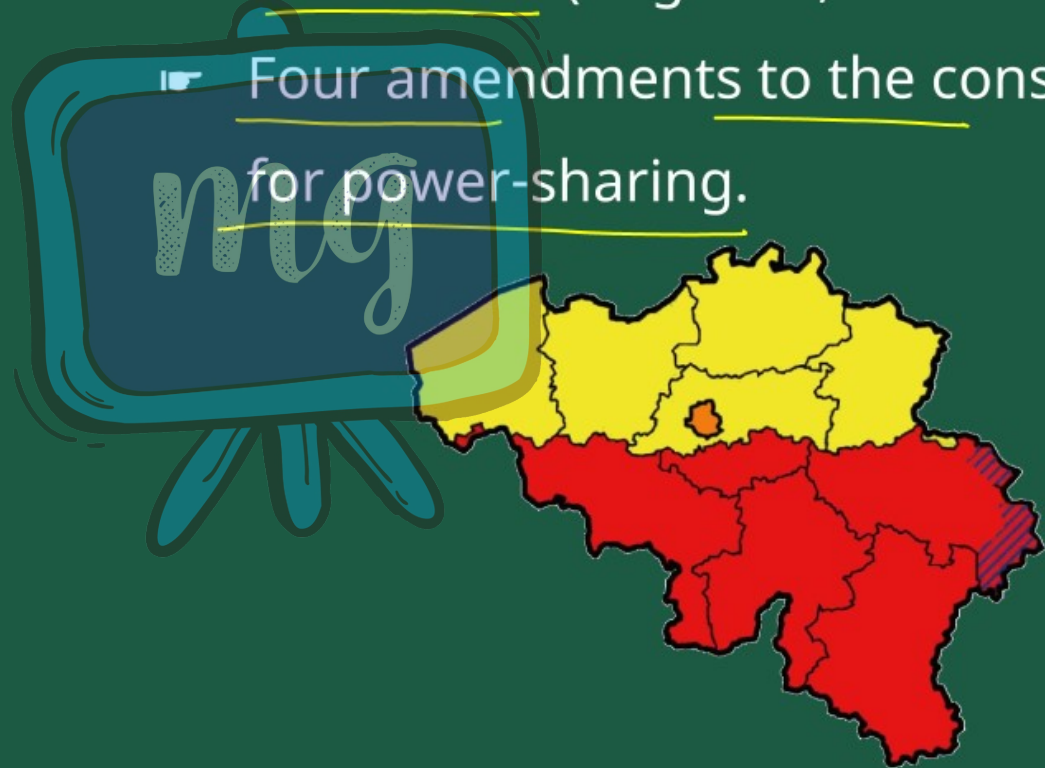
ACCOMMODATION IN BELGIUM

Difference with Sri Lanka

Constitutional Changes

Key Elements of Accommodation

- ▮ Belgian leaders acknowledged differences. (Regional, Cultural)
- ▮ Four amendments to the constitution for power-sharing.



KEY ELEMENTS OF ACCOMMODATION

1. Equal ministerial representation
2. Dual majority required for important legislation
3. Power devolved to regional governments (Not Subordinate)

4.

Brussels government
(Equal Representation)

5.

Community governments for
cultural/ educational issues

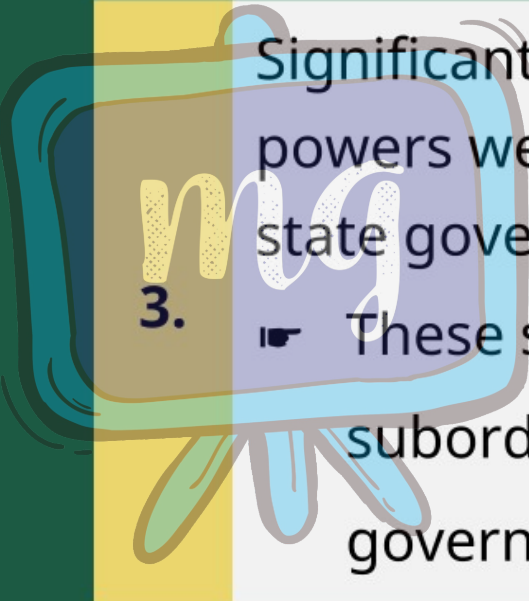


1.

The number of Dutch and French-speaking ministers is equal

2.

Important laws require a majority from each linguistic group, preventing unilateral decisions



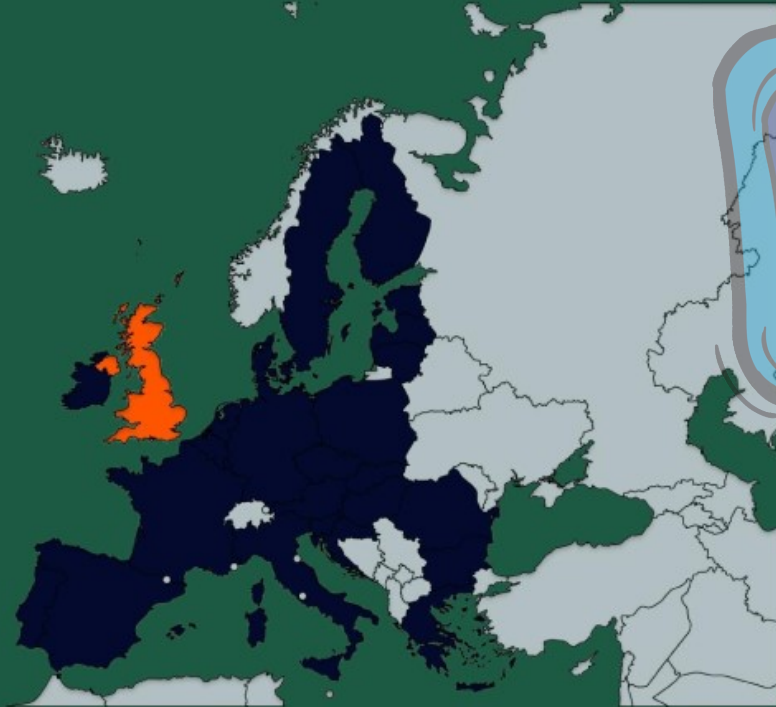
3. Significant central government powers were devolved to regional state governments

- ▮ These state governments are not subordinate to the central government

4. A separate government with equal Dutch and French representation manages Brussels

5. Separate Dutch, French, and German-speaking community governments handle cultural, educational and language-related issues for their respective communities

RESULT OF BELGIUM'S POWER-SHARING



- ▮ Peace.
- ▮ Avoided ethnic conflict.
- ▮ Model of successful power-sharing in a diverse context.
- ▮ Chosen as the headquarters of the European Union.

LESSONS FROM BELGIUM & SRI LANKA

Belgium

Leaders recognized
diverse interests

Mutually agreeable
power-sharing
arrangements

Outcome: Promoted
national unity

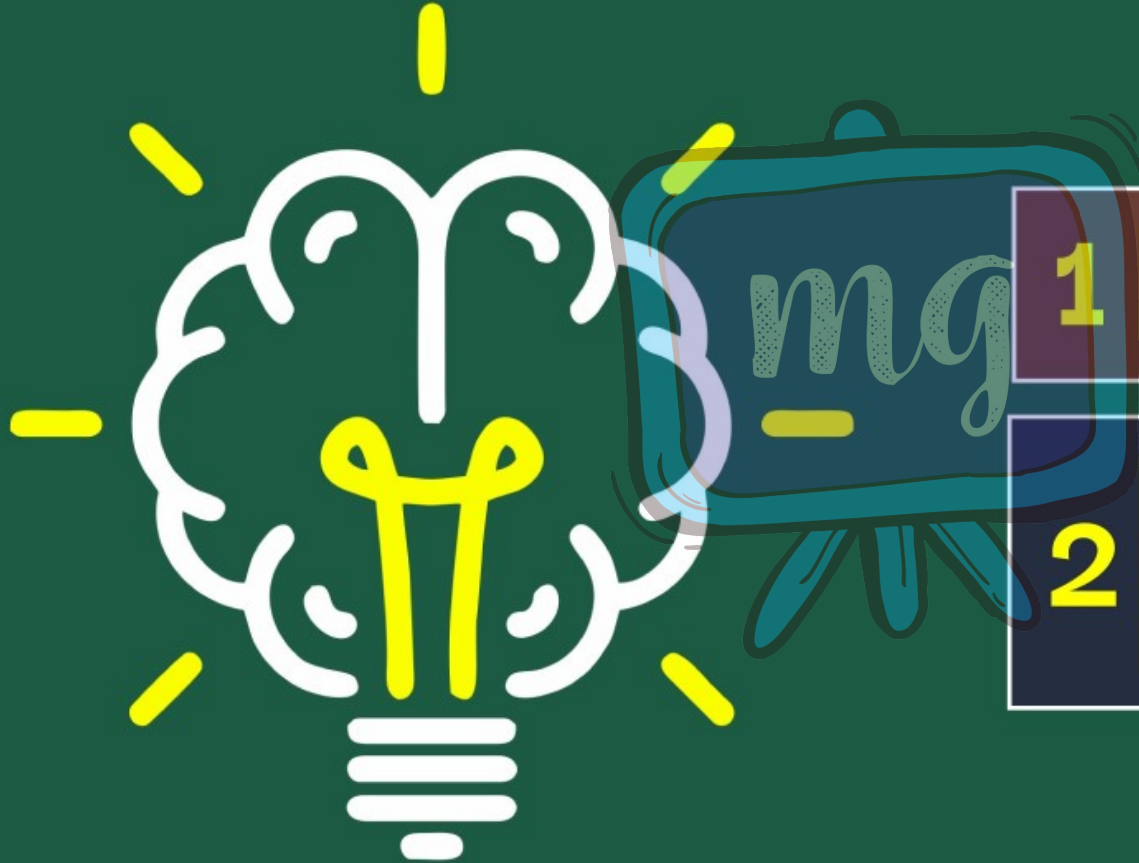
Sri Lanka

Majority refused to
share power

Outcome:

Undermined national
unity

LEARNING OUTCOME



1

Need for Power Sharing in Democracy

2

Challenges Faced by Countries Like Belgium and Sri Lanka Ensuring Effective Power Sharing

ASSESSMENT



1

Which of the following is the majority ethnic group in Belgium?

A

Dutch-Speakers

B

French-Speakers

C

German-Speakers

D

None of these

ASSESSMENT



2

Fill in the blank by choosing the most appropriate option:

The Tamil natives of Sri Lanka are known as

- A Indian Tamils
- B Muslim Tamils
- C Sri Lankan Tamils
- D Christian Tamils

ASSESSMENT

3

Which of the following terms/phrases appropriately describes "Eelam"?

A

A city or a town

B

A Nation/State

C

Bureaucracy

D

Cricket Team