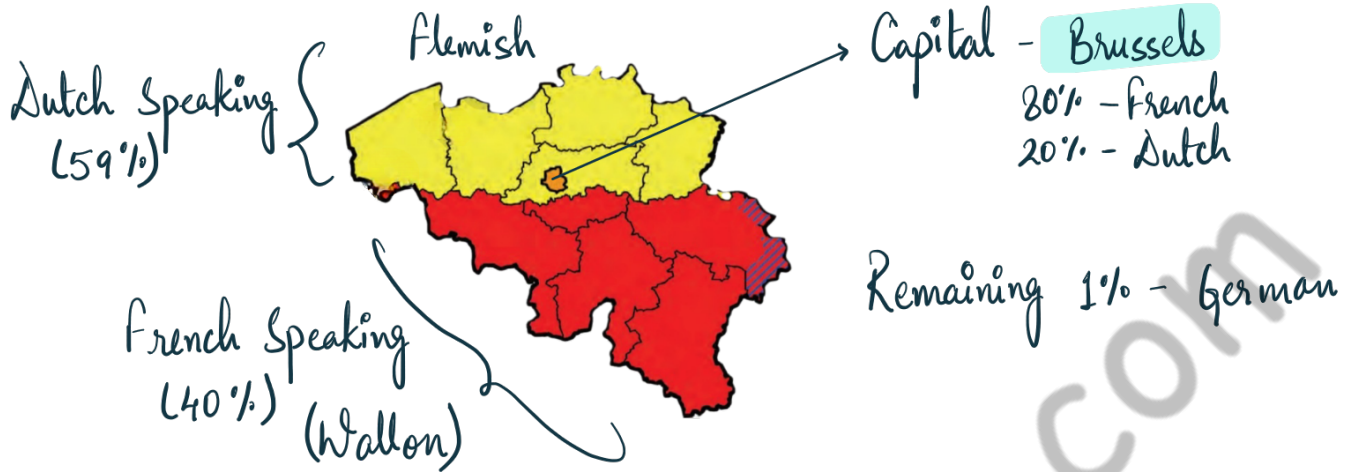


POWER - SHARING

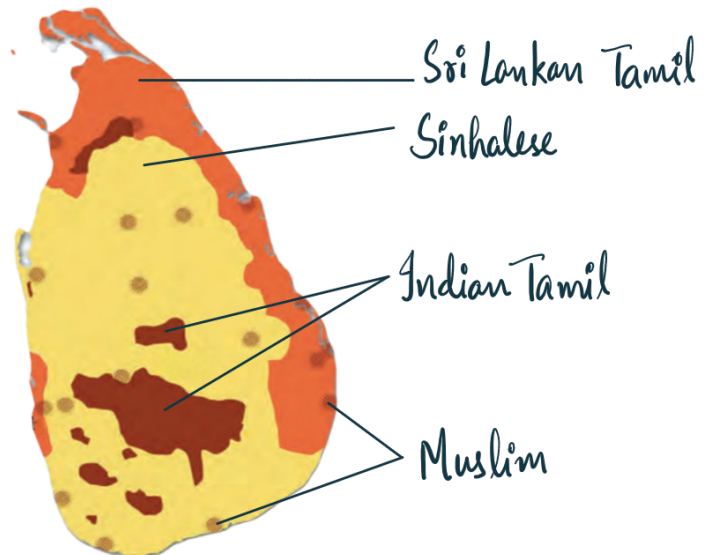
Case of **Belgium** (a country in Europe)



- The minority French-speaking community was relatively rich and powerful. This was resented by the Dutch speaking community.
- Brussel presented a special problem: the Dutch-speaking people constituted a majority in the country, but a minority in the capital.

Case of **Sri Lanka**

- Major social group in Sri Lanka
 - ① Sinhala-speakers (74%)
 - ② Tamil-speakers (18%)
 - Native Tamil (13%)
 - Indian Tamil



MAJORITARIANISM

in Sri Lanka

- Government of Sri Lanka adopted a series of **Majoritarian** measures to establish Sinhala supremacy.

Q What were the Majoritarian measures adopted by Sri Lankan Govt. to establish Sinhala supremacy?

- Ans 1. An act was passed in 1956 to recognise Sinhala as the only official language.
2. Sinhala applicants were preferred for university positions and government jobs.
 3. The state shall protect and foster Buddhism.

Consequences of measures taken by government.

- Tamils felt that the constitution and government policies
 - denied them equal political rights.
 - discriminated against them in getting jobs and
 - ignored their interests.
- The relation between the Sinhala and Tamil communities strained.
- The Sri Lankan Tamils launched parties and struggles for their language, regional autonomy and equality of opportunity in securing education and jobs.
- Tamils demanded a separate Tamil Eelam (state).
- Soon the conflict turned into a Civil War.

ACCOMMODATION

in Belgium

- They ammended the constitution four times so as to work out an arrangement.
- Equal number of Dutch and French speaking minister in the Central govt.
- Many powers of the Central Government were given to State Govt. of the two regions. The State Govt are not subordinate to the Central Govt.
- Brussels has a separate government in which both the communities have equal representation.
- A third kind of government — Community Government — is also there. It is

elected by people belonging to one language community – Dutch, French and German speaking – no matter where they live.

Why power sharing is DESIRABLE?

Prudential Reasons

- Power sharing is good because it helps to reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups.
- Power sharing ensures stability of political order.

Moral Reasons

- Power sharing is the very spirit of democracy.
- A legitimate government is one where citizens acquire a stake in the system.

Note: Prudential reasons are based on careful calculation of gains and losses.

FORMS OF POWER SHARING

1) Horizontal distribution of power.

- When power is shared among different organs of government, such as the legislature, executive and judiciary.
- It allows different organs of government placed at the same level to exercise different powers.
- This arrangement is called a system of checks and balances.

2) Vertical division of power.

- Power is shared between a central / Union Government and governments at the provincial or regional level.
- The constitution clearly lays down the powers of different levels of government.

- It is called federal division of power.

3) Among different social groups.

- When power is shared among different social groups such as the religious and linguistic groups. For eg Community government in Belgium.
- In India system of 'reserved constituencies' in parliament is an arrangement used to give minority communities a fair share in power.

4) Among political parties, pressure groups and movements

- When political parties, pressure groups and movements control/influence those in power.
- Power is shared among different political parties (through alliance) that represent different ideologies and social groups.
- Interest groups of traders, businessmen, industrialists, farmers and industrial workers also have share in governmental power either through participation in governmental committees or bringing influence on the decision making process.



The End

Myroughnotes.com

Devendra Singh