

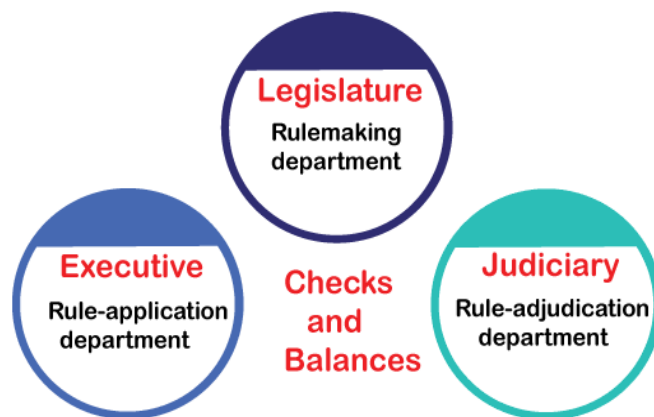
Power-sharing



Overview

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.

Separation of Powers- Checks and Balances

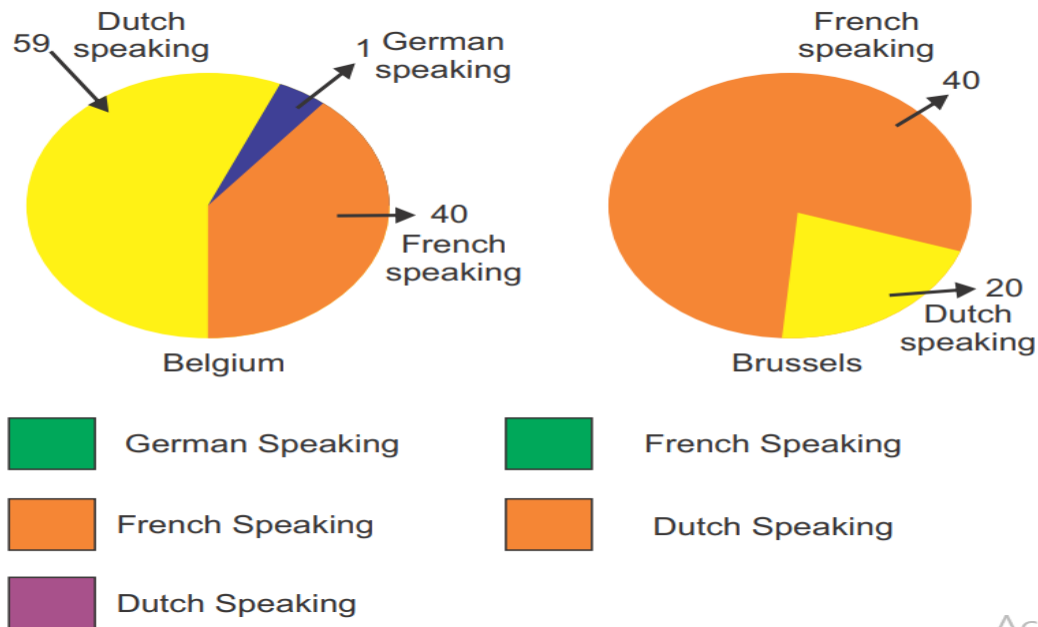


Belgium

1. Belgium is a small **country** in **Europe**.
2. It has borders with **Netherlands, France and Germany**.
3. **59%** in the **Flemish region** speaks **Dutch**.
4. Another **40%** people live in **Wallonia region** and speaks **French**.
5. Remaining **1%** of the **Belgians** speak **Germany**.
6. In the capital city **Brussels**, **80%** people speak **French** while **20%** are **Dutch - speaking**.

Note:

- ✓ **The minority French** - speaking community was relatively rich and powerful.
- ✓ **The Dutch-speaking community** who got the benefit of the economic development and education much later



Accommodation in Belgium

1. Belgium recognized the existence of regional differences and cultural diversities.
2. **Between 1970 and 1993, they amended their constitution four times** so as to work out an arrangement that would enable everyone to live together within the same country.

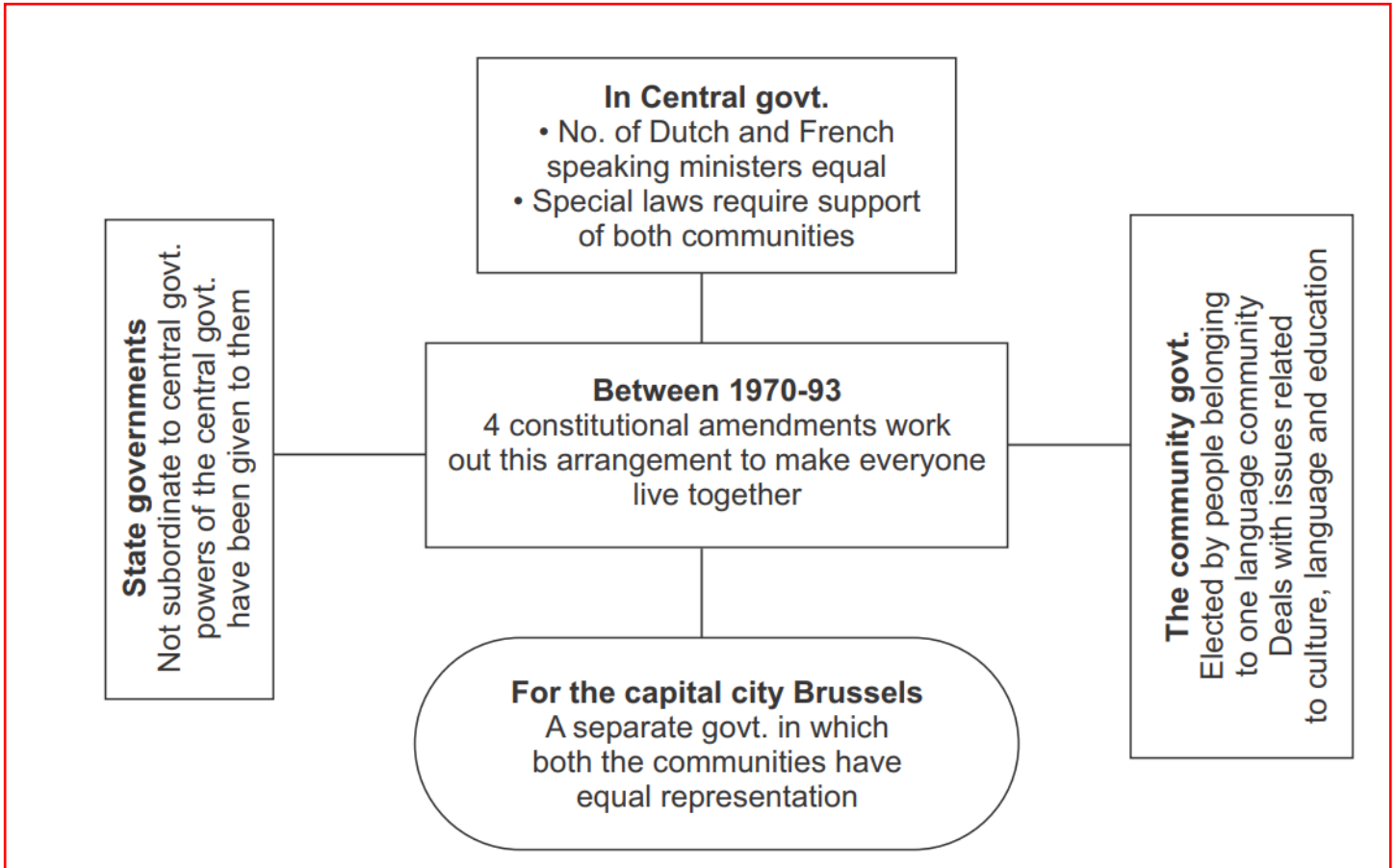
Here are some of the elements of the Belgian model

1. Constitution prescribes that the number of Dutch and French-speaking ministers shall be **equal in the central government**.
2. Many powers of the **central government** have been given to states **government** of the two of the regions of the country.
3. Brussels has separated government in which **both the communities have equal representation**.

4. Apart from the central and state government, there is a **third kind of government**. This is **community government**.

Note:

In Belgium, the **leaders** have **realized** that the unity of the country is possible only by **respecting the feelings and interests of different communities and regions**.

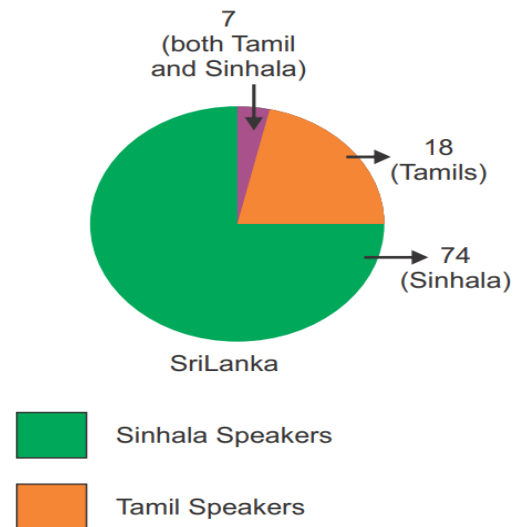


Srilanka

1. Other nations in the south Asia region, Sri Lanka has a **diverse population**.
2. **The Sinhala speaks are 74%** and **Tamil speakers are 18%**

Note:

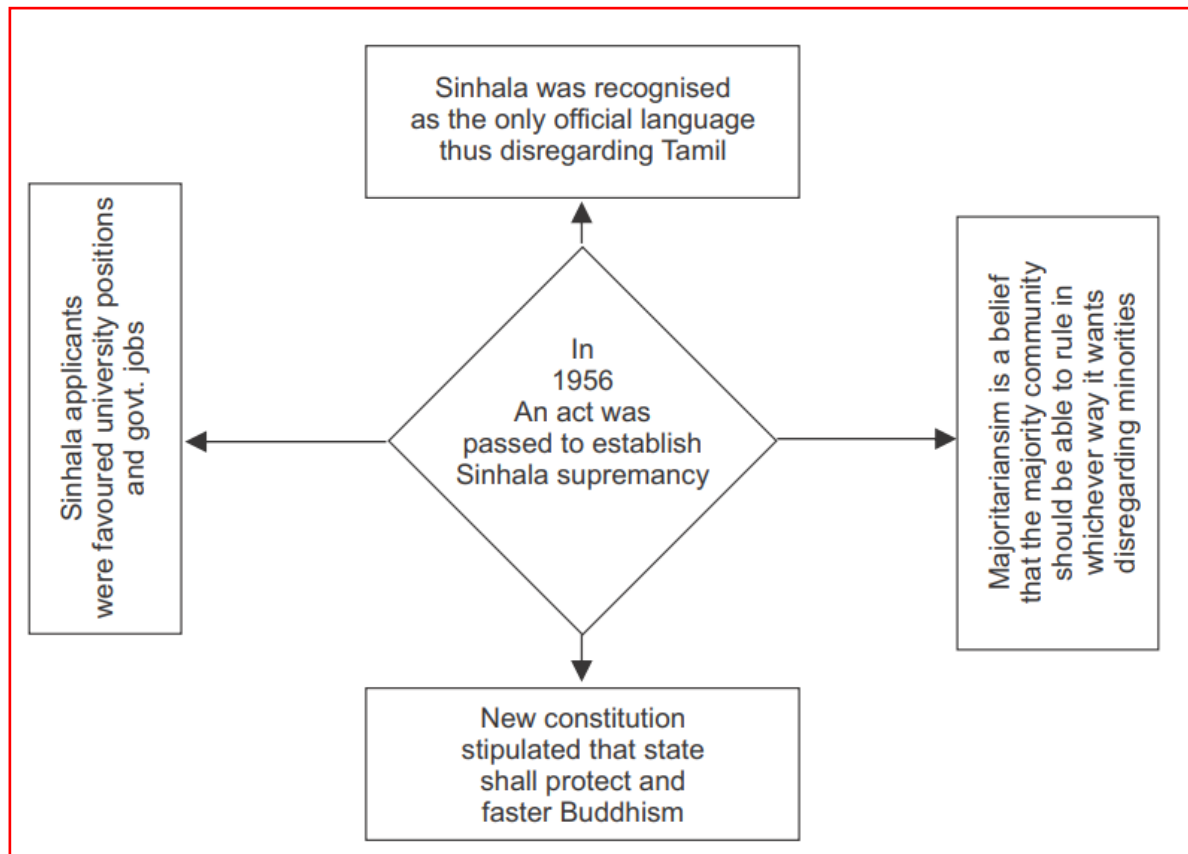
- Among Tamils, there are two sub groups, Tamil natives of the country are called **"Sri Lankan Tamils"**
- The rest, whose forefathers came from India as population workers during the colonial period, is called **'Indian Tamils'**.



Majoritarianism in Sri Lanka

- ✓ Sri Lankan emerged as an independent country in 1948.
- ✓ The leaders of the Sinhala community sought to secure dominance over the government by virtue of their majority.
- ✓ **In 1956, an Act** was passed to recognize Sinhala as the only official language, a new constitution stipulated that the state shall protect and foster Buddhism.
- ✓ All these coming measures, coming one after the other, **gradually increased the feeling of alienation among the Sri Lankan Tamils.**
- ✓ As a result, the relations between the Sinhala and Tamil communities strained over time.
- ✓ **The Sri Lankan Tamils launched parties and struggles.**
- ✓ But their demand for more autonomy to provinces populated by the Tamils was repeatedly denied.
- ✓ The distrust between the two communities turned into widespread conflict. It soon turned into **civil war**.

- ✓ The civil war caused a terrible setback to the social, cultural and economic life of the country.



Note:

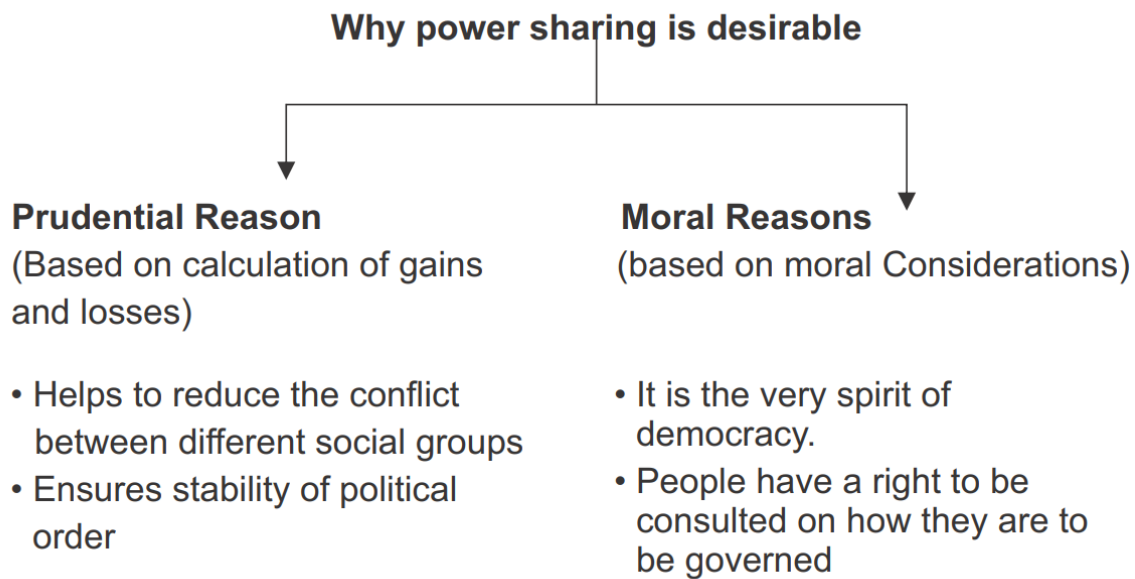
If a majority community wants to force its dominance over others and refuses to share power, it can undermine the unity of the country

Why is power sharing desirable

1. **Two different sets of reasons** can be given in favor of power sharing.
2. **Firstly**, power sharing is good because it helps to reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups.
3. **Secondly**, deeper reason why power sharing is good for democracy. Power sharing is very spirit of democracy. A democratic rule involves sharing power with those affected by its exercise, and who have to live with its effects.

Note: Let us call the first set of reasons prudential and the second moral.

4. While prudential reasons stress that power sharing will bring out better outcomes, moral reasons emphasizes the very act of the power sharing as valuable.



Some of the most common arrangements that we have or will come across

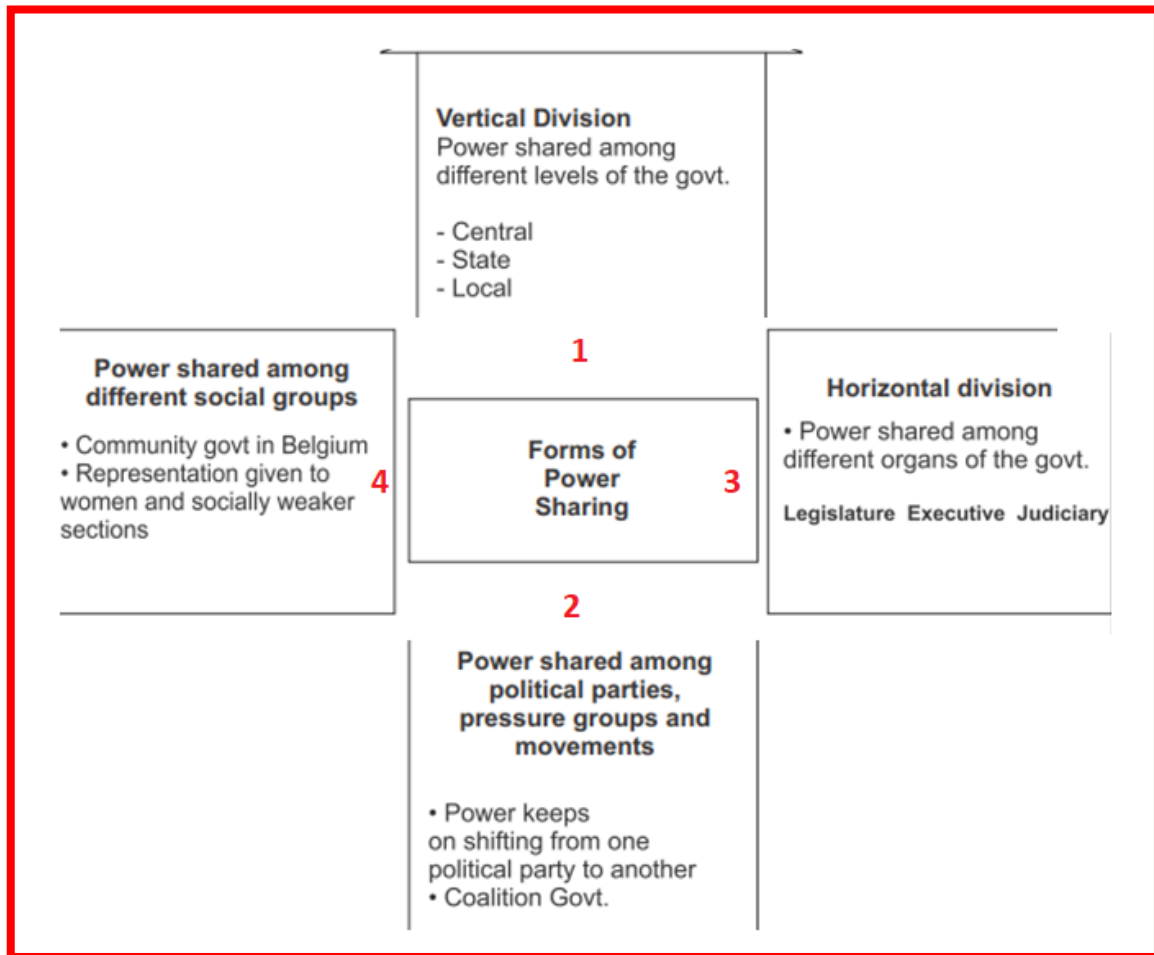
1. Power is shared among **different organs** of the government, such as the **legislature, executive, and judiciary**.

Let us call this horizontal distribution of power because it allows different organs of the government placed at the same level to exercise different powers.

2. Power can be shared among governments at different levels - a **general government for the entire country** and **governments at the provincial or regional level**. The division of higher and lower levels of government is called the vertical division of power.

3. Power may also be shared **among different social groups**, such as the religious and linguistic groups. 'Community government' is a good example of this arrangement.

4. Power sharing arrangement can also be seen in the way **political parties, pressure groups** and movements **control or influence those in power**.



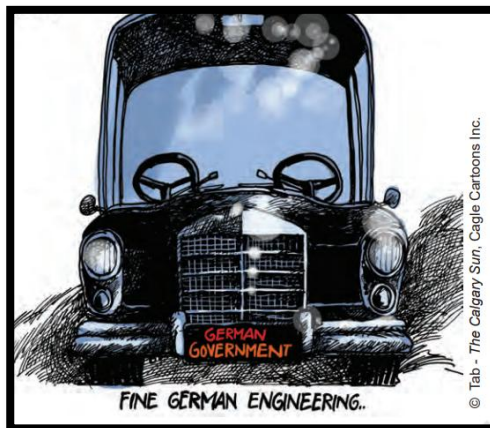
Glossary

Ethnic: A social division based on shared culture. People belonging to the same ethnic group believe in their common descent because of similarities of physical type or of culture or both. They need not always have the same religion or nationality.

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

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.

Prudential: Based on prudence, or on careful calculation of gains and losses. Prudential decisions are usually contrasted with decisions based purely on moral considerations.



Why horizontal distribution of power often is referred to as a system of 'checks and balances'? Explain.

1. all organs are at the same level
2. no organ has unlimited power
3. each organ checks working of the other organ

How is federal government better than a unitary government? Explain with examples of Sri Lanka and Belgium.

1. Power divided between organs of the government
2. Belgium solved problem by respecting all communities
3. Sri Lanka favoured majoritarianism and it led to civil war

Power is shared between different social groups. Comment on this statement with the help of an example.

1. power is shared between religious & linguistic groups
2. reservation for weaker section in constitution

Example: community government in Sri Lanka

How is power shared among the different organs of the government? Explain.

1. **Horizontal Power Sharing** - legislature, executive, judiciary
2. **Vertical Power Sharing** - federal system, central govt., state govt., local govt.
3. power is shared between religious & linguistic groups, weaker section in constitution
4. people have choice to choose leaders so that power shifts

Explain community government

Different social groups handle affairs of their community. -work jointly - does not criticize other communities

What is separation of power?

The separation of power is the power sharing among the different organs of government with their specific jurisdiction.

In which form of power sharing, power is shared at different levels of government?

Power is shared at different levels of government in vertical form of power sharing.

Give the meaning of coalition government.

A government formed by the coming together of two or more political parties is called coalition government.

What does the horizontal power sharing signify?

Horizontal power sharing signifies power shared among various organs of the government like legislature, executive and judiciary.

Name the third level government of Belgium.

The third level government of Belgium is known as the Community Government.

Which city was chosen as the headquarters of the European Union?

Brussels was chosen as the headquarters of the European Union.

What is the official religion of Sri Lanka?

Buddhism is the religion of Sri Lanka.

Why is power sharing desirable?

Or

Why is Power Sharing necessary in democracy? Explain.

Or

Differentiate between prudential reasons and moral reasons for power sharing

PRUDENTIAL REASONS

- ✓ based on gains & losses
- ✓ reduces conflict
- ✓ Example: Reservation for women

MORAL REASONS

- ✓ based on proper behavior
- ✓ supports democracy
- ✓ decentralization of power & minorities

Differentiate between horizontal power sharing and vertical power sharing.

HORIZONTAL

- ✓ all organs are at the same level
- ✓ no organ has unlimited power
- ✓ each organ checks working

VERTICAL

- ✓ power shared at central, state govt, local govt.
- ✓ central is highest & local is lowest
- ✓ lower organ works under of the other organ the higher organ